



PROPOSED CITY OF BEXLEY

2026 BUDGET

AS PRESENTED DECEMBER 9, 2025
BUDGET REVISION 4.0



REVISION 4.0: SUMMARY OF CHANGES

- **Department Expenditure Detail**

- Updates to Year-to-Date expenditures for each fund/account through November 30, 2025
- *Mayor's Court*: Increase of \$5,000 to prosecutor account to reflect increased caseload
- *Parks*: Increase of \$15,000 to various payroll accounts for new FT Rec Coordinator position

- **Capital Expenditure Detail**

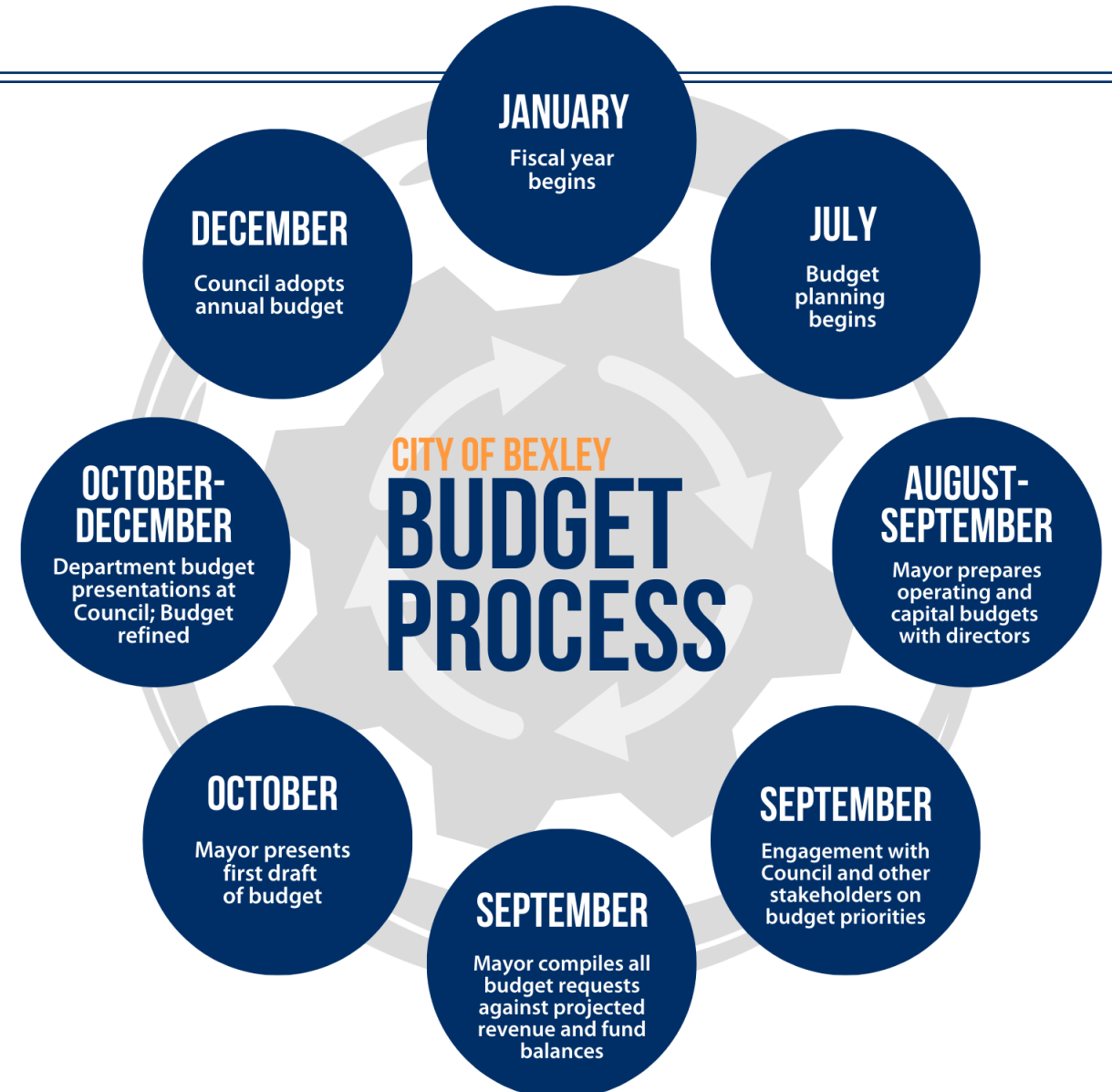
- Reduction to Dish Donkey budget from \$15,000 to \$7,500
- Addition of \$35,000 for a covered bus station
- Addition of \$10,000 for park furnishings

- **Appropriation Ordinance**

- Adjustments to various payroll accounts to reflect wages, overtime, and benefits expenses increased by mid-year collective bargaining contract negotiations

BUDGET PROCESS

- **September:**
 - Budget Timeline Circulated
 - Council/Administration One-On-Ones
- **October:**
 - **October 24:** Budget Circulated
 - **October 28:** First Reading of Budget, 10-Year Projections, Capital Budget Overview, Pay Ordinance Introduction
- **November:**
 - **November 11:** Second Reading and Department Presentations
 - **November 18:** Third Reading and Department Presentations
- **December**
 - **December 9:** Fourth Reading, Budget Process Synopsis, Capital Budget Revisit, and Director Q&A



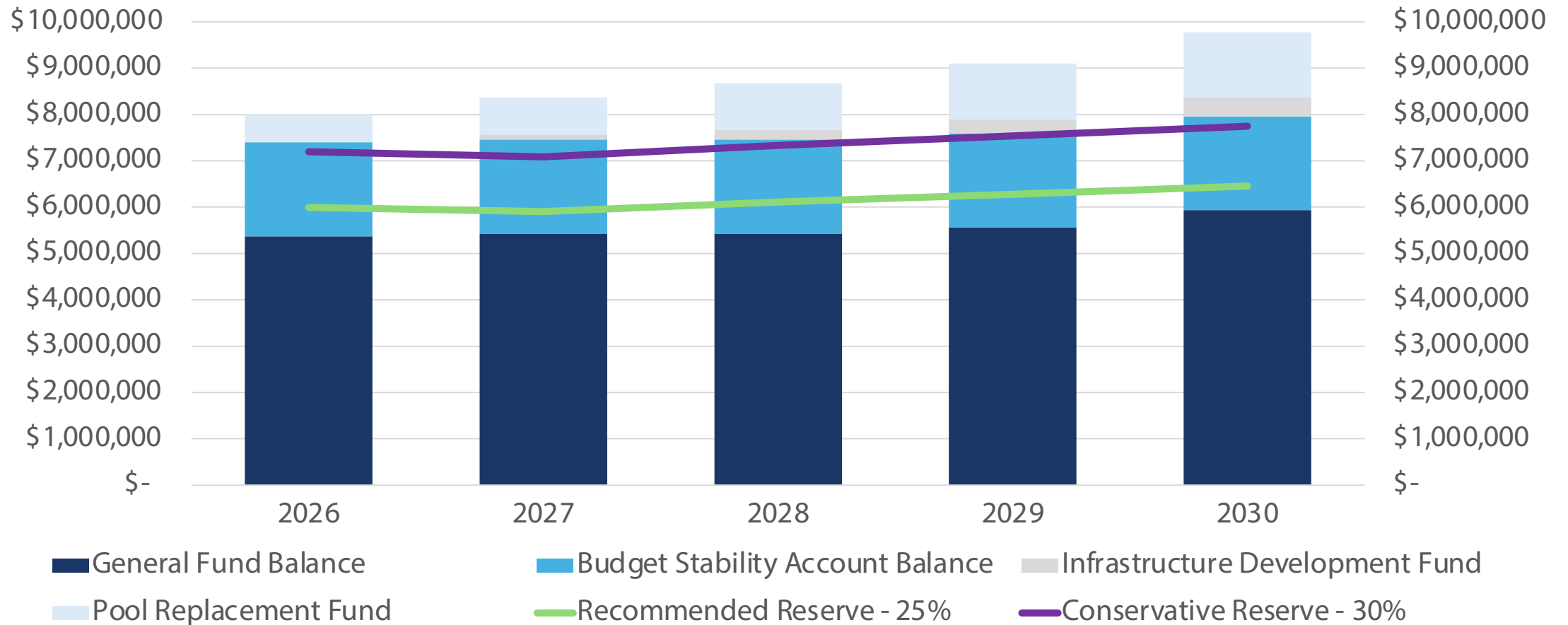
BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS: GENERAL FUND

- Higher than expected 2025 year-end fund balance projected due to increases in income tax revenue and savings on City of Columbus Fire Contract
- Incorporates minor operating spending increases, mostly due to staff cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) and rising material costs
- Includes \$1.3 million in grant reimbursed expenses (with some carry over of grant funds not yet spent from prior years)
- 4.5% decrease for contract with Columbus Division of Fire
- Includes contracted COLAs for bargaining unit employees (ranging from 3.5% to 4% depending on the unit)
- Expands code enforcement investment
- Includes new Social Services Coordinator position to advance mental health and resource navigation support goals
- Invests in expanded financial controls and cyber security
- Continues support for premium health and public safety services

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS: ALL FUNDS

- Maintains healthy reserves across all funds, including the General Fund, Budget Stabilization Fund, and Pool Replacement and Infrastructure Development Fund (which can be used in emergency situations for operational needs)
- Advances goals and objectives of the City's strategic plans
- Includes new positions to support code enforcement, social services, and moving pool operations in-house ; 3% COLAs for non-bargaining unit employees
- Incorporates water and sewer rate increases (as dictated by City of Columbus)
- Supports staff training and development
- Includes significant transfer to Infrastructure Development Fund to support environmental remediation efforts
- Incorporates funding for major capital improvement projects
- Invests in design and build out of the new senior center at 420 N. Cassady and includes rent for a temporary senior center location

5-YEAR FUND BALANCE PROJECTIONS



Current as of Budget Revision 4.0

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

General Fund Transfers	Late 2025	2026 Budget
Capital Improvement Fund	\$750,000	\$1,300,000
Street Fund		\$250,000
Recreation Fund Transfer		\$270,000
Infrastructure Development Fund	\$2,900,000	\$100,000
Pool Fund		\$125,000
Pool Replacement Fund		\$200,000
Employee Severance Payout Fund		\$30,000
Water Fund		\$295,000

CAPITAL REQUESTS — ALL FUNDS

Department	Capital Fund	Rec Fund	Pool Fund	Subtotal
Police	\$245,814	\$0	\$0	\$245,814
Service	\$594,500	\$0	\$0	\$594,500
Technology	\$131,164	\$0	\$0	\$131,164
Recreation	\$1,037,666	\$160,000	\$50,000	\$1,247,666
Totals Request:	\$2,009,144	\$160,000	\$50,000	\$2,219,144

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: COVERED BUS STOP

- **Concept:** Pilot a Bexley branded covered bus station at most utilized bus stop along Broad Street
 - Use feedback to guide a future Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) grant request for future covered stop buildout (including on Livingston and Main once streetscape improvements and BRT are complete)
 - Target highest stop ridership locations
- **Strategic Plan Alignment:**
 - *Infrastructure Goals:* Facilitate quality public transportation options and infrastructure
- **Design:** Align design with other similar suburban areas (separate from COTA)
 - Concept: Mirror City of Dublin Design-Signa Sunet by Tolar Manufacturing
- **Features:**

Covered Station	Solar Lighting	Trash/Recycling
Bench/Seating	Community Branding	Bike Racks

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: COVERED BUS STOP



Signa Sunet by Tolar Manufacturing

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: SOLAR CARPORTS

- **Concept:** Install solar carports at Bexley Police Station
 - Offset up to 52% of police station energy consumption resulting in overall cost savings and emissions reduction
 - Provide covered parking to patrol vehicles
 - Payback period: 11 years
 - Capitalize on sunseting federal grants
 - No loss of parking spots
- **Strategic Plan Alignment:**
 - *Sustainability Goals:* Support Clean Energy Through Aggregation and On-Site Solar
- **Budget Impact:**
 - Potentially appropriated as part of 2025 transfer to Capital Fund
 - RFQ completed in October; Recommendation going to BOC December 16

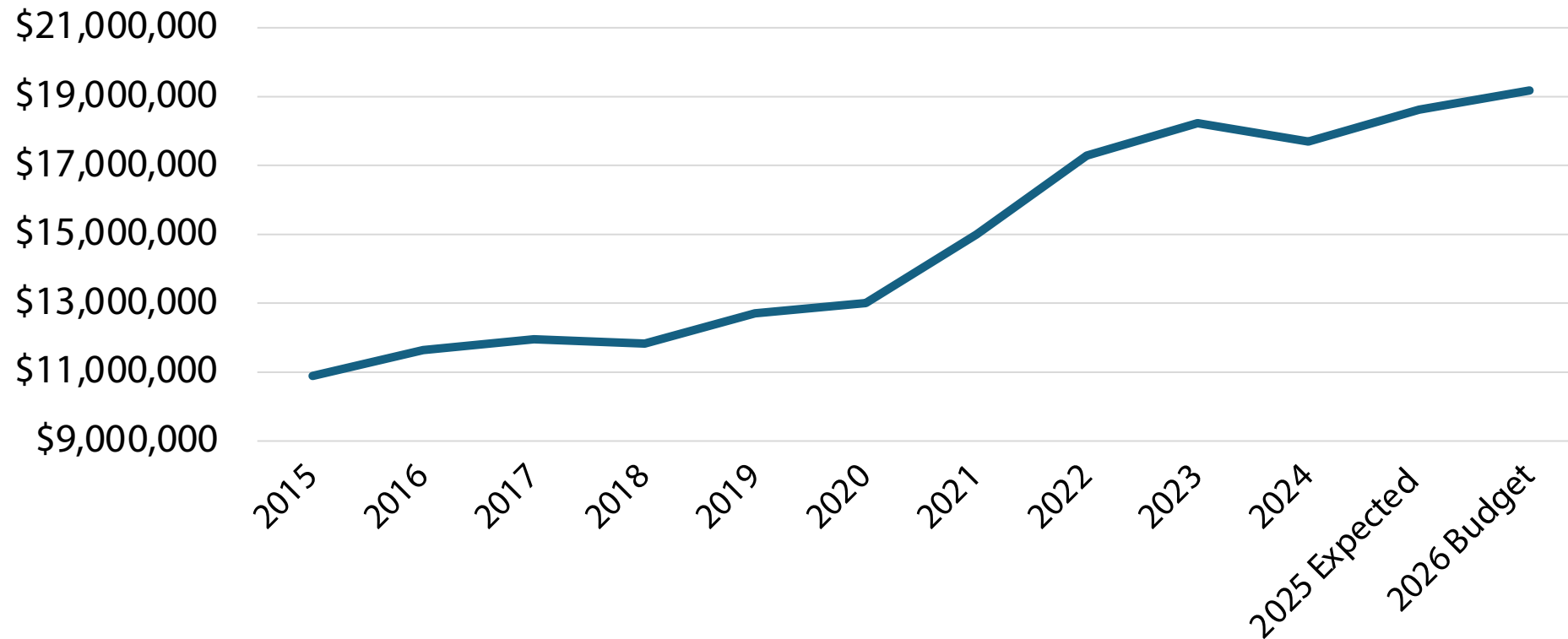
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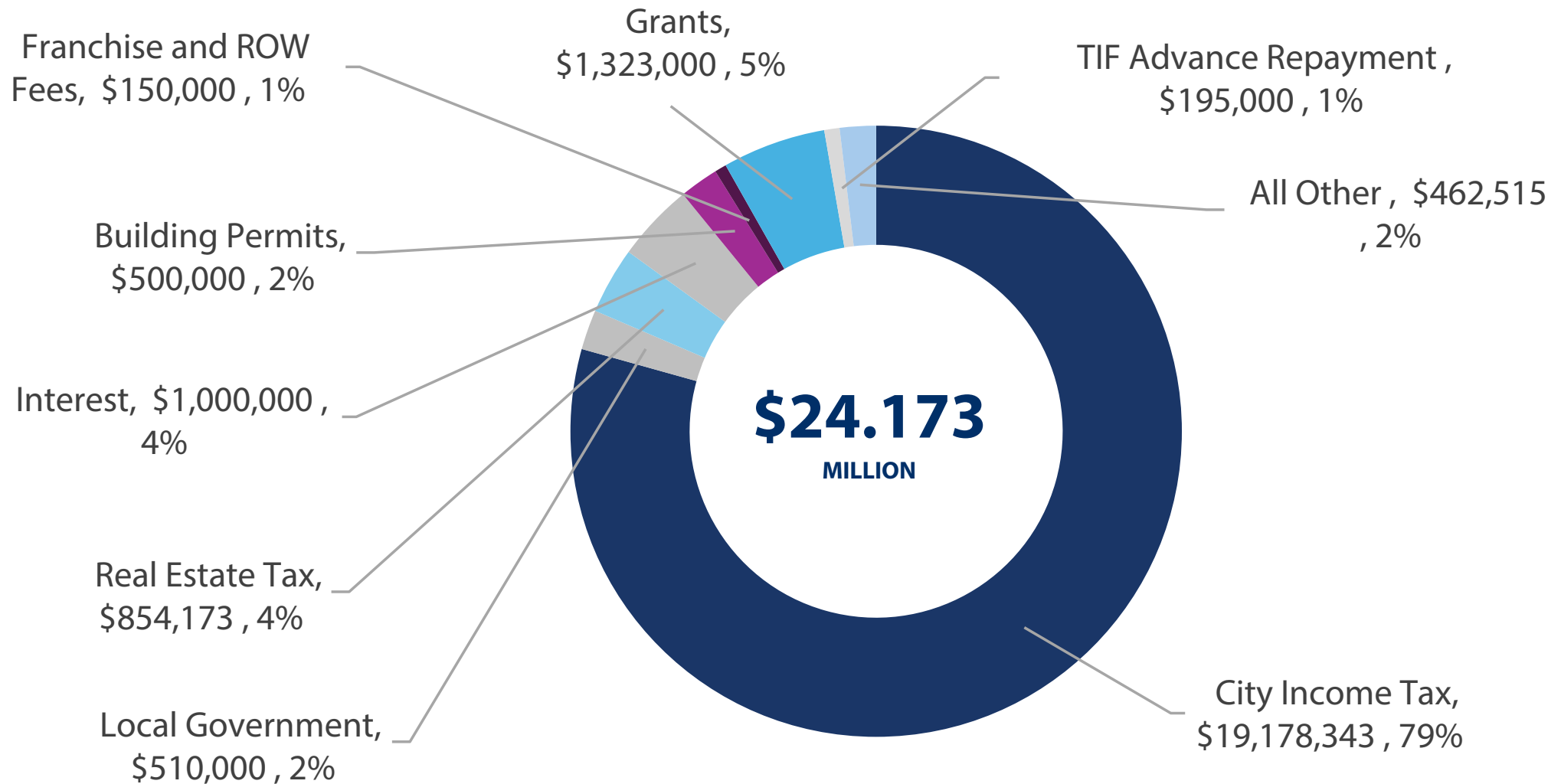


10-YEAR INCOME TAX SUMMARY

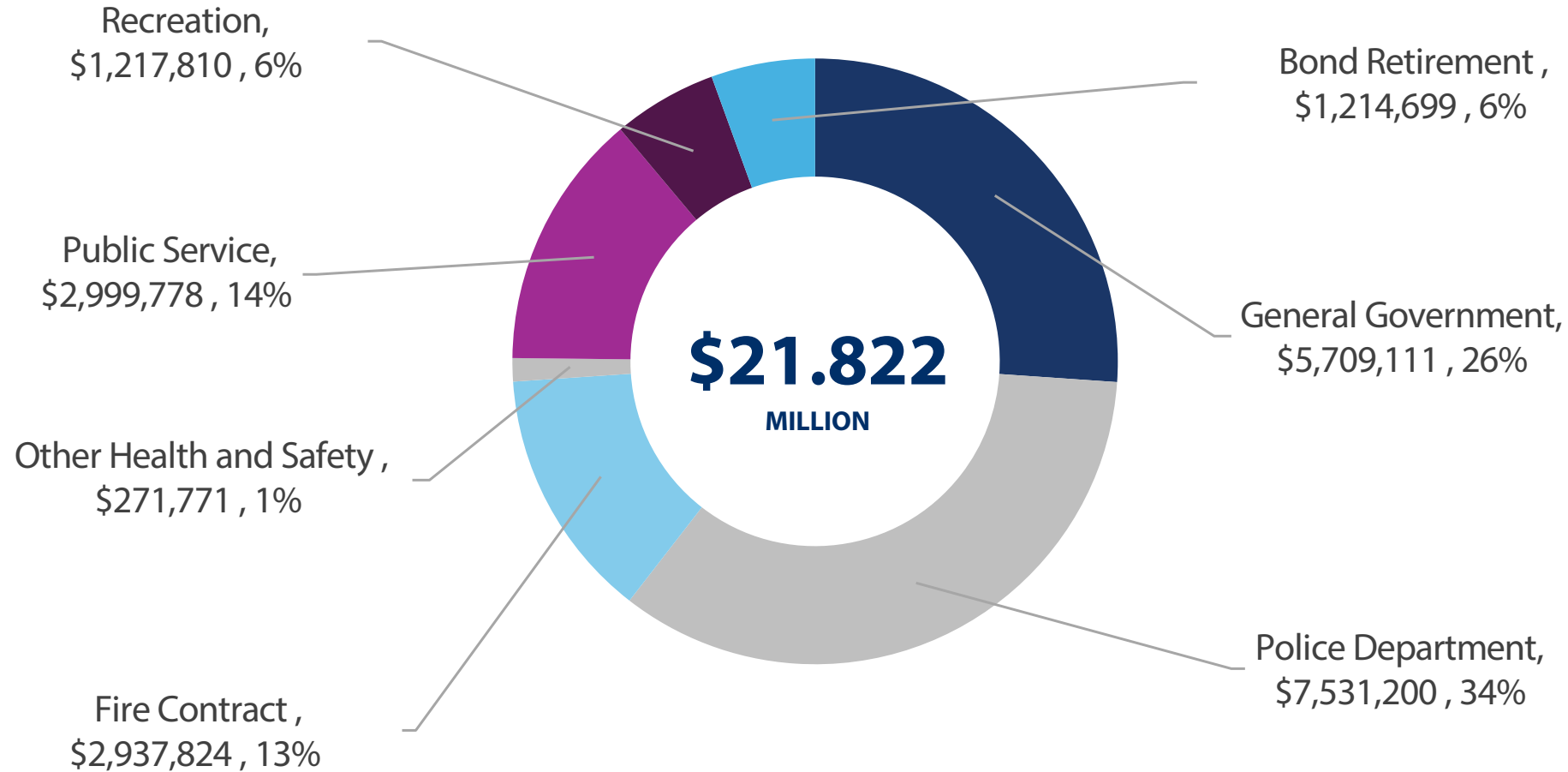


- Removing 2021/2022 (COVID-19 outliers), Bexley has approx. 4% annual income tax revenue growth
- 2026 Budget projects conservative 3% growth over 2025 expected income tax revenue
- Expected 2025 income tax revenue over \$2 million higher than budgeted

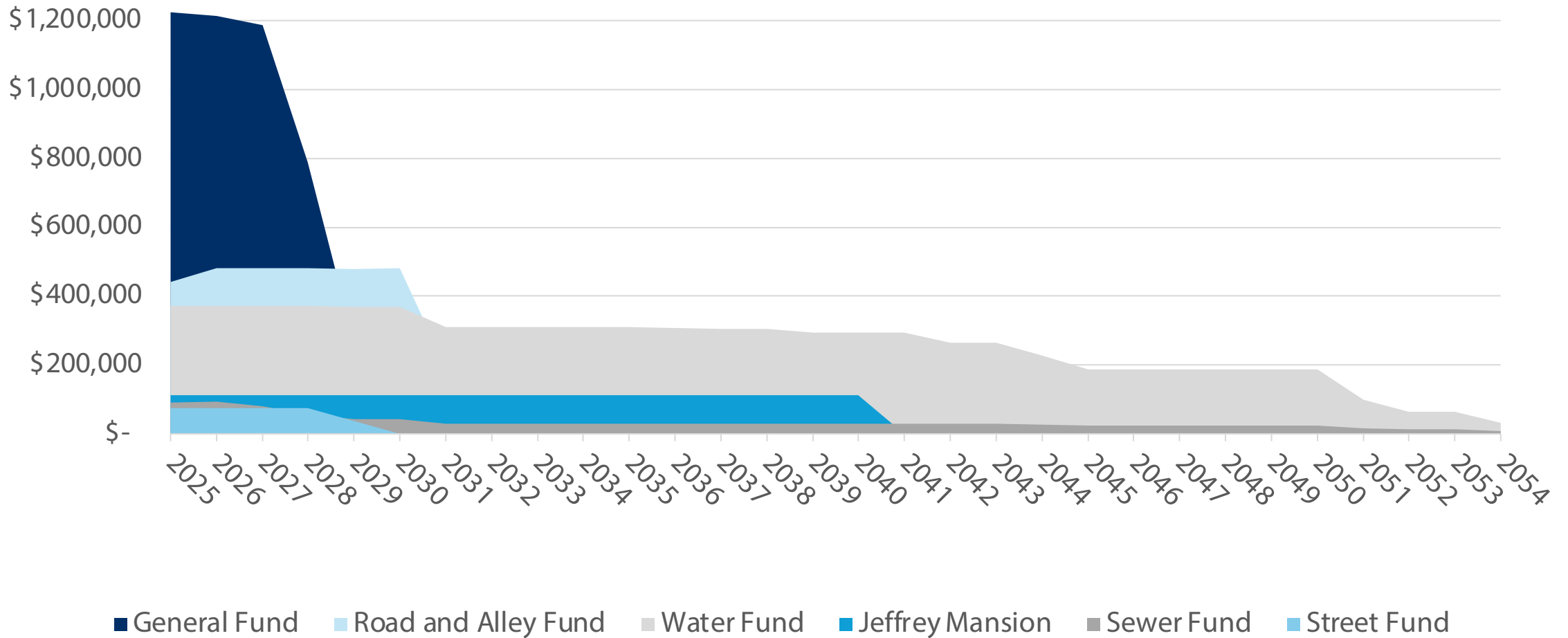
GENERAL FUND REVENUE



GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES



DEBT SERVICE



MAYOR'S OFFICE/CITY HALL

- **Staffing Summary:** No proposed changes.
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Continued funding for the City's continued membership in regional partnerships such as the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and the Central Ohio Mayor's and Manager's Association (COMMA);
 - Increased funding for training and professional development;
 - Tuition reimbursement and employee awards line items have been moved to Human Resources Budget in 2026;
 - A **decrease of 10.92%** in Mayor's Office operating expenditures.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

- **Staffing Summary:** No proposed changes
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Salary for the City Auditor;
 - Audit fees for annual audit;
 - Audit fees for ongoing internal audits.

BUILDING AND PLANNING

- **Staffing Summary:** Addition of a part time Code Enforcement Officer
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - The funding for subconsultants includes:
 - Chief Building Official and building inspectors, Mike Boryca and Associates
 - City Planner, Jason Sudy
 - Staff Consultant Architect, Karen Bokor
 - Franklin County Public Health, Plumbing Inspection Services
 - Landscape Consultant, Walter Reins
 - City Engineer, Dave Koch
 - An increase in funding for abatement services to support expanded code enforcement including new year-round part time Code Enforcement Officer;
 - An increase in funding for contract professionals in anticipation of increased construction activity and corresponding plan review and field design reviews of ARB approved projects.

CITY ATTORNEY

- **Expenditure Highlights:**

- Continued funding for contracted City Attorney position;
- Continued funding for legal support for appeals, litigation, and special projects.

DEVELOPMENT

- **Staffing Summary:** No proposed changes.
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Funding for regional associations and conferences;
 - Increased funding in the Tax Incentive Grant line item to account for the first year of COhatch's grant eligibility;
 - \$36,000 for strategic planning, including funds for a community survey;
 - A continuation of the increased marketing budget to allow for additional print publications and videography assistance, as well as funds for updated camera equipment to aid in digital communications efforts;
 - \$40,000 to support The One Bexley Project as well as other initiatives to support inclusion in Bexley including an accessibility audit;
 - \$20,000 in sustainability funding for a newly formed food council, recycling drop-off days, air quality monitoring, and other green initiatives.

FINANCE

- **Staffing Summary:** No proposed changes.
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Continued funding for investment management;
 - Funding for staff training and conferences;
 - Property and Casualty Insurance charges;
 - Income Tax Collection fees, paid to the Regional Income Tax Authority (RITA);
 - Increase in Bank Fees due to restructuring of account types along with enhanced fraud protection measures (also impacting Interest Income in Revenue);
 - Charges for Franklin County Auditor for Property Tax Collection Fees.

GRANTS

- **Expenditure Highlights:**

- Funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and State Capital Fund for the pedestrian and cyclist bridge, connecting the Schneider Park to the Alum Creek Trail (a carry over of unspent funds);
- Continued funding for Bexley Celebrations and Events (BC&E), the main source of resources for the City's signature community event series such as The Main Event, Fourth of July and Jazz in the Park;
- \$75,000 for the final phase of the "Year of the Parks" grant appropriation to support community-enhancing initiatives like the outdoor reading room at the Bexley Public Library and the skate spot in Schneider Park;
- \$100,000 for design-engineering for various initiatives supported by the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Fund including the Calm Corridors project and pedestrian/cyclist safety improvements to the Alum Creek bridge on East Main Street;
- \$18,000 in "Greenbacks" from the City's electrical aggregation program supplier to support various green initiatives throughout the community.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- **Staffing Summary:** No proposed changes.
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Recruiting and on-boarding expenses, including job posting advertisements, background checks, and specialized testing;
 - Employee tuition reimbursement and employee awards (previously in Mayor's Office budget);
 - Specialized HR expertise, including legal consultation and HR contracts;
 - All-employee learning events, including catering and outside facilitators, which will provide accessibility to important learning opportunities that increase employee engagement;
 - Accounted for in the Information Technology budget, continued funding for HR technology that streamlines the recruiting and on-boarding process across the City;
 - A new Learning Management System which will integrate with our existing HR software and provide on-demand access to 1,200+ courses, including leadership skills, compliance topics, cybersecurity skills, government-focused training, technology upskilling, and more.

MAYOR'S COURT

- **Staffing Summary:** No proposed changes.
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Continued funding to support the City's contracted prosecutor to represent the City's interests in Franklin County courts;
 - An increase in funding to support Court Interpreter services, which have seen an increase in use, resulting in a mid-year supplemental appropriation of \$2,800 in 2025 (incorporated here in the 2025 Budget column for the Court Interpreter account);
 - Funding for training for the Clerk of Court position.

TECHNOLOGY

- **Staffing Summary:** Addition of new full-time IT Support Analyst
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Funding for ongoing telecommunications and hardware requirements;
 - New telecommunications to support dedicated connectivity for the new Police Department Radio System recently approved by City Council;
 - Software costs anticipated for, but not limited to, departmental line of business software for Police, Finance, Water Department, Mayor's Court, Building and Zoning, Service, as well as Citywide Productivity Software Suites;
 - Software costs expected to rise substantially due to contractual services moving from Police Department to IT, support for the new CentralSquare CAD/RMS system for Police;
 - Advancing already sustained **cybersecurity Initiatives** with upgraded endpoint protection, security information and event management, expanded multifactor authentication, and ongoing policy development and compliance;
 - Emphasizing training and professional development.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- **Expenditure Highlights:**

- Continued funding for overtime for clerical support of the various boards and commissions.

CITY COUNCIL

- **Staffing Summary:** No proposed changes.
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Continued funding for Council compensation;
 - Continued funding related to making the City's Codified Ordinances available online.

POLICE: GENERAL FUND

- **Staffing Summary:** Proposes funds to hire a Police Captain, and to add new Dispatcher and a Police Officer positions to the table of authorized strength
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Increased patrol equipment funding (to outfit new officers once hired);
 - Funding to support year three of four towards national CALEA accreditation;
 - Continued funding for Emergency Management Program, including notification system;
 - Continued funding for community events such as National Night Out, Citizens Policy Academy, Safety Town, and Shop with a Cop.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **Staffing Summary:** Proposes new part-time Social Services Coordinator
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - New funding for new part-time Social Services Coordinator, as well as a contracted case management supervisor (in addition to internal supervision);
 - \$10,000 for a food insecurity grant to DARN;
 - Continued funding for contract with Franklin County Public Health for various health safety services and mosquito program;
 - New funding for new Mosquito Advisory Group.

5-YEAR PROJECTION ASSUMPTIONS

- 3% income tax revenue increase projection for 2026
- Slight increase in income tax in 2028 to account for The Fitzgerald
- Increase in property tax in 2030 to account for reassessment
- Lower interest earnings
- 3.0% year-over-year wage increases (COLAs)
- 5% year-over-year health insurance cost increases

SERVICE: CAPITAL FUND

Capital Request	Projected Cost
Stump Grinder	\$78,000
Mowers (3)	\$32,000
Locator Truck with Post Puller	\$62,000
Water Dept Utility - Ford 450	\$90,000
Dump Truck - Mack	\$260,000
Alley Enhancement Program	\$10,000
Code Enforcement Vehicle	\$20,000
Dish Donkey	\$7,500
Bus Stop Covered Station	\$35,000
Total Service Capital	\$594,500

TECHNOLOGY: CAPITAL FUND

Capital Request	Projected Cost
Meraki Wireless End of Life Replacements	\$14,200
Jeffrey Mansion Front Camera and Intercom Upgrades	\$28,276
VIP Migration (Water Billing System)	\$50,000
Jeffrey Mansion Copier	\$16,648
Skate Park Cameras (2)	\$11,020
Community Garden Cameras (2)	\$11,020
Technology Capital Fund Total	\$131,164

RECREATION: VARIOUS FUNDS

Capital Request	Projected Cost	Capital Fund	Rec Fund	Pool Fund
Pumphouse Park Shelterhouse Roof	\$10,000	\$10,000		
Skate Park and Dog Park Electric	\$20,000	\$20,000		
Senior Center Design	\$62,500	\$62,500		
Senior Center Contribution - Grey Box	\$625,000	\$625,000		
Senior Center Build Out	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	
Cushman	\$42,666	\$42,666		
Mansion Roof	\$63,000	\$63,000		
Mansion Flooring	\$50,000	\$50,000		
Covered Trailer for Event Equipment	\$11,000	\$11,000		
Event Two-Way Radios	\$3,500	\$3,500		
Pool Capital	\$50,000			\$50,000
Park Furnishings	\$10,000		\$10,000	
Total Parks Capital	\$1, 247,666	\$1,037,666	\$160,000	\$50,000

POLICE: CAPITAL FUND

Capital Request	Projected Cost
K9 Cruiser (F-150 Hybrid)	\$68,000
Cruiser (Explorer Hybrid)	\$81,000
Police Department Exterior Security (Bollards)	\$10,750
Urban SDK - Speed and Traffic Metrics (Slow Down Bexley)	\$12,000
Speed Warning Trailer (Slow Down Bexley)	\$33,064
Police Call Box (Skate Park and Dog Park)	\$10,000
Facility Capital Improvements (Brickwork; Ballistic Glass; HVAC)	\$31,000
Police Department Capital Total	\$245,814

FIRE AND EMERGENCY

- Includes City of Columbus Division of Fire and Franklin County Emergency Management contracts
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Due to prior overpayment to City of Columbus for fire and emergency medical services, Bexley received a credit in 2025 toward the annual contract amount (credit is reflected in 2025 operating revenue);
 - 4.48% decrease in Fire Contract compared to 2025 Budget (although 2025 was overbudgeted);
 - 2.56% increase in disaster relief contract (FC&HS).

RECREATION AND PARKS

- **Staffing Summary:** Additional Recreation Coordinator (for pool management and before/after care staff supervision)
- **Expenditure / Revenue Highlights:**
 - Brings pool management responsibilities back under the department, moving away from the third-party pool management contract
 - Stabilizes staff pay rates (reflecting cost of living increases, but not increasing as much as past budgets due to a more favorable hiring market)
 - Incorporates a 3% increase in day care rates (for Jeffrey Mansion Preschool, Jeffrey Summer Camp, and Before/After Care)
 - Includes rent for a temporary Senior Center site for 2026 while the new facility on Cassady is under construction (\$1,500 per month)

RECREATION AND PARKS

- **Fund Balances:**

- **Recreation Fund:** The 2026 Recreation Fund Budget projects revenue under expenses of \$296,000. However, revenue projections continue to trend in the right direction as 2026 revenue projects are \$2,619,000 compared to a 2025 budgeted amount of \$2,442,000 (projected amount is \$2,595,000).
- **Pool Fund:** Expenses continue to outpace revenue, resulting in an increase hit to the pool fund balance. While a membership increase of 10% was approved by the Recreation Board, we anticipate a roughly \$78,000 reduction to the pool fund bringing the anticipated end of year 2026 balance to \$290,000.

SERVICE

- **Staffing Summary:** No proposed changes.
- **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Continued funding for a Lead Service Line Loan program to be repaid through a special assessment in future years, accounted for in the Infrastructure Development Fund;
 - An increase in the grounds maintenance budget;
 - A decrease in the street lighting budget for electric vehicle charging costs to reflect actual usage from the new public electric vehicle charging stations;
 - Notably, funding for the investigation of sources of inflow and infiltration into the City's sewer system has been removed from this budget. Funding for such a study would be subject to City Council approving a supplemental appropriation.