



FY26 Proposed City Budget: Public Hearing

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January 13, 2025

Who we are and who we serve: Residents

2023 Census QuickFacts

Total population	21,043
Owner-occupied homes	59.4%
BA or Higher (25+)	63.0%
Median household income	\$90,410
Over 65	16.3%
BIPOC residents	17.8%
Born outside the US	12.9%
Language spoken at home	14.0% other than English

- Overall housing
 - 47% single family
 - 6% duplex
 - 46% multi-family
 - Housing built since 2000
 - 18% single family
 - 9% duplex
 - 74% multi-family
 - Housing built since 2015
 - 17% single family
 - 9% duplex
 - 75% multi-family*
- *Includes congregate care housing where data available
- ~90% of new housing built since 2010 has been within or immediately adjacent to our transit-served areas
 - 51% of the City's land area is park space, conserved, association common land, or regulated to prohibit development

Who we are and who we serve: Team

- Approximately 195 employees
- Across 14 departments
- 3 Represented Labor groups
- 8 City buildings
- 11 Parks and Natural Areas
- 6 statutory committees
- 9 policy advisory committees
- 1 task force
- 131 volunteers on boards and committees

Hold the Community's Trust



Budget Goals

This proposed FY26 Budget as recommended by the City Manager and discussed by the City Council at their meetings on 9/16, 12/2, 12/12, 12/16 and 1/6 achieves the following:

- Continues the current level of service delivery
- Maximizes non-property-tax revenue by aggressively budgeting for Local Option Tax and interest earned income and reviewing fee structures
- Is sensitive to the property tax impacts from the State Education Fund and limits municipal property tax impact
- Addresses State funding changes and strengthens public safety tools by investing in our Community Outreach Team and Community Justice Center
- Opens the Library on Sundays
- Supports vibrancy in City Center by funding the South Burlington City Center Collaborative
- Increases funding for line striping and sidewalk improvements
- Increases commitment to Green Mountain Transit to meet climate and transit goals

FY26 Proposed General Fund Budget



FY26 Proposed budget	FY25	FY26	% change	Tax rate change
General Fund	\$35,251,108.44	\$36,145,659.86	2.54%	
Non-property tax Revenue	\$14,207,968.22	\$13,955,717.63	-1.78%	
To be raised by property tax	\$21,043,140.22	\$22,189,942.23	5.45%	
Operations Estimated Tax Rate	\$0.5001	\$0.5168	3.33%	\$0.0167
Other approved Ballot Items				
Open Space	\$422,963.21	\$436,253.00	3.14%	
Penny for Paths	\$422,963.21	\$436,253.00	3.14%	
Total Estimated Tax Rate	\$0.5202	\$0.5371	3.25%	\$0.0169
Actual Tax rate	\$0.5181		3.67%	\$0.0190
Impact (with pennies)				Difference
Avg Condo	\$1,487.90	\$1,537.58		\$49.69
Avg House	\$2,200.12	\$2,273.59		\$73.47

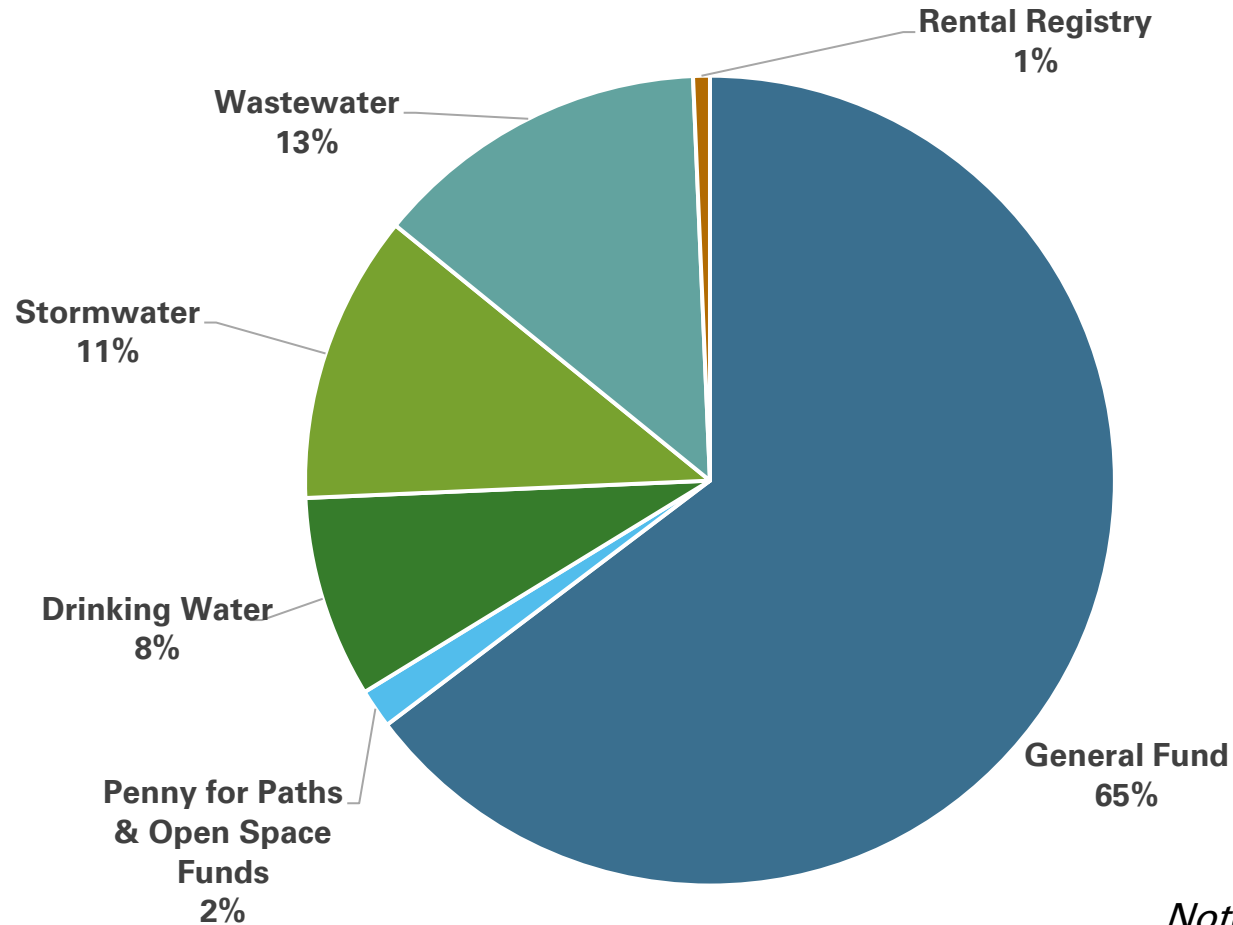
2024 average condo assessment = \$297,520
 2024 average house assessment = \$439,937

Pennies for Open Space and Paths are increasing 3.14% or \$13,290 each

Overall Budget Assumptions

- **Maintain all existing programs and services**
- 1.5% growth in the total Grand List
- 20% growth in the TIF Grand List
- Contractual COLA and related step increases
- Workers' Compensation insurance increase of 23%
- Health Insurance
 - Increased employee contribution to health insurance
 - Originally anticipated increase of 16%
 - With renegotiated Stop Loss coverage, increase is 4% (avoided increase of \$374,000)
- South Burlington Pension: Recommended decrease in contribution from 20.5% of salaries (last year) to 17% this year (avoided increase of \$163,000)
- Property, equipment, and general liability insurance increase of 21%

FY26 Proposed Total City Budget



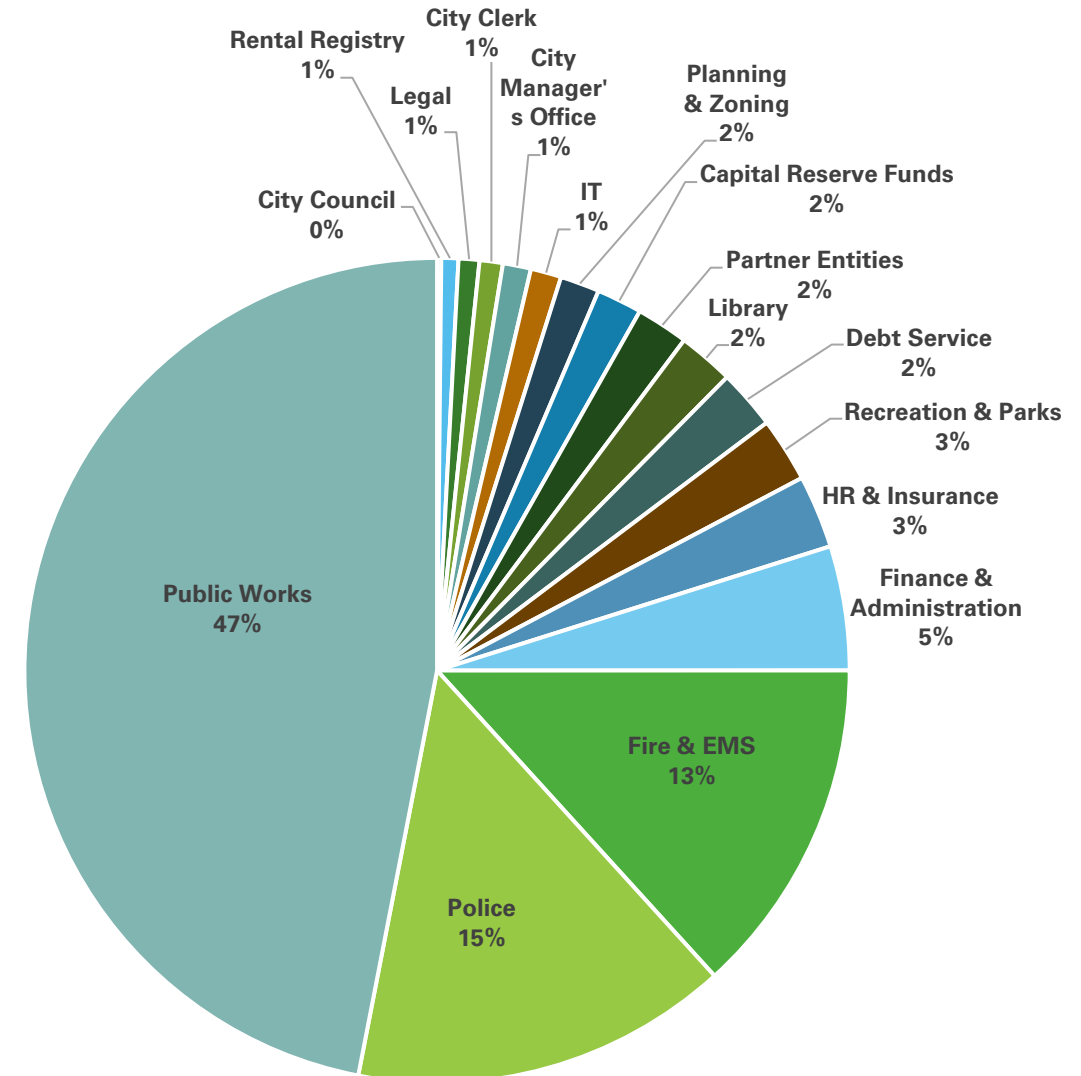
General Fund	\$36,145,659.86
Penny for Paths & Open Space Funds	\$872,506.01
Drinking Water	\$ 4,502,297.65
Stormwater	\$ 6,444,821.71
Wastewater	\$ 7,531,660.36
Rental Registry	\$ 373,136.25
FY26 TOTAL	\$55,870,081.83

Note: This does not include multi-year Special Funds of \$18.6M

FY26 Proposed Total City Budget

FY26 Proposed Total Budget By Operational Area

City Council	\$90,750
Rental Registry	\$373,136
Legal	\$455,125
City Clerk	\$509,234
City Manager's Office	\$614,391
IT	\$672,647
Planning & Zoning	\$861,015
Capital Reserve Funds	\$993,200
Partner Entities	\$1,140,948
Library	\$1,221,829
Debt Service	\$1,302,771
Recreation & Parks	\$1,412,758
HR & Insurance	\$1,598,858
Finance & Administration	\$2,719,108
Fire & EMS	\$7,410,228
Police	\$8,269,414
Public Works	\$26,224,670
FY26 Total Budget	\$55,870,082

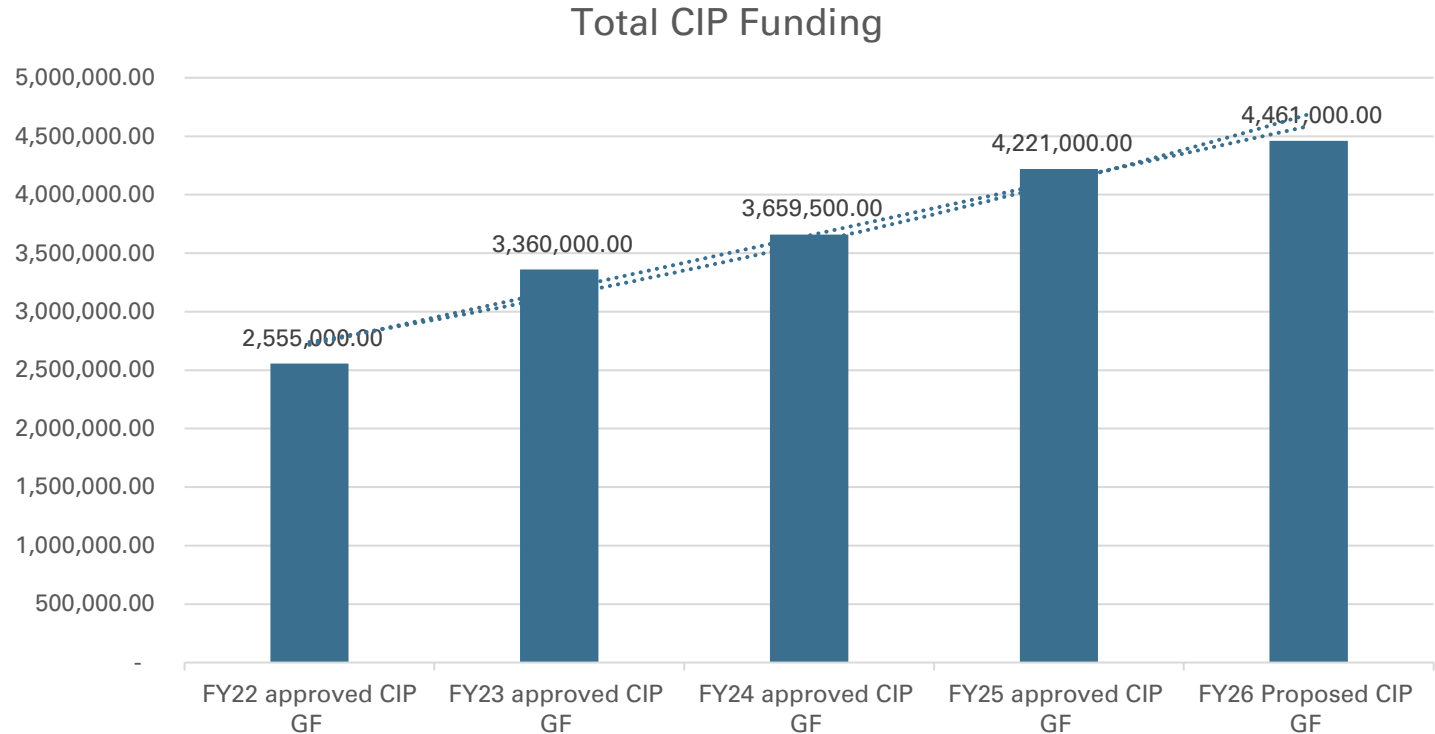


FY26 General Fund Capital Improvement Plan

Continuing to increase General Fund CIP allocations

- \$1,250,000 for paving
- \$40,000 for sidewalk improvements
- \$50,000 for Ash Tree Program
- \$95,000 for energy upgrades at DPW
- \$50,000 for boiler replacement at Police
- \$66,000 in IT Infrastructure
- Continued investment in Public Safety fleet

\$1.1M in CIP projects includes \$345K of climate work with \$244K of this funded by one-time funds



FY26 Enterprise Funds (Utilities)

FY26 Proposed total annual increase to average homeowner = **\$67.68**

Includes

- Planned Capital projects
- 1 FTE to support the Bartlett Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 1 FTE to support pump station maintenance

Utility	Existing Fiscal Year 2025 Rate	FY25 Annual Fee for the Average Home-Owner*	Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Rate	% Increase from FY'25 to FY'26	Annual Increase for South Burlington Home-Owner
Stormwater	\$7.68 per month for residential units	\$92.16	\$7.92 per month for residential units	3.00%	\$2.88
Sewer	\$52.42 per 1,000 cubic feet	\$420.41	\$57.00 per 1,000 cubic feet	8.75%	\$36.73
Water	\$39.65 per 1,000 cubic feet	\$317.99	\$43.15 per 1,000 cubic feet	8.83%	\$28.07

** Calculation based on 1 ERU for stormwater and 8,020 cubic feet / year of sewer and water usage.*

What is not included in this budget?

- Exploring the creation of a Recreation Center
- Future funding for a City Green
- Expanded staffing to support such things as field and infrastructure maintenance
- Funding for the implementation of the:
 - Active Transportation Plan
 - Economic Development Strategic Plan
 - Parks and Open Space Master Plan
 - Sidewalk Assessment findings
- Additional staffing at the Clerk's Office to support increased City Center foot traffic
- Parking Fund initiation
- Current and future recommendations from the Safe Routes to School Task Force
- Additional staff to enforce and implement various ordinances under consideration
- Community Development new staffing, microgrants, or revolving loan programs
- New funding to support our Cemeteries

Next Steps



- January 13 – Public Hearing and actions to send a budget to the voters
- January 22 – Steering Committee at 4:00 PM at the School District
- March 3 – Annual Town Meeting Presentation at 6:30 PM at City Hall
- March 4 – Town Meeting Day! Voting from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Voting information can be found at:

www.southburlingtonvt.gov