

2027-2028 BUDGET WORKSHOP



September 12, 2026

Presented By:
Katherine Caffrey, City Manager
Jeff Friend, Finance Director

27-28 Budget Workshop Agenda (9AM-12PM)

Section	Approximate Time
Welcome and Budget Overview	10 mins
Expenditures and Investments Budget Priorities and Investments Q&A	45 mins
Break	10 mins
Revenues Q&A Potential Revenues Q&A	40 mins
Closing the Gap	5 mins
Council Discussion	45 mins
Next Steps and Wrap Up	5 mins

Setting the Stage



The proposed 2027 – 2028 budget is balanced.

Today we'll walk through how we got there, the choices reflected in the proposed budget and where Council direction is needed.



UNDERSTAND

The financial picture and pressures shaping the budget.



REVIEW

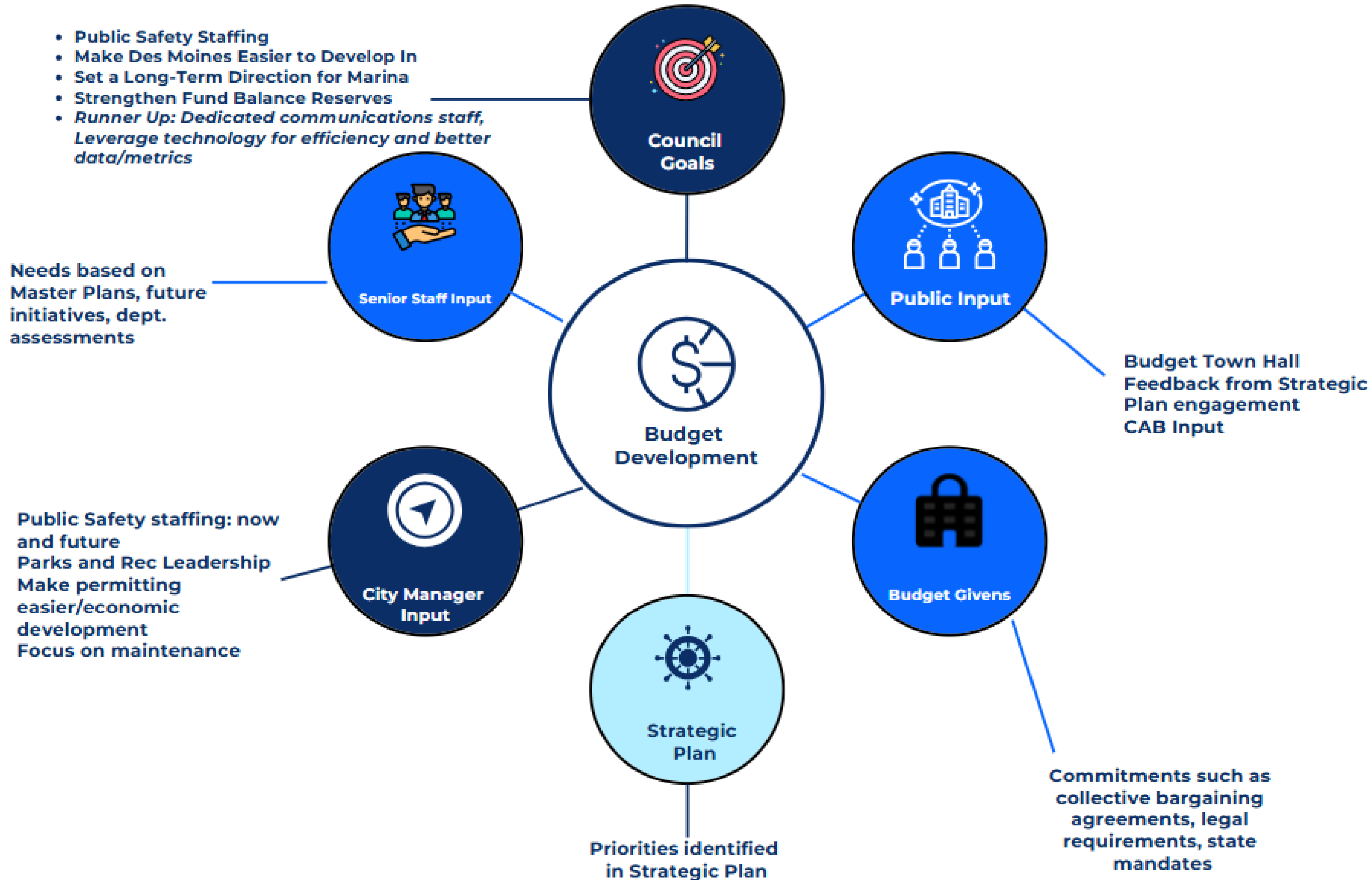
The choices, investments and revenues used to reach balance.



PROVIDE DIRECTION

Policy considerations, revenue options and any changes Council wants to explore.

Building the Proposed 27-28 Budget



What We Heard



What We Heard at the Budget Town Hall

Held August 18, 2026



Who Was There

37 Attendees: From across the city, with most attendees indicating they live in the Marina District or Central Des Moines.



Public Safety Comes First

"What's the one thing you don't want us to cut funding for?" The most frequent response was public safety — police, animal control, mental health co-responders.



Parks & Trails

Second only to public safety: Residents consistently expressed support for preserving passive natural areas, investing in active park programs, and hosting more community events in local parks. Support for new youth and teen programming was expressed.



Invest in Economic Development

"As we build this budget, what should we keep in mind?" Attendees want the City to grow its tax base through business, not homeowners. They talked about incentives and penalties to get vacant lots and empty buildings developed.



Managing Costs

Keep in Mind: Asked what they'd trim to fund something else, groups pointed to overhead, consultants, and reducing redundancies. They also asked the City to take care of what it already owns before building something new.

1

2

3

Budget Priorities

Budget Priorities: The vast majority of attendees indicated they "strongly agree" or "agree" with priorities of public safety staffing, permitting improvements, long-term vision for the Marina, and increased fund balance reserves.

CAB Meeting

"What matters most?"

- ☐ Public safety
- ☐ Think about the long term
- ☐ Grow revenue, future development
- ☐ Downtown development
- ☐ Pedestrian safety
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Parks and Rec- make this a place for families

Budget Pressures and Financial Impact



Health Care Costs

HEALTH CARE COST PRESSURE

10% – 16%

Projected premium increases for 2027



Collective Bargaining Agreements



Economic Uncertainty and Inflation



Limited Options for New Revenue



Minimal Tax Revenue Growth



State Tax Structure



Service Expectations

Budget Pressures

	2027	2028
 Health Care Costs	\$2,919,174	\$3,080,295
 Increased Public Defender Costs	\$400,000	\$400,000
 Anticipated CBA Wage Costs	\$292,555	\$301,332

Financial Impact

Where We Started: The Budget Challenge

INITIAL PROJECTED GENERAL FUND GAP

\$2 MILLION

STARTING BUDGET GAP

EXPENDITURE
CHOICES

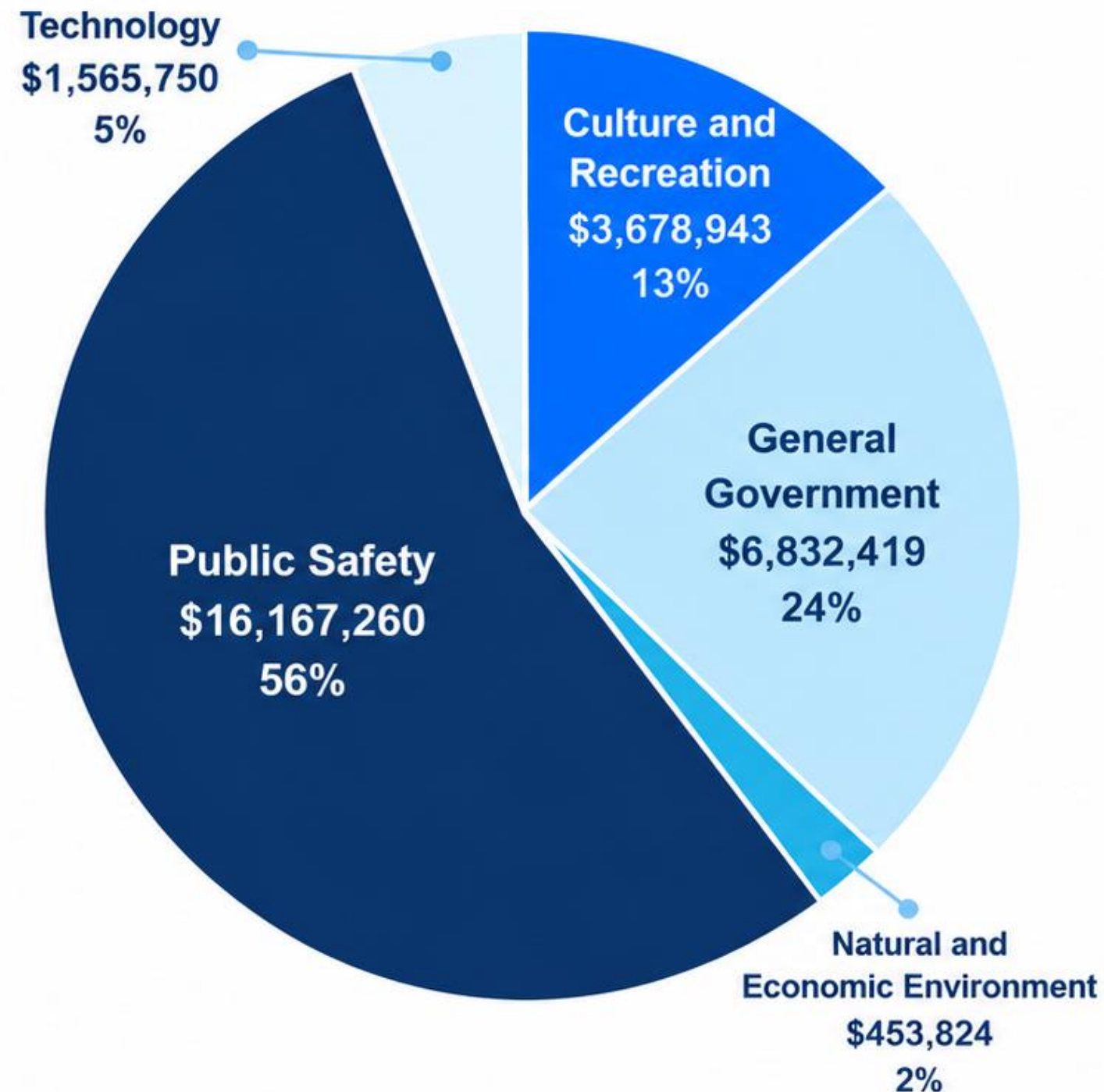


REVENUE
STRATEGIES

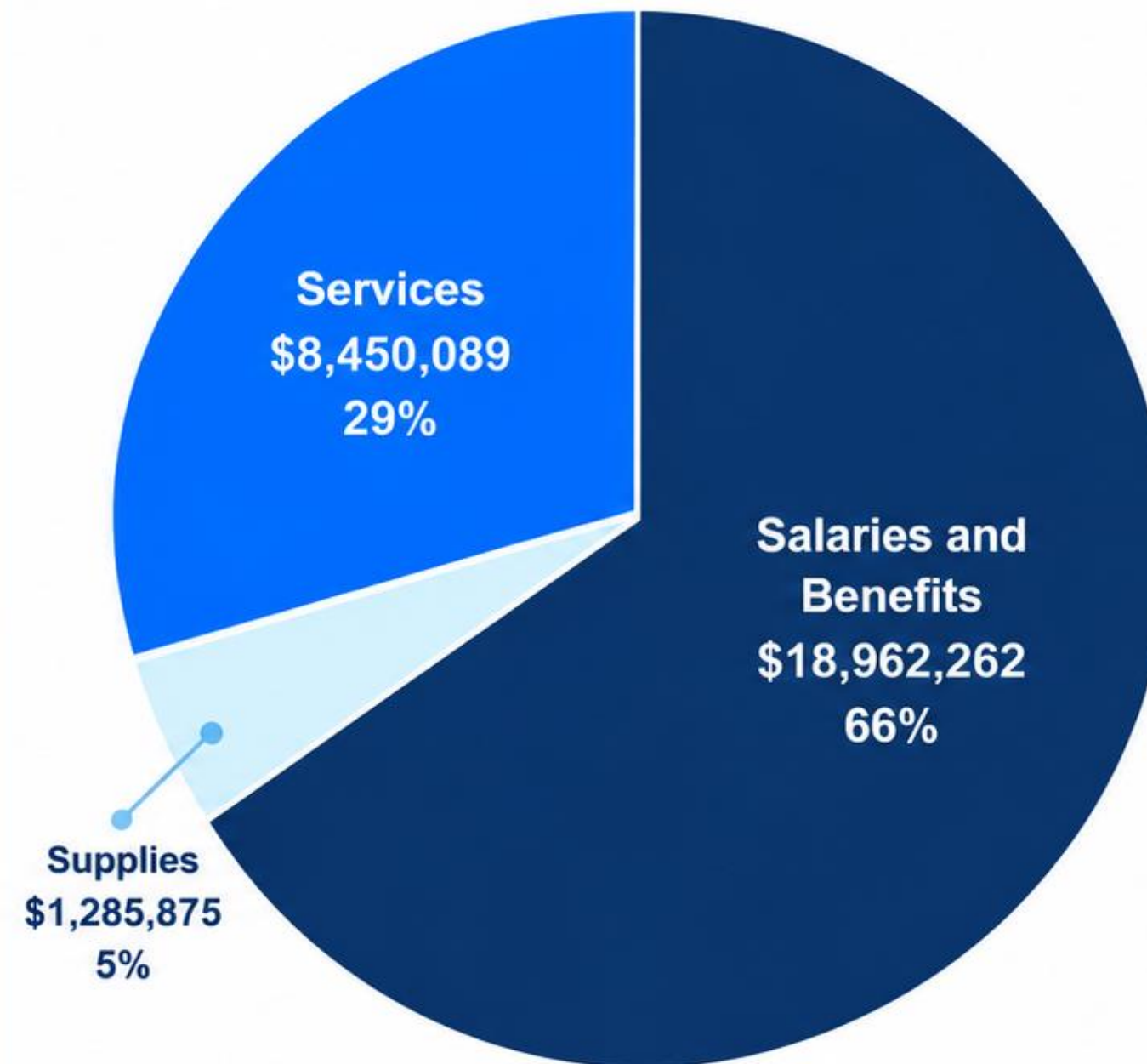
Expenditures

General Fund Expenditure Overview

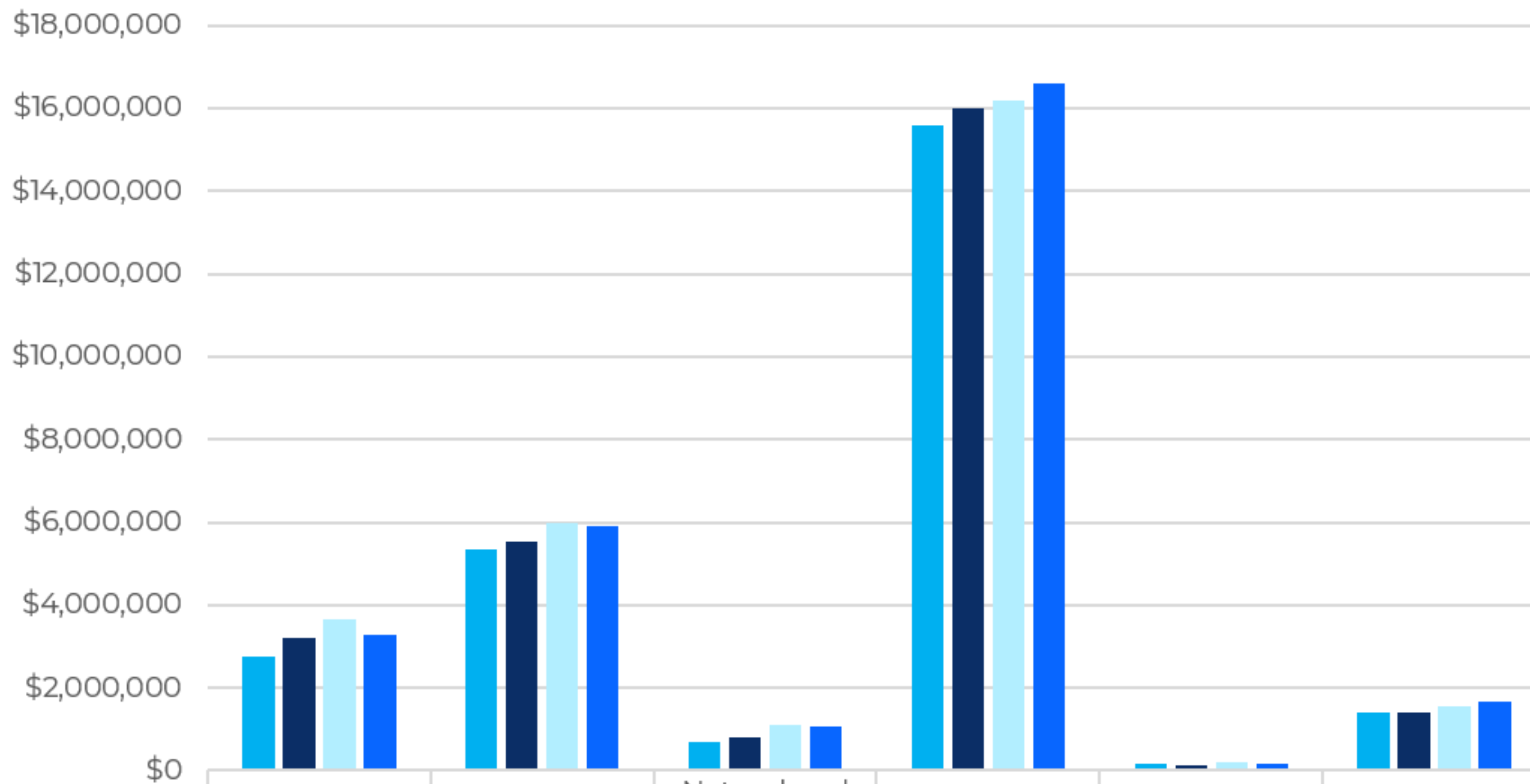
FY27 EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY



FY27 EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION



General Fund Expenditure Comparison 2026 - 2028



	Culture and Recreation	General Government	Natural and Economic Environment	Public Safety	Social Services	Technology
2026 Revised Budget	2,755,190	5,347,248	702,193	15,583,772	150,000	1,415,449
2026 Projected	3,200,026	5,528,527	798,715	15,993,648	123,970	1,397,511
2027 Proposed Budget	3,662,131	5,992,485	1,110,570	16,167,260	200,000	1,565,750
2028 Proposed Budget	3,294,792	5,904,069	1,057,858	16,601,338	150,000	1,664,222

What's Driving Up Expenditures?



**Cost of Living
Adjustment
(COLA)**
(2.5% - 3.0%)

Does not
keep pace
with



**CPI-U
Inflation**
(4.5%)



**Health
Insurance
Premiums**
(13% - 14%)



**Retirement
Costs**

Requested Budget Enhancements

GENERAL FUND

PERSONNEL / STAFFING

Position	FTE	Department	2027	2028
Communications Manager	1.0	Comms	\$172,740	\$180,558
HR Assistance	-	Human Resources	\$50,000	\$50,000
Paralegal/Domestic Violence Advocate to Full-Time	0.15	Legal	\$15,000	\$15,000
Court Clerks	2.0	Municipal Court	\$180,000	\$180,000
Parks Director	1.0	Parks and Rec	\$232,076	\$236,306
Parks Maintenance	2.0	Parks and Rec	\$217,464	\$222,352
Police Officer	2.0	Police	\$304,648	\$313,787
Records Specialist	1.0	Police	\$90,000	\$90,000

OTHER ENHANCEMENTS

Enhancement	Department	2027	2028
Microsoft Licenses for Cloud Migration	IT	\$45,000	\$20,000
Tyler Cloud Subscription	IT	\$50,000	\$50,000
Drone Replacement	Police	\$20,000	\$20,000
K-9 Patrol	Police	-	\$25,000
Police Staffing Study	Police	\$75,000	-
Police Traffic Motorcycle	Police	\$40,000	-
Generator Maintenance	Public Works	\$20,000	\$20,000

Requested Budget Enhancements: Other Funds

DEVELOPMENT FUND				
Requested Enhancement	FTE	Department	2027	2028
Permit Services Manager	1.0	Community Development	\$159,205	\$164,836

STREETS FUND				
Requested Enhancement	FTE	Department	2027	2028
Streetlight Fixtures	-	Public Works	\$80,000	\$30,000

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT FUND				
Requested Enhancement	FTE	Department	2027	2028
Tree Canopy Program*	-	Public Works	\$150,000	\$150,000
SWM Civil Engineer I-Limited Term	1.0	Public Works	-	\$157,000

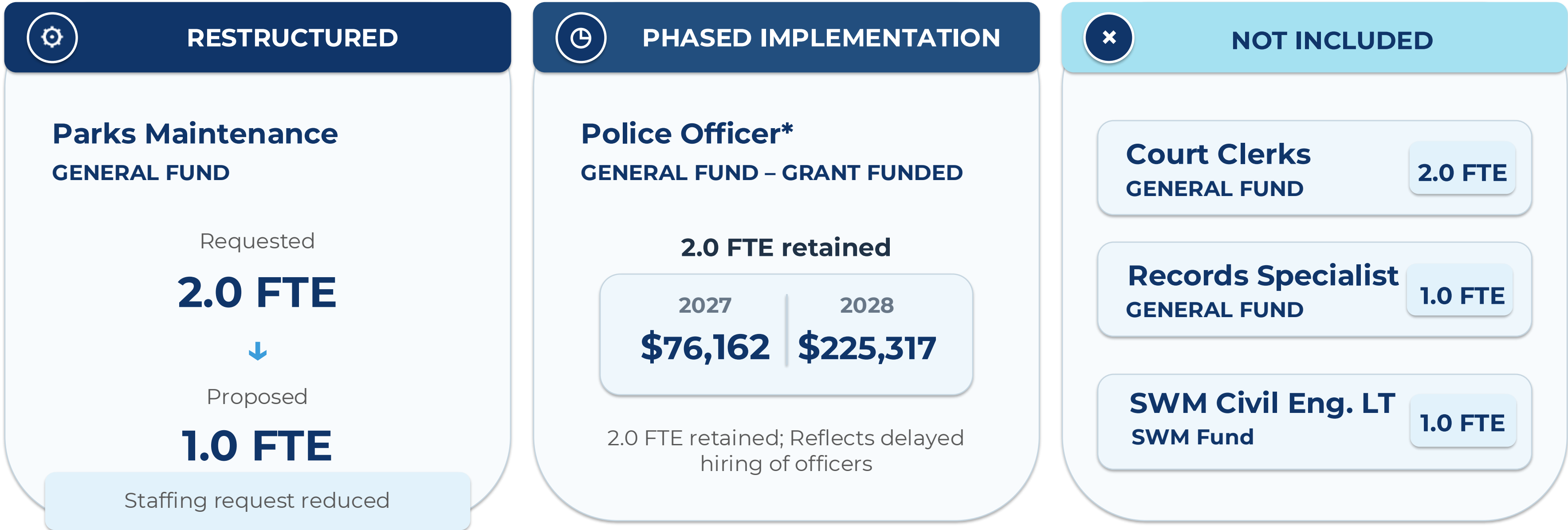
COMPUTER REPLACEMENT FUND				
Requested Enhancement	FTE	Department	2027	2028
Tyler Munis to Cloud	-	IT	\$120,000	-

Staffing Strategy: 27-28 Budget

Position	Staffing Strategy	Funding
 Communications Manager	Repurpose a vacant budgeted position	General Fund
 Parks & Recreation Director	Repurpose a vacant budgeted position and apply vacancy savings	General Fund and Parks Levy Fund
 Parks Maintenance Worker	Add a new position to increase parks maintenance capacity	Parks Levy Fund
 Police Officers (2.0)	Add new positions to support public safety staffing	Public Safety Sales Tax / Grant Funds
 Permit Services Manager	Add a new position to strengthen permitting capacity	Development Fund

Requested Budget Enhancement Tradeoffs

All adjustments from the requested enhancement package occurred in the General Fund through staffing restructuring, phased implementation and items not included in the proposed budget.



Budget Priorities and Investments



27-28 Council Selected Priorities



**Public Safety
Staffing**



**Make Des Moines
Easier to
Develop**



**Set a Long-Term
Direction for
the Marina**



**Strengthen
Fund Balance
Reserves**

**ALSO
IDENTIFIED
AS PRIORITIES**



**Dedicated
communications
staff**



**Leverage technology
for efficiency and
better data/metrics**

Charting Our Course

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

PUBLIC SAFETY

Investment	Funding	2027	2028	What It Accomplishes
(2) Police Officers*	Public Safety Sales Tax & Grant Funding	\$76,162	\$225,317	Expands frontline capacity to better meet community demand and maintain responsive public safety services.
Drone Replacement	Equipment Replacement Fund	\$20,000	\$2,000	Maintains technology that helps officers respond more safely and effectively while extending operational capability.
K 9 Patrol	Grant Funding	\$0	\$25,000	Restores a specialized resource that strengthens field response and gives officers additional capability when responding to complex incidents.
Police Staffing Study	General Fund	\$75,000	\$0	Evaluates Police Department staffing needs to ensure resources align with service demands, community needs and evolving public safety requirements.

*Personnel costs shown include salary and employer paid benefits.

Charting Our Course

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	ECONOMIC VITALITY
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Investment	Funding	2027	2028	What It Accomplishes
Permit Services Manager — (1.0) FTE	Development Fund	\$159,205	\$164,836	Makes development easier to navigate and move forward, reinforcing that Des Moines is ready to support businesses and investment in the community.

Personnel costs shown include salary and employer paid benefits.

Charting Our Course

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	FINANCIAL STABILITY
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Investment	Funding	2027	2028	What It Accomplishes
Strengthen Fund Balance Reserves	General Fund	\$125,000 (18.3%)	\$125,000 (18.4%)	Improves the City’s long term financial position and provides greater stability through changing economic conditions.
Build Contingency Funding	General Fund	\$100,000	\$100,000	Creates dedicated capacity to respond to emergencies and unforeseen costs without disrupting planned services and priorities. Increase of \$50k+ from 2026.

Charting Our Course

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

ECONOMIC VITALITY + NATURAL & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Investment	Funding	2027	2028	What It Accomplishes
Marina Master Plan	Marina Funds	\$350,000	\$0	Establishes a long-term direction for the Marina, including capital needs, land use and its role in the community and local economy.
South Seawall Engineering Design & Project Management	Marina Funds	\$75,000	\$3,030,000	Advances engineering for a critical waterfront asset and positions the City for future capital investment.

Charting Our Course

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

ENGAGED AND THRIVING COMMUNITY

Investment	Funding	2027	2028	What It Accomplishes
Communications Manager — (1.0) FTE	General Fund (repurposed position)	\$172,740	\$180,558	Builds dedicated capacity to keep the community informed, strengthen public engagement and tell the City’s story more consistently and proactively.

Personnel costs shown include salary and employer paid benefits. Repurposing the existing position is estimated to generate approximately \$65,000 in ongoing annual savings.

Charting Our Course

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE
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Investment	Funding	2027	2028	What It Accomplishes
Microsoft Licenses for Cloud Migration	General Fund	\$45,000	\$20,000	Gives employees modern tools to work more efficiently and better serve the community.
Tyler Cloud Subscription	General Fund	\$50,000	\$50,000	Shifts system support to Tyler, reducing City server costs and the staff effort needed to maintain infrastructure.
Tyler Munis to Cloud	Computer Replacement Fund	\$120,000	\$0	Modernizes the City’s core business system while reducing reliance on City maintained servers and infrastructure.

Charting Our Course

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	NATURAL & BUILT ENVIRONMENT
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Investment	Funding	2027	2028	What It Accomplishes
Streetlight Fixtures	Streets Fund	\$80,000	\$30,000	Replaces aging streetlights to improve reliability, visibility and safety along City streets.
Tree Canopy Program*	Surface Water Management Fund	\$150,000	\$150,000	Builds the information needed to protect and manage the City's tree canopy while supporting long term stormwater planning.

Charting Our Course

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

ENGAGED AND THRIVING COMMUNITY

Investment	Funding	2027	2028	What It Accomplishes
Parks & Recreation Director	General Fund/Parks Levy Fund (repurposed position)	\$232,076	\$236,306	Establishes dedicated leadership to strengthen Parks and Recreation services, long range planning and accountability for a cornerstone of City services.
Parks Maintenance — (1.0) FTE	Parks Levy Fund	\$108,732	\$111,176	Adds additional capacity to improve the care and upkeep of parks, facilities and public spaces.
Parks & Recreation Master Plan	Grant Funding/ General Fund (Applied for \$125K grant funds)	\$65,000	\$0	Leverages grant funding to establish long term priorities for parks, facilities, recreation programs, community services and future investment. Update required by State.

Note: Personnel costs shown include salary and employer paid benefits. The Parks & Recreation Director reflects a total position cost of \$232,076 in 2027 and \$236,306 in 2028. After repurposing existing position funding, the **estimated** net new cost is approximately \$80,000 annually.

27–28 Priorities Driving the Budget



Key Investments



**PUBLIC SAFETY
STAFFING**



**PARKS &
RECREATION
(CES)**



**DEVELOPMENT &
PERMITTING**



**MARINA &
WATERFRONT**



**TECHNOLOGY &
BUSINESS SYSTEMS**



**COMMUNICATIONS
& ENGAGEMENT**



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Expenditures and Investments

Q&A



**Break
(10 Minutes)**



Revenues

General Fund Revenue Overview

Revenue Source	2026 Revised Budget	2026 Projected	2027 Proposed Budget	2028 Proposed Budget	2027 vs. 2026 Projected	
					\$ Change	% Change
Taxes	\$18,510,000	\$18,985,727	\$19,553,023	\$19,808,104	\$567,296	3.0%
Charges for Services	\$2,297,447	\$2,183,950	\$2,463,135	\$2,431,977	\$279,185	12.8%
Fines and Penalties	\$1,201,000	\$824,278	\$726,000	\$727,000	(\$98,278)	-11.9%
Franchise Payments	\$2,188,000	\$2,152,903	\$2,415,500	\$2,540,000	\$262,597	12.2%
Licenses and Permits	\$470,000	\$471,068	\$467,201	\$467,201	(\$3,867)	-0.8%
Other	\$1,948,606	\$2,471,804	\$2,934,192	\$2,483,392	\$462,388	18.7%
Total General Fund Revenue	\$26,615,053	\$27,089,730	\$28,559,051	\$28,457,674	\$1,469,321	5.4%



Total General Fund revenue is projected to increase \$1,469,321 (5.4%)
from the 2026 projected amount based on current trends and the assumptions discussed.

General Fund Revenue

Key Revenue Assumptions for 2027–2028

A balanced and realistic forecast based on current trends and known information.



Property Tax
1% increase



Sales Tax
2% growth



Utility Taxes
Moderate increase



B&O Tax
Stable



Franchise Payments
Negotiated increase



Gambling Tax
\$300,000 new revenue



**Red Light Running
Infractions**
Continued decline



One-Time Taxes
Decrease



These assumptions reflect a conservative and balanced approach.

General Fund Revenue

Property Tax

A constrained but vital revenue source



**~30% of
assessed acreage
is tax exempt**



**1% annual
levy growth limit**



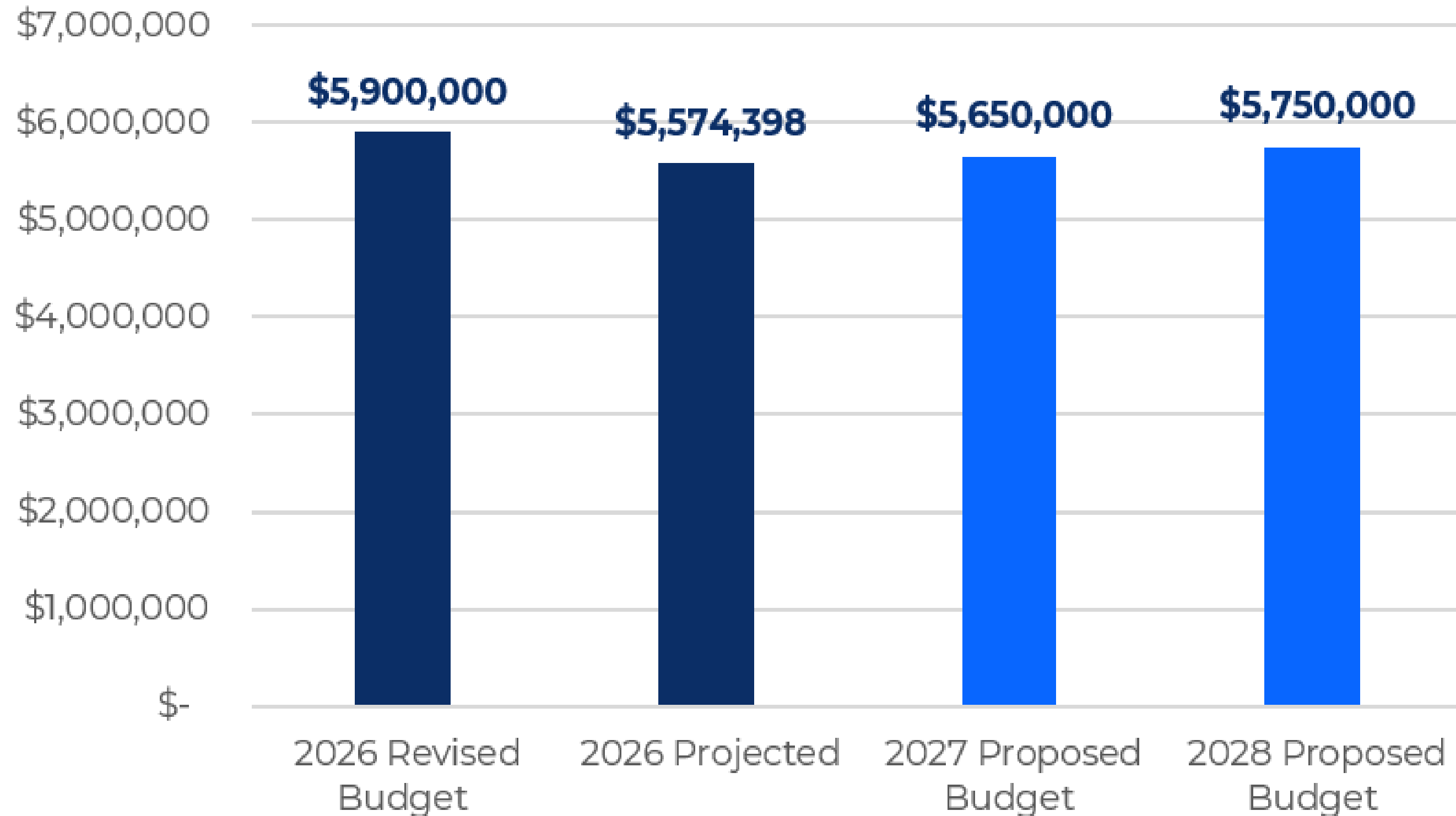
**1% = approximately
\$56,000**



Property tax is our largest revenue source,
representing **20.5%** of General Fund revenue,
but its growth is limited and does not keep pace with many City operating costs.

General Fund Revenue

Property Tax



General Fund Revenue

Sales Tax

Modest growth in a slower regional economy



Regional forecast shows limited growth



2% annual growth assumption



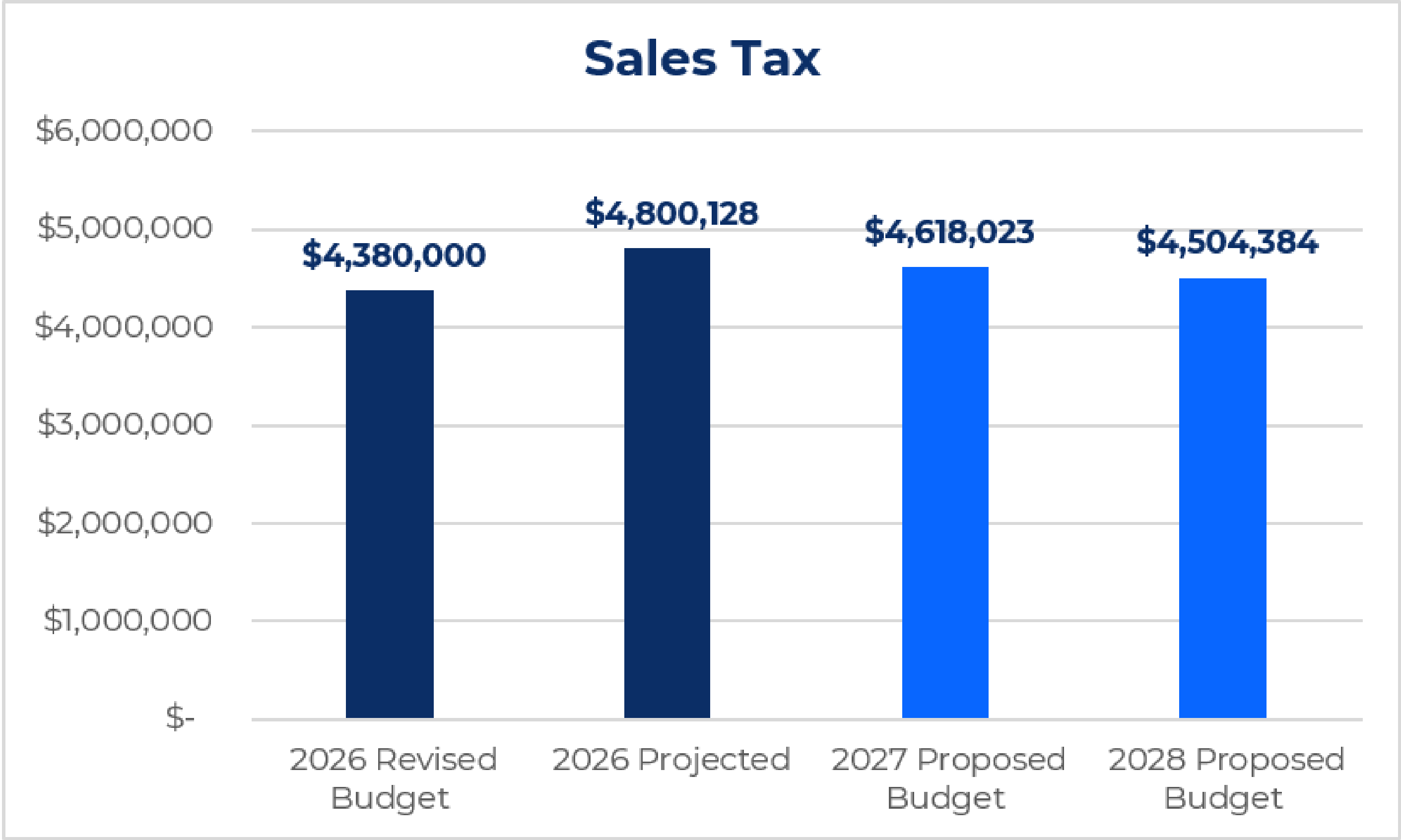
Sensitive to consumer and business activity



Sales tax is a major General Fund revenue source,
but the 2027–2028 budget assumes only modest growth given the regional economic outlook.

General Fund Revenue

Sales Tax



General Fund Revenue

Utility Taxes

An important and variable revenue source



**Broad-based
revenue source**



**Changes vary
by utility type**



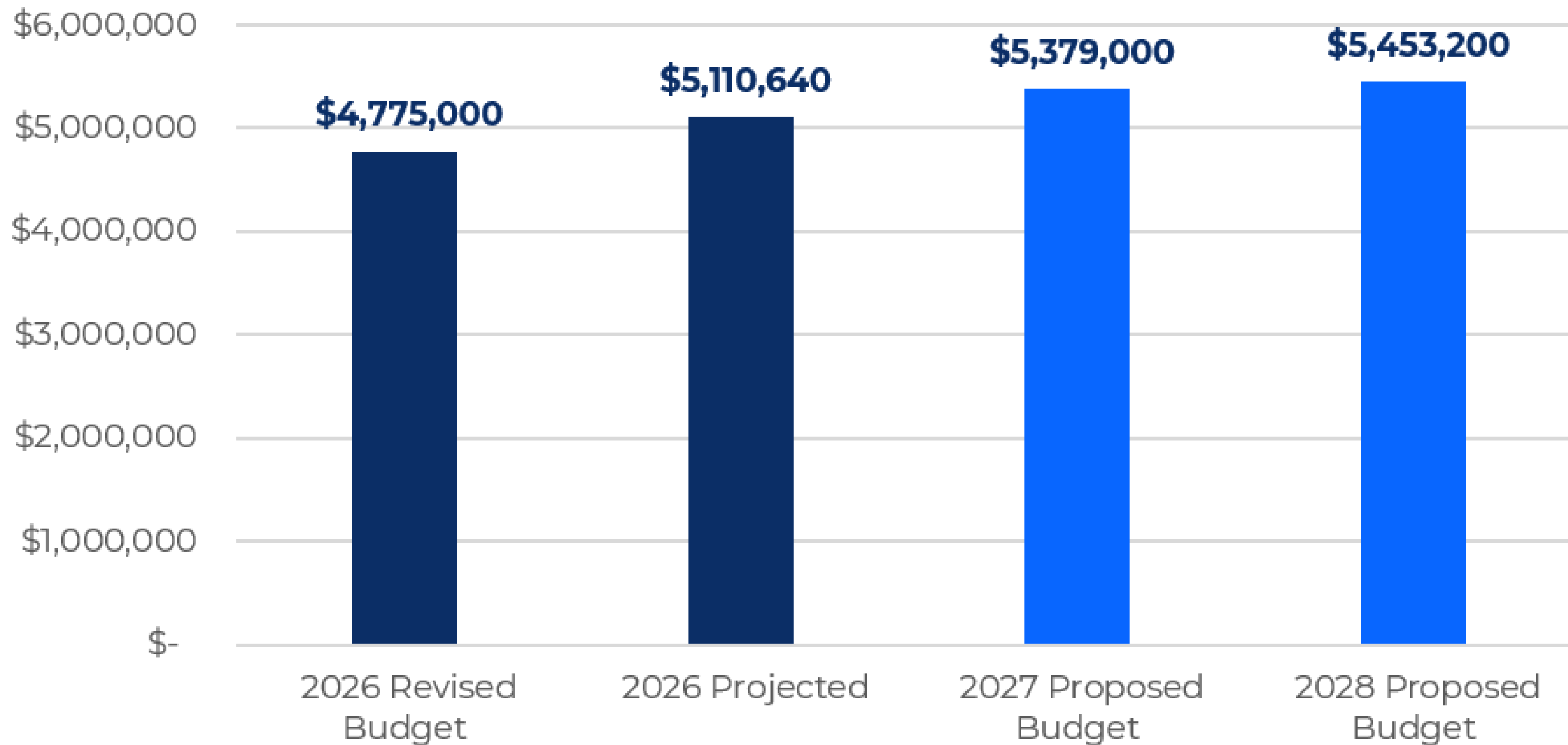
**Economic and
market factors**



**Utility taxes are our third largest revenue source,
representing **17.2%** of General Fund revenue,
but revenues can fluctuate based on market and economic conditions.**

General Fund Revenue

Utility Taxes



General Fund Revenue

Business & Occupation Tax

Strong current collections, with a changing revenue mix



**Strong 2026
Collections**



**Potential
Expansion of
the Tax Base**

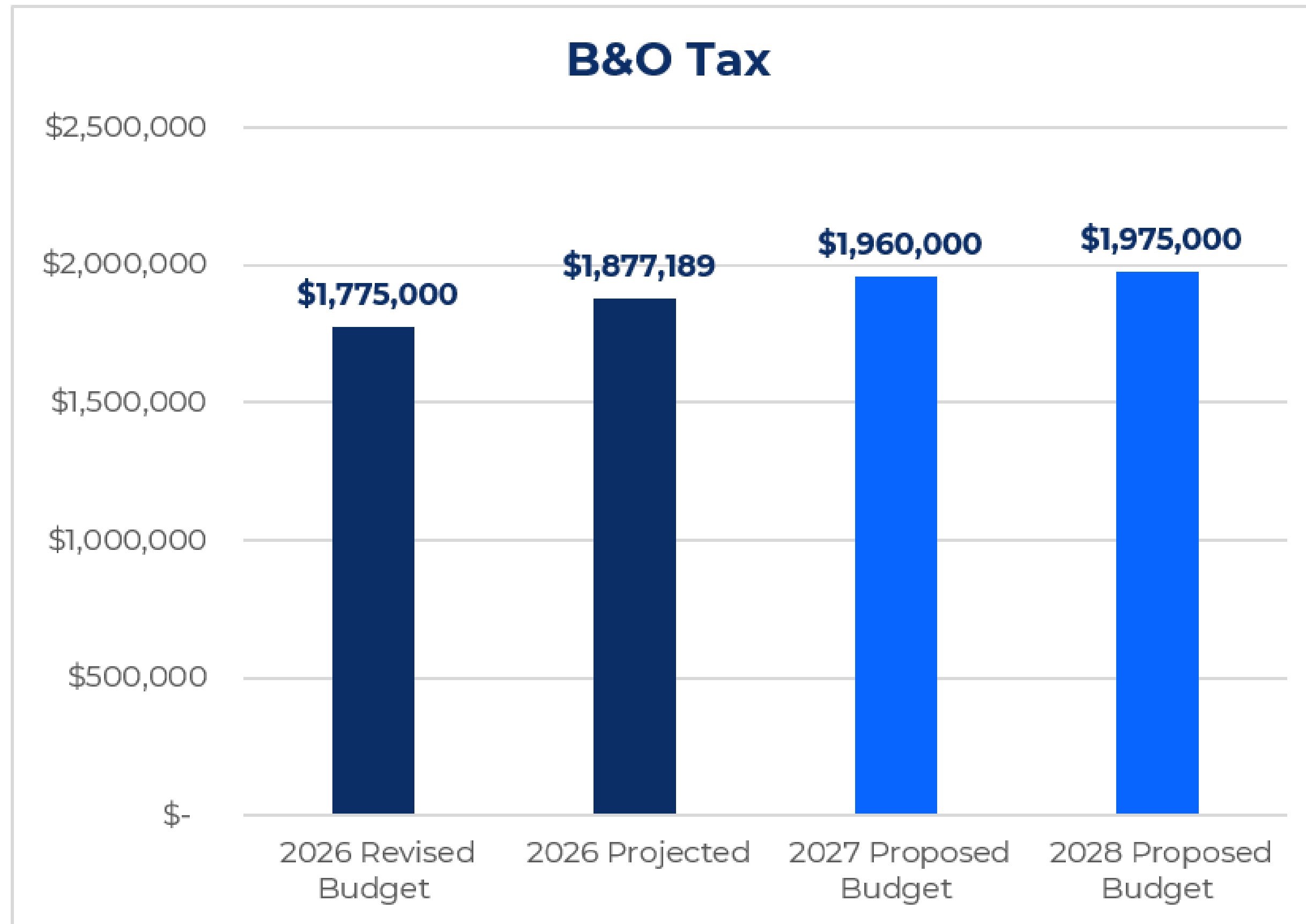


**One-Time B&O
Expected to
Decrease**



Improved compliance and a potential broader tax base could strengthen **ongoing B&O revenue**, while one-time B&O collections are expected to decrease as the number of projects paying one-time tax decreases from 2026.

General Fund Revenue



General Fund Revenue

Franchise Payments

Compensation for use of the City's public right-of-way

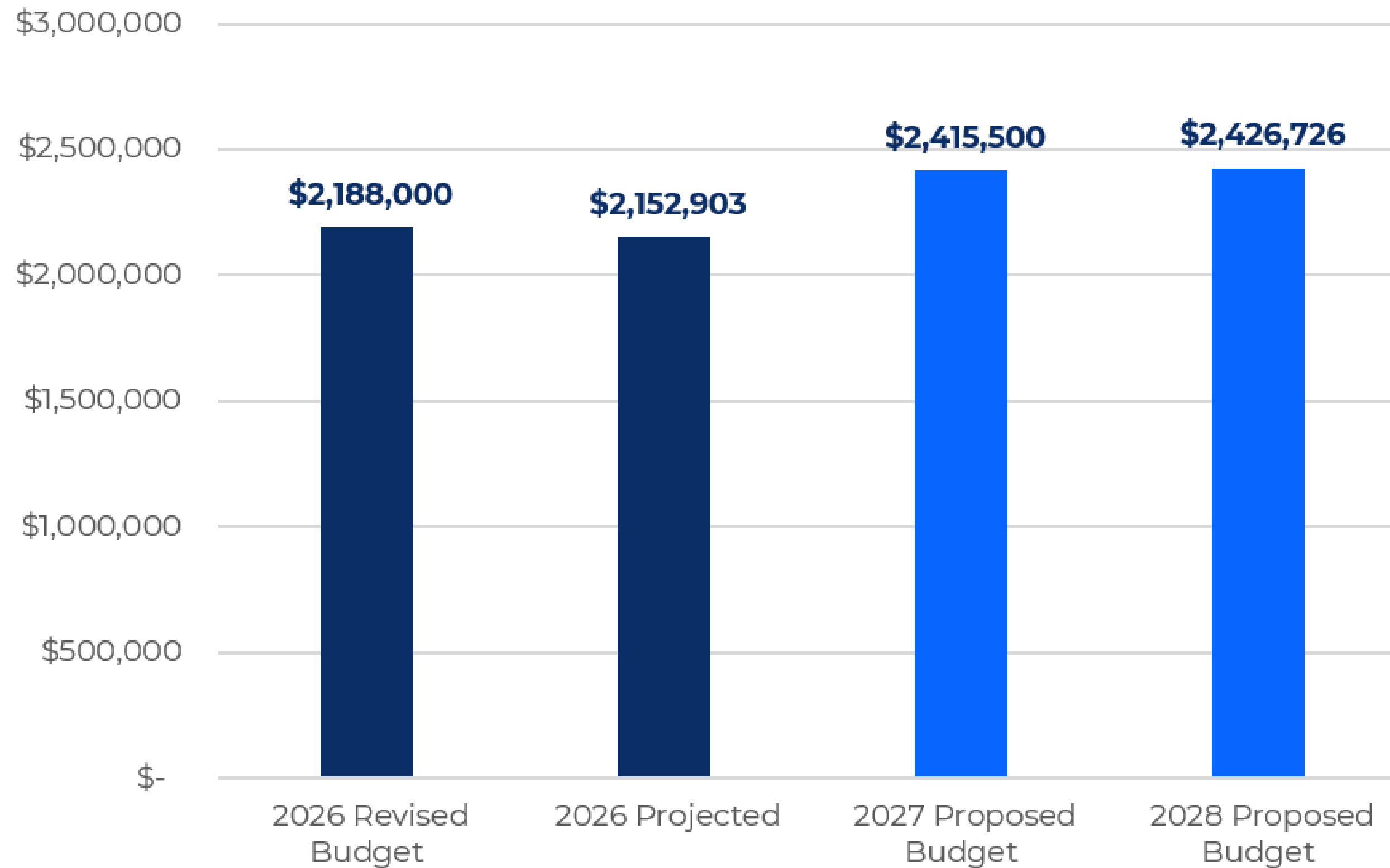


Final Rates Pending Negotiations

The City is currently negotiating with franchise utilities to increase the franchise payments.

General Fund Revenue

Franchise Payments



Revenues Q&A



Potential Revenue Opportunities



General Fund Revenue: One-Time Taxes

Current Policy



Projects over **\$15M** are considered one-time for purposes of Sales and B&O Tax.



Revenue is set aside for **capital investment** rather than ongoing operations.



Protects the General Fund from relying on unusually large development projects.

Policy Consideration

- The \$15M threshold was established more than a decade ago.
- Construction costs have increased substantially since the threshold was established.
- An inflation-adjusted threshold would be approximately **\$23 million.**



CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES SALES TAX



Current / Authority

Up to 0.01% beginning in 2027.



What It Does

Provides additional revenue for eligible children and family services.



Potential Change

Council could enact the new tax.



Restricted Use

Yes – eligible children and family services.



ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE

\$41,000



EXPANDED SQUARE FOOTAGE TAX



Current

Space used for storage of goods, materials or equipment taxed per square foot.



What It Does

Captures value from business activity that does not generate retail, wholesale or manufacturing income.



Potential Change

Expand to office, R&D, media production, computing and other non sales/manufacturing space; rate could be flat or vary by category.



Restricted Use

No – General Fund.



ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE

\$125,000



INCREASE GAMBLING TAX



Current

9%.



What It Does

Taxes gross revenue from social card games.



Potential Change

Increase the current rate; state law allows up to 20%.



Restricted Use

No – General Fund.



ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE

\$60,000

(11% rate, revenue of \$3M)

Potential Revenues

Q & A



Closing the Gap



27-28 Council Selected Priorities



**Public Safety
Staffing**



**Make Des Moines
Easier to
Develop**



**Set a Long-Term
Direction for
the Marina**



**Strengthen
Fund Balance
Reserves**

**ALSO
IDENTIFIED
AS PRIORITIES**



**Dedicated
communications
staff**



**Leverage technology
for efficiency and
better data/metrics**

Closing the 27- 28 Budget Gap



Closing the Gap

Q & A



Other Major Funds Overview



Marina Fund Financial Overview

Description	2026 Revised Budget	2026 Projected	2027 Proposed Budget	2028 Proposed Budget	2027 vs 2026 (\$)	2027 vs 2026 (%)
Operating Revenue	\$ 6,920,997	\$ 6,047,488	\$ 6,294,877	\$ 6,566,502	\$ (626,120)	-9.0%
Operating Expenditures	\$ 4,610,408	\$ 4,140,984	\$ 4,553,335	\$ 4,363,781	\$ (57,073)	-1.2%
Operating Income/(Loss)	\$ 2,310,589	\$ 1,906,504	\$ 1,741,542	\$ 2,202,721	\$ (569,047)	-24.6%
Capital Outlays	\$ 880,000	\$ 1,411,500	\$ 73,000	\$ 3,090,000	\$ (807,000)	-91.7%
Debt Service	\$ 1,100,399	\$ 1,100,579	\$ 1,100,399	\$ 1,100,399	—	0.0%
Net Change in Cash	\$ 330,190	\$ (605,576)	\$ 568,143	\$ (1,987,678)	\$ 237,953	72.1%

Marina Fund Financial Overview

Description	2027 Proposed Budget	2028 Proposed Budget
Projected Beginning Cash	\$ 9,744,633	\$ 10,312,776
Revenue	\$ 6,294,877	\$ 6,566,502
Expenditures	\$ 5,726,734	\$ 8,554,180
Projected Ending Cash	\$ 10,312,776	\$ 8,325,098

Investing in the Marina's Future



Marina Master Plan

-  Sets the long term direction
-  Determines vision for how space will be used



South Seawall Design (2027-28)

-  Advances a critical waterfront project
-  Moves the project toward construction



South Seawall Project Management (2027)

-  Provides dedicated project oversight
-  Coordinates design and permitting

SWM Fund Financial Overview

Description	2026 Revised Budget	2026 Projected	2027 Proposed Budget	2028 Proposed Budget	2027 vs 2026 (\$)	2027 vs 2026 (%)
Charges for Services	\$ 5,987,907	\$ 6,106,995	\$ 6,204,500	\$ 6,286,540	\$ 216,593	3.6%
Intergovernmental	\$ 1,408,000	\$ 614,819	\$ 1,605,000	\$ 285,000	\$ 197,000	14.0%
Miscellaneous	\$ 300,000	\$ 349,148	\$ 315,000	\$ 315,000	\$ 15,000	5.0%
Other Financing Sources	—	\$ 177,000	—	—	—	0.0%
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 7,695,907	\$ 7,247,961	\$ 8,124,500	\$ 6,886,540	\$ 428,593	5.6%
Operating Expenditures	\$ 4,817,088	\$ 4,565,332	\$ 4,722,737	\$ 5,010,677	\$ (94,351)	-2.0%
Total Operating Income/(Loss)	\$ 2,878,819	\$ 2,682,629	\$ 3,401,763	\$ 1,875,863	\$ 522,944	18.2%
Capital Outlays	\$ 4,957,000	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 5,270,338	\$ 2,642,628	\$ 313,338	6.3%
Net Change in Cash	\$ (2,078,181)	\$ (17,371)	\$ (1,868,575)	\$ (766,765)	\$ 209,606	-10.1%

SWM Fund Financial Overview

Description	2027 Proposed Budget	2028 Proposed Budget
Projected Beginning Cash	\$ 11,527,530	\$ 9,658,955
Revenue	\$ 8,124,500	\$ 6,886,540
Expenditures	\$ 9,993,075	\$ 7,653,305
Projected Ending Cash	\$ 9,658,955	\$ 8,892,190

Investing in Our Natural Environment



Tree Canopy Program (2027)

- ☒ Protection and maintenance of forested parcels
- ☒ Program goes to City Council this fall for consideration

Other Funds

Q & A



Next Steps



What Is Happening Now

www.desmoineswa.gov/budget

B&O Taxes

Budget Information

Business Licenses

Capital Improvements Plans (CIP)

Financial Reports

Forms / Documents

Home · Departments · Finance · Budget Information

Budget Information

The Budget section provides detailed information on how the City of Des Moines allocates resources to support community needs and priorities.

Our budget outlines how the City plans to spend and manage funds, reflecting our commitment to fiscal responsibility, transparency, and effective use of taxpayer dollars. Starting in 2024, we have adopted a biennial budget cycle to better plan for the future, beginning with the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget. This budget serves as a roadmap for how we address immediate needs while planning for the future, ensuring that our financial decisions support the overall well-being and growth of our city.

Budgets

[2025-2026 Adopted Biennial Budget \(PDF\)](#)

[2024 Adopted Annual Budget \(PDF\)](#)

[2023 Budget \(PDF\)](#)

[View Past Years](#)

Questions? Contact us at DesMoinesBudget@desmoineswa.gov

2027 - 2028 Biennial Budget in Development

[Budget Town Hall Presentation](#)

[Budget Town Hall Recap](#)

[Budget Town Hall Snapshot](#)

Questions? Contact us at DesMoinesBudget@desmoineswa.gov

BUDGET 101

DIFFERENT PURPOSES

37 FUNDS. ONE CITY.

36 RESTRICTED FUNDS

1 UNRESTRICTED FUND

GENERAL FUND

Can only be used for specific purposes

Can be used for general City operations

10% of the City's total annual

This is the fund that pays for day-to-day City services like Police, Parks & Recreation and Public Works

These funds are legally restricted. They can ONLY be used for the purpose they were created for.

We frequently get asked how the City can be making a payroll & one step while tightening the budget in another. Different sources, different rules.

Smart budgeting makes a stronger Des Moines tomorrow

DIFFERENT FUND. DIFFERENT RULES.

ALL WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

City of Des Moines, Washington

a day ago ·

...

BUDGET 101: Where Does Your Property Tax Dollar Go?

Property taxes are expensive — but did you know the City of Des Moines receives only a small portion of what you pay?

For every \$1 in property taxes, only about 7¢ comes to the City of Des Moines. The rest goes to schools, King County, the Fire District, libraries, Sound Transit and other taxing districts.

Put another way: If your annual property tax bill is \$7,500, only about \$500 of that comes to the City.

That small slice helps fund the City services you see and use every day — including police, parks and recreation, and other essential City operations.

Where does the other 93¢ go? Take a look at the graphic to see how your property tax dollar is divided.

More Budget101 is coming as we build the 2027–2028 budget. Follow along on our website at the link below!

<https://www.desmoineswa.gov/241/Budget-Information> See less

BUDGET 101

WHERE DOES YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR GO?

ONLY .07¢ OF EVERY \$1 IN PROPERTY TAX GOES TO THE CITY OF DES MOINES

Des Moines WATERLAND CITY

Metro Park District .03¢

Library .02¢

EMS (various) .02¢

Sound Transit .01¢

Port & County Flood Zone (various) .01¢

1

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ONE DOLLAR

School District .35¢

WA State Schools .38¢

King County .31¢

Fire District .09¢

Pen & Chances Des Moines .10¢

City of Des Moines .07¢

THE OTHER 93¢ GOES TO SCHOOLS, KING COUNTY, FIRE SERVICES, LIBRARIES, SOUND TRANSIT AND OTHER TAXING DISTRICTS.

CITY OF DES MOINES BUDGET SNAPSHOT 2026

Numbers based on 2025/2026 budget. 2027/2028 budget under development.

ABOUT US

Population 33,540

Full-Time City Employees 150

Citywide Revenue 2026 \$63.4M

TAXES

1% Washington State limit on annual increases in **property tax** revenue that can be collected which creates a structural imbalance as normal expenses increase at a faster rate than revenues increase

If you buy a pair of shoes for \$100, and pay \$10.40 in **sales tax**, the City receives \$0.95 of the sales tax

7 cents of every **property tax** dollar paid goes to the City

Businesses do their part, too! The City collects approx. \$1.6M in **B&O taxes** annually

FUND BREAKDOWN

54% of the budget is dedicated to public safety

36 Restricted Funds (Used for specific purposes)

1 Unrestricted Funds (used for general purposes)

Not all City revenue can be spent the same way

2027/28 BUDGET PRIORITIES

Increase Police staffing

Make it easier to build in Des Moines through a more efficient permitting process

Set long-term direction for the Marina

Strengthen fund balance reserves

GET INVOLVED

BUDGET UPDATES

Get budget updates and materials at www.desmoineswa.gov/budget (starting 9/1)

CONTACT US

DesMoinesBudget@desmoineswa.gov

Email comments and questions

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Stay up to date with the weekly City Manager report

Helping the Community

The City commits \$300,000 during each budget biennium for human services and local non-profits.

SAVE THE DATE

August 18

Budget Town Hall, 6-8PM at the Activity Center

September 12

Budget Workshop with the City Council, 9-Noon at City Hall

October 29

First Reading of the Budget, 6PM at City Hall

November 12

Adoption (tentatively) of Budget, 6PM at City Hall

Des Moines

WATERLAND CITY

What Happens Next

