



FY2027 RESIDENTS' GUIDE TO THE
**PRELIMINARY
FISCAL PLAN**



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Glossary of Terms

ACEC – Actuarially Computed Employer Contribution Rates

The amount actuarially calculated each year that is required to be contributed by an employer to a pension plan’s pool of assets in order to ensure there will be enough funds to pay promised pension benefits.

Adopted Budget

Plan of financial operation consisting of an estimate of proposed revenue and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget is adopted by the City Commission annually in May.

Amended Budget

The Adopted Budget plus changes authorized by the City Commission throughout the fiscal year. (See also **Budget Amendment**)

ARPA – American Rescue Plan Act

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the Act) provides relief for individuals and businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Act also includes funding for state, local, and tribal governments as well as education and COVID-19-related testing, vaccination support, and research.

Appropriation

The legal authorization granted by the City Commission to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation usually is limited in amount and the time it may be expended.

Appropriation Lapse

The amount of authorized spending that will go unused and effectively “fall” to fund balance. Position vacancies comprise a majority of the appropriation lapse estimate, but other expenditure categories also factor into the computation.

Asset

Property owned by the City, regarded as having value and available to meet debts, commitments, legacy costs or provide some other future benefit.

Budget Amendment

Used to change authorized spending or to transfer appropriations between different departments or funds. Also, used to appropriate funds for a new project or grant, or to change appropriation for an existing active project or grant. Budget Amendments must be approved by a voice vote of the Fiscal Committee.

Budget Stabilization Fund

Serves as the City’s “savings” account and to assist in stabilizing revenues during periods of economic recession. The fund provides a safeguard to protect critical programs for residents when the City experiences an economic downturn.

Capital Expenditure (See page 22)

Capital Improvement Funds

Funds established to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities (other than those financed by proprietary and trust funds).

Co-Response

The Co-Responder model of criminal justice diversion pairs law enforcement and behavioral health specialists to intervene and respond to behavioral health-related calls for police service. These teams utilize the combined expertise of the officer and the behavioral health specialist to de-escalate situations and help link individuals with behavioral health issues to appropriate services.

Glossary of Terms cont.

Inclusion Investments

Appropriations designed to give people the tools, resources and connections necessary to be fully engaged and prepared to benefit from the opportunities they seek.

Fiscal Plan

A plan of financial operation embodying an estimate of proposed expenditures for a given period and the proposed means of financing them. Usually, the term indicates a financial plan for a single fiscal year. The City prepares both a Preliminary and a Final Fiscal Plan annually.

FY – Fiscal Year

A 12-month period to which the annual operating budget applies and at the end of which a government determines its financial position and the results of its operations.

Fund

A separate fiscal entity that is established to conduct specific activities and attain objectives in accordance with statutes, laws, regulations, and restrictions or for specific purposes.

Fund Balance

The difference between assets and liabilities of a fund.

GOF – General Operating Fund

A fund to account for all resources not otherwise devoted to specific activities and which finances many of the basic municipal functions.

Liability

Legal obligations payable to a third party (i.e., a promise to make a payment on a future date is a liability).

MOE – Maintenance of Effort

Mandates the City to continue to allocate a specified level of its financial resources in support of certain services such as Parks and the Vital Streets program. Generally, this is funding that may equal or exceed original funding levels. The concept is to ensure that new funds (i.e., millage or income tax) augment, not replace, existing City funding and levels of service.

NOF – Neighborhoods of Focus

NOFs are 17 census tracts in the near west and south side of Grand Rapids in relation to downtown. Due to systemic and historic inequities, residents in NOFs experience the most disparate outcomes in income, educational opportunities, home ownership and wealth accumulation compared to other Grand Rapids census tracts and the city as a whole. These tracts represent 36% of the city's total 47 census tracts.

Performance-Based Budgeting

The practice of developing budgets based on the relationship between program funding levels and expected results from that program. This approach allows the City to make and justify budgetary changes that meet community needs and advance citywide priorities.

Property Tax Millage

A millage rate is a rate to determine property taxes. Each item on your tax bill has a set number of mills that are multiplied by every \$1000 of your taxable value. You can look up the current and recent year millage rate for Grand Rapids on Kent County's [website](#).

SEV – State Equalized Value

SEV is the assessed value that has been adjusted following county and state equalization. The County Board of Commissioners and the Michigan State Tax Commission must review local assessments and adjust (equalize) them if they are above or below the constitutional 50% level of assessment. (See also Taxable Value).

Glossary of Terms cont.

Taxable Value

Every year, the City Assessor's office does an assessment of your property based on market value. They calculate the assessed value and taxable value of your property. The taxable value is sometimes equal to or less than the assessed value. The taxable value is the amount the City uses to calculate your property taxes. (See also SEV).

Unrestricted Cash

The measure of reserves that are available to be appropriated and spent in future years. In most cases, the unrestricted cash is approximately equal to the working capital (current assets minus current liabilities).



Introduction

The City of Grand Rapids is the 2nd largest city in the State of Michigan with a land area of approximately 45 square miles and a population of 200,131 people – and growing! The City saw a 6.4% population increase from the 188,040 residents counted in the 2010 census.

The City has fully complied with Michigan Public Act 2 (“Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act”) and has been awarded the “Distinguished Budget Presentation Award” by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the past 38 years.

The Preliminary Fiscal Plan was proposed by the City Manager within the context of a five-year plan. Five years encompasses a sufficient time frame to plan for the City’s long-range requirements and financial investments. The long-range modeling helps to prepare the City for future issues that may be created by decisions made today.

Balancing the Budget – The City must live within its means. The City is supported by various financial resources and must function within the limits of these resources each fiscal year.

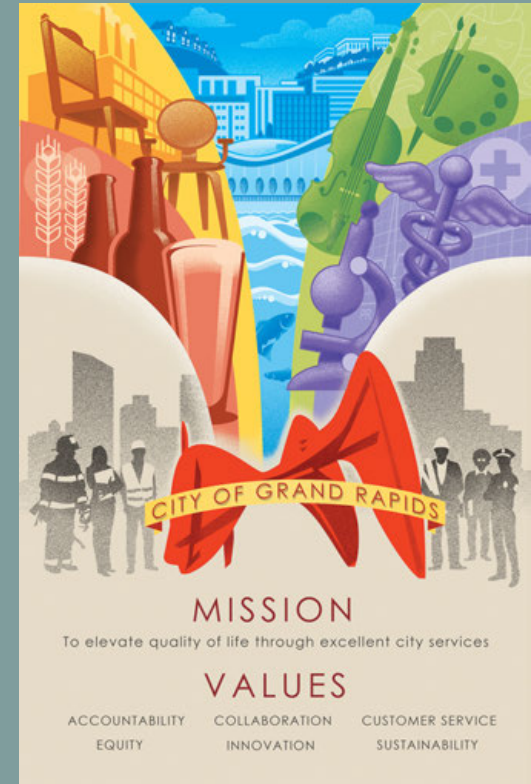
“Helping residents understand their annual budget is a top priority. Is there a subject or concept in this report we could help explain? A subject or concept you would like considered for inclusion in future reports? We’d be happy to follow up with you. Please reach out to contactbudget@grcity.us”



Mark Washington, City Manager
City of Grand Rapids, MI



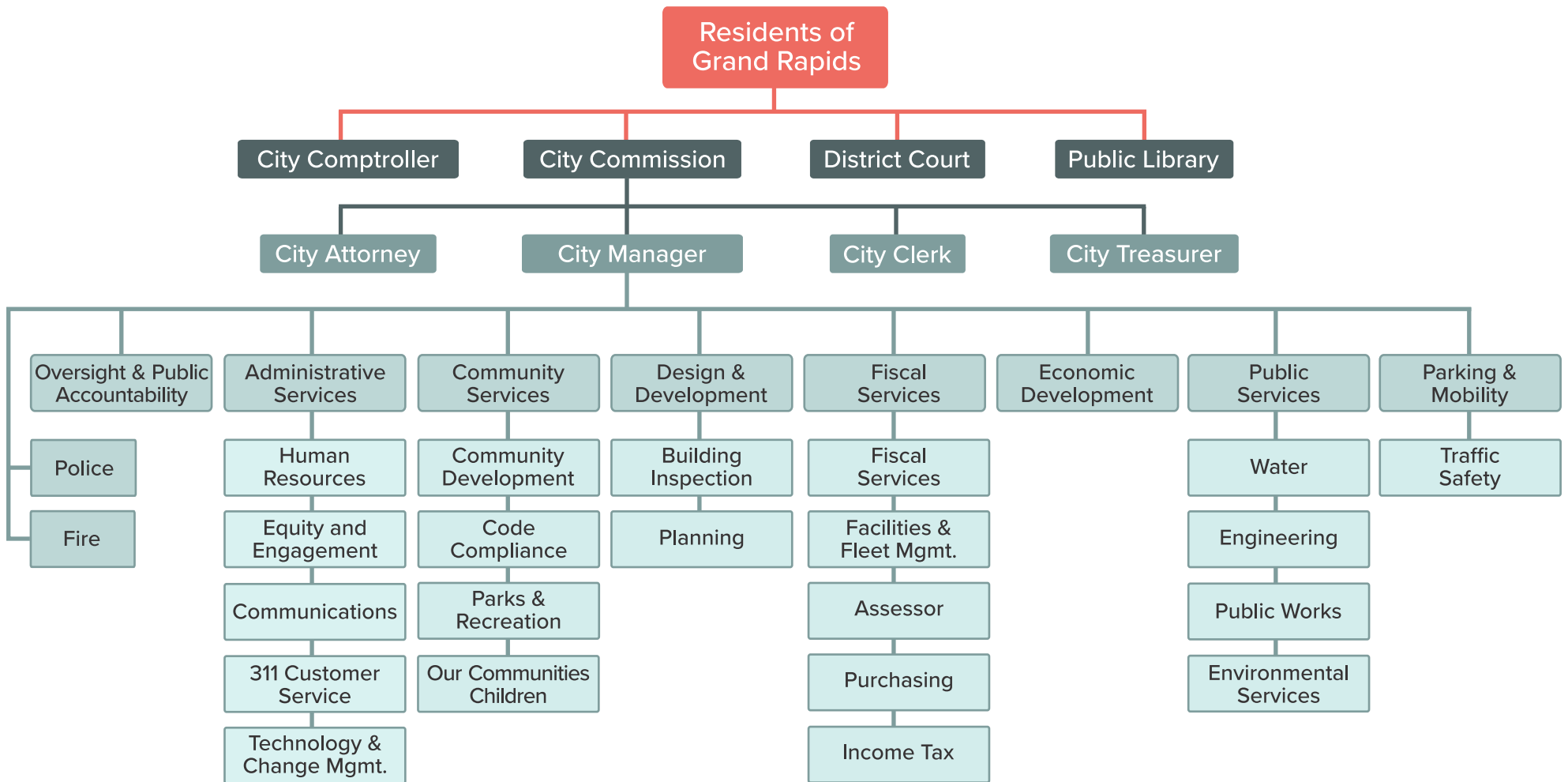
Molly J. Clarin, Chief Financial Officer
City of Grand Rapids, MI



The City’s Vision

Grand Rapids will be nationally recognized as an equitable, welcoming, innovative and collaborative city with a robust economy, safe and healthy community, and the opportunity for a high quality of life for all.

Organizational Structure



Budget Basics



Budget Process

The Budget process is the decision-making process for allocating public resources to the City's strategic priorities and includes the following steps:

- Revenue forecasts
- Personnel labor cost projections
- Departments submit five-year budget requests
- Budget review meetings with the Executive Team
- Capital funding request review
- Preliminary Fiscal Plan delivered in April
- City Commission conducts several study sessions
- Public hearing and City Commission approval both occur in May
- Budget amendments as needed throughout the fiscal year
- Preliminary and Final Fiscal Plans
 - The Preliminary Fiscal Plan is presented annually in late April and the accompanying Resident's Guide is presented annually in early May and is subject to change.
 - The Final Fiscal Plan and accompanying Resident's Guide to the Budget is published within 90 days of Commission budget adoption.

Asset Management

The City has established a system for assessing capital assets and appropriately planning and budgeting for capital maintenance and replacement needs.

Capital Improvement:

- General Capital property tax millage
- 5% Income Tax set-aside
- City, Village & Township revenue sharing

Streets Capital:

- Vital Streets income tax extension
- GOF supplemental funding (\$13 million over 15 years)
- Additional State investment

Parks Millage:

- Strategic Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- GOF Maintenance Of Effort (MOE) required
- FY2027 MOE - \$8.9 million
- Permanent millage of 1.25 mills beginning July 1, 2021 (FY2022)

Budget Basics cont.

Budget Guidelines

Budget guidelines provide direction on the processes and constraints within which the City prepares its budget.

- The City must balance the budget, which means authorized spending cannot exceed available resources
- Five-year budgeting allows the City to anticipate and prepare for financial challenges well before they materialize
- The General Fund assumes a \$7.4 million budgetary lapse to account for unspent budget such as positions being unfilled for a portion of the year

Contingencies:

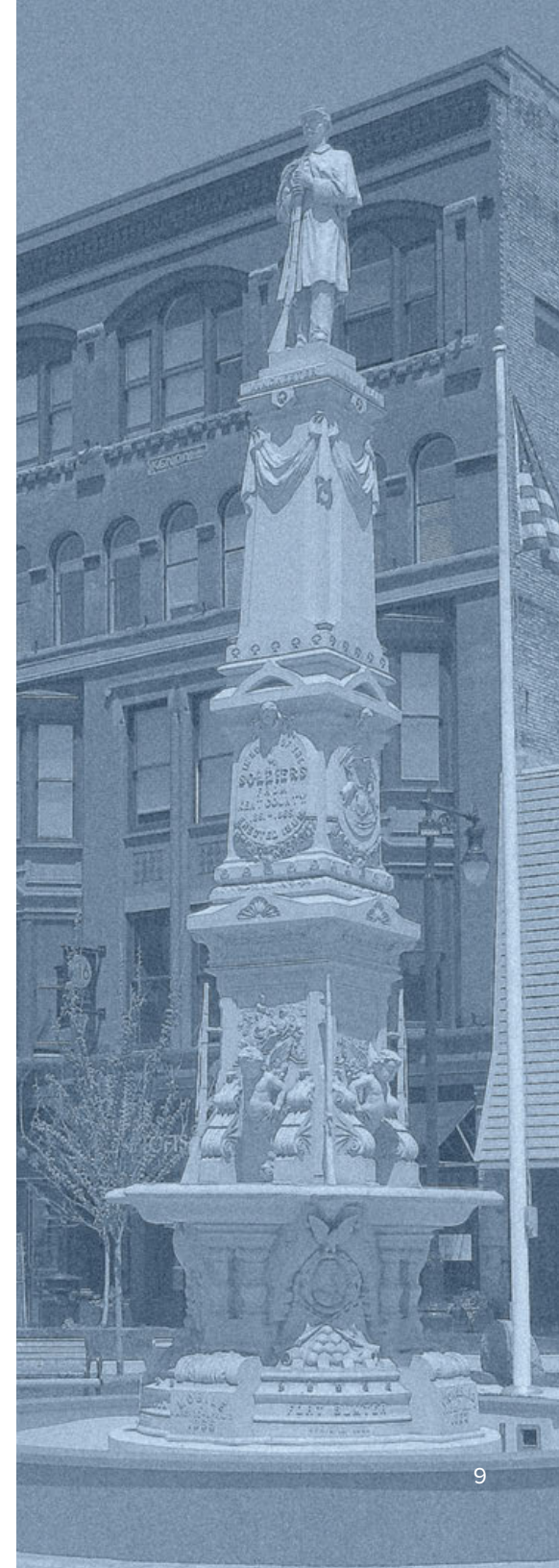
- Provides \$1.5 million set-aside for unanticipated or unforeseen events

Fund Balance Policy:

- Net worth of a fund at a point in time
- 15% of current spending in GOF (FY2026 Estimate = 41.4%)
- 10% of current spending in GOF reserved in the Budget Stabilization Fund (FY2026 Estimate = 9.0%)
- Other funds: 15% or 25% depending on fund type
- Stable property tax revenue growth. Increases primarily attributable to new investment.

Service Enhancements Recommended for FY2027:

- Continued investment in public safety staffing and operations, including support for sworn personnel, supervision, and emergency response capacity.
- Ongoing improvements to 911 Dispatch operations, with a focus on staffing stability, training, and performance.
- Expansion of community-based violence prevention and intervention strategies, alongside traditional public safety services.
- Continued implementation of the Community Master Plan, including zoning updates and improved development tools.
- Investment in housing supply, affordability, and homelessness response through coordinated programs and partnerships.
- Enhancements to mobility and transportation systems, including pedestrian and cyclist safety improvements and traffic operations.
- Support for environmental sustainability initiatives, including climate resiliency, water system investments, and park improvements.
- Strengthened customer service and communication tools, including technology improvements and new service channels.





Budget Philosophy, Values, and Economic Context

The FY2027 Preliminary Fiscal Plan continues the City’s long-standing commitment to responsible financial management, high-quality service delivery, and alignment with community priorities. The City’s six core values – accountability, collaboration, customer service, equity, innovation, and sustainability – remain central to how resources are allocated and decisions are made.

This year’s budget is developed in the context of a more constrained and uncertain economic environment. While the local economy remains relatively stable, broader national and global conditions – including inflation, labor market pressures, and evolving federal and state funding – create challenges for long-term financial planning. At the same time, one-time funding sources, including federal pandemic relief, have largely expired, increasing reliance on ongoing revenues to support City services.

In response, the City continues to take a disciplined and forward-looking approach. The FY2027 plan prioritizes maintaining core services, making targeted investments where they will have the greatest impact, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability. The City continues to leverage partnerships, pursue external funding opportunities, and invest in systems and processes that improve efficiency and effectiveness.

This approach reflects an understanding that public service requires balancing current needs with future obligations. The City remains committed to making thoughtful, data-informed decisions that support a strong, resilient, and inclusive community.

\$785,375,548

The total Citywide
FY2027 proposed
appropriations

\$206,690,305

The proposed
appropriation for the
General Operating Fund



FY2027 Proposed Budget in Brief

The assumptions used to develop the FY2027 Preliminary Fiscal Plan include:

- Modest growth in key revenue sources, including income tax and property tax, while recognizing sensitivity to economic conditions.
- Continued reliance on recurring revenues to support ongoing operations as one-time federal funding phases out.
- Maintenance of core City services, with targeted enhancements aligned with Strategic Plan priorities.
- Ongoing investment in public safety services and community-based prevention strategies.
- Continued funding for capital investments, including infrastructure, parks, water systems, and major redevelopment projects.
- Assumption of continued personnel cost growth driven by wages, benefits, and a competitive labor market.
- Use of performance measurement and data to guide decision-making and evaluate outcomes.
- Maintenance of appropriate fund balance levels and adherence to financial policies supporting long-term stability.
- Continued evaluation of service delivery models, efficiencies, and opportunities for innovation.

Total Citywide FY2027 Proposed Appropriations: \$785.4 million

General Operating Fund Proposed Appropriation: \$206.7 million

Budget Process Considerations

Key Assumptions

- Continuation of all core City services, including:
 - \$201.6M - Water and Wastewater
 - \$75.4M - Police
 - \$56.6M - Economic Development
 - \$48.3M - Fire services
 - \$48.0M - Vital Streets
 - \$40.4M - Parks and Community Services
 - \$21.1M - Refuse and Recycling
 - \$17.8M - Library
 - \$13.5M - Court
- Total personnel cost of \$236.5M
- \$1.3M in State Public Safety funding supports 10 police positions; an additional \$400k remains to be programmed for eligible prevention efforts

Program Changes & Operational Adjustments

- \$7M capital costs avoided over 5 years in DASH bus replacement costs (Parking Fund)
- \$1.6M annual DASH operating cost avoidance (Parking Fund)
- \$1.3M for 14 new non-GOF positions (Environmental Services, Water, Mobile GR, Parks, Engineering)
- \$100k personal belongings storage program (additional \$100k needed for full service)

- \$60k Retail Retention Program continued (partner funding not included)

Fees & Charges

- Previously adopted water/sewer rate adjustments reflected (~2.5%)
- No change to hourly on-street parking rates
- Special event parking max remains \$25
- Monthly parking rates increase with cost of living
- EV charging transitions to energy-based pricing model

Policy Considerations / Deliberation Items

- ≥ \$8.5M neighborhood road funding anticipated (not yet allocated)
- \$7M transfer to Budget Stabilization Fund (FY2026) recommended
- \$218,821 not included for Equity & Sustainability positions (post-grant)
- \$200k is not included for conversion of Commission Enhanced Support pilot to permanent
- \$50k additional to be considered for disaster relief fund (beyond included \$50k)

American Rescue Plan Act Funding and Investments

The City continues to leverage its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) grant to support current operations as well as provide support in key focus areas. This allocation of funding was fully obligated by the December 31, 2024, deadline, and will be fully expended by December 31, 2026. Investments are detailed in the table below.

Project Category	Obligated Amount	Expenses Thru 3/31/26	Remaining
Medical Expenses	\$1,494,380.80	\$1,494,380.80	\$0.00
PPE/Workplace Safety	\$128,234.32	\$128,234.32	\$0.00
Broadband Connectivity	\$224,339.91	\$224,339.91	\$0.00
HOT/Public Safety Response	\$223,976.12	\$223,976.12	\$0.00
Affordable Housing/Vulnerable Populations	\$8,380,081.00	\$8,139,179.70	\$240,901.30
Violence Reduction/Co-response	\$1,620,429.58	\$1,620,429.58	\$0.00
Special Events/Other Support	\$969,220.94	\$969,220.94	\$0.00
Provision of Governmental Services	\$36,508,777.65	\$33,602,779.34	\$2,905,998.31
Strong Healthy Communities	\$13,300,000.00	\$11,528,744.14	\$1,771,255.86
Software Upgrade (Fairfax)	\$382,650.00	\$239,780.00	\$142,870
ERP	\$9,441,056.97	\$9,379,093.88	\$61,963.59
ARPA Administration	\$400,000.00	\$239,780.00	\$133,696.00
Scribner	\$19,206,352.71	\$18,834,973.88	\$371,378.33
Total	\$92,279,500.00	\$86,672,342.93	\$5,626,296.89

Continuing Our Commitment to Inclusion and Opportunity for All

The FY2027 budget continues the City's commitment to creating a community where all residents have access to opportunity and can fully participate in civic life. This work is integrated across departments and initiatives and remains a core component of the City's Strategic Plan

The City continues to advance inclusive practices through training, collaboration, and intentional program design. Departments are encouraged to evaluate policies, services, and investments to ensure they are responsive to community needs and help reduce disparities.

Examples of FY2027 efforts include:

- Continued support for housing stability and homelessness response programs
- Investments in neighborhood business districts and support for small and diverse businesses
- Ongoing implementation of community engagement strategies and improved access to City services
- Workforce development and career pathway initiatives to support a diverse and talented City workforce
- Partnerships that promote belonging and connection, including regional and international collaborations

Many of these efforts are embedded within broader service delivery and do not always require standalone funding. However, they represent an ongoing commitment to ensuring that City services and investments benefit the entire community.

FY2027 Investments for Outcomes

The FY2027 budget continues to invest in programs, services, and infrastructure that support long-term community outcomes. These investments are designed to maintain progress, respond to emerging needs, and position the City for future success.

This plan includes:

- Continued investment in core infrastructure, including streets, water systems, parks, and public facilities
- Support for major capital projects that are transforming the City’s economic and cultural landscape
- Sustained funding for public safety services, alongside prevention and intervention strategies
- Ongoing investment in the City workforce, including recruitment, retention, and professional development
- Improvements to customer service systems and technology to enhance responsiveness and accessibility
- Continued progress on environmental sustainability initiatives and climate resilience efforts
- Strategic use of partnerships and external funding to expand the impact of City resources

Together, these investments reflect a balanced approach – maintaining essential services while advancing key priorities that improve quality of life for residents.

Department	Number
Position	
Environmental Services	
Utility Aides	2
Maintenance Mechanic	2
Plant Assistant	1
Fiscal Services	
Budget Analyst A - Capital	1
Parking (Mobile GR)	
Facility Maintenance Technician	1
Parking Violations Checker I	1
Transportation Planner	1
Information Systems Coordinator	1
Parks and Recreation	
Groundskeeper	1
Water	
Utility Aides	3
Total Other Proposed Funds	14
FY2027 Additions	14

Selected Investments by Strategic Plan Priority



Economic Prosperity and Affordability

City appropriations of \$19.8 million and Corridor Improvement Authority appropriations of \$36.8 million, for a grand total of \$56.6 million is proposed, including:

- Investments to increase housing supply, support affordability, and address homelessness
- Support for neighborhood business districts and small business development
- Continued coordination on major redevelopment projects and economic initiatives
- Strategic partnerships to support job creation, workforce development, and economic growth
- Infrastructure and planning investments that support long-term economic vitality the Grand River.



Health and Environment

\$256.6 million proposed, including:

- Investments in water systems, environmental services, and infrastructure reliability
- Climate resilience and sustainability initiatives
- Continued park improvements and green space investments

- Programs addressing environmental health risks and improving neighborhood conditions
- Ongoing maintenance and enhancement of public spaces

Mobility \$178.3 million proposed, including:



- Street maintenance and reconstruction through Vital Streets and related programs
- Investments in pedestrian and bicycle safety and connectivity
- Traffic signal, lighting, and safety improvements
- Public transportation coordination and mobility system enhancements
- Parking system operations and infrastructure improvements



Selected Investments by Strategic Plan

Priority cont.



Safe Community \$156.6 million proposed, including:

- Continued investment in Police, Fire, and emergency response services
- Efforts to reduce vacancies and maintain service levels
- Community-based violence prevention and intervention programs
- Investments in equipment, technology, and training for public safety personnel
- Continued development of facilities and infrastructure supporting public safety operations



Governmental Excellence \$179 million proposed, including:

- Investments in workforce recruitment, retention, and development
- Continued improvements to technology systems and operational processes
- Support for core services across departments
- Efforts to improve efficiency, accountability, and service delivery
- Capital investments that support long-term asset management and operational sustainability

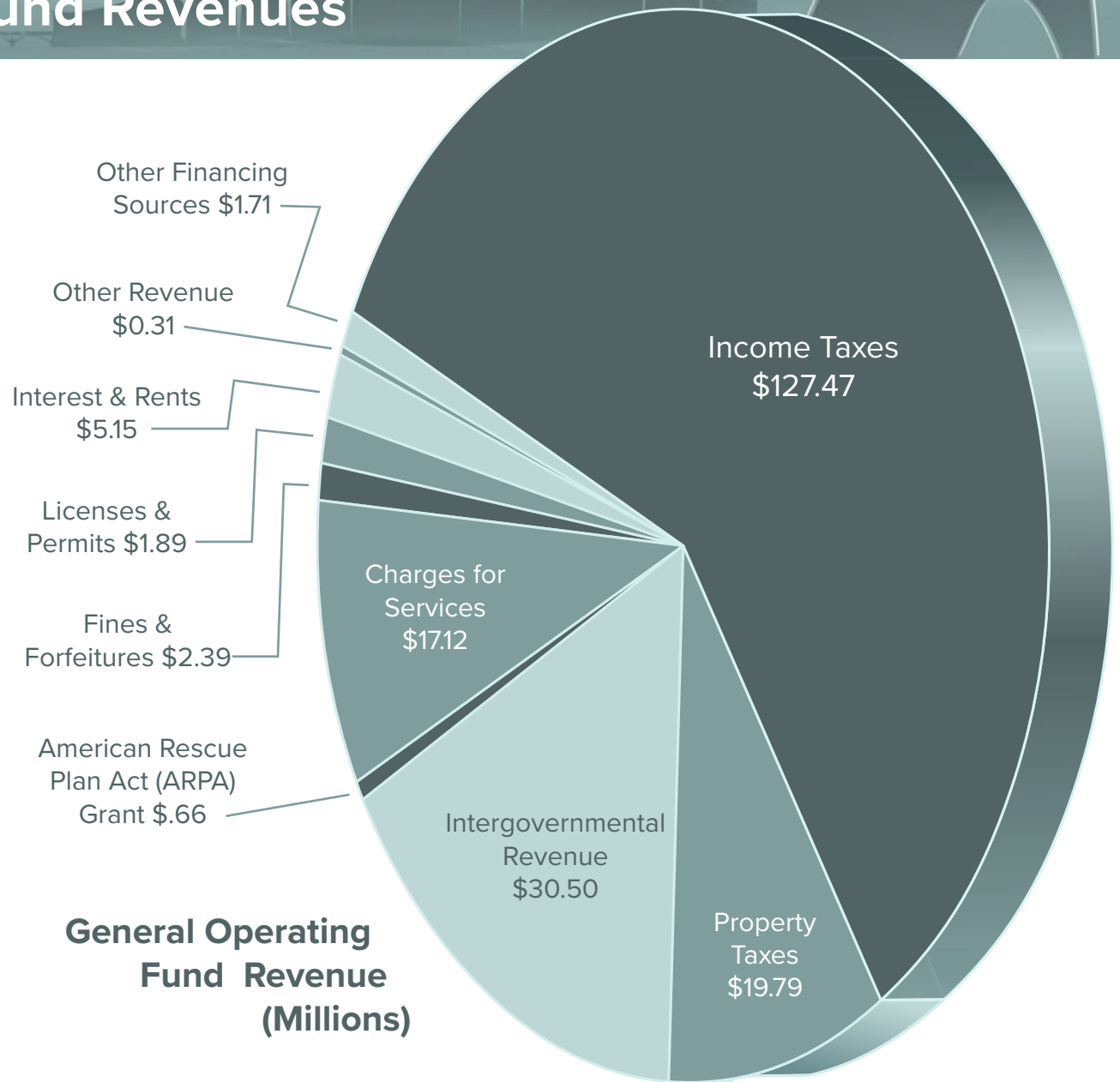


Engaged and Connected Community \$29.0 million proposed, including:

- Expanded communication and outreach efforts
- Implementation of a citywide engagement framework
- Support for neighborhood associations and community-based engagement
- Continued investment in transparency and access to information
- Programs that strengthen connections between residents and City services

General Operating Fund Revenues

The **General Operating Fund (GOF)** is where the City accounts for most tax supported activities. Several years ago, City income tax and property tax revenues were 38.6% and 16.9% of total GOF revenues respectively, but for FY2027 the proportionate shares are projected to be 61.6% and 9.6%. The shift to the more economically volatile Income Tax as the primary GOF revenue source has contributed, in part, to the ongoing GOF revenue volatility. A number of factors have contributed to this shift over the years including voter approved increases in the income tax rate as well as limited property tax growth due to “Proposal A” and the “Headlee Amendment.” Also contributing to the City’s economic challenges are reductions in the statutory revenue sharing program which has never fully recovered from earlier highs, as well as the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to negatively impact local income tax revenues due to remote work outside the City. FY2027 GOF base income tax revenue is projected to increase by 4.4% compared to the FY2026 Estimate.

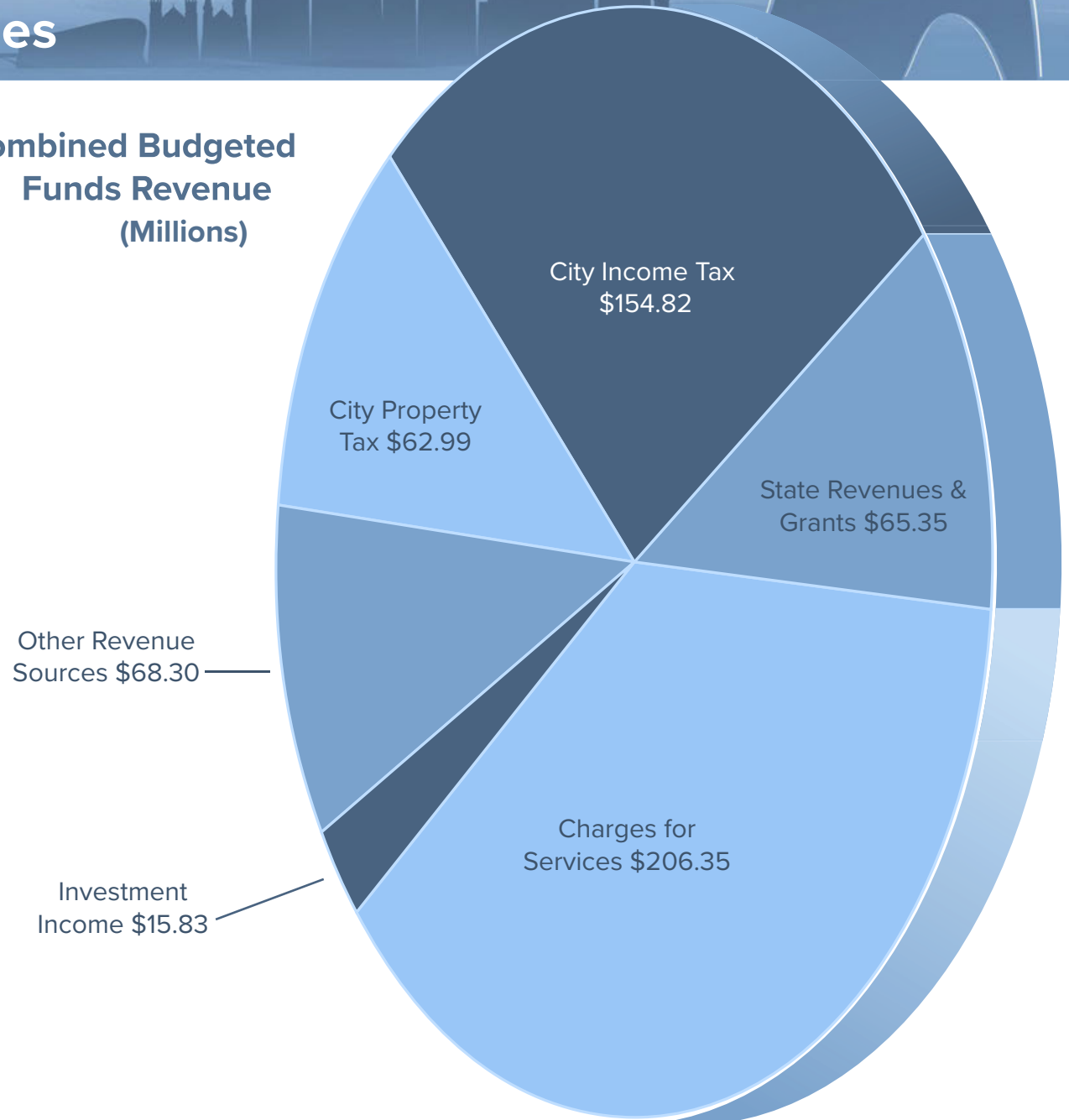


Citywide Total Revenues

Key Takeaways:

- FY2027 Combined Budgeted Funds Revenue: \$573.63 million
- FY2027 General Fund Revenue: \$207 million
- Volatility, uncertainty and complexity in the revenue forecast
- Positive and stable income tax revenue projections
- While property taxes continue to grow steadily, this growth is limited due to current state law. An overall increase of approximately 5% in Taxable Value is anticipated.
- Charges for services is a growing revenue source as the City has focused more attention on full cost recovery from user charges. Unlike the private sector, state laws and related court cases limit City fees to the costs of the services provided.

Combined Budgeted Funds Revenue (Millions)



Income Tax Allocation

This budget anticipates a 4.2% increase in income taxes in FY2026 followed by a 4.4% increase in FY2027 and an average of 3.7% annually thereafter (FY2028-FY2031). The income tax growth projections remain relatively conservative but more optimistic in the short term. Macro-economic issues elevate the risk of recession after the current year (FY2026).

Income Tax Rate History:

- **March 1995:** the City's voters authorized an increase in the income tax from 1.0 % to 1.3% for residents and from 0.5% to 0.65% for non-residents effective January 1, 1996.
- **May 2010:** the City's electorate authorized a temporary increase in the income tax from 1.3% to 1.5% for residents and from 0.65% to 0.75% for non-residents effective July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2015.
- **May 2014:** voters approved extending the temporary income tax increase another 15 years to pay for Vital Streets through June 30, 2030.

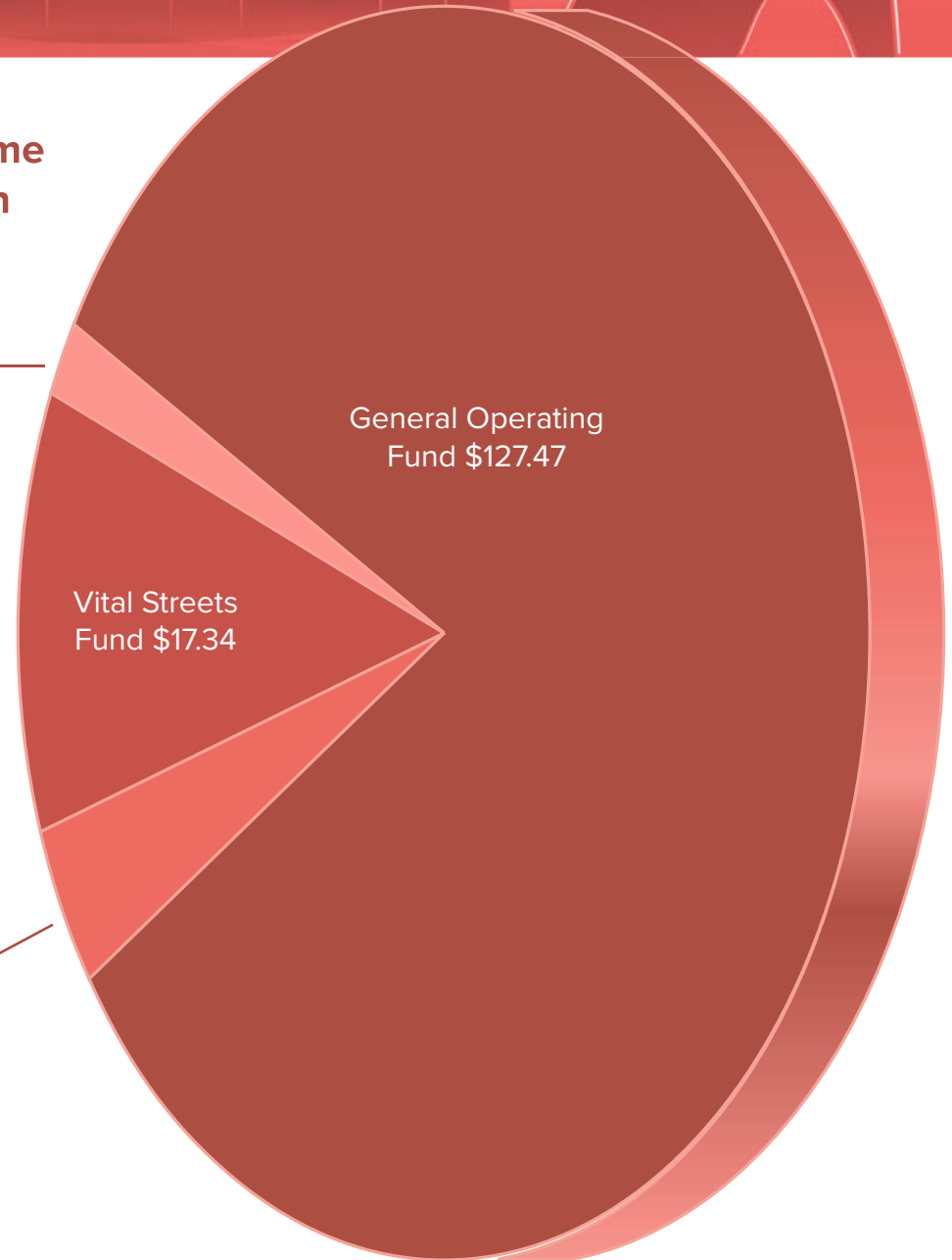
Estimated Income Tax Allocation (Millions)

Sidewalk Repair Fund \$3.30

General Operating Fund \$127.47

Vital Streets Fund \$17.34

Capital Reserve Fund \$6.71

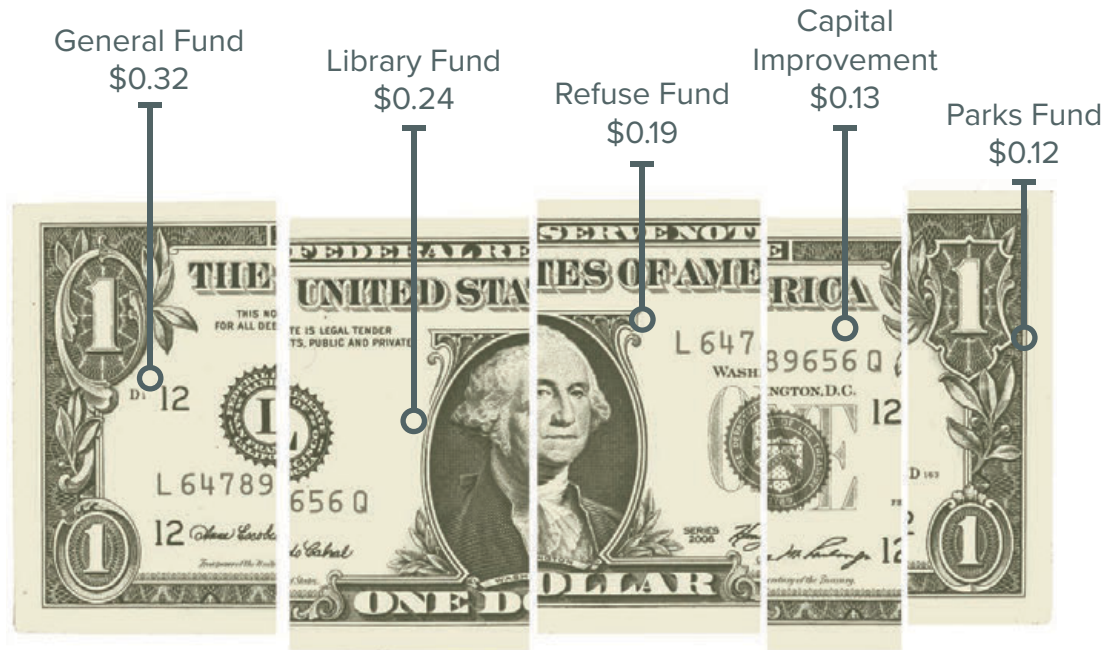


Property Tax Distribution

City Property Taxes are generated by applying the approved millage rates to the taxable value of a property. One mill equals \$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable property value. The taxable value of property may be less than or equal to but cannot exceed the property's SEV. Property tax revenues are deposited into the General Operating, Library, Capital Reserve, Refuse Collection and Disposal, and Parks & Recreation funds.

Key Takeaways:

- Both the City Operating and overall property tax rate decreased for 2026 (FY2027). The overall tax levy decreased by 0.1074 mills to a proposed total levy of 8.7513.
- Overall taxable value increased in 2025 (tax year 2026). The assessed value of the residential class of ad valorem property increased 7.09% for 2026.



Average Grand Rapids Property Tax Bill	GR Property Tax (City of GR Millage only)	Average Residential Taxable Value	Estimated Average Market Value
As of July 1, 2025	\$720.69	\$81,354	\$276,696
As of July 1, 2026	\$771.82	\$87,126	\$296,675
\$ Increase/(Decrease)	\$51.13 (annual)	\$5,772	\$19,979
% Increase/(Decrease)	7.09%	7.09%	7.22%

Annual Water and Sewer Costs for Grand Rapids Residents



GR Water



GR Sewer

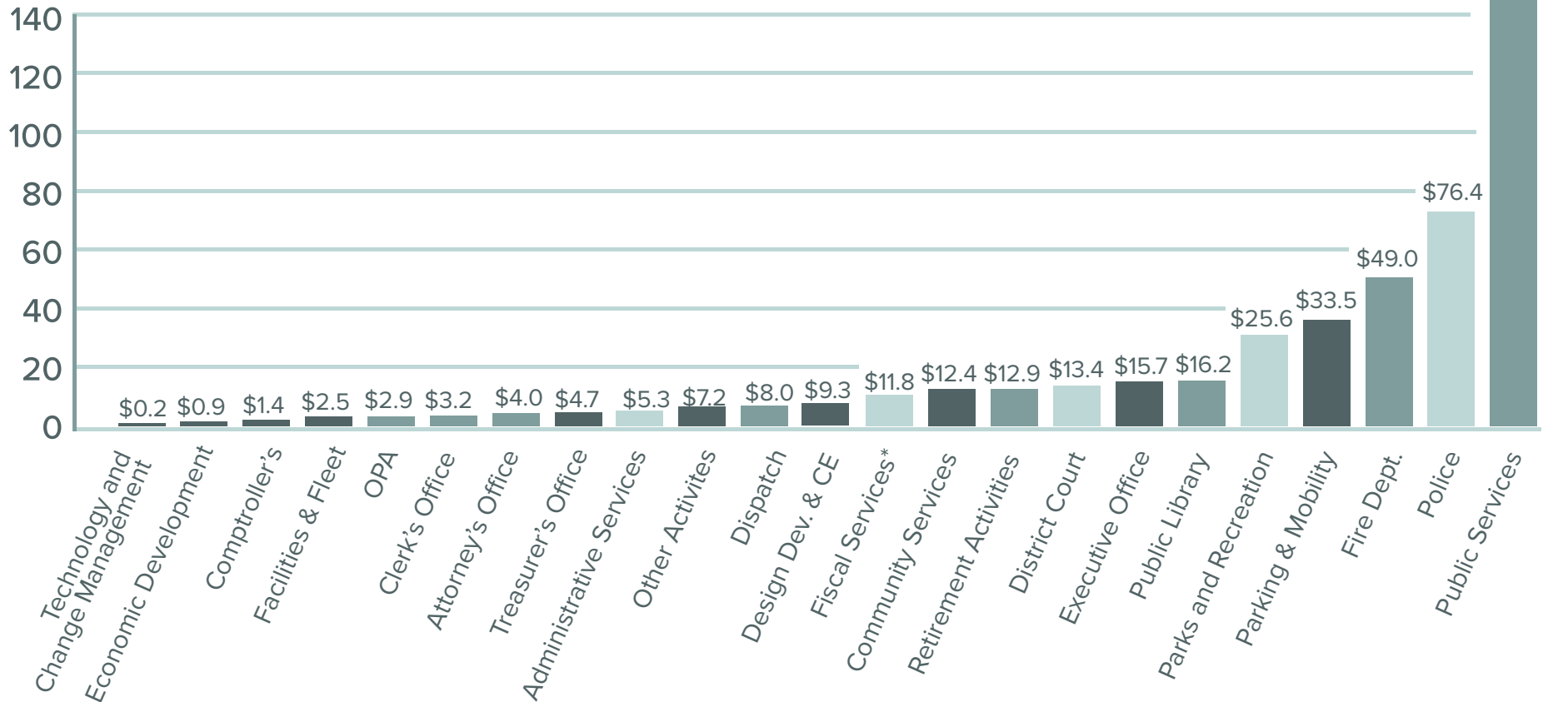
	Residential customer usage of 62,832 gallons annually	Residential customer usage of 41,888 gallons annually	Annual Impact
As of July 1, 2025	\$373.56	\$457.56	\$831.12
As of July 1, 2026	\$394.14	\$457.92	\$852.06
Dollar Increase	\$20.58	\$0.36	\$20.94
Percent Increase	5.51%	0.08%	2.52%

A comprehensive Water and Sewer Rate Study is prepared annually to ensure compliance with state laws and with bond covenants, and to assure the solvency of the Systems. These rates were approved by the City Commission on December 16, 2025. You can view the study [here](#).



Citywide Expenses by Functional Group

Combined Budget Funds Expenses (Millions)



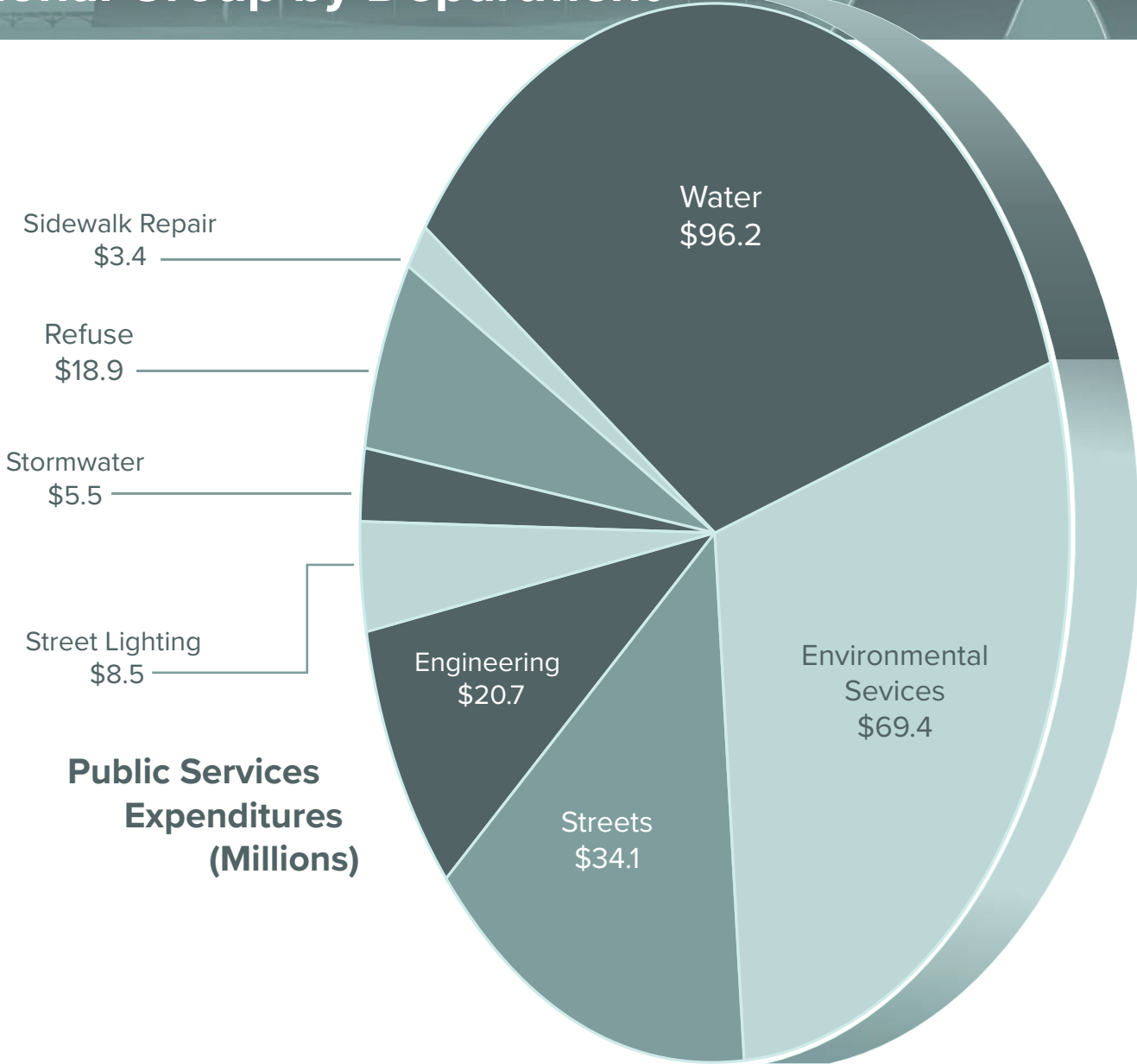
The above chart is presented by functional group. Some groups are comprised of multiple departments. For example, the Fiscal Services group includes the following departments: Fiscal Services, Purchasing, Assessor and Income Tax. A full listing of departments by functional group can be found in the *Fiscal Plan Book*.

*Fiscal Services (Functional Group)

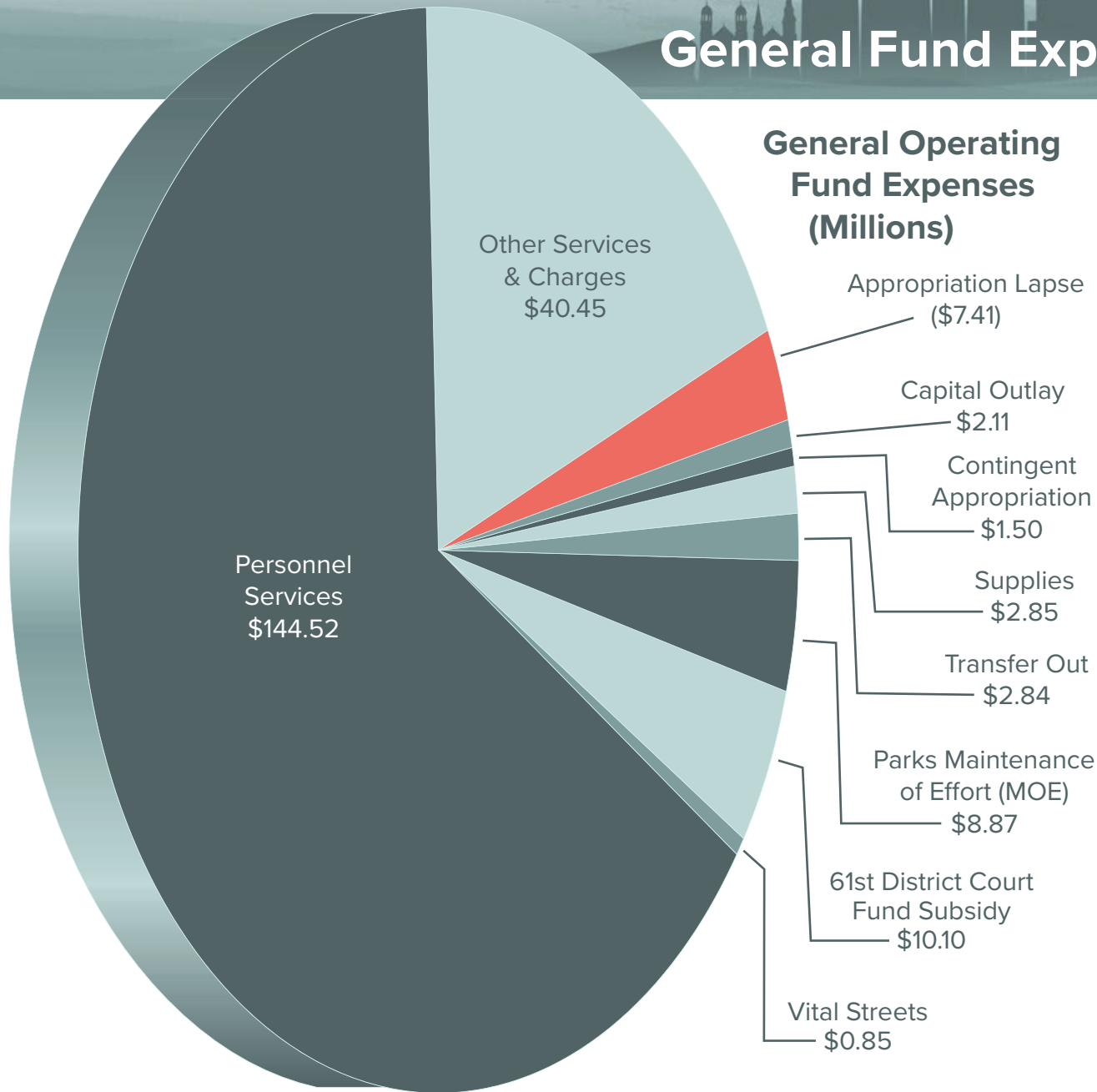


Public Services Functional Group by Department

The Public Services Functional Group is the largest in terms of budgeted funds and is primarily comprised of the Water and Environmental Services (Sewer) utilities, Streets and Refuse Collection. These four departments account for approximately 85.1% of the \$218 million total expenditure budget for Public Services.



General Fund Expenses by Category



Key Takeaways:

- The FY2027 appropriation for the General Operating Fund is \$206.69 million.
- Focus is on maintaining essential services, sustaining momentum on transformational projects and positioning the City to weather future uncertainty.
- Assumption that \$7.41 million in FY2027 budgeted expenditures will remain unspent (Appropriation Lapse)
- \$1.5 million has been reserved for unforeseen expenditures that are emergency in nature (Contingent Appropriation)
- General Fund support for Parks (Parks MOE) is anticipated to grow in FY2027 to approximately \$8.9 million.



Capital Investments

Budget Process

The City Manager and his Executive Team review and prioritize the proposed capital projects according to Strategic Plan priority and with the goal of maximizing equity and citywide balance and distribution. Projects are also evaluated in terms of financial capacity (including operations & maintenance impact) with some receiving multi-year allocations and/or utilizing a variety of funding sources.

Financial Reporting

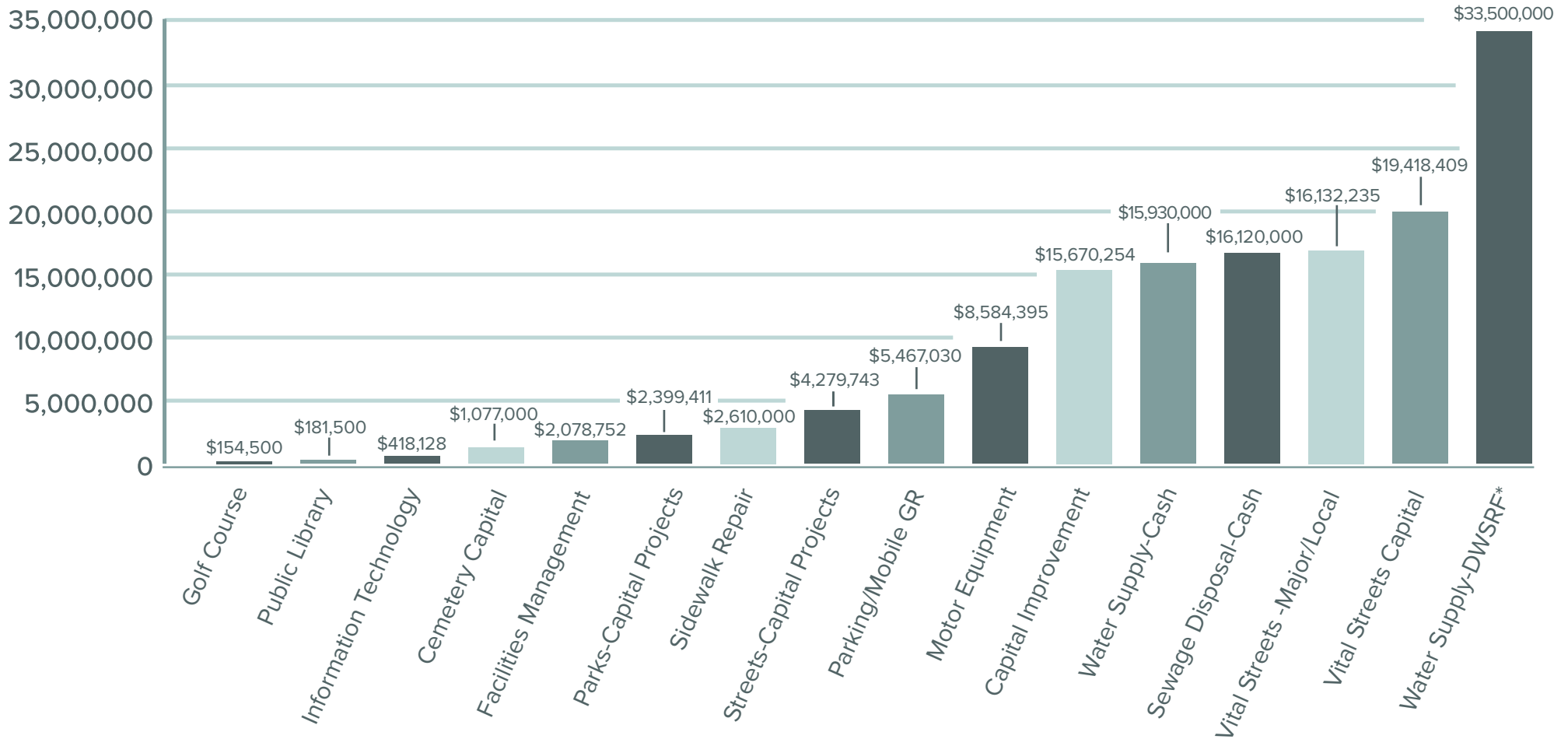
The City generally defines a “capital expenditure” as the cost of an asset that is used in operations with a price in excess of \$10,000 and a lifespan greater than one year. Capital assets include both tangible assets such as land, buildings, vehicles and equipment as well as intangible assets such as easements and software. The cost to acquire, construct or improve a capital asset is not recognized immediately as expense when incurred, but instead is deferred (capitalized) and allocated over the estimated useful life of the capital asset in the form of depreciation expense (tangible capital assets) or amortization expense (intangible capital assets).

Funding Sources

Cash funding is generally preferred for one-time or shorter-lived capital projects when capacity exists, thereby avoiding interest expense and other financing charges. Longer-lived projects requiring more substantial investment may be debt financed when capacity is limited and inter-generational equity is desirable (i.e., large water and sewer infrastructure projects). Intergenerational equity is the concept of fairness between generations. In terms of capital investment, debt financing allows the cost to be spread over 20 or 30 years in the case of revenue bonds, thereby better matching cost to those utilizing and benefiting from the capital investment.

Capital Investments by Fund

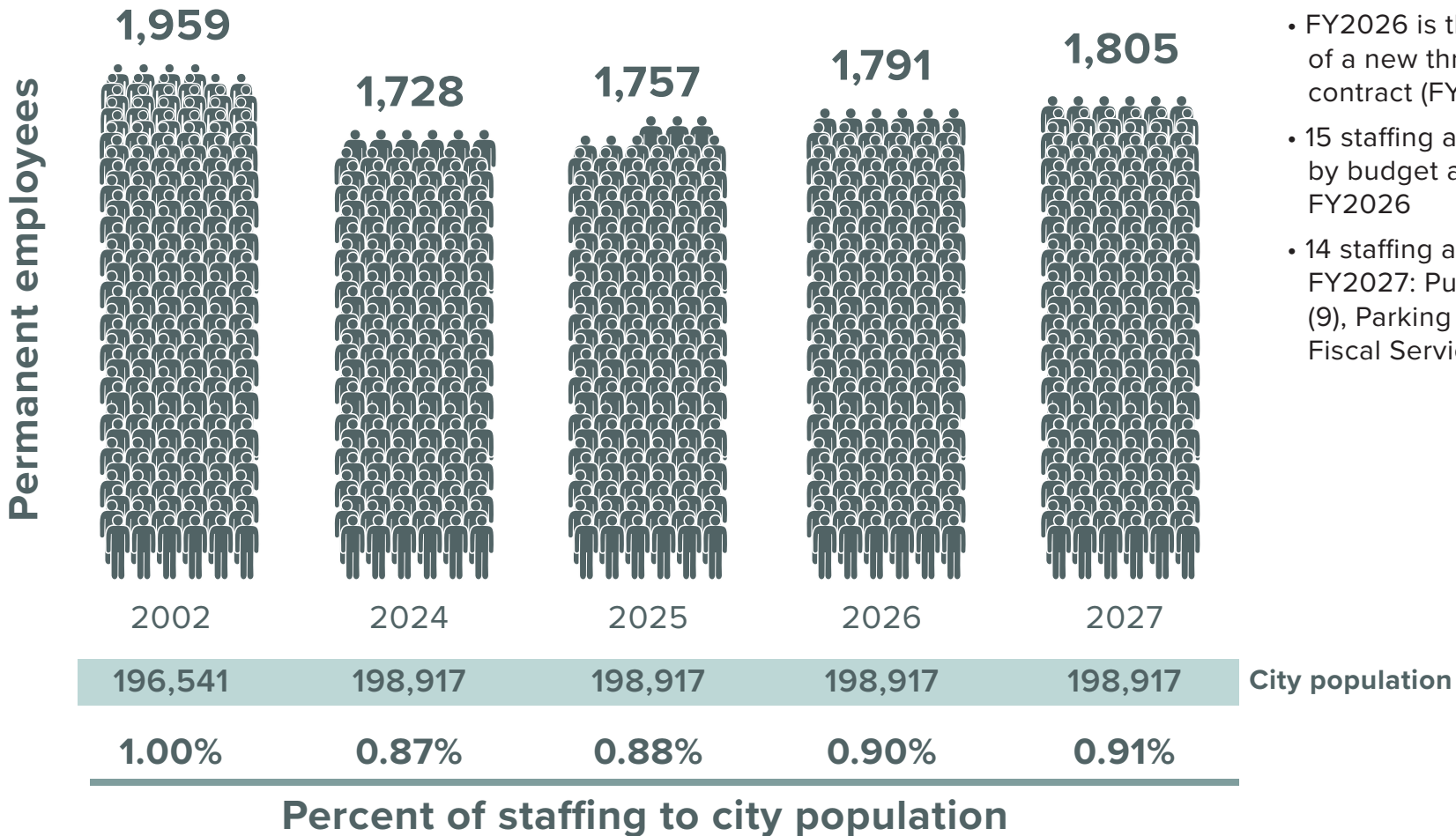
FY2027 Proposed Capital Investments



*DWSRF: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Citywide Employment

Grand Rapids Permanent Staffing History



Citywide Employment

**Authorized Positions
by Department
FY2027-FY2031
Proposed Fiscal Plan**

	FY2024 Amended Budget	FY2025 Amended Budget	FY2026 Amended Budget	FY2027 Proposed Budget	CHANGE
Public Library	161	161	161	161	-
Clerk's office	11	11	11	11	-
Executive	33	36	38	38	-
Community Development	55	55	55	55	-
Public Services	391	397	406	414	8
Parks	49	50	52	53	1
Design and Development	47	47	51	51	-
Mobile GR Parking and Mobility	71	75	77	81	4
Economic Development	9	9	11	11	-
Administrative Services	43	44	44	44	-
OPA	5	6	7	7	-
Dispatch	49	54	58	58	-
Police	339	337	348	348	-
Fire	223	233	232	232	-
District Court	85	84	82	82	-
Attorney's office	19	19	19	19	-
Facilities and Fleet Management	47	47	47	47	-
Fiscal Services	52	65	65	66	1
Technology and Change Management	2	2	2	2	-
Treasury	17	17	17	17	-
Comptroller's Office	16	4	4	4	-
Retirement Activities - Retirement Office (Non-Budgeted)	4	4	4	4	-
Grand Total Positions (Full-time and Permanent Part-time)	1,728	1,757	1,791	1,805	14

Government Information

The City of Grand Rapids operates a City Commission – City Manager form of government. The Mayor and City Commissioners are responsible for establishing city policy and providing direction to the City Manager. The City Commission appoints the City officials with the exception of the elected City Comptroller.

City Officials



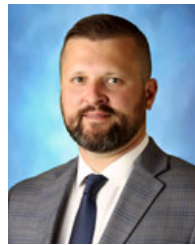
Mark Washington
City Manager



John Globensky
City Treasurer



Joel Hondorp
City Clerk



Philip Strom
City Attorney



Max Frantz
City Comptroller

For more information about **City Officials** [click here](#)

City Commission



David LaGrand
City Mayor



Alicia Marie Belchak
First Ward Commissioner



Vacant
First Ward Commissioner



Milinda Ysasi
Second Ward Commissioner



Lisa Knight
Second Ward Commissioner



Kelsey Perdue
Third Ward Commissioner



Marshall Kilgore
Third Ward Commissioner

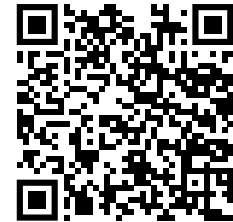
For more information about **Elected Officials** [click here](#)

For More Information

The City’s website is your source for information about City policies, services, commission meetings and events 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Visit the City on the web: www.grandrapidsmi.gov

Residents can take advantage of these online services:

Download the City’s Fiscal Plan and View Budget Presentations	Budget Office
Download City financial reports	Office of the City Comptroller
Find Property Tax Information	Assessor’s Office
View the City’s Key Metric Dashboard	Key Metric Dashboard Open Performance
View GR Open Data	Search & Browse Open Performance
Download agendas and meeting minutes	Meeting Schedules and Agendas
Watch Live Meetings	Watch Live Meetings
Get Involved on Boards and Commissions	Boards and Commissions
Apply for a City Job	Apply for a City Job
View City Policies	Policies
Find parks and download reservation forms	Reserve a Park Facility
Search the municipal code	City Code of Ordinances
Report a problem or request a service	Customer Service
Pay parking tickets and utility bills	Payments



City of Grand Rapids
Strategic Plan



City of Grand Rapids
Budget Library



300 Monroe Ave. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: 616-456-3000