



Agenda

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GOVERNING BODY
CITY OF LENEXA, KANSAS
17101 W. 87TH STREET PARKWAY**

**JUNE 25, 2024
7:00 PM
COMMUNITY FORUM**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVE MINUTES

May 14, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting draft minutes (located in the Appendix)

DISCUSSION

1. Fiscal Year 2025 Recommended Budget Overview

ADJOURN

APPENDIX

2. May 14, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting draft minutes

Dist. Governing Body; Management Team; Agenda & Minutes Distribution List

IF YOU NEED ANY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY ADA COORDINATOR, 913/477-7550. KANSAS RELAY SERVICE 800/766-3777. PLEASE GIVE 48 HOURS NOTICE

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR USE IN THE COMMUNITY FORUM BY REQUEST.



ITEM 1

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2025 Recommended Budget Overview

CONTACT: Beccy Yocham, City Manager
Nate Blum, Chief Financial Officer

DATE: June 25, 2024

PROJECT BACKGROUND/DESCRIPTION:

The Governing Body will begin its review of the FY2025 Recommended Budget at this meeting.

The complete [FY2025 Recommended Budget](#) is posted on the City's website. Finance staff will provide a budget book, containing the FY2025 Recommended Budget and associated budget supplement, to the Committee on Friday, June 21, 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

1. FY2025 Recommended Budget Presentation Final



2025 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

CITY OF LENEXA, KANSAS

Agenda

- Budget Overview
- Key Elements
- Revenue/Expenditure Projections
- Fund Forecasts
- Next Steps

Overview



Financial Position

- FY2023 Year-End
 - Strong Sales and Use tax collections
 - Record revenue from building permits and investments
 - Expenditures within budget
 - General Fund reserves – 48%
- FY2024 Estimates
 - Sales and Use Tax, Franchise Fee revenue down from prior year
 - Property Tax revenue returns to normal increases

Total Recommended Budget

FY2024 Original Budget	\$224,781,100
Expenditures	\$154,335,843
Reserves	\$70,445,257
FY2025 Recommended Budget	\$246,751,383
Expenditures	\$168,316,081 (\$14.0M increase)
Reserves	\$78,435,302 (\$8.0M increase)



Budget Highlights

- Total Estimated 2025 Assessed Valuation: \$1.82 billion
- Recommended Mill Levy: 26.970, a 0.500 mill reduction
- Recommend **no changes** to user fees
- Recommend addition of 5.0 FTEs

Calculating Your City Taxes

TAX VALUE ILLUSTRATION

To determine the assessed valuation of your home, multiply the Johnson County appraised value of the home by 11.5%. (Commercial properties have a 25% assessment rate.)

$$\mathbf{\$467,962 \times 0.115 = \$53,816}$$

Assessed valuation - \$53,816

To determine how much you pay in City taxes, multiply the assessed valuation by the mill levy.

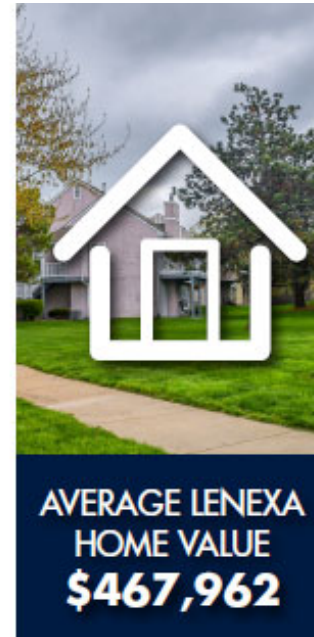
$$\mathbf{\$53,816 \times 0.026970 = \$1,451}$$

City tax liability - \$1,451

To determine your monthly expense for city services, divide tax liability by 12 months.

$$\mathbf{\$1,451 / 12 = \$120.92}$$

Monthly expense for City services - **\$120.92**



QUICK CALC


(Every \$100,000 of home value is \$310.07 in City tax per year or \$25.84 per month.)

Value for Your Lenexa Dollar

— VALUE OF YOUR LENEXA DOLLAR —

The following list represents a sample of the city services provided for the \$120.92 per month tax.

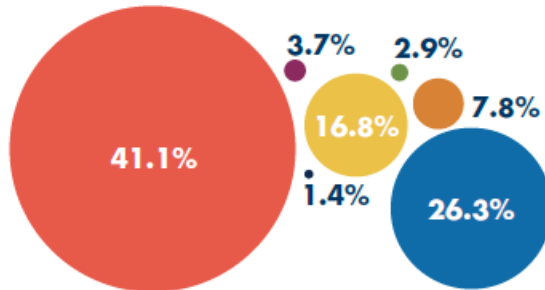
FIRE PROTECTION / PREVENTION / SAFETY * COMMUNITY STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT
COMMUNITY FESTIVALS AND EVENTS * COMMUNITY CENTER * REC CENTER
PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS * DRUG PREVENTION EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION * STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS * NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT * SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL
PUBLIC PARKS AND TRAILS * COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
STREET MAINTENANCE/REPAIR * BUILDING AND FIRE INSPECTION
SENIOR CENTER AND PROGRAMS * MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTION
FARMERS MARKET * GRANTS * PUBLIC MARKET * ANIMAL CONTROL
SIDEWALK REPAIR * STREET LIGHTING * POLICE PROTECTION * TRAFFIC CONTROL



2023 Total Property Tax Rates

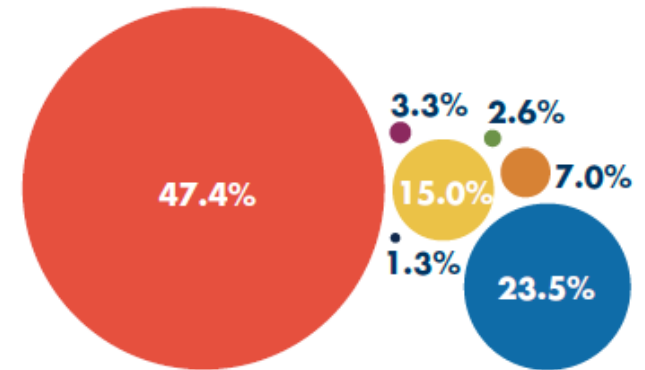
SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

State of Kansas	1.500
Johnson County	17.526
Johnson County Community College	8.131
Johnson County Parks & Recreation District	3.022
Johnson County Library	3.812
City of Lenexa	27.470
SM School District	42.822
TOTAL MILL LEVY	104.283



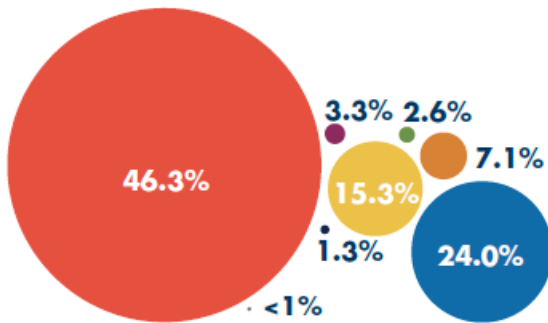
OLATHE SCHOOL DISTRICT

State of Kansas	1.500
Johnson County	17.526
Johnson County Community College	8.131
Johnson County Parks & Recreation District	3.022
Johnson County Library	3.812
City of Lenexa	27.470
Olathe School District	55.482
TOTAL MILL LEVY	116.943



DESOTO SCHOOL DISTRICT

State of Kansas	1.500
Johnson County	17.526
Johnson County Community College	8.131
Johnson County Parks & Recreation District	3.022
Johnson County Library	3.812
City of Lenexa	27.470
DeSoto School District	53.051
Monticello Cemetery	0.031
TOTAL MILL LEVY	114.543



Guiding Principles



SUPERIOR QUALITY SERVICES
Ensure that services are provided efficiently and effectively in ways that create a safe, clean, and attractive community for residents, businesses, and visitors.



PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
Provide exceptional value in public investments by committing to structural fiscal balance in operational and capital activities while upholding transparent finance and budgeting processes.



STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
Purposefully invest in high-quality infrastructure, facilities, programs, and initiatives across all areas of the community.



EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY PRIDE
Celebrate Lenexa's history and reputation as a visionary community and use that heritage to instill future generations with the pride that is reflected in the City's public places, plans, programs, and people.



INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING
Enthusiastically engage the public in community initiatives and visioning, including intentionally seeking input and ideas from a diverse assembly of stakeholders.



RESPONSIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Fortify the city's economic base by encouraging high-quality private development as well as fostering economic opportunity through thoughtful planning processes and the judicious use of economic development investment programs.



SUSTAINABLE POLICIES AND PRACTICES
Lead by example in implementing sustainable and resilient practices where financially and operationally practical as well as enact community-wide policies and strategies that motivate both residents and businesses to do so when reasonable.



VALUES-BASED ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE
Create an organization that reflects the community's diversity and fosters a superior culture by employing, supporting, and rewarding professionals who make decisions with integrity, deliver results through teamwork, provide exceptional service, lead into the future with vision, are dedicated to excellence, and who truly care about Lenexa.

Key Elements of Recommended Budget

Economic Outlook

Looking Back

- Large property valuation increases
- Strong sales and use tax growth
- Strong consumer demand for products and services
- Hot labor market

Moving Forward

- Inflation remains elevated; Federal Reserve postponing rate cuts
- Continued workforce pressures
- Challenges in municipal insurance market
- City revenues returning to pre-COVID19 norms

Budget Principles

- Fund on-going operating expenditures with on-going revenue sources
- Use one-time revenues for one-time expenditures
- Maintain sufficient reserve balances to address unforeseen events (COVID-19 pandemic, Great Recession)
- Use conservative approach to revenue estimating
- Prepare and fund equipment replacement/building maintenance schedules

Budget Basics

Balanced Budget Law – adopted budget must be in balance, where total resources equal total obligations; projected spending cannot exceed available resources (requires the City to budget reserves as an expenditure)

Funds – separate fiscal entities which are used to track specific revenues and expenditures associated with a particular purpose.

- Lenexa has 37 budgeted funds

Fund Categories

- General Fund, Debt Service Fund
- Special Revenue Funds (restricted) – TIF, CID, Specific Tax or State Revenue Funds
- Enterprise Funds – Stormwater Fund, Rec Center Fund, Cemetery Fund

Budget Basics

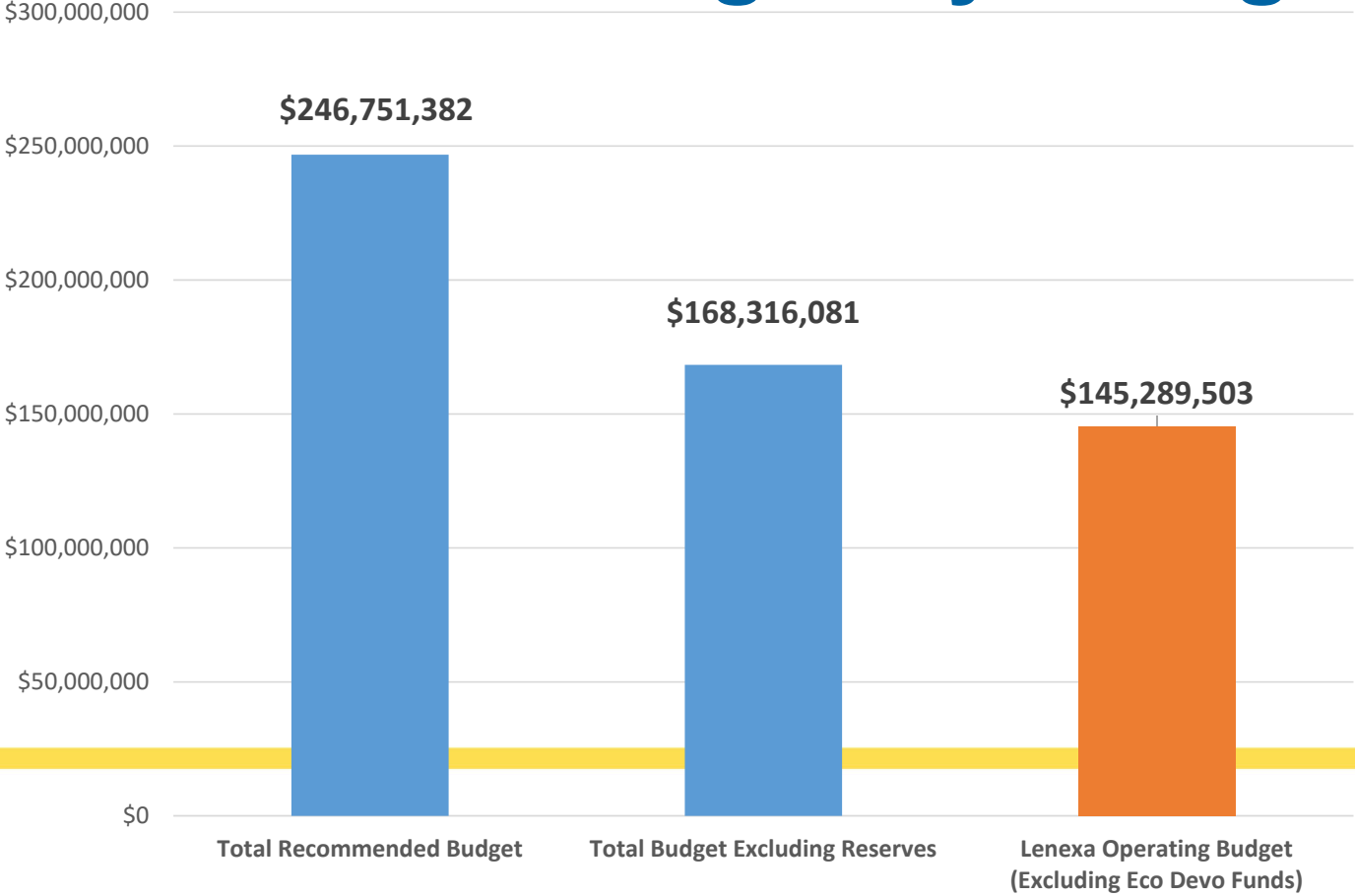
General Fund – principal fund of the City which accounts for a majority of the City’s operational expenditures

Debt Service Fund – used to account for the payment of principal and interest on the City’s General Obligation Bonds

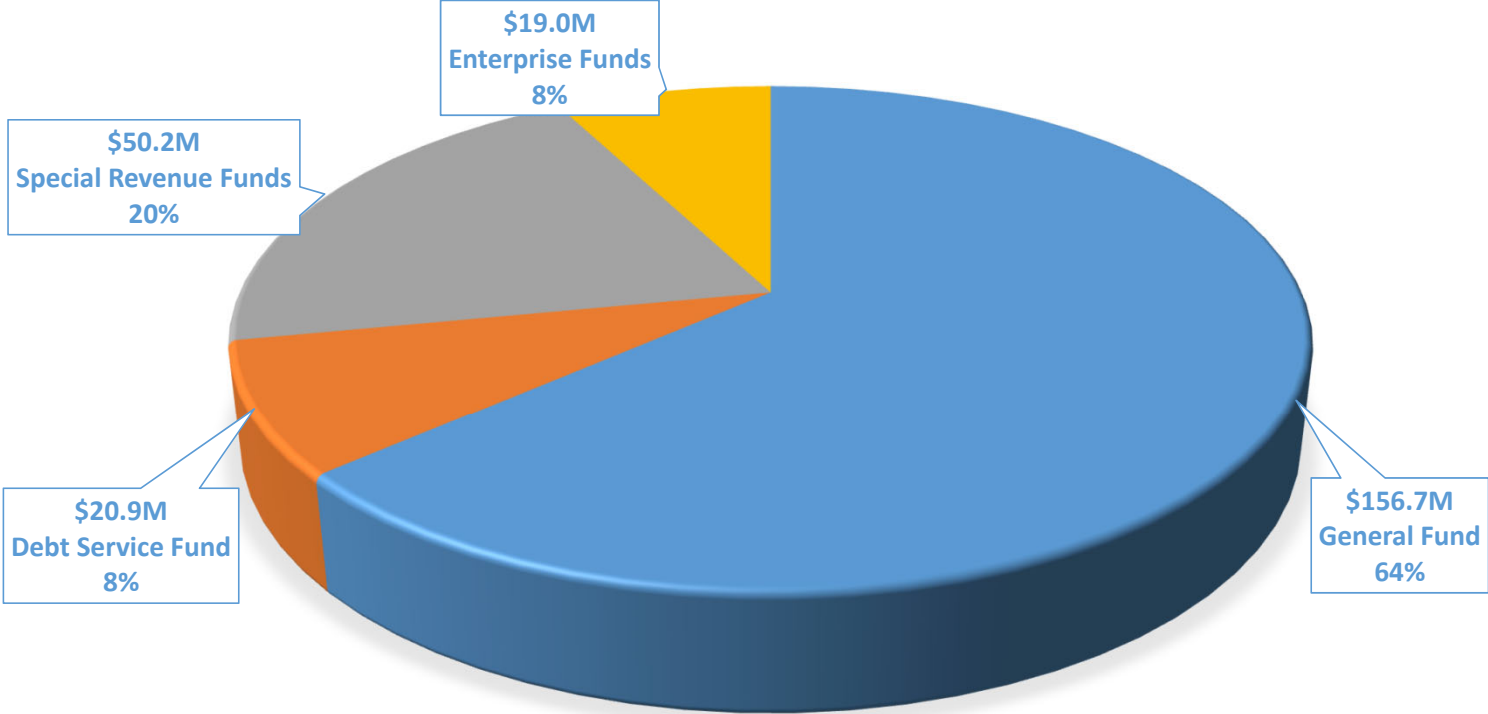
Special Revenue Funds – used to account for revenues derived from specific taxes, grants, or other revenue designated for particular functions or activities

Enterprise Funds – used to account for the operations financed and operated in a manner similar to private businesses; intent is to provide goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis primarily through user charges

Recommended Budget By Category



Recommended Budget By Category



General Fund Breakout

Expenditure Type	FY2025 Recommended Expenditures	FY2024 Adopted Expenditures	\$ Change	% Change
Personnel Service	\$62,650,244	\$58,436,905	\$4,213,339	7.21%
Contractual Services	\$13,500,028	\$12,965,544	\$534,484	4.10%
Commodities	\$5,048,928	\$4,728,120	\$320,808	6.79%
Capital Outlay	\$884,176	\$697,150	\$187,026	26.8%
Transfers	\$27,814,197	\$25,295,725	\$2,518,472	9.96%
Reserves/TIF Reserves	\$47,138,972	\$42,285,740	\$4,853,232	11.5%
Total	\$157,036,545	\$144,409,184	\$12,627,361	8.7%

Key Elements

- Reduces estimated property tax rate by 0.500 mills – FY2025 est. 26.970 mills
 - General Fund – 22.119 mills
 - 0.372 mill reduction in FY2026
 - Debt Service Fund – 4.851 mills
- Maintains sufficient General Fund reserves for AAA (Aaa) bond rating, uncertain economy
- Continues to focus on providing high quality City services – retain good employees, fund strategic priorities
- Plans for economic pressures – workforce, inflation, recession/economic downturn

Key Elements

The total FY2025 recommended expenditure budget is \$168.3 million, which is an increase of \$14.2 million (9.1%) compared to the FY2024 original budget of \$154.3 million.

- Net of Economic Development Funds the expenditure budget is \$145.3 million, which is an increase of \$9.3 million (6.8%) compared to FY2024 original budget of \$136.0 million.

Total General Fund operating expenditures in the FY2025 recommended budget are \$114.2 million. This is an increase of \$7.7 million (7.2%) compared to the FY2024 General Fund budget amount of \$106.5 million.

Total budgeted full-time equivalent (FTE) positions are 565.88 for FY2025. This is an increase of 5.0 FTE compared to the FY2024 revised budget of 560.88 FTE.

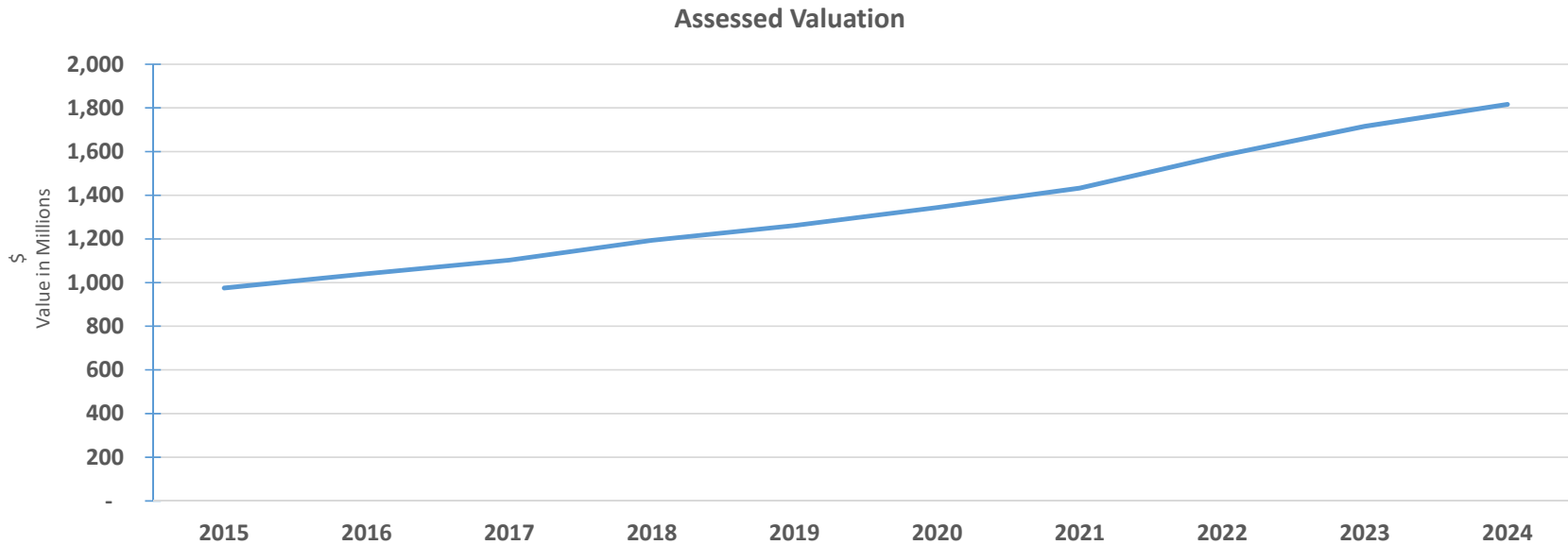
The estimated mill levy of 26.970 mills is a reduction of 0.500 mill from FY2024.

Stormwater service charge is \$109 per equivalent dwelling unit, or EDU (unchanged from FY 2024).

Major Revenue Projections

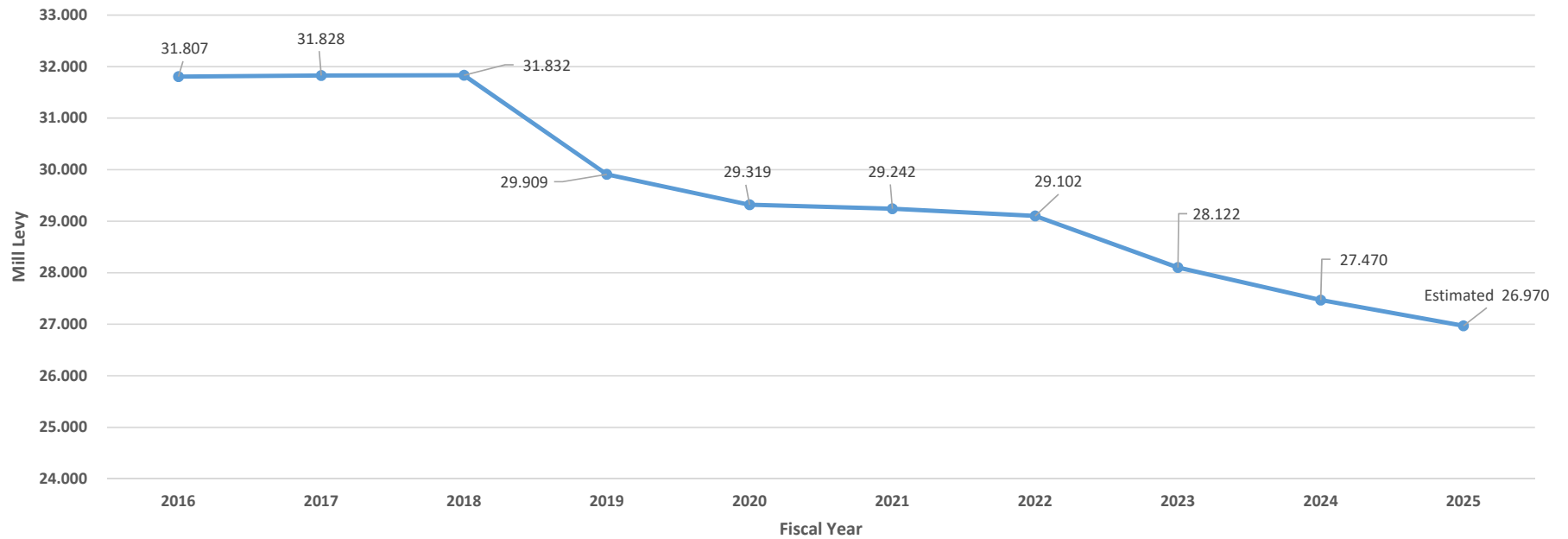
Assessed Valuation

Lenexa's assessed valuation increased by 5.8% to \$1.82 billion (vs. \$1.72 billion in FY2024).



Property Tax Rate

Lenexa Mill Levy
2016- Est. 2025



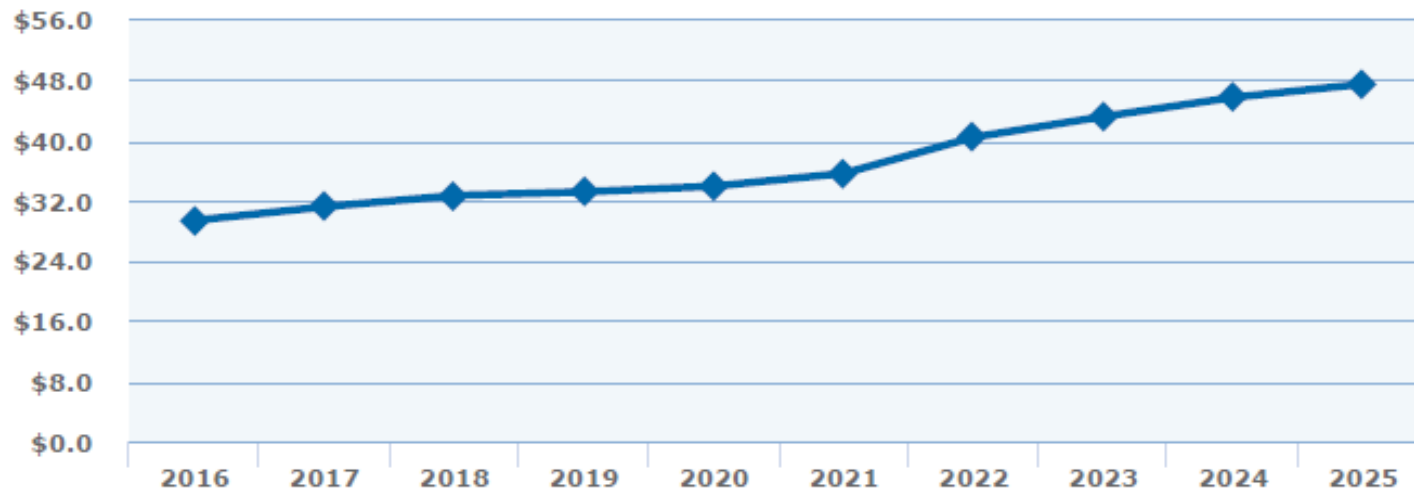
Revenue Neutral Rate

- Definition – “the mill levy required to raise the same amount of property tax revenue as the prior year, using current year assessed valuation amounts.”
- Assessed valuation for Revenue Neutral Rate calculation: \$1.82 billion
- Mill levy for Revenue Neutral Rate calculation: 25.872
 - Reduction of 1.598 mills from FY2024 tax rate of 27.470 mills
 - Reduction of 1.098 mills from FY2025 estimated tax rate of 26.970 mills
- Dollar value of reduction for Revenue Neutral Rate calculation (1.000 mill = \$1.76 million)
 - FY2024 reduction value is \$2.82 million
 - FY2025 estimate reduction value is \$1.93 million

Property Tax Revenue

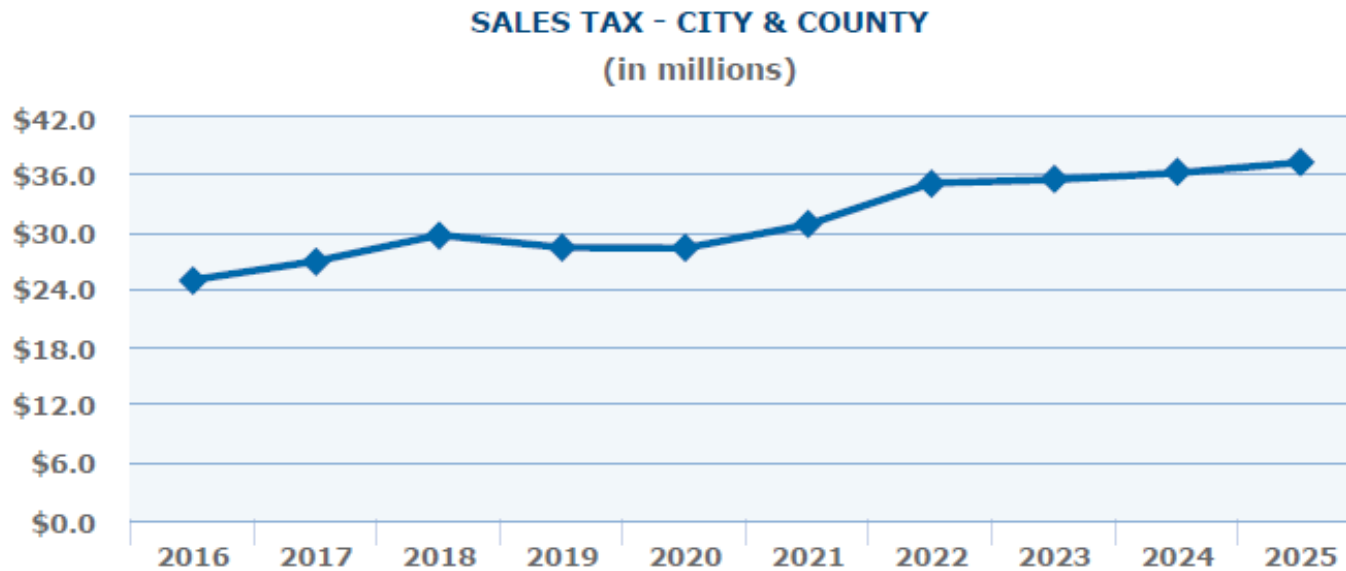
Estimated property tax revenues increased by 3.9% to \$47.5 million (vs. \$45.7 million in FY2024) assuming a delinquency rate of 3%. Property tax revenue is \$39.0 million for the General Fund and \$8.5 million for the Debt Service Fund in FY2025.

PROPERTY TAXES
(in millions)



Sales Tax Revenue

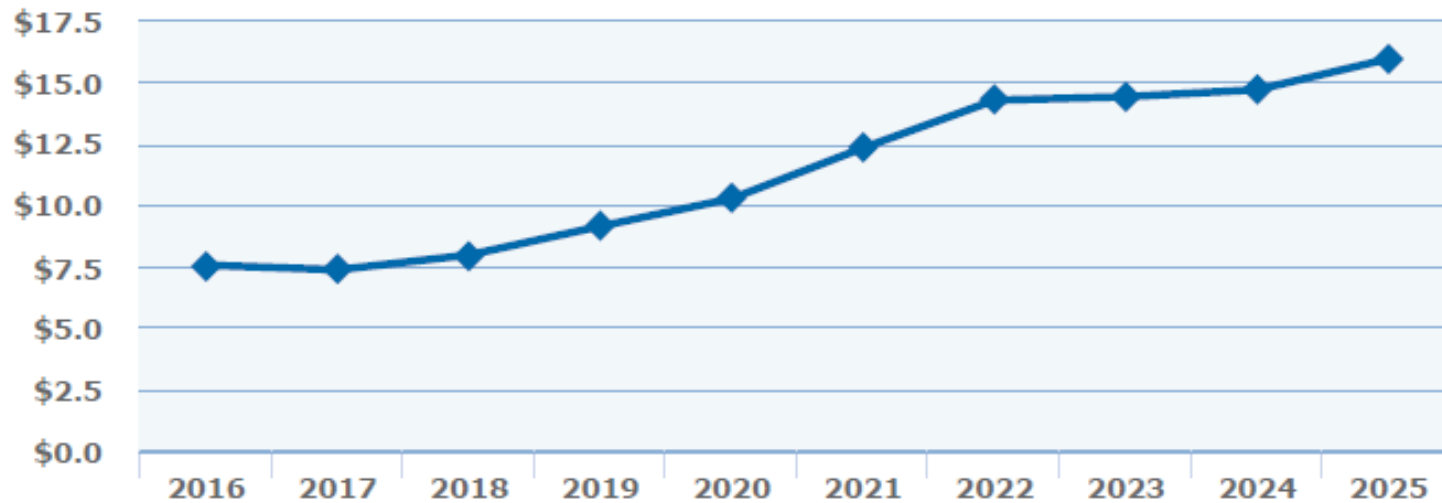
Estimated FY2025 sales tax revenue in the General Fund is \$36.9 million (City and County) which is up 2% from the FY2024 original budget of \$36.2 million and up 1% from FY2024 re-estimate of \$36.6 million.



Use Tax Revenue

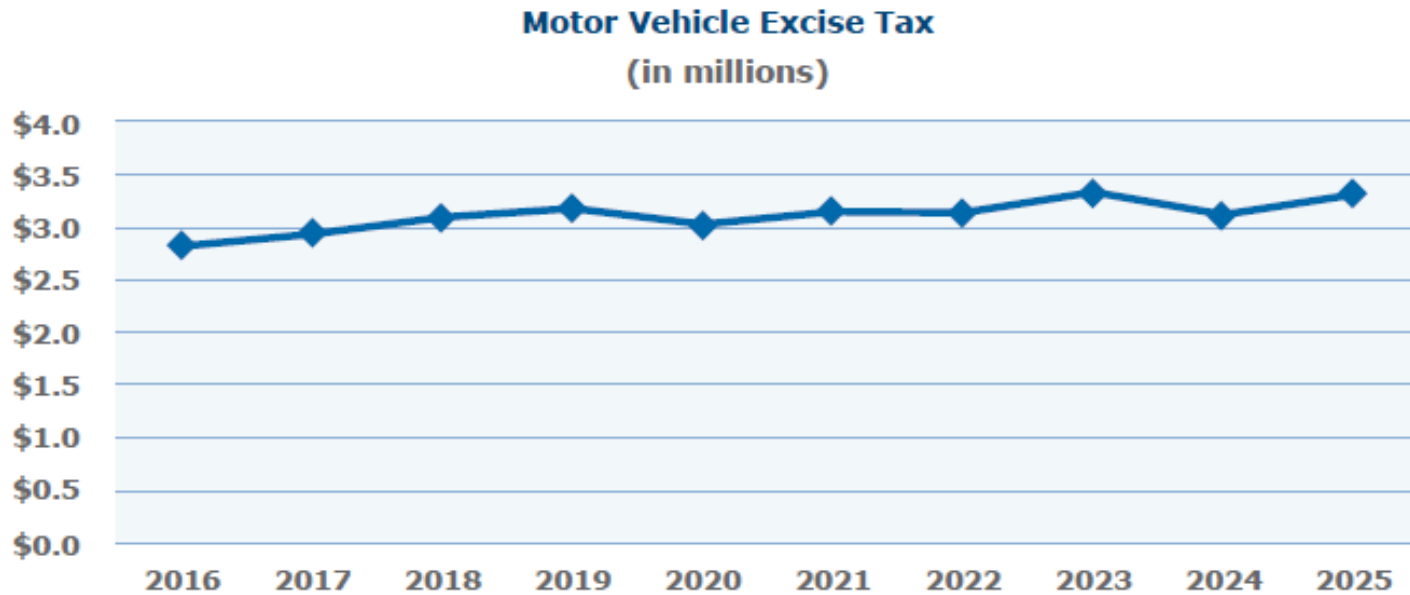
Estimated FY2025 use tax revenue in the General Fund is \$16.0 million (City and County) which is up 9% from the FY2024 original budget of \$14.7 million and up 2% from FY2024 re-estimate of \$15.7 million.

USE | TAX
(in millions)



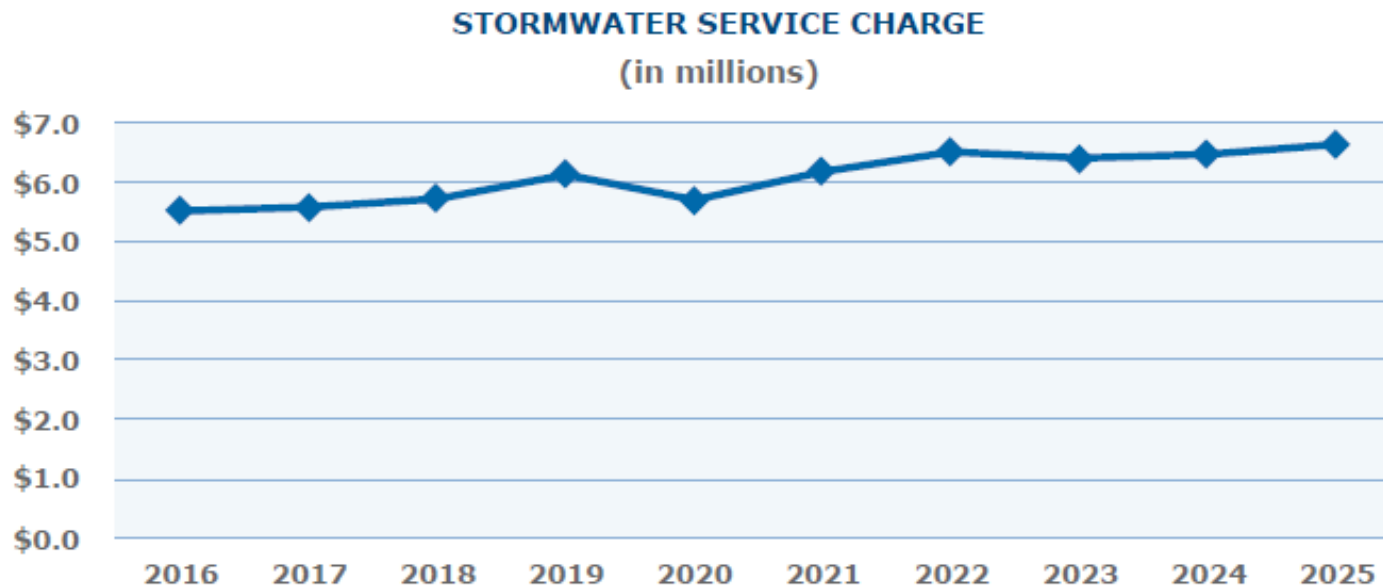
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax

Estimated FY2025 revenue from motor vehicle taxes is \$3.30 million which is an increase of 4% from the FY2024 original budget of \$3.16 million.



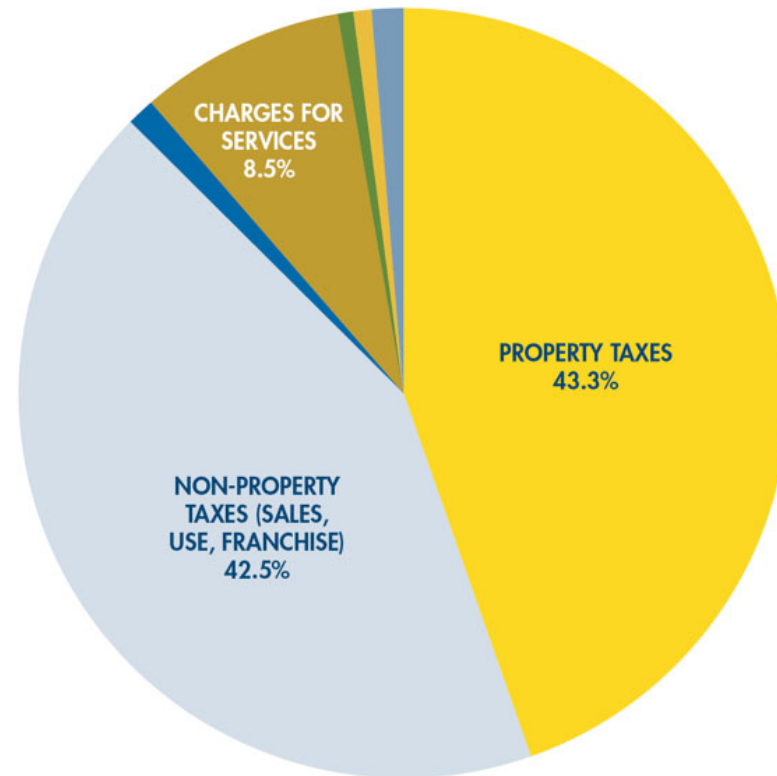
Stormwater Service Charge

Estimated FY2025 revenue from the stormwater service charge is \$6.63 million which is up 2.6% from the FY2024 original budget of \$6.46 million.



Revenue Budget

REVENUES BY SOURCE		
Property Taxes	\$73,256,926	43.3%
Non-property Taxes <i>(Includes Sales Tax, Use Tax, Franchise Tax)</i>	71,963,995	42.5%
Licenses & Permits	2,839,000	1.7%
Charges for Services	14,331,953	8.5%
Fines & Forfeitures	1,151,000	0.6%
Transfers In & Use of Prior Year's Balance	1,660,000	1.0%
Other Revenues <i>(Leases, Etc.)</i>	4,138,069	2.4%
TOTAL	\$169,340,943	100%



Expenditure Projections

Personnel Costs

- Staff has received direction from the Council to not fall behind on compensation and benefits
- Recommended budget includes 6% for employee compensation increases/adjustments
 - 3% reserved in Non-Departmental
- City contribution for employee health insurance increases by 11% (\$0.87 million) from \$7.62 million in FY2024 to \$8.49 million in FY2025
- Total budgeted full-time equivalent (FTE) positions are 565.88 for FY2025. This is an increase of 5.0 FTE compared to the FY2024 revised budget of 560.88 FTE

Cont. Services/Commodities/Capital Outlay

FY2025 contractual service and commodities expenditures are \$18.5 million in the General Fund, compared to \$17.7 million for the FY2024 budget. The FY2025 increase of \$0.80 million is 4.5% over the FY2024 budget.

FY2025 capital outlay expenditures are \$0.88 million in the General Fund, compared to \$0.70 million for the FY2025 budget (2.6% increase).

Lingering issues related to delivery of critical equipment.

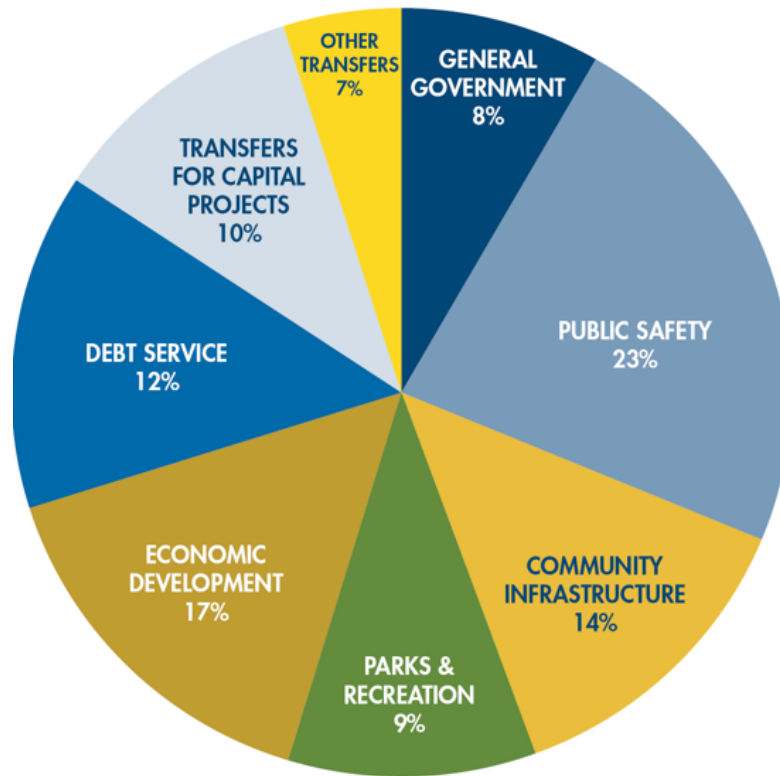
Economic Development/General Fund Transfers

FY2025 economic development payments (CID, Neighborhood Revitalization District, Special Benefit Districts, TIF) are \$28.4 million, compared to \$23.0 million for the FY2024 Budget. The increase of \$5.4 million (23.5%) is primarily due to new development in several districts. **A majority of the revenue received in these funds are “pass through” and are not revenue to the City.**

The General Fund transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) for capital projects is \$1.8 million for FY2025, compared to \$1.7 million in FY2024 (increase of \$0.1 million or 5.9%). The General Fund transfer to the CIF for the Pavement Management Program is \$1.40 million for FY2025 (equivalent of 0.78 mills) compared to \$1.30 million in FY2024 (increase of \$0.10 million or 7.7%).

The General Fund transfer to the Equipment Reserve Fund (ERF) increased to \$2.5 million in FY2024 compared to \$1.95 million in FY2024. The General Fund transfer to the Rec Center is \$0.30 million and was \$0.50 million for FY2024.

Expenditure Projections



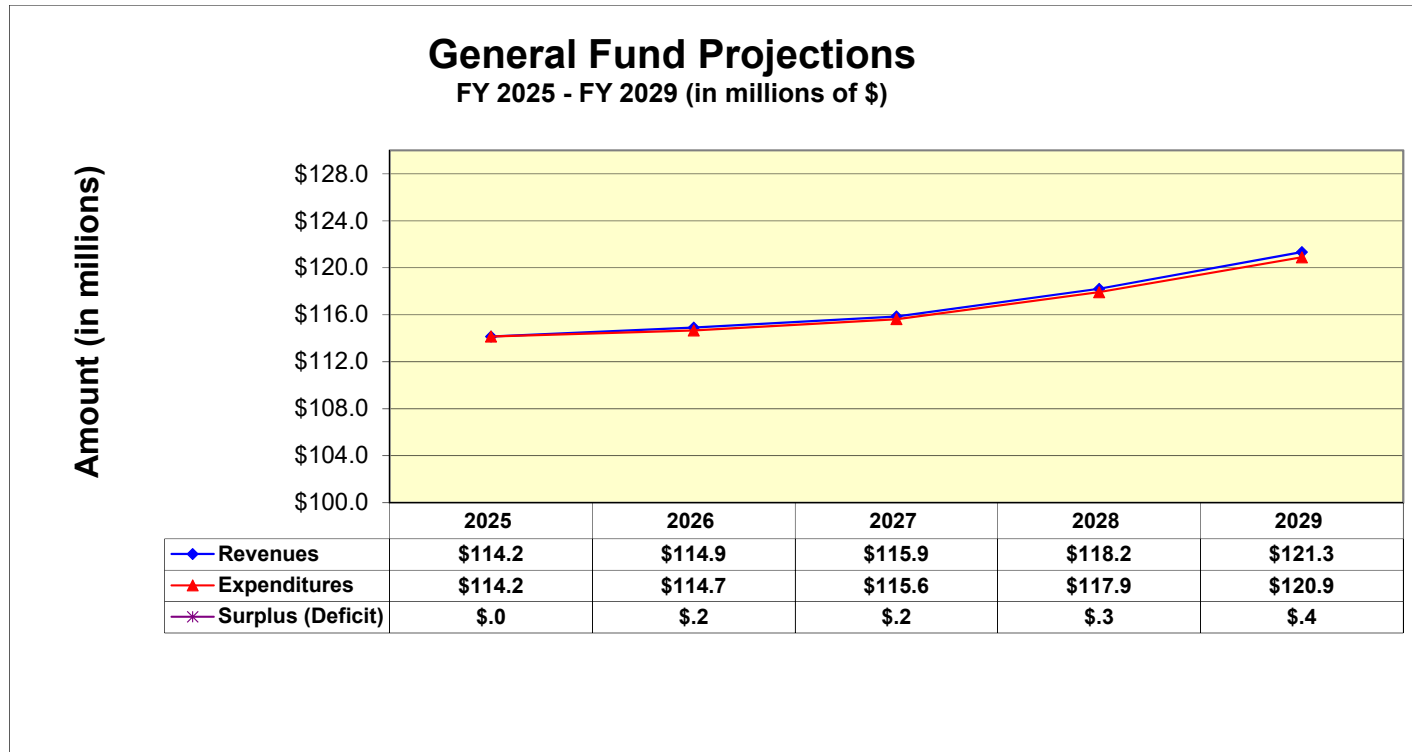
EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION		
General Government <i>Includes Executive, Information Technology, Legal</i>	\$14,116,989	8%
Public Safety <i>Includes Fire, Police, Municipal Court</i>	39,042,200	23%
Community Infrastructure <i>Includes Community Development, Municipal Services, Special Highway Fund</i>	23,565,578	14%
Parks & Recreation <i>Includes Parks and Recreation, Rec Center Fund, Special Parks Fund</i>	15,557,503	9%
Economic Development <i>Includes Tax Increment Financing Funds, Community Improvement District Funds, Neighborhood Revitalization District Funds</i>	29,099,445	17%
Debt Service	20,136,363	12%
Transfers for Capital Projects	16,607,050	10%
Other Transfers <i>Includes Equipment Replacement, Tax Increment Financing Transfers, Community Improvement District Transfers</i>	10,170,953	7%
TOTAL	\$168,316,081	100%

Multi-Year Forecasts

Financial Model Assumptions

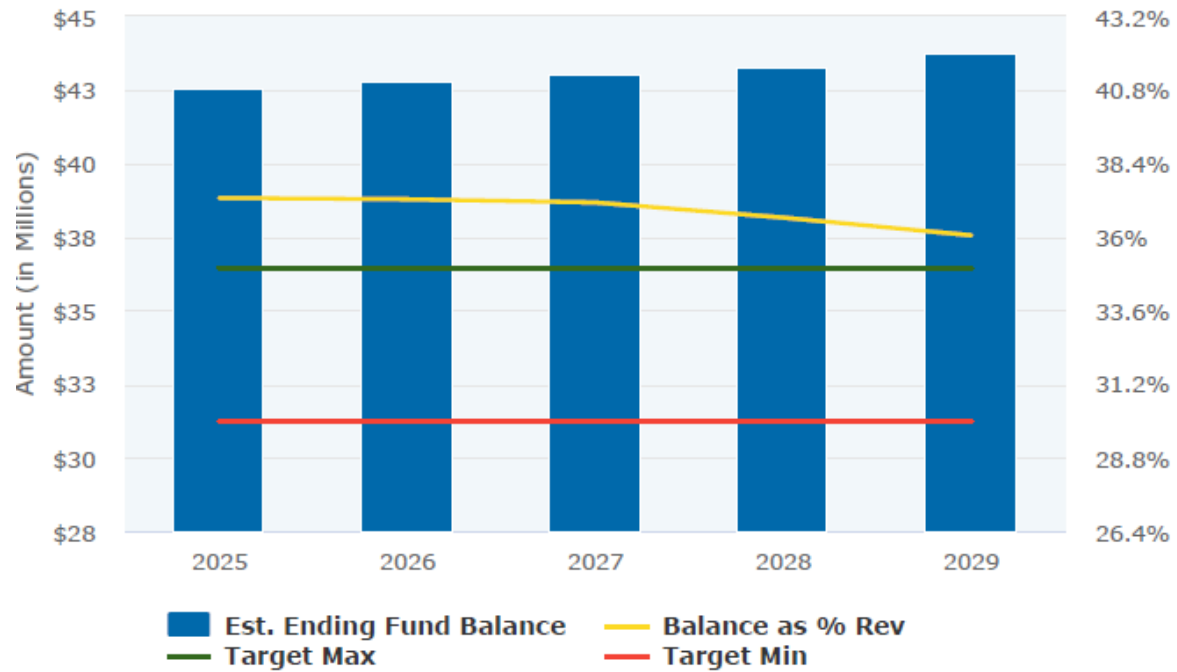
TABLE #1: FINANCIAL MODEL ASSUMPTIONS – GENERAL FUND					
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Assessed Value % annual change	5.86%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%
Total Mill Levy (2024 = 27.470)	26.970	26.598	26.598	26.598	26.598
Estimated property tax delinquency rate	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
City Sales Tax % change (1.375% rate)	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Personnel: % of pay allocated for compensation increases/adjustments	6%	4%	4%	4%	4%
General Fund Transfer to Equipment Reserve Fund (equipment replacement) – in millions	\$2.5	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0
General Fund Transfer to Capital Improvement Fund (pay as you go funding for CIP – funded from general revenue) – in millions	\$3.4	\$3.5	\$3.3	\$3.8	\$3.6

General Fund



General Fund Reserve

GENERAL FUND RESERVE PROJECTION
FY 2025 - FY 2029

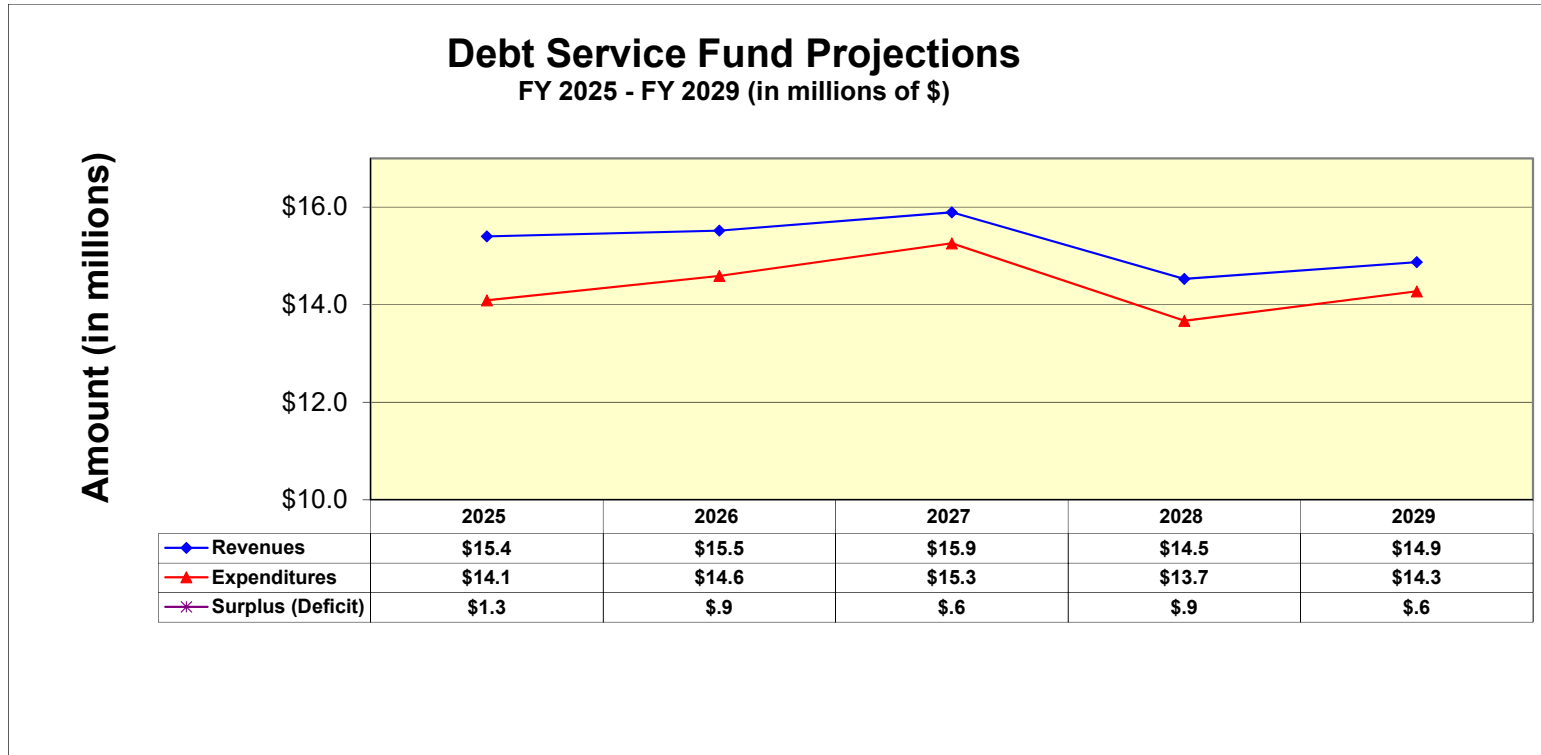


General Fund Reserve Allocation

At the end of FY2023, the General Fund reserve balance was \$48.5 million or 48% of revenues. Staff is recommending that \$8.0 million of General Fund reserves be allocated to the following projects/funds in order to bring the reserve balance closer to the max target of 35% of revenues.

- Transfer to Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) \$8.0 million

Debt Service Fund

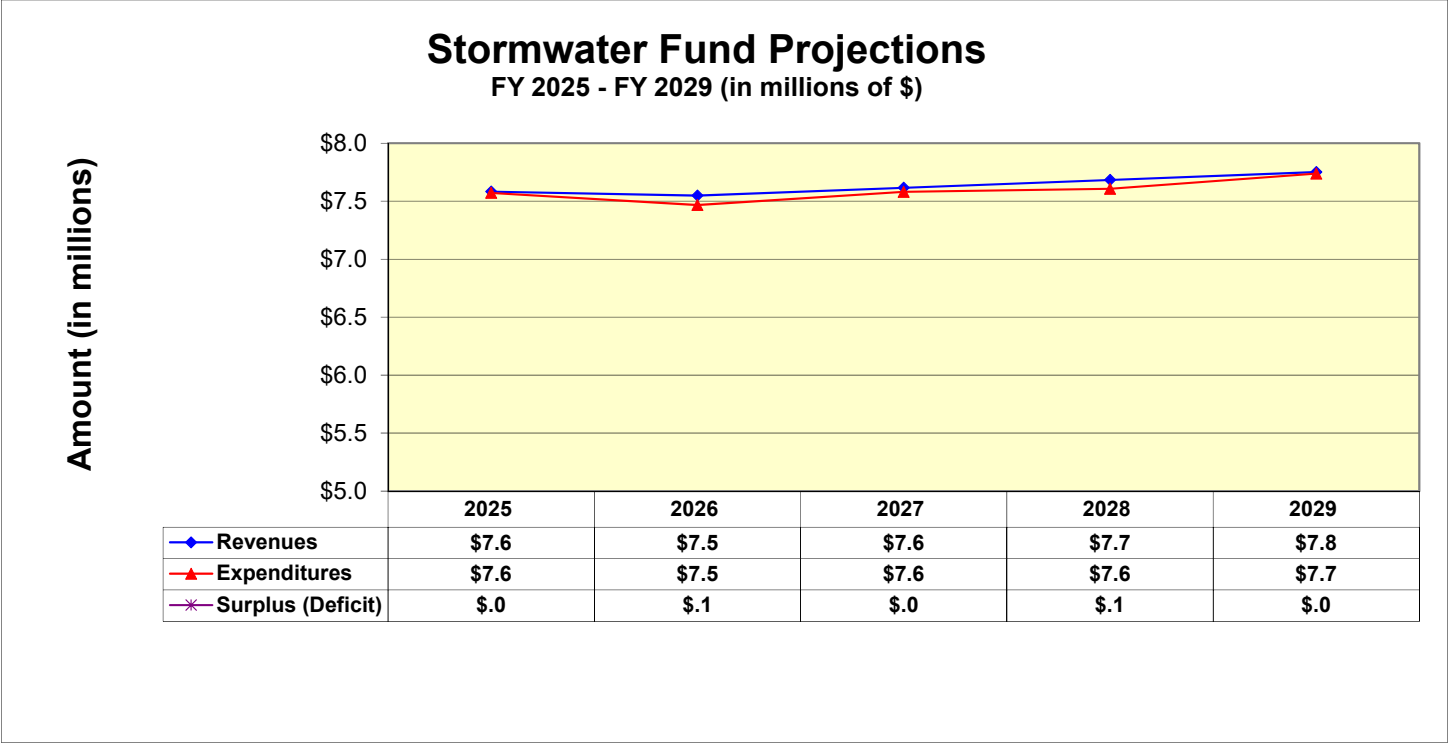


Debt Service Fund

Major Capital projects included in model

- 83rd Street Phase 1 and 2
- Fire Station #6/Old City Hall
- Lone Elm Interchange

Stormwater Fund



Next Steps

- Department Budget Review July 9
- Consider Resolution to Set Public Hearing July 16
- County Sends Notices for RNR Hearing/Est. Mill Levy August 1-10
- Budget Open House August 15
- Public Hearing/Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing August 20
- Consider Resolution to Exceed RNR and Approve FY2025 Budget August 20

Questions?

APPENDIX



**MINUTES OF THE
MAY 14, 2024
LENEXA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COMMUNITY FORUM, 17101 W 87th STREET PARKWAY
LENEXA, KS 66219**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sayers called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Karlin, Eiterich, Charlton, Nicks, Arroyo, Williamson, Denny, and Herron were present with Mayor Sayers presiding. Councilmember Karlin was absent.

Staff present included Beccy Yocham, City Manager; Todd Pelham, Deputy City Manager; Scott McCullough, Community Development Director; Sean McLaughlin, City Attorney; Jennifer Martin, City Clerk; and other City staff.

APPROVE MINUTES

Councilmember Denny made a motion to approve the April 23, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting draft minutes and Councilmember Eiterich seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

1. Lenexa Arts Council Annual Report

Judy Tuckness, Arts Council Chair, presented the annual report of the Council. She talked about the volunteer efforts provided for events, which was over 795 hours and valued over \$22,000. She reported that 4,000 people attended the outdoor concerts and 600 people attended gallery receptions.

Ms. Tuckness said that the 33rd Lenexa Artist Show, which is in August, is currently accepting applications.

The Lenexa Community Orchestra will be playing three free concerts this summer, according to Ms. Tuckness. She said Lenexa is the only community orchestra to perform during the summer, which allows musicians to participate when they otherwise might not be available to. She reported that there were 960 attendees at orchestra concerts in the summer of 2023 with 3,400 hours volunteered at a value of \$97,000 and \$30,000 of in-kind donations. She said the Shawnee Mission School District lends instruments, stands, and other essentials to help make these concerts happen.

Ms. Tuckness talked about City Center Live, which is held on the second Saturday night of cold-weather months, and said one of the productions from last year - It's a

Wonderful Life – would be done again this year with an additional matinee performance.

The Peace Poles Community Art Project is currently on display at Black Hoof Park through September, according to Ms. Tuckness. She also said the Lenexa Arts Council (LAC) is excited about the mural that will be on the Lenexa Old Town Activity Center (LOTAC) building later this year.

Ms. Tuckness discussed the relocations of three art pieces - Windswept, Curoso, and the Bison.

Ms. Tuckness went over the LAC process for reviewing and annually making the recommendation for public art locations. She added that no new art was acquired in 2023.

Councilmember Nicks thanked Ms. Tuckness and the LAC for their work and City staff for its support and leadership. He also recognized Ms. Tuckness's decades-long work with the LAC.

Councilmember Arroyo talked about the book, Your Brain on Art, where she said she learned that public art is a public health issue. She concurred with Councilmember Nicks comments and said she appreciates the work the LAC does.

Councilmember Denny agreed with the other councilmembers and asked for the status update on the repair of the damaged art piece at Sar-Ko-Par Trail Park.

Logan Wagler, Parks and Recreation Director, said that repairs of the vandalism are in progress, but that the mosaic glass tiles were also likely failing. He said they may have to do something different to fix it, which will take more time.

Councilmember Charlton asked if that piece is illuminated and Mr. Wagler said it is lit from the ground, but the pieces itself is not illuminated.

Mayor Sayers said she really enjoyed the Calvin Arsenia concert.

Councilmember Herron asked for the status of the last proposed art piece at Black Hoof Park, to which Mr. Wagler responded would be a good segway into item 2 on this agenda.

2. Lenexa Arts Council Public Art Priority Locations Discussion

Mr. Wagler reviewed the public art policy and the requirement for annually presenting a public art priority list to the Governing Body for approval. He went over the different procedures for making art purchases and said the final decision rests with City Council.

Mr. Wagler reviewed the list of existing public art pieces by zone and location, noting there are no pieces in Zone 3. He presented a map reflecting the current and future locations of public art.

Mr. Wagler reviewed the approved public art priority list from 2023 list and the 2024 list, which only had minor changes. He talked about removing the LOTAC and Lenexa Justice Center (LJC) locations from the list because those installations are in progress for completion in 2024. He said they have added one new location 2024.

Mr. Wagler talked about public art funding using the three Parks and Recreation Impact Fee (restricted locations), Capital Improvement Fund dedicated funds (unrestricted locations), Lenexa Foundation funds (unrestricted locations), and fundraising.

Mr. Wagler said that there may be a joint LAC and Governing Body meeting scheduled for a Public Art discussion later this year to talk about purpose, policy, best practices, and goals/objectives.

Mr. Wagler presented the recommended priority location list:

1. Black Hoof Park (zone 2)
2. Cedar Station Park (Mize Lake) (zone 3)
3. Ad Astra Park and Pool (zone 1)
4. Centennial Park (zone 3)
5. Fire Station #3 (zone 3)
6. Little Mill Creek Park (zone 1)

Councilmember Nicks asked when the new Ad Astra pool would open and Mr. Wagler said in 2026. Councilmember Nicks said that Cedar Station is a beautiful park, but the playground needs to be put in, and suggested that art not come before that. Mr. Wagler said that phase 2 of Cedar Station Park is not currently funded, but they will consider bringing the playground and art on at the same time.

Councilmember Williamson asked how artists are found and Mr. Wagler said that policies are open on the direction to find artists and it depends on the project.

Councilmember Denny asked if the Team Illusion piece is in the right location. Mr. Wagler said that piece has been in multiple locations and it was in storage for many years before being refurbished and painted. The LAC selected that location for several reasons.

Councilmember Eiterich said she likes where Team Illusion is on 95th Street and said it is visible there.

Todd Pelham, Deputy City Manager, said staff is excited about integrating Windswept at the LJC.

Councilmember Charlton asked for the estimated time of completion of the playground at Buffalo Meadows Park and Mr. Wagler said it would be two to three weeks, barring weather.

Councilmember Nicks asked if the map and photos of the art is on the website and Denise Rendina, Communications Director, said yes, with a photo and description.

Mayor Sayers inquired about planning for an art piece in the Public Safety training room at the LJC and Mr. Wagler said they could discuss that.

3. Property Tax Rebate Pilot Program

Kyle Glaser, Economic Development Analyst, said that the purpose of the Property Tax Rebate pilot program is to provide relief to eligible homeowners by lessening their tax burden resulting from rising home values. Through this program, he said, eligible homeowners would receive a rebate of the City's share of property taxes. He added that \$100,000 has been budgeted in the FY 2024 budget for this program.

Mr. Glaser talked about previous discussions had regarding the creation of a rebate program such as local programs, income verification, target population, percentage of rebate, estimated applicant pool, and the application period.

Mr. Glaser said that the eligibility criteria are:

- owner-occupied homes
- 65+ years old OR disabled veteran
- Household income at or below the previous year HUD very-low income limits
- appraised value at or below previous year city-wide median

Councilmember Denny asked if applicants have to meet all of the criteria and Mr. Glaser said yes.

Mr. Glaser said the rebate payments would be a pro rata share of the available funds, up to 75% of the total City tax bill and he provided an example.

Mr. Glaser said that all applicants meeting the eligibility criteria will receive a rebate and the rebate amount is dependent on other variables such as the number of applicants and the home's appraised value.

Mr. Glaser reviewed the program timeline for 2024:

March 23, 2023 – resident's received their notice of valuation from the County

December 23, 2023 - First half of the tax bill was due

May 24, 2024 - Second half of the tax bill is due

August 1, 2024 - application period opens

October 31, 2024 – application period closes

November 30, 2024 - rebates mailed to eligible applicants

Mr. Glaser went over the next steps, which include revising the draft policy based on feedback from this meeting, scheduling approval of the policy for a June City Council meeting, and advertising the program over the summer. He said he would report the results to the City Council in early 2025.

Councilmember Williamson asked how many residents are at or below the poverty level and Mr. Glaser said he expects the total pool is about 150-200 people, which he believes half of which would apply. Councilmember Williamson asked if code violations would exempt owners and Mr. Glaser said no.

Councilmember Williamson asked who will administrate the program and Mr. Glaser said it would be him with the Finance Department's assistance. Councilmember Williamson asked how much time this will take to administrate and Mr. Glaser said he anticipates being able to review applications and do it without additional burden.

Beccy Yocham, City Manager, said this is considered a pilot program, staff expects there will need to be improvements made in the future, and they want to be flexible.

Mayor Sayers said this has established good guidelines and is ready for moving forward.

Ms. Yocham said that on Thursday May 16th at 3:45 PM there will be a dedication of the garden at Christa McAuliffe Elementary in memory of Nolan Davidson, a third-grader who passed away, which Parks employees helped create. She said there will be a ribbon cutting for the Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center next Tuesday. She announced that there would be no Committee of the Whole meeting on May 28th.

ADJOURN

Mayor Sayers adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM.