

**City of Sumner**

# **BIENNIAL BUDGET** *in Brief*



**2025 - 2026**

1104 Maple Street  
Sumner, WA 98390  
[www.sumnerwa.gov](http://www.sumnerwa.gov)

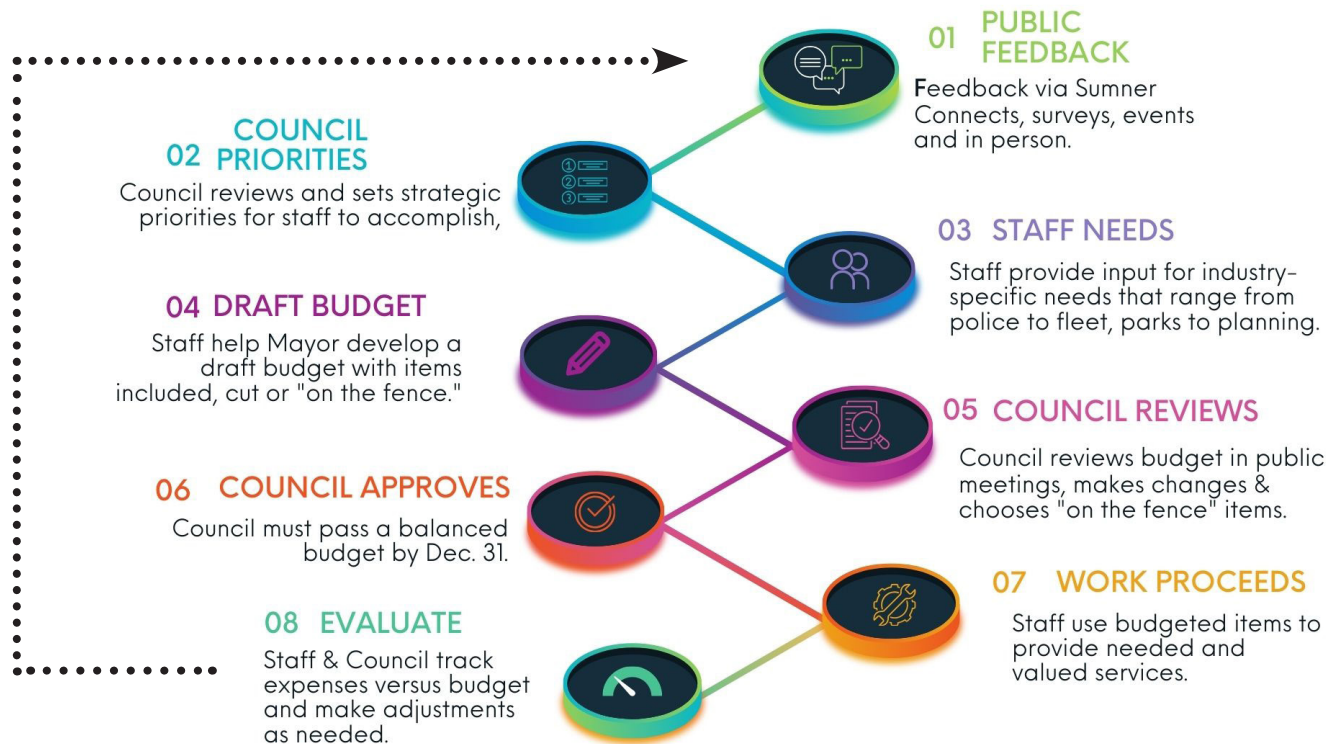


CITY OF  
**SUMNER**  
WASHINGTON

We always recommend you review the full 2025-2026 Budget for specific details about funding, staffing and the projects that will happen because of this budget. This Budget in Brief gives you a quick overview of Sumner's numbers and key strategies.

## BUDGET PROCESS

The budget drives everything we do, and your feedback throughout the year drives the budget.



## BUDGET PRINCIPLES

1. Our budget cycle runs January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026.
2. We must balance our budget. For large capital projects, we save revenue over many years, crossing multiple budgets. In this budget, it initially looks like expenses are higher than revenue because we're using balances saved from previous years to complete large capital projects.
3. We use ongoing revenues to pay for ongoing expenses, and use one-time revenue to pay for one-time projects.
4. Salaries and benefits remain our largest expense, meaning employees are the city's most valuable asset.
5. Each year, State and Federal regulations require more of cities with no additional funding, putting constant ongoing pressure on City budgets.
6. The City's budget is broken into General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, etc. Each fund operates as an independent business. We cannot simply move funds from one to another. We routinely do studies to ensure funds like the utilities are healthy with revenues covering expenses while keeping rates as low as possible. These technical fund names make it difficult for most people to understand, so this document breaks out spending based on more identifiable functions such as public safety, utilities and streets.



## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

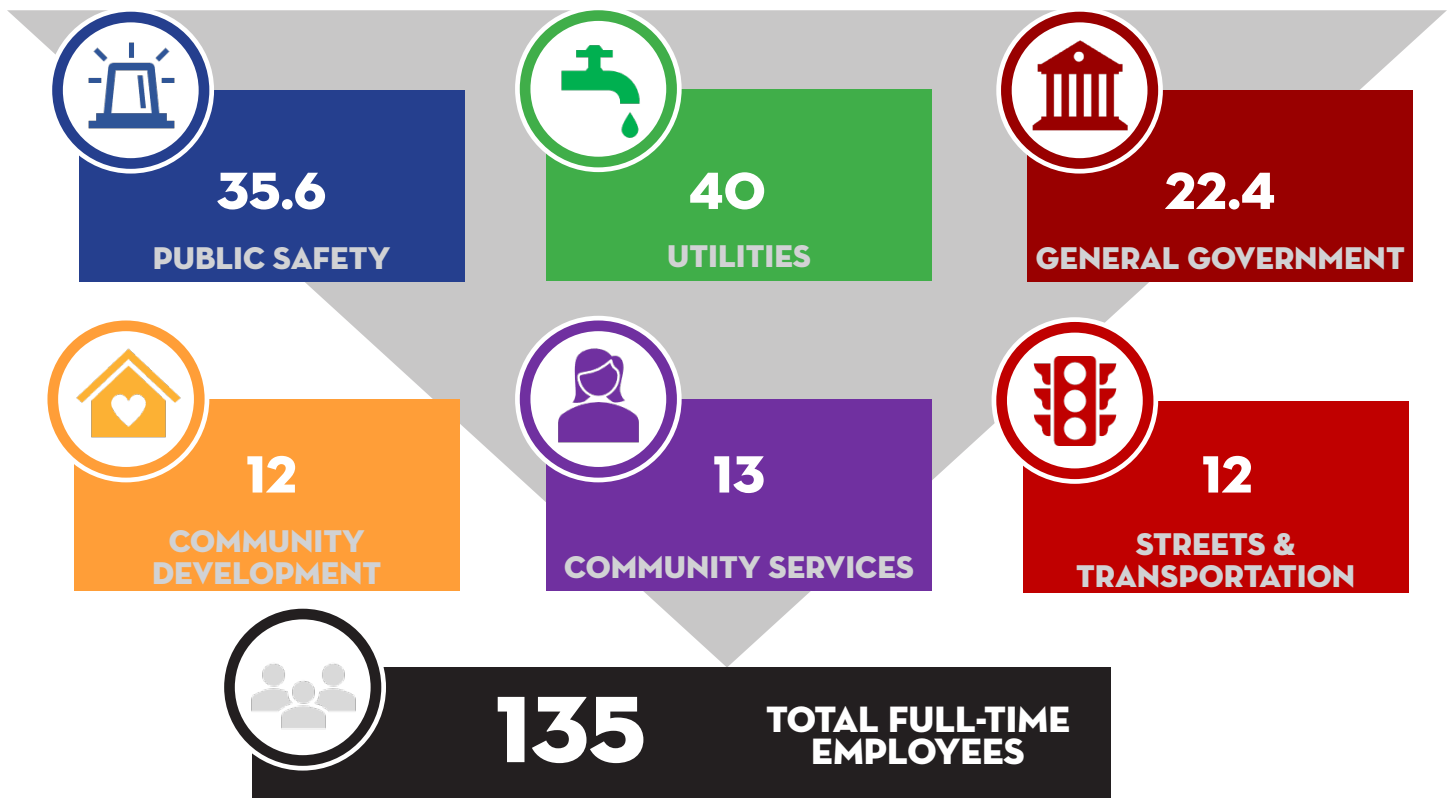


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## STAFFING BY FUNCTION

### FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT CITY EMPLOYEES

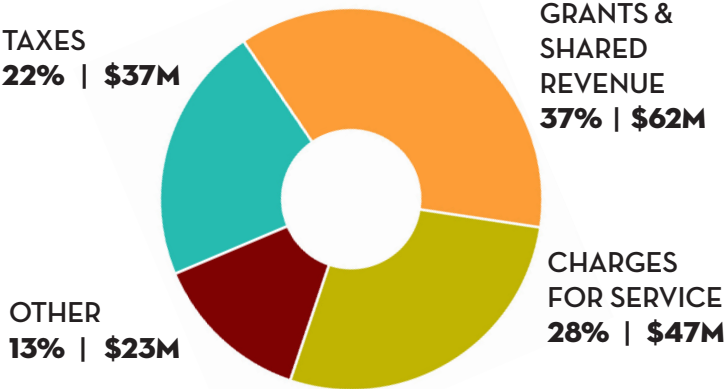
Many staff fill multiple functions. For example, one Public Works Operator can work on a water main in the morning and a pothole repair in the afternoon. These breakdowns are estimations of how our time is spent.



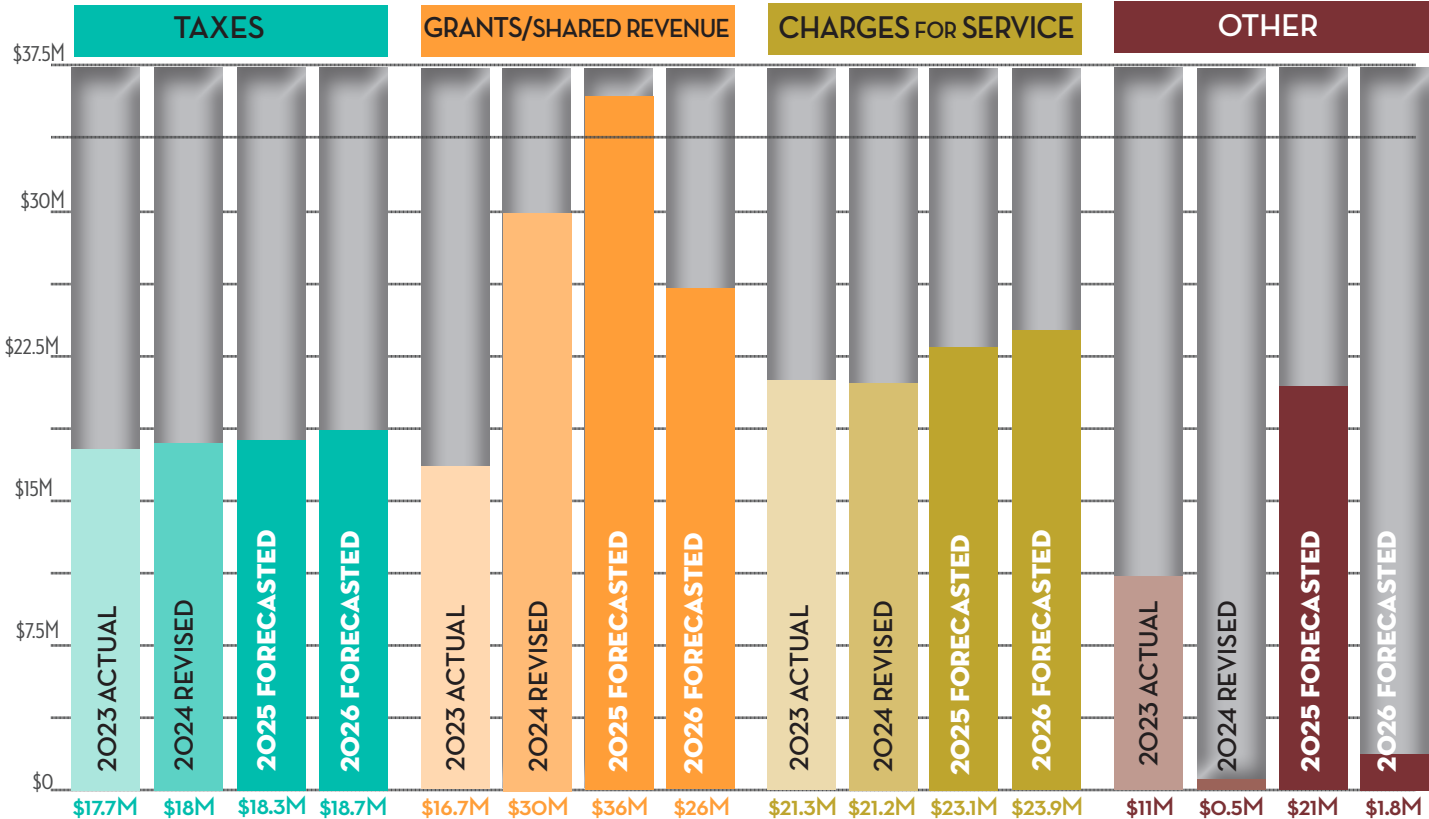
# 2025-2026 FUNDING COMING IN

## PROJECTED REVENUES

Taxes are the source of revenue most people think about, but they are not the only source. The City earned far more grant funding for 2025-2026 than tax revenue. The Sources of Revenue section outlines each distinct source and how that funding must be used.



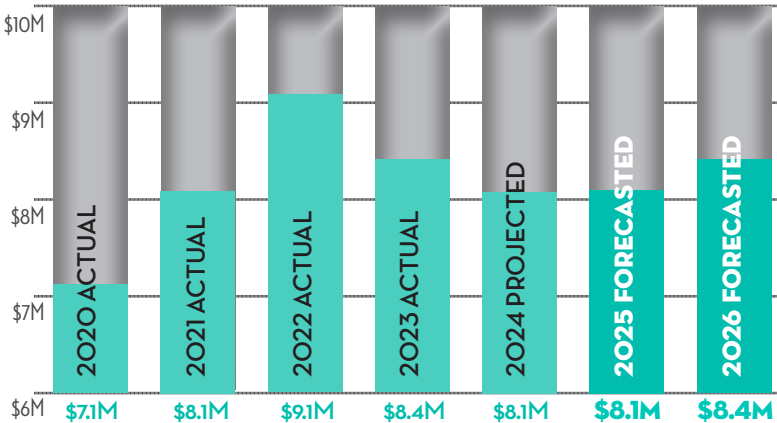
## REVENUES BY YEAR & CATEGORY



The forecasted increase for Grants/Shared Revenue is based on grants already awarded.

## SALES TAX REVENUES

State of Washington sales tax is based on the destination in which a customer takes possession of the item. The graph starts at \$6 million to better illustrate changes year over year. Sales Tax remains the most volatile source of income as it can fluctuate with the economy, so we budget conservatively.





## SOURCES OF REVENUE



### PROPERTY TAX

Paid by residential/commercial  
To General Fund  
Most reliable, stable  
Revenue capped by State at 1%



### REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX

Paid buying/selling real estate  
To specific capital projects



### FEES

Paid for a specific service, i.e.  
adopting a pet, cemetery plot  
To corresponding enterprise  
funds, doesn't fully cover costs



### SALES TAX

Paid by shoppers on goods  
To General Fund  
Volatile, unpredictable



### IMPACT FEES

PARKS ROADS SCHOOLS  
Paid by construction  
To Impact Fee funds, used only  
to expand capacity, balances  
new users vs. existing payers



### PERMIT FEES

Paid when doing construction  
To General Fund, covers cost  
for staff to review plans for  
safety



### LODGING TAX

Paid by visitors in a hotel  
To tourism efforts only  
% of bill



### ONE-TIME SOURCE

LAND SALE  
Paid by buyer for specific proj-  
ect, should never be used for/  
incur ongoing costs



### UTILITIES

WATER SEWER STORM  
Paid by property owners  
To Utility funds  
Covers costs, little cushion



### UTILITY TAXES

Paid as charge on utility, gar-  
bage, power, telecoms bills  
To General Fund, helps recoup  
some costs



### GRANTS

Paid by taxpayers via other  
agencies (State, Federal)  
Specific to projects/products  
Strict rules to follow  
Investment of time to manage



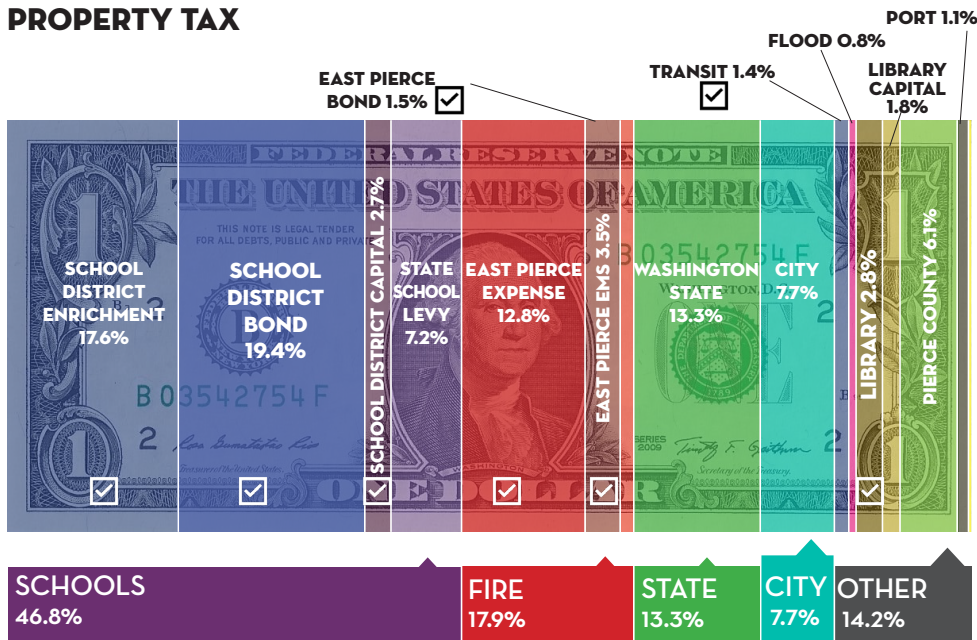
### FINES & TICKETS

Paid by people doing some-  
thing wrong i.e. speeding  
To General Fund  
Costs exceed revenue, invest  
in behavioral change

## MORE ABOUT TAXES

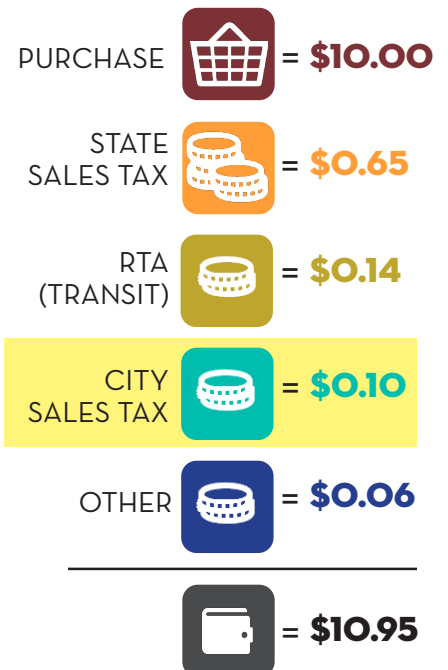
Taxes are the source of revenue most people remember. The City is not the only recipient of your tax dollars. See where your property tax and sales tax bills go.

### PROPERTY TAX



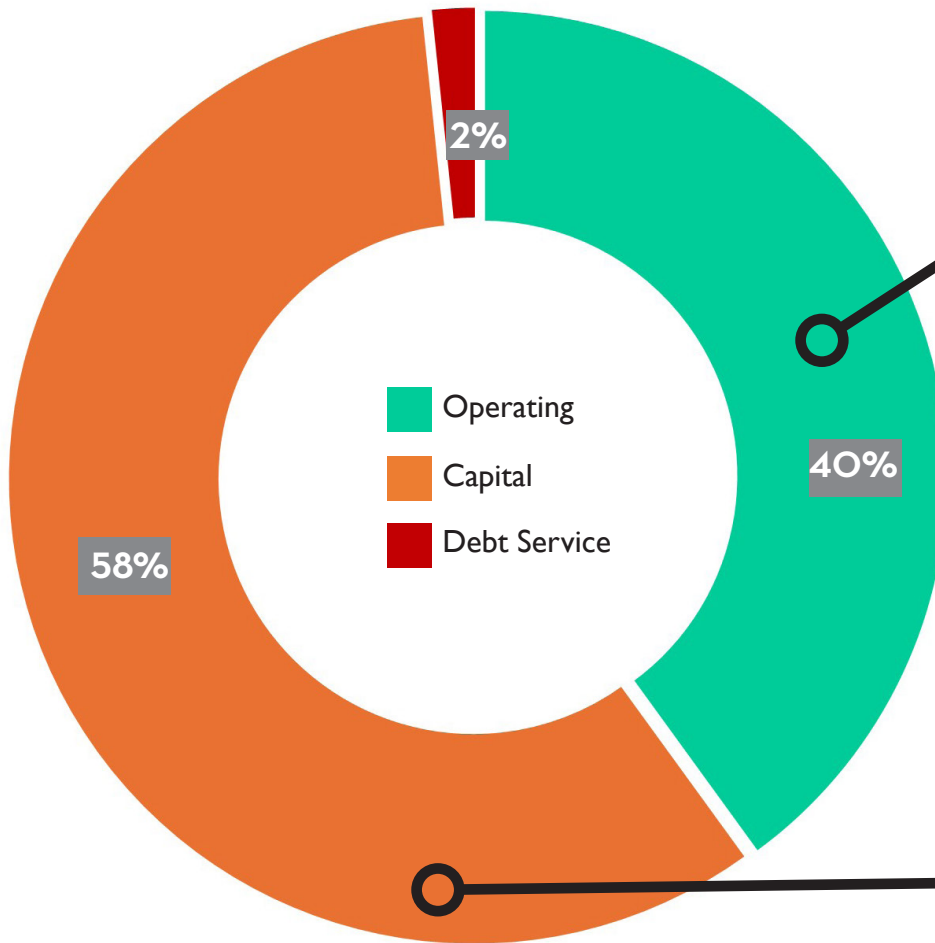
☑ Indicates voter-approved items.

### SALES TAX



# 2025-2026 FUNDING GOING OUT

## BUDGET BY EXPENDITURE TYPE



We have relatively low debt service for cities our size. This biennium, most funding is going to capital investments, which are one-time infrastructure expenses and operating costs, which are day-to-day activities.

## REAL WORLD EXAMPLES



Utilities expenses are a significant portion of both operating (staffing, routine testing) and capital (replacing water lines under roads). Water rights, billing and new environmental rules also impact other departments.



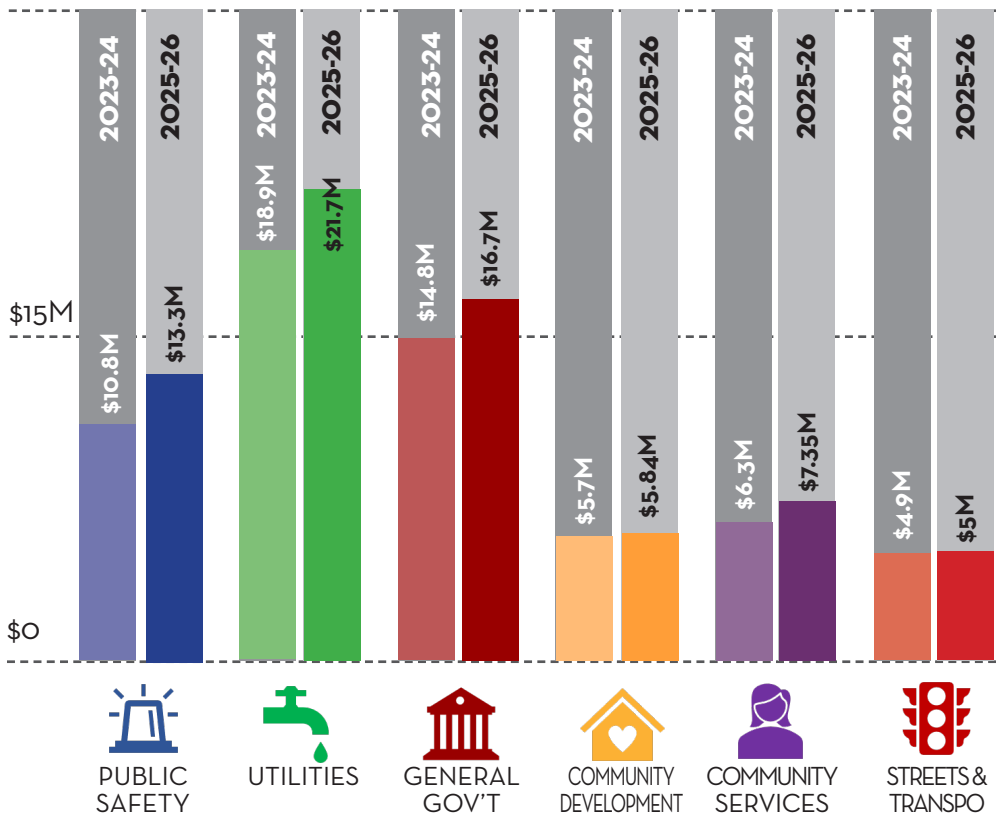
General government has low capital costs but takes a large portion of operating. Why? This portion includes primarily staff positions focusing on things like Legal staff responding to public records requests, Information Technology staff training to avoid a cybersecurity breach, Finance tracking the budget, and Communications informing you about it.



Most cities this size run 5-6 major capital projects each year. In this biennium, we're running approximately 45 each year. Big projects like rebuilding the Stewart Road Bridge, designing the I 66th interchange and constructing a new Operations Facility are called "legacy" projects that happen once in a career. We're doing four at once.

## OPERATING BUDGET BY FUNCTION

\$30M



**TOTAL \$90 M**

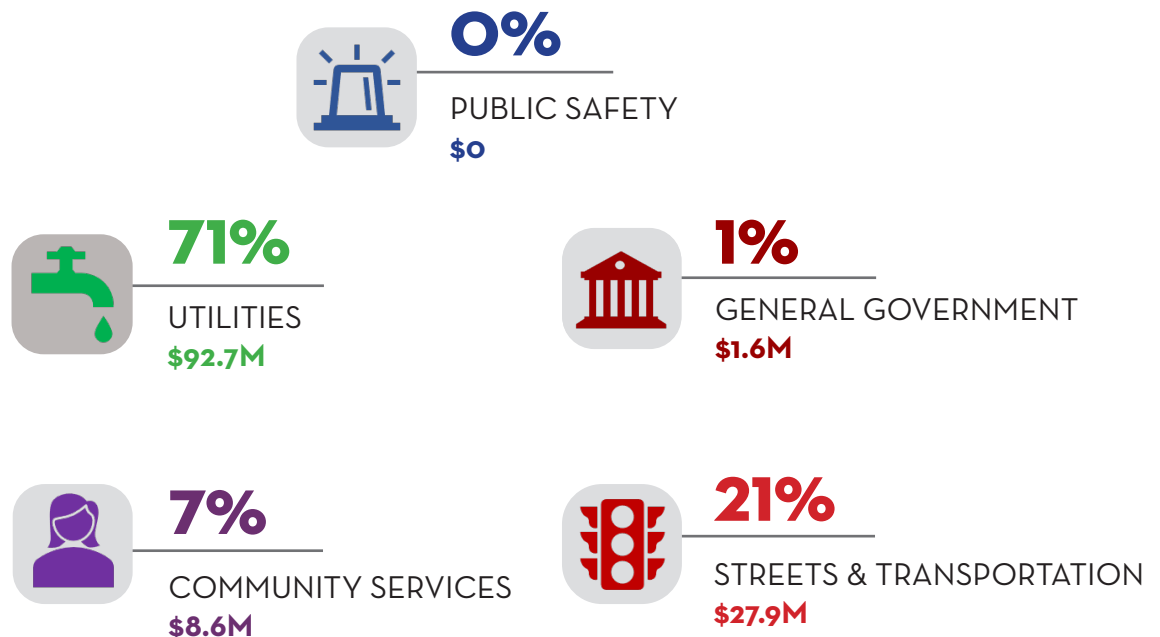
The Operating Budget includes the funding for day-to-day costs of delivering city services. As with most things, costs have increased for the city's daily needs, from the price of gas to the cost to bring a crew in on overtime to repair a broken water main over the weekend.

+ \$19.7 M in Interfund Loans and Transfers

## CAPITAL BUDGET BY FUNCTION

**TOTAL \$131 M**

The Capital Budget focuses on building infrastructure that will last for years to come. Because these are one-time costs for large projects, we did not show a year-to-year comparison.





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WASHINGTON

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## HOW WE ARE MAKING LIVES BETTER:



### COMMUNITY CHARACTER

- Construct Hops Alley & portion of Heritage Park
- Utility box wraps
- Picnic tables & shade structures at Rainier View & Seibenthaler Parks
- Senior Center improvements
- Community Partner Funds



### PUBLIC SAFETY

- Two new police officer positions
- Interview room software
- Ballistic helmets for patrol
- Maple Street pedestrian signal
- Traffic safety planning grant



### EXCELLENT GOVERNMENT

- Build Operations Facility
- Replace windows in City Hall and Cemetery Office
- Utility rate study
- Investment in cybersecurity
- Autonomous mower



### PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- White River Habitat project
- Central well radio upgrade
- Sewer main replacement
- Cemetery irrigation
- EV chargers for city vehicles



### EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- Stewart Road Bridge construction
- Sander insert
- Sidewalk improvements & bike racks
- Traffic Signal Controller replacements
- Washington Street improvements