

Budget in Brief

Fiscal Year 2025 | July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025



The City's Budget Book is Now **Electronic!**



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<https://winchesterva.opengov.com/transparency>

Welcome

City of Winchester, VA

Strategic Plan 2021–2026

I am pleased to present this year's Budget in Brief for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025). Fiscal Year 2024 continued to trend in a positive direction with our revenues outperforming our budgeted projections. The Fiscal Year 2025 budget was developed with modest revenue projections and will continue to deliver services to our citizens and businesses thanks to our highly qualified and dedicated City employees.

It is an honor to present this abbreviated budget document to help answer questions that you may have and continue our dedication to budget transparency.

Celeste Broadstreet

Finance Director/Real Estate Administrator

The City's Funds

The accounts of the City are organized into funds. A fund is a group of related accounts used to control money that has been earmarked for specific activities or objectives. By keeping revenue in its appropriate funds, the City is able to obey laws that require certain money to be spent on specific uses - for example, that means the City may not raise water bills to pay for police services. Of the City's adopted budget, most of the big spending decisions occur within the City's general fund.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Every year, the City adopts a capital improvements plan for the next five years. Capital improvements include projects such as street construction, park improvements, water infrastructure, traffic systems, public buildings, sewers, etc. Since capital projects tend to be costly, the City issues bonds to help cover costs. The City then uses the cash received from bond sales to pay for capital projects, and repays investors over time at tax-exempt interest rates determined by competitive bids received at the time the bonds were issued. This process is similar to a homeowner taking out a home improvement loan to complete a major home repair project.

Information Technology Plan (ITP)

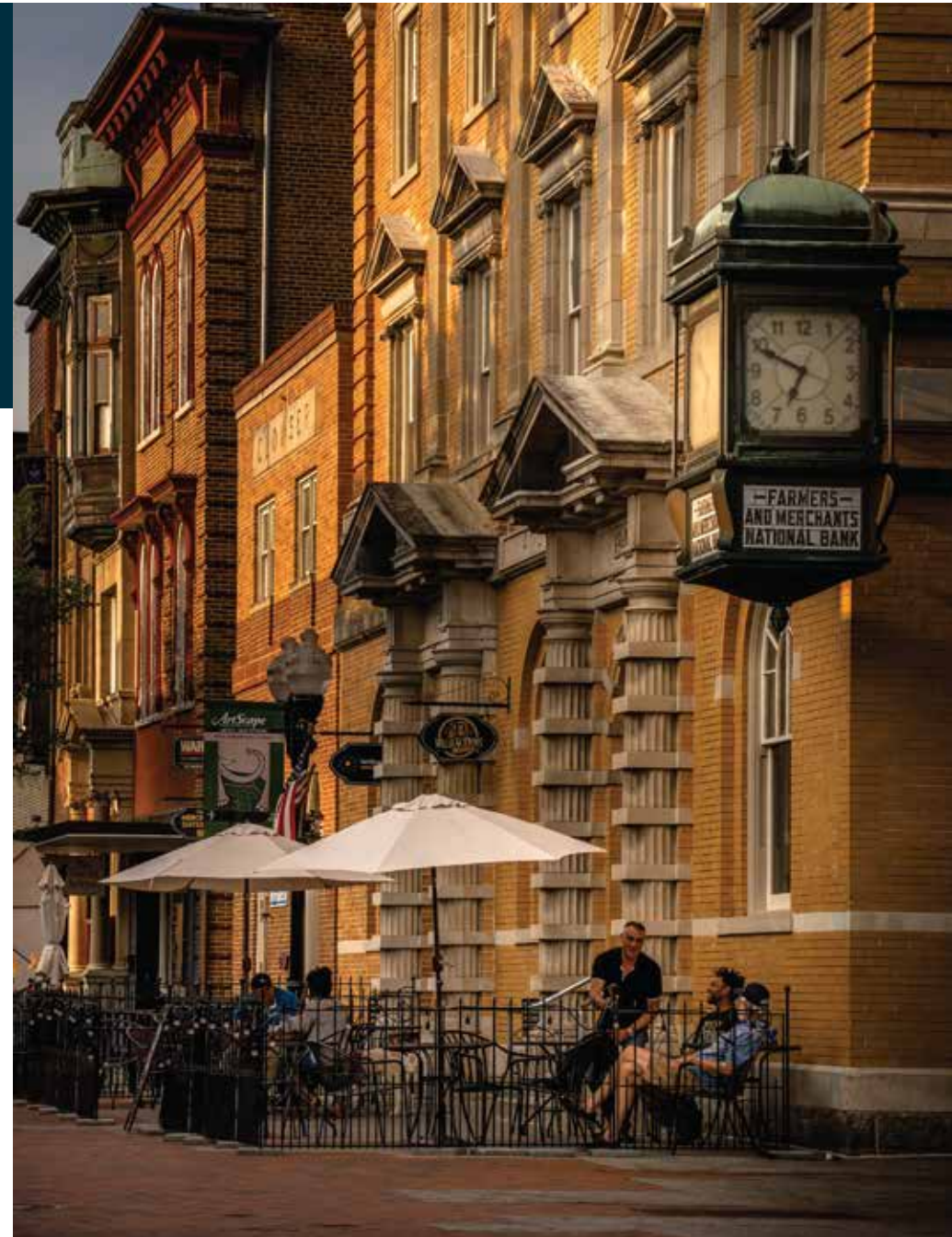
The ITP is a five-year forecast of the City's information technology needs to maintain the efficiency of the City services and the safety of staff.

General Fund

The General Fund is where the City has the most discretion. The two major sources of funding for the General Fund are general property taxes and other local taxes combined. These two sources make up 85% of the General Fund budget.

Equipment Replacement Plan (ERP)

City Council recognizes the importance of providing employees with the tools need to do their jobs. To address this need, the ERP serves as a dedicated revenue source for future equipment funding.



Goals

- 1 Working Winchester**
Promote economic opportunity for all residents through small business supports and workforce development.
- 2 Building Winchester**
Establish the foundation for a vibrant community by stimulating development of affordable housing, revitalizing catalyst sites, and building smart infrastructure.
- 3 Strengthening Winchester**
Foster a safe, healthy, and diverse community for all with ample opportunities for recreation, wellness, and culture activities.
- 4 Moving Winchester**
Facilitate the movement of people and goods around the city with comfortable sidewalks and trails, expanded transit, and safe streets.
- 5 Supporting Winchester**
Support the City's high-performing operations with effective and open communication, innovation, and sound fiscal policies.

Mission

To provide a safe, vibrant sustainable city while striving to constantly improve the quality of life in our community and the business climate for economic partners.

Vision

To be a beautiful, vibrant city with a thriving downtown, growing economy, and safe neighborhoods with a range of housing options and easy movement.

Adopted Budget Overview

All Funds	FY25 Adopted Budget	Difference from FY24 (+/-)
General	\$117,100,000	\$3,562,000
Social Services	\$13,275,000	\$279,000
City Grants	\$500,000	\$(3,600,000)
Highway Maintenance	\$4,312,000	\$(75,000)
Transit	\$3,310,000	\$986,000
EMS	\$1,400,000	\$50,000
Winchester-Frederick County Convention Visitors Center	\$991,000	\$1,000
Law Library	\$25,000	\$(15,000)
City Capital Improvement	\$45,802,000	\$26,835,000
Utilities Fund	\$31,460,000	\$955,000
Utilities Capital Improvement	\$14,500,000	\$12,475,000
Stormwater Utility	\$23,800,000	\$10,400,000
Employee Benefits	\$1,350,000	\$600,000
Maintenance	\$3,776,000	\$276,000
NWRDC Construction	\$1,234,000	\$21,000
Frederick-Winchester Service Authority	\$8,489,000	\$462,000
Juvenile Detention Center	\$3,979,000	\$466,000
Economic Development Authority	\$454,000	\$(26,347)
Winchester Parking Authority	\$1,805,000	\$391,000
Winchester Schools	\$96,122,140	\$(6,799,449)
Total Expenditures	\$373,684,140	\$47,243,204

Adopted Budget Overview

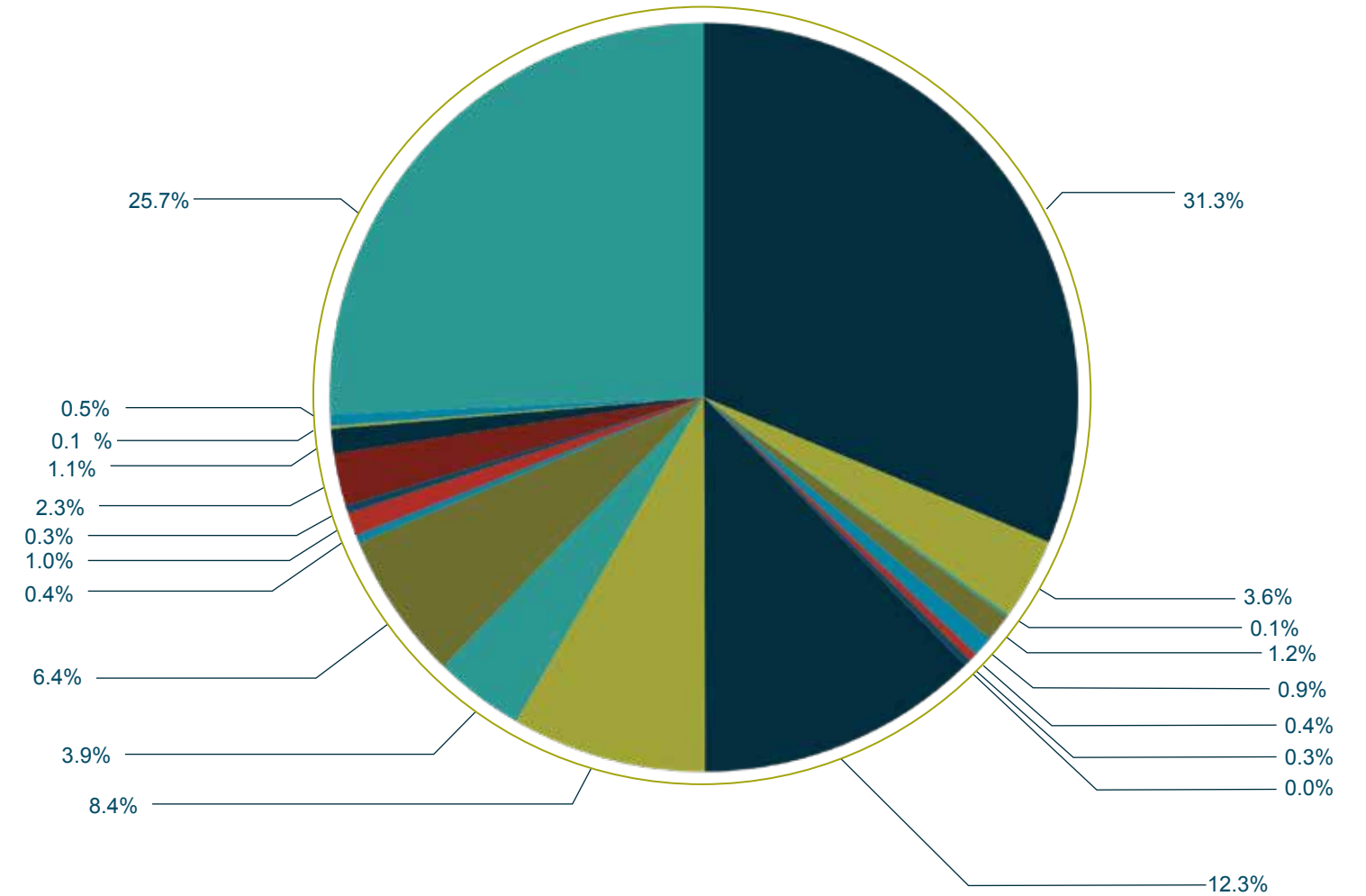
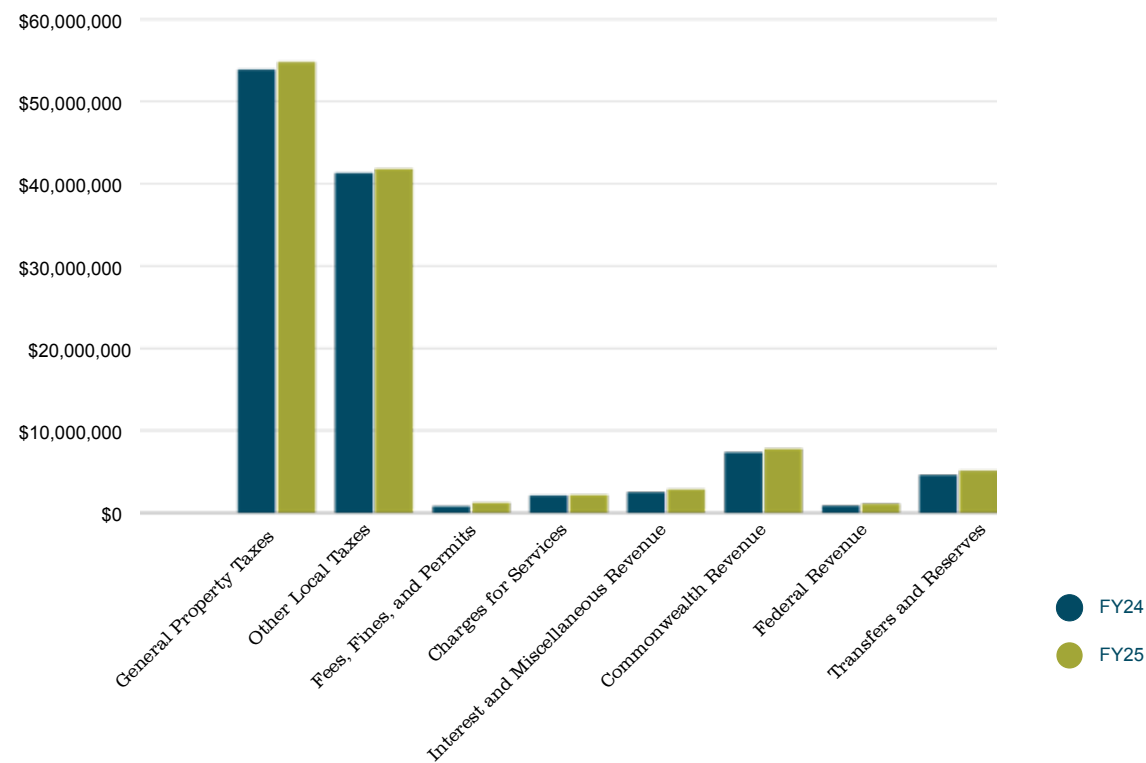


Chart reads clockwise starting with General (navy blue) and ending with Schools (teal).

- General
- Social Services
- City Grants
- Highway Maintenance
- Transit
- EMS
- Winchester-Frederick County Convention Visitors Center
- Law Library
- City Capital Improvement
- Utilities
- Utilities Capital Improvement
- Stormwater Utility
- Employee Benefits
- Maintenance
- NWRDC Construction
- Frederick-Winchester Service Authority
- Juvenile Detention Center
- Winchester Parking Authority
- Economic Development Authority
- Schools

FY25 Revenues

Revenues	FY24	FY25	Percent of FY25 Budget
General Property Taxes	\$53,884,500	\$54,807,000	46.8%
Other Local Taxes	\$41,322,300	\$41,852,300	35.7%
Fees, Fines, and Permits	\$802,300	\$1,342,300	1.1%
Charges for Services	\$2,104,000	\$2,170,400	1.9%
Interest and Miscellaneous Revenue	\$2,541,300	\$2,874,900	2.5%
Commonwealth Revenue	\$7,377,300	\$7,806,300	6.7%
Federal Revenue	\$901,500	\$1,116,500	1.0%
Transfers and Reserves	\$4,604,800	\$5,130,300	4.4%
Total General Fund Revenue	\$113,538,000	\$117,100,000	100%



Other Local Taxes

\$12,800,000	State Sales Tax
\$1,400,000	Communications Tax
\$1,945,000	Utility Tax
\$8,934,000	Business Licenses Tax
\$1,560,000	Franchise Tax
\$650,000	Cigarette Tax
\$115,500	Admissions Tax
\$12,453,000	Meals Tax
\$1,437,000	Transient Lodging Tax (Motel)
\$35,000	Short-term Rental Tax
\$522,800	Other Taxes

\$41,852,300 Total

General Property Taxes

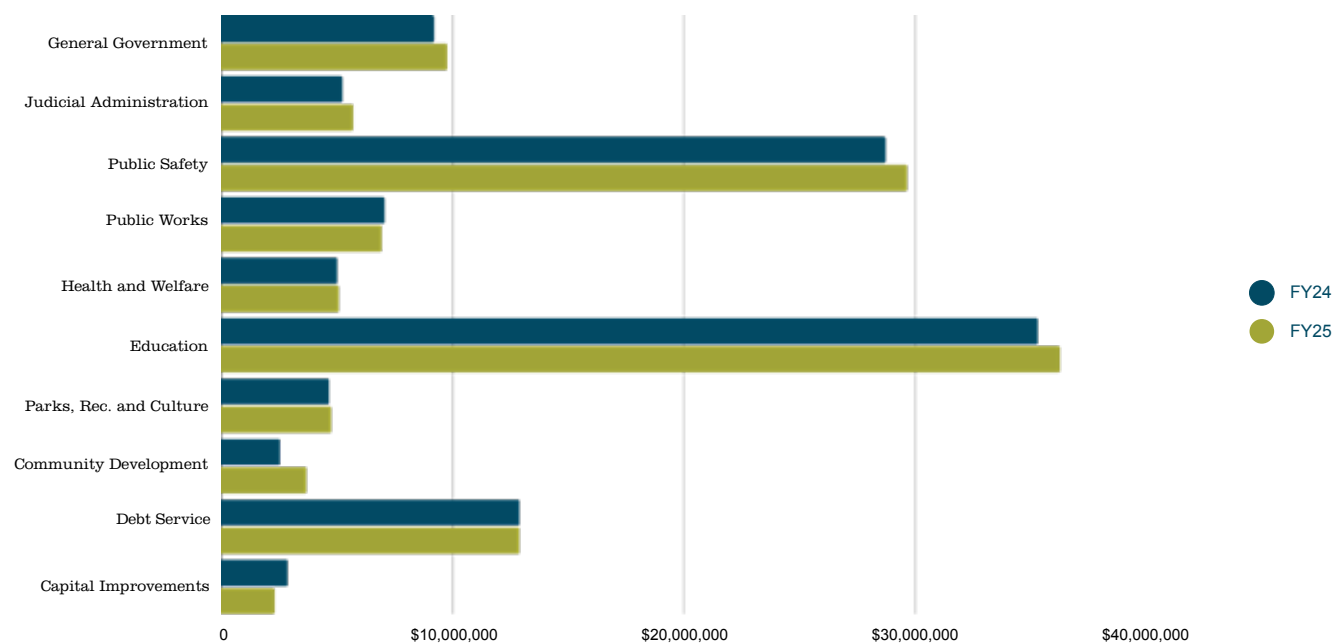
\$37,530,100	Real Estate
\$15,726,900	Personal Property
\$1,550,000	Machinery and Tools

\$54,807,000 Total



FY25 Expenditures

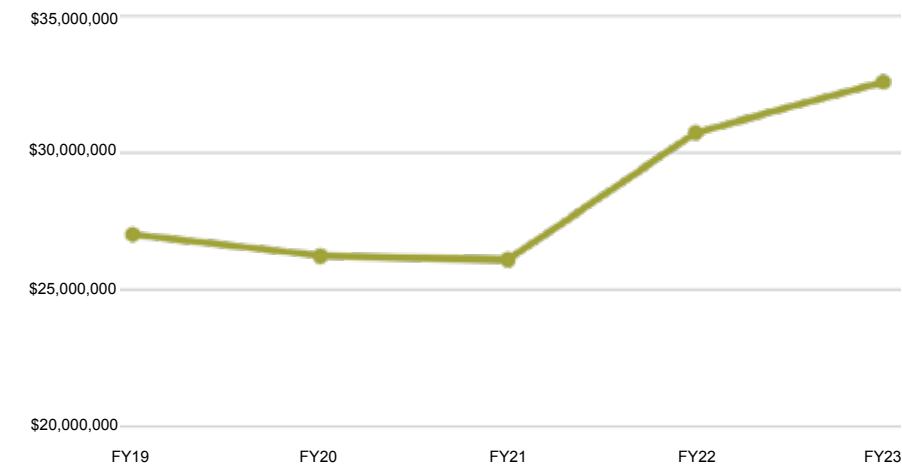
Expenditures	FY24	FY25	Percent of FY25 Budget
General Government	\$9,204,807	\$9,766,771	8.3%
Judicial Administration	\$5,237,900	\$5,714,400	4.9%
Public Safety	\$28,726,047	\$29,653,005	25.3%
Public Works	\$7,069,800	\$6,948,470	5.9%
Health & Welfare	\$5,011,077	\$5,097,177	4.4%
Education	\$35,298,130	\$36,259,130	31.0%
Parks, Recreation, Cultural	\$4,667,000	\$4,762,200	4.1%
Community Development	\$2,547,339	\$3,687,947	3.1%
Debt Service	\$12,895,900	\$10,728,600	11%
Capital Improvements	\$2,880,000	\$2,305,000	2.0%
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$113,538,000	\$117,100,000	100%



Transfers

General Fund Transfers	FY24	FY25
Capital Improvements	\$ 2,880,000	\$ 2,305,000
Social Services	\$3,983,200	\$4,053,164
Highway Maintenance Fund	\$383,000	\$0
Transit	\$459,100	\$620,970
Tourism	\$317,500	\$317,500
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$8,022,800	\$7,296,634

End of Year Reserves



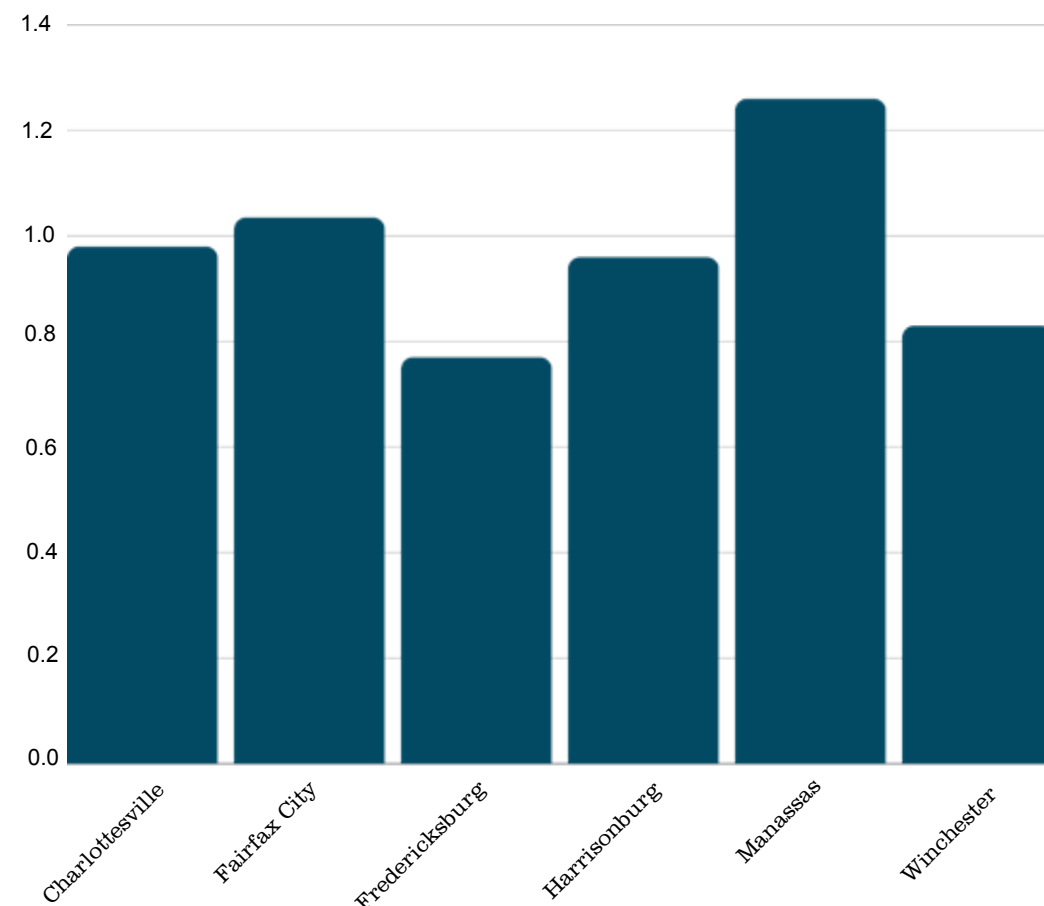
Reserves and Transfers

The City's Reserves are the "rainy day" fund for unexpected expenses and emergencies.

Transfers are payments to an internal department top provide for the delivery of services to the public. For example, the General Fund transfers funding to Social Services to provide assistance in the form of health and welfare programs.

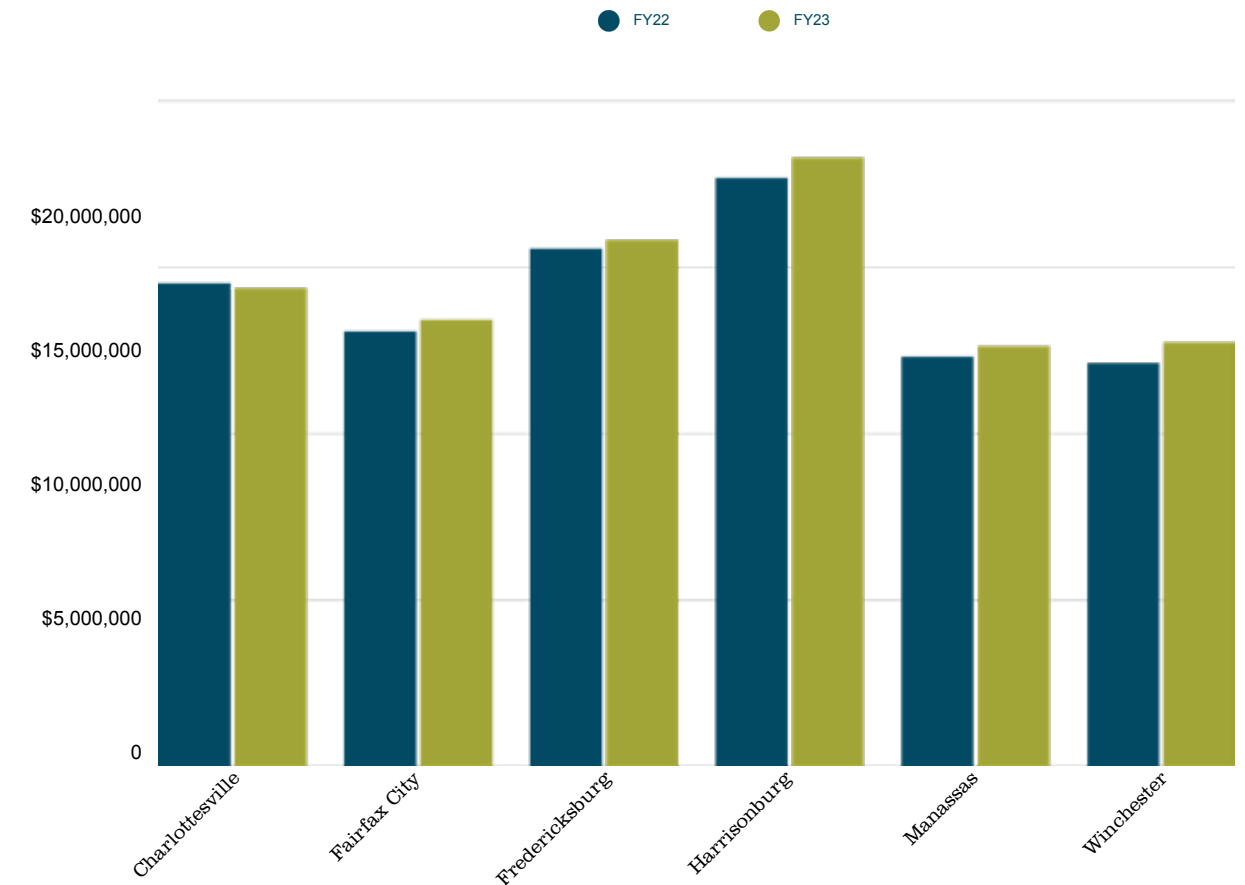
Real Property Tax Comparison

City	Population	2024 Tax Rate
Charlottesville	51,132	0.98
Fairfax City	23,750	1.035
Fredericksburg	27,711	0.77
Harrisonburg	55,990	0.96
Manassas	42,571	1.26
Winchester	28,734	0.83

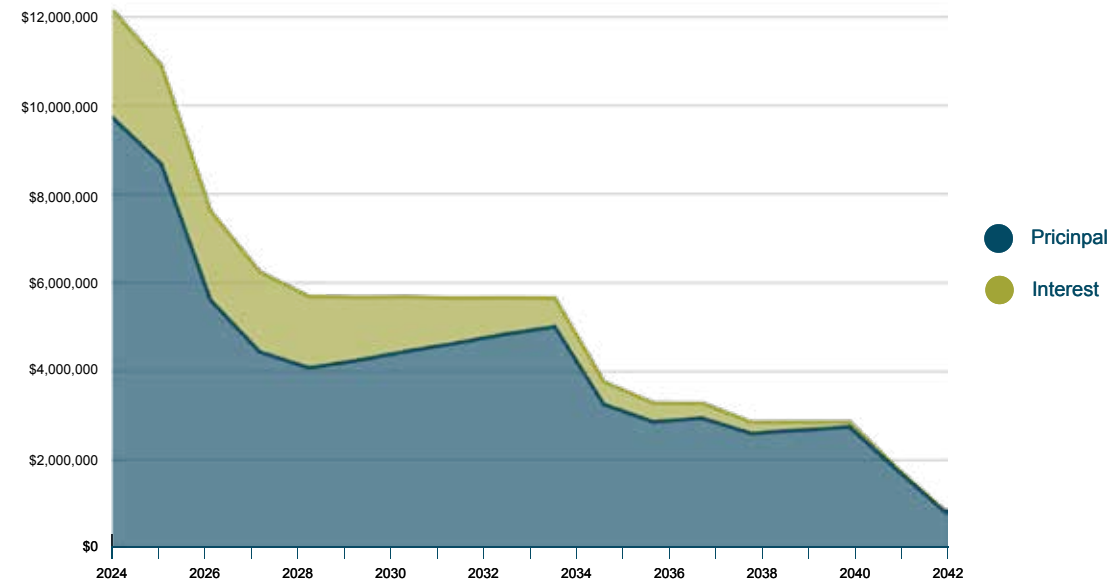


Sales Tax Comparison

City	FY22	FY23
Charlottesville	\$14,526,660	\$14,377,795
Fairfax City	\$13,076,127	\$13,425,699
Fredericksburg	\$15,569,291	\$15,827,467
Harrisonburg	\$17,692,891	\$18,304,951
Manassas	\$12,324,357	\$12,637,152
Winchester	\$12,129,457	\$12,761,030



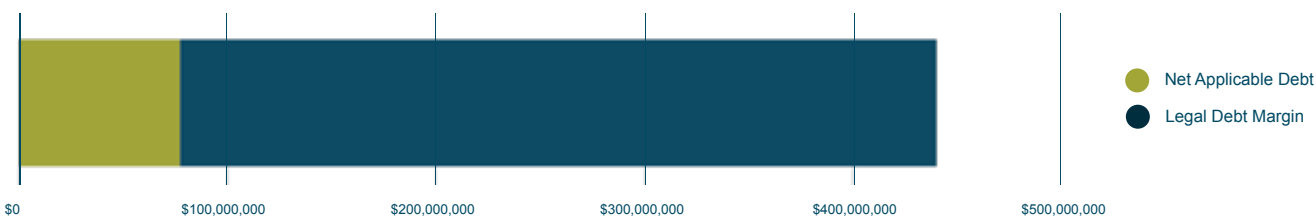
City Debt Profile



Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest
2025	\$9,732,114	\$2,435,260
2026	\$8,672,896	\$2,225,786
2027	\$5,605,125	\$2,011,380
2028	\$4,440,000	\$1,805,986
2029	\$4,080,000	\$1,609,436
2030	\$4,250,000	\$1,425,546
2031	\$4,455,000	\$1,224,866
2032	\$4,640,000	\$1,023,131

The City pays principal and interest payments at various predetermined times throughout the year to pay for previously issued debt for major capital projects. The City's Utility Fund also has revenue bonds that are paid for by the water and sewer revenues, while the Parking Authority has revenue bonds that are paid for by the fees charged in the garages and other revenues generated by the Authority.

Legal Debt Margin

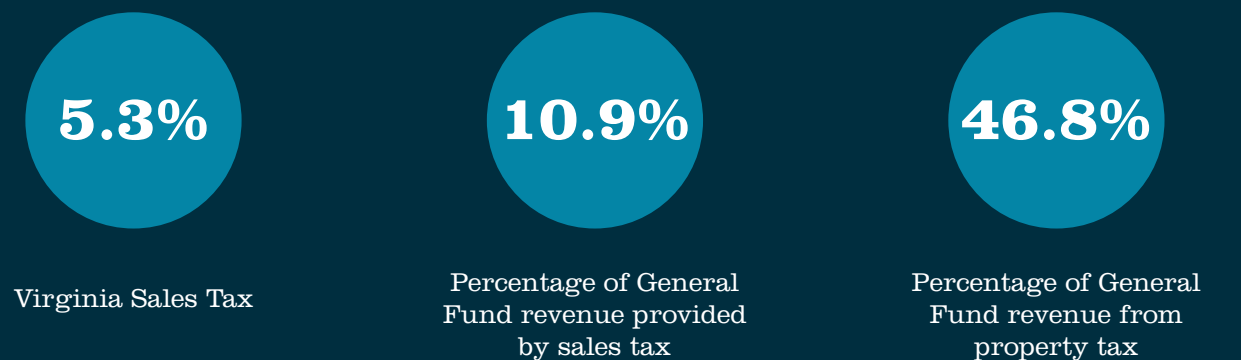


Your Tax Dollar at Work



- 38¢** Education
- 4¢** Health & Welfare
- 25¢** Public Safety
- 4¢** Parks, Rec, & Culture
- 9¢** General Government
- 4¢** City Debt
- 6¢** Public Works
- 3¢** Community Development
- 5¢** Judicial Administration
- 2¢** Capital Improvement

How Your Taxes Affect Revenue



Annual Budget Calendar

- November ● Budget discussions begin internally
- December ● Deadline for departments to submit budget requests to Finance for review
- January
- February ● Finance Department submits budget request to City Manager for review with department directors
- March ● City Manager reviews budget options with city council
- April ● City Manager submits the proposed budget and budget message to City Council
- May ● Advertisement submitted to newspaper for final budget hearing
Council adopts budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- June
- July ● Budget and CIP printed and distributed

Recognition

- 1** **Distinguished Budget Presentation**

Received from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the 11th year for the City's FY23 budget document, this is the highest form of recognition in government budgeting.

- 2** **Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting**

Received from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the 31st consecutive year for the City's comprehensive financial report (CFR). This is the highest form of recognition in government accounting and reporting.

- 3** **Highest Possible Bond Rating**

Received a AAA bond rating from Standard & Poors, the highest possible bond rating, in addition to an Aa2 rating from Moody's and an AA+ from Fitch. Rates reflect sound financial management, safety of investing in City bonds, and allows the City to borrow at low interest rates.

OLD TOWN WINCHESTER

Capital Improvement Plan

General Government

Public Safety

- \$1,800,000 Emergency Communications Center - CAD/RMS System
- \$11,000,000 Fire Station

Parks, Recreation & Cultural

- \$340,000 Parks Athletic Field Lighting
- \$90,000 Parks Restroom Improvements

Public Works

- \$550,000 Boscawen Street Improvements
- \$200,000 Green Circle Trail Widening Along Jubal Early
- \$650,000 Jubal Early Double Left Turn Lanes at Pleasant Valley Road
- \$700,000 Middle Road Improvements
- \$7,000,000 Millwood Avenue Improvements
- \$200,000 Papermill Road Improvements
- \$500,000 Parking Garage Improvements
- \$75,000 Pedestrian Mall Security Cameras
- \$100,000 Pleasant Valley - Featherbed Safety Improvements
- \$725,000 Pleasant Valley - Right Turn Lane at Cork Street
- \$1,500,000 Sidewalk Replacements
- \$1,500,000 Street Repaving
- \$650,000 Valley Corridor/Gerrard Corridor Signal Improvements

Schools

- \$150,000 Daniel Morgan Gym & Auditorium Sound System Replacement
- \$250,000 Daniel Morgan Additional Woodworking Shop
- \$375,000 Bus Replacement
- \$60,000 JHHS Synthetic Turf Replacement
- \$60,000 JHHS Reinforce Ground/Fire Truck Parking

Utilities

- \$1,000,000 Equipment Storage Building
- \$5,500,000 Sewer Pump Station Replacement
- \$6,000,000 Water and Sewer Main Replacement
- \$1,000,000 Raw Water Storage Reservoir
- \$1,000,000 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Stormwater

- \$10,150,000 North Cameron Drainage Improvements
- \$4,000,000 Stormwater Improvements Citywide

*List does not include State or Federal Funds



Scan the code and stay up to date on Current City Projects

or visit winchesterva.gov/current-city-projects

City Council



Kim Herbstritt
Ward 3
Council President



Richard Bell
Ward 1
Vice President



Corey Sullivan
Ward 3



David Smith
At-Large
Mayor



Les Veach
Ward 1



Phil Milstead
Ward 4



John Hill
Ward 2
Vice Mayor



Emily Windle
Ward 2



Cathy Tagnesi
Ward 4



Rouss City Hall
15 N. Cameron Street
Winchester, VA 22601

540-667-1815
www.winchesterva.gov