

AGENDA



CITY OF HOPEWELL

AGENDA

(804) 541-2408

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CITY COUNCIL

John B. Partin, Jr., Mayor, Ward #3
Rita E. Joyner, Vice Mayor, Ward #1
Michael B. Harris, Councilor, Ward #2
Ronnie O. Ellis, Councilor, Ward #4
Susan L. Daye, Councilor, Ward #5
Malik D. Wheat, Councilor, Ward #6
Lovena B. Rapole Councilor, Ward #7

Michael C. Rogers, Interim City Manager
Anthony R. Bessette, City Attorney
Sade' J. Allen, City Clerk

May 26, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

Closed Session – 5:00 P.M.

Open Session – 7:00 P.M.

Call to order and roll call
Call for amendments to the agenda

CLOSED MEETING

SUGGESTED MOTION: I move to go into a closed meeting under Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(3), (8), and (29), to discuss the acquisition or disposition of real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, the award of a public contract where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the City's bargaining position, and to consult with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters (real estate contract discussions, and Victoria St. revokable license); § 2.2-3711(A)(1) and (8), to discuss personnel matters (Police Department Personnel, Building Office Personnel, Healthy Families, School Board, ARB, and Salary Supplements); § 2.2-3711(A)(8), to consult with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters (Beacon Theater Board legal billing).

Certification Under Virginia Code § 2.2-3712 (D): Were only public business matters (1) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (2) identified in the closed-meeting motion discussed in the closed meeting?

WELCOME TO VISITORS

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

April Financials – Stacey Jordan, Deputy City Manager

Street Paving Program – Joshua Sementelli, Interim Director of Public Works, Stormwater and Engineering

Stormwater Resiliency Program – Joshua Sementelli, Interim Director of Public Works, Stormwater and Engineering

ACFR Overview – Stacey Jordan, Deputy City Manager

Proclamations Recognizing businesses in Hopewell for 50+ Years – Kyle English, Business Retention and Expansion Specialist/External Relations Officer

2025 Diagnostic Bond Rating – Stacey Jordan, Deputy City Manager

Employee of the Quarter – Tabitha Martinez, Director of Recreation and Parks

Overview for the Creation of the South-Central Transportation Authority – Vincent Jones, City Manager

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED MEETING

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prayer by Reverend Blow, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Mayor Partin

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Council and will be approved or received by one motion in the form listed. Items may be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion under the regular agenda at the request of any Councilor.

C-1 Minutes – April 14, 2026

C-2 Planning Commission Minutes – March 05, 2026, and April 02, 2026

C-3 Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget – Stacey Jordan, Deputy City Manager

SUGGESTED MOTION: To adopt the consent agenda

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

CITY CLERK: *A Communication from Citizens period, limited to a total of 30 minutes, occurs at each regular Council meeting. Persons addressing Council approach the microphone, give their name and, if they reside in Hopewell, their ward number. Each comment is limited to 3 minutes. No person is permitted to speak on an item scheduled for public hearing. All remarks must be addressed to the Council as a body. Any person who makes personal, impertinent, abusive, or slanderous statements or incites disorderly conduct in Council Chambers may be barred from future Communications from Citizens and removed.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

R-1 (Public Hearing) Right-of-way vacation request from PMT Investors LLC for a portion of an unimproved right-of-way adjacent to Parcels 067-0015 and 073-0515 – Chris Ward, Director of Planning and Development

R-2 City of Hopewell Schools Budget – Janel English, Director of Finance for Public Schools

R-3 Resolution in Support of Southern Environmental Law Center's (SELC) Public Regarding AdvanSix's Draft DEQ Permit – Anthony Bessette, City Attorney

R-4 Resolution Amending the FY 2026 Budget to Fund an Operational Audit for the Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority – Stacey Jordan, Deputy City Manager

ADJOURNMENT

**CLOSED
MEETING**

REPORTS OF
THE CITY
MANAGER



Finance Committee Meeting

CITY MANAGER: MICHEAL ROGERS

PRESENTED BY: STACEY JORDAN, CFO

AGENDA

Minutes from last meeting

FY26 Budget to Actuals - April

- Citywide
- General Fund
- Enterprise
- Schools

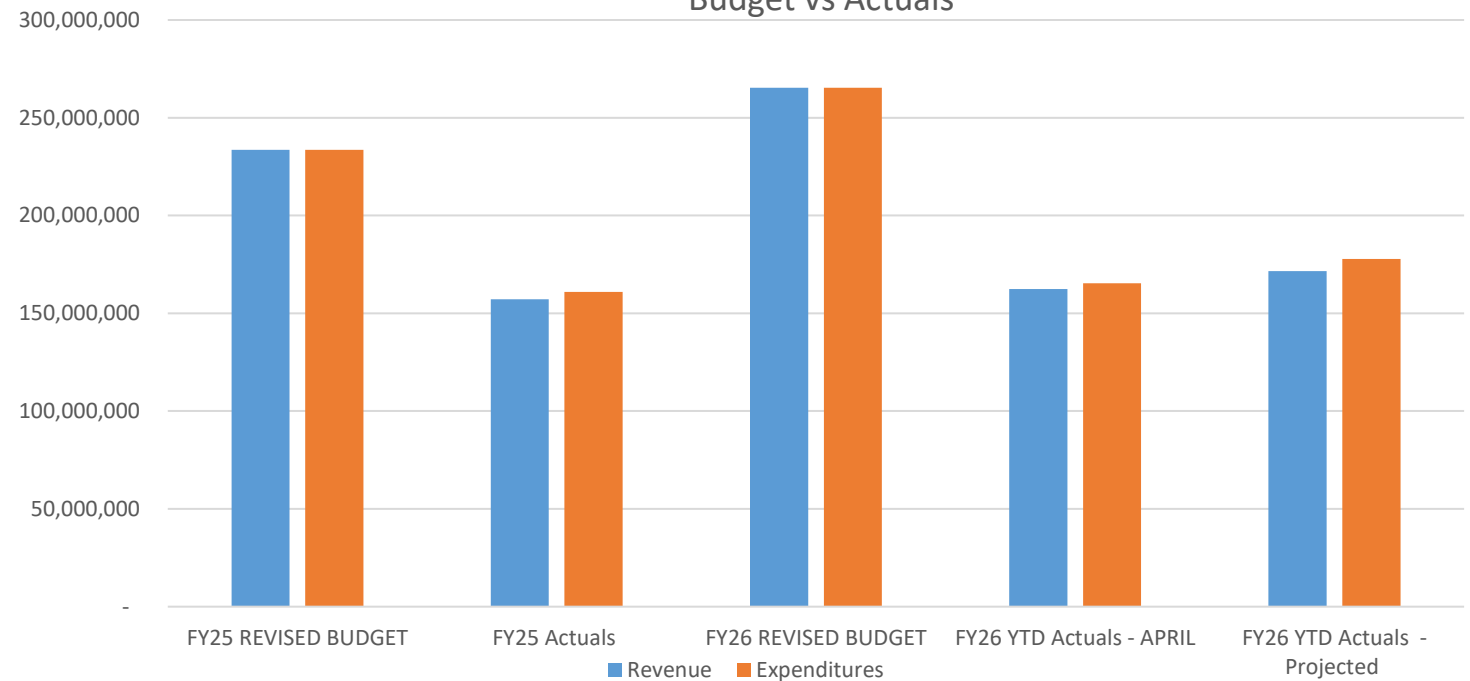
Accounts Payable/Debt Service

May committee items

Citywide FY26 Budget to Actuals – April

- City-wide for April revenues are trending 2.59% or \$14.3M higher for FY26 vs FY25.
- Expenses for April are trending 1.85% or \$16.9M higher for FY26 vs FY25.
- Key due dates for the City of Hopewell are December, April, May and June.
- Increase in revenues stem from State Revenues, increase in HWR capital billing and collections from Minol.
- Increase in expenses stem from Annual Increases and class and comp study increases, as well as increases in school and enterprise capital expenses.

FY26 Citywide Revenues and Expenditures - Budget vs Actuals



Citywide FY26 Budget to Actuals – April

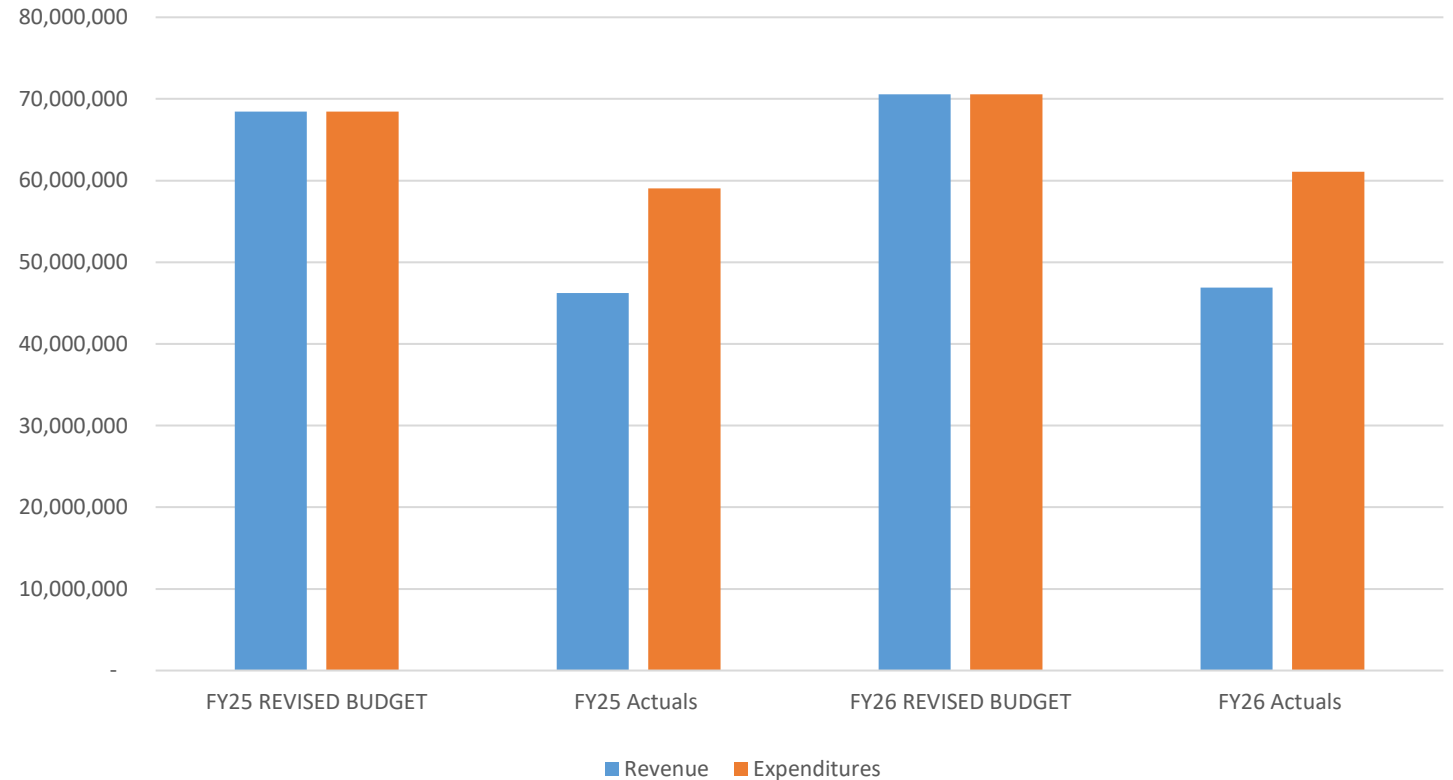
CITY-WIDE

REVENUES	FY25 REVISED BUDGET	FY25 Actuals	FY25 % of Budget Rec'd	FY26 REVISED BUDGET	FY26 YTD Actuals - APRIL	FY26 YTD Actuals - Projected	FY26 YE Projection	FY26 % Rec'd Budget	Comments
REAL ESTATE TAXES	21,928,970	10,359,714	47.2%	24,030,746	11,327,074	11,327,074	23,934,623	47.1%	2ND half Due June
PUBLIC SERVICE CORP TAX	5,100,000	5,229,555	102.5%	4,900,000	5,554,365	5,554,365	5,554,365	113.4%	Due in February
PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX	7,056,000	5,287,527	74.9%	6,597,440	4,937,668	4,937,668	5,925,201	74.8%	Due in February
MACH & TOOL TAX	9,586,049	3,528,773	36.8%	9,384,549	3,036,762	3,036,762	9,290,704	32.4%	Due in Dec & June
PPTRA STATE REIMBURSEMENT	1,618,030	1,537,128	95.0%	1,618,030	1,537,128	1,537,128	1,537,128	95.0%	Consistent
OTHER TAXES	10,840,000	9,827,580	90.7%	11,545,280	9,753,232	9,853,232	10,838,555	85.3%	\$100K Consumption & Utility Tax
USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY	530,200	727,735	137.3%	14,930,901	559,752	559,752	671,703	3.7%	Decrease in Interest Income
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	50,897,020	28,680,101	56.3%	53,503,146	34,347,515	42,213,515	41,197,422	78.9%	Increase from Sewer & Trash Revenue (Minol), \$7M HWR monthly & Capital billing (\$4M.1) , \$159K EMS Receipts
PENALTIES & INTEREST	586,000	481,439	82.2%	596,000	694,008	694,008	694,008	116.4%	Slight increase stems from Collections
PERMITS, FEES AND LICENSES	470,450	319,482	67.9%	467,400	1,015,976	1,015,976	1,015,976	217.4%	Increase in permit fees & Stormwater fees (\$333K) new in FY26
FINES & FORFEITURES	1,561,523	985,588	63.1%	1,305,385	1,078,421	1,078,421	1,294,105	82.6%	\$68K in addtl' School Zone fines revenue
GRANTS	464,964	419,961	90.3%	167,418	116,639	116,639	139,967	69.7%	\$270K reduction in Stormwater (\$255K) & Recreation Grants (\$15K)
STATE REVENUES	62,610,006	49,024,262	78.3%	67,956,017	54,011,656	53,739,256	65,917,336	79.1%	Schools funding; \$200K Accrual for CSA FY26 Reimbursements: 472K reclass to Federal from State
FEDERAL REVENUES	16,863,382	12,526,917	74.3%	15,038,874	8,120,283	9,592,683	12,482,265	63.8%	\$1M Schools Head Start; Decrease in ARPA funding
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	7,103,628	1,643,281	23.1%	9,714,613	1,462,489	1,462,489	1,754,987	15.1%	\$450K Increase in insurance claims, \$300K decrease in Cost Recovery
IN LIEU OF TAXES	1,591,511	1,535,843	96.5%	1,591,511	1,508,008	1,535,843	1,535,843	96.5%	Consistent
DEBT SERVICE	947,617	794,388	83.8%	1,042,739	745,807	850,825	850,825	81.6%	Consistent
TRANSFERS IN	33,876,815	24,299,891	71.7%	40,987,305	22,539,787	22,539,787	27,047,745	55.0%	
TOTAL REVENUES	233,632,165	157,209,164	67.29%	265,377,354	162,346,570	171,645,423	211,682,759	64.7%	
EXPENDITURES	FY25 REVISED BUDGET	FY25 Actuals	FY25 % of Budget Rec'd	FY26 REVISED BUDGET	FY26 YTD Actuals - APRIL	FY26 YTD Actuals - Projected	FY26 YE Projection	FY26 % Rec'd Budget	Comments
SALARIES & WAGES	29,742,717	22,613,139	76.0%	31,751,046	25,945,566	25,945,566	31,134,680	81.7%	3% Annual Salary Increase; 6% HWR & SWR
HEALTH BENEFITS	5,361,853	4,088,295	76.2%	6,168,145	4,640,659	4,640,659	5,568,791	75.2%	3% Annual Salary Increase; 6% HWR & SWR
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	447,454	250,536	56.0%	430,174	230,107	230,107	276,128	53.5%	3% Annual Salary Increase; 6% HWR & SWR
RETIREMENT	4,321,239	3,206,058	74.2%	4,762,133	3,567,200	3,567,200	4,280,640	74.9%	3% Annual Salary Increase; 6% HWR & SWR
OTHER PERSONNEL	2,479,969	1,877,670	75.7%	2,676,992	2,168,798	2,168,798	2,602,557	81.0%	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	17,449,205	12,446,561	71.3%	17,493,288	12,918,874	12,918,874	15,502,649	73.9%	
WORKERS COMPENSATION	513,869	406,504	79.1%	548,381	500,539	500,539	600,647	91.3%	
SERVICE & SUPPLIES	39,208,539	23,230,041	59.2%	58,335,033	23,961,608	23,961,608	28,753,930	41.1%	
OUTSIDE AGENCIES	5,702,619	4,664,501	81.8%	6,311,709	5,062,251	5,062,251	6,074,701	80.2%	
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	1,262,574	1,257,500	99.6%	1,522,358	1,257,500	1,257,500	1,509,000	82.6%	
OTHER	75,736,173	54,906,276	72.5%	78,384,890	49,895,267	62,295,267	74,754,320	79.5%	\$12.4M in SBO estimated unposted expenditures
CAPITAL	11,119,690	2,408,891	21.7%	16,269,158	7,933,966	7,933,966	9,520,759	48.8%	
DEBT	7,418,450	6,261,344	84.4%	7,488,854	5,838,107	5,838,107	7,005,728	78.0%	
SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS	13,865,900	13,865,900	100.0%	13,580,000	13,580,000	13,580,000	13,580,000	100.0%	
TRANSFERS OUT	19,001,915	9,424,991	49.6%	19,655,193	7,950,787	7,950,787	9,540,945	40.5%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	233,632,166	160,908,209	68.87%	265,377,354	165,451,229	177,851,229	210,705,475	67.02%	
NET INCOME	(1)	(3,699,045)	-1.58%	-	(3,104,659)	(6,205,806)	977,284	-2.34%	

General Fund FY26 Budget to Actuals – April

- General fund for April is trending 1.04% or \$936K higher in Revenues for FY26 vs FY25.
- Expenses for FY26 are trending 0.30% or \$2M higher than FY25.
- Increase in expenses stem from Annual Increases and class and comp study increases.

FY26 General Fund Revenue and Expenditures



General Fund FY26 Budget to Actuals – April

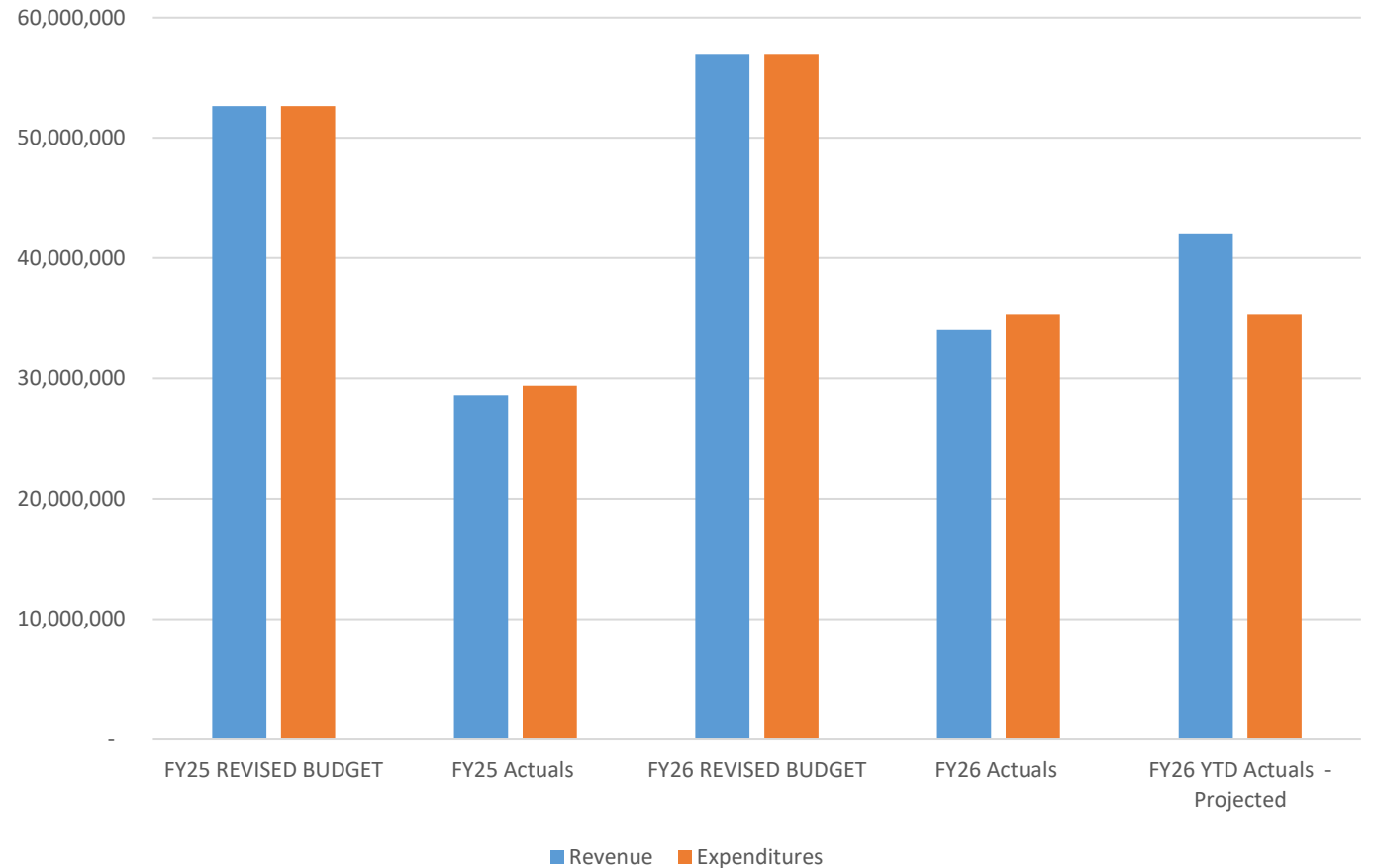
REVENUES	FY25 REVISED BUDGET	FY25 Actuals	FY25 % of Budget Rec'd	FY26 REVISED BUDGET	FY26 Actuals	FY26 % Rec'd Projected	FY26 YTD - Projected	FY26 YE Projection	FY25 vs FY26 Variance	Comments
REAL ESTATE TAXES	21,928,970	10,359,890	47.2%	24,030,746	11,327,074	47.1%	\$ 11,327,074	\$ 24,030,745	\$ 967,183.79	2ND half Due June
PUBLIC SERVICE CORP TAX	5,100,000	5,229,555	102.5%	4,900,000	5,554,365	113.4%	\$ 5,554,365	\$ 5,554,365	\$ 324,810.69	Due in February
PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX	7,056,000	5,266,307	74.6%	6,597,440	4,937,668	74.8%	\$ 4,937,668	\$ 5,925,201	\$ (328,639.28)	Due in February
MACH & TOOL TAX	9,586,049	3,528,773	36.8%	9,384,549	3,036,762	32.4%	\$ 3,036,762	\$ 9,384,549	\$ (492,010.71)	Due in June
PPTRA STATE REIMBURSEMENT	1,618,030	1,537,128	95.0%	1,618,030	1,537,128	95.0%	\$ 1,537,128	\$ 1,844,554	\$ -	Consistent
OTHER TAXES	7,240,000	6,324,508	87.4%	7,745,280	6,172,977	79.7%	\$ 6,272,977	\$ 7,714,299	\$ (51,531.85)	\$75K Consumption/Utility Tax & \$25K Utility Tax- Water
USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY CHARGES FOR SERVICES	90,000	81,158	90.2%	60,000	42,942	71.6%	\$ 42,942	\$ 51,530	\$ (38,215.85)	
PENALTIES & INTEREST	847,000	1,237,707	146.1%	1,247,000	967,060	77.6%	\$ 1,117,060	\$ 1,340,472	\$ (120,647.05)	\$150K in unrecorded EMS receipts
PERMITS, FEES AND LICENSES	581,000	475,603	81.9%	591,000	681,067	115.2%	\$ 681,067	\$ 817,281	\$ 205,464.42	Penalties and Interest
FINES & FORFEITURES	470,450	317,532	67.5%	467,400	681,259	145.8%	\$ 681,259	\$ 817,511	\$ 363,727.60	Increase in Sewer/Bldg Permits & \$320K in Stormwater fees new in FY26
GRANTS	1,296,986	980,079	75.6%	1,014,816	1,072,344	105.7%	\$ 1,072,344	\$ 1,233,522	\$ 92,264.76	Increase in fines
STATE REVENUES	-	16,875	---	-	24,258	---	\$ 24,258	\$ 29,110	\$ 7,383.00	
FEDERAL REVENUES	9,183,676	7,474,428	81.4%	9,530,420	7,529,104	79.0%	\$ 7,529,104	\$ 9,034,925	\$ 54,676.15	Slight increase in state revenues received for Constitucionals
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	350,000	158,947	45.4%	458,403	318,882	69.6%	\$ 318,882	\$ 382,659	\$ 159,935.70	
IN LIEU OF TAXES	828,712	960,481	115.9%	636,301	751,987	118.2%	\$ 751,987	\$ 902,385	\$ (208,494.33)	
TRANSFERS IN	1,257,500	1,257,500	100.0%	1,257,500	1,257,500	100.0%	\$ 1,257,500	\$ 1,257,500	\$ -	Consistent
TOTAL REVENUES	1,009,000	1,009,000	100.0%	1,009,000	1,009,000	100.0%	\$ 1,009,000	\$ 1,009,000	\$ -	Consistent
TOTAL REVENUES	68,443,373	46,215,471	67.52%	70,547,885	46,901,378	66.48%	\$ 47,151,378	\$ 71,329,607	\$ 935,907.04	
EXPENDITURES	FY25 REVISED BUDGET	FY25 Actuals	FY25 % of Budget Rec'd	FY26 REVISED BUDGET	FY26 Actuals	FY26 % Rec'd Projected	FY26 YTD Actuals - Projected	FY26 YE Projection	FY25 vs FY26 Variance	Comments
SALARIES & WAGES	20,474,641	15,629,680	76.3%	22,706,538	18,388,407	81.0%	\$ 18,388,407	\$ 22,066,089	\$ 2,758,727.61	3% Annual Salary Increase
HEALTH BENEFITS	3,800,196	2,933,182	77.2%	4,331,741	3,383,254	78.1%	\$ 3,383,254	\$ 4,059,905	\$ 450,071.36	3% Annual Salary Increase
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	296,904	174,464	58.8%	298,199	154,448	51.8%	\$ 154,448	\$ 185,338	\$ (20,015.55)	3% Annual Salary Increase
RETIREMENT	2,940,040	2,181,873	74.2%	3,239,449	2,486,791	76.8%	\$ 2,486,791	\$ 2,984,149	\$ 304,918.11	3% Annual Salary Increase
OTHER PERSONNEL	1,681,128	1,301,412	77.4%	1,806,483	1,517,536	84.0%	\$ 1,517,536	\$ 1,821,043	\$ 216,123.75	3% Annual Salary Increase
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	4,748,868	4,483,064	94.4%	4,849,742	4,257,759	87.8%	\$ 4,257,759	\$ 5,109,311	\$ (225,304.59)	
WORKERS COMPENSATION	430,823	345,111	80.1%	466,336	434,967	93.3%	\$ 434,967	\$ 521,961	\$ 89,856.39	
SERVICE & SUPPLIES	5,769,538	3,645,018	63.2%	5,810,998	3,536,167	60.9%	\$ 3,536,167	\$ 4,243,401	\$ (108,851.00)	
OUTSIDE AGENCIES	4,887,248	4,531,407	92.7%	5,250,570	4,860,208	92.6%	\$ 4,860,208	\$ 5,250,570	\$ 328,801.05	
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	22,491	-	0.0%	272,172	-	0.0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
OTHER	425,978	335,655	78.8%	328,028	330,741	100.8%	\$ 330,741	\$ 396,890	\$ (4,913.30)	
CAPITAL	714,735	207,164	29.0%	302,883	214,599	70.9%	\$ 214,599	\$ 257,519	\$ 7,435.69	
SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS	13,710,000	13,865,900	101.1%	13,580,000	13,580,000	100.0%	\$ 13,580,000	\$ 13,580,000	\$ (285,900.00)	
TRANSFERS OUT	8,540,791	9,424,991	110.4%	7,304,746	7,950,787	108.8%	\$ 7,950,787	\$ 9,540,945	\$ (1,474,203.78)	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	68,443,381	59,058,919	86.3%	70,547,885	61,095,665	86.60%	\$ 61,095,665	\$ 70,017,119	\$ 2,036,745.74	
NET INCOME	(8)	(12,843,449)	-18.77%	-	(14,194,287)	-20.12%	\$ (13,944,287)	\$ 1,312,488	\$ (1,100,839)	

Enterprise Fund FY26 Budget to Actuals – April

Regional Water, Sewer, Solid Waste, and Storm Water

- Enterprise fund for April is trending 19.53% or \$13.4M higher in Revenues for FY26 vs FY25.
- Expense for FY26 are trending 6.26% or \$5.9M higher the expense in FY25.
- Increase in revenues stem from on time billing and capital billing for FY26.
- Increase in expenses stem from working through capital projects and DEQ NOV. Compared to last year HRW has spent \$6.8M YTD vs \$1.5M in FY25.

FY26 Enterprise Funds Revenue and Expenditures



Enterprise Fund FY26 Budget to Actual – April

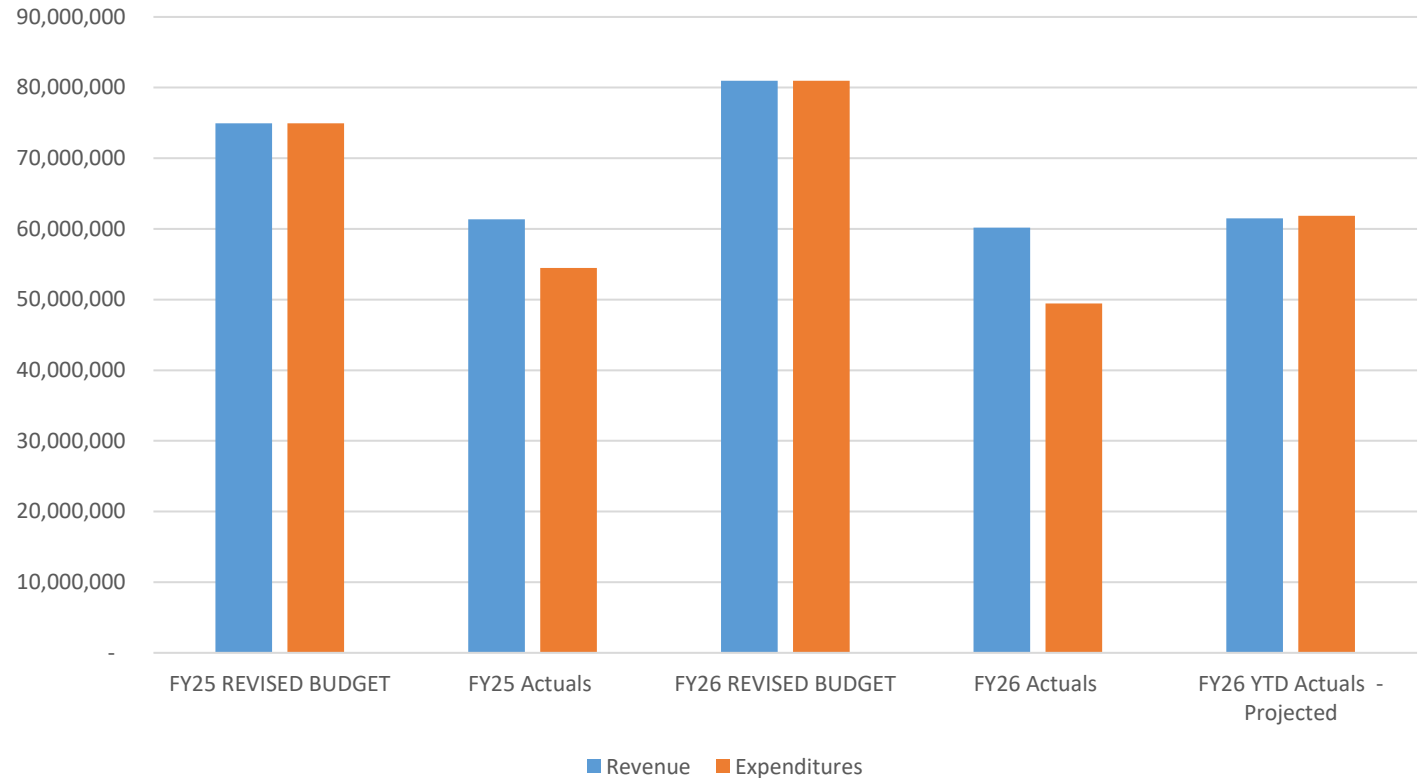
ENTERPRISE FUNDS

REVENUES	FY25 REVISED BUDGET	FY25 Actuals	FY25 % of Budget Rec'd	FY26 REVISED BUDGET	FY26 Actuals	FY26 YTD Actuals - Projected	FY26 YE Projection	FY26 % Rec'd	Comments
USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY	300,000	458,769	152.9%	114,901	363,114	363,114	435,736	316.0%	
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	42,367,151	26,308,068	62.1%	43,241,383	32,161,165	39,868,165	43,241,383	92.2%	\$7M Accrued for April Billing & Capital & \$632K for DI/Minol
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	13,450	518,197	3852.8%	473,856	556,976	556,976	668,371	117.5%	
GRANTS	-	254,771	---	-	-	-	-	---	
IN LIEU OF TAXES	334,011	278,343	83.3%	334,011	250,508	306,177	367,412	91.7%	
DEBT SERVICE	947,617	794,388	83.8%	1,042,739	745,807	955,843	1,147,011	91.7%	
TRANSFERS IN	8,672,924	-	0.0%	11,704,406	-	-	11,704,406	0.0%	
TOTAL REVENUES	52,635,153	28,612,535	54.36%	56,911,296	34,077,569	42,050,274	57,564,320	73.89%	
EXPENDITURES	FY25 REVISED BUDGET	FY25 Actuals	FY25 % of Budget Rec'd	FY26 REVISED BUDGET	FY26 Actuals	FY26 YTD Actuals - Projected	FY26 YE Projection	FY26 % Rec'd	Comments
SALARIES & WAGES	4,700,624	3,402,974	72.4%	4,794,893	3,452,425	3,452,425	4,142,910	72.0%	
HEALTH BENEFITS	713,300	523,733	73.4%	811,128	522,385	522,385	626,862	64.4%	
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	68,431	29,213	42.7%	34,653	15,909	15,909	19,091	45.9%	
RETIREMENT	642,777	484,216	75.3%	727,132	468,889	468,889	562,667	64.5%	
OTHER PERSONNEL	364,449	281,649	77.3%	388,882	308,138	308,138	369,766	79.2%	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	10,143,396	7,617,311	75.1%	10,779,880	8,410,596	8,410,596	10,092,715	78.0%	
WORKERS COMPENSATION	53,697	43,516	81.0%	51,489	44,567	44,567	53,481	86.6%	
SERVICE & SUPPLIES	12,958,879	11,982,622	92.5%	15,675,750	12,168,829	12,168,829	14,602,595	77.6%	
OUTSIDE AGENCIES	5,000	2,408	48.2%	1,034	77	77	92	7.4%	
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	1,257,500	1,257,500	100.0%	1,257,500	1,257,500	1,257,500	1,509,000	100.0%	
OTHER	61,400	25,400	41.4%	76,400	41,947	41,947	50,337	54.9%	
CAPITAL	9,504,791	1,579,392	16.6%	7,929,037	6,858,356	6,858,356	8,230,027	86.5%	Increase in delayed and planned capital spending
DEBT	2,583,988	2,158,133	83.5%	2,679,109	1,787,622	1,787,622	2,145,146	66.7%	2015D last payment in Oct25
TRANSFERS OUT	9,576,924	-	0.0%	11,704,406	-	-	11,704,406	0.0%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	52,635,156	29,388,065	55.8%	56,911,293	35,337,239	35,337,239	54,109,093	62.1%	
NET INCOME	(3)	(775,530)	-1.47%	3	(1,259,671)	6,713,034	3,455,227	11.80%	

Schools FY26 Budget to Actual – April

- Schools is trending 5.94% or \$12.4M higher in revenues for FY26 vs FY25.
- Expenses are trending 3.71% or \$19.7M higher in FY26 vs FY25.
- Decrease in federal revenues for ESSER
- Increase in operational expenses for FY26
- Awaiting 3rd QTR of Head Start reimbursement \$1.3M.

FY26 Schools Revenue and Expenditures



Schools FY26 Budget to Actuals – April

REVENUES	FY25 REVISED BUDGET	FY25 Actuals	FY25 % of Budget Rec'd	FY26 REVISED BUDGET	FY26 Actuals	FY26 YTD Actuals - Projected	FY26 YE Projection	FY26 % Rec'd	Comments
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	5,515,232	905,384	16.4%	8,138,010	665,282	665,282	909,953	8.2%	
STATE REVENUES	46,085,993	37,271,062	80.9%	48,933,068	41,111,185	40,767,185	48,920,622	83.3%	\$344K to Federal
FEDERAL REVENUES	9,643,588	9,336,727	96.8%	10,318,029	4,840,283	6,484,283	10,375,850	62.8%	\$1.3M in Head Start Funds Projected
TRANSFERS IN	13,710,000	13,865,900	101.1%	13,580,000	13,580,000	13,580,000	13,580,000	100.0%	
TOTAL REVENUES	74,954,813	61,379,072	81.89%	80,969,107	60,196,750	61,496,750	73,786,425	75.95%	
EXPENDITURES	FY25 REVISED BUDGET	FY25 Actuals	FY25 % of Budget Rec'd	FY26 REVISED BUDGET	FY26 Actuals	FY26 YTD Actuals - Projected	FY26 YE Projection	FY26 % Rec'd	Comments
SERVICE & SUPPLIES	3,716,420	-	0.0%	3,723,220	-	-	-	0.0%	
OTHER	71,191,213	54,461,067	76.5%	76,577,465	49,434,973	61,834,973	74,201,967	80.7%	\$12.4M Accrued YTD for OPEX
CAPITAL	47,180	-	0.0%	668,422	-	-	-	0.0%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	74,954,813	54,461,067	72.7%	80,969,107	49,434,973	61,834,973	74,201,967	76.37%	
NET INCOME		- 6,918,005	9.23%		- 10,761,777	(338,223)	(415,542)	-0.42%	

FY26 Accounts Payable/Debt Service – April

Accounts Payable April

<u>Invoices Received</u>	
# of invoices processed	1,828
\$ amount processed	\$6,747,227

Debt Service Payments April

<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>Remaining Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget YTD</u>
\$7,488,854	\$5,670,614	\$1,818,241	76%

May Items

1. FY26 Year-End



Hopewell Street Paving Program

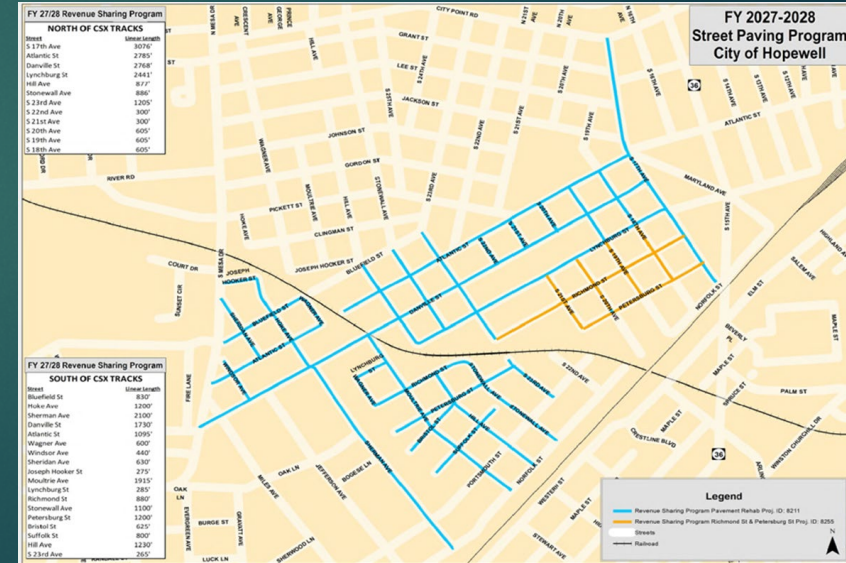
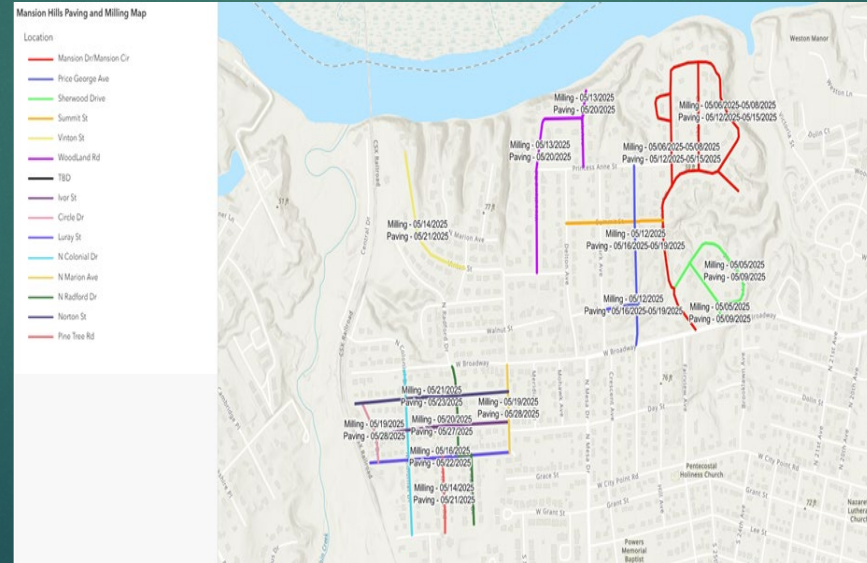
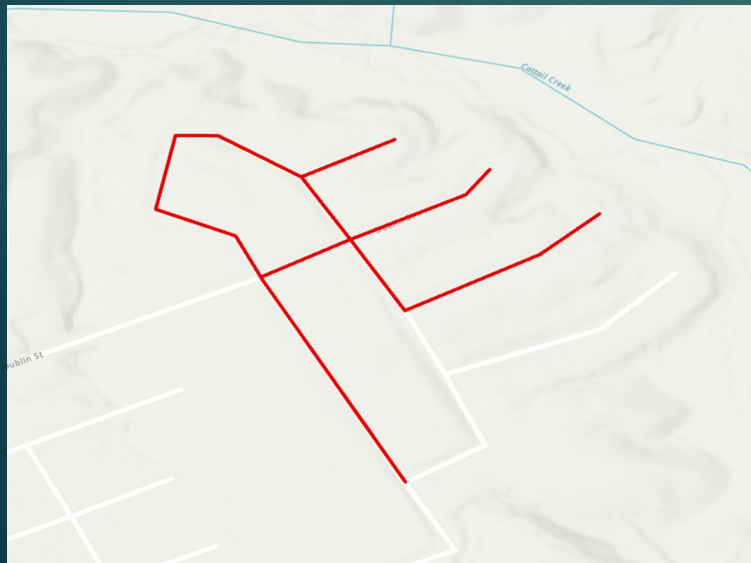
JOSHUA SEMENTELLI

MAY 26, 2026

Paving Status Updates

(Last 12 Months)

- ▶ Public Works has expended \$4,077,298.31 in paving operations
- ▶ Paved areas include:
 - ▶ Mansion Hills
 - ▶ Five Forks
 - ▶ Danville area



Paving Condition Assessment Overview

- ▶ In 2026 Timmons Group performed a paving condition assessment of all locally maintained roads within Hopewell. Upon completion of the study, an economic analysis was performed providing a paving Capital Improvement with recommended budget planning
- ▶ The study utilized 3 metrics:
 - ▶ Paving Condition Index (PCI): Identifies surface levels defects
 - ▶ Potholes, cracks, utility patches
 - ▶ Ride Quality Index (RQI): Evaluates the roughness of the road
 - ▶ Surface Quality Index (SQI): Value that takes into account both RQI & PCI
 - ▶ This metric was utilized to develop maintenance and rehab treatment matrix
- ▶ The assessment also provided the City with an inventory of road assets
 - ▶ Traffic signals, manholes, signage, etc.
- The objective the assessment is for the City's road network to reach a State of Good Repair (SGR)
 - Where only the most cost-effective pavement preservation treatment types are needed.



A white van parked in a parking lot
Description automatically generated

Assessment Findings

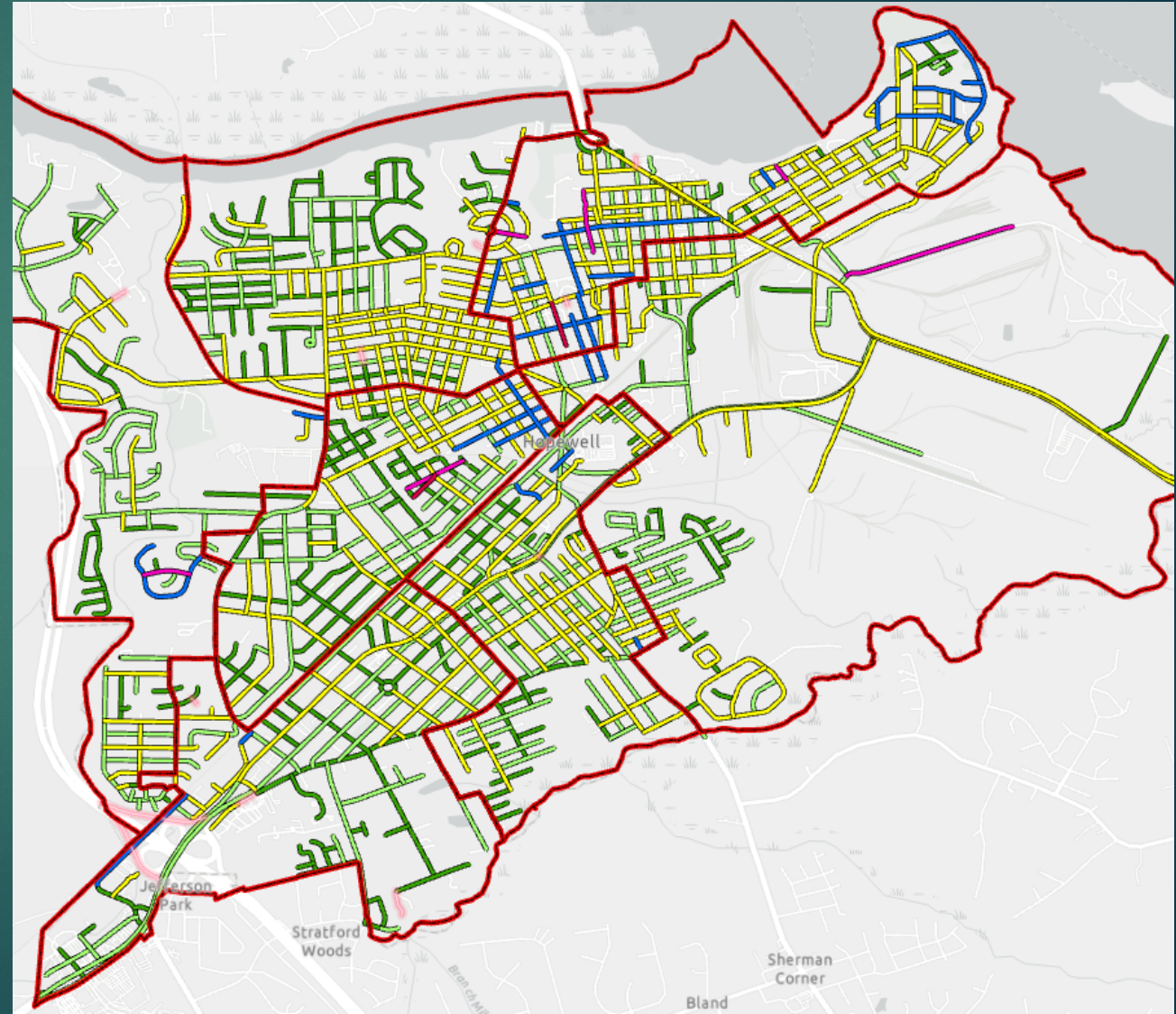
- ▶ PCI values were assigned to 144.4 miles of paved roads in the City. On a defined scale of 0-100, the City's road network was assigned an average value of 87, a rating of "Good."
- ▶ This indicates the City has a high-quality network of streets
- ▶ For the roads to reach a "State of Good Repair", \$84M in funds will be necessary.
- ▶ All roads below an assigned PCI value of 65, the minimum acceptable PCI rating, are recommended to be prioritized for maintenance & repair activities; however, when accounting for cost-effectiveness, SQI was the primary tool utilized to develop the preservation plan.

	Condition	Treatment	Trigger	Unit Cost (\$/sy)
	Very Good	Do Nothing	$P = SQI > 92$	0
	Good	Pave Pres (seal coat, bioestor)	$85 > SQI \leq 91$	2.75
	Satisfactory	Pave Pres (cape, microsurface)	$70 > SQI \leq 84$	4.14
	Fair	Minor Rehabilitation (HIR, thin olay)	$55 > SQI \leq 69$	5.33
	Poor	Mill/ replace	$35 > SQI \leq 54$	12
	Serious	Major Rehabilitation (FDR, struc o'lay)	$25 > SQI \leq 34$	15.8
	Failed	Reconstruction	$0 > SQI \leq 24$	36

PCI Range	PCI Rating	Length (mi)	# of Sections
100-92	Very Good	31.5	183
91-85	Good	44.8	148
84-70	Satisfactory	59.9	181
69-55	Fair	6.5	28
54-35	Poor	1.4	6
34-25	Serious	.3	2
24-0	Failed	0	0
Total		144.4	548

Assessment Findings Cont'd

Ward #	Average SQI	Average PCI	Road Segments Below 65 PCI
Ward 1	69.85	78.42	40
Ward 2	78.04	85.18	8
Ward 3	78.47	86.85	11
Ward 4	82.96	87.94	4
Ward 5	80.04	87.13	9
Ward 6	77.24	86.27	10
Ward 7	81.73	88.24	6



Next Steps

- ▶ Develop paving plan for FY27, using earmarked funds
 - ▶ \$2,053,049.29
- ▶ Establish prioritization criteria
 - ▶ Treatment types
 - ▶ Balancing preservation, resurfacing, & rehabilitation
 - ▶ Roadway function (arterial vs. collector)
 - ▶ Upcoming utility projects
- ▶ Establish recurring pavement management cycle
 - ▶ Update completed work annually
 - ▶ Conduct condition assessment every 3 years



Hopewell Stormwater Resiliency Plan

JOSHUA SEMENTELLI

MAY 26, 2026

Background

- ▶ A resilience plan supports the development of comprehensive and inclusive local or regional strategies to address both present and future needs.
- ▶ In 2022 City Council adopted the City's Stormwater Resiliency Plan, which identified short-range, intermediate-range, and long-range infrastructure projects to address maintenance needs & localized flooding concerns. Unfortunately, this plan was rejected by the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)
- ▶ In 2024, the Crater PDC was awarded funding to develop a Crater Regional Resilience Plan that serves 11 localities, including Hopewell. This plan will not only address flood mitigation, but will also analyze multiple environmental hazards such as, extreme heat, tornadoes & wind, winter storms, and water quality.
- ▶ By opting-in to this Regional Resiliency Plan, and once approved by DCR the City will be eligible to receive funding for project implementation from the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) sponsored by the DCR.

Ongoing Regional Planning Efforts

- ▶ The Crater PDC is partnering w/ Weston & Sampson in an effort to develop the Regional Resiliency Plan, which is comprised of 11 total localities.
- ▶ Hopewell staff are participating through the plan's Regional Steering Committee to ensure that the plan's goals, metrics, and strategies are in line w/ the City's needs.
- ▶ The final deliverables of the plan will include:
 - ▶ Capacity Needs Assessment
 - ▶ Goal & Objective Setting
 - ▶ Climate Vulnerability Assessment
 - ▶ Regional Resilience Plan & Priority Actions.

Draft Priorities

(as of March 2026)

▶ Priorities:

- ▶ Assess, prioritize and upgrade the City's aging and undersized storm system.
- ▶ Retrofit developed areas with modern stormwater controls, green infrastructure, tree canopy, and other nature-based solutions to reduce runoff and flooding impacts.
- ▶ Strengthen storm response readiness by improving equipment, operations, and coordination during major storm events
- ▶ Improve public education around flooding, drainage, and storm preparedness.
- ▶ Identify flood-prone critical facilities and evaluate drainage or floodproofing needs.

Draft Strategies

(as of March 2026)

- ▶ Build regional & local capacity
 - ▶ Add staffing to address resilience needs
 - ▶ Complete training, certifications, & continuing education
- ▶ Improve grant readiness
 - ▶ Track grant cycles & funding opportunities
 - ▶ Retain grant writing support
- ▶ Strengthen planning and policy
 - ▶ Adopt CDPC Regional Resiliency Plan
- ▶ Protect critical infrastructure and inform the public
 - ▶ Create public education and outreach material

Next Steps

- ▶ Continue providing direct support to the Crater PDC as final deliverables are prepared.
- ▶ Confirm Hopewell's prioritized stormwater resilience projects align with the regional resilience plan framework.
- ▶ Review the City's identified stormwater resilience strategies & priorities with Council for confirmation and additional input.
- ▶ Present final deliverables to Council once complete and consider formal adoption of the Regional Resilience Plan

City of Hopewell

Virginia

2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) Overview



Presented by: Stacey Jordan, DCM/CFO

Vincent Jones, City Manager

Agenda

Overview

Audit Opinion

Basic Financial Statements

- Governmentwide
- Governmental Funds
- Proprietary Funds
- Fiduciary Funds

Notes to the Financial Statements

Supplementary Information

Fund Balance

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Overview



The purpose of today's presentation is to provide City Council an overview of the results pertaining to the preparation and audit of FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).



The FY 2025 or fiscal year 2025 ACFR covers the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 and represents the financial position and results of the City as of June 30, 2025.



Audit Opinion

Unmodified Opinion

- An unqualified opinion or “clean” opinion is an independent auditor's judgment that the financial statements are fairly and appropriately presented, without any identified exceptions, and in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). An unqualified opinion is the most common type of auditor's opinion. The City received an unmodified opinion on each unit assessed.

Qualified Opinion

- A qualified or modified opinion is where the auditor suggests future amendments or procedures to follow to avoid misstatements in the financial systems and to make the financial statements transparent and clear. None of the areas audited received this opinion.



Audit Opinion cont.

At the conclusion of the 2025 ACFR preparation and audit process, the City's external auditor rendered the following opinion:

The types of opinions that can be rendered are as follows:

- Unmodified – Clean highest level of assurance
- Qualified – financial statements are generally accurate, but has specific, material issues
- Adverse – financial statements are materially misstated
- Disclaimer – the auditor cannot form an opinion due to severe lack of records

The last 3 opinions are all considered modified opinions.

The City of Hopewell received an overall Unmodified opinion on the audit of its financial statements for the fifth year in a row.



Basic Financial Statements

The ACFR presents up to three (3) different types of financial statements as part of its **“Basic” Financial Statements**. The types are as follows:

Governmentwide

- Statement of Net Position
- Statement of Activities

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental Funds

- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Proprietary Funds

- Statement of Net Position
- Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Net Position
- Statement of Cash Flows

Fiduciary Funds *(excluded from highlight)*

- Statement of Fiduciary Net Position (Hospital Trust / Agency Fund)
- Funds not available and held in a trust or agent capacity.



Basic Financial Statements Government -wide

Statement of Net Position

Government-wide includes both the City's Governmental & Business-Type Activities

Statement of Net Position (Exhibit 1) is a snapshot of City's assets and liabilities under the accrual basis of accounting at the end of each fiscal year. The Statement of Net Position identifies the type and amounts of assets available to support City operations, how much the City owes to vendors and bond holders, and the City's net position is delineated based upon its availability to be used for future expenditures. This statement is also known as the Balance Sheet (Exhibit 3) for the Governmental Funds. Below is a summary for the Governmental Funds.

Condensed Statement of Net Position

as of June 30, 2025	2025	2024	\$ Change	% Change
Current Assets	68,572,304	42,579,373	25,992,931	61%
Capital Assets	61,978,012	61,484,908	493,104	1%
Deferred Outflows - Pension, OPEB, Refunding	6,279,821	5,656,868	622,953	11%
	136,830,137	109,721,149	27,108,988	25%
Current Liabilities	10,769,547	4,879,612	5,889,935	121%
Noncurrent Liabilities	50,125,475	56,556,459	(6,430,984)	-11%
Deferred inflows - Property Tax, OPEB, Pension	25,706,260	22,904,990	2,801,270	12%
	86,601,282	84,341,061	2,260,221	3%
Total Net Position	50,228,855	25,380,088	24,848,767	98%

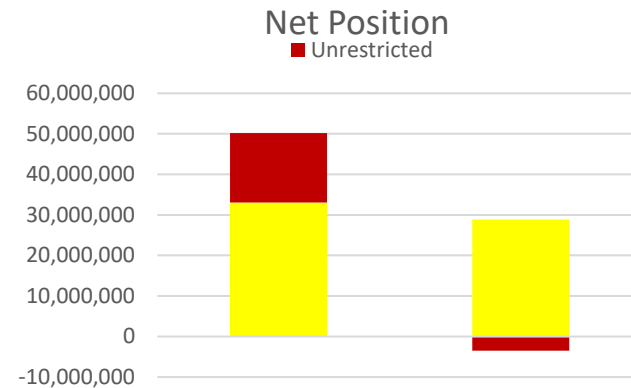


Basic Financial Statements Government –wide cont.

Statement of Net Position (continued)

Net position is divided into three major categories:

- Net investment in capital assets (property, plant, equipment owed by the City)
- Restricted net assets (nonexpendable and expendable)
- Unrestricted net position (available for use for any lawful purpose)



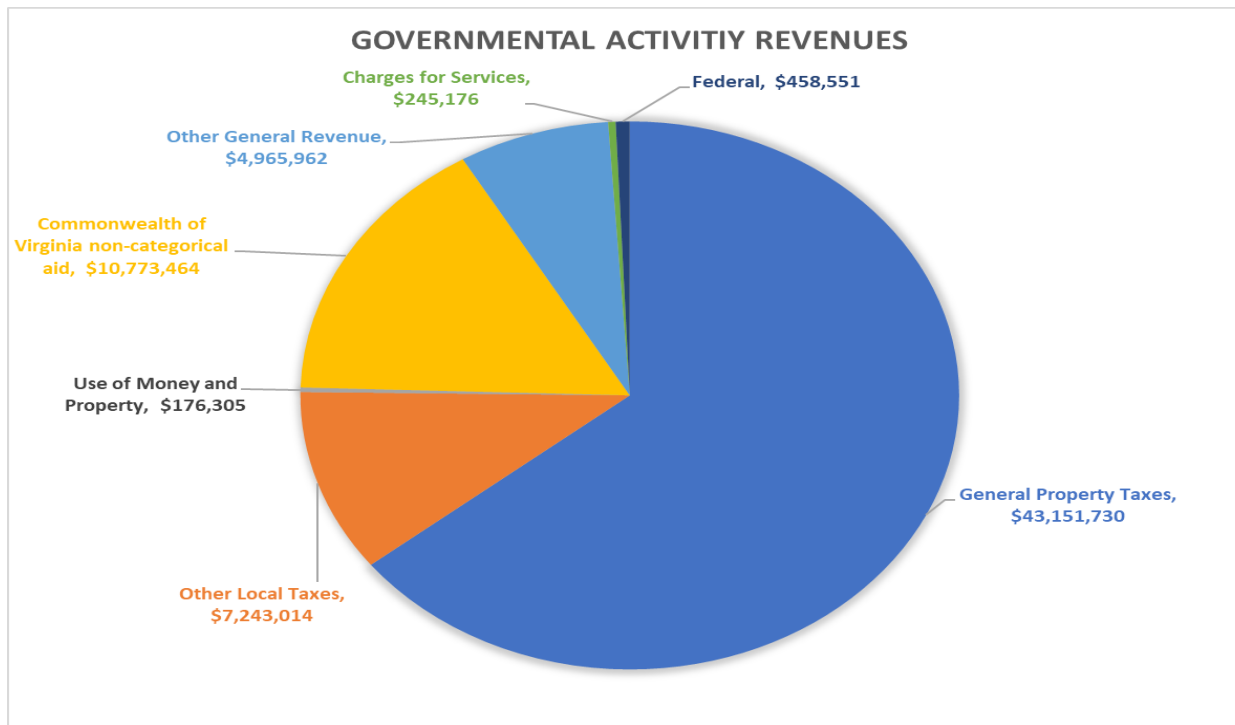
	Total Net Position			
as of June 30, 2025	2025	2024	\$ Change	% Change
Net Investment in capital Assets	33,026,303	28,871,377	4,154,926	14%
Restricted	-	-	-	0%
Unrestricted	17,202,552	(3,501,289)	20,703,841	-591%
Total Net Position	50,228,855	25,370,088	24,858,767	98%



Basic Financial Statements Government –wide cont.

Statement of Activities

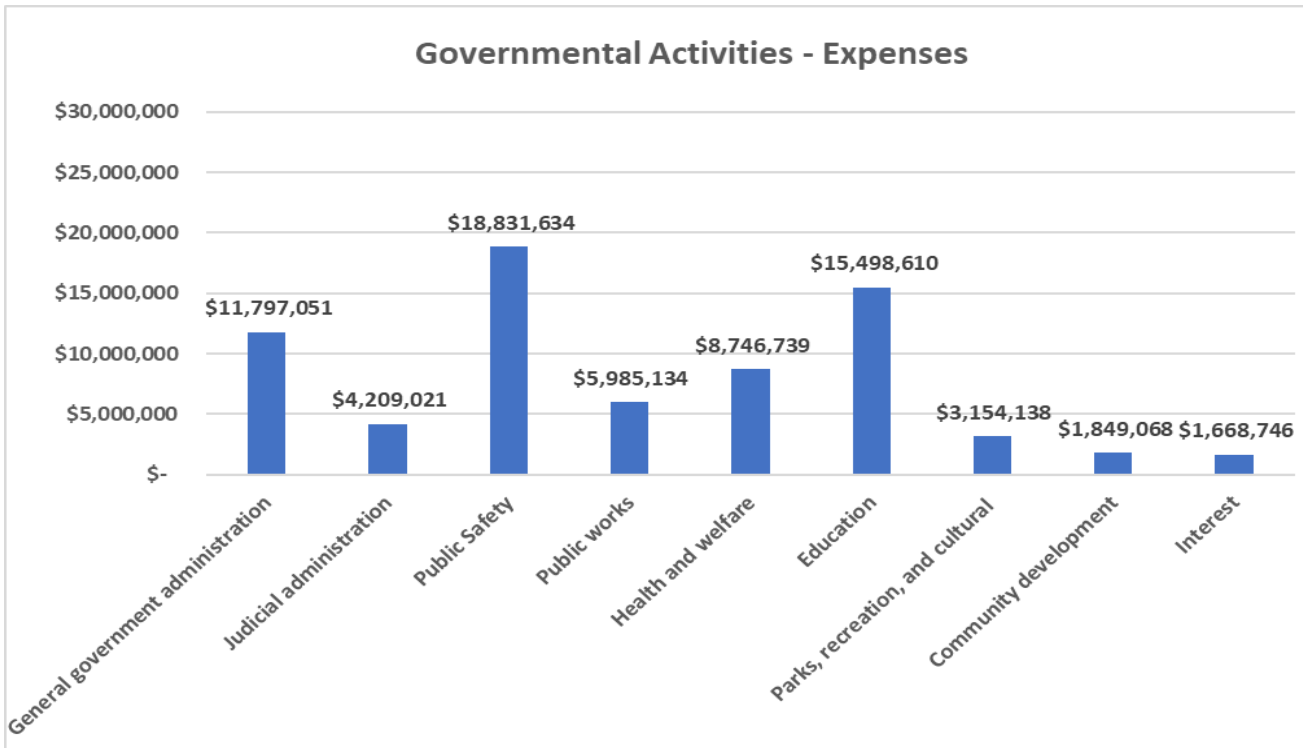
Statement of Activities (Exhibit 2) reflects the City's revenue and expenses for its Governmental and Business-Type Activities. Below is a breakout of the major sources of revenue for the City's Governmental Activities.



Basic Financial Statements Government –wide cont.

Statement of Activities (continued)

The below reflects the City's expenses for each of its major functions within its Governmental Activities.



Basic Financial Statements Governmental Funds

Balance Sheet

Governmental Funds (Exhibit 3) is comprised of three (3) funds/fund groups:

- General Fund Primary or chief operating fund of the City.
- Capital Projects Fund Accounts for all of constructions projects for general public improvements excluding those of the business type activities.
- Non-Major Funds Comprised of the Special Revenue and Permanent Funds and accounts for and reports on the use of fund in accordance with their specific purposes.

Condensed Balance Sheet

Virginia Public

as of June 30, 2025	General Fund	Assistance	Capital Projects	Non-Major Funds	Total
Assets	74,622,630	11,560	6,041,943	474,749	81,139,322
Liabilities	9,331,065	567,565	9,029,607	408,193	18,768,865
Deffered Inflows of Resources	21,788,657				21,788,657
	31,119,722		9,029,607	408,193	40,557,522
Fund Balance	43,502,908	11,560	(2,987,664)	66,556	40,581,800



Basic Financial Statements Governmental Funds

Understanding fund balance:

In the governmental fund financial statements, fund balance may be composed of five classifications and are mitigating financial risk, maintaining stable tax rates, and addressing cash flow timing. For purposes of fund balance classification, expenditures are to be spent from restricted fund balance first, followed in order by committed fund balance, assigned fund balance, and lastly unassigned fund balance. While the GFOA recommends a minimum of two months of operating expenditures, Moody's Investors Service often looks for 15% to 30% of revenues for a "Aa" rating.

The governmental fund types classify fund balances as follows:

1. **Nonspendable Fund Balance** – This classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form (e.g., inventory) or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact (e.g., long-term amount of loans/note receivable).
2. **Restricted Fund Balance** – This classification includes amounts that are restricted to specific purposes by external parties, constitutional provisions, or imposed by creditors (e.g., bond covenants).
3. **Committed Fund Balance** – This portion of fund balance can only be used for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the City's highest level of decision-making authority, the City Council, before the close of the fiscal year and by majority vote of the City Council.
4. **Assigned Fund Balance** – The portion of fund balance that the City intends to use for specific purposes as expressed by the governing body itself, the budget document, or delegated official, the City Manager. - Specifically, the Rainy Day Emergency/Stabilization Reserve was approved by Council in 2003 and was created by segregating a portion of the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance. The purpose of this reserve is to provide an easy mechanism to tap reserves to address temporary revenue shortfalls resulting from temporary circumstances (e.g. economic cycles, weather-related emergencies, etc.). **Unassigned Fund Balance** – The portion of the fund balance available for any purpose. Includes all spendable amounts not classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, or assigned.

****Fund balance is not synonymous with cash, as it includes non-cash assets, such as receivables, and represents a point-in-time calculation****



Basic Financial Statements Governmental Funds

Financial Policy Reserves:

Unassigned Fund Balance (General Fund only) of 20% or \$10.9M

- Meets cyclical cash flow needs to avoid revenue anticipation notes
- Allows funding for unforeseen loss of revenues or increase in expenditures

Budget Stabilization Fund of 5% or \$2.7M

- Committed Fund Balance
- Used for emergency expenditures or revenue declines after use of Unassigned Fund Balance

Replenishment of Fund Balances (Unassigned and Stabilization)

- Within 24 months of use

Debt Service/Capital Reserve of \$3 Million (minimum)

- Used to mitigate impact of new capital projects or debt on GF budget
- Total needed evaluated on annual basis



Basic Financial Statements Governmental Funds

Balance Sheet (continued)

as of June 30, 2025	Total Fund Balance				Total
	General Fund	Assistance	Capital Projects	Non-Major Funds	
Nonspendable	2,106,954		697,223		2,804,177
Restricted					-
Committed	6,959,111			58,601	7,017,712
Unassigned	34,436,840	(556,005)	(3,684,887)	7,955	30,203,903
Total Fund Balance	43,502,905	(556,005)	(2,987,664)	66,556	40,025,792

The “Unassigned” fund balance for the General Fund is **\$34,436,840** in FY 2025



Basic Financial Statements Governmental Funds

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance

The **Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance** (Exhibit 5) shows the City's revenues by source, expenditures categorized by the City's major functions or programs, and other financing sources (uses) and transfers for its Governmental Funds. This statement is also known as the **Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position** (Exhibit 7) for Proprietary Funds and the **Statement of Activities** (Exhibit 2) for the Governmentwide financials.

Condensed Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Change in Fund Balance

	Virginia Public			Other	Total
	General	Assistance	Capital Projects	Governmental Funds	
as of June 30, 2025					
Revenue	67,014,202	5,289,031	4,945,898	622,258	77,871,389
Expenditures	59,211,039	6,839,014	10,223,099	2,315,698	78,588,850
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over (under) Expenditures	7,803,163	(1,549,983)	(5,277,201)	(1,693,440)	(717,461)
Other Financing Sources (Uses) - Transfers in (Out)	(7,382,214)	1,115,276	4,165,938	2,101,000	-
Payment to Bond Escrow agent, Issuance (Discount) of/on Debt					
Changes in Fund Balance	420,949	(434,707)	(1,111,263)	407,560	(717,461)
Fund Balance at the Beginning of Year	43,081,959	(121,298)	(1,876,401)	(341,004)	40,743,256
Fund Balance at End of Year	43,502,908	(56,005)	(2,987,664)	66,556	40,025,795

Highlight:

Revenues exceeded Expenditures in the General Fund by **\$7,803,163** or by more than 12%



Basic Financial Statements Proprietary Funds

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

Proprietary Funds includes information on the City's Hopewell Regional Water, Sewer, Solid Waste, Stormwater and the Beacon Theatre operations.

The **Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position** (Exhibit 8) shows the City's revenues and expenses categorized between operating, non-operating and other related activities for its Proprietary Funds or Business-Type Activities.

Condensed Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Change in Net Position

	Hopewell Regional					Total
as of June 30, 2025	Water	Sewer Fund	Solid Waste	Stormwater	Beacon	
Operating Revenues	22,941,612	8,016,192	1,955,063	730,780	1,607,045	35,250,692
Operating Expenses	24,929,667	9,578,647	3,569,354	1,246,349	1,618,264	40,942,281
Operating Income (Loss)	(1,988,055)	(1,562,455)	(1,614,291)	(515,569)	(11,219)	(5,691,589)
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)						
Investment Earnings	46,862	472,034	26,198			545,094
Governmental grants	-			254,771		254,771
Miscellaneous revenue	-					-
Interest Expense	(215,832)	(946,199)				(1,162,031)
Income (Loss) before contribution and transfers	(168,970)	(474,165)	26,198	254,771	-	(362,166)
Changes in Net Position	(2,157,025)	(2,036,620)	(1,588,093)	(260,798)	(11,219)	(6,053,755)
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	77,871,806	29,500,160	1,356,667	794,022	4,074,121	113,596,776
Fund Balance at End of Year	75,714,781	27,463,540	(231,426)	533,224	4,062,902	107,543,021



Basic Financial Statements Proprietary Funds

Statement of Cash Flows



Statement of Cash Flows (Exhibit 9) provides information about City's sources (receipts) and uses (payments) of cash during the fiscal year. It classifies sources and uses of cash into four categories, assists in determining whether the City has the ability to generate future net cash flows to meet its obligations as they come due, and assists in determining the need for external financing. Statement of Cash Flows only exists for the Proprietary Funds or the Business-Like Activities.



Notes to the Financial Statements

Long-Term Obligations

Of \$86,237,614 in total obligation or liability (Note 7) , **\$21,808,843** was in General Obligation Bonds backed by the full faith and credit of the City. Of the total obligation or liability, \$2,397,820 was due and payable within one (1) year. The breakdown across Governmental and Business-Type Activities (i.e., Sewer operations) is below.

Condensed Note 7 - Long term Obligations

as of June 30, 2025			Business-Type Activities	
	Governmental	School Board	Sewer	Total
General Obligation (GO) Bonds	21,808,843	7,212,304	24,180,000	53,201,147
Revenue Bonds			404,144	
Landfill closure liability	722,210			
Premium (Discount) on Bonds Payable				
Net Pension Liability	11,243,677		2,303,568	
Net OPEB Liability	14,076,425		2,730,241	
Compensated Absences	1,412,795		143,407	
Total Long Term Obligations	49,263,950	7,212,304	29,761,360	86,237,614
Due within 1 year	369,581	590,061	1,438,178	2,397,820



Supplementary Information

Budgetary Data

General Fund Budget and Actual information (Exhibit 12) is presented for every source of revenue and category of expenditure by major function or program in the General Fund inclusive of Debt Service and Transfers.

Pension Data

Net Pension Liability, Employer Contributions, and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) information is presented in the supplementary information section.

Combining Statements, Non-Major Funds, Supporting Schedules

This section includes combining statements for non-major funds. Non-major funds include both Special Revenue Funds (SRF) such as federal and state project funds, community development act funds (CDBG) and stormwater funds, as well as, Permanent Funds such as Cemetery Perpetual Care funds, it also includes Agency Funds such as Special Welfare funds. This section also includes Budget and Actual supporting schedules.



Conclusion

QUESTIONS?

Proclamation
City Council of Hopewell, Virginia
Recognizing "Business Name"

- Whereas* *Small businesses serve as the backbone of the City of Hopewell's economy, providing essential goods and services, job creation, and contributing to the vitality and character of our economy; and*
- Whereas* *The success and longevity of a business over five decades is a remarkable achievement that reflects resilience, adaptability, and an enduring commitment to excellence; and*
- Whereas* *Businesses that have operated continuously in the City of Hopewell for 50 years or more have demonstrated unwavering dedication to serving generations of residents, fostering community relationships, and strengthening the local economy; and*
- Whereas* *These long-standing establishments have played a vital role in shaping the identity and history of Hopewell, often becoming trusted institutions and cornerstones within the community; and*
- Whereas* *The City of Hopewell recognizes the perseverance, innovation, and hard work of business owners, employees, and their families who have sustained these enterprises through changing economic conditions and evolving markets; and*
- Whereas* *It is fitting and proper to formally recognize and celebrate these businesses for their lasting contributions and continued investment in the City of Hopewell.*

**NOW,
THEREFORE**

I, Johnny Partin, and Rita Joyner, Mayor and Vice Mayor, and all Council Members, of Hopewell, Virginia, hereby recognizes and honors those businesses that have operated continuously within the City for 50 years or more as of 2026, and extends its sincere appreciation for their enduring service, commitment, and positive impact on the community; and the City of Hopewell encourages all residents to join in celebrating and supporting these distinguished businesses that represent the strength, heritage, and spirit of our city.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Hopewell in the Commonwealth of Virginia this 26th day of May 2026.

Johnny Partin, Mayor and Ward 3 Councilor

Debt and Rating Overview

Davenport & Company LLC



City of Hopewell, VA

May 15, 2026

Tax-Supported Bonds Outstanding



Date / Issue	Original Par Amount	Outstanding as of June 30, 2025	Interest Rate(s)	Put Date	Final Maturity
1 General Obligations Bonds					
2 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2025	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	4.910%	N/A	January 15, 2046
3 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015B**	16,710,000	13,705,000	3.460%	July 15, 2030	July 15, 2034
4 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2015A	2,500,000	923,511	2.275%	N/A	January 15, 2030
5 General Obligation Refunding Bond, Series 2013A	2,265,000	1,465,000	2.100%	N/A	July 15, 2028
6 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bond, Series 2013B	895,000	455,000	3.630%	N/A	July 15, 2028
7 General Obligation Bond, Series 2013C	7,700,000	5,710,000	3.040%	July 15, 2028	July 15, 2038
8 General Obligation Public Improvement and Refunding Bonds, Series 2011	5,080,000	2,150,000	2.000% - 5.000%	N/A	May 1, 2036
9 Series 2011 QSCB	5,000,000	833,333	0.000%	N/A	June 1, 2027
10 Series 2010 QSCB	7,635,000	1,095,000	0.000%	N/A	June 1, 2027
11 Taxable General Obligation Public Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series 2008B	4,480,000	2,630,000	4.250% - 6.375%	N/A	July 15, 2034
12 Series 2005D VPSA	858,896	54,301	4.600% - 5.100%	N/A	July 15, 2025
13	Total \$	68,123,896	\$	44,021,145	

** Make-Whole Call

Purpose of Issuance



2025 Bonds

Finance various City projects

2015B Bonds

Refunded 2008A 2009A

2015A Bonds

Acquisition and initial installation of a new public safety communication systems in an existing public safety building

2013A Bonds

Refunded 2008A 2009A

2013B Bonds

Refunded 2008B

2013 Bonds

Public safety building

2011 Bonds

Renovations to Hopewell High School
Refunded 2002A 1999

2011 QSCB

Capital improvements to Hopewell High School

2010 QSCB

Capital improvements to Hopewell High School

2008B Bonds

Refunded 2004B

2005D VPSA Bonds

Capital projects for school purposes

Some maturities in this series are currently outstanding

All maturities in this series have been refunded

Purpose of Issuance



2009A Bonds

Construction of a new Human Services Building and improvements to the City's high school

2009B Bonds

Refunded 1998 1999 2002A

2009 QZAB

Improvements to the City's school system, including energy efficiency renovations to Hopewell High School

2008A Bonds

Refunded 2004A

2004B Bonds

Finance the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, renovation and equipping of various public improvements within and around the downtown area of the City, which may include without limitation, a new main library for the Appomattox Regional Library System, and streetscape improvements.

2004A Bonds

Finance the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, renovation and equipping of various public improvements within and around the downtown area of the City, which may include without limitation, apartment building redevelopment, and the adaptive re-use of the Mallonee Building.

2002A Bonds

Finance the costs of environmental remediation and demolition of an industrial site

2001B VPSA Bonds

Capital projects for school purposes

2001 Literary Loan

Patrick Copeland Elementary

1999 Bonds

Various capital improvements for public safety as well as the acquisition of certain computer and related equipment

1998 Bonds

Refunded 1992 Bonds

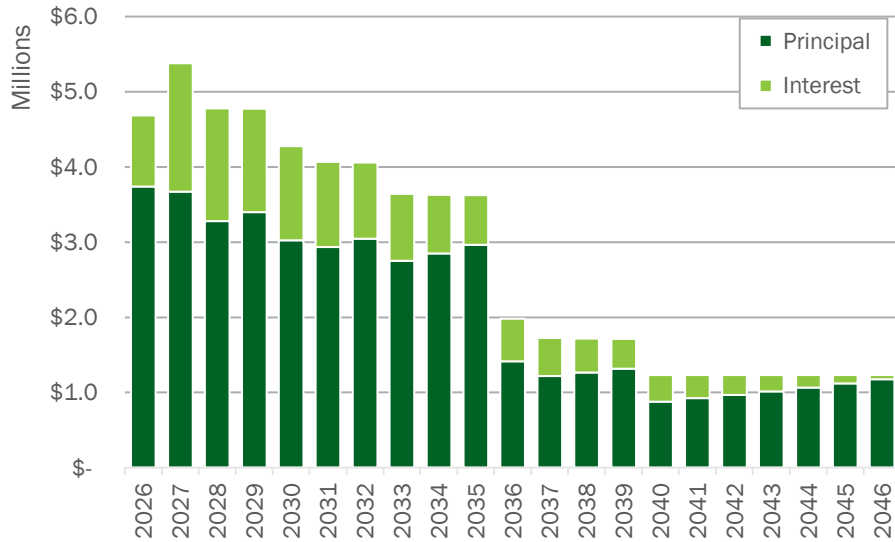
1992 Bonds

Various public improvements

Some maturities in this series are currently outstanding

All maturities in this series have been refunded

Tax-Supported Debt Service



- Current Payout Ratio: 71.91%
- The City has reduced its tax-supported debt by approximately \$34.2 million since 2015.

FY	Principal	Interest	Total
Total	\$ 44,021,145	\$ 14,635,796	\$ 58,656,941
06/30/26	3,737,455	947,439	4,684,893
06/30/27	3,672,169	1,705,052	5,377,221
06/30/28	3,279,609	1,495,468	4,775,077
06/30/29	3,398,809	1,372,944	4,771,753
06/30/30	3,023,104	1,251,547	4,274,651
06/30/31	2,935,000	1,131,470	4,066,470
06/30/32	3,045,000	1,010,838	4,055,838
06/30/33	2,750,000	892,684	3,642,684
06/30/34	2,850,000	777,062	3,627,062
06/30/35	2,965,000	656,939	3,621,939
06/30/36	1,415,000	565,558	1,980,558
06/30/37	1,220,000	504,643	1,724,643
06/30/38	1,265,000	453,097	1,718,097
06/30/39	1,315,000	399,529	1,714,529
06/30/40	880,000	351,065	1,231,065
06/30/41	925,000	307,857	1,232,857
06/30/42	970,000	262,440	1,232,440
06/30/43	1,015,000	214,813	1,229,813
06/30/44	1,065,000	164,976	1,229,976
06/30/45	1,120,000	112,685	1,232,685
06/30/46	1,175,000	57,693	1,232,693

Note: Existing Tax-Supported Debt Service does not include lease revenue credits of \$200,000 per year related to two series paid from School Fund.

Tax-Supported Debt Service



FY	Existing City G.O. Debt Service			Existing Schools G.O. Debt Service			Existing Tax-Supported Debt Service		
	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total
Total	\$ 36,808,844	\$ 13,437,355	\$ 50,246,198	\$ 7,212,302	\$ 1,198,441	\$ 8,410,743	\$ 44,021,145	\$ 14,635,796	\$ 58,656,941
06/30/26	2,270,992	741,083	3,012,075	1,466,463	206,356	1,672,819	3,737,455	947,439	4,684,893
06/30/27	2,241,018	1,516,525	3,757,543	1,431,150	188,527	1,619,678	3,672,169	1,705,052	5,377,221
06/30/28	2,802,260	1,325,612	4,127,872	477,349	169,856	647,205	3,279,609	1,495,468	4,775,077
06/30/29	2,902,472	1,222,300	4,124,772	496,337	150,643	646,980	3,398,809	1,372,944	4,771,753
06/30/30	2,507,778	1,120,927	3,628,706	515,326	130,620	645,945	3,023,104	1,251,547	4,274,651
06/30/31	2,400,686	1,021,686	3,422,372	534,314	109,785	644,099	2,935,000	1,131,470	4,066,470
06/30/32	2,494,450	922,737	3,417,188	550,550	88,100	638,650	3,045,000	1,010,838	4,055,838
06/30/33	2,267,594	825,275	3,092,868	482,406	67,410	549,816	2,750,000	892,684	3,642,684
06/30/34	2,354,729	729,253	3,083,982	495,271	47,809	543,080	2,850,000	777,062	3,627,062
06/30/35	2,446,864	629,241	3,076,105	518,136	27,698	545,834	2,965,000	656,939	3,621,939
06/30/36	1,170,000	553,920	1,723,920	245,000	11,638	256,638	1,415,000	565,558	1,980,558
06/30/37	1,220,000	504,643	1,724,643	-	-	-	1,220,000	504,643	1,724,643
06/30/38	1,265,000	453,097	1,718,097	-	-	-	1,265,000	453,097	1,718,097
06/30/39	1,315,000	399,529	1,714,529	-	-	-	1,315,000	399,529	1,714,529
06/30/40	880,000	351,065	1,231,065	-	-	-	880,000	351,065	1,231,065
06/30/41	925,000	307,857	1,232,857	-	-	-	925,000	307,857	1,232,857
06/30/42	970,000	262,440	1,232,440	-	-	-	970,000	262,440	1,232,440
06/30/43	1,015,000	214,813	1,229,813	-	-	-	1,015,000	214,813	1,229,813
06/30/44	1,065,000	164,976	1,229,976	-	-	-	1,065,000	164,976	1,229,976
06/30/45	1,120,000	112,685	1,232,685	-	-	-	1,120,000	112,685	1,232,685
06/30/46	1,175,000	57,693	1,232,693	-	-	-	1,175,000	57,693	1,232,693

Note: Existing Tax-Supported Debt Service does not include lease revenue credits of \$200,000 per year related to two series paid from School Fund.

General Obligation Credit Rating History



Year	Moody's		S&P		Fitch	
	Rating	Comment	Rating	Comment	Rating	Comment
1989	A1	Affirmed				
1992	A1	Affirmed				
1995	A	Refined				
1998	A2	Refined	A	Initial	A+	Initial
1999	A2	Affirmed	A	Affirmed		
2004	A2	Affirmed	A	Affirmed	A+	Affirmed
2008	A2	Affirmed	A+	Upgrade	A+	Affirmed
2009	A2	Affirmed	A+	Affirmed	A+	Affirmed
2010	Aa3	Change of Scale	A+	Affirmed	A+	Affirmed
2011	Aa3	Affirmed	A+	Affirmed	AA-	Upgrade
2013					AA-	Affirmed
2014			AA	Upgrade		
2015					AA-	Affirmed
2017	Withdrawn	Withdrawn			AA-	Negative Watch
2018			Withdrawn	Withdrawn	Withdrawn	Withdrawn

Utility Bonds Outstanding



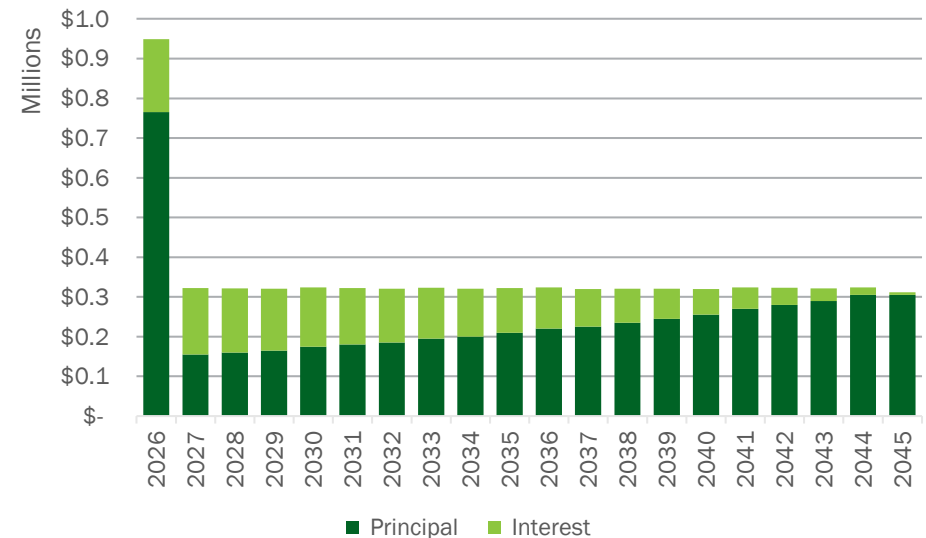
Date / Issue	Original Par Amount	Outstanding as of June 30, 2025	Interest Rate(s)	Final Maturity
1 Regional Wastewater Bonds				
2 Series 2015D VPFP-Regional Wastewater	\$ 5,445,000	\$ 615,000	0.957% - 3.374%	October 1, 2025
3 Series 2014 VPFP-Regional Wastewater	5,675,000	4,405,000	2.125% - 4.125%	October 1, 2044
4 Total	\$ 11,120,000	\$ 5,020,000		
5 Sewer System Bonds				
6 Series 2011A City Sewer System	\$ 18,210,000	\$ 16,130,000	2.000% - 5.000%	July 15, 2042
7 Series 2010 City Sewer System	4,160,000	3,030,000	2.000% - 5.125%	July 15, 2041
8 Total	\$ 22,370,000	\$ 19,160,000		

Regional Wastewater Debt Service



Existing Regional Wastewater Debt Service

FY	Principal	Interest	Total
Total	\$ 5,020,000	\$ 2,035,171	\$ 7,055,171
06/30/26	765,000	183,662	948,662
06/30/27	155,000	167,591	322,591
06/30/28	160,000	161,713	321,713
06/30/29	165,000	155,653	320,653
06/30/30	175,000	149,328	324,328
06/30/31	180,000	142,588	322,588
06/30/32	185,000	135,516	320,516
06/30/33	195,000	128,153	323,153
06/30/34	200,000	120,500	320,500
06/30/35	210,000	112,556	322,556
06/30/36	220,000	103,950	323,950
06/30/37	225,000	94,772	319,772
06/30/38	235,000	85,284	320,284
06/30/39	245,000	75,384	320,384
06/30/40	255,000	65,072	320,072
06/30/41	270,000	54,244	324,244
06/30/42	280,000	42,900	322,900
06/30/43	290,000	31,144	321,144
06/30/44	305,000	18,872	323,872
06/30/45	305,000	6,291	311,291

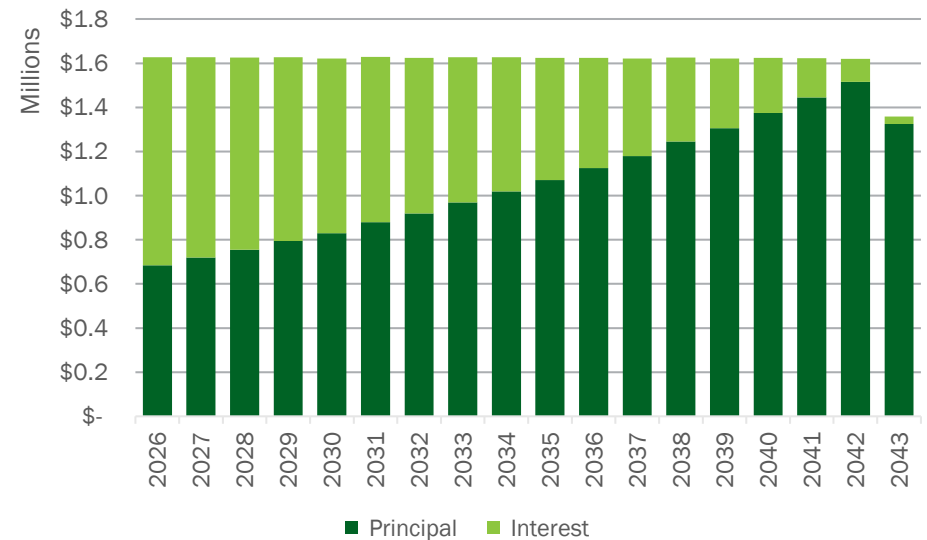


Sewer System Debt Service



Existing Sewer System Debt Service

FY	Principal	Interest	Total
Total	\$ 19,160,000	\$ 9,820,241	\$ 28,980,241
06/30/26	685,000	942,519	1,627,519
06/30/27	720,000	907,919	1,627,919
06/30/28	755,000	871,044	1,626,044
06/30/29	795,000	832,294	1,627,294
06/30/30	830,000	791,669	1,621,669
06/30/31	880,000	748,919	1,628,919
06/30/32	920,000	703,919	1,623,919
06/30/33	970,000	656,669	1,626,669
06/30/34	1,020,000	606,919	1,626,919
06/30/35	1,070,000	554,556	1,624,556
06/30/36	1,125,000	499,450	1,624,450
06/30/37	1,180,000	441,581	1,621,581
06/30/38	1,245,000	380,700	1,625,700
06/30/39	1,305,000	316,681	1,621,681
06/30/40	1,375,000	249,397	1,624,397
06/30/41	1,445,000	178,597	1,623,597
06/30/42	1,515,000	104,284	1,619,284
06/30/43	1,325,000	33,125	1,358,125



Sewer System Credit Rating History



Year	Moody's		S&P		Fitch	
	Rating	Comment	Rating	Comment	Rating	Comment
2009	MIG 1	Initial	SP-1+	Initial	F1+	Initial
2010	A1	Initial	A+	Initial	AA-	Initial
2011	A1	Affirmed	AA-	Upgrade	AA-	Affirmed
2013					AA-	Affirmed
2015	A2	Downgrade	A+	Downgrade		
2017	Withdrawn	Withdrawn	Withdrawn	Withdrawn	A+	Downgrade/ Negative Watch
2018					Withdrawn	Withdrawn



Moody's Rating Methodology Discussion

Rating Agency Commentary – Moody's (5/2/2017)



Rating Overview

- Credit Strengths:
 - Moderately sized tax base
 - Average wealth levels

- Credit Challenges:
 - Highly concentrated tax base
 - Decreased levels of financial reserves
 - Delayed reporting of audited information

- Factors that Could Lead to an Upgrade:
 - Tax base expansion and diversification
 - Significant improvement of cash and fund balance levels

- Factors that Could Lead to a Downgrade:
 - Further tax base deterioration
 - Diminishing financial reserves and position
 - Additional debt issuance that increases debt burden and debt service costs

U.S. PUBLIC FINANCE

MOODY'S

INVESTORS SERVICE

CREDIT OPINION
2 May 2017

Update

Rate this Research >>

Hopewell (City of), VA
Update - Moody's Confirms Aa3 Underlying and Aa2 Enhanced on Hopewell, VA GO's

Summary Rating Rationale
Moody's Investors Service has confirmed the Aa3 underlying rating on the City of Hopewell, VA's \$57.9 million in outstanding GO debt, as well as the enhanced Aa2 rating with a stable outlook on the city's Series 2009 A & B bonds. The city's GO rating was placed under review on February 24, 2017 due to the lack of sufficient financial information for fiscal 2015. The confirmation of the ratings is driven by the receipt of preliminary unaudited fiscal 2015 results. This action concludes the review.

The underlying Aa3 rating reflects the city's moderately sized tax base with average wealth and income levels, balanced operations, and adequate reserve levels.

The Aa2 enhanced rating reflects The Virginia Localities Intercept Program, authorized by Section 15.2-2659 of the Code of Virginia, which directs the [Commonwealth of Virginia's](#) (Aaa stable) comptroller to cure any general obligation payment delinquency by appropriating all necessary future payments of state aid due the locality. Although the intercept takes effect after a default has occurred, Moody's believes that the program's sound mechanics and the ample liquidity of the commonwealth significantly increase the likelihood of recovery should a scheduled debt service payment be missed. Credit considerations include availability of funds, timing of state aid payments, state aid trend, strength of notification requirement, and timing between notification and intercept. The city's current state aid allocation is above 1.5 times annual debt service payments due on all general obligation debt. Also, the city will pay its debt service by a paying agent, who will promptly notify the commonwealth if there is a default.

Credit Strengths

- » Moderately sized tax base
- » Average wealth levels

Credit Challenges

- » Highly concentrated tax base
- » Decreased levels of financial reserves
- » Delayed reporting of audited financial information

Contacts

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Thomas Jacobs Senior Vice President thomas.jacobs@moody.com	212-553-0131

Moody's US Cities and Counties Methodology



- Moody's Investor Services adopted their new methodology on November 2, 2022 with the following changes:

1) Key Scorecard Changes

- Update to scorecard inputs/ratios, particularly for Economy and Debt/Leverage.
- Changes in factor weightings (as shown on the following page).
- Calculations include all Funds – Total Governmental and Business-Type.

2) Notching Factors

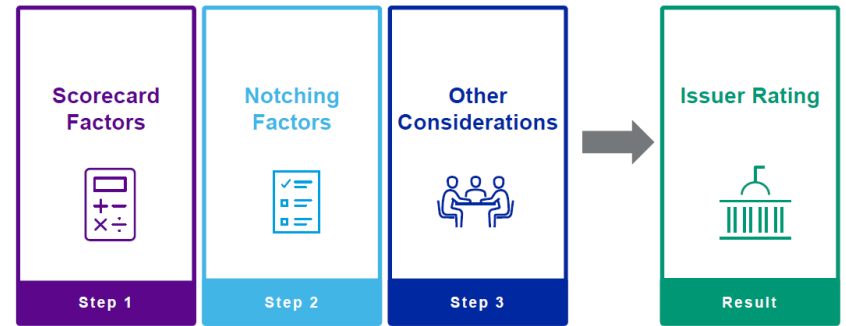
- Notching factors reduced from 16 to 5 as follows:
 - Additional strength in local resources (management/governance).
 - Limited scale of operations (size of local government).
 - Financial disclosures (financial statements not in conformity with GASB).
 - Potential cost shift to or from the State.
 - Potential for significant increase in leverage (material exposure to pension asset risk, increase in unfunded liabilities, or heavily depreciated capital assets).

3) Other Considerations

- While the defined notching factors have been reduced, a new category for other considerations will allow for any other factor deemed appropriate by the rating analysts and committee to be considered in the rating outcome.

Adopted Moody's Rating Methodology

Arriving at the issuer rating



Moody's Issuer Rating Scorecard



Issuer Rating Scorecard	
1. Economy	
Resident Income	10%
Full Value Per Capita	10%
Economic Growth	10%
Subtotal	30%
2. Financial Performance (All Funds) ⁽²⁾	
Available Fund Balance Ratio	20%
Liquidity Ratio	10%
Subtotal	30%
3. Institutional Framework	
Institutional Framework	10%
Subtotal	10%
4. Leverage (All Funds) ⁽²⁾	
Long-Term Liabilities Ratio	20%
Fixed-Costs Ratio	10%
Subtotal	30%
Grand Total	100%

⁽¹⁾ If an Issuer is located within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (“MSA”), the MSA data is utilized. Otherwise, State Rural Average is used for RPP and County GDP is used for Economic Growth.

⁽²⁾ Calculated using Governmental, Business Type and Internal Service Funds.

- **Resident Income**
 - Measures the ratio of an issuer’s Median Household Income adjusted for Regional Price Parity (“RPP”) ⁽¹⁾ to account for costs of living differences, divided by the US Median Household Income.
- **Economic Growth**
 - Measures the difference between the five-year compound annual growth rate in real gross domestic product of an Issuer’s local economy ⁽¹⁾ compared to the U.S.
- **Available Fund Balance Ratio**
 - Measures the ratio of the available fund balance for governmental funds plus net current assets for business-type activities and internal service funds, divided by total revenues.
- **Liquidity Ratio ⁽²⁾**
 - Measures the ratio of total liquidity (unrestricted cash), divided by total revenues.
- **Long-Term Liabilities Ratio ⁽²⁾**
 - Measures the ratio of the issuer’s total long-term liabilities, divided by total revenues.
- **Fixed-Costs Ratio ⁽²⁾**
 - Measures the ratio of adjusted fixed costs to total revenues. The adjusted fixed cost is the sum of an issuer’s implied debt service, its pension tread water indicator, its OPEB contributions and its implied carrying costs for other long-term liabilities. These metrics are calculated by Moody’s.

Estimated Moody's Scorecard Results

Based on City of Hopewell, VA 2020 ACFR



City of Hopewell, VA			Very Strong (Aaa)		Strong (Aa)		Moderate (A)		Weak (Baa)		Poor (Ba)		Score	Weight	Weighted Score
Numerical Score	Data As Of	Input	0.50	1.49	1.50	4.49	4.50	7.49	7.50	10.49	10.50	13.49			
1 Economy (30%)															
2	Resident Income	2023	63.3%	> 120.0%	120.0% >	> 100.0%	100.0% >	> 80.0%	80.0% >	> 65.0%	65.0% >	> 50.0%	10.85	10%	1.08
3	Full Value Per Capita	2020	93,343	> \$180,000	\$180,000 >	> \$100,000	\$100,000 >	> \$60,000	\$60,000 >	> \$40,000	\$40,000 >	> \$25,000	5.00	10%	0.50
4	Economic Growth	2023	-0.5%	> 0.0%	0.0% >	> -1.0%	-1.0% >	> -2.5%	-2.5% >	> -4.5%	-4.5% >	> -7.0%	2.98	10%	0.30
5 Financial Performance (30%)															
6	Available Fund Balance Ratio (%)	2020	54.1%	> 35.0%	35.0% >	> 25.0%	25.0% >	> 15.0%	15.0% >	> 5.0%	5.0% >	> 0.0%	0.50	20%	0.10
7	Liquidity Ratio (%)	2020	41.9%	> 40.0%	40.0% >	> 30.0%	30.0% >	> 20.0%	20.0% >	> 12.5%	12.5% >	> 5.0%	1.40	10%	0.14
8 Institutional Framework (10%)															
9	Institutional Framework		Aa	Very strong legal ability to match resources with spending	Strong legal ability to match resources with spending		Moderate legal ability to match resources with spending		Limited legal ability to match resources with spending		Poor legal ability to match resources with spending		3.00	10%	0.30
10 Leverage (30%)															
11	Long-Term Liability Ratio (%)	2020	176.7%	< 100.0%	100.0% <	< 200.0%	200.0% <	< 350.0%	350.0% <	< 500.0%	500.0% <	< 700.0%	3.80	20%	0.76
12	Fixed Costs Ratio (%)	2020	8.3%	< 10.0%	10.0% <	< 15.0%	15.0% <	< 20.0%	20.0% <	< 25.0%	25.0% <	< 35.0%	1.33	10%	0.13
13															
14	Total Score														3.31
15	Unadjusted Rating														Aa2

Notching Factors:

- Additional Strength in Local Resources: **No**
- Limited Scale of Operations: **No**
- Financial Disclosures: **No**
- Potential Cost Shift to or from the State: **No**
- Potential for Significant Change in Leverage: **No**

Moody's Rating Scorecard: Indicative Rating

HI	LO	Rating
0.50	1.50	Aaa
1.50	2.50	Aa1
2.50	3.50	Aa2
3.50	4.50	Aa3
4.50	5.50	A1
5.50	6.50	A2
6.50	7.50	A3

Estimated Moody's Scorecard Results

Based on City of Hopewell, VA 2021 ACFR



City of Hopewell, VA			Very Strong (Aaa)		Strong (Aa)		Moderate (A)		Weak (Baa)		Poor (Ba)		Score	Weight	Weighted Score
Numerical Score	Data As Of	Input	0.50	1.49	1.50	4.49	4.50	7.49	7.50	10.49	10.50	13.49			
1 Economy (30%)															
2	Resident Income	2023	63.3%	> 120.0%	120.0% >	> 100.0%	100.0% >	> 80.0%	80.0% >	> 65.0%	65.0% >	> 50.0%	10.85	10%	1.08
3	Full Value Per Capita	2021	98,313	> \$180,000	\$180,000 >	> \$100,000	\$100,000 >	> \$60,000	\$60,000 >	> \$40,000	\$40,000 >	> \$25,000	4.63	10%	0.46
4	Economic Growth	2023	-0.5%	> 0.0%	0.0% >	> -1.0%	-1.0% >	> -2.5%	-2.5% >	> -4.5%	-4.5% >	> -7.0%	2.98	10%	0.30
5 Financial Performance (30%)															
6	Available Fund Balance Ratio (%)	2021	59.2%	> 35.0%	35.0% >	> 25.0%	25.0% >	> 15.0%	15.0% >	> 5.0%	5.0% >	> 0.0%	0.50	20%	0.10
7	Liquidity Ratio (%)	2021	46.4%	> 40.0%	40.0% >	> 30.0%	30.0% >	> 20.0%	20.0% >	> 12.5%	12.5% >	> 5.0%	1.18	10%	0.12
8 Institutional Framework (10%)															
9	Institutional Framework		Aa	Very strong legal ability to match resources with spending	Strong legal ability to match resources with spending		Moderate legal ability to match resources with spending		Limited legal ability to match resources with spending		Poor legal ability to match resources with spending		3.00	10%	0.30
10 Leverage (30%)															
11	Long-Term Liability Ratio (%)	2021	183.6%	< 100.0%	100.0% <	< 200.0%	200.0% <	< 350.0%	350.0% <	< 500.0%	500.0% <	< 700.0%	4.01	20%	0.80
12	Fixed Costs Ratio (%)	2021	7.8%	< 10.0%	10.0% <	< 15.0%	15.0% <	< 20.0%	20.0% <	< 25.0%	25.0% <	< 35.0%	1.28	10%	0.13
13															
14	Total Score														3.29
15	Unadjusted Rating														Aa2

Notching Factors:

- Additional Strength in Local Resources: **No**
- Limited Scale of Operations: **No**
- Financial Disclosures: **No**
- Potential Cost Shift to or from the State: **No**
- Potential for Significant Change in Leverage: **No**

Moody's Rating Scorecard: Indicative Rating

HI	LO	Rating
0.50	1.50	Aaa
1.50	2.50	Aa1
2.50	3.50	Aa2
3.50	4.50	Aa3
4.50	5.50	A1
5.50	6.50	A2
6.50	7.50	A3

Estimated Moody's Scorecard Results

Based on City of Hopewell, VA 2023 ACFR



City of Hopewell, VA			Very Strong (Aaa)		Strong (Aa)		Moderate (A)		Weak (Baa)		Poor (Ba)		Score	Weight	Weighted Score
Numerical Score	Data As Of	Input	0.50	1.49	1.50	4.49	4.50	7.49	7.50	10.49	10.50	13.49			
Economy (30%)															
2	Resident Income	2023	63.3%	> 120.0%	120.0% >	> 100.0%	100.0% >	> 80.0%	80.0% >	> 65.0%	65.0% >	> 50.0%	10.85	10%	1.08
3	Full Value Per Capita	2023	93,842	> \$180,000	\$180,000 >	> \$100,000	\$100,000 >	> \$60,000	\$60,000 >	> \$40,000	\$40,000 >	> \$25,000	4.96	10%	0.50
4	Economic Growth	2023	-0.5%	> 0.0%	0.0% >	> -1.0%	-1.0% >	> -2.5%	-2.5% >	> -4.5%	-4.5% >	> -7.0%	2.98	10%	0.30
Financial Performance (30%)															
6	Available Fund Balance Ratio (%)	2023	52.0%	> 35.0%	35.0% >	> 25.0%	25.0% >	> 15.0%	15.0% >	> 5.0%	5.0% >	> 0.0%	0.50	20%	0.10
7	Liquidity Ratio (%)	2023	43.2%	> 40.0%	40.0% >	> 30.0%	30.0% >	> 20.0%	20.0% >	> 12.5%	12.5% >	> 5.0%	1.34	10%	0.13
Institutional Framework (10%)															
9	Institutional Framework		Aa	Very strong legal ability to match resources with spending	Strong legal ability to match resources with spending		Moderate legal ability to match resources with spending		Limited legal ability to match resources with spending		Poor legal ability to match resources with spending		3.00	10%	0.30
Leverage (30%)															
11	Long-Term Liability Ratio (%)	2023	167.2%	< 100.0%	100.0% <	< 200.0%	200.0% <	< 350.0%	350.0% <	< 500.0%	500.0% <	< 700.0%	3.52	20%	0.70
12	Fixed Costs Ratio (%)	2023	6.6%	< 10.0%	10.0% <	< 15.0%	15.0% <	< 20.0%	20.0% <	< 25.0%	25.0% <	< 35.0%	1.16	10%	0.12
13															
14	Total Score														3.23
15	Unadjusted Rating														Aa2

Notching Factors:

- Additional Strength in Local Resources: No
- Limited Scale of Operations: No
- Financial Disclosures: No
- Potential Cost Shift to or from the State: No
- Potential for Significant Change in Leverage: No

Moody's Rating Scorecard: Indicative Rating

HI	LO	Rating
0.50	1.50	Aaa
1.50	2.50	Aa1
2.50	3.50	Aa2
3.50	4.50	Aa3
4.50	5.50	A1
5.50	6.50	A2
6.50	7.50	A3

Estimated Moody's Scorecard Results

Based on City of Hopewell, VA 2024 ACFR



City of Hopewell, VA			Very Strong (Aaa)		Strong (Aa)		Moderate (A)		Weak (Baa)		Poor (Ba)		Score	Weight	Weighted Score
Numerical Score	Data As Of	Input	0.50	1.49	1.50	4.49	4.50	7.49	7.50	10.49	10.50	13.49			
1 Economy (30%)															
2 Resident Income	2024	68.5%	> 120.0%		120.0% >	> 100.0%	100.0% >	> 80.0%	80.0% >	> 65.0%	65.0% >	> 50.0%	9.79	10%	0.98
3 Full Value Per Capita	2024	119,991	> \$180,000		\$180,000 >	> \$100,000	\$100,000 >	> \$60,000	\$60,000 >	> \$40,000	\$40,000 >	> \$25,000	3.75	10%	0.38
4 Economic Growth	2024	-1.2%	> 0.0%		0.0% >	> -1.0%	-1.0% >	> -2.5%	-2.5% >	> -4.5%	-4.5% >	> -7.0%	4.96	10%	0.50
5 Financial Performance (30%)															
6 Available Fund Balance Ratio (%)	2024	40.0%	> 35.0%		35.0% >	> 25.0%	25.0% >	> 15.0%	15.0% >	> 5.0%	5.0% >	> 0.0%	1.17	20%	0.23
7 Liquidity Ratio (%)	2024	26.7%	> 40.0%		40.0% >	> 30.0%	30.0% >	> 20.0%	20.0% >	> 12.5%	12.5% >	> 5.0%	5.50	10%	0.55
8 Institutional Framework (10%)															
9 Institutional Framework		Aa	Very strong legal ability to match resources with spending		Strong legal ability to match resources with spending		Moderate legal ability to match resources with spending		Limited legal ability to match resources with spending		Poor legal ability to match resources with spending		3.00	10%	0.30
10 Leverage (30%)															
11 Long-Term Liability Ratio (%)	2024	136.7%	< 100.0%		100.0% <	< 200.0%	200.0% <	< 350.0%	350.0% <	< 500.0%	500.0% <	< 700.0%	2.60	20%	0.52
12 Fixed Costs Ratio (%)	2024	5.3%	< 10.0%		10.0% <	< 15.0%	15.0% <	< 20.0%	20.0% <	< 25.0%	25.0% <	< 35.0%	1.03	10%	0.10
13															
14 Total Score															3.56
15 Unadjusted Rating															Aa3

Notching Factors:

- Additional Strength in Local Resources: No
- Limited Scale of Operations: No
- Financial Disclosures: No
- Potential Cost Shift to or from the State: No
- Potential for Significant Change in Leverage: No

Moody's Rating Scorecard: Indicative Rating

HI	LO	Rating
0.50	1.50	Aaa
1.50	2.50	Aa1
2.50	3.50	Aa2
3.50	4.50	Aa3
4.50	5.50	A1
5.50	6.50	A2
6.50	7.50	A3

Estimated Moody's Scorecard Results

Based on City of Hopewell, VA 2025 ACFR



City of Hopewell, VA			Very Strong (Aaa)		Strong (Aa)		Moderate (A)		Weak (Baa)		Poor (Ba)		Score	Weight	Weighted Score
Numerical Score	Data As Of	Input	0.50	1.49	1.50	4.49	4.50	7.49	7.50	10.49	10.50	13.49			
Economy (30%)															
2	Resident Income	2024	68.5%	> 120.0%	120.0% >	> 100.0%	100.0% >	> 80.0%	80.0% >	> 65.0%	65.0% >	> 50.0%	9.79	10%	0.98
3	Full Value Per Capita	2024	138,529	> \$180,000	\$180,000 >	> \$100,000	\$100,000 >	> \$60,000	\$60,000 >	> \$40,000	\$40,000 >	> \$25,000	3.06	10%	0.31
4	Economic Growth	2024	-1.2%	> 0.0%	0.0% >	> -1.0%	-1.0% >	> -2.5%	-2.5% >	> -4.5%	-4.5% >	> -7.0%	4.96	10%	0.50
Financial Performance (30%)															
6	Available Fund Balance Ratio (%)	2025	50.7%	> 35.0%	35.0% >	> 25.0%	25.0% >	> 15.0%	15.0% >	> 5.0%	5.0% >	> 0.0%	0.50	20%	0.10
7	Liquidity Ratio (%)	2025	46.4%	> 40.0%	40.0% >	> 30.0%	30.0% >	> 20.0%	20.0% >	> 12.5%	12.5% >	> 5.0%	1.18	10%	0.12
Institutional Framework (10%)															
9	Institutional Framework		Aa	Very strong legal ability to match resources with spending	Strong legal ability to match resources with spending	Moderate legal ability to match resources with spending	Limited legal ability to match resources with spending	Poor legal ability to match resources with spending					3.00	10%	0.30
Leverage (30%)															
11	Long-Term Liability Ratio (%)	2025	90.3%	< 100.0%	100.0% <	< 200.0%	200.0% <	< 350.0%	350.0% <	< 500.0%	500.0% <	< 700.0%	1.40	20%	0.28
12	Fixed Costs Ratio (%)	2025	5.5%	< 10.0%	10.0% <	< 15.0%	15.0% <	< 20.0%	20.0% <	< 25.0%	25.0% <	< 35.0%	1.05	10%	0.11
13															
14	Total Score														2.70
15	Unadjusted Rating														Aa2

Notching Factors:

- Additional Strength in Local Resources: No
- Limited Scale of Operations: No
- Financial Disclosures: No
- Potential Cost Shift to or from the State: No
- Potential for Significant Change in Leverage: No

Moody's Rating Scorecard: Indicative Rating

HI	LO	Rating
0.50	1.50	Aaa
1.50	2.50	Aa1
2.50	3.50	Aa2
3.50	4.50	Aa3
4.50	5.50	A1
5.50	6.50	A2
6.50	7.50	A3

Moody's Scorecard Peer Comparison

Peer Data as of FY23



	% of total	City of Hopewell (2025 ACFR)	Peer Cities				Ranges for Categories			
			Chesterfield County	City of Richmond	City of Colonial Heights	City of Petersburg	Aaa	Aa	A & Below	
Economy (30%)										
Resident Income (%)	10%	68.5%	128.1%	81.2%	98.7%	65.7%	120-200%	100-120%	<100%	(Higher is better)
Full Value Per Capita	10%	138,529	172,830	153,083	117,557	73,655	180,000-400,000	100,000-180,000	<100,000	(Higher is better)
Economic Growth (%)	10%	-1.2%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%	0.00-2.00%	(1.00)-0.00%	<(1.00)%	(Higher is better)
Financial Performance (30%)										
Avail. Fund Balance Ratio (%)	20%	50.7%	93.8%	34.1%	35.2%	43.8%	35-50%	25-35%	<25%	(Higher is better)
Liquidity Ratio (%)	10%	46.4%	141.0%	53.1%	36.3%	60.0%	40-60%	30-40%	<30%	(Higher is better)
Institutional Framework (10%)										
Institutional Framework	10%	Aa	Aa	Aa	Aa	Aa				(Aa for Virginia Cities & Counties)
Leverage (30%)										
Long-Term Liability Ratio (%)	20%	90.3%	136.5%	166.9%	92.6%	98.4%	0-100%	100-200%	>200%	(Lower is better)
Fixed Costs Ratio (%)	10%	5.5%	9.1%	11.2%	5.8%	5.5%	0-10%	10-15%	>15%	(Lower is better)
Summary Metrics										
Raw Score		2.7	1.70	2.90	2.38	2.89	0.50-1.50	1.5-4.5	4.5-7.5	
Unadjusted Rating		Aa2	Aa1	Aa2	Aa1	Aa2	Aaa	Aa	A	
Current Senior Most Rating		Not Rated	Aaa	Aa1	WD	A1	Aaa	Aa	A	



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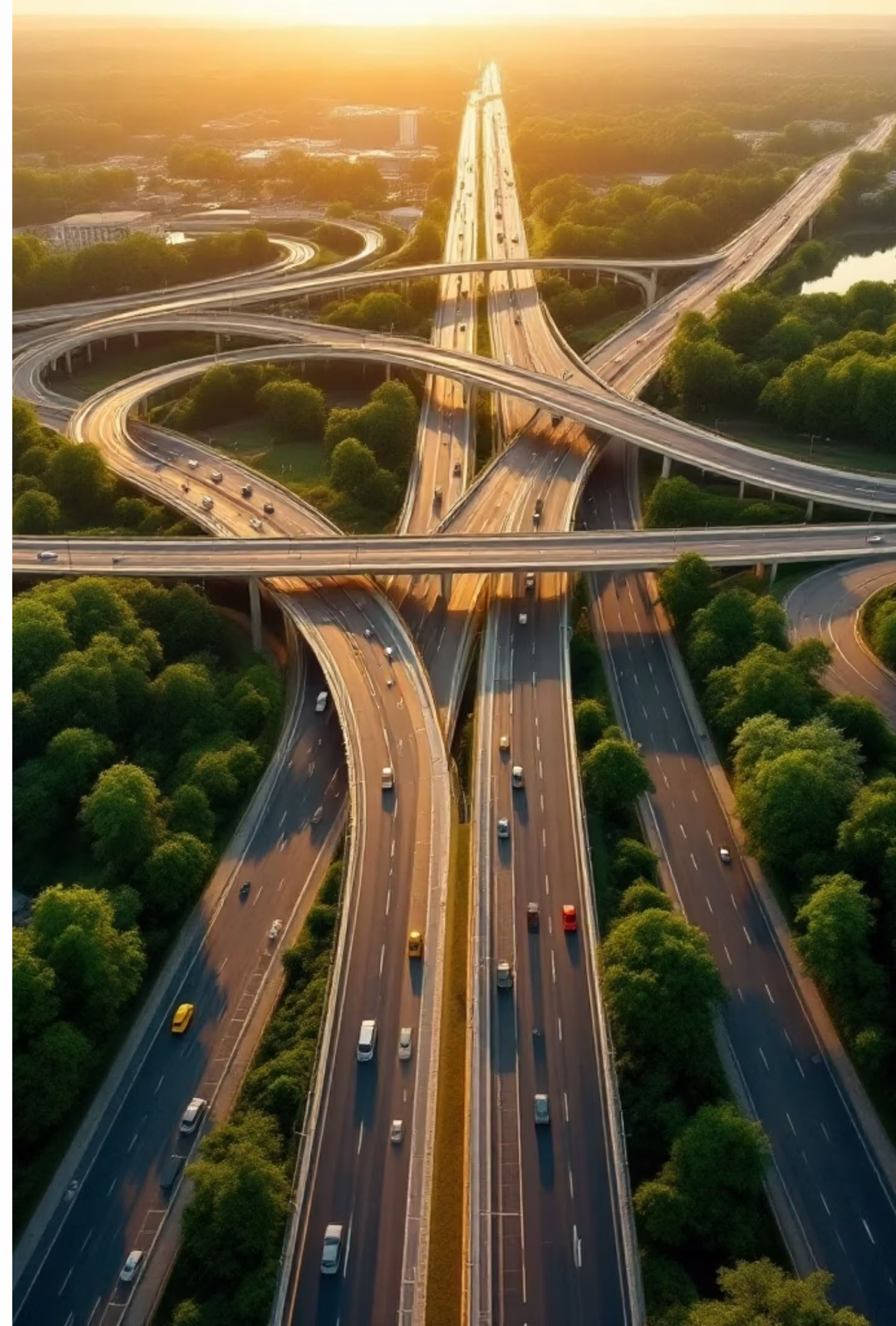
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One James Center, 901 East Cary Street, Richmond, VA 23221

South-Central Transportation Authority

A regional transportation framework and hub for Southside Virginia and the Commonwealth

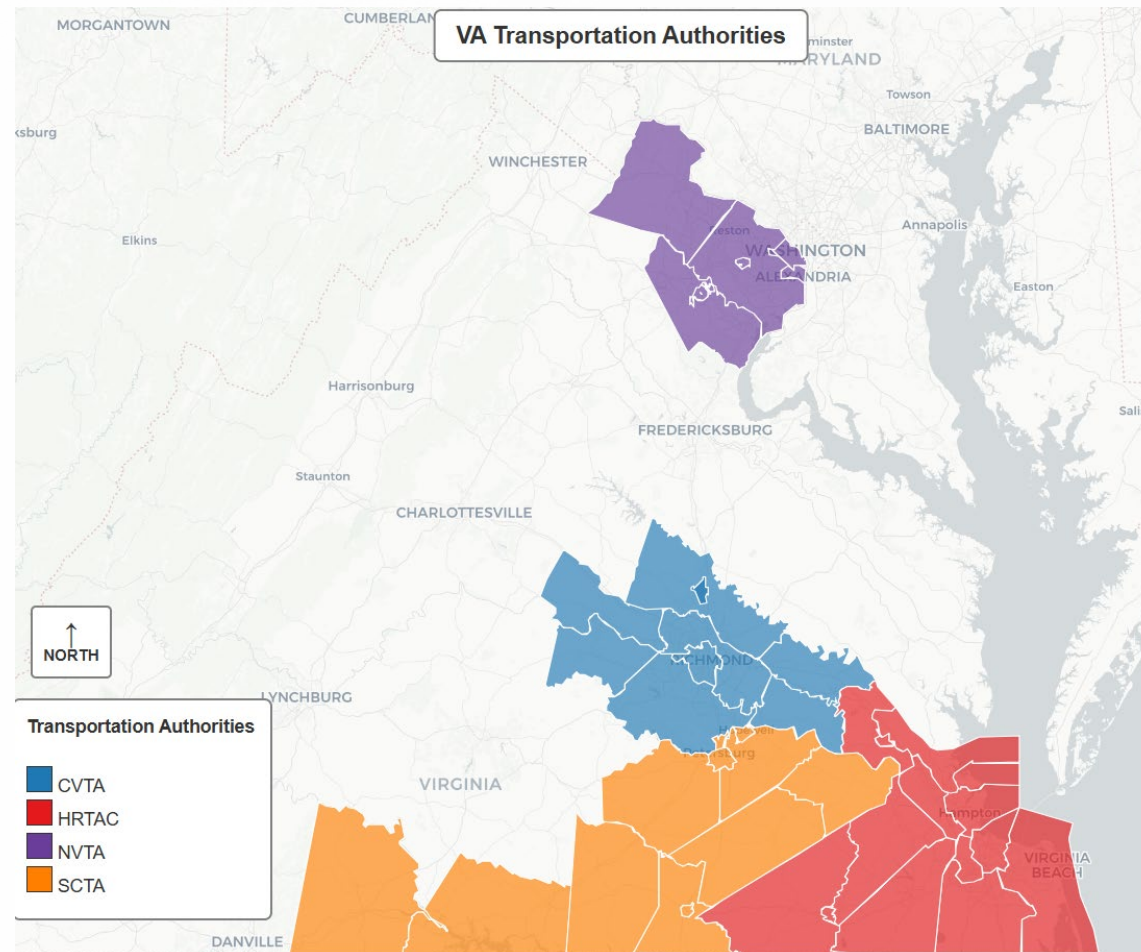


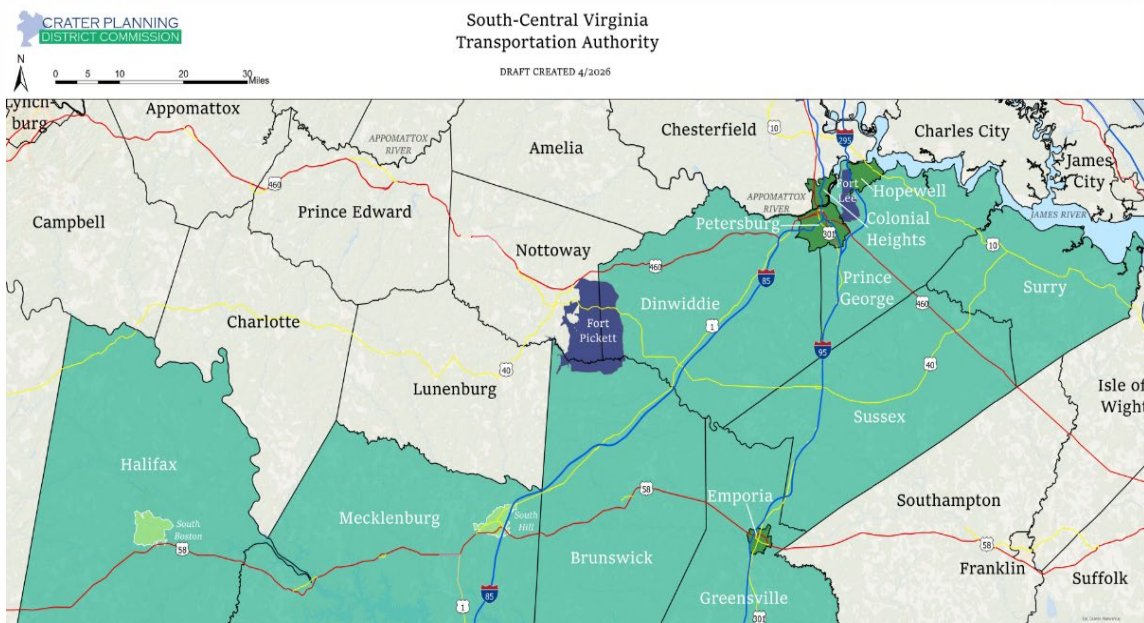
Transportation Authorities Across Virginia

Established Virginia Transportation Authorities

- Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)— Northern Virginia suburbs
- Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC)— Hampton Roads region
- Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA)— Richmond metro region

- The South-Central Transportation Authority to fund transportation projects in Virginia gateway, I-85, I-95, US-460, Rt. 58 south central Virginia region. The South-Central region would then join Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, and the Central Virginia Transportation Authority as Virginia's major areas with dedicated, regional transportation funding authority
 - Gives the region transportation opportunities for project funding that may not score high under Smart Scale but are critical for economic development & community/regional connectivity





Proposed SCTA Boundaries

The South-Central Transportation Authority would serve a multi-jurisdiction footprint anchored by the Crater Planning District Commission area and extending into the broader Southside region.

Member Localities

Cities of Colonial Heights, Emporia, Hopewell, and Petersburg; **Counties** of Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Greenville, Halifax, Mecklenburg, Prince George, Surry, and Sussex; **Towns** of South Boston and South Hill

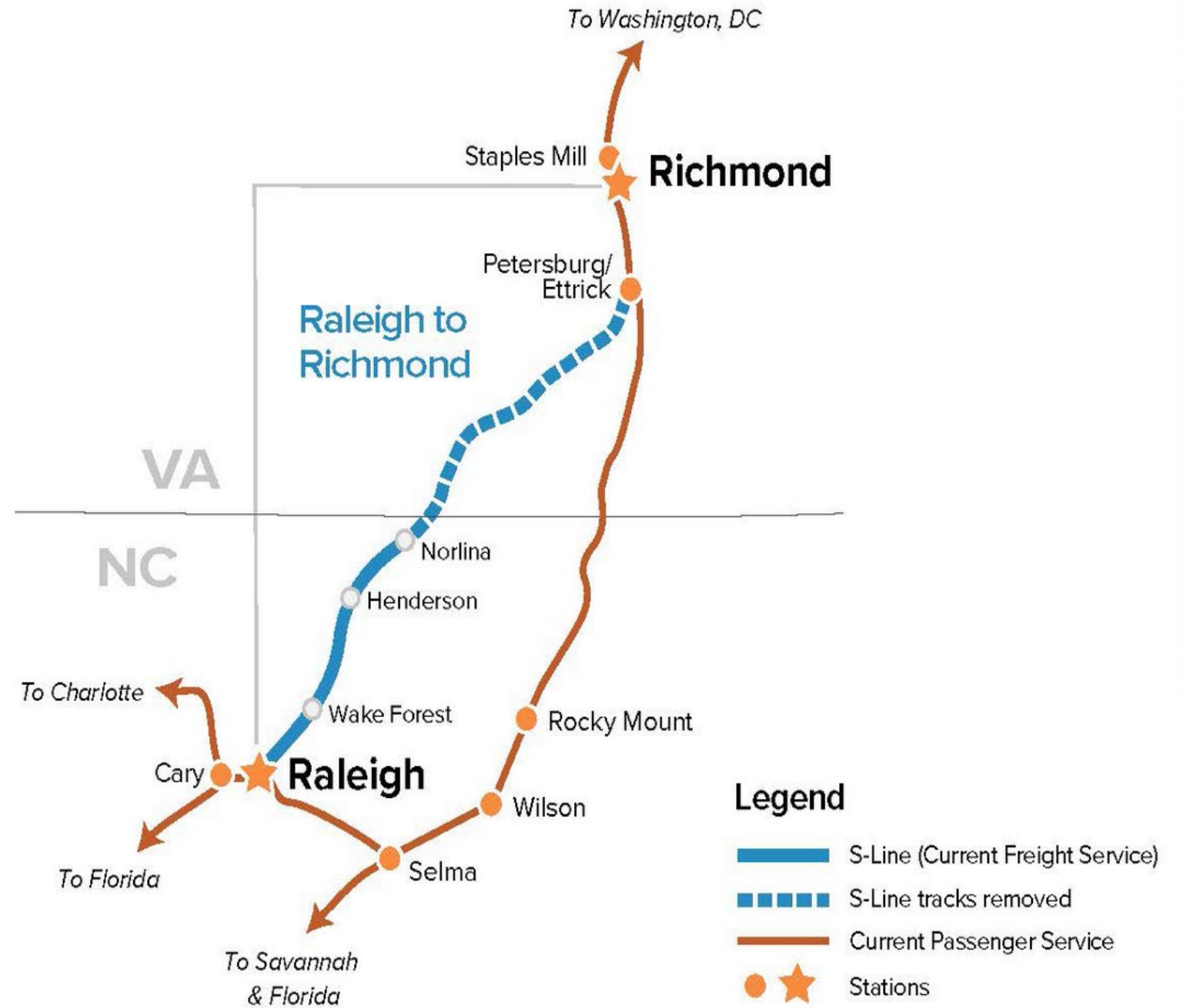
Geographic Scope

Spanning the I-85, I-95, Rte. 58, and Route 460 corridors — a critical freight and commuter network connecting Southside Virginia to Richmond, Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, and the north/south interstate access

Why These Boundaries?

SCTA boundaries mostly align with existing PDC planning boundaries and reflect the critical nature of completing Virginia's gateway regions as well as shared infrastructure needs and regional economic interdependence.

Highspeed Rail Network



Key Talking Points - South Central Transportation Authority

Dedicated, Stable Funding and Match \$

A regional transportation authority enables dedicated revenue streams to be available to individual localities, enabling long-overdue infrastructure investment across Southside Virginia.

Regional Coordination

Coordinated planning allows regional control of regional dollars, ensuring funds stay within the Authority's Region. Also eliminates duplication, improves project delivery, and positions the region competitively for state and federal funding matches (SMART SCALE, BIL/IIJA)

Local Control Preserved

Local budgets and state allocations alone cannot keep up with growth, maintenance, and safety needs. Governance is structured to ensure each member locality retains a voice on the Board of Directors.

Economic Development Driver

Improved transportation infrastructure directly supports business attraction, workforce mobility, and quality of life — critical priorities for Southside's economic growth agenda. A multimodal structure - roads, transit, bike/ped. and freight.

Steps to Formation —Virginia's Newest Transportation Authority



Regional Consensus

Mar–July 2026

Local governments align on need and scope; member localities pass resolutions endorsing SCTA formation.



Governance & Legislation

July–Sept. 2026

Define governance structure, tax authority, and revenue sharing; legislative draft readied for pre-filing the 2027 General Assembly Session.



General Assembly Session

Jan.–April 2027

The bill advances through the General Assembly process.

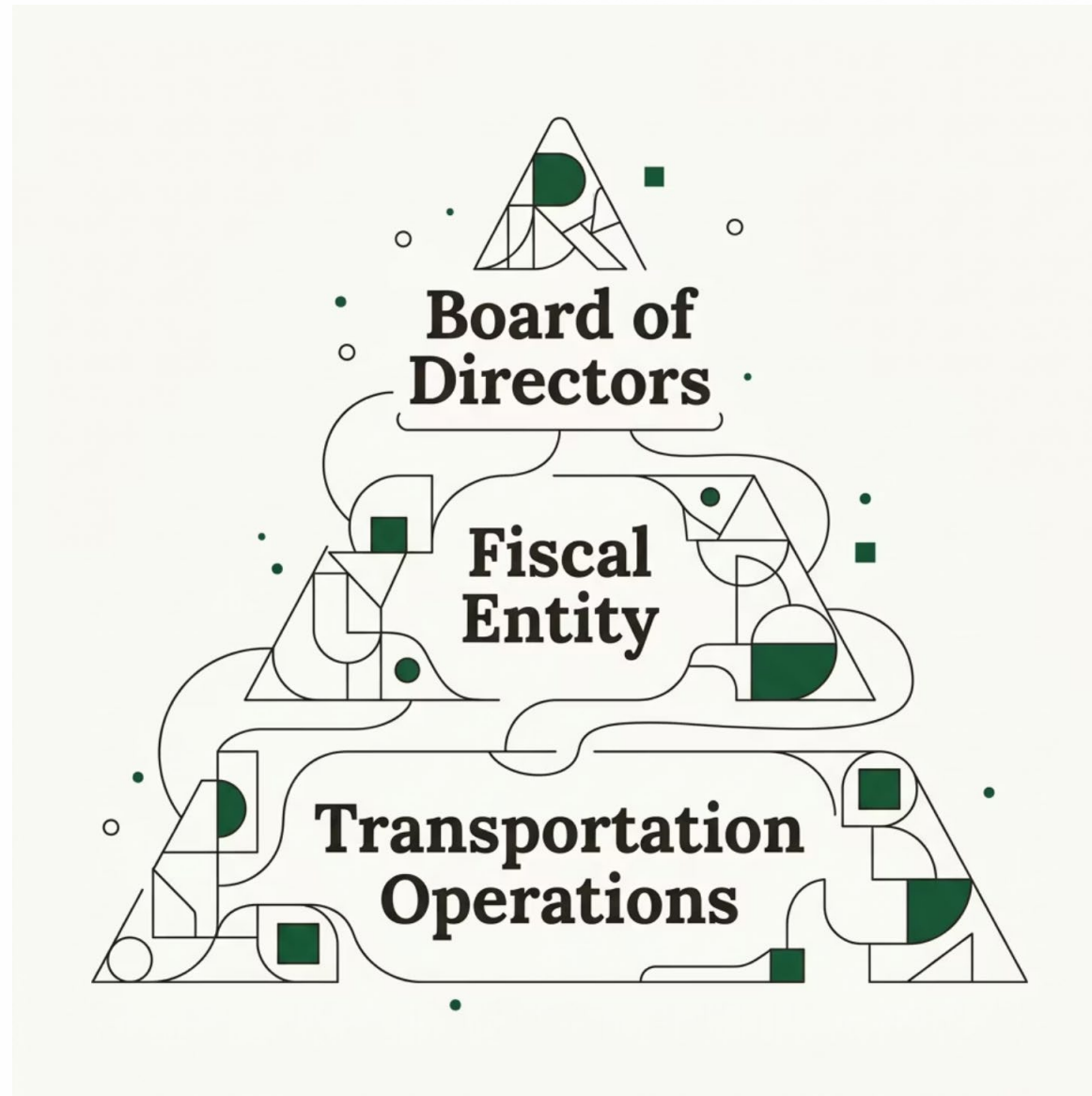


SCTA Established

July 1, 2027

SCTA effective date; Southside Virginia gains a dedicated regional transportation authority!

Proposed SCTA Governance & Accountability



Membership/Board of Directors

- Chief elected officer, or his designee of each member county.
- Chief elected officer, or his designee of each city
- One member of the area delegation House of Delegates
- One member of the area delegation Senate of Virginia
- CTB Member

Ex Officio/Non-Voting Members : Director DRPT, VDOT Commissioner, Executive Director of the Port Authority of Virginia

The Board sets policy, approves the capital program, and allocates regional revenues.

Fiscal Entity

Manages all SCTA funds — transparent budgeting, regular audits/compliance, project tracking.

Transportation Operations and Staffing

Projects are selected through data-driven evaluation and consistent with the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Crater Planning District Commission will leverage existing regional planning expertise and staff capacity.



SCTA - Critical for our Region's Ability to Grow

How to Relay this to Citizens

The creation of a new authority, funded with tax dollars, with the power of eminent domain and the authority to issue debt and arrange public-private partnership deals will receive broad public scrutiny from SCTA area citizens and legislators. Localities prepared to offer cost-benefits to transportation and transit projects in the area.

Funded by Tax Dollars

The authority will be funded with public tax revenue, requiring clear cost-benefit communication to residents and legislators.

Significant Legal Powers

The SCTA will hold the power of eminent domain and the authority to issue debt and arrange public-private partnership deals.

Broad Public Accountability

Formation will face scrutiny from SCTA area citizens and legislators; localities must be prepared to demonstrate transportation and transit project benefits.

Community Benefits

The South-Central Transportation Authority will deliver tangible advantages that directly enhance the lives of residents and foster a thriving region.



Improved Quality of Life

Reduced commute times, increased safety on roads, and better access to essential services and recreational opportunities for all residents.



Enhanced Economic Opportunity

Modernized infrastructure attracts new businesses, supports existing industries, and creates jobs, leading to greater prosperity across Southside communities.



Seamless Regional Connectivity

Upgraded road networks, potential public transit options, and improved freight corridors ensure efficient movement of people and goods across jurisdictions.

A New Era for Southside Transportation

The South-Central Transportation Authority will give Southside Virginia a powerful, locally governed tool to fund, plan, and deliver the regional transportation investments our communities deserve.

Next Step for Localities

Pass resolutions of support between **March and June 2026** to demonstrate regional consensus and regional economic development competitiveness.

Next Step for Legislators

Sponsor and champion the South Central Transportation Authority legislation in the **2027 General Assembly Session** — a generational opportunity to move Southside Virginia forward.

Proposed SCTA Localities Projected Revenues														
Locality Name*	Wholesale Fuel Tax						Sales and Use Tax		Projected Revenues					
	Total in Gallons*	Gasoline/Gasohol In Gallons*	Undyed Diesel In Gallons*	Gasoline Revenues (9.3¢ Per Gallon)**	Diesel Revenues (9.4¢ Per Gallon)**	Gasoline and Diesel Combined**	Total Revenues***	Additional Tax Revenues** (0.7%)	Projected Combined Total**	Proposed Projected SCTA Administrative Fee (2%)**	Projected Total For Local, Regional, and Public Transit Distribution**	Proportion for Local Jurisdictions (55%)*	Proportion for Regional Transportation Projects (35%)*	Proportion for Public Transit (10%)*
Brunswick County	16,431,236	9,251,387	7,179,849	\$ 860,379	\$ 674,906	\$ 1,535,285	\$ 65,574,310	\$ 459,020	\$ 1,994,305	\$ 39,886	\$ 1,954,419	\$ 1,074,930	\$ 698,007	\$ 199,430
Dinwiddie County	22,261,438	14,032,831	8,228,607	\$ 1,305,053	\$ 773,489	\$ 2,078,542	\$ 198,936,228	\$ 1,392,554	\$ 3,471,096	\$ 69,422	\$ 3,401,674	\$ 1,870,921	\$ 1,214,884	\$ 347,110
Mecklenburg County	41,940,103	24,598,099	17,342,004	\$ 2,287,623	\$ 1,630,148	\$ 3,917,772	\$ 648,421,248	\$ 4,538,949	\$ 8,456,720	\$ 169,134	\$ 8,287,586	\$ 4,558,172	\$ 2,959,852	\$ 845,672
Prince George County	49,422,611	24,835,132	24,587,479	\$ 2,309,667	\$ 2,311,223	\$ 4,620,890	\$ 281,500,478	\$ 1,970,503	\$ 6,591,394	\$ 131,828	\$ 6,459,566	\$ 3,552,761	\$ 2,306,988	\$ 659,139
Colonial Heights, City Of	15,748,571	14,774,769	973,802	\$ 1,374,054	\$ 91,537	\$ 1,465,591	\$ 908,973,071	\$ 6,362,811	\$ 7,828,402	\$ 156,568	\$ 7,671,834	\$ 4,219,509	\$ 2,739,941	\$ 782,840
Hopewell, City of	8,226,150	7,728,319	497,831	\$ 718,734	\$ 46,796	\$ 765,530	\$ 189,940,020	\$ 1,329,580	\$ 2,095,110	\$ 41,902	\$ 2,053,208	\$ 1,129,264	\$ 733,288	\$ 209,511
Petersburg, City of	24,904,542	22,561,905	2,342,637	\$ 2,098,257	\$ 220,208	\$ 2,318,465	\$ 397,853,226	\$ 2,784,973	\$ 5,103,438	\$ 102,069	\$ 5,001,369	\$ 2,750,753	\$ 1,786,203	\$ 510,344
Greensville County	32,688,229	10,298,112	22,390,117	\$ 957,724	\$ 2,104,671	\$ 3,062,395	\$ 72,978,436	\$ 510,849	\$ 3,573,244	\$ 71,465	\$ 3,501,780	\$ 1,925,979	\$ 1,250,636	\$ 357,324
Surry County	3,122,727	2,583,890	538,837	\$ 240,302	\$ 50,651	\$ 290,952	\$ 79,526,719	\$ 556,687	\$ 847,639	\$ 16,953	\$ 830,687	\$ 456,878	\$ 296,674	\$ 84,764
Sussex County	15,186,824	7,306,300	7,880,524	\$ 679,486	\$ 740,769	\$ 1,420,255	\$ 111,845,178	\$ 782,916	\$ 2,203,171	\$ 44,063	\$ 2,159,108	\$ 1,187,509	\$ 771,110	\$ 220,317
Emporia, City of	17,573,126	11,058,372	6,514,754	\$ 1,028,429	\$ 612,387	\$ 1,640,815	\$ 231,053,104	\$ 1,617,372	\$ 3,258,187	\$ 65,164	\$ 3,193,023	\$ 1,756,163	\$ 1,140,366	\$ 325,819
Halifax County	22,942,139	16,290,507	6,651,632	\$ 1,515,017	\$ 625,253	\$ 2,140,271	\$ 425,576,289	\$ 2,979,034	\$ 5,119,305	\$ 102,386	\$ 5,016,918	\$ 2,759,305	\$ 1,791,757	\$ 511,930
Total (CPDC Localities Excluding Chesterfield and Charles City)**	189,134,218	115,179,630	73,954,588	10,711,706	6,951,731	17,663,437	\$ 2,472,606,461	\$ 17,308,245	\$ 34,971,682	\$ 699,434	\$ 34,272,248	\$ 18,849,737	\$ 12,240,089	\$ 3,497,168
Total Southside PDC (Brunswick, Mecklenburg, and Halifax)	81,313,478	50,139,993	31,173,485	4,663,019	2,930,308	7,593,327	\$ 1,139,571,847	\$ 7,977,003	\$ 15,570,330	\$ 311,407	\$ 15,258,923	\$ 8,392,408	\$ 5,449,615	\$ 1,557,033
Total**	270,447,696	165,319,623	105,128,073	15,374,725	9,882,039	25,256,764	\$ 3,612,178,308	\$ 25,285,248	\$ 50,542,012	\$ 1,010,840	\$ 49,531,172	\$ 27,242,144	\$ 17,689,704	\$ 5,054,201

*Data from the Virginia DMV
 ** Analysis by Crater PDC staff
 ***Data from Virginia Department of Taxation

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

C-1

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2026 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

A REGULAR meeting of the Hopewell Council was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

John B. Partin, Mayor
Rita Joyner, Vice Mayor
Michael Harris, Councilor
Susan Daye, Councilor
Malik Wheat, Councilor
Lovena Rapole, Councilor

Councilor Daye makes a motion to go into closed meeting under Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(3), (8), and (29), to discuss the acquisition or disposition of real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, the award of a public contract where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the City’s bargaining position, and to consult with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters (real estate contract discussions, support agreement with the EDA); § 2.2-3711(A)(7) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body (National Opioid Settlement); § 2.2-3711(A)(1), to discuss personnel matters (Beacon Theater Board). Councilor Rapole. seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Daye-	Yes
Councilor Wheat-	Yes
Councilor Rapole-	Yes
Vice Mayor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes

Motion Passes 6-0

Vice Mayor Joyner makes a motion to reconvene the open meeting. Councilor Wheat seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Daye-	Yes
Councilor Wheat-	Yes
Councilor Rapole-	Yes
Vice Mayor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes

Motion Passes 6-0

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE §2.2-3712 (D): Were only public business matters (1) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (2) identified in the closed-meeting motion discussed in the closed meeting?

PRESENT:

John B. Partin, Mayor
Rita Joyner, Vice Mayor
Michael Harris, Councilor
Susan Daye, Councilor
Malik Wheat, Councilor
Lovena Rapole, Councilor

REGULAR MEETING

Hooray for Hopewell History Presentation - Charles Bennett, Director of Economic Development

Kyle English presented the Department of Tourism’s concept for a flagship summer 2026 event called the “Hooray for Hopewell History Celebration,” which is being planned in connection with Virginia’s VA250 initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. He explained that the statewide initiative encourages communities to educate the public about their local contributions to the founding of the United States while also celebrating the occasion. The proposed event is scheduled for June 27, 2026, and is intended to serve as a large family-oriented celebration focused on Hopewell’s history, tourism, civic engagement, and downtown economic activity.

English described the event as a family fun festival that will take place throughout Downtown Hopewell and at Appomattox Manor. Planned activities include a children’s entertainment area called “Kitty Land,” which will feature inflatable attractions, games, and a kayak pool attraction previously used at the Rivers and Roads event in September 2025. In addition to family activities, the event will feature history walking tours, trolley tours, civic organization participation, vendor booths, and public safety engagement activities. Representatives from organizations such as the Hopewell Fire Department and Hopewell Police Department are expected to participate in “Touch-a-Truck” activities and distribute branded merchandise to residents and visitors.

A major focus of the event will be the historical walking tour experience. English explained that visitors will be able to scan QR codes displayed on sandwich boards located throughout downtown Hopewell. Each QR code will provide information about different historical points of interest, including notable individuals from Hopewell, historic locations where important events occurred, and products manufactured in the city both historically and today. The educational

aspect is intended to emphasize Hopewell's role in the broader story of Virginia and the founding of the United States.

Transportation between downtown Hopewell, City Point, and Appomattox Manor will be provided through a trolley system. Visitors will be able to ride the trolley to Appomattox Manor, explore the grounds and Grant's Cabin, and then return downtown. English noted that the city is collaborating with the National Park Service, which has agreed to participate in the event. As part of that partnership, the National Park Service secured the Chesterfield Concert Band to perform from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. near the riverfront as attendees transition toward the evening fireworks show organized by Parks and Recreation.

English also discussed logistical planning for the event, emphasizing the city's goal of minimizing street closures and reducing the need for extensive public safety resources. The current plan calls for limited closures on portions of Coston Street and Library Street while keeping Broadway open in order to maintain access for existing downtown businesses. Several businesses have already agreed to remain open during the celebration, and organizers intend for the event to promote rather than disrupt local commerce. Vendor participation will also be carefully managed to avoid competing directly with established downtown businesses.

In closing, English summarized the concept as a community-wide celebration that combines historical education, family entertainment, tourism promotion, civic involvement, and economic support for downtown Hopewell. He then invited questions from Council members, though no questions followed immediately after the presentation.

Crime Summary Report – Gregory Taylor, Chief of Police

Gregory Taylor presented the Hopewell Police Department's April Crime Summary Report, highlighting significant decreases in both violent and property crime rates. He reported that violent crime was down 32% and property crime was down 13% for the reporting period, resulting in an overall 18% reduction in total major crime during April. Taylor explained that the department continues to compare current statistics to data from 2022, which he identified as the year the department began implementing additional technology initiatives. Using that comparison, he noted that violent crime has decreased by 29% since 2022, while property crime has declined by 30%. Overall major crime, when compared to 2022 levels, has also decreased by 30%, which Taylor attributed in part to the department's technological investments and policing strategies.

Taylor also provided an update regarding suspected opioid overdoses within the city. He stated that in 2026 there had been one fatal overdose and three non-fatal overdoses, for a total of four incidents. Although he acknowledged the fatality as unfortunate, he emphasized that the overall number of overdose incidents remains the lowest compared to previous years. He then discussed verified "shots fired" calls, reporting that the city experienced 64 verified incidents in 2024, 54 in 2025, and only six verified calls so far in 2026, indicating another substantial reduction in serious criminal activity.

During the report, Taylor reviewed updates to the city's Neighborhood Watch program. He announced that the Ward Seven neighborhood watch group formerly known as Autumn Woods would return to using the name Lord O' Taylor. Meetings for the group are scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month at Woodlawn Presbyterian Church beginning at 6:00 p.m. He explained that this is considered a new neighborhood watch group and noted that the current neighborhood captain is a council member. Taylor added that there were no other significant changes to neighborhood watch operations throughout the city.

Taylor also discussed staffing and recruitment within the police department and emergency communications division. He reported that application testing was held at the police academy on April 25. At the time of the presentation, the department had three vacancies for emergency communications operators, with two applicants currently undergoing background investigations. Additionally, there were five unfilled police officer positions, with three applicants remaining in the background process. Taylor outlined several upcoming recruitment events, including an April 17 event at Virginia State University, a May 7 recruitment event in Ashland, Virginia, and transition program recruitment efforts scheduled for June 11 and August 11 at Fort Lee.

The report also included updates regarding community policing and public engagement activities. Taylor announced that Officer Tiffany Sherrod had been assigned as the new ward officer for the newly established Ward Seven neighborhood watch group. He then reviewed several upcoming community engagement events involving the police department. These included the annual Police Memorial Breakfast scheduled for May 7 at 7:00 a.m. at the Moose Lodge, participation in the "Little Feet Meet" Special Olympics field day held at Hopewell High School, a criminal justice student question-and-answer session at Virginia State University on April 17 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the department's annual Drug Take Back event scheduled for April 25 at police headquarters from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Taylor concluded the April Crime Summary Report by stating that he was available to answer any questions from City Council. Following the conclusion of the presentation, no questions were raised by Council members.

Mayor Partin responded to Gregory Taylor's April Crime Summary Report by commending the Hopewell Police Department and its leadership for the continued reductions in crime throughout the city. He specifically praised the department's men and women for their efforts and highlighted the significant decreases in violent crime, property crime, and opioid-related incidents. Mayor Partin emphasized that the reduction in opioid fatalities and non-fatal overdoses reflects the success of collaborative partnerships between the city and community organizations, including the C-Center and City of Refuge. He expressed appreciation for the teamwork and leadership demonstrated by Mr. Rogers, Stacy, and the entire leadership team, thanking them for their continued dedication and work on behalf of the community.

An Initiative Focusing on Hopewell's Disproportionately High Burden of Fatal Opioid Doses – Dr. Elle J. Merkle, Crater District Planning

Dr. Elle J. Merkle of the Crater Health District appeared before City Council alongside Senior Epidemiologist Katrina Saffri to discuss overdose prevention efforts and the ongoing opioid

crisis in Hopewell. Dr. Merkle explained that her role focuses on overdose prevention programming and noted that while the district has made significant progress in Petersburg, Hopewell continues to experience a disproportionately high rate of overdose fatalities that requires urgent attention. She outlined her presentation agenda, which included discussing the current overdose situation in Hopewell, framing addiction as a treatable chronic brain disorder, explaining the role of naloxone in reversing opioid overdoses, and introducing a proposed harm reduction vending machine program that the Crater Health District hopes to bring to the city.

Dr. Merkle began by explaining the role and mission of the Crater Health District, which operates under the Virginia Department of Health and serves approximately 160,000 residents across Hopewell, Petersburg, Emporia, and several surrounding counties. She noted that Hopewell represents roughly 15% of the district's population but carries a much heavier burden when it comes to overdose fatalities. She emphasized that both the health district and the City of Hopewell share similar goals related to improving public safety, strengthening healthy families, and advancing economic growth through healthier communities.

Using data from the Virginia Department of Health, Dr. Merkle reviewed long-term trends in drug overdose deaths dating back to 2007. She explained that the opioid crisis initially stemmed from overprescribing prescription pain medications, which eventually led many addicted individuals to seek drugs on the street after prescription regulations tightened. She described how street drugs became increasingly dangerous due to contamination and the growing presence of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid significantly more potent than heroin. Dr. Merkle noted that overdose deaths rose sharply leading up to 2021 because of fentanyl's widespread availability and increasing potency. However, she also pointed to a flattening trend in overdose deaths after 2021, suggesting that public health interventions and increased access to naloxone may be helping to reduce fatalities.

Dr. Merkle then focused specifically on Hopewell data, comparing overdose trends in Hopewell and Petersburg by ZIP code. She highlighted that approximately 30% of overdose fatalities within the Crater Health District occur in Hopewell, despite Hopewell representing only 15% of the district's total population. She described this imbalance as evidence that Hopewell carries a disproportionately heavy overdose burden and emphasized the need for targeted public health interventions within the city.

A major portion of Dr. Merkle's presentation centered on educating Council members about addiction and overdose. She stressed that addiction should not be viewed as a moral failing, but rather as a chronic and treatable brain disorder similar to diseases such as diabetes or high blood pressure. She explained the biological effects of opioids on the brain, noting that opioids bind to receptors that both create feelings of euphoria and suppress breathing. During an overdose, slowed or stopped breathing can cause a person to suffocate. Dr. Merkle then explained how naloxone works by displacing opioids from those brain receptors, temporarily restoring breathing and preventing death. However, she cautioned that naloxone's effects only last between 30 and 90 minutes, making emergency medical treatment essential after an overdose reversal.

Dr. Merkle introduced the concept of a public health harm reduction vending machine, which the Crater Health District plans to install in Hopewell. She explained that these vending machines

became more common during the COVID-19 pandemic as a method of distributing health supplies such as masks and sanitizer, and many now include naloxone and other harm reduction materials. The proposed machine would operate similarly to a vending locker system, allowing individuals to access supplies discreetly. In addition to naloxone, the machine could contain items such as condoms, hygiene kits, socks, first aid supplies, snacks, and information about treatment and recovery services. Dr. Merkle emphasized that naloxone would always be available free of charge and that the contents could be adjusted based on community needs and seasonal demands.

She asked City Council members to support the program by helping identify an appropriate location for the vending machine and by promoting community education about naloxone and overdose prevention. Dr. Merkle strongly encouraged all residents, including sanitation workers and public employees, to learn how to administer naloxone through the “Rapid Revive” training program. She argued that increasing access to naloxone has likely contributed to the recent flattening of overdose death trends and stressed the importance of reducing stigma surrounding addiction to encourage more people to seek treatment.

Council members asked several questions regarding implementation timelines and the city’s expected role in the initiative. Dr. Merkle explained that the Crater Health District had recently acquired the vending machines through a donation and was currently working through logistics to transport them to the district. One machine is planned for Petersburg and one for Hopewell. She stated that once a location is secured, implementation could move forward relatively quickly. Additional discussions would then occur with property owners and community stakeholders regarding maintenance, partnerships, and sustainability.

Mayor Partin responded positively to the proposal, describing the vending machine concept as an innovative idea that could significantly benefit the community. He recommended that Dr. Merkle and her team meet with city leadership, including the incoming permanent City Manager Vincent Jones, to discuss potential collaboration and funding opportunities. Mayor Partin also suggested that opioid settlement funds received by localities might potentially help support the initiative. Dr. Merkle welcomed continued collaboration with the city and offered to provide naloxone training sessions for Council members and staff. She concluded by expressing her desire to increase the amount of naloxone available throughout Hopewell and thanked Council members for their time and consideration.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED MEETING

Vice Mayor Joyner makes a motion to appoint Donald Barber, Bruce Brockwell, Elliot Eliades, Dr. Eliza Lamb, Avon Miles, Courtney Bujakawski, Dr. Gary Ackerman, John Redling, Nancy Flowers, and Barbara Patton to the Beacon Theater Board. Councilor Daye seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Daye-	Yes
Councilor Wheat-	Yes
Councilor Rapole-	Yes
Vice Mayor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes

Mayor Partin- Yes

Motion Passes 6-0

Councilor Wheat makes a motion to direct the city attorney to enter a combined subdivision participation and release form as presented. Councilor Daye seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL	Councilor Daye-	Yes
	Councilor Wheat-	Yes
	Councilor Rapole-	Yes
	Vice Mayor Joyner-	Yes
	Councilor Harris-	Yes
	Mayor Partin-	Yes

Motion Passes 6-0

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prayer by Reverend Boggs, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States by Mayor Partin.

Vice Mayor Joyner makes a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Councilor Daye seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL	Councilor Daye-	Yes
	Councilor Wheat-	Yes
	Councilor Rapole-	Yes
	Vice Mayor Joyner-	Yes
	Councilor Harris-	Yes
	Mayor Partin-	Yes

Motion Passes 6-0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Steve Ramano, Ward 3

Steve Romano, a Ward Three resident living on Circle Drive in Hopewell, addressed City Council regarding the financial burdens faced by senior citizens living on fixed incomes. Speaking from personal experience, Romano explained that he and his wife have been retired for approximately 12 and 14 years respectively and now rely primarily on Social Security. He contrasted their current financial situation with their earlier working years, when paying bills, owning multiple vehicles, purchasing gas and groceries, and dining out were manageable expenses. Now retired, he explained that their financial circumstances have changed significantly and require them to live much more carefully within a fixed budget.

Romano expressed frustration with the city's continued collection of personal property taxes on older vehicles owned by retirees. He explained that after one of his vehicles stopped working, he chose not to replace it because maintaining a single vehicle was more financially practical. He stated that the remaining vehicle, which is approximately ten years old, is used only for essential needs such as doctor visits and trips to Walmart and Food Lion. Despite the car's limited value, he noted that he is still required to pay personal property taxes on it, which he described as unreasonable and burdensome for seniors living on fixed retirement incomes. He remarked that when he first moved to Hopewell 25 years ago, people in New York were shocked by how low local personal property taxes were at the time, but he said that perception would no longer exist today because of how expensive those taxes have become.

Romano also referenced the city's financial reserves, stating his understanding that Hopewell currently holds millions of dollars in various investment and financial accounts, including funds managed through Kaplan Portfolio, LGIP, and Schwab accounts. Given those available funds, he questioned why the city could not provide tax relief for senior citizens, particularly regarding personal property taxes. He acknowledged that the city continues to pursue numerous development and infrastructure projects, including riverwalk improvements and housing construction, but stated that reducing the tax burden on seniors was his personal priority and concern.

He emphasized that retirees on Social Security cannot simply increase their income through additional employment, explaining that whatever retirement income seniors have is all they can depend upon. Romano urged the city government to manage its finances responsibly and "live on a budget" in the same way retirees are forced to do. He concluded by encouraging City Council to consider providing assistance or tax relief to elderly residents struggling with rising costs, noting that while some individuals may not need help, many others, including himself, would greatly benefit from it.

Mark Burroughs, Ward 3

Mark Burroughs, a Ward Three resident, addressed City Council regarding concerns about state legislation, Second Amendment rights, and issues involving the city's tax collection process. Burroughs reminded Council that several months earlier he had spoken publicly about the importance of monitoring legislation being passed or rejected at the state level and understanding how those decisions could impact the City of Hopewell. Following that earlier meeting, he said several residents informed him that Hopewell had previously adopted a resolution declaring itself a "Second Amendment Sanctuary City." Although he was not living in Hopewell at the time the resolution was passed, Burroughs stated that he believed Council members had a responsibility to remember and uphold the commitments previously made by the city regarding Second Amendment protections.

Burroughs expressed concern that some Council members appeared prepared during the previous fall to support restrictions on weapons in city parks and other public properties. He suggested that those discussions conflicted with the city's prior stance as a Second Amendment sanctuary

locality. He urged Council members to keep those earlier commitments in mind as they interact with state legislators and consider future local policy decisions related to firearms and constitutional rights. He emphasized that actions taken at the state level can directly affect local residents and argued that city leaders should remain consistent with past positions and commitments made on behalf of Hopewell citizens.

In addition to his concerns regarding gun rights, Burroughs raised complaints about the city's personal property tax collection and vehicle registration process. He described the experience of a friend who had previously fallen behind on vehicle taxes but had recently paid the overdue taxes in full approximately three weeks earlier. According to Burroughs, despite the taxes being paid, the Department of Motor Vehicles had still not released the vehicle registration because the Treasurer's Office had allegedly failed to properly notify the DMV that the taxes had been satisfied. As a result, his friend remained unable to renew the vehicle registration and legally drive the vehicle to work.

Burroughs further criticized the city's contracted tax collection agency, stating that the agency had failed to properly maintain and share records and that the fees being charged to residents were excessive. He argued that the collection practices were especially problematic given the income levels of many Hopewell residents. He strongly encouraged City Council to pressure the Treasurer's Office and other city officials to seek a different collection agency, describing the current agency's performance as unacceptable. He concluded his remarks by thanking Council for their attention.

Victor Lavimodiere, Ward 3

Victor Lavimodiere, a longtime Hopewell resident of approximately 25 years, addressed City Council for the first time during the public comment period. He began by explaining that he attended the meeting primarily to observe the proceedings and introduce himself to Council members. Lavimodiere asked whether he could take photographs of the Council members so he could better associate names with faces. Council members informed him that photographs, names, and ward information for each member are already available on the City of Hopewell's website. During the exchange, there was some lighthearted discussion among Council members regarding which ward he lived in before Lavimodiere resumed his remarks.

Lavimodiere then expressed concerns about the overall direction of the city and the financial difficulties being faced by residents, particularly retirees. He stated that while he was not accusing City Council of intentionally doing wrong, he felt the city was "not doing right" in certain areas. Echoing concerns previously raised by another speaker, Steve Romano, Lavimodiere explained that he has been retired since 2019 and now finds it increasingly difficult to manage financially. He emphasized that the economic strain on retirees is serious and not something to be dismissed lightly.

He stated that he would like to remain living in Hopewell but expressed frustration with how city funds are being spent. According to Lavimodiere, his primary concern is not necessarily the existence of city projects or spending itself, but rather the manner in which taxpayer money is allocated and managed. He indicated that residents want greater accountability and careful

consideration regarding city expenditures, especially given the financial pressures facing many citizens on fixed incomes.

Toward the conclusion of his remarks, Lavimodiere asked Mr. Rogers for clarification regarding a previously mentioned Thursday night meeting. After confirming that the meeting would occur that Thursday evening, he thanked Council and concluded his comments.

Laura Greenwood, Ward 6

Laura Greenwood, a resident of Ward Six, addressed City Council with a concern regarding the display of the American and Virginia state flags at the local high school. Greenwood stated that several residents from her area had recently informed her that the high school was not flying either the United States flag or the Virginia state flag. Curious and concerned, she said she personally visited the school to verify the situation and confirmed that the flags were indeed not being displayed.

Greenwood noted that the school has a Junior ROTC program and suggested that ROTC students could easily be responsible for raising the flags in the morning and lowering them at the end of the school day. She emphasized that because the school receives city, state, and federal funding — all supported by taxpayer dollars — it would be appropriate and respectful for the school to properly display the flags. Greenwood asked City Council to look into the matter and consider ensuring that the flags are consistently flown at the high school. She concluded her remarks by thanking the Council.

Debbie Randolph, Ward 1

Debbie Randolph, a Ward One resident, addressed City Council regarding concerns about the process used to establish and appoint members to the Beacon Theater board. Randolph explained that over the previous 30 to 60 days she had heard increasing discussion within the community about the Beacon Theater and had attempted to gather more information through City Council resources and the city's Talent Bank system. While she appreciated being present to witness the appointment of board members, she questioned whether the city had followed a sufficiently open and transparent process in selecting those individuals.

Randolph stated that she had not seen significant public advertisement or outreach informing citizens about opportunities to serve on the Beacon board. She explained that many people she spoke with during her research were unaware that the board positions even existed or that appointments were being made. Additionally, she noted that there was no specific information listed on the city's Talent Bank webpage regarding the Beacon board or instructions explaining whether interested citizens needed to submit applications through the Talent Bank system. According to Randolph, several individuals told her they had instead been asked to submit resumes directly, which raised additional questions for her about how candidates were identified and evaluated.

She expressed concern that the process appeared inconsistent with what she believed should be a standard, open government procedure for selecting board members. Although Randolph clarified that she was not objecting to any specific individuals who had been appointed, she questioned whether Council members had already selected preferred candidates privately before the public process occurred. She suggested that if that were the case, it could undermine public confidence in transparency and fairness.

Randolph also requested that City Council provide citizens with more detailed information regarding the city's overall plans for the Beacon Theater moving forward. She stated that she had heard discussions suggesting the theater could potentially operate under a nonprofit structure and referenced her familiarity with the Beacon Theater's original formation and redevelopment process. Randolph explained that she had previously worked with individuals involved in the theater's early development and understood that the financing and tax credit arrangements associated with the project had historically been complex and difficult to manage. She acknowledged that the city attorney, along with outside legal advisors, was likely working through those legal and organizational issues with Council.

Ultimately, Randolph urged City Council to ensure that future actions involving the Beacon Theater remain transparent, publicly communicated, and inclusive of citizen participation. She emphasized the importance of openly informing residents about the city's plans for the theater, the role of the board, and whether the proposed structure would ultimately serve the best interests of the city, the theater, and the community members involved. She concluded her remarks after encouraging Council to maintain a fair and open process moving forward.

Darlene Thompson, Ward 6

Darlene Thompson, a Ward Six resident, addressed City Council with strong criticism regarding the city's financial management, tax increases, and recent budget decisions. Thompson referenced events from approximately three years earlier when the Robert Bobb Group was brought into the city administration. She stated that shortly after the group's arrival, Mr. Branson was hired at a salary of approximately \$13,000 per month and soon warned City Council that Hopewell was financially unstable and headed toward serious financial trouble. Thompson argued that since those warnings, City Council has repeatedly increased financial burdens on residents through higher taxes and fees rather than adequately addressing spending concerns.

Thompson specifically criticized actions taken by City Council beginning around May 2024, stating that Council approved increases in tax rates, higher real estate assessments, and expanded trash collection fees, among other charges. She emphasized that the increases affected residents across the board and argued that the city continued imposing additional costs on taxpayers without sufficient regard for the financial strain placed on citizens. According to Thompson, residents entrusted Council members to represent their interests, but she believed the Council instead continued approving measures that negatively impacted taxpayers.

She also criticized a recent city-related trip to Williamsburg, which she claimed cost approximately \$17,000 for less than a full day of activity. Thompson stated that during discussions related to the wastewater treatment plant, city officials proposed an additional fee of

\$5.25 per resident. She calculated that multiplying the fee by the city's roughly 10,434 residents would generate approximately \$54,000 per month, or more than \$657,000 annually, for the city. Thompson argued that the city continued seeking additional revenue from residents despite already increasing taxes and fees in multiple other areas.

Throughout her remarks, Thompson repeatedly referenced budget figures presented by city officials, particularly noting that the city's fiscal year 2026 budget was reportedly \$8.4 million higher than the previous year's budget. She described this increase as money ultimately collected from taxpayers and expressed frustration that city leaders continued discussing additional revenue needs without acknowledging what she viewed as significant surplus funding already generated from residents. Thompson argued that citizens are effectively forced to pay whatever taxes and fees the city imposes and accused Council of failing to adequately consider the burden placed on local families.

Thompson concluded by connecting these financial concerns to the upcoming local elections, noting that several Council members would soon be seeking reelection and asking residents for signatures and votes. She questioned why residents should support elected officials whom she believed had not acted in the best interests of taxpayers. She ended her comments by thanking the Council.

CJ Glover, Ward 1

CJ Glover, a Ward One resident and student at Carter G. Woodson Middle School, addressed City Council to advocate for renovations or replacement of Carter G. Woodson Middle School, Mills E. Godwin, and the Woodlawn Learning Center. Speaking from a student's perspective, Glover emphasized that students and staff deserve to attend and work in buildings that are both safe and properly maintained. She stated that while some improvements have been made in certain areas of the schools, including portions of the library and front areas, many serious safety and infrastructure problems remain unresolved throughout the buildings.

Glover identified several specific concerns regarding the condition of the schools. She explained that there are not enough bathrooms available for students and that many existing bathrooms contain broken fixtures. She also raised concerns about hallways lacking sprinkler systems and classrooms that do not have windows or accessible exits, which she believed could create dangerous conditions during emergencies such as fires. According to Glover, some classrooms appear to violate fire safety standards because students would have limited or no ability to escape in the event of a fire. She stated that these conditions create unnecessary risks for students, teachers, and staff members.

She further explained that conditions at the Woodlawn Learning Center are even worse than those at Carter G. Woodson Middle School. Glover emphasized that students should be able to enter school buildings feeling safe regardless of their personal circumstances and should not have to worry about unsafe facilities or potential tragedies. She expressed concern not only for students, but also for teachers and staff members, including her own mother, who works in the school system.

Throughout her remarks, Glover repeatedly stressed the importance of investing in school safety improvements and proper infrastructure maintenance. She urged Council members to consider how they would feel if they or their own children attended schools with missing sprinkler systems, insufficient bathrooms, open ceiling tiles, leaking tar, broken fixtures, and other hazardous conditions. She questioned whether city leaders would want to ignore such risks or instead take action to fix the buildings before a tragedy occurs.

Glover concluded by asking City Council to prioritize funding for renovations, repairs, or replacement projects for Carter G. Woodson Middle School and the Woodlawn Learning Center. She reiterated concerns about broken fixtures, inadequate bathroom facilities, classrooms without windows, missing sprinkler systems, exposed ceiling areas, and leaking materials throughout the schools. She thanked Council members for allowing her to speak and for listening to her concerns about student and staff safety.

Following the public comment period, City Council addressed several concerns raised by citizens during the meeting, particularly comments regarding transparency surrounding the Beacon Theater board appointments and criticisms about the city's financial management. Mayor Partin first responded to comments made by Debbie Randolph concerning the process used to appoint members to the Beacon Theater board. He asked Mr. Bassett to explain the outreach and public communication efforts that had taken place regarding the Beacon Theater project and the appointment process.

Mr. Bassett explained that City Council had publicly discussed the Beacon Theater process during multiple meetings over several months. He stated that a presentation outlining the process and anticipated appointments had been provided during a January City Council meeting, although one earlier January meeting had been canceled due to weather. Bassett further noted that at a February meeting, Kevin Foster from the John Randolph Foundation gave an additional presentation focused on community engagement and future planning for the Beacon Theater. During those meetings, Bassett said Council repeatedly discussed the upcoming appointments and encouraged public participation. He explained that, similar to other boards and commissions appointed by City Council, interested citizens were always welcome to contact the Clerk's Office and express interest in serving. Although the Beacon Theater board would oversee a private institution, the city still followed a process similar to other city-appointed boards. Mayor Partin then directly encouraged Randolph to submit her own application if she wished to serve, emphasizing that all applicants would go through the same process without special treatment.

Council then turned its attention to comments made earlier by Darlene Thompson and another citizen regarding the city's finances, taxes, and recent policy decisions. Mr. Bassett addressed concerns about financial policies and audit findings, explaining that if City Council had not implemented new financial policies and procedures, the city would likely still be receiving the same serious audit deficiencies identified in prior years. He reminded attendees that in 2019 the city received a disclaimer audit opinion, which is considered one of the worst possible audit outcomes because it reflects severe financial management concerns. Bassett stated that through policy reforms and financial oversight improvements, the city has since progressed to receiving an "unmodified opinion," which he described as a clean audit and the standard municipalities should strive to achieve.

Bassett also clarified comments regarding budget trend analyses and claims of surplus funds. He explained that the financial trend reports shown during meetings are intended to compare year-over-year revenue performance rather than demonstrate the existence of unused surplus money. According to Bassett, when reports show revenues trending higher than the previous year, that simply indicates the city has collected more revenue during the current fiscal period compared to the same period the year before. He noted that increased revenues were largely the result of improved collections within the Treasurer's Office and additional grant funding, while the city has attempted to keep expenses relatively stable within the adopted budget. Bassett emphasized that these reports should not be interpreted as evidence that the city is sitting on large amounts of excess funds.

Mayor Partin then asked Ms. Jordan to address broader concerns regarding the city's financial condition before recent reforms were implemented. In response, Jordan stated that without City Council's intervention to address years of poor financial management and weak leadership, the city could have continued moving toward insolvency or even bankruptcy. She explained that prior to her arrival, sometime around fiscal years 2023 or 2024, the city's primary operating account reportedly had a negative balance, meaning the city lacked sufficient cash flow to cover obligations such as payroll and accounts payable. According to Jordan, city officials at the time were not properly monitoring cash flow or maintaining adequate financial oversight, creating a highly dangerous financial situation for the locality. She stated that the city was forced to transfer money from investment accounts into operating accounts simply to ensure payroll could be met. Jordan further explained that managing city cash flow and banking operations falls primarily under the authority of the Treasurer's Office.

During the exchange, one citizen attempted to interject additional comments, but Mayor Partin stated that the individual's allotted speaking time had expired and instructed her to communicate further questions directly through email or phone contact. The discussion concluded with Mayor Partin thanking Ms. Jordan and Mr. Bassett for what he described as helping to clarify misinformation and misunderstandings regarding the city's financial management and policy decisions.

Regular Business

R-1 (Public Hearing) Conditional Use Permit for 1001 Perrymont Road, and 225 South 15th Avenue – Chris Ward, Director of Planning and Development

Chris Ward addressed City Council to present two conditional use permit requests, beginning with a request related to property located at 1001 Perry Road, parcel number 2540010. Ward explained that both requests before Council that evening were first readings. The applicant for the first conditional use permit was Charles Bennett of Joy Fellowship Church, and the property is located in Ward Four within an R-2 residential zoning district. The request sought approval to install a six-foot fence within the property's front yard area, even though the city's zoning ordinance currently limits front yard fences in the R-2 district to a maximum height of four feet.

Ward reviewed maps and aerial images showing the property location and the proposed fence placement. He explained that the proposed fence would not surround the entire property but

instead would be constructed only along the eastern portion of the site near the church's athletic fields. According to Ward, the applicant argued that the taller six-foot fence would improve containment around the athletic fields, increase safety for children using the recreational areas, and provide better overall security for the property.

Ward also presented images submitted by the applicant showing the style and appearance of the proposed fencing and entranceway. After reviewing the proposal, planning staff concluded that the taller fence would support the applicant's stated goals of enhanced safety and security. Ward noted that while public comments had been solicited through the city's advertisement process, staff had not received written comments directly. However, during the Planning Commission's public hearing on the matter, two individuals spoke. One individual opposed allowing a six-foot fence in the front yard, while another person expressed concerns related to a nearby ditch line.

Despite those comments, Ward explained that city staff recommended approval of the conditional use permit subject to specific conditions. Those conditions included requiring that the final fencing and entranceway remain substantially consistent with the examples and plans presented to Council during the meeting. Ward further reported that the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the permit during its public hearing with a 5-0 vote, including the staff-recommended conditions. He concluded by noting that the applicant was present at the meeting to answer any questions from Council before moving on to the second permit request.

Chris Ward presented the second conditional use permit request of the evening, which concerned property located at 225 South 15th Avenue, identified as parcel number 0241000. Ward explained that this was also a first reading before City Council. The applicants for the request were Eugene Brown, Dante Patton, and Linwood Jefferson. The property is located in Ward One and is zoned B-2 Limited Commercial District. The applicants were seeking approval to operate an auto repair shop at the location. Ward reminded Council that in June of the previous year, the city amended its zoning ordinance to require conditional use permits for auto-related businesses, making this request subject to additional review and conditions.

Ward displayed both a general location map and a close-up aerial view of the property. He noted that Council members and residents might already be familiar with the building because portions of it are currently used as a McDonald's employee and management training facility. Ward explained that staff carefully reviews auto-related businesses because such uses can create concerns involving parking, outdoor storage, noise, air pollution, hazardous waste disposal, safety risks, aesthetics, and potential impacts on surrounding property values.

According to Ward, the applicants proposed a relatively limited operation that would utilize only two of the six available service bays at the property, specifically the two front bays. The applicants stated that no repair work would occur outside the building and that inoperable vehicles would not be stored on the property. Additionally, the repair shop would operate strictly on an appointment-only basis, meaning there would be no walk-in customers or vehicle drop-offs left outside the facility. The applicants also committed to properly handling, storing, and disposing of all hazardous liquids and materials in compliance with environmental regulations.

Ward then reviewed street-view images of the property, noting that the location includes a fenced and secured parking area that would remain locked during evening hours. He emphasized that the property already provides adequate off-street parking and sufficient indoor space for storing materials and equipment associated with the business. Staff determined that the building layout and proposed operational practices would help minimize potential negative impacts often associated with auto repair businesses. Ward also reported that the city had not received any public comments regarding the application during the advertisement period.

Based on its review, city staff recommended approval of the conditional use permit subject to several conditions designed to protect surrounding properties and ensure compliance with city regulations. These conditions included prohibiting outdoor storage of parts, materials, or equipment; banning outdoor displays of items for sale; requiring all vehicles associated with the business to remain in the off-street parking area; mandating that all repair work occur indoors; and requiring inoperable or abandoned vehicles to be removed or stored indoors after 30 days. Additional conditions required compliance with all regulations related to hazardous materials and full compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. Ward noted that these conditions were consistent with those imposed on a previous auto-related conditional use permit approved by the city several weeks earlier.

Ward concluded by informing Council that the Planning Commission had unanimously recommended approval of the request with a 5-0 vote, including all staff-recommended conditions. He stated that the applicants were present at the meeting to answer any questions from Council members before the public hearing was opened. After asking whether Council had any questions and seeing no requests to speak, the Mayor proceeded to open the public hearing on the matter.

Mark Burroughs addressed City Council during the public hearing regarding the proposed conditional use permit for an auto repair shop at 225 South 15th Avenue. Although he stated that he did not personally know the applicant seeking to open the business, Burroughs used the opportunity to express broader concerns about the city's approach to economic development and small business growth.

Burroughs argued that City Council frequently discusses the importance of attracting new businesses and increasing local revenue, yet in his view the city simultaneously creates unnecessary obstacles for entrepreneurs through complicated approval processes and regulatory requirements. Referring specifically to the conditional use permit process for the auto repair shop, he suggested that requiring small business owners to navigate lengthy hearings and approvals sends mixed messages about the city's commitment to supporting economic growth. He described the situation as contradictory, stating that the city cannot claim to encourage business development while also making it difficult for businesses to open and operate.

He encouraged Council to reduce what he characterized as bureaucratic "headaches" and roadblocks for small business owners, arguing that simplifying the process could lead to increased small business investment and economic activity within Hopewell. Burroughs concluded his remarks by thanking Council.

Councilor Wheat makes a motion to approve the conditional use permit for 1001 Perrymont Road and 225 South 15th Avenue as presented. Councilor Harris seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Daye-	Yes
Councilor Wheat-	Yes
Councilor Rapole-	Yes
Vice Mayor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes

Motion Passes 6-0

R-2 (Public Hearing) Modification to development standards 915 Riverside Avenue – Chris Ward, Director of Planning and Development

Chris Ward presented a modification to development standards application concerning property located at 915 Riverside Avenue, identified as parcel number 0660888. The application, which was being introduced as a first reading and public hearing item, involved Virginia American Water’s intake pump station located just east of the Route 10 bridge. Ward explained that Virginia American Water, as the applicant, was requesting approval to add barbed wire security fencing along the top of the existing perimeter security fence surrounding the facility.

Ward noted that the zoning district where the pump station is located does not normally permit barbed wire fencing. However, the city’s zoning ordinance contains a process allowing applicants to request modifications to development standards under certain circumstances. According to the proposal, Virginia American Water sought permission to install three strands of barbed wire on top of the existing security fencing to provide additional protection for the city’s water intake infrastructure. Ward emphasized that the request was being made specifically for security purposes related to critical utility operations.

He then reviewed the legal standards the city must evaluate when considering a modification to development standards request. Ward explained that the request should not be approved if it effectively constitutes a rezoning, variance, special exception, or additional land use not otherwise permitted under the zoning ordinance. Staff determined that the request did not meet any of those disqualifying conditions. Ward further explained that ordinary financial considerations could not be the primary justification for granting the modification, and staff concluded that the request was motivated by security concerns rather than cost savings. He also stated that the request did not alter any previously imposed property-specific conditions established by City Council or the Board of Zoning Appeals, nor did staff believe that the applicant had created the circumstances necessitating the request.

Based on those findings, Ward explained that city staff recommended approval of the modification request. The recommendation included one primary condition requiring that the fencing comply with standards already established elsewhere in the zoning ordinance for industrial districts. Under those industrial district standards, fencing may reach a maximum

height of ten feet and may include no more than three strands of barbed wire within that height limit. Ward noted that the proposed fencing would comply with those same standards.

Ward also reported that the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the request with a 5-0 vote, including the staff-recommended condition. He informed Council that no public comments had been received regarding the application and noted that a representative from Virginia American Water was present at the meeting to answer any questions from Council members if needed.

Vice Mayor Joyner makes a motion to approve the modification to development standards at 915 Riverside Avenue as presented. Councilor Wheat seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Daye-	Yes
Councilor Wheat-	Yes
Councilor Rapole-	Yes
Vice Mayor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes

Motion Passes 6-0

R-3 (Public Hearing) Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds –Stacey Jordan, Deputy City Manager

Jimmy Sanderson of Davenport & Company and Chris Culp of the law firm Hunton Andrews Kurth appeared before City Council to discuss the ordinance authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund school system improvements. Sanderson, serving as the city’s financial advisor, provided an update on the financing process and explained that the city’s audit was expected to be completed the following day. He noted that the completion of the audit was an important milestone because potential investors were waiting to review the city’s financial information before proceeding further with the financing discussions. Sanderson stated that the city’s goal was to return to Council at the May 28 meeting with details regarding investor interest, projected interest rates, loan terms, and overall financing conditions. However, he cautioned that the process should not be rushed and indicated that additional information would become available as negotiations progressed.

Sanderson then introduced Chris Culp, bond counsel for the city, to explain the legal process associated with issuing the bonds. Culp explained that his firm works closely with the city attorney, finance department, and financial advisors to ensure that the proposed financing complies with both Virginia state law and federal tax regulations. He stated that bond counsel’s role is to ultimately provide a legal opinion to bond purchasers confirming that the bonds meet all applicable legal requirements and that the interest earned on the bonds will be exempt from federal income taxes.

Culp explained that before the city can issue debt, Virginia law requires City Council to hold a public hearing and consider adoption of a bond ordinance. He noted that the ordinance before

Council that evening represented the first reading of a short-form authorization allowing the issuance of up to \$15 million in bonds for school improvement projects, primarily focused on HVAC upgrades and related infrastructure needs within the school system. Following adoption of the ordinance, Council would also consider a bond resolution that establishes detailed financing parameters, including the maximum principal amount, maximum interest rate, and maximum repayment term.

According to Culp, once those parameters are approved, authority to finalize and execute the financing could be delegated to city staff and the Mayor, provided the final agreement remains within the limits authorized by Council. He explained that the structure of the financing was similar to a previous general obligation financing approved by Council during the prior fall.

During the discussion, Council members clarified the procedural steps required moving forward. It was explained that the city was holding the required public hearing and first reading that evening, with a second reading and additional action potentially occurring at the May 28 meeting. However, Culp clarified that if Council chose to do so, it could also approve the ordinance on first reading that same evening provided there was sufficient support among Council members, which would eliminate the need for additional action at the next meeting. The discussion concluded with Council members confirming their understanding of the process and available options regarding the bond authorization.

Mark Burroughs, a Ward Three resident, addressed City Council during discussion of the proposed \$15 million general obligation bond issuance for school improvements. Burroughs referenced previous discussions held during a January 13 Council meeting, stating that during that earlier conversation Ms. Jordan indicated the bond funds would not be used exclusively for school projects, but could also support other city expenses, including improvements to City Hall. He also recalled earlier discussions involving stormwater fee increases and stated that he believed residents had previously been told those increases would help fund school-related infrastructure projects, including HVAC improvements at the high school. Burroughs questioned the consistency of the city's messaging regarding how major capital projects and improvements would ultimately be funded.

Burroughs expressed strong concerns about the city continuing to take on additional debt while simultaneously increasing taxes and fees on residents. He argued that although the proposed bond financing might provide temporary financial relief or allow projects to move forward in the short term, the long-term repayment obligations would ultimately fall on taxpayers for many years into the future. He questioned whether Council had adequately considered where repayment funds would come from and warned that residents were already financially strained by rising taxes and city fees. According to Burroughs, many citizens, including himself, felt "taxed out" and increasingly unable to absorb additional financial burdens imposed by the city.

He also connected his remarks to earlier comments made by a student speaker regarding unsafe and deteriorating conditions within local schools. Burroughs argued that addressing school infrastructure and safety concerns should be the city's highest priority. He criticized recent city expenditures that he viewed as less essential, specifically referencing approximately \$25,000 spent on a security barrier at the Commissioner's Office and an additional \$4,005 spent on chairs

for the same office. In his view, those combined expenditures could instead have funded practical improvements such as installing additional bathrooms or repairing facilities in schools where students had raised serious concerns about safety and infrastructure deficiencies. Burroughs stated that if middle school students are publicly raising concerns about unsafe conditions, then city leaders and adults should have already been addressing those issues proactively.

Finally, Burroughs questioned accountability for the city's past financial problems and management failures. Referring to earlier comments made by Mayor Partin and city officials regarding financial mismanagement over the previous decade, Burroughs pointed out that several current Council members were already serving during portions of that period. He asked who within city government had actually been held responsible or terminated because of the financial problems now being discussed publicly. While acknowledging that some elected officials may have lost office over time, Burroughs argued that he had not seen meaningful accountability among city staff or administrators despite residents continuing to bear the financial consequences. He concluded by expressing frustration that taxpayers are still paying for past mistakes while seeing little evidence that anyone has truly been held accountable.

Laura Greenwood, a Ward Six resident, addressed City Council regarding the proposed \$15 million bond issuance and expressed strong concerns about transparency, financial management, and the use of taxpayer funds. Greenwood stated that information previously provided to a member of the Citizens Oversight Committee outlined a list of approximately 13 or 14 separate projects and expenditures totaling roughly \$14.6 million that were allegedly associated with the proposed financing. However, she argued that the language contained in the actual bond documentation presented to the public appeared to differ significantly from those earlier representations. According to Greenwood, the bond ordinance specifically described the financing as being for school-related construction, equipment replacement, and facility improvements, particularly HVAC upgrades, and did not mention the numerous additional projects referenced in the earlier materials. She suggested that this inconsistency created either a serious discrepancy or a deliberate misrepresentation of how the borrowed funds would ultimately be used.

Greenwood also praised the Treasurer's Office and Commissioner's Office for what she described as their willingness to provide records and transparency when she reviewed financial documents. However, she expressed frustration that despite the city holding substantial investment balances, officials were still seeking to borrow additional money through long-term debt financing. Referring to financial records she reviewed, Greenwood stated that the city currently possesses investment accounts totaling more than \$21 million. Given those existing funds, she questioned why the city would pursue a \$15 million loan carrying interest costs approaching 5%, which she argued taxpayers would ultimately be responsible for repaying.

Throughout her remarks, Greenwood repeatedly accused city officials of misrepresenting information to residents and unnecessarily increasing the financial burden on taxpayers. She argued that rather than taking on additional debt and paying interest, the city should instead use available investment funds more responsibly to address infrastructure and school needs directly.

Greenwood urged Council to “play smart” financially and stop imposing additional costs on residents through borrowing and tax increases.

Greenwood concluded her comments by warning City Council not to underestimate the Citizens Oversight Committee or the level of scrutiny residents are placing on city finances and decision-making. She strongly suggested that citizens are closely monitoring the city’s financial actions and expressed anger and distrust toward what she viewed as ongoing misinformation and lack of transparency from city leadership.

Jan Glover addressed City Council in support of school renovations and improvements, explaining that she attended the meeting after losing a bet to her 11-year-old daughter, CJ Glover, who had earlier spoken before Council about unsafe conditions at Woodlawn Learning Center and Carter G. Woodson Middle School. Glover humorously explained that her daughter challenged her to come speak publicly after CJ herself had the courage to advocate for repairs and replacements at the schools. Although she jokingly expressed concern about risking her job by speaking openly, Glover said she ultimately felt compelled to support her daughter’s concerns and discuss both the condition of the schools and the city’s bond financing discussions.

Drawing on her experience as a teacher, Glover referenced how seventh-grade students learn about bonds, economics, and government finance while studying history and civics. She explained that bonds are financial instruments purchased by investors and repaid by governments with interest over time. Glover noted that bonds function as part of a municipality’s capital and investment structure and emphasized that city investments are intended to generate ongoing revenue and financial stability. She acknowledged that while she does not consider herself a math expert, she understood enough about finance to explain that if a city spends down its principal investment funds directly, it loses the future interest income those investments generate. She compared it to retirees spending down their retirement principal and thereby reducing future income streams.

Glover argued that taking out loans or issuing bonds can sometimes be financially wiser than exhausting investment reserves, particularly during periods of inflation. She explained that because inflation rates are currently higher than some borrowing rates, the city may ultimately repay loans with money that is worth less in the future than it is today. In her view, this can make borrowing a practical financial strategy rather than simply spending down reserves. Through her comments, Glover appeared to challenge criticisms from previous speakers who questioned why the city would pursue borrowing while still maintaining investment accounts.

At the same time, Glover strongly supported prioritizing school improvements and described serious maintenance issues at her workplace. She stated that she regularly has to shake out her coat before leaving work because of cockroach problems within the building, emphasizing that the issue is related to the condition of the facility rather than the students themselves. Her comments reinforced concerns previously raised by students and other residents regarding deteriorating infrastructure, safety concerns, and unhealthy conditions within school buildings.

Throughout her remarks, Glover mixed humor with serious concerns, referencing her teaching background, her graduate education, and her experience teaching civics and economics. She

attempted to explain financial concepts in practical terms while also emphasizing the urgent need to improve school conditions for both students and staff. Her comments were ultimately cut short when Council informed her that her allotted speaking time had expired, after which she thanked Council and concluded her remarks.

Darlene Thompson, a Ward Six resident, returned to the podium to respond to comments made by city officials following earlier public remarks regarding the city's finances and proposed bond issuance. Thompson argued that if City Council members and staff are permitted to publicly respond to citizen comments during meetings, then residents should likewise be allowed to reply to statements made by officials, particularly when citizens believe inaccurate information has been presented. She strongly disputed several financial explanations given earlier in the meeting and maintained that city residents were not being provided with the full truth regarding Hopewell's financial condition.

Thompson referenced statements previously made by Finance Director Stacey Jordan when she first arrived in Hopewell, recalling that Jordan had reportedly stated the city's budget had been inflated by approximately \$7.1 million following the departure of former city management. Thompson emphasized that she has attended City Council meetings consistently since 2018 and closely follows the city's financial discussions, insisting that her comments are based on information publicly presented during those meetings rather than misinformation or speculation. She argued that the financial documents and numbers presented by the city demonstrate that Hopewell is not operating in a deficit severe enough to justify borrowing an additional \$15 million. Thompson questioned how the city could have developed and justified such a major financing plan so quickly and suggested that the process lacked proper planning and transparency.

Throughout her remarks, Thompson repeatedly pointed to examples of city spending that she believed contradicted claims of financial hardship. She referenced developer Charles Bennett and projects involving the marina, stating that the city previously approved substantial funding requests related to those developments, including amounts she described as \$500,000, \$94,000, and an additional proposed \$500,000 allocation in the upcoming budget. Thompson argued that city leaders continue approving large expenditures and development incentives while simultaneously claiming that the city is financially struggling and needs to increase taxes and borrowing.

She also criticized the city's relationship with the Robert Bobb Group and associated consulting expenses. Thompson claimed that the Bobb Group received more than \$3.5 million in compensation from the city while also referencing monthly payments to consultants and city administrators. She argued that city staffing and administrative costs have continued to increase, including the hiring of additional employees and support staff, despite officials previously describing the city as financially unstable. According to Thompson, the city's actions are inconsistent with the behavior of a government facing a true financial crisis.

Thompson further stated that the city has repeatedly increased financial burdens on residents through higher taxes, real estate assessments, and various fees while maintaining substantial investment balances. She contrasted the city's ability to invest millions of dollars with the

financial struggles faced by ordinary residents who, in her view, cannot afford to build personal savings or investments because they are overwhelmed by taxes and rising living costs. She insisted that the Treasurer's Office itself had presented records showing the city possesses significant investment accounts, reinforcing her belief that additional borrowing is unnecessary.

Throughout her comments, Thompson repeatedly denied accusations that citizens were spreading misinformation, arguing instead that residents are relying on publicly available financial records, budget documents, and Council meeting discussions. She concluded by stating that she intends to continue attending meetings and speaking publicly until city leadership changes course.

Thompson also expressed hope that voters would remove certain Council members from office during the upcoming elections because she believed they had failed to represent the best interests of Hopewell taxpayers.

Following the public hearing discussion regarding the proposed bond financing and city finances, Mayor Partin addressed what he described as repeated misinformation and misunderstandings presented by certain members of the public during the meeting. He first directed questions to Finance Director Stacey Jordan regarding claims about the city's stormwater fees and tax increases. Mayor Partin asked whether City Council had ever increased the stormwater tax itself, noting that the stormwater program is an unfunded mandate required by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Jordan clarified that City Council had not increased the stormwater fee, but rather only changed the billing method by moving the fee from the Data Integrator utility bill onto residents' real estate tax bills. Mayor Partin thanked Jordan for clarifying that point for the public record.

Mayor Partin then turned to broader concerns regarding the city's past financial condition and accountability for previous fiscal problems. He stated that Hopewell had not been managed properly for many years leading up to the current administration and emphasized that since approximately 2015, there had been significant turnover in both city leadership and City Council membership. According to Mayor Partin, the current Council and management team inherited numerous financial problems created by prior administrations and have had to make difficult decisions in order to stabilize the city's finances and correct years of poor financial management. He specifically argued that previous City Councils diverted capital funding originally intended for school system improvements in order to balance city budgets, which he stated contributed to the need for the current bond financing for school infrastructure projects.

Mayor Partin then asked Stacey Jordan whether prior city budgets had placed Hopewell on a path toward financial instability or bankruptcy. Jordan responded that previous budgets were in some cases overstated and financially unsustainable, citing examples where anticipated funding levels did not match actual revenues received. She explained that these practices contributed to the city's long-term financial difficulties. Jordan also referenced Hopewell's inclusion on the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts' fiscal distress list, noting that the city had remained on that list for a significant period of time but is now finally in the process of being removed. She described this as an important achievement for the city and evidence that financial reforms implemented by the current administration are improving Hopewell's financial condition. Mayor Partin emphasized that the fiscal distress designation and related audit information are publicly available on the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts website and argued that the

administration's statements regarding the city's past financial problems are based on factual documentation rather than misinformation.

During the exchange, several members of the audience attempted to interject comments and challenge statements being made by city officials. Mayor Partin repeatedly reminded attendees that public comment periods had already concluded and stated that the current discussion was intended solely to address misinformation raised during the hearing. At one point, Mark Burroughs attempted to continue speaking from the audience, prompting Mayor Partin to issue a final warning instructing him to stop interrupting or face removal from City Hall. When the interruptions continued, Mayor Partin directed the deputy present at the meeting to escort Burroughs from the chambers.

After order was restored, Mayor Partin continued questioning Stacey Jordan regarding allegations that the city had intentionally inflated or misrepresented budget figures in previous years. Jordan indicated that she had not stated that the city intentionally inflated budgets, though the discussion referenced concerns regarding prior financial practices and inaccurate revenue assumptions. Mayor Partin concluded the exchange by stating that the discussion had addressed what he considered to be misinformation and disinformation raised during the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Joyner makes a motion to approve the ordinance authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for the city of Hopewell, Virginia and the maximum principal of \$15,000,000 as presented. Mayor Partin seconds the motion.

Councilor Rapole spoke in support of the proposed bond financing for school infrastructure improvements, emphasizing that the city is facing an urgent and unavoidable need to address failing HVAC systems within the school division. She stated that the School Board and school administration have repeatedly informed City Council that the city essentially has two options: either replace the aging HVAC systems now or continue paying increasingly large repair costs while risking total system failure. Rapole explained that if the HVAC systems fail completely, schools could lose air conditioning and climate control to the extent that buildings would become unsuitable for students and staff, potentially forcing school closures. She stressed that because of these circumstances, City Council is effectively in a position where action must be taken to address the school facilities issues. Rapole stated that she wanted to publicly go on record expressing her support for assisting the school system through the proposed financing plan.

Following her comments, Mayor Partin added that city officials had previously attempted to secure state funding assistance for the school infrastructure needs. He explained that the city worked with state legislators and sought inclusion in both the House of Delegates and Senate budget proposals through budget amendments. According to Mayor Partin, city representatives met multiple times with senators and delegates serving on key money committees in an effort to advocate for Hopewell's school funding needs. However, despite those efforts, the requested funding was ultimately not included in either the House or Senate budget bills, nor was it added during the budget reconciliation process between the two chambers.

Mayor Partin stated that although the city unsuccessfully pursued outside state assistance, the underlying problem remains that the schools must have functioning HVAC systems in order to

safely operate. He noted that if the HVAC systems fail and school buildings become unusable, students cannot legally be sent into those facilities. He further argued that the public would much rather see students attending safe, functioning schools than being forced out of classrooms because of infrastructure failures. The discussion concluded with Mayor Partin asking whether any other Council members wished to comment before proceeding with the meeting agenda.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Daye-	Yes
Councilor Wheat-	Absent
Councilor Rapole-	Yes
Vice Mayor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes

Motion Passes 5-0

Vice Mayor Joyner makes a motion to approve the resolution providing for the issuance, sale and award for the city of Hopewell, Virginia of general obligation bonds for public improvement bonds in one or more series heretofore authorized and providing for form details and payment of such bonds as presented. Councilor Harris seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Daye-	Yes
Councilor Wheat-	Absent
Councilor Rapole-	Yes
Vice Mayor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes

Motion Passes 5-0

R-4 Supplemental Appropriation for the School Board – Janel English, Director of Finance for Public Schools

Janel English appeared before City Council on behalf of the Hopewell School Board to request approval of a supplemental appropriation to the school division’s budget in the amount of \$509,700. She explained that the request was necessary due to the school division receiving additional state, local, and grant funding that was not included in the originally adopted budget. English provided Council with background information regarding previous budget actions, noting that City Council approved the school division’s original budget on April 22, 2025. Since that time, Council had also approved two prior supplemental appropriations: one in September 2025 totaling \$778,650 and another in February 2026 totaling approximately \$4.76 million. According to English, those earlier appropriations were primarily related to grant funding received by the school division after the original budget adoption.

English explained that the newly requested \$509,700 supplemental appropriation reflects several additional grants and funding sources recently awarded to Hopewell Public Schools. These include an Early Childhood Provisionally Licensed Teacher Grant, an additional School Security

Officer Grant, a Year-Round Schools Grant, and grants from both the Cameron Foundation and the John Randolph Foundation. She stated that these funds would support a variety of educational, staffing, and school safety initiatives within the division.

As a result of incorporating the new grant funding, English reported that the school division's operating budget would increase to approximately \$76.3 million, while the total Hopewell Public Schools budget, including all funding sources, would rise to approximately \$82.26 million. Her presentation focused primarily on formally notifying Council of the new funding sources and requesting authorization to amend the school budget accordingly so the funds could be properly allocated and utilized by the school division.

Vice Mayor Joyner makes a motion to approve the school division supplemental approach and resolution to amend the fiscal year 26 Hopewell Public Schools supplemental budget appropriation as presented. Mayor Partin seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Daye-	Yes
Councilor Wheat-	Absent
Councilor Rapole-	Yes
Vice Mayor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes

Motion Passes 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Johnny Partin, Mayor

Sade' Allen, City Clerk

C-2

**CITY OF HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA
MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 300 NORTH MAIN STREET
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026
6:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bennet called the session to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Patience Bennett, Chairman
Carlos Roman, Vice Chairman
Todd Butterworth
Arnold Daye
Dr. William Butler

Members Absent:

None

Staff Members present:

Christopher Ward, Director

III. Determination of Quorum

A quorum was established.

IV. Invocation by designated Commission Member

Chairman Bennett led a moment of silence honoring military service members who have lost their lives, those wounded, and civilians affected by the ongoing conflict involving Iran, and their families. An opening prayer was offered by Commissioner Butterworth.

V. Administrative Matters

1. Withdrawals/Deferrals/Amendments to the Agenda

Motion by Vice Chairman Roman to move approval of minutes to the end of the agenda and proceed directly to Public Hearings (and to reorder any related citizen comments accordingly).

Second by Commissioner Daye.

Vote: 5-0

- **Yes:**
 - Commissioner Butler
 - Commissioner Daye
 - Commissioner Butterworth
 - Vice Chairman Roman
 - Chairman Bennett

- **No:**
 - None

Motion: Unanimous Pass

VI. Public Hearings

1. Conditional Use Permit – 225 S. 15th Ave. (Parcel #042-1000)

Case #2026.0088: A conditional use permit request submitted by Eugene Browne, Delaunte Patton, and Linwood Jefferson of Bishop 3 LLC, request a Conditional Use Permit to operate an auto repair business on Parcel #024-1000, also identified as 225 S. 15th Ave., in the B-2 Limited Commercial District.

Director Ward presented the staff report, noting City Council added a CUP requirement for auto repair uses in June of the prior year. The subject space is a portion of a larger building; the applicants propose occupying the front office and two of six service bays. The presentation addressed potential impacts typical of auto-related uses (parking, outside storage/display, noise and air pollution, waste disposal and environmental compliance, safety, aesthetics, and theft risk). The applicants propose using two bays only; prohibiting outdoor repair work and storage of inoperable vehicles; operating by appointment only; and properly handling, storing, and disposing of hazardous materials via a licensed third-party service. Staff noted secured off-street parking within a fenced and gated lot with barbed wire, indoor storage for materials and equipment, and separation from a corporate training facility at the north end to mitigate fumes and impacts. No public comments were received. Staff recommended approval with conditions requiring: (1) exterior areas to remain clear with no outside storage or display; (2) no outdoor displays; (3) all vehicles to be parked off-street; (4) all repair work indoors; (5) inoperable/abandoned vehicles removed or stored indoors after 30 days; (6) hazardous materials management in compliance with all regulations; and (7) the CUP to run with the land for future auto-related users.

Applicant and staff responses confirmed the remaining four bays are used by the owner for storage/logistics; any future tenant would require approvals. Additional parking may be available on the north side if needed. A contracted hazardous waste disposal service (e.g., Safe and Clean, Richmond) would collect waste, and a ventilation system will be installed for exhaust during vehicle operation. Staff and

Commission noted comparatively strong site security.

Public hearing was opened at 6:15 p.m.; no speakers came forward. Public Hearing was closed.

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth to recommend approval of the CUP to City Council with the seven staff-recommended conditions, noting consistency with Article 21 and the future land use designation, and that the plan is environmentally and operationally well-considered.

Second: Commissioner Daye.

Vote: 5-0

- **Yes:**
 - Commissioner Butler
 - Commissioner Daye
 - Commissioner Butterworth
 - Vice Chairman Roman
 - Chairman Bennett

- **No:**
 - None

Motion: Unanimous Pass

2. Conditional Use Permit – 1001 Perrymont Rd (Parcel #254-0010)

Case #2026.0062: A conditional use permit request submitted by Joy Fellowship Church to install a six foot tall perimeter fence on Parcel #254-0010, also identified as 1001 Perrymont Rd., and zoned R-2 Residential Medium Density District.

Director Ward presented the staff report, Under the Hopewell Zoning Ordinance, a front-yard fence up to four feet is permitted by right; taller fences require a CUP. The applicant seeks a six-foot fence to contain an athletic field area, enhance safety for children, and improve property security. Staff presented mapping, example imagery (including a gated entrance), and a lot plan indicating perimeter fencing around non-wooded areas, and recommended approval with a condition requiring substantial compliance with the presented plans and materials.

Applicant Presentation: The applicant described installing a six-foot, black-coated fence along the front/eastern and western sides near an open grassy area used for youth soccer. The primary safety concerns were stray soccer balls and children near Burnham Drive. Soccer fields are oriented north-south to accommodate multiple age groups. Approximately 175 feet of fence is proposed near the front area with a setback of approximately 25 feet from the centerline of the private drive, located on

the property side of the drainage ditch to maintain access. The applicant noted an existing six-foot fence along a logging road easement on the north side is behind buildings; significant upgrades are not planned due to the easement, though maintenance will evaluate its condition.

Public hearing was opened at 6:37 p.m.

Public Comment:

- Kim Taylor, 3727 Burnham Drive and owner of 3712 Burnham Drive, acknowledged church improvements but emphasized Burnham Drive's residential character. She favored maintaining a four-foot height along the front "bottom" of the private drive frontage, expressing concern about expectations for similar six-foot fences along the street, while not objecting to six feet along the parking lot or driveway segments.
- Robert Moody, 3727 Burnham Drive, residing near the end of Burnham Drive, supported the project generally but asked how close the fence would be to the roadway given an existing ditch. The applicant confirmed the fence would be set back approximately 25 feet from the private drive centerline and placed behind the ditch.

Public hearing closed at 6:43 p.m.

Staff Recommendation: Director Ward reiterated that a four-foot front-yard fence is by-right; the request is solely for six feet in specified front/side areas. Article 21 standards govern the CUP review. Staff noted a church is a by-right institutional use in a residential district, which is distinguishable from single-family residential properties for purposes of any precedent concerns.

Discussion: Commissioners discussed safety and neighborhood context under Article 21 standards, clarifying that the CUP addresses height only and does not extend to requiring upgrades to the north-side fence within the logging road easement. Members considered the incremental increase from four to six feet relative to public safety for on-site athletic activities and the case-by-case nature of CUP approvals. The applicant addressed field orientation, fence length and placement, and the purpose of the increased height for ball containment and child safety.

Motion by Commissioner Butler to approve of the CUP for Joy Fellowship Church to install a six-foot (6.0') fence in the front yard on Parcel #254-0010, also identified as 1001 Perrymont Rd with the following condition:

The new fencing and entryway will be in substantial conformance with the fencing and entryway examples presented to the Planning Commission on March 5, 2026, with any modifications as conditioned at final approval.

Second: Vice Chairman Roman.

Vote: 5-0

- **Yes:**
 - Commissioner Butler
 - Commissioner Daye
 - Commissioner Butterworth
 - Vice Chairman Roman
 - Chairman Bennett

- **No:**
 - None

Motion: Unanimous Pass

3. Modification to Development Standards – 915 Riverside Ave (Parcel #066-0888)

Case #2026.0048: A Modification to Development Standards request submitted by Virginia American Water to install barbed wire on security fencing on Parcel #066-0888, also identified as 915 Riverside Ave., and zoned B-3 Highway Commercial District.

Director Ward presented a request from Virginia American Water to allow barbed wire atop security fencing around the intake pump station at 915 Riverside Avenue. Barbed wire is generally prohibited outside industrial districts; the Zoning Ordinance provides no exemption for municipal or quasi-municipal facilities in commercial districts. A property-specific modification is the appropriate mechanism. Staff noted a broader zoning text amendment could be considered in the forthcoming ordinance rewrite but recommended immediate, property-specific relief. Staff recommended approval with the condition that fencing comply with Article 18, Section A(7)(b)(3) industrial district standards: total fence height up to 10 feet with no more than three strands of barbed wire, and the top strand not exceeding 10 feet.

Applicant Remarks: Mr. Christian Vogt, Virginia American Water, stated the site currently has a fence approximately six feet high with three strands of barbed wire. Upcoming construction on the east side will require removing and replacing fencing in that area; the street frontage fencing will remain. The intent is to match existing fencing; staff's condition allows flexibility if up to 10 feet is necessary during site plan review. Mr. Vogt reported trespassing incidents and police responses, underscoring security needs.

Public hearing was opened at 7:07 p.m.; no speakers came forward. Public Hearing was closed.

Discussion: Commissioners sought clarification on fence height and strand limits; staff confirmed the top strand cannot exceed 10 feet in total height. Members discussed modification criteria, district applicability, and alternatives such as a district-wide text amendment. Staff explained the modification cannot substitute for

other approvals or amend previously imposed conditions and is appropriate here as a property-specific solution pending broader ordinance updates. Commissioners supported the focused approach for critical infrastructure.

Motion by Vice Chairman Roman moved to approve the modification to development standards to allow barbed wire along the top of the security fencing for the Virginia American Water intake pump station at 915 Riverside Avenue (Parcel No. 066-0888), subject to staff's recommended condition that fencing comply with Article 18, Section A(7)(b)(3) (industrial district standards: total height up to 10 feet with no more than three strands of barbed wire; top strand not to exceed 10 feet).

Second: Commissioner Butler.

Vote: 5-0

- **Yes:**
 - Commissioner Butler
 - Commissioner Daye
 - Commissioner Butterworth
 - Vice Chairman Roman
 - Chairman Bennett

- **No:**
 - None

Motion: Unanimous Pass

VII. Administrative Matters (Continued)

2. Review and take action on previous meeting minutes

Motion by Commissioner Butterworth to approve the minutes as presented for the February 5, 2026, regular meeting.

Seconded: Commissioner Daye.

Vote: 5-0

- **Yes:**
 - Commissioner Butler
 - Commissioner Daye
 - Commissioner Butterworth
 - Vice Chairman Roman
 - Chairman Bennett

- **No:**
- None

Motion: Unanimous Pass

VIII. Citizen Comments

No citizens were signed up to speak, and none came forward.

IX. New Business

None

X. Business of the Wetlands Board

None

XI. Reports from Planning Commission Members & Staff

Planning Staff Report – Wetlands Ordinance and Board Status: Director Ward reported that all Virginia localities were required to adopt a new wetlands ordinance by January 1, 2025; Hopewell did not adopt by that date. As a result, the City’s existing wetlands board currently lacks authority. VMRC (Virginia Marine Resources Commission) advised that in the absence of a current local wetlands ordinance, VMRC’s determinations are controlling and final; the City Attorney concurred. A new wetlands ordinance housed in the City Code (not the Zoning Ordinance) will be presented to City Council and will not come before the Planning Commission for a vote. The City must determine whether to re-establish a local wetlands board or defer to VMRC. Staff noted many jurisdictions rely on VMRC; a local board provides local oversight but can extend timelines by awaiting VMRC’s final report. Fees are minimal. The Chair expressed a preference to retain a local wetlands board for municipal oversight. Staff also noted that VMRC provides notifications and reports to the City regardless of local board status.

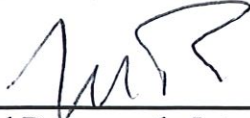
Commissioners discussed processes, timelines, and public information access.

Commission Acknowledgments: Commissioners commended staff for thorough presentations and write-ups.

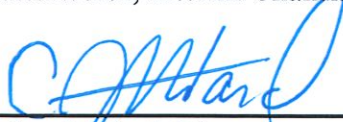
XII. Adjournment

Commissioner Butterworth motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Daye seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Butterworth, Interim Chairman



Christopher J. Ward, Director
Department of Development

DATE: May 7, 2026

**CITY OF HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA
MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 300 NORTH MAIN STREET
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026
6:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bennet called the session to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Todd Butterworth
Arnold Daye
Dr. William Butler

Members Absent:

Patience Bennett, Chairman
Carlos Roman, Vice Chairman

Staff Members present:

Christopher Ward, Director

III. Determination of Quorum

A quorum was established.

IV. Invocation by designated Commission Member

An opening prayer was offered by Commissioner Daye.

V. Administrative Matters

1. Withdrawals/Deferrals/Amendments to the Agenda

None

2. Review and take action on previous meeting minutes

Director Ward noted that a revised set of minutes had been distributed to correct an earlier version that had omitted two cases. The revised version was presented for approval.

Commissioner Butterworth moved to approve the corrected minutes of the March 5, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Day seconded the motion.

The vote proceeded.

Vote: 3-0

Yes:

Todd Butterworth
Arnold Daye
Dr. William Butler

No:

None

Motion: Unanimous Pass

VI. Citizen Comments

None

VII. Public Hearings

1. Conditional Use Permit – Dublin Street (Parcel #073-0835)

Case #2026.0156: A conditional use permit request submitted by Ross Bauschatz, agent for the owner, to construct a duplex on non-conforming lot, Parcel #073-0835, located on Dublin St. and zoned R-3 Residential, High Density District.

Director Ward presented the case for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to construct a two-story duplex on a property in Ward Two, zoned R-3 Residential High Density. The property is a 5,000-square-foot corner lot. The R-3 district requires a minimum lot size of 7,500 square feet for a duplex, making the lot non-conforming in total square footage, thus necessitating a CUP. The proposed structure would consist of two three-bedroom, two-bath units, each 1,200 square feet, with a brick front porch, brick foundation, and vinyl siding. Staff analysis indicated that while the proposed dwelling is larger than average for the neighborhood, it meets all district setbacks and is consistent with the surrounding area, where a large percentage of properties are duplexes. Staff recommended approval with several conditions, including requirements for eaves, driveway material, a full brick foundation, and foundation plantings. Director Ward recommended removing a standard condition for 20% tree canopy coverage for this specific application, citing the difficulty of achieving that percentage on a 5,000-square-foot lot and stating that staff will develop a revised approach for future applications.

The public hearing opened at 6:09 p.m.; no speakers came forward. The public hearing was closed.

Ross Bauschatz, the Applicant, came to the podium. Mr. Bauschatz stated his intent to construct a high-quality rental property that would enhance and revitalize the area. He affirmed his agreement with all staff conditions, including revising the plans to show a

full brick foundation and adding eaves. He noted that some trees would need to be removed to accommodate the building footprint, but that he would install aesthetically pleasing landscaping.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Butler inquired about the number of existing trees on the lot and whether they could be retained. Discussion followed about the placement of the proposed structure and parking, with Mr. Bauschatz noting that retaining the front trees would create a crowded corner near a stop sign.
- Commissioner Butler confirmed with the applicant that the revised plans would include a full brick foundation, not the cinder block indicated on the initial drawings.
- Commissioner Butler questioned the plans regarding the location of water heaters and washer/dryer hookups for both units, which the applicant clarified were included for both.
- Commissioner Butler asked Director Ward to clarify the term “vernacular homes” from the staff report. Director Ward explained that it refers to a common, standard American home style that doesn’t fit into a specific architectural classification.

Motion:

Commissioner Daye moved to recommend approval of the Conditional Use Permit (Case No. 2026.0156) to the City Council, finding that the request is consistent with the seven elements of Article 21 of the Zoning Ordinance. The motion included the staff-recommended conditions regarding eaves, driveways, foundation, plantings, and substantial conformance with the presented designs, but specifically excluded the tree canopy requirement as recommended by staff. Commissioner Butterworth seconded the motion.

The vote proceeded.

Vote: 3-0

Yes:

Todd Butterworth
Arnold Daye
Dr. William Butler

No:

None

Motion: Unanimous Pass

VIII. New Business

None

IX. Business of the Wetlands Board

1. Review of the Wetlands Ordinance

Director Ward of the Department of Development presented an informational overview regarding the City of Hopewell's local wetlands ordinance and the function of a local wetlands board. He explained that the current ordinance is outdated and inoperative, and a local wetlands board is not mandated by state or federal law for Hopewell. If a locality does not have its own board, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), which has a staff of scientific and environmental experts, serves as the default wetlands board. All wetlands permits are processed through a Joint Permit Application (JPA) managed by the VMRC, which also involves agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Since 2003, Hopewell has averaged only 2.4 JPA submissions per year, with only one of those 28 applications requiring local board review due to exemptions in the ordinance.

Director Ward explained that the City Council must decide whether to adopt a new wetlands model ordinance, which would formally establish a local wetlands board, or repeal the current inoperative ordinance and dissolve the board. The "pros" of a local board include direct local oversight and public hearings. The "cons" include a lack of local technical expertise, duplication of the state's review, and the infrequency of non-exempt permit applications (only one since 2018), which limits the board's ability to gain experience. If Council retains the board, staff would recommend mandatory training and increased permit fees.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Butterworth inquired about the process for designating an area as a wetland. Director Ward clarified that an area is considered a wetland if it meets the scientific definition, and the VMRC holds final authority on this determination.
- Commissioner Butterworth also asked how a developer could build within a wetland. Director Ward explained that this is done through the JPA process, in which the VMRC, DEQ, and the Army Corps of Engineers review the project and either approve or deny it.
- Commissioner Daye was surprised that a boathouse would be exempt from a local wetlands permit.
- Commissioner Butler questioned if VMRC holds local public hearings; the Director confirmed that they do hold public hearings, both in-person and virtual.
- Commissioner Butterworth argued that local oversight is inherently good and helps align projects with the comprehensive plan, though Director Ward noted the plan does not specifically address wetlands.
- Commissioner Butterworth analogized the process to the commission's review of CUPs, where they rely on expert recommendations but make a final determination based on local interests. He argued the VMRC could act as the "expert staff" for the local board's review.

- Director Ward stated the primary staff concern is the lack of local expertise to make informed decisions, especially when considering a decision that might contradict the VMRC's recommendation.
- Director Ward invited the commission to make a motion expressing their preference to assist the City Council.

Motion:

Commissioner Butler moved that the Planning Commission express its support for maintaining a local wetlands board. Commissioner Daye seconded the motion.

The vote proceeded.

Vote: 3-0

Yes:
 Todd Butterworth
 Arnold Daye
 Dr. William Butler

No:
 None

Motion: Unanimous Pass


X. Reports from Planning Commission Members & Staff

None

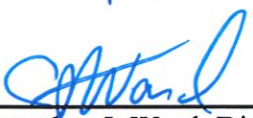
XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Butterworth motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Daye seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



 Patience Bennett, Chairman



 Christopher J. Ward, Director
 Department of Development

DATE: May 7, 2025

C-3



FY27 Proposed Operational Budget

March 24, 2026-- Proposed

Primary City Programs and Funds

General Gov't



- General Fund
- Judicial Administration
- Recreation
- Economic Development
- Capital Projects
- Grants
- Marina
- Perpetual Care

Enterprises



- Regional Water
- Sewer
- Refuse
- Storm Water

Health & Welfare



- Social Services
- Children's Services Act
- Healthy Families
- Special Welfare

Schools



- General Support
- Textbooks
- Cafeteria
- Bldg/Bus Replacement

Debt



- General Gov't
- HWR
- Sewer
- Schools

Who Makes Expense Forecasts



Personnel Costs

Budget Office
HR



Services & Supplies

Departments



Capital

Departments



Schools

Develops own budget

Proposed Budget Highlights for FY27

1. **Maintain operations** at current levels
2. **Fund needed** capital with remaining funds – if available
3. **Build reserves** if revenue left after funding capital
4. **Class & Compensation Implementation** – Public Safety completed in FY26, all other departments included in FY27
5. **Health Insurance** Increase of 6% or \$293K (82% absorbed by city)
6. **COLA 2%** across the board for City departments
7. **Police and Fire Step Increase**
8. **State (DSS, Constitutional) 2%** across departments

Long-term strategy should include developing priorities for budget funding that will match resources to needs

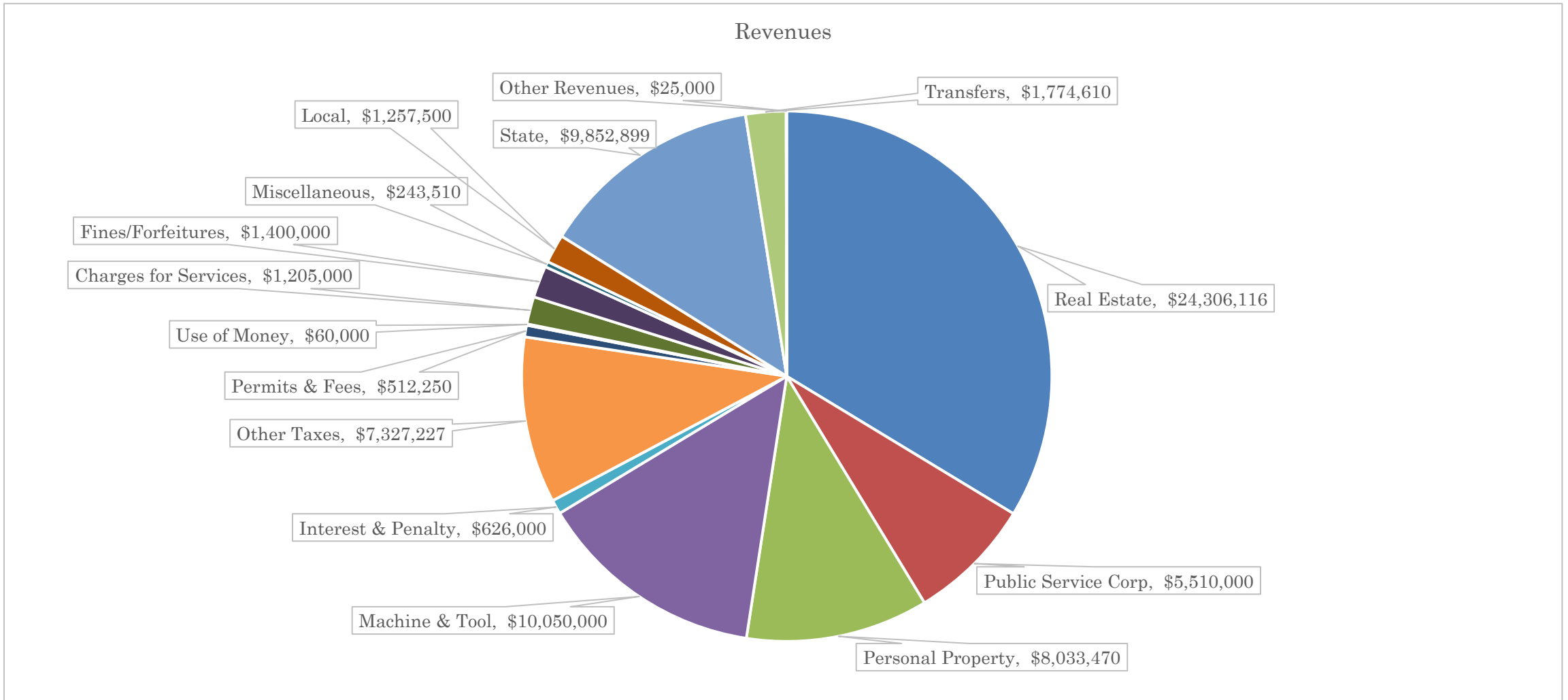
Revenues by Type

City of Hopewell, Virginia General Fund				
REVENUES	FY 27 Proposed Budget	FY 26 Adopted Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Real Estate	\$ 24,306,116	\$ 24,030,745	\$ 275,371	1.15%
Public Service Corp	\$ 5,510,000	\$ 4,900,000	\$ 610,000	12.45%
Personal Property	\$ 8,033,470	\$ 8,215,470	\$ (182,000)	-2.22%
Machine & Tool	\$ 10,050,000	\$ 9,384,549	\$ 665,451	7.09%
Interest & Penalty	\$ 626,000	\$ 591,000	\$ 35,000	5.92%
Other Taxes	\$ 7,327,227	\$ 7,652,180	\$ (324,953)	-4.25%
Permits & Fees	\$ 512,250	\$ 482,400	\$ 29,850	6.19%
Use of Money	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -	0.00%
Charges for Services	\$ 1,205,000	\$ 1,217,000	\$ (12,000)	-0.99%
Fines/Forfeitures	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 985,000	\$ 415,000	42.13%
Miscellaneous	\$ 243,510	\$ 233,801	\$ 9,709	4.15%
Local	\$ 1,257,500	\$ 1,257,500	\$ -	0.00%
State	\$ 9,852,899	\$ 9,623,520	\$ 229,379	2.38%
Federal	\$ -	\$ 458,403	\$ (458,403)	-100.00%
Transfers	\$ 1,774,610	\$ 1,391,500	\$ 383,110	27.53%
Other Revenues	\$ 25,000	\$ 35,000	\$ (10,000)	-28.57%
Total Revenues	\$ 72,183,583	\$ 70,518,068	\$ 1,665,514	2.36%

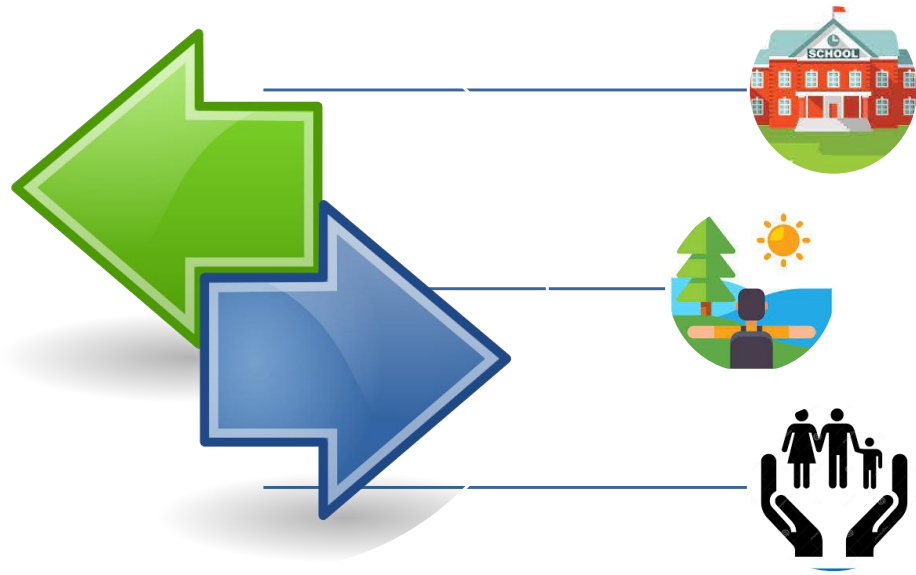
Notes:

1. Other taxes reduction is due to cigarette tax realistic estimates.
2. Increase in fines/forfeitures is due to school zone fines
3. Federal revenue reduction due to Grants
4. Transfers increase due to DSS alignment with state

Revenues | by Category



Transfers/Grant Match/City Share | General Fund Expenses



<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>2027 Proposed</u>	<u>2026 Original</u>	<u>Difference</u>
SUPPORT OF VPA	\$ 1,214,563	\$ 1,208,464	\$ 6,099
SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS	\$ 13,580,000	\$ 13,580,000	\$ -
SUPPORT OF CSA & CPMT	\$ 962,000	\$ 969,133	\$ (7,133)
SUPPORT OF RECREATION	\$ 2,557,912	\$ 2,496,017	\$ 61,894
SUPPORT OF CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$ 570,000	\$ 650,000	\$ (80,000)
SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOP	\$ 50,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000
SUPPORT OF SELF INSURANCE	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ -
SUPPORT OF DEBT SERVICE	\$ 1,143,099	\$ 852,321	\$ 290,778
SUPPORT OF HEALTHY FAMILIES	\$ 398,661	\$ 508,811	\$ (110,150)
Total	\$ 21,076,234	\$ 20,884,746	\$ 191,488

Notes:

1. VPA – Align with state
2. CSA & CPMT – moved to DSS
3. Debt – Meals & Lodging outperforming projection
4. Healthy Families – increase in state funding reduction in city transfer

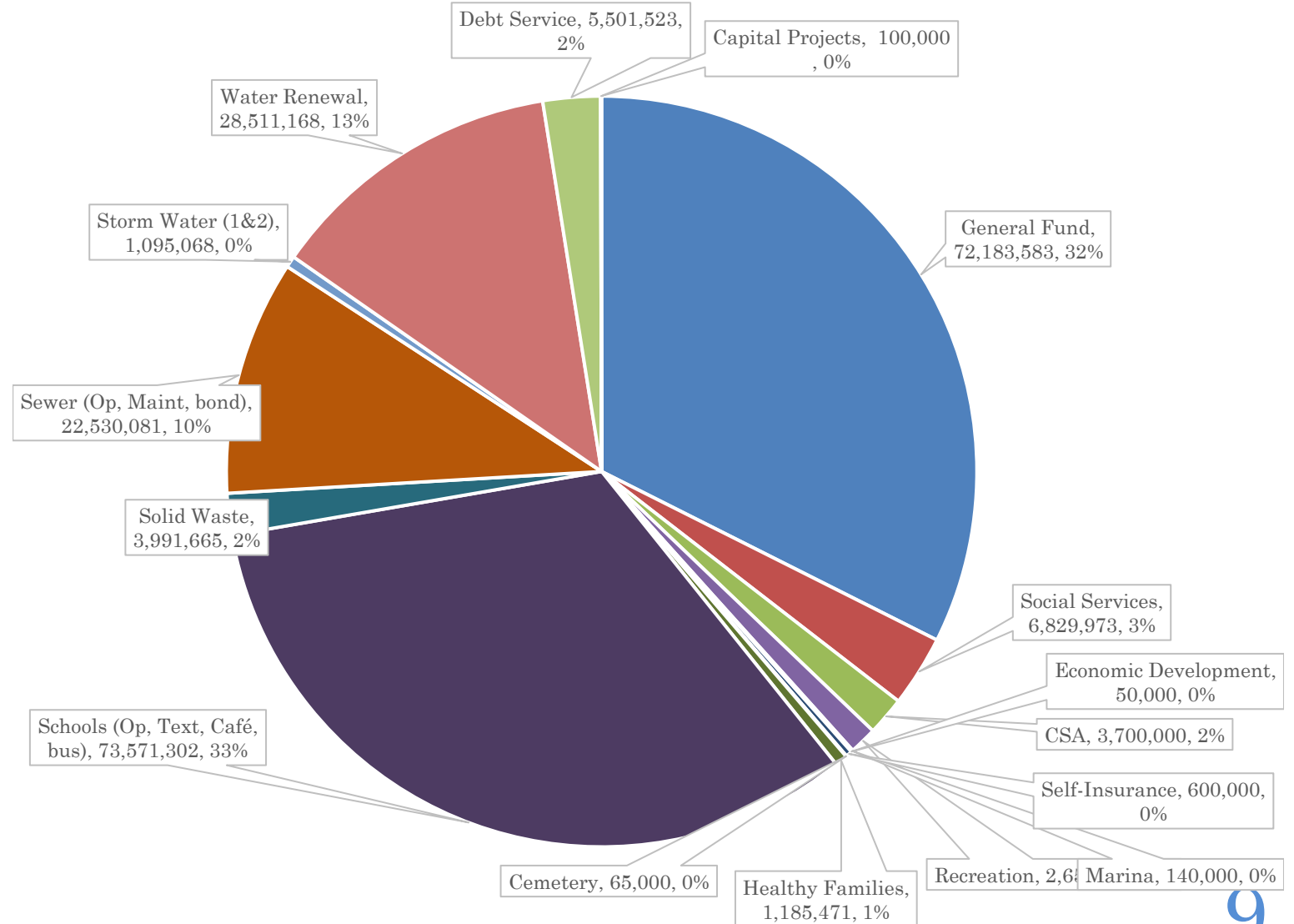
Outside Agencies

- The contributions to outside agencies has been an ongoing investment in the community
- Many of the largest contributions—Jail, transit, library—are not discretionary

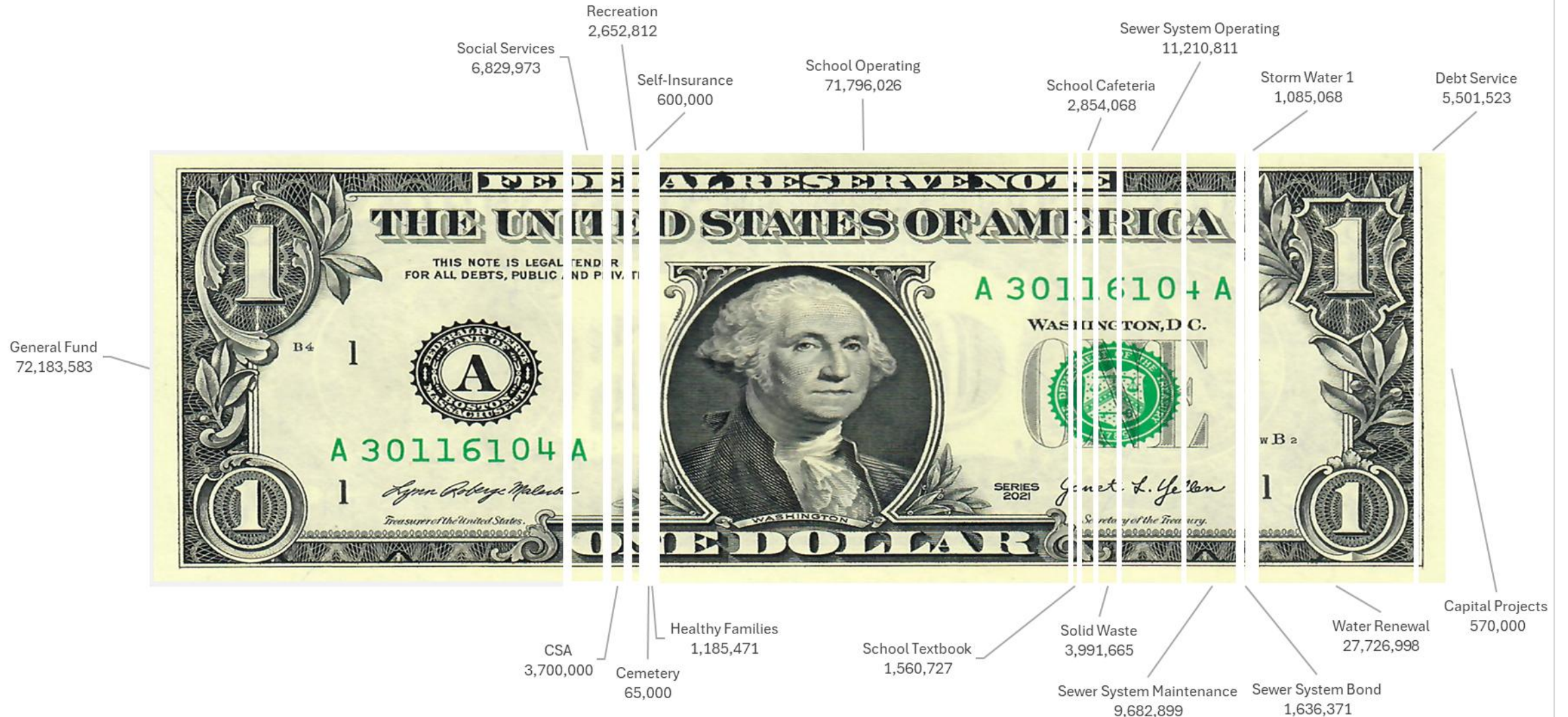
Agency/Department	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	COMMENTS
Required Contributions					
Crater Detention	\$ 394,000	\$ 313,069	\$ 331,515	\$ 331,515	
Riverside regional jail	\$ 2,532,000	\$ 2,470,145	\$ 2,753,122	\$ 2,753,122	
Riverside Criminal (Probation)	\$ 207,227	\$ 207,227	\$ 207,227	\$ 256,792	
Health Department	\$ 191,813	\$ 191,843	\$ 191,813	\$ 191,813	
Mental Health	\$ 150,309	\$ 150,309	\$ 150,309	\$ 150,309	
Library	\$ 702,423	\$ 738,382	\$ 760,057	\$ 782,859	Slight Increase
FOLAR	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	
Crater Planning District Comm	\$ 24,971	\$ 24,971	\$ 24,971	\$ 24,971	
Winter Shelter	\$ 189,997	\$ 175,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	
Total	\$ 4,398,240	\$ 4,276,446	\$ 4,544,514	\$ 4,616,881	
Strongly Recommended					
Hopewell/PG Chamber of Comm	\$ 52,805	\$ 52,805	\$ 52,805	\$ 46,440	
Petersburg Transit	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	
Hopewell Food Pantry	\$ 15,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
VA Gateway Region Dues	\$ 62,275	\$ 62,275	\$ 62,275	\$ 62,275	
City of Refuge	\$ 120,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
Beacon Theatre 2012 LLC	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 180,000	\$30K moved from PW to Beacon for Maintenance
Total	\$ 620,080	\$ 560,080	\$ 560,080	\$ 583,715	
Discretionary					
Longwood SBDC Contribution	\$ 6,845	\$ 6,845	\$ 6,845	\$ 6,845	
Petersburg Symphony	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	
Ridefinders	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	
LambArt	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
Crater Workforce Development	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
Tyler Community College	\$ 2,821	\$ 2,891	\$ 2,891	\$ 2,891	
Historic Hopewell	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	Additional \$5K
Hopewell Downtown Partnership	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	
Feedmore	\$ -		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	
Kiwanis Club	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	Addition to list
Total	\$ 104,166	\$ 104,236	\$ 106,236	\$ 113,736	
Grand Total	\$ 5,122,486	\$ 4,940,762	\$ 5,210,830	\$ 5,314,332	

FY 27 Proposed All Funds Budget

City of Hopewell, Virginia FY 27 Proposed Budget-All Funds	
General Fund	72,183,583
Social Services	6,829,973
CSA	3,700,000
Recreation	2,652,812
Marina	140,000
Economic Development	50,000
Self-Insurance	600,000
Cemetery	65,000
Healthy Families	1,185,471
School Operating	70,082,064
School Textbook	534,053
School Cafeteria	2,936,730
School Bldg/Bus Replacement	18,455
Solid Waste	3,991,665
Sewer System Operating	11,210,811
Sewer System Maintenance	9,682,899
Sewer System Bond	1,636,371
Storm Water 1	1,085,068
Storm Water 2	10,000
Water Renewal	28,511,168
Debt Service	5,501,523
Capital Projects	100,000
Total All Funds	222,707,646

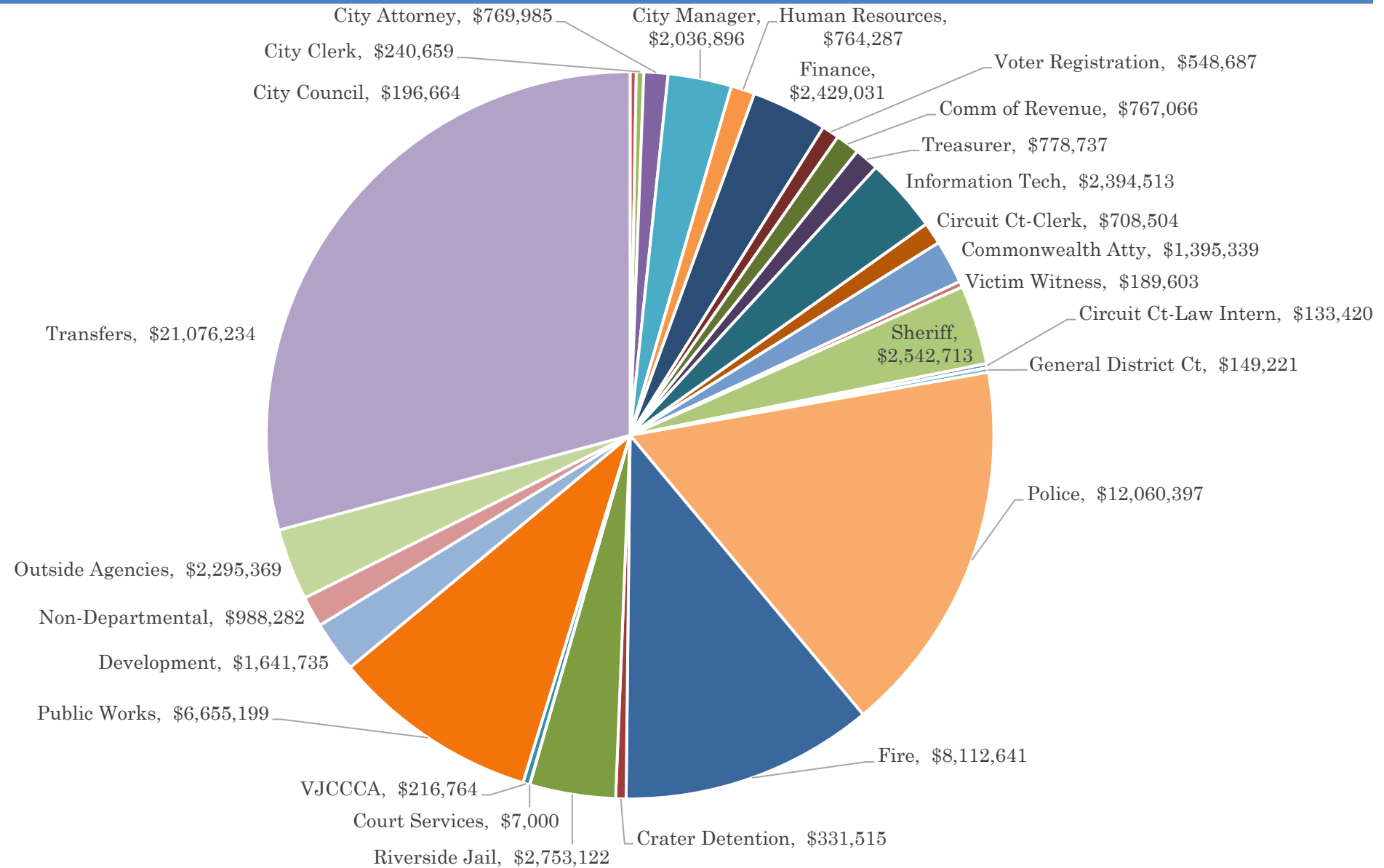


How your tax dollar is spent!



General Fund

Expenses | by Department



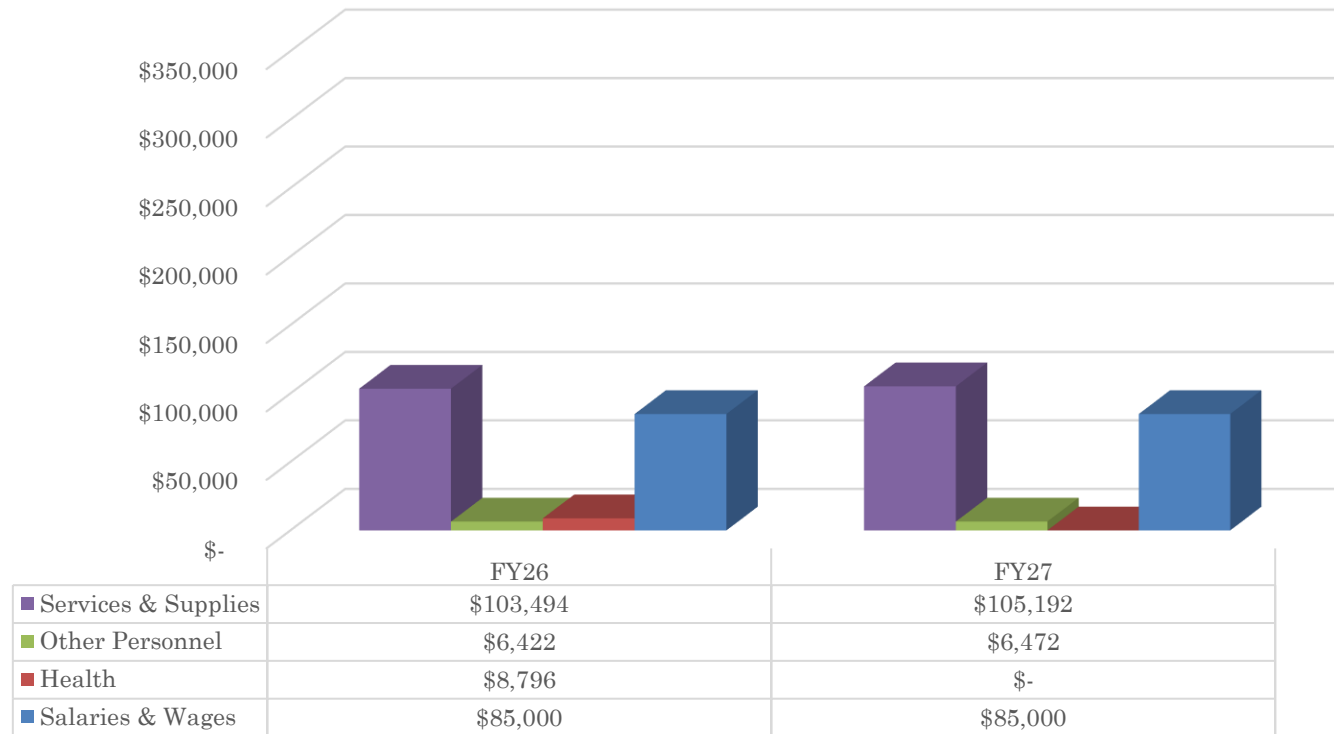
Expenses by Department

Notes:

1. Council – removal of health insurance
2. Clerk – salary & benefit changes/ health insurance
3. Attorney – salary & benefits
4. City Manager – Mgmt consulting reduced/DCM moved to CM office
5. DCM moved to CM office 2 vacancies combined to 1 position
6. Voter Registration – additional elections
7. Treasurer –postage and delinquent notices
8. IT – service contract increases
9. Circuit Clerk & Commonwealth Attorney – state funded positions added in FY26
10. Police & Fire – Step increase and 3 police positions unfunded in FY26
11. Development – Neighborhood planner position

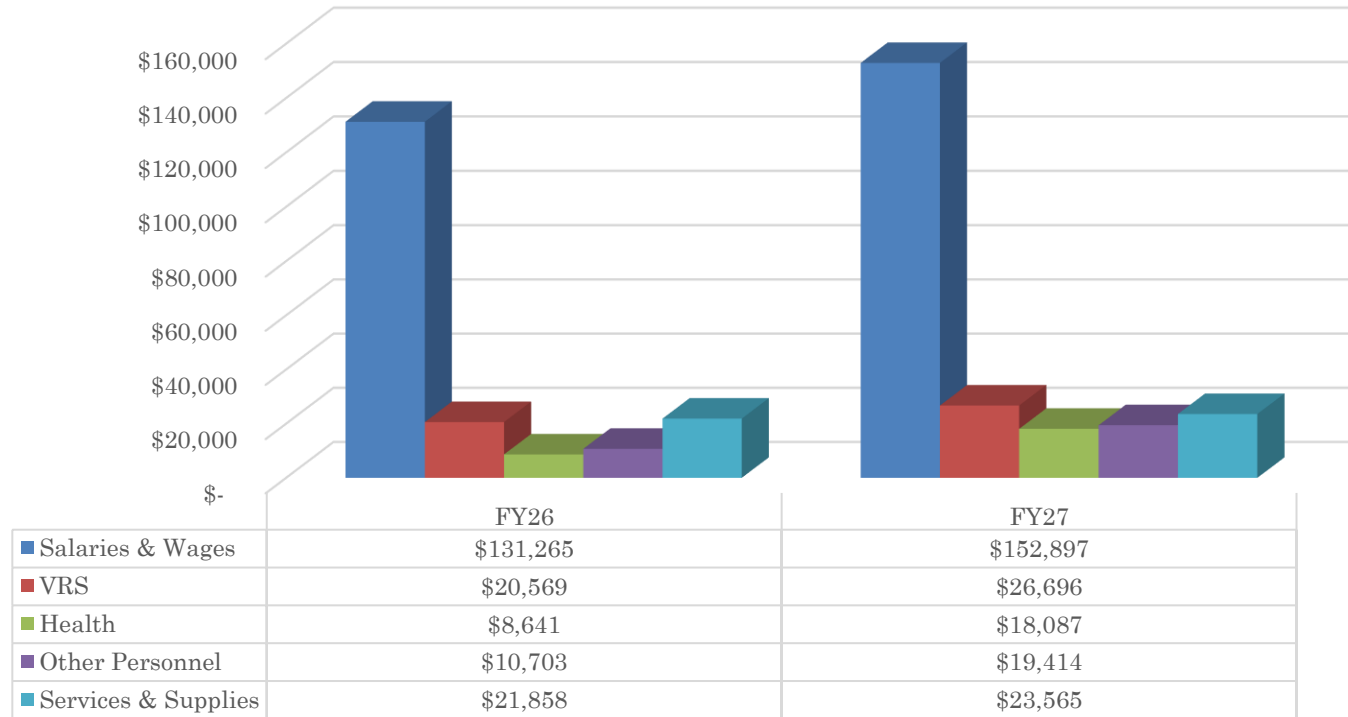
City of Hopewell, Virginia General Fund				
EXPENDITURES	FY 27 Proposed Budget	FY 26 Adopted Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
City Council	\$ 196,664	\$ 203,711	\$ (7,047)	-3.46%
City Clerk	\$ 240,659	\$ 193,036	\$ 47,623	24.67%
City Attorney	\$ 769,985	\$ 728,084	\$ 41,900	5.75%
City Manager	\$ 2,036,896	\$ 2,114,169	\$ (77,273)	-3.66%
Human Resources	\$ 764,287	\$ 748,324	\$ 15,964	2.13%
Finance	\$ 2,429,031	\$ 2,731,231	\$ (302,200)	-11.06%
Voter Registration	\$ 548,687	\$ 482,937	\$ 65,750	13.61%
Comm of Revenue	\$ 767,066	\$ 754,063	\$ 13,003	1.72%
Treasurer	\$ 778,737	\$ 704,482	\$ 74,255	10.54%
Information Tech	\$ 2,394,513	\$ 2,062,515	\$ 331,998	16.10%
Circuit Ct-Clerk	\$ 708,504	\$ 623,963	\$ 84,541	13.55%
Commonwealth Atty	\$ 1,395,339	\$ 1,273,160	\$ 122,179	9.60%
Victim Witness	\$ 189,603	\$ 189,603	\$ -	0.00%
Sheriff	\$ 2,542,713	\$ 2,531,802	\$ 10,911	0.43%
Circuit Ct-Law Intern	\$ 133,420	\$ 130,920	\$ 2,500	1.91%
General District Ct	\$ 149,221	\$ 155,923	\$ (6,702)	-4.30%
Police	\$ 12,060,397	\$ 11,359,370	\$ 701,026	6.17%
Fire	\$ 8,112,641	\$ 7,838,922	\$ 273,719	3.49%
Crater Detention	\$ 331,515	\$ 331,515	\$ -	0.00%
Riverside Jail	\$ 2,753,122	\$ 2,753,122	\$ -	0.00%
Court Services	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ -	0.00%
VJCCCA	\$ 216,764	\$ 202,147	\$ 14,617	7.23%
Public Works	\$ 6,655,199	\$ 6,553,480	\$ 101,719	1.55%
Development	\$ 1,641,735	\$ 1,518,791	\$ 122,944	8.09%
Non-Departmental	\$ 988,282	\$ 1,314,858	\$ (326,576)	-24.84%
Outside Agencies	\$ 2,295,369	\$ 2,126,193	\$ 169,176	7.96%
Transfers	\$ 21,076,234	\$ 20,884,746	\$ 191,488	0.92%
Total Expenditures	\$ 72,183,583	\$ 70,518,068	\$ 1,665,515	2.36%

Council Expenses | Operations -\$196,664



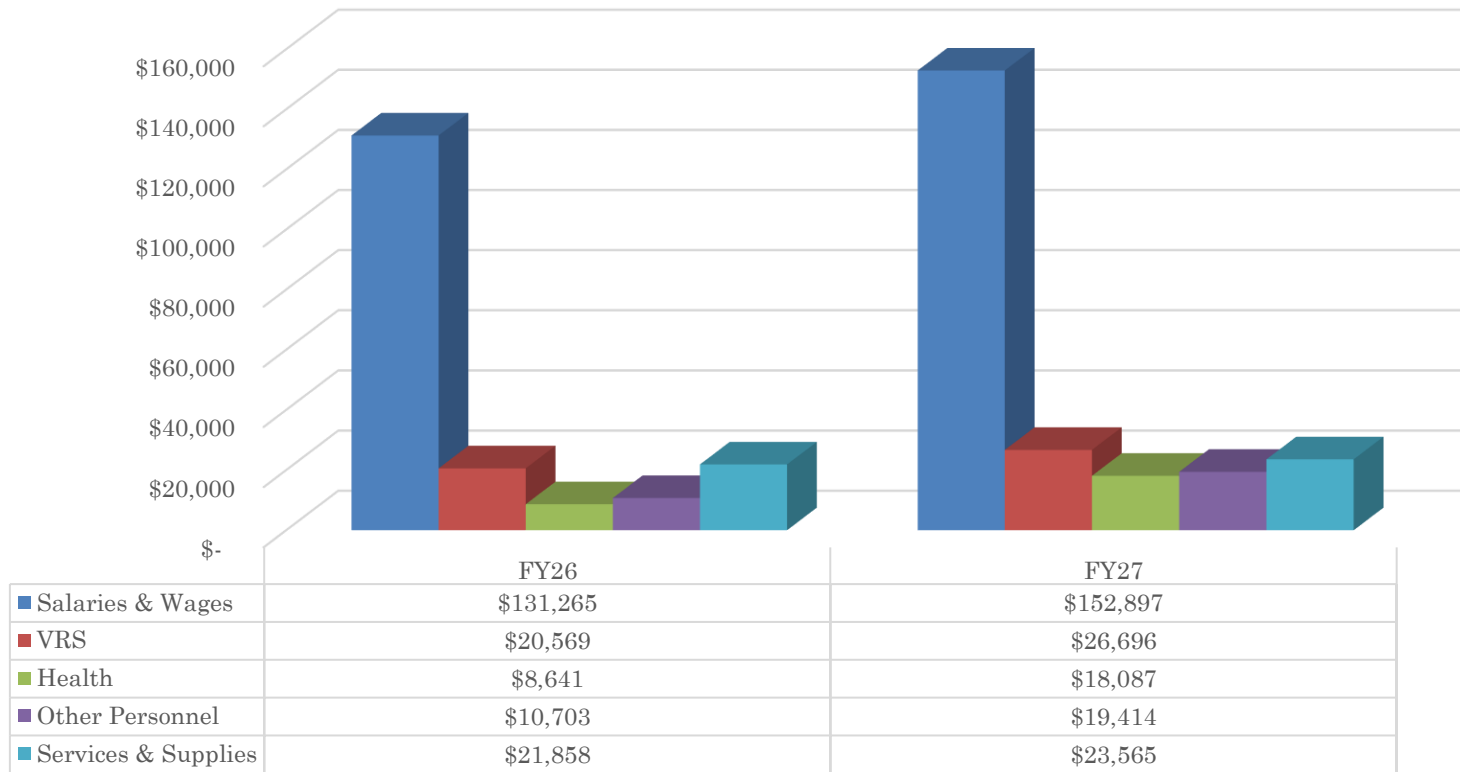
Note: Reduction stems from removal of health care

Clerk Expenses | Operations - \$240,659



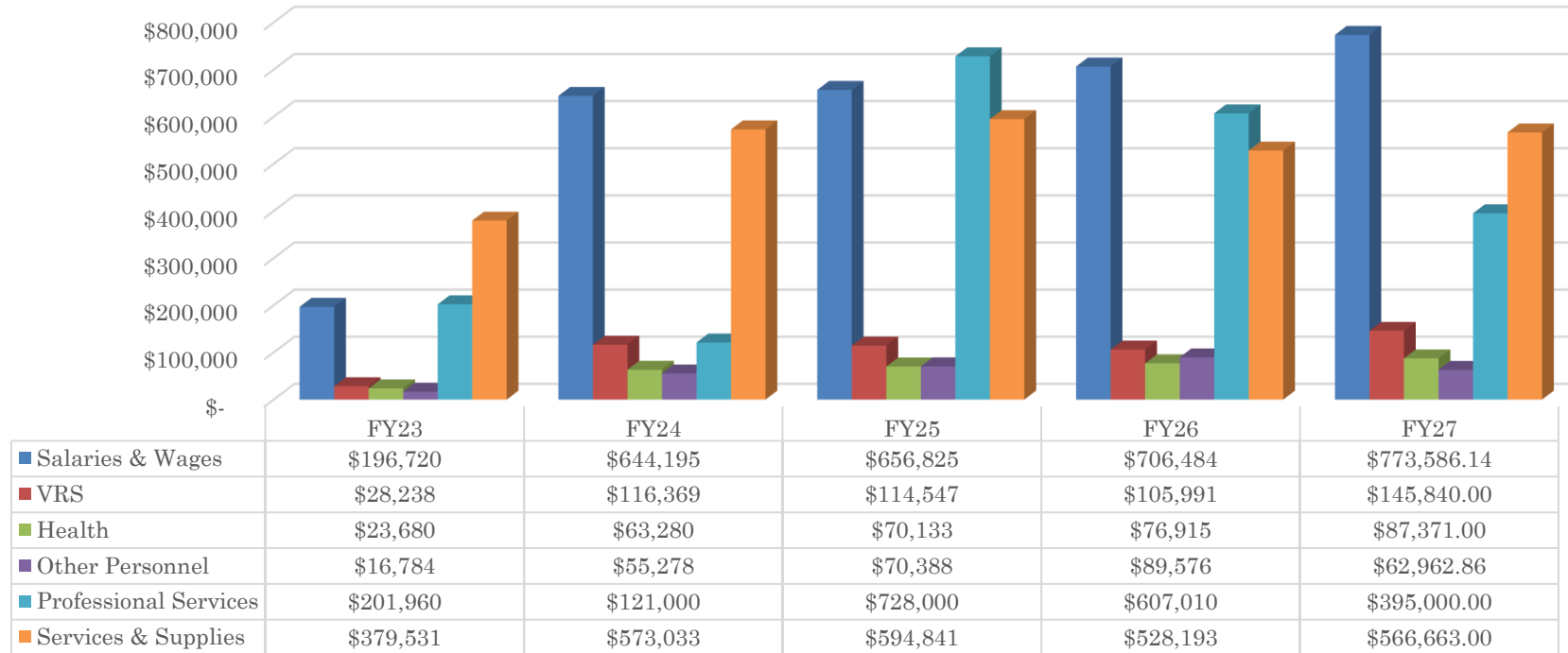
Note: Increase stems from Salary & Benefit/Health Insurance

City Attorney Expenses | Operations - \$788,870



Note: Increase stems from Salary & Benefit/Healthcare

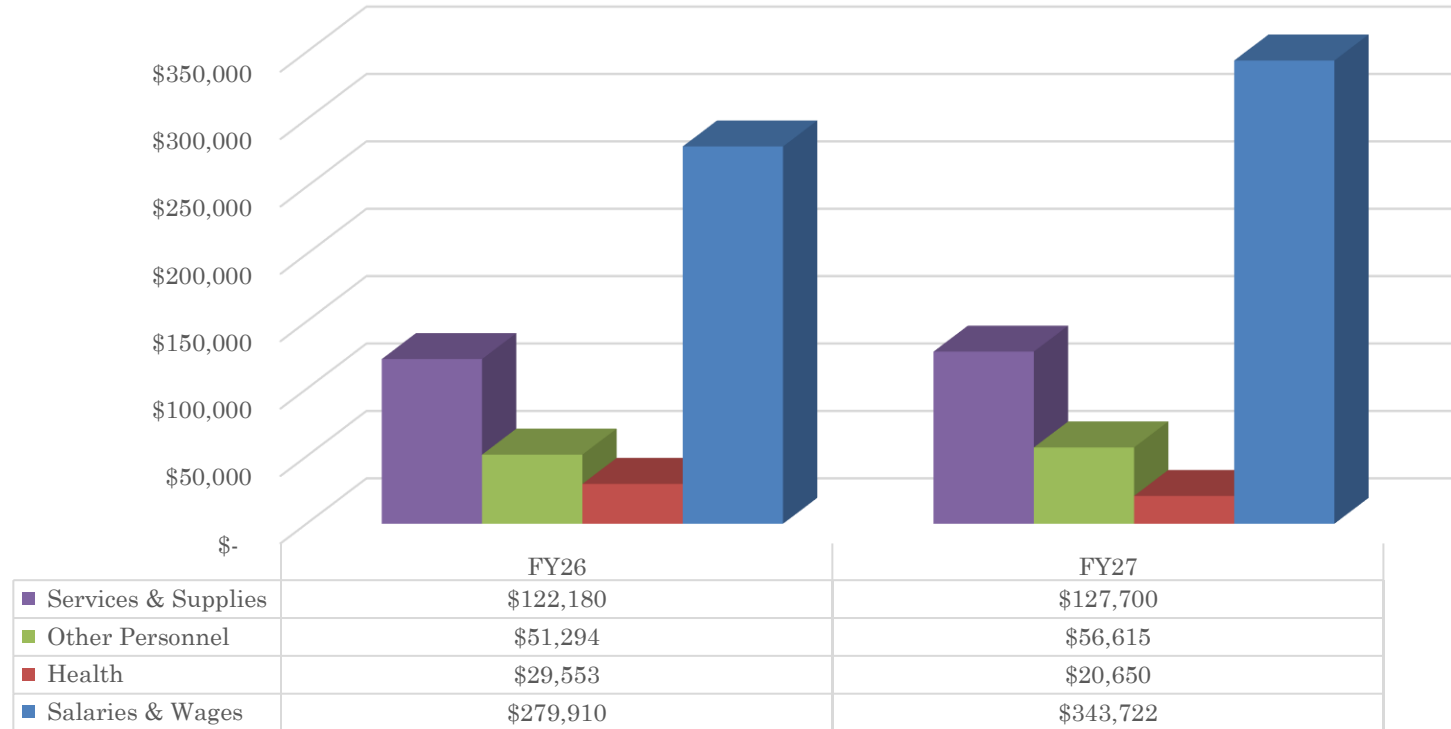
City Manger/Economic Development/Government Affairs and Communications | Operations -\$2,031,896



Notes:

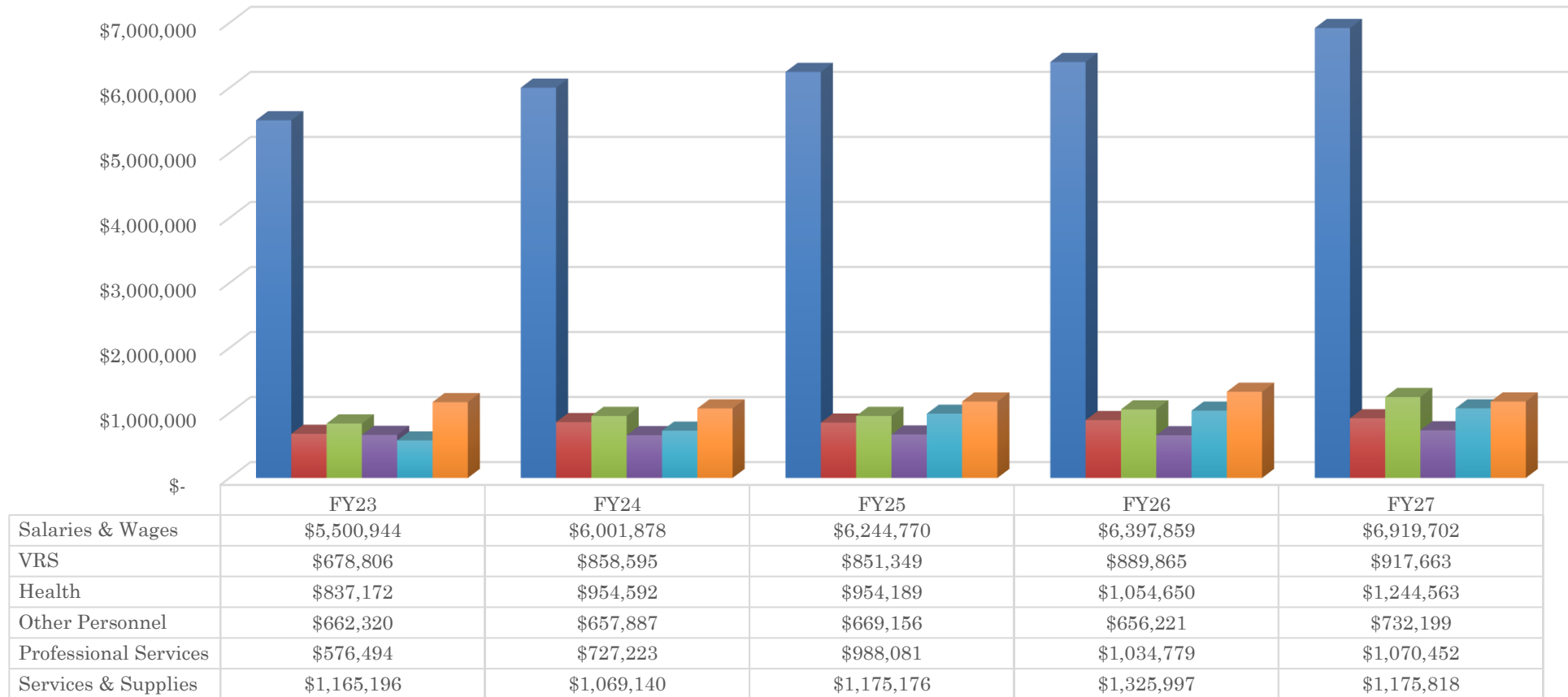
1. Includes CMO, Economic Development and communication.
2. Increase stems from move DCM salary to CMO and reduction of mgmt. consulting cost

Voter Registration Expenses | Operations - \$548,687



Note: Increase stems from additional elections

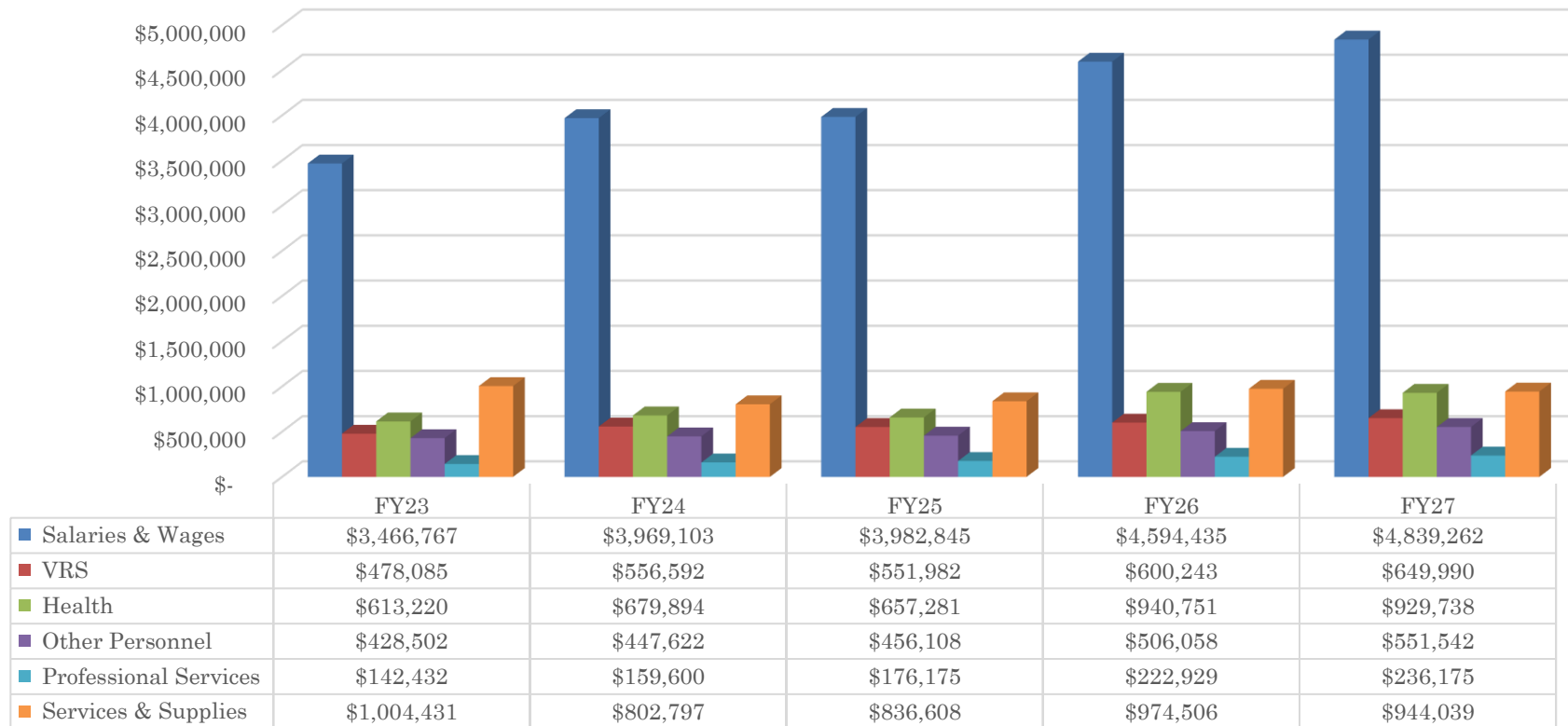
Police Expenses | Operations - \$12,060,397



Notes:

1. Police includes: Admin, Command, Patrol, Detectives, Property, Records, Communications and Animal Control
2. Increase stems from yearly step increase and funding of 3 positions previously unfunded

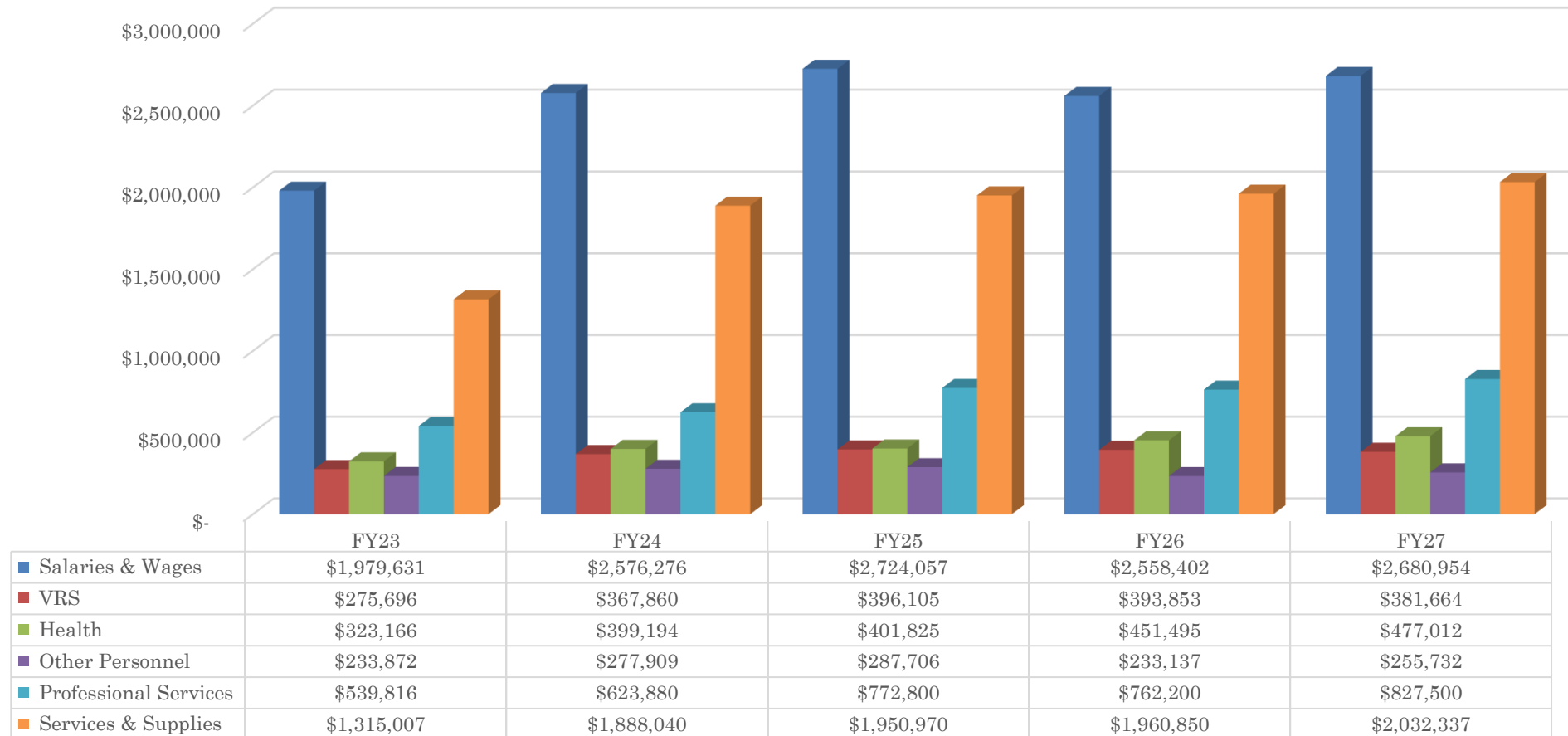
Fire Expenses | Operations -\$8,150,746



Notes:

1. Fire includes EMS and Emergency Services
2. Increase stems from yearly step increase

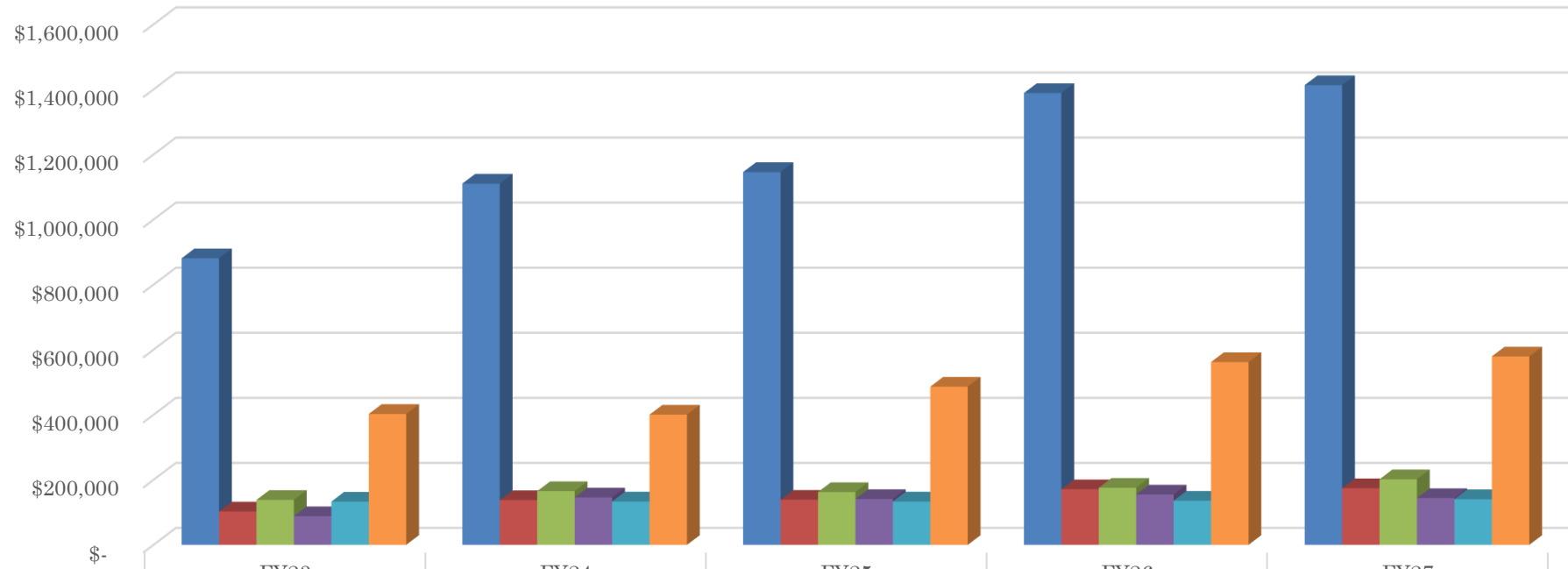
Public Works | Operations - \$6,655,199



Notes:

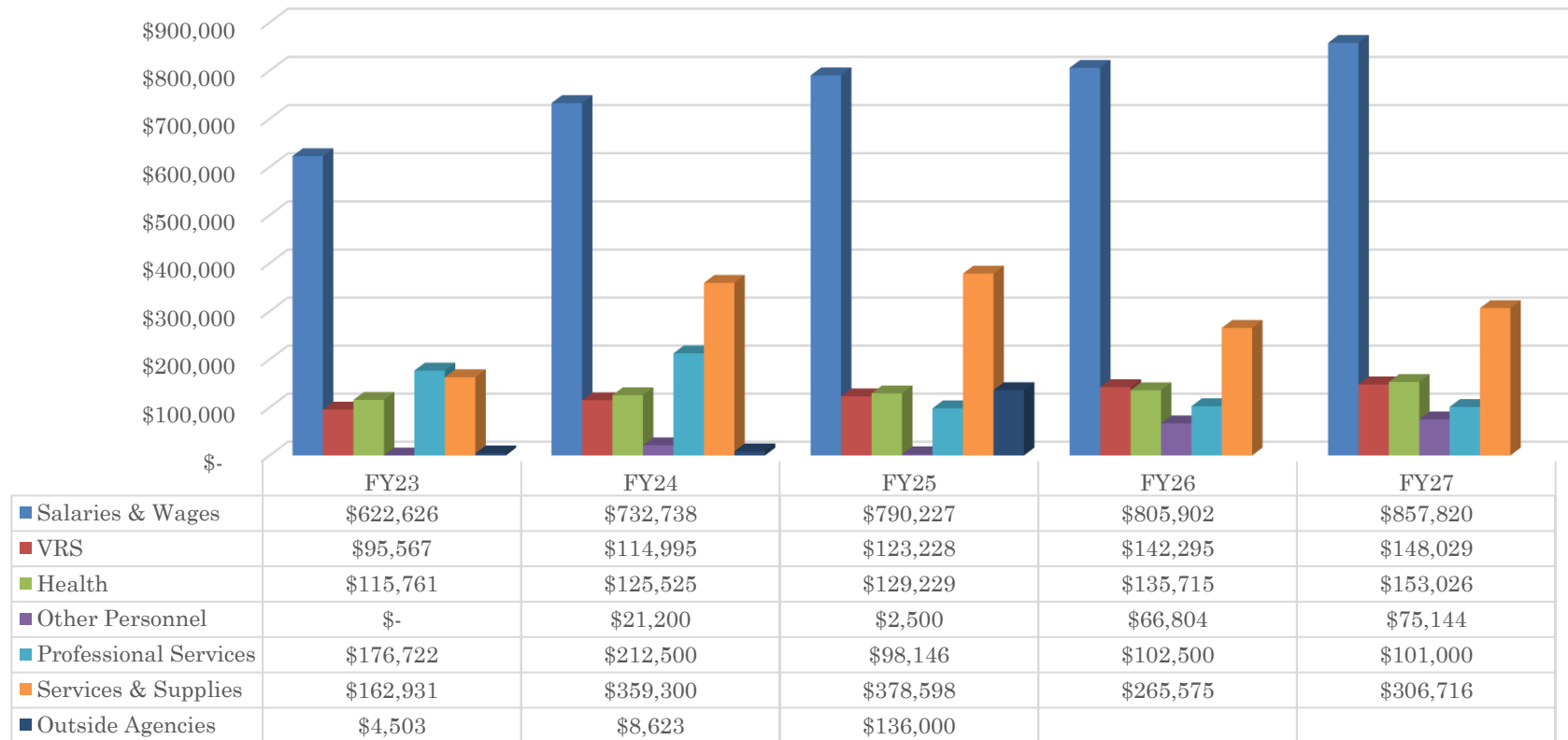
1. Public Works includes: PW Admin, Garage, Engineering, and building and grounds
2. Increase stems from class and comp implementation not completed in previous year

Recreation | Operations - \$2,652,812



	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Salaries & Wages	\$881,019	\$1,110,554	\$1,146,080	\$1,388,795	\$1,413,135
VRS	\$102,671	\$137,700	\$138,731	\$170,905	\$174,368
Health	\$138,331	\$165,126	\$162,409	\$175,549	\$201,728
Other Personnel	\$88,420	\$145,772	\$140,969	\$154,914	\$143,826
Professional Services	\$132,931	\$133,400	\$133,400	\$135,782	\$140,500
Services & Supplies	\$402,546	\$400,378	\$486,378	\$561,972	\$579,255

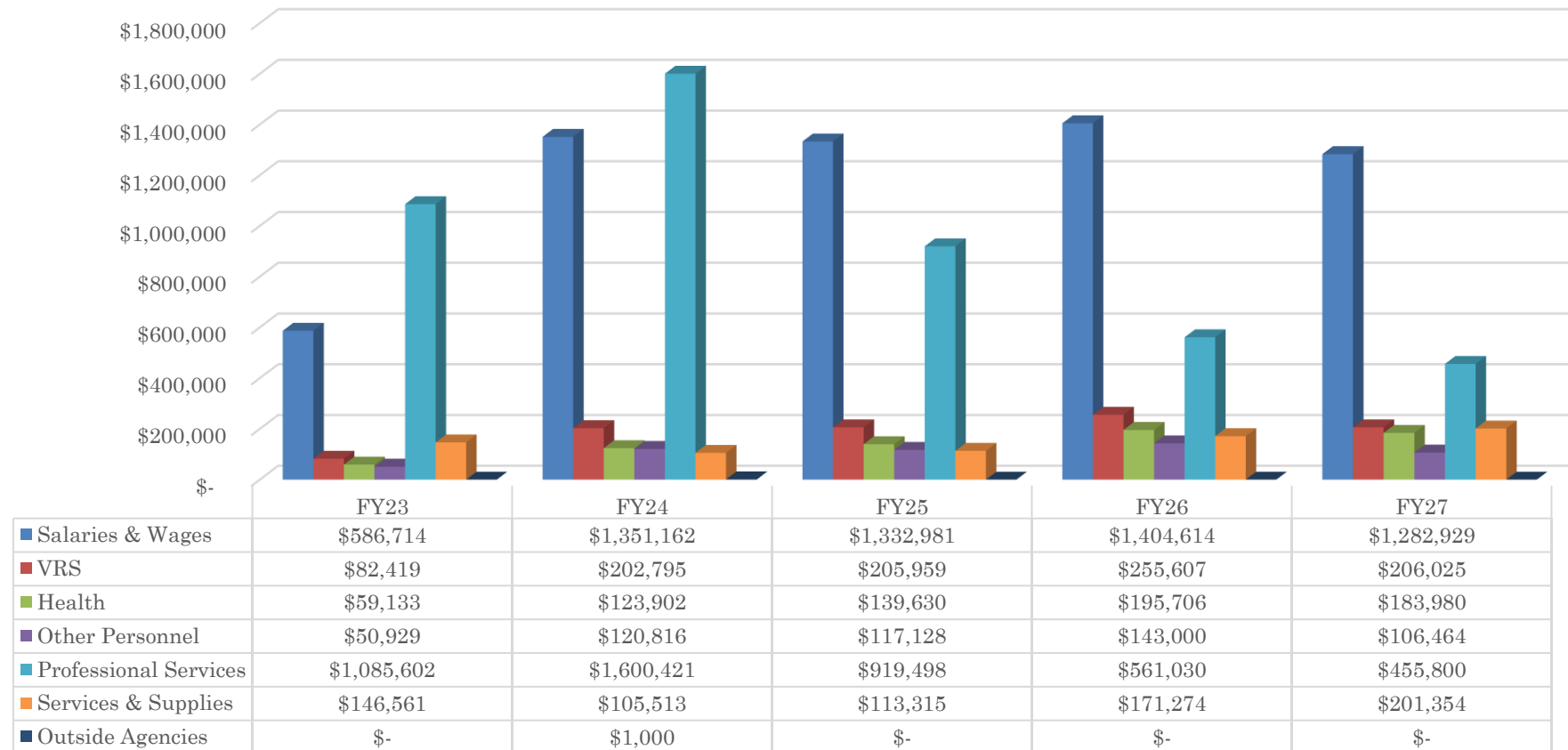
Planning & Development | Operations - \$1,641,735



Notes:

1. Development includes: Planning, GIS and Code
2. Increase stems from Salary & Benefits and Neighborhood planner position

Finance/Procurement/Budget/City Assessor | Operations - \$2,436,552



Notes:

1. Finance includes Accounting, Budget, Procurement and City Assessor
2. Decrease stems from DCM salary moved to CM, reduction of 1 position

Enterprise Funds

Hopewell Water Renewal | Expenses

Rates to Industry and City pay for:

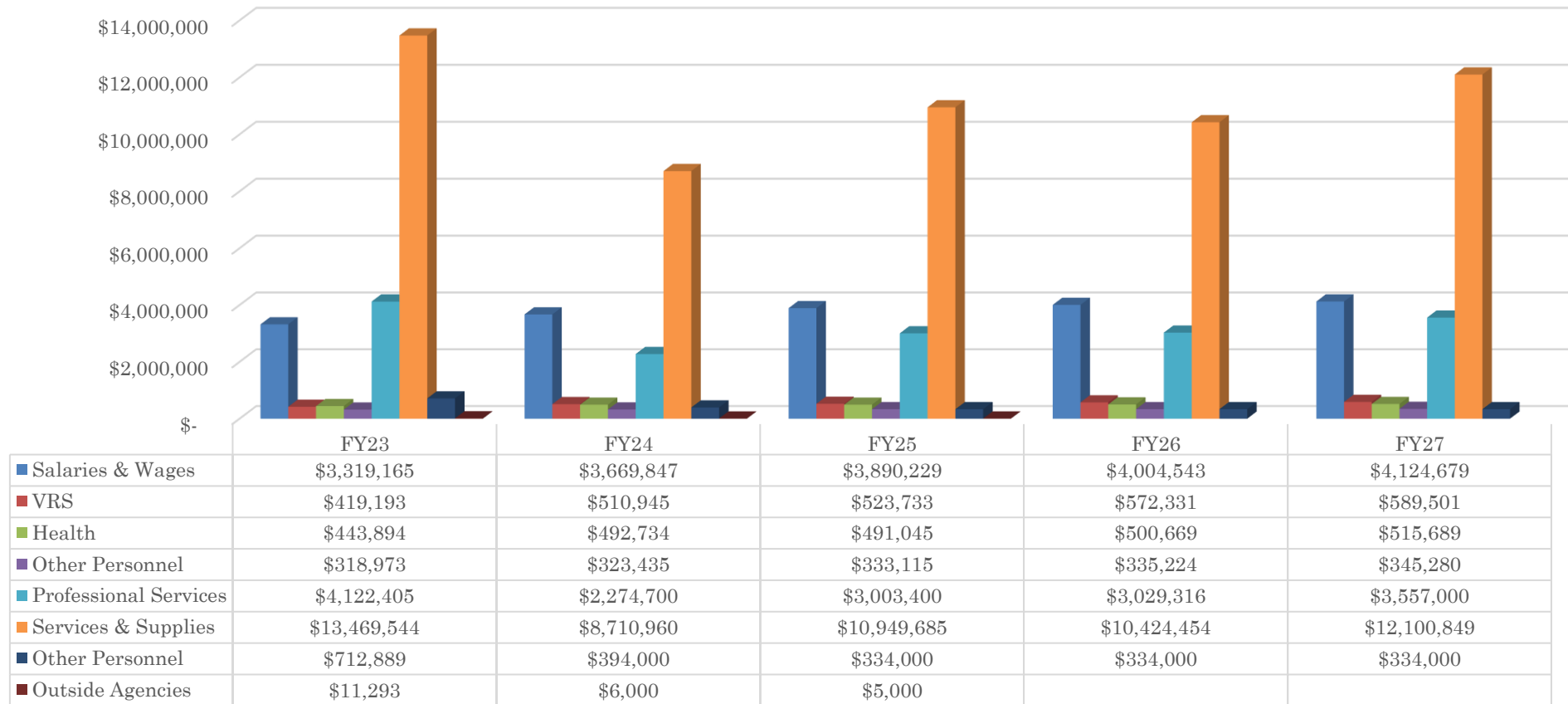
- Operations
- Debt Service
- Administrative Fees

Capital Investment paid for through combination of:

- Hauled Waste revenues (unpredictable)
- User charges or direct payment

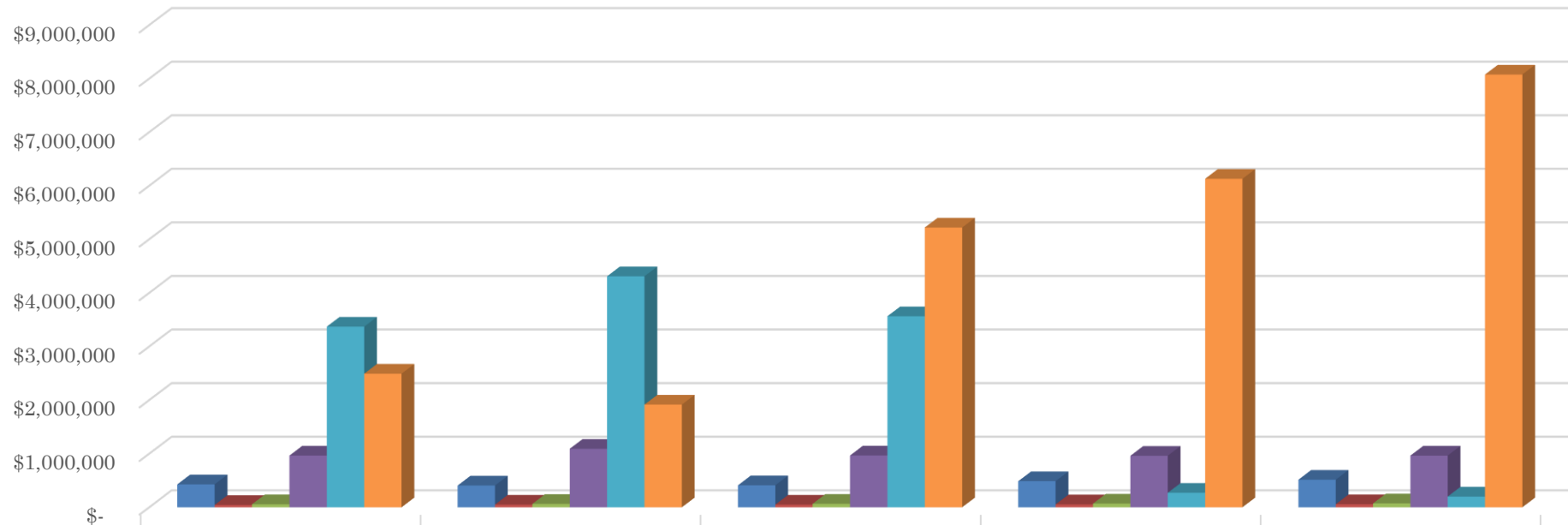
HWR budget to go to the Commission in early April – will come back to Council for approval after

HWR Expense | Operations - \$21,566,998



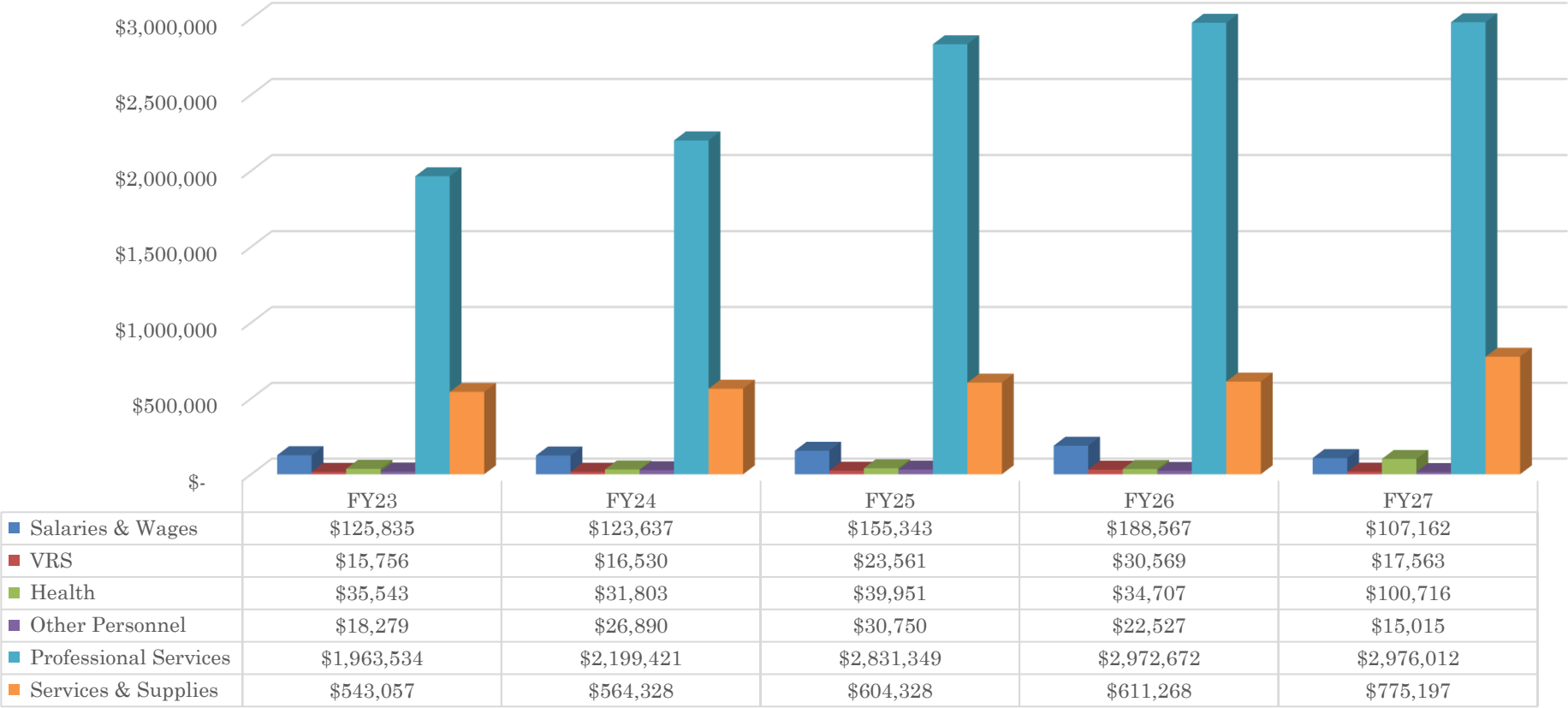
Commission approved Budget March 17th

Sewer Expenses | Operations - \$9,882,899

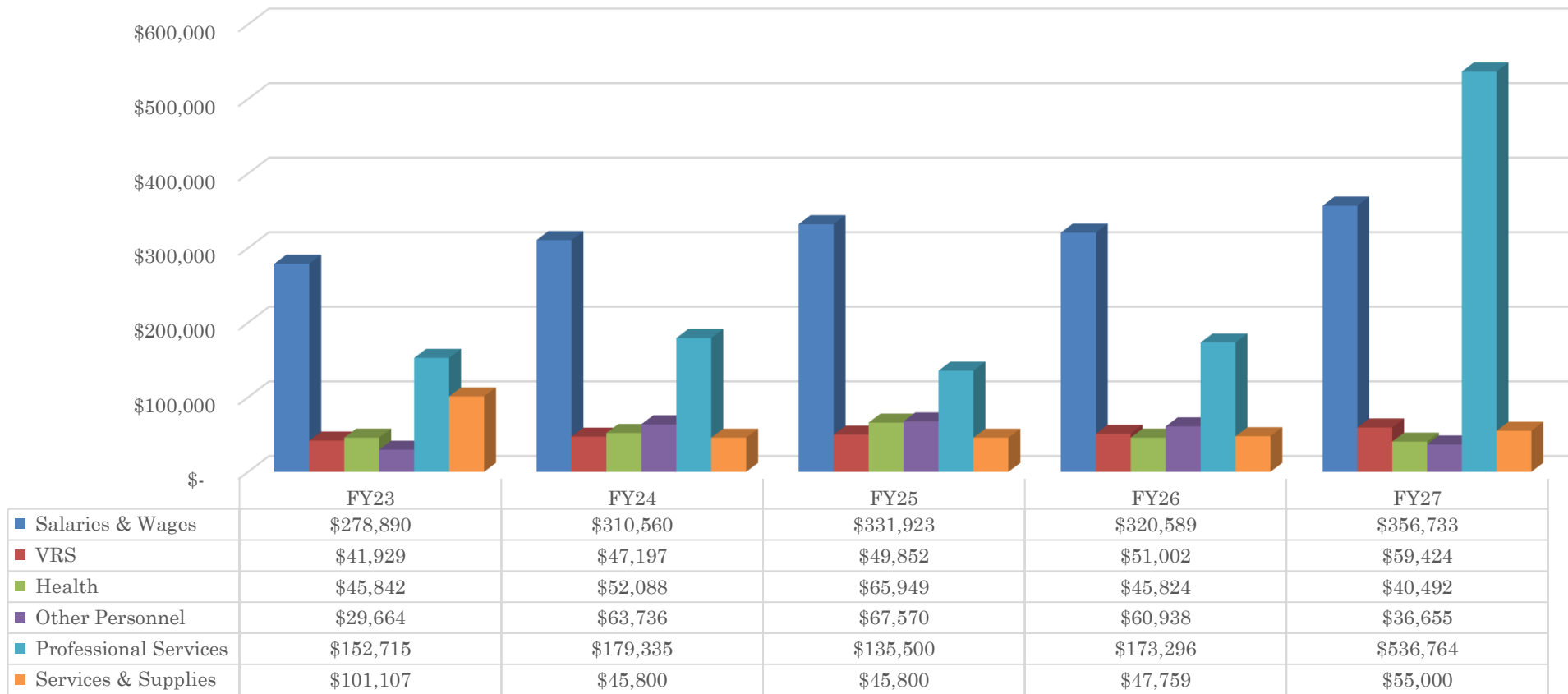


	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Salaries & Wages	\$427,515	\$405,617	\$409,743	\$486,495	\$514,262
VRS	\$43,561	\$50,311	\$50,010	\$54,478	\$57,783
Health	\$56,552	\$63,587	\$65,402	\$68,868	\$71,961
Other Personnel	\$964,808	\$1,091,416	\$966,841	\$960,357	\$963,553
Professional Services	\$3,369,127	\$4,308,858	\$3,563,292	\$270,000	\$200,000
Services & Supplies	\$2,491,553	\$1,914,959	\$5,218,800	\$6,128,690	\$8,075,340

Refuse Expenses | Operations- \$3,991,665



Storm Water Expenses | Operations - \$1,085,068

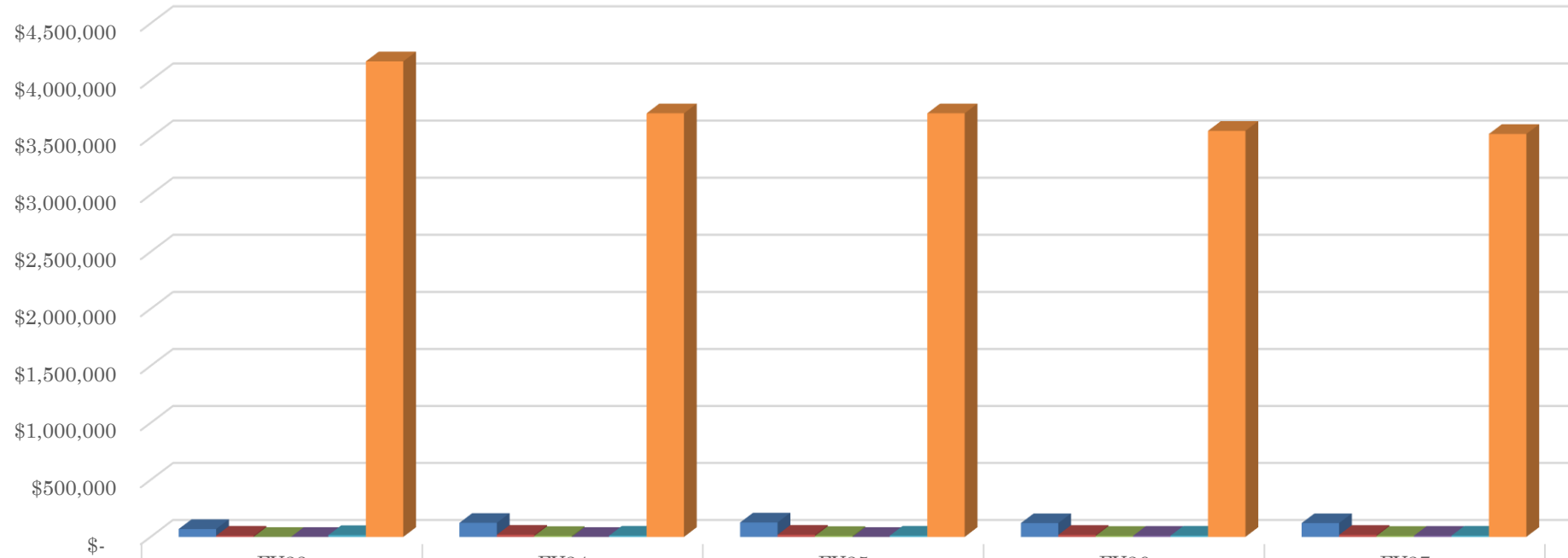


Health & Welfare

Social Services Expense | Operations - \$6,829,973

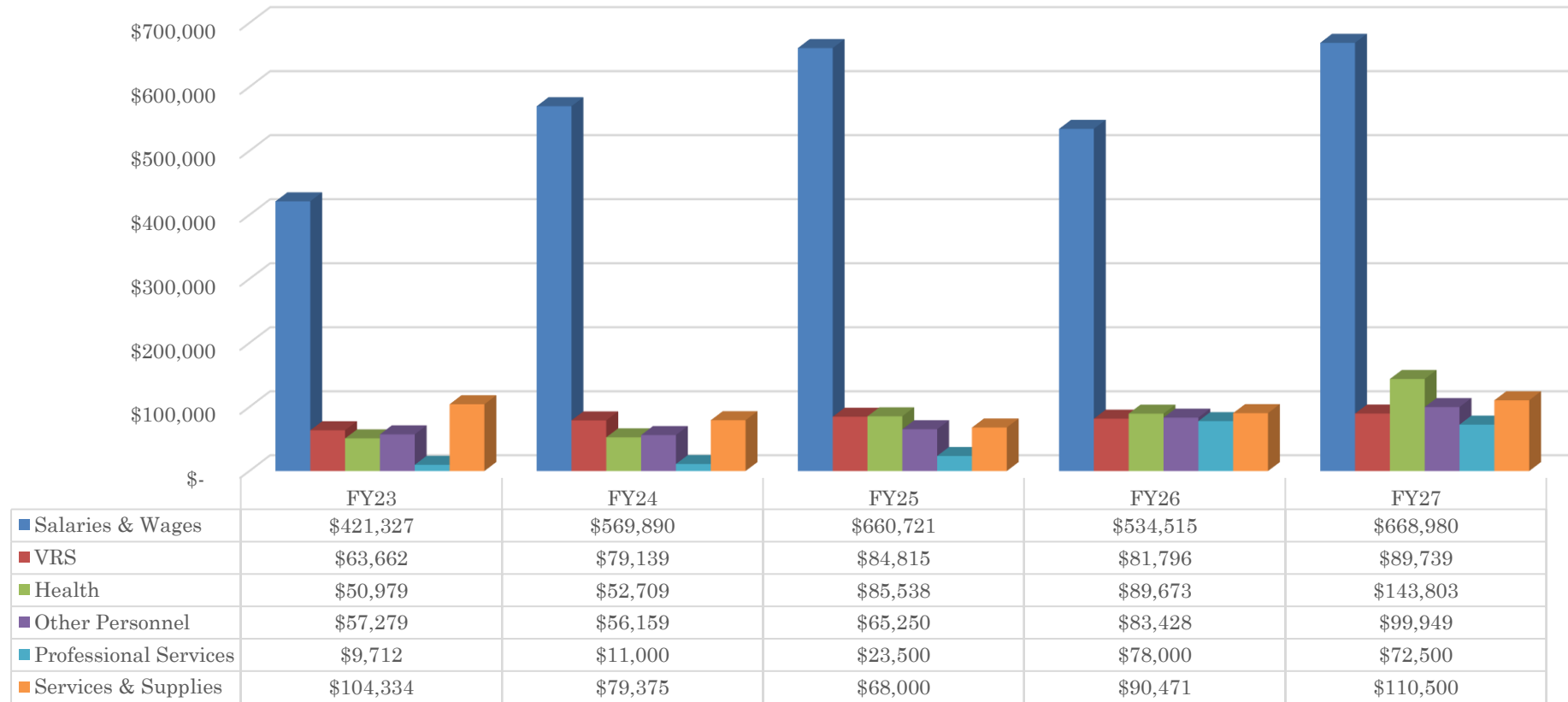


CSA Expense | Operations - \$3,700,000



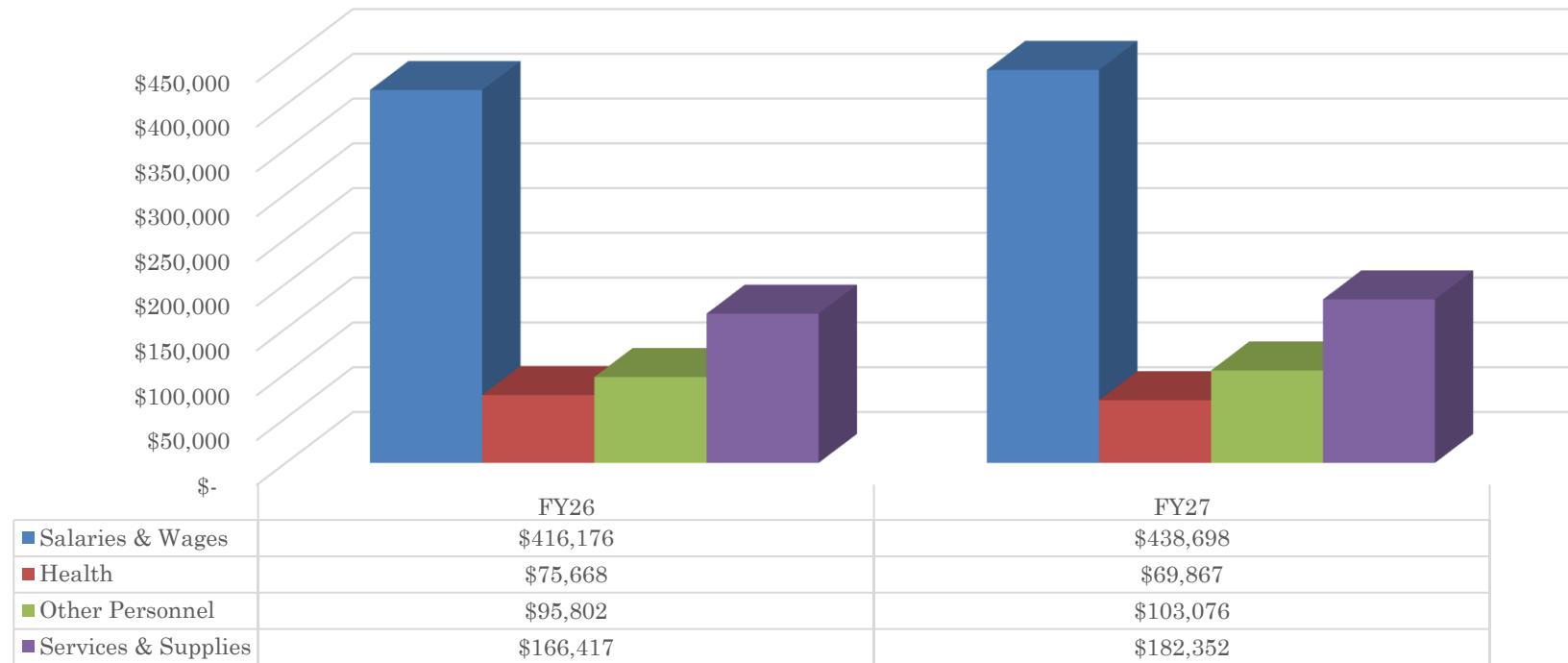
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Salaries & Wages	\$68,862	\$123,278	\$126,325	\$120,624	\$120,624
VRS	\$10,375	\$19,001	\$19,017	\$17,694	\$17,694
Health	\$-	\$8,148	\$8,148	\$8,796	\$8,796
Other Personnel	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$10,121	\$10,121
Professional Services	\$15,835	\$10,926	\$10,926	\$10,926	\$10,927
Services & Supplies	\$4,167,369	\$3,712,610	\$3,712,610	\$3,559,275	\$3,531,839

Healthy Families Expense | Operations - \$1,185,471



Constitutional Officers

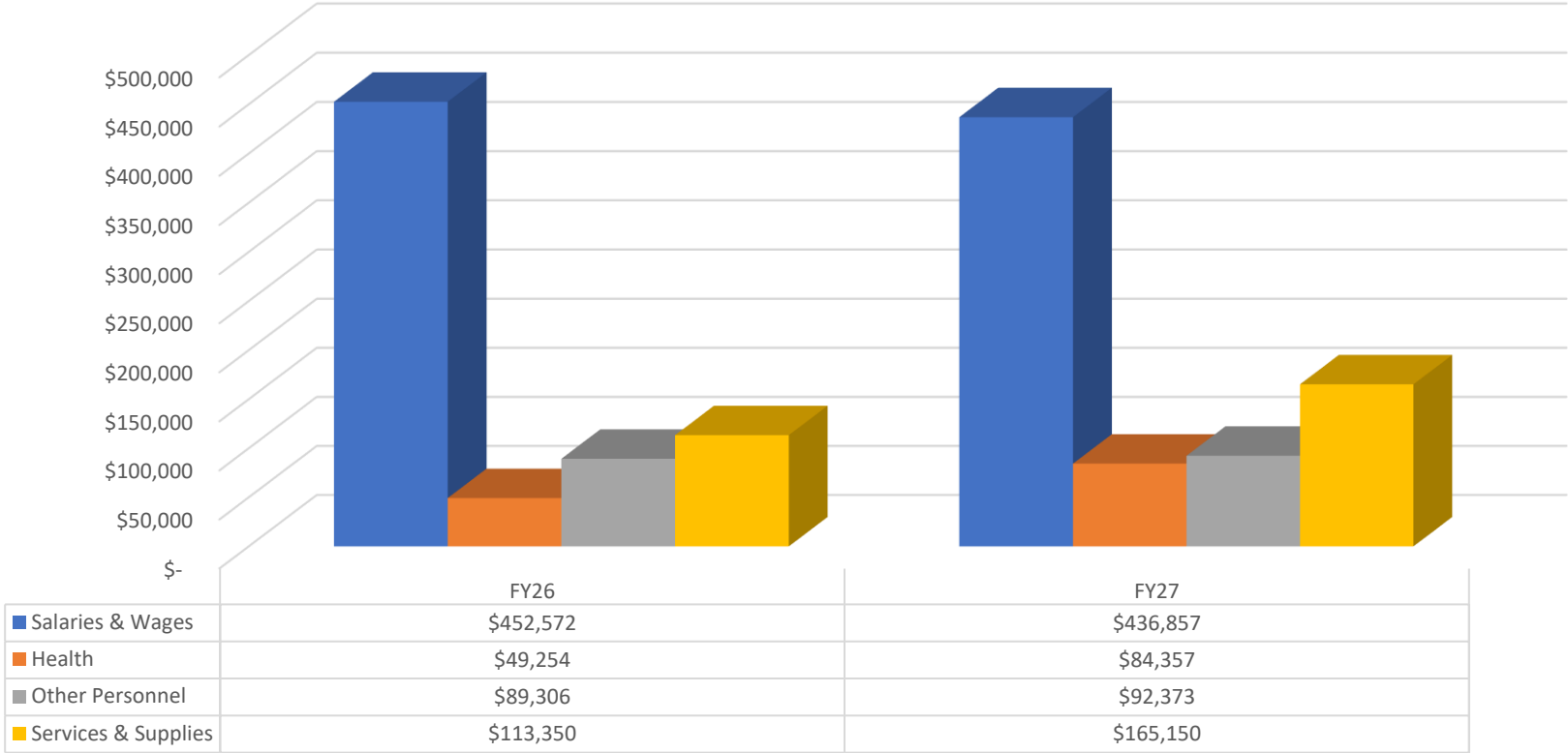
Commissioner of the Revenue Expense | Operations - \$793,993



Reimbursed by the comp board - \$171,585

Commissioner of Revenue also has 2FT and 1 PT additional positions fully funded by the City.

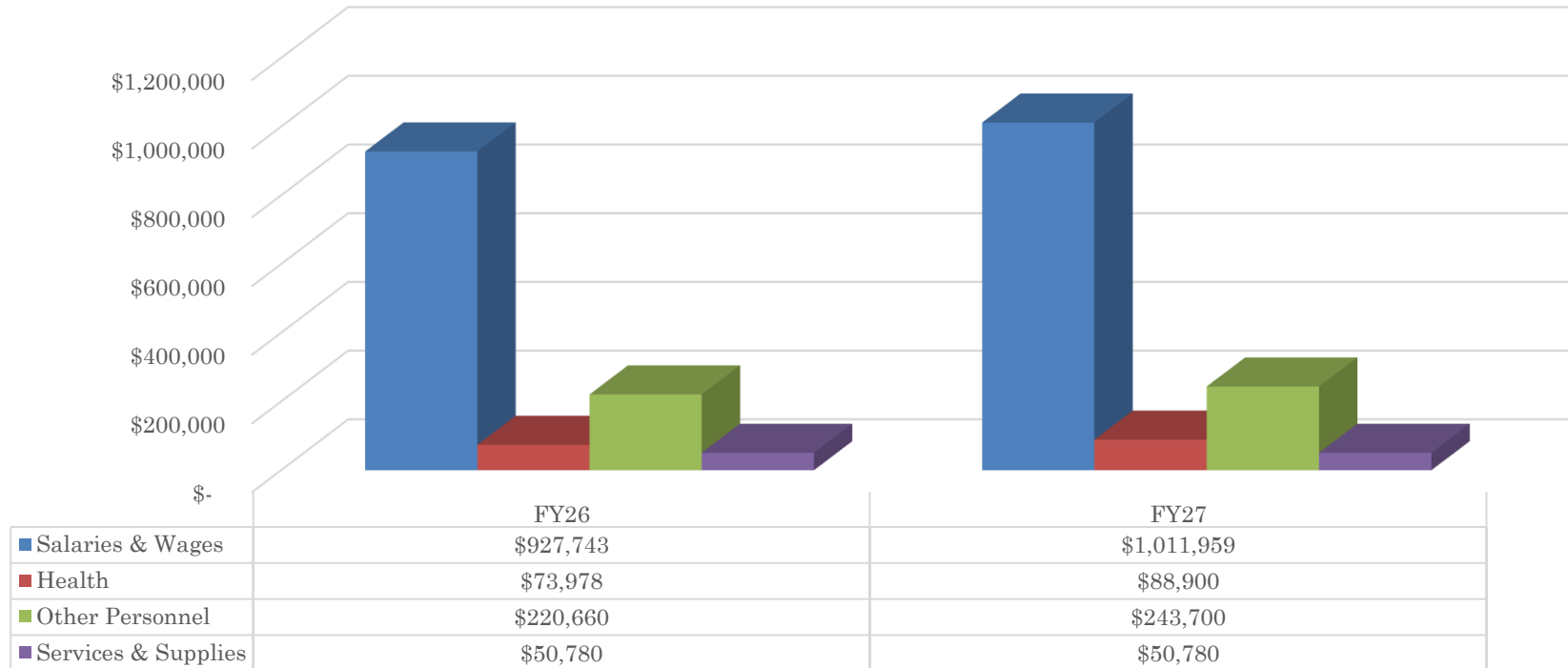
Treasurer | Operations - \$778,737



Reimbursed by the comp board - \$150,995

Treasurer's Office has a total of 9 positions (6 FT/3PT). Only 5 are comp board positions & partially reimbursable.

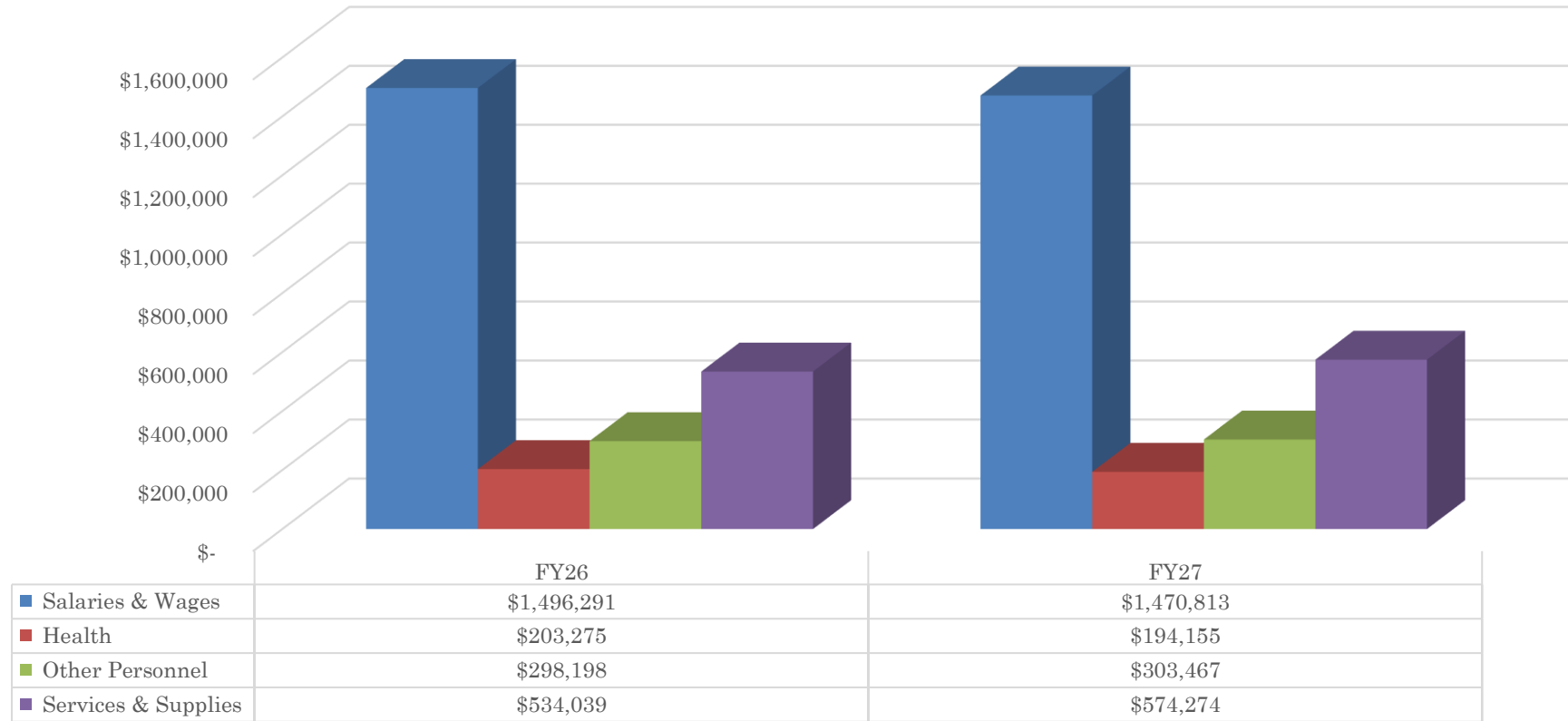
Commonwealth Attorney | Operations - \$1,395,339



Reimbursed by the comp board - \$632,908

Commonwealth Attorney has an additional position fully funded by the City.

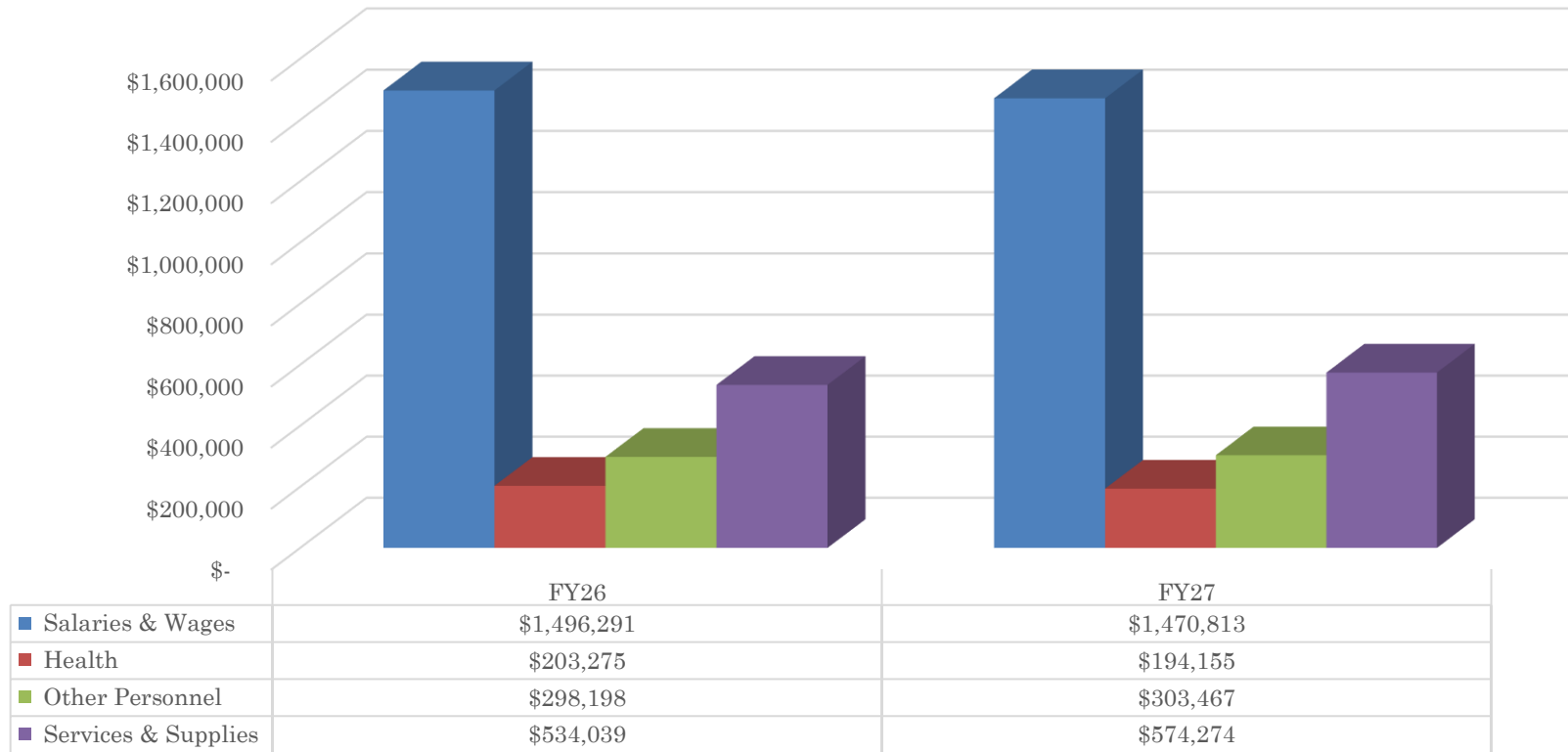
Sheriff | Operations - \$2,542,713



Reimbursed by the comp board - \$440,114

Sheriff's Office has a total of 30 positions (16 FT/14 PT). Only 7 are comp board positions & partially reimbursable.

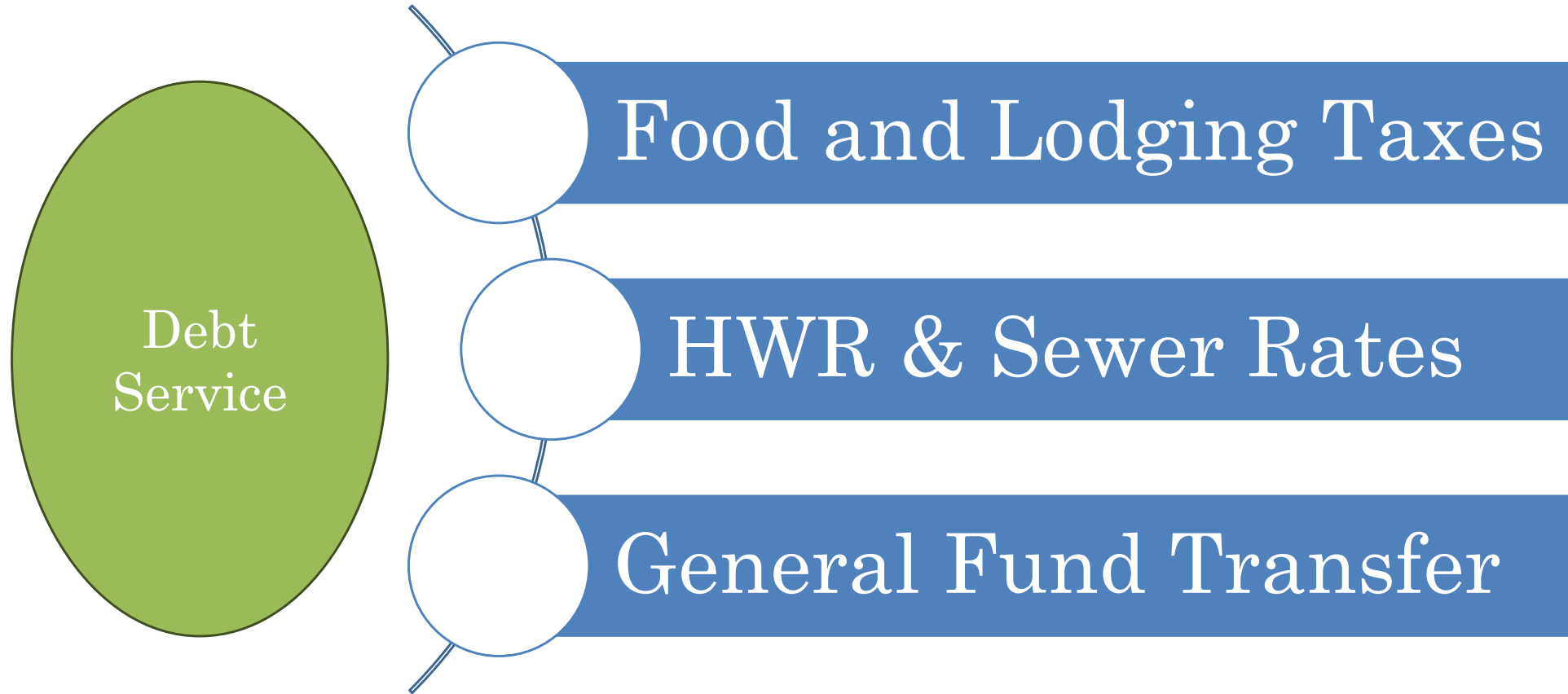
Clerk of Courts | Operations - \$708,504



Reimbursed by the comp board - \$391,417

Debt

Debt Service | Sources of Payment



Debt Service Issues | by Beneficiary

HWR



2015 – Oct 2025

2014 – Oct 2044

Sewer



2011A – July 2042

2010 – July 2041

Schools



2015B – July 2034

2005D – July 2025

2009 QZAB – Dec. 2024

2010 QSCB – June 2027

2011 QSCB – June 2027

Series 2011 – May 2036

General Fund



2013A – July 2028

2013B – July 2028

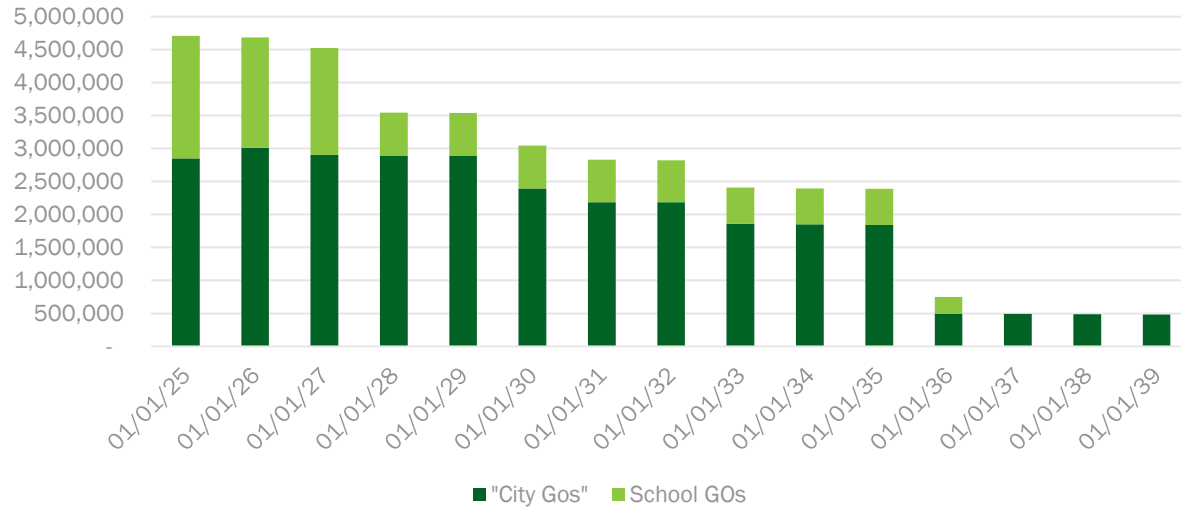
2015B – July 2034

2013C – July 2038

2008B – July 2028

Debt Service Costs

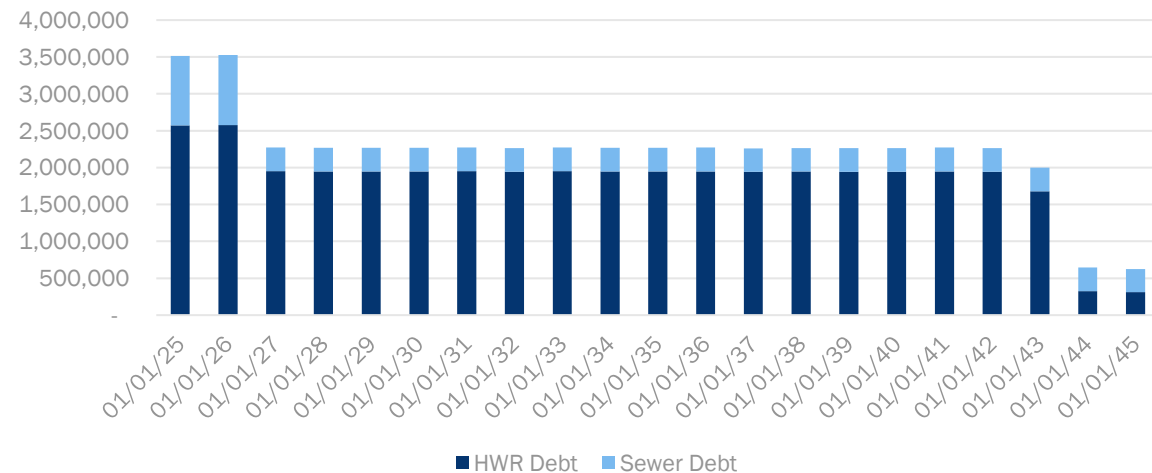
Tax-Supported Debt Service Payments



- School debt will drop by \$1 Million per year after the June 2027 debt payment
- City GO cost will increase in 2026

- HWR debt decreases in 2027, providing room for additional debt, if needed
- Sewer debt drops slightly in 2027, then remains constant through 2043

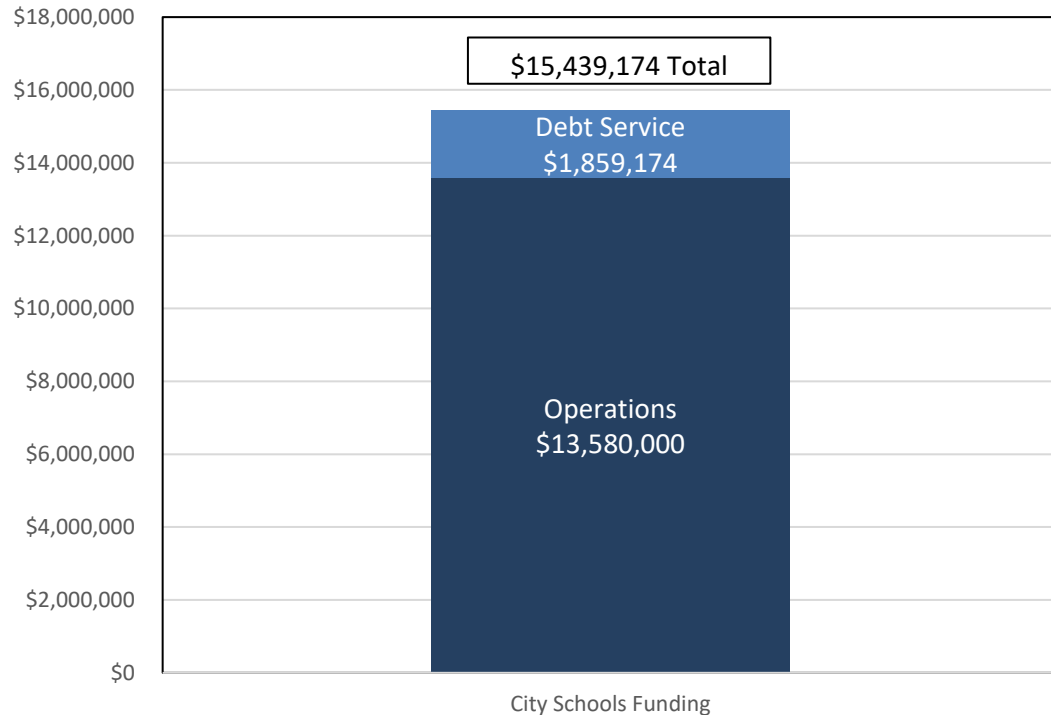
Utility Debt Service Payments



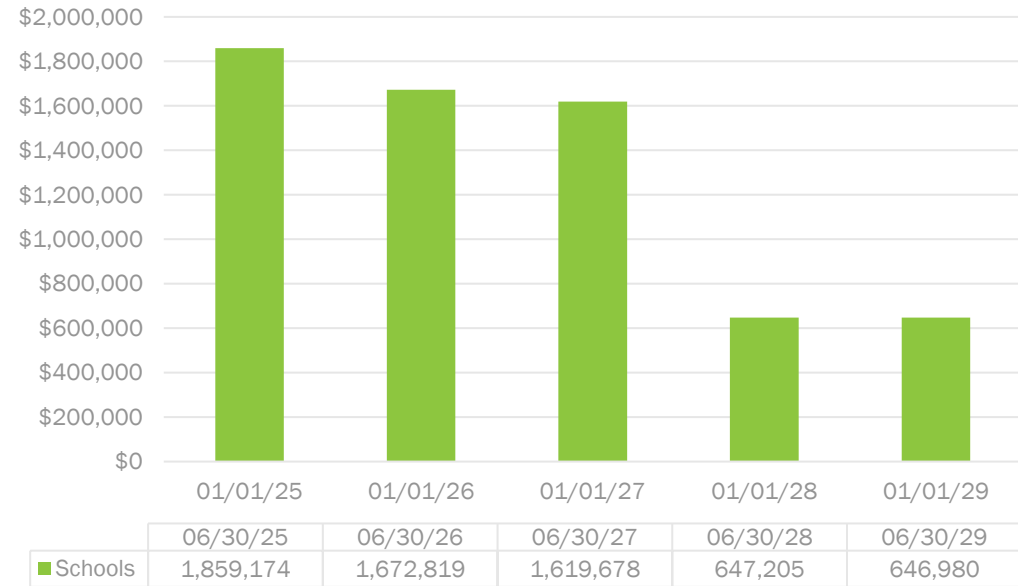
Schools

Schools Funding | City Contributions

FY27 Proposed City Schools Funding



School Debt Service
Next 5 Years



City contribution in Schools budget matches funds provided in FY26

Capital Detail

Capital Projects

Impact on Operating Budget

The relationship between the CIP and the operating budget is carefully considered during the operating budget process. The CIP has 3 direct impacts on the operating budget:

- Any projects funded with general fund resources must be evaluated and prioritized with other needs for the competing resources for that year;
- Operating life cycle costs from implementation, such as staffing and maintenance costs.

Potential Finding Sources for a CIP

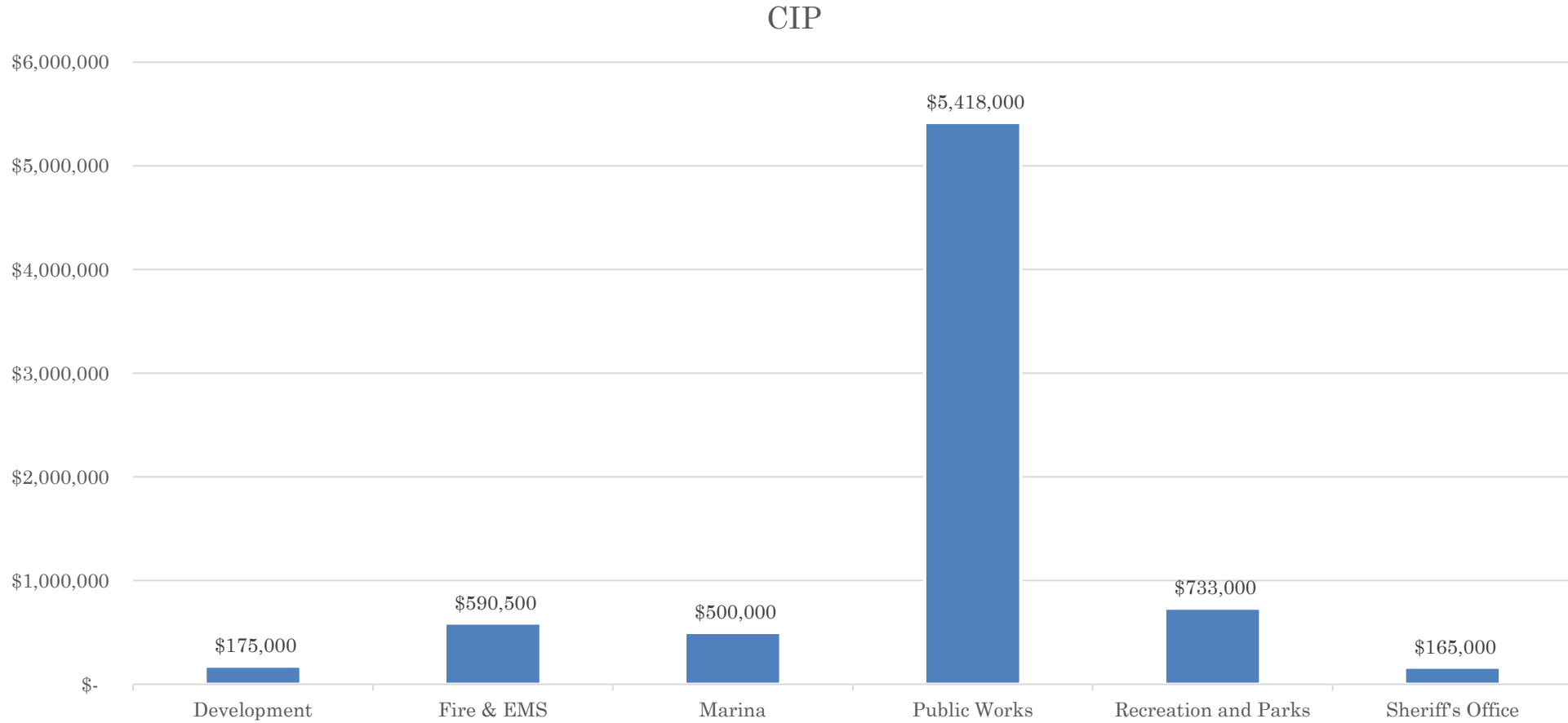
General Fund – Direct payments (roll over) from the City’s operating revenue.

Long-Term Debt – Provides current financial resources to government funds, while the repayment of the principal and interest of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of government funds.

Revenue Bonds – Payments from the proceeds of the sale of Revenue Bonds. These bonds pledge the revenue generating potential of a facility or utility.

State and Federal Grants – Payments from the State and Federal Government to provide facilities promoted by the State and Federal agencies.

CIP FY27



CIP FY27 REQUEST/ 5YR PLAN

Department	Project Name/Description	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	Project Total
Development	SERV CONTRACTS 11811087 503320	175,000					175,000
Marina	RP-0001 - Convert existing Marina Store to waterside Restaurant	500,000					520,000
Marina	RP-0002 - Replace roof on N-Dock		250,000				250,000
Fire & EMS	Burn building itself, as well as site work	590,500					590,500
Public Works	ENG-0001 - UPC 110840 - RTE 156 - INT IMPROV (HSIP)		16,000				252,000
Public Works	ENG-0002 - UPC 110846 - RTE 156 - INT IMPROV (HSIP)		25,000				540,000
Public Works	ENG-0003 - UPC 110842 - S. Mesa Dr. Improve Ped. Accomodations - HSIP	141,000					621,000
Public Works	ENG-0004 - UPC 122203 - #SMART24 - W RANDOLPH ROAD SHARED USE PATH	522,000	1,611,000	2,611,000	4,800,000		11,155,000
Public Works	ENG-0005 - UPC 123291 - Courthouse Rd Pedestrian Improv.	600,000					840,000
Public Works	ENG-006 - UPC 127699 - Randolph Rd.	179,000					179,000
Public Works	ENG-007 - UPC 127698 - Randolph Rd.	270,000					270,000
Public Works	ENG-008 - Hanks Pond	137,000					137,000
Public Works	ENG-009 - Heretick Ave Drainage Project	2,300,000					2,514,000
Public Works	Pavement Preservation - Arterials	466,000					466,000
Public Works	ENG-0011 - Courthouse Parking Lot						245,000
Public Works	ENG-0012 - Cattail Creek Crossing Improvements Project	620,000					620,000
Public Works	PW-0001 - Dump truck w/attachments- Asphalt Crew		45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	180,000
Public Works	PW-0002 - Dump Truck w/attachments- Replacement Concrete		45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	180,000
Public Works	PW-0003 - Leaf Vacuum Truck	63,000	63,000	63,000	63,000	63,000	315,000
Public Works	PW-0004 - Backhoe – Asphalt Crew		26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	104,000
Public Works	PW-0006 - Street Light Improvements	20,000					20,000
Public Works	PW-0007 - ADA Master Plan	50,000					50,000
Public Works	PW-0008 - Replace 3 roof top A/C units- Social Services	50,000					50,000
Recreation and Parks	RP-0001 - Mathis Field Improvements	250,000	130,000	450,000	450,000	275,000	1,555,000
Recreation and Parks	RP-0002 - Park Pavilion Renovations	175,000	7,500			60,000	242,500
Recreation and Parks	RP-0003 - Resurfacing of Courts & Surfaces	58,000	146,000	146,000	61,000		411,000
Recreation and Parks	RP-0004 - Parking Lot Improvements & Resurfacing	200,000	84,386	51,286	45,000		380,672
Recreation and Parks	RP-0005 - Shop Improvements	50,000	30,000	15,000			95,000
Sheriff's Office	Courthouse Verkata Camera System	165,000					165,000
TOTAL		\$ 7,581,500	\$ 2,478,886	\$3,452,286	\$ 5,535,000	\$ 514,000	\$ 23,122,672

Questions?

**BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Va. Code §15.2-2503 and §15.2-2508, the City Council of Hopewell, Virginia held a meeting to determine the budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027;

WHEREAS, the proposed budget, presented in its entirety, included detailed statements of expenditures for the preceding fiscal year, appropriations for the current fiscal year, and proposed expenditures for the ensuing twelve-month period;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that \$174,182,059 will be received from sources other than property tax levies, leaving a balance of \$48,525,586 to be raised through local property tax levies within the City;

WHEREAS, the tax rates for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 shall remain unchanged from the previous fiscal year and have been adopted by ordinance as follows:

Real Estate	\$1.17 per \$1000 of assessed value
Personal Property	\$3.50 per \$100 of assessed value
Machinery & Tools	\$3.10 per \$100 of assessed value

WHEREAS, the estimated budget provides appropriations sufficient to fund essential City services; however, should actual revenues fall below projected amounts, the City Manager shall recommend appropriate action to the City Council in accordance with Va. Code 15.2-2507; Now, Therefore,

BE IT, HEREBY, RESOLVED by the City Council of Hopewell, Virginia that the budget set forth below be, and hereby is, approved and adopted for Fiscal Year 2026–2027.

Sec. 1 The following funds and accounts shall be appropriated from the designated revenues to operate City services and to provide a capital improvement program for the City:

General Fund-011:

Estimated Revenues:

From Local Sources

General Property Taxes.....	\$48,525,586
Other Local Taxes.....	7,327,227
Licenses, Permits, Fees.....	1,717,250
Fines & Forfeitures.....	1,400,000
Use of Money/Property.....	60,000
In-Lieu of Taxes.....	1,257,500
Other Local Revenues.....	268,510

From Other Agencies	
State Sources	9,852,899
Federal Sources	0
Cost Recovery & Reserves	
Cost Recovery from Social Services-012	890,110
Cost Recovery from Solid Waste-030	502,000
Cost Recovery from Sewer Services-041	<u>382,500</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$72,183,582
Appropriations:	
General Government:	
City Council	196,664
City Clerk.....	240,659
City Attorney	788,870
City Manager	2,031,896
Information Technology	2,394,513
Human Resources	764,287
Finance Department	2,436,552
Development Department	1,641,735
Non-Departmental.....	1,121,844
Courts:	
Circuit Court	133,420
General District Court.....	149,221
Court Services	7,000
VJCCCA Grant	216,764
Crater Detention Facility.....	331,515
Regional Jail.....	2,753,122
Constitutional Offices:	
Clerk of Circuit Court	708,504
Commonwealth Attorney.....	1,395,339
Commissioner of Revenue.....	793,993
Sheriff	2,542,713
Treasurer	778,737
Voter Registrar.....	548,687
Victim Witness.....	189,603
Police Department.....	12,060,396
Fire Department	8,150,746
Public Works Department.....	6,655,199
Outside Agencies	2,295,369
Operating Transfers	20,606,234
Contingency	<u>250,000</u>

Total General Fund \$72,183,582

Social Services Fund-012:

Estimated Revenues:

From State Sources \$2,315,410
 From Federal Sources 3,300,000
 Transfer from General Fund-011 1,214,563
 Total Revenues \$6,829,973

Appropriations:

Administration \$1,220,486
 Eligibility 5,609,487
 Total Social Services Fund \$6,829,973

Children's Services Act Fund-015:

Estimated Revenues:

From State Sources \$2,738,000
 Transfer from General Fund-011 962,000
 Total Revenues..... \$3,700,000

Appropriations:

Direct Services 3,700,000
 Total Children's Services Act Fund..... \$3,700,400

Recreation Fund-035:

Estimated Revenues:

Fees & Charges \$94,900
 Transfer from General Fund-011 2,557,912
 Total Revenues..... \$2,652,812

Appropriations:

Recreation Center Div..... 886,274
 Community Div 257,774
 Athletics Div 170,819
 Seniors Div..... 221,258
 Pool Div 359,575
 Parks Div..... 757,112
 Total Recreation Fund..... \$2,652,812

Marina Fund-039:

Estimated Revenues:	
Rentals.....	<u>\$140,000</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$140,000
Appropriations:	
Operating Expenses	<u>140,000</u>
Total Marina Fund	\$140,000

Self-Insurance Fund-076:

Estimated Revenues:	
Transfer from General Fund-011	<u>\$600,000</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$600,000
Appropriations:	
Property/Liability Insurance Premiums	<u>600,000</u>
Total Self Insurance Fund.....	\$600,000

Cemetery Fund-003:

Estimated Revenues:	
Interest Income.....	\$50,000
Grave Site Sales	<u>15,000</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$65,000
Appropriations:	
Operating Supplies.....	20,000
Maintenance Supplies	12,500
Grass Cutting	30,000
Utilities.....	<u>2,500</u>
Total Cemetery Fund	\$65,000

School Operating Fund-014:

Estimated Revenues:	
From State Sources	\$50,076,357
From Federal Sources	5,888,224
Other Revenues	537,483
Transfer from General Fund-011	<u>13,580,000</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$70,082,064
Appropriations:	
Non-Categorical.....	<u>70,082,064</u>
Total School Operating Fund.....	\$70,082,064

School Textbook Fund-056:

Estimated Revenues:	
From State Sources	<u>\$534,053</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$534,053
Appropriations:	
Textbook Purchases	<u>534,053</u>
Total School Textbook Fund	\$534,053

School Cafeteria Fund-057:

Estimated Revenues:	
From State Sources	\$70,930
From Federal Sources	2,700,000
Other Revenues	<u>165,800</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$2,936,730
Appropriations:	
Operating Expenses	<u>2,936,730</u>
Total School Cafeteria Fund	\$2,936,730

School Bldg./Bus Replacement Fund-063:

Estimated Revenues:	
Other Revenues	<u>\$18,455</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$18,455
Appropriations:	
Appropriations	<u>18,455</u>
Total School Bldg./Bus Replacement Fund.....	\$18,455

Solid Waste Fund-030:

Estimated Revenues:	
Fees & Charges	<u>\$3,991,665</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$3,991,665
Appropriations:	
Curb-Side Pickup	3,522,429
Convenience Center	<u>469,236</u>
Total Solid Waste Fund	\$3,991,665

Sewer Operations Fund-040:

Estimated Revenues:

Charges for Services	<u>\$11,210,811</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$11,210,811

Appropriations:

Transfer to Sewer Maintenance Fund-041	9,574,440
Transfer to Sewer Bond Fund-043	<u>1,636,371</u>
Total Sewer Operations Fund	\$11,210,811

Sewer Maintenance Fund-041:

Estimated Revenues:

Transfer from Sewer Operations Fund-040	\$9,574,440
Interest Income.....	<u>108,459</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$9,682,899

Appropriations:

Maintenance & Inspections.....	2,294,444
City Pump Stations	6,483,062
Capital	<u>905,393</u>
Total Sewer Maintenance Fund	\$9,682,899

Sewer Bond Fund-043:

Estimated Revenues:

Transfer from Sewer Operations Fund-040	<u>\$1,636,371</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$1,636,371

Appropriations:

Bond Principal	720,000
Bond Interest.....	<u>916,371</u>
Total Sewer Bond Fund	\$1,636,371

Storm Water Fund #1-048:

Estimated Revenues:

Storm Water Fees.....	<u>\$1,085,068</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$1,085,068

Appropriations:

Operating Expenses	<u>1,085,068</u>
Total Storm Water Fund #1	\$1,085,068

Storm Water Fund #2-049:

Estimated Revenues:	
Storm Water Fees.....	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$10,000
Appropriations:	
Operating Expenses	<u>10,000</u>
Total Storm Water Fund #2	\$10,000

Hopewell Water Renewal Fund-032:

Estimated Revenues:	
Industrial User Charges.....	<u>\$28,511,168</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$28,511,168
Appropriations:	
Operating Expenses	\$22,026,077
Debt Service.....	325,091
Capital	<u>6,160,000</u>
Total Hopewell Water Renewal Fund.....	\$28,511,168

Debt Service Fund-070:

Estimated Revenues:	
Food Tax	\$2,900,000
Lodging Tax.....	1,300,000
Fund 070 Revenue	158,424
Transfer from General Fund-011	<u>1,143,099</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$5,501,523
Appropriations:	
Debt Service.....	<u>5,501,523</u>
Total Debt Service Fund	\$5,501,523

Capital Projects Fund-071:

Estimated Revenues:	
Transfer from General Fund-011	<u>100,000</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$100,000
Appropriations:	
Capital Projects to be determined by Council.....	<u>100,000</u>
Total Capital Projects Fund	\$100,000

Economic Development Fund-075:

Estimated Revenues:	
Transfer from General Fund-011	<u>\$50,000</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$50,000

Appropriations:	
Operating Expenses	<u>50,000</u>
Total Economic Development Fund	\$50,000

Healthy Families Fund-090:

Estimated Revenues:	
Donations/Grants	\$238,900
Transfer from General Fund-011	398,661
From State Sources	<u>547,910</u>
Total Revenues.....	\$1,185,471

Appropriations:	
Operating Expenses	<u>1,185,471</u>
Total Healthy Families Fund	\$1,185,471

Sec. 2 Constitutional Officers and respective Constitutional Office employees shall receive the position salary approved by the Virginia Compensation Board or granted by the Virginia General Assembly. No Constitutional Officer shall be compensated for any vacation, sick, holiday, jury service, military leave, funeral leave or other paid time-off granted to city employees.

Sec. 3 Appropriations in addition to those contained in the general appropriation resolution may be made by the City Council only if there is available in the fund an unencumbered and unappropriated sum sufficient to meet such appropriation.

Sec. 4 Except as set forth in Sections 7, 14, 16, 17, 18, and 19 the City Manager may, as provided herein, authorize the transfer of any unencumbered balance or portion thereof from one classification of expenditure to another within the same department or appropriation function/category. The City Manager may transfer up to \$100,000 from the unencumbered balance of the appropriation of one appropriation function/category to another appropriation function/category. No more than one transfer may be made for the same item causing the need for a transfer.

Sec. 5 The City Manager may make all necessary fund and expense adjustments for the following items of non-budgetary revenue that may occur during the fiscal year:

- a. Insurance recoveries received for damage to City vehicles or other property for which City funds have been expended to make repairs.
- b. Refunds or reimbursements made to the City for which the City has expended funds directly related to that refund or reimbursement.
- c. Any revenue source not to exceed \$100,000.

Sec. 6 All outstanding encumbrances, both operating and capital, at June 30, 2026 shall be re-appropriated to the 2026-27 fiscal year to the same department and account for which they are encumbered in the previous year.

Sec. 7 At the close of the fiscal year, all unencumbered appropriations lapse for budget items other than Capital Projects, reserves, grants, and donations restricted to specific purposes.

Sec. 8 Appropriations for capital projects will not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall remain appropriations until the completion of the projects or until the City Council, by appropriate ordinance or resolution, changes or eliminates the appropriation. The City Manager may approve necessary accounting transfers between capital funds to enable the capital projects to be accounted for in the correct manner. Upon completion of a capital project, staff is authorized to close out the projects and transfer to the funding source any remaining balances. This section applies to all existing appropriations for Capital Projects on June 30, 2026, and appropriations in the 2026-27 budget year. The City Manager may approve construction change orders to contracts up to an increase of \$100,000 and approve all change orders for reductions to contracts.

Sec. 9 The City Manager may authorize the transfer of Sewer Services Capital Projects funds that are 20% or up to \$100,000 of the original project cost, whichever is less, from any Sewer Services Capital Project to any other Sewer Services Capital Project or to the original funding source. Should the actual contract price for a project be significantly (over \$100,000) less than the appropriation, the City Manager may approve transfer of excess funds to the funding source prior to completion of the project.

Sec. 10 The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to apply for and accept all city eligible grants which require no local match money to receive without further City Council action.

City Manager is further authorized to apply for and accept eligible grants of \$50,000 or less and with up to fifty (50) percent or less of the total dollar grant amount match requirement. City Manager is authorized to use current budget appropriated funds towards any local match required. Any grant application/award greater than \$50,000 must be approved by Council prior to the city administration making application.

The City Manager is hereby authorized to sign and execute all necessary documents for the acceptance of any city grant approved by Council.

Sec. 11 City Council approval of any grant of funds to the City constitutes the appropriation of both the revenue to be received from the grant and the city's expenditure required by the terms of the grant, if any. The appropriation of grant funds will not lapse at the end of the fiscal year, but shall remain appropriated until completion of the project or until Council, by appropriate resolution, changes or eliminates the appropriation.

The City Manager may reduce any grant expenditure to the level approved by the granting agency during the fiscal year. The City Manager may approve necessary accounting transfers between accounts to enable the grant to be accounted for in the correct manner. Upon completion of a grant project, staff is authorized to close out the grant and transfer back to the funding source any unspent remaining balances. This applies to appropriations for grants outstanding on June 30, 2026, and appropriations in the 2026-27 budget year.

Sec. 12 The City Manager may account for and utilize both revenue and expenditure for donations made by citizens or citizen groups in support of city programs. Any remaining unencumbered balance of a restricted donation at the end of the fiscal year will be re-appropriated into the subsequent fiscal year for the same purpose.

Sec. 13 The City Manager may reduce revenue and expenditure related to programs funded all or in part by the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or the federal government to the level approved by the responsible state or federal agency.

Sec. 14 The City Manager is authorized to make transfers to the various funds for which there are transfers budgeted. The City Manager shall transfer funds only as needed up to amounts budgeted, or in accordance with any existing bond resolutions that specify the manner in which transfers are to be made.

Sec. 15 The City Treasurer may advance monies to and from the various funds of the City to allow maximum cash flow efficiency. The advances must not violate city bond covenants or other legal restrictions that would prohibit an advance.

Sec. 16 The City Manager is authorized to make expenditures from Trust & Agency Funds for the specified reasons for which the funds were established. In no case shall the expenditure exceed the available balance in the fund.

Sec. 17 The City Manager may utilize revenues and increase expenditures for funds received by the City from asset forfeitures for operating expenditures directly related to drug enforcement. This applies to funds currently on hand on June 30, 2026, and all funds received in the 2026-27 budget year, shall not lapse but be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

Sec. 18 After completion of all necessary audit transactions for the General Fund, the City Manager may reallocate appropriations and/or authorize transfers of existing appropriation on June 30 as follows:

a. Subsequent to all audit adjustments and the ending general fund balance is maintained at maximum of 10% of general fund expenditures, transfer all available current year operation funds to the unassigned fund balance of the Capital Projects Fund for future capital projects.

b. At year-end, any budgeted Fire Department appropriations in excess of actual expenditures for the year shall be transferred to a reserve account for future fire equipment purchases. This applies to funds on hand on June 30, 2026, and all funds received in the 2026-27 budget year.

Sec. 19 The City Manager is authorized to reallocate funding sources for Capital Projects, arbitrage rebates/penalties, and debt services payments and to utilize bond interest earning to minimize arbitrage rebates/penalties. This authority would include the transfers among funds to accomplish such reallocation. Budgets for specific Capital Projects will not be increased beyond the level authorized by sections 4 and 5. This applies to funds currently on hand in on June 30, 2026, and all funds received in the FY 2026-27 budget year.

Sec. 20 The City Manager is authorized to transfer among appropriation categories any amount of funds associated with implementation of the VJCCA Grant to record transactions.

Sec. 21 The City Manager is authorized to transfer among appropriation categories any amount of monies associated with implementation of the Children's Services Act for at-risk youth and families, but the local city match appropriation shall be reduced to the amount required to match the original state approved budget. Any supplemental budget request for funding shall be presented to Council for appropriation.

Sec. 22 The City Manager is authorized, upon approval of Council, to transfer among appropriation categories any amount of monies associated with implementation of the Department of Social Services budget for services, but the local city match appropriation shall be reduced to the amount required to match the original state approved budget. Any supplemental budget request for funding shall be presented to city council for appropriation.

Sec. 23 Effective upon adoption of this resolution, the City Manager is authorized to approve transfers within operating funds as long as total net spending is not exceeded, and all transfer activity is to be reported to Council on a monthly basis.

The City Manager is authorized, only upon the approval of Council, to transfer between funds, from the unassigned fund balance or the “rainy day fund”, should fiscal conditions or circumstances prescribe that the transfer is required. The transfer amount must not result in a deficit balance in the Fund from which the transfer is being made.

Sec. 24 The City Manager is hereby authorized, upon approval of Council, to reassign or reallocate any full-time authorized position within the authorized fund complement of positions to a lower or higher grade after the City Classification and Compensation Study Committee has approved the job evaluation and made its recommendation to the City Manager. This authority is not to be construed as giving the City Manager authority to create or increase the authorized full-time City work force. Council reserves to itself the authority to increase or decrease the authorized full-time employee positions.

Sec. 25 Effective July 1, 2026, the following will be the City share of health care cost from The Local Choice (Anthem):

Medical, Dental, and Vision Insurance (Bundled) - The Local Choice (TLC) – Anthem

High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with HSA*	Employee Share (per pay)	Employee Share (per month)	City Share (per month)	Total Premium (per month)
Employee Only	\$46.18	\$92.37	\$695.63	\$788.00
Employee + Spouse	\$130.80	\$261.60	\$1,197.40	\$1,459.00
Employee + Child	\$108.06	\$216.13	\$1,242.87	\$1,459.00
Employee + Children	\$108.08	\$216.17	\$1,911.83	\$2,128.00
Employee + Family	\$216.16	\$432.33	\$1,695.67	\$2,128.00
Key Advantage 1000	Employee Share	Employee Share	City Share	Total Premium
Employee Only	\$53.45	\$106.89	\$830.11	\$937.00
Employee + Spouse	\$156.48	\$312.96	\$1,419.04	\$1,732.00
Employee + Child	\$126.82	\$253.65	\$1,478.35	\$1,732.00
Employee + Children	\$126.80	\$253.59	\$2,274.41	\$2,528.00
Employee + Family	\$262.29	\$524.58	\$2,003.42	\$2,528.00
Key Advantage 500	Employee Share	Employee Share	City Share	Total Premium
Employee Only	\$59.28	\$118.56	\$860.44	\$979.00
Employee + Spouse	\$177.49	\$354.99	\$1,455.01	\$1,810.00
Employee + Child	\$141.91	\$283.82	\$1,526.18	\$1,810.00
Employee + Children	\$141.99	\$283.98	\$2,358.02	\$2,642.00
Employee + Family	\$300.60	\$601.19	\$2,040.81	\$2,642.00

*City of Hopewell’s Health Savings Account (HSA) contribution (24 pays): \$1,400 individual or \$2,700 family
Please note the rates above may be reduced by \$30 or \$15 per month based on achieving one of our two wellness incentives.

Sec. 26 Council authorizes and directs that the City shall only pay such amount equal to the City contribution share of the premium cost as authorized in Sec. 26, above, and any additional insurance coverage costs selected by employee shall be paid by employee by payroll deduction in the month prior to the premium due date.

For any employee electing to enroll in the HSA plan of record, the city shall contribute the sum of \$1,400.00 for single coverage and \$2,700.00 for family coverage, to be paid monthly into employee HSA account, to include employee and child or employee and spouse, to be paid the second pay period of each month on the basis of 24 pays per year. If employee is hired before 15th of the month credit for that month is given, after 15th of month credit and contribution payments shall begin the following month, to the employee HSA established at the city bank of record for HSA accounts

Sec. 27 City Council authorizes and directs the employee contribution share (5%) of VRS pension contribution rate to be paid by all employees as of July 1, 2026. Employee share of VRS pension contribution shall be deducted on a bi-weekly basis on the basis of 24 pays per year. Contribution will be effective for the month in which it is deducted. Prior to the 15th of the month, credit shall be given for the month and the monthly employee contribution shall be deducted. After the 15th of the month VRS deduction and credit shall begin 1st day the following month. Elected Constitutional Officers shall pay the VRS 5% employee contribution on the same basis as city employees.

Sec. 28 City Council authorizes the VRS retirement multiplier for Hopewell Public Safety positions to change from 1.7% to 1.85%.

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I, Johnny Partin, Mayor of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, do certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution of the City duly adopted on the 26th day of May 2026.

Given under my hand and the Corporate Seal of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, this 26th day of May 2026.

Mayor Johnny Partin, Ward 3

VOTING AYE:

VOTING NAY:

ABSTAINING:

ABSENT:

Resolution No: _____

ATTEST:

Sade Allen, City Clerk
City of Hopewell

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

REGULAR BUSINESS

R-1



CITY OF HOPEWELL CITY COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Strategic Operating Plan Vision Theme:

- Civic Engagement
- Culture & Recreation
- Economic Development
- Education
- Housing
- Safe & Healthy Environment
- None (Does not apply)

Order of Business:

- Consent Agenda
- Public Hearing
- Presentation-Boards/Commissions
- Unfinished Business
- Citizen/Councilor Request
- Regular Business
- Reports of Council Committees

Action:

- Approve and File
- Take Appropriate Action
- Receive & File (no motion required)
- Approve Ordinance 1st Reading
- Approve Ordinance 2nd Reading
- Set a Public Hearing
- Approve on Emergency Measure

COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Public Hearing to consider a right-of-way vacation request from PMT Investors LLC for a portion of an unimproved right-of-way adjacent to Parcels 067-0015 and 073-0515.

ISSUE: Per the City’s ROW Vacation policy, the applicant requests that the right-of-way that transects two parcels be vacated so he can join the land together to create a buildable lot for a residential dwelling.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the request

TIMING: If the request is approved, staff will return within 90 days with the vacation ordinance for final adoption per the City’s ROW Vacation policy.

BACKGROUND: The applicant also offers to donate a portion of Parcel 073-0515 as proper road dedication for Maryville Ave.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS: ROW Vacation application, ROW Vacation Policy, Proposed Plat, Staff Report

STAFF: Christopher Ward, Director of Development

FOR IN MEETING USE ONLY

MOTION: _____

SUMMARY:

- | Y | N | | Y | N | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vice Mayor Rita Joyner, Ward #1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Councilor Susan Daye, Ward #5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Councilor Michael Harris, Ward #2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Councilor Malik Wheat, Ward #6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mayor John B. Partin, Ward #3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Councilor Lovena Rapole., Ward #7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Councilor Ronnie Ellis, Ward #4 | | | |

Roll Call

SUMMARY:

- | Y | N | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vice Mayor Rita Joyner, Ward #1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Councilor Michael Harris, Ward #2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mayor John B. Partin, Ward #3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Councilor Ronnie Ellis, Ward #4 |

- | Y | N | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Councilor Susan Daye, Ward #5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Councilor Malik Wheat, Ward #6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Councilor Lovena Rapole., Ward #7 |



REQUEST FOR VACATION OF UNIMPROVED RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN PARCELS #067-0015 & #073-0515

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 26, 2026



STAFF REPORT

Staff from the Hopewell Department of Development has drafted this report to assist City leadership with making informed decisions regarding land use cases in Hopewell.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The owner/applicant, Ross Bauschatz of PMT Investors LLC, has submitted a request for the City to vacate the unimproved right-of-way that is between and adjacent to Parcels #067-0015 and #073-0515. Staff recommends approval.

II. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

BODY	DATE	TYPE	RESULT
City Council	May 26, 2026	Public Hearing	Pending
City Council	Within 90 days	Vacation ordinance adoption	Pending

III. IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATIONAL INFORMATION

Applicant	PMT Investors LLC
Existing Zoning	R-3 Residential High Density
Requested Zoning	N/A
Acreage (of ROW)	~0.025 acres / ~1,089sf
Legal Description	067-0015: LOT 18 AR BLK 1 SUBDIVISION: OAK HILL 073-0515: LOTS 1-2 BLK 16 SUBDIVISION: VIRGINIA HEIGHTS
Election Ward	2
Future Land Use	Urban Residential
Strategic Plan Goal	n/a
Approval Method	City Council Resolution
Can Conditions be Set?	Yes

Map Location	Parcel #067-0015 & #073-0515
---------------------	------------------------------

IV. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

PUBLIC HEARING	NOTIFICATION TYPE	PUB. DATE	PUB. DATE
City Council	Progress-Index; adjacent prop.	5/12/2026	5/19/2026

V. ROLE OF CITY COUNCIL

Excerpted and paraphrased from *City of Hopewell Right-of-Way Vacation Policy (October 2023)*

The City’s Right-of-Way Vacation Policy (adopted October 24, 2023) sets forth the following procedure:

1. Applicant files a petition for vacation of city-owned right-of-way.
2. Staff from several departments review the petition for impacts on utilities, refuse collection, emergency service, easements, and potential for pedestrian and vehicular use.
3. Public hearing notice is published in the Progress-Index and adjacent property owners are notified via USPS.
4. The City Council receives public comment and decides whether to approve the vacation request.
5. If approved, applicant must submit a new plat showing the incorporation of vacated right-of-way into adjacent parcel(s). Staff reviews and approves the plat administratively.

VI. CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY VACATION POLICY AND APPLICABLE STATE CODE

1. [City Right-of-Way Vacation Policy](#)
2. [Code of Virginia §15.2-2006 – Alteration and Vacation of public rights-of-way](#)

VII. SUBJECT PROPERTY

The subject land is an unimproved right-of-way that is 10 feet wide and totals approximately 0.025 acres (1089sf) that transects the two parcels from Maryville Ave. to Boston St. The western portion of Parcel #073-0515 encompasses approximately 3,307sf of Maryville Ave.

VIII. APPLICANT POSITION

If the vacation is approved, the two parcels (067-0015 and 073-0515) and the vacated portion of the unimproved right-of-way will be administratively resubdivided into one parcel. The applicant proposes to dedicate the portion of Parcel #073-0515 that covers Maryville Ave. to the City of Hopewell to establish the proper road dedication.

IX. STAFF ANALYSIS

The vacation of this portion of right-of-way will not create a dead end or prevent access to other parcels. The willingness of the applicant to offer a portion of Parcel #073-0515 to create the proper road dedication for Maryville Avenue will rectify a longstanding issue for the City. The creation of an easement will be necessary to provide Water Renewal with access to the sewer line that runs through the existing right-of-way.

X. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The following comments were received by City Staff:

Virginia American Water - no issue

Hopewell Water Renewal – requires 10’ easement (5’ from center of sewer line) the length of the property where no permanent structure can be placed, fences must be perpendicular to the easements, and fence posts must be at least 3’ of the sewer centerline

Public Works – no issue but wanted to make sure fire hydrant stays within public right-of-way or easement.

Stormwater- no issue

Fire Marshall – no issue

Staff recommends approval of the request to vacate the unimproved right-of-way adjacent to parcels #067-0015 & #073-0515 with an easement as described and accept the road dedication from the applicant.

XI. OPTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL

In accordance with the City’s Right-of-Way Vacation Policy, the City recommends **approval/denial** of the request submitted by PMT Investors LLC to vacate the unimproved right-of-way adjacent to Parcels #067-0015 and #073-0515 and to accept the portion of Parcel #073-0515 as road dedication to Maryville Ave.

APPENDIX A - MAPS

CITY LOCATIONAL MAP – Yellow Circle indicates general area



PROPERTY LOCATION – BLUE indicates parcels

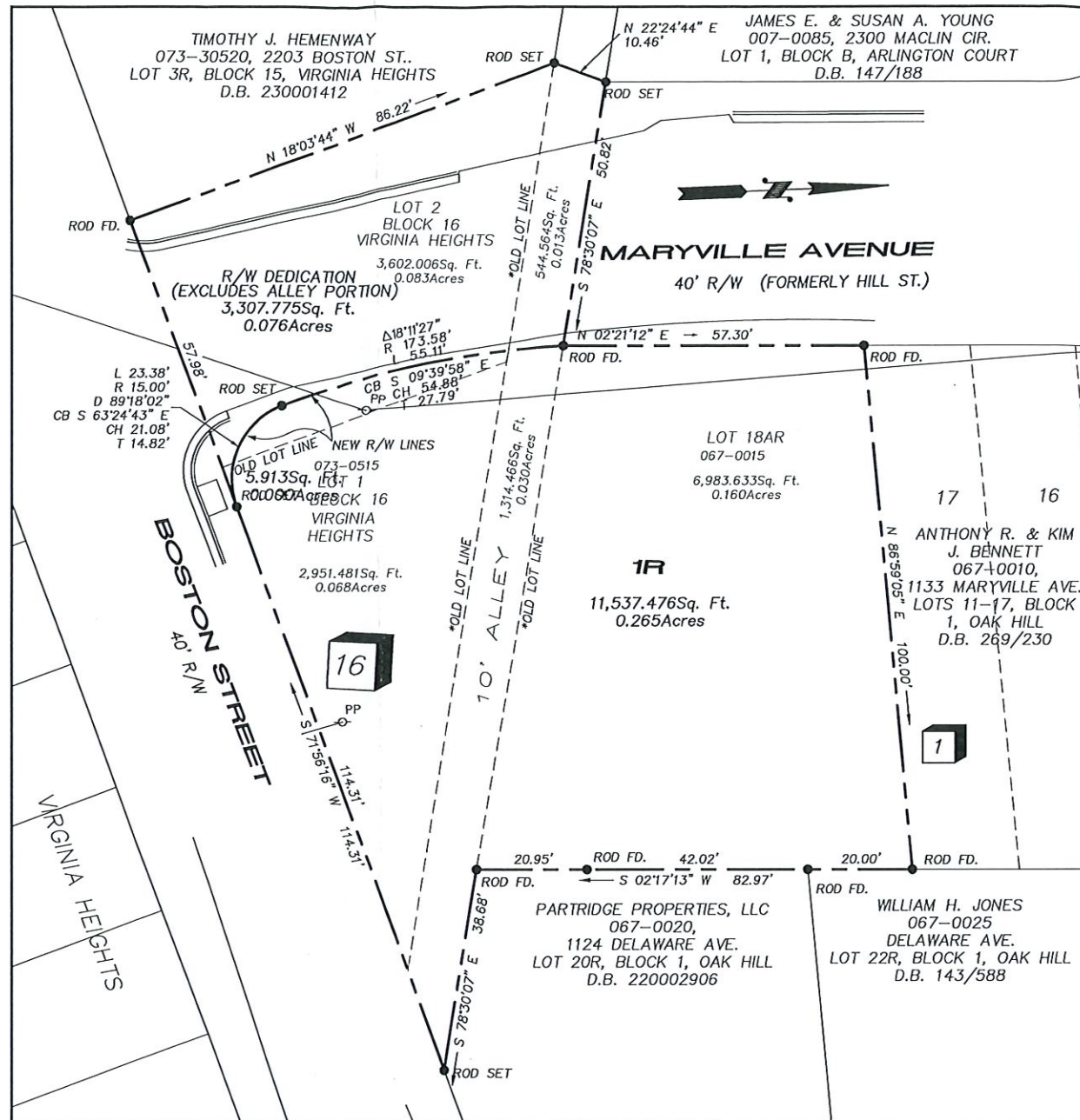


ROW VACATION

Red = Requested ROW

GREEN = Road Dedication



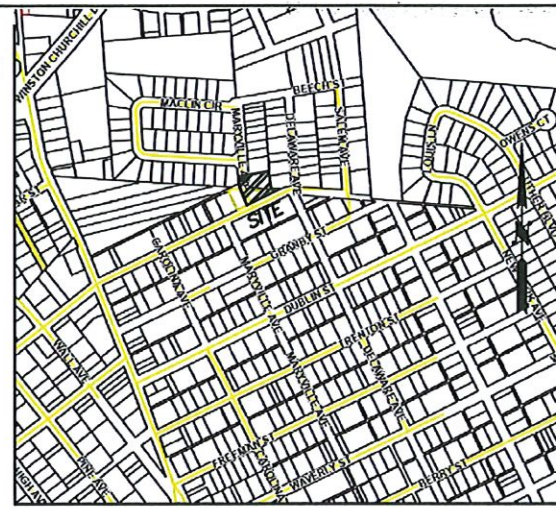


SUBDIVISION CERTIFICATE

The subdivision of land shown on this plat, designated as LOT 1R, BLOCK 1, OAK HILL, A RE-SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 1 & 2, BLOCK 16, & A 10' ALLEY VIRGINIA HEIGHTS AND LOT 18AR, BLOCK 1, OAK HILL, Hopewell, Virginia is with the free consent and in accordance with the desires of the undersigned Owners and Trustees, if any. The dedication of streets and easements are of the width and extent shown on this plat.

PMT INVESTMENTS, LLC

- USE: SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE
- ZONING: R3, HIGH DENSITY
- WATER: VAWCO
- SEWER: CITY SYSTEM
- DRAINAGE: EXISTING CURB & ROADSIDE DITCH
- LOT SIZE: AREA IN R/W= 0.089 ACRES
AREA IN LOTS= 0.265 ACRES
TOTAL AREA= 0.353 ACRES
- NUMBER OF LOTS: 3 EXISTING/ 1 PROPOSED.
- G.P.I.N.: 067-0015, 073-0515
- EASEMENTS: ALL EASEMENTS SHOWN ON PLAT ARE FOR DRAINAGE AND UTILITIES, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
- BUILDING LINES ARE PER THE CITY OF HOPEWELL ZONING ORDINANCE.
- LOT LINES LABELED " OLD LOT LINE" ARE HEREBY VACATED.
- "SBL" DENOTES BUILDING SETBACK LINES.
- THIS SURVEY WAS PREPARED WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF A TITLE BINDER AND IS SUBJECT TO ANY ENCUMBRANCES THAT ONE MAY REVEAL.
OWNER: PMT INVESTMENTS, LLC
PO BOX 838
PRINCE GEORGE, VA. 23875
- THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT ON 2/24/26 TO THE BEST OF MY PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF I MADE AN ACCURATE FIELD SURVEY OF THE PREMISES SHOWN HEREON; THAT ALL IMPROVEMENTS KNOWN OR VISIBLE ARE SHOWN HEREON; THAT THERE ARE NO VISIBLE ENCROACHMENTS BY IMPROVEMENTS EITHER FROM ADJOINING PREMISES OR FROM SUBJECT PREMISES UPON ADJOINING PREMISES OTHER THAN AS SHOWN HEREON.
- THIS PROPERTY IS IN ZONE "X" OF THE HUD DEFINED FLOOD HAZARD AREA AS SHOWN ON F.E.M.A. FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS, COMMUNITY PANEL # 5100800016E, DATED 12/15/2022.



VICINITY MAP 1" = 600'

AREA SUMMARY:
LOT 1R:
LOT 1, BLOCK 16, VIRGINIA HEIGHTS 0.068 ACRES
A PORTION OF LOT 2, BLOCK 16, VIRGINIA HEIGHTS 0.007 ACRES
LOT 18AR, OAK HILL WAS 0.160 ACRES
THE ALLEY TO BE VACATED 0.030 ACRES
COMBINED TOTAL IS 0.265 ACRES

R/W DEDICATION:
PORTION OF LOT 2, BLOCK 16, VIRGINIA HEIGHTS 0.076 ACRES
PORTION OF LOT 1, BLOCK 16, VIRGINIA HEIGHTS 5.913 SQ. FT., 0.000 ACRES
PORTION OF EX. ALLEY 0.013 ACRES
COMBINED TOTAL IS 0.089 ACRES.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA } TO WIT
OF }

I, _____, a Notary Public in and for the State of Virginia, do hereby certify that _____ whose names are signed to the Subdivision Certificate have acknowledged the same before me in my State aforesaid. Given under my hand this day of _____, 2026.
My commission expires _____
Notary Public

SOURCE OF TITLE

067-0015
The property embraced within the limits of this subdivision was conveyed by deed from Anthony R. & Kim J. Bennett to PMT Investments, LLC and recorded February 20, 2026 as Instrument Number 260000523 in The Clerk's Office of The Circuit Court, Hopewell, Virginia.
073-0515
The property embraced within the limits of this subdivision was conveyed by deed from Virginia First Savings Bank to PMT Investments, LLC and recorded February 20, 2026 as Instrument Number 240000463 in The Clerk's Office of The Circuit Court, Hopewell, Virginia.

SURVEYORS CERTIFICATE

To the best of my knowledge and belief all of the requirements as set forth in the ordinance for approving plats of subdivision for recordation in the City of Hopewell, Virginia have been complied with.

Stephen L. Barcena
STEPHEN L. BARCENA, L.S.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

This subdivision known as LOT 1R, BLOCK 1, OAK HILL, A RE-SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 1 & 2, BLOCK 16, & A 10' ALLEY VIRGINIA HEIGHTS AND LOT 18AR, BLOCK 1, OAK HILL, HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA is approved by the undersigned in accordance with existing subdivision regulations and may be committed to record.

Date _____ Director of Development



Stephen L. Barcena
STEPHEN L. BARCENA, L.S.

PLAT SHOWING
LOT 1R ~ BLOCK 1 ~ OAK HILL
A RE-SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 1 & 2 ~ BLOCK 16 AND A 10' ALLEY, VIRGINIA HEIGHTS,
AND LOT 18AR ~ BLOCK 1 ~ OAK HILL
HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

SHEET 1 OF 1
BASELINE LAND SURVEYING
526 GROVE AVENUE
PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA 23803
BLS23803@MSN.COM
PH: 804.520.9180 / FX: 804.722.9517
DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2026 SCALE: 1" = 20'
DRAWN BY: SLB
CHECKED BY: _____ CALC. CHK.: SLB
JOB NO.: 24785 F.B. 217/77

NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED IN RED
PREVIOUS JOB NO.



RIGHT-OF-WAY VACATION APPLICATION
City of Hopewell
Department of Planning & Development

300 N Main St., Hopewell, VA 23860
(804) 541-2220 Fax (804) 541-2318

City of Hopewell, VA
Permits / Inspec. - 20260177 ROWV - 2026
03/20/26 - 03/21/26 01:06PM
debra.mc
INVESTMENTS LLC
PAYMENT AMOUNT: \$100.00
TRANSACTION AMOUNT: \$100.00
CHECK: 003026

Application # 20260177

Petitioner Information (Attach Separately for Multiple Applicants):

Permit #: _____

Name: ROSS
PAT INVESTMENTS, LLC Mailing Address: 119 Watercross Ctr Colonial Heights, Va

Phone Number: REDACTED Email: _____

REDACTED

Proposed Vacation or Abandonment:

1. Location: Parcel 0670015 + 0730515
2. Parcels to benefit from the proposed vacation: 0670015
3. Number of properties adjoining the right-of-way: 2
4. Has a petition to vacate this right-of-way previously been considered? Yes No

Required attachments:

- Drawing of the right-of-way to be vacated.
- \$100 non-refundable application fee per adjoining property/applicant.
- Title search or opinion from an attorney or title examiner determining ownership of the right-of-way.

Disclosures:

- I (We) have received Council's Policy concerning right-of-way vacations.
- I (We) agree to pay for public notice advertisements as well as all other costs incurred by me/us associated with this application, regardless of Council's final decision regarding the petition.
- I (We) understand that, if approved, I (We) will be responsible for submitting a deed of vacation and administrative subdivision application that complies with all City requirements and conditions and recording said documents with the Hopewell Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

Petition Signature (Attach Separately for Multiple Applicants):

I (We) hereby petition the City of Hopewell to vacate the undeveloped right-of-way referenced in this application.

RA Bauschate RA Bauschate 3-10-26
Signature Name (Printed) Date

Signature Name (Printed) Date

Kimberly Kinker

REDACTED

From: Ross Bauschatz
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 9:45 AM
To: Christopher Ward; Kimberly Kinker
Subject: Boston St Alley Vacate

Good morning Kim and Chris, regarding the alley vacation on the Boston St., Lot consolidation request, I am open to giving you the street that my property crosses in return for receiving the alley between the two lots. I appreciate it and will talk to you soon. Have a great day.

Ross A Bauschatz, Manager
Priority Home Solutions, LLC
General Contractor
Virginia Class A Builder
Cell: (804)283-0452
Email: rossb029@gmail.com

City Council Policy

SUBJECT: Right-of-Way Vacation

Policy No: CC-3

Effective Date: _____

Agenda Item # & Date: _____

Administering Department: Planning & Development

I. POLICY:

- A. Adjoining property owners may petition the City to vacate any public right-of-way for a street or alley in accordance with Va. Code § 15.2-2006.
- B. Generally, rights-of-way are owned “in fee simple” by the City, and when vacated, can be acquired by the adjoining property owners. However, there are some cases wherein the City does not own a right-of-way “in fee simple,” but merely has the right to use the property. In these cases, the City can vacate some of its right to use the property, in which case ownership reverts to the original owner of the property, not to the adjoining property owners.
- C. When the City vacates a right-of-way, it is by default divided between the adjoining property owners. Depending upon the circumstances, including the agreement or non-agreement of adjoining property owners, the vacated right-of-way may be partly added to each property or to only the petitioner’s property.
- D. Vacation of right-of-way are not be recommended by staff for approval if one or more of the following would be created as a result of the vacation, unless unusual circumstances exist:
 - 1. A dead-end that lacks sufficient room for a vehicle to turn around.
 - 2. Public or private property would thereby become “landlocked” and no longer connected to a public right-of-way.
 - 3. A break or disconnect in the entire or full-length stretch of right-of-way that creates a scenario where a possible future use of the remaining right-of-way is made impossible.
- E. All expenses involved in the vacation process are borne by the petitioner. *See* Va. Code § 15.2-2006.
- F. Unless unusual circumstances warrant otherwise, the City will not require vacated land to be paid for when the vacated right-of-way is 20 feet or less in width.
- G. Whenever a right-of-way over 20 feet is vacated and the amount of vacated land going to a single adjoining property owner is of an area equal to or exceeding the minimum area necessary to site a building in that zoning district, then the City will sell the land to that adjoining property owner for an amount recommended by staff and approved by Council.

II. PROCEDURE:

- A. Filing of Petition – The petitioner must file a petition for vacation with the Department of Planning & Development consisting of the following:
1. Petition form with signatures from all adjoining property owners. The Department of Planning & Development may also require written consent of those who use the area to be vacated for a primary or necessary ingress or egress.
 2. If an adjoining property owner cannot be reached informally for signature, then the petitioner must send notice by certified mail to the owner's address on file with the City Assessor. If the petitioner can show that such notice was provided and the adjoining property owner did not reply within 30 days, or refused to sign, then the petition may continue. Council will take into consideration non-reply or refusal to sign.
 3. A \$100 non-refundable application processing fee, payable to the City of Hopewell. The petitioners must agree to meet all expenses involved in the vacation process.
 4. Sketch or illustration of right-of-way to be vacated.
 5. 1 copy of a title search or opinion from an attorney or title examiner determining ownership of the right-of-way.
- B. Staff Review – Upon receipt, the Department of Planning & Development will transmit the application for review by City agencies. Considerations by City agencies may address, without limitation:
1. Current and potential future use of subject area
 2. Easements for utilities to be retained
 3. Utility relocation (at applicant's expense) when an easement will not suffice
 4. Emergency service and use of area
 5. Refuse collection service and use of the area
 6. Impact to pedestrian or vehicular traffic
 7. Adjoining property owner non-reply or refusal to sign the petition
- C. Advertisement – Notice of the petition Council for the vacation of a right-of-way must be published as a legal ad in a newspaper of general circulation at least twice, with at least 6 days elapsing between the first and second publication. The notice must specify the time and place of hearing, at which time persons affected may appear and present their views. This cost will be billed to the petitioner.
- D. Public Hearing – Council will conduct a public hearing at which persons affected may appear and be heard. Council may vote to approve, approve with conditions as permitted under Va. Code § 15.2-2006 and -2008, defer for additional review, or deny the ordinance of vacation.
- E. Post-Approval – Upon approval by Council, the petitioners will have 90 days to submit:

1. The deed of vacation reflecting that the vacated land is assimilated into, and become a part of, the abutting properties.
2. Administrative resubdivision application necessary to accomplish the assimilation of land into the abutting properties. This includes a licensed professional land surveyor's plat showing the exact extent and dimensions of the vacation, names, parcel numbers and deed references of adjoining properties, metes and bounds based on City-approved datum, area of proposed closure, and a minimum of 2 NAD 83 State Plane coordinates. The City reserves the right to request a digital copy of the plat.
3. Payment of public notification advertising fees.
4. When required as a condition of approval, agreement to purchase the vacated property in accordance with Va. Code § 15.2-2008.

F. At or before the end of the 90 day period:

1. If all deeds have been received and approved, Council then may adopt the vacating ordinance. If adopted, the deeds will be returned to the respective property owners, for filing with the Clerk of the Circuit Court.
2. If one or more deeds are not received within the specified 90 day time limit, staff will request that Council not pass the vacating ordinance, unless a reason satisfactory to staff exists (e.g. a surveyor taking longer than anticipated to draft a plat). If the ordinance is not passed, all deeds must be returned to the appropriate parties and the petition terminated.

G. Recordation – A certified copy of the ordinance of vacation must be recorded as deeds are recorded and indexed in the name of the locality within 1 year of final Council approval. A conditional vacation cannot be recorded until the condition has been met.

H. If the ordinance has expired without the deeds being filed, the petitioning citizen must contact the City Manager's Office to have the issue placed on the agenda of the next available Council meeting. Prior to Council consideration, the petitioning citizens must submit to, and have approved by, the City Attorney all deeds of vacation. The citizen must appear at the meeting to request that Council reaffirm its earlier action. The City Manager will include in the Council packet the original report on the requested vacation, with no additional staff work or research.

For additional assistance, please contact the Department of Planning & Development.

I (We) _____ of _____
(Names) (Mailing Address)

petition the City of Hopewell to vacate the undeveloped right-of-way situated at: _____

There has _____ has not _____ been a previous petition to vacate this right-of-way.

Attached is a drawing of the right-of-way to be vacated.

There is/are _____ property owner(s) adjoining this right-of-way. Attached is/are the signature(s) of the adjoining property owner(s) and a \$100.00 non-refundable application processing fee.

I (We) agree to pay for public notice advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Hopewell, as well as all other costs incurred by me/us associated with this application, regardless of Council's final decision regarding the petition.

I (We) have received Council's Policy concerning right-of-way vacations.

(Signature of Petitioner)

(Date)

(Signature of Petitioner)

(Date)

R-2

FY27 Proposed School Budget

School Operating Fund - 014	Original
Estimated Revenues	Budget
State Sources	50,076,357
Federal Sources	5,888,224
Other Revenues	537,483
Transfer from General Fund	<u>13,580,000</u>
Total Revenues	<u><u>70,082,064</u></u>
Appropriations	
Non-Categorical	<u>70,082,064</u>
Total School Operating Fund	<u><u>70,082,064</u></u>
School Textbook Fund - 056	
Estimated Revenues	
State Sources	<u>534,053</u>
Total Revenues	<u><u>534,053</u></u>
Appropriations	
Textbook Purchases	<u>534,053</u>
Total School Textbook Fund	<u><u>534,053</u></u>
School Cafeteria Fund - 057	
Estimated Revenues	
States Sources	70,930
Federal Sources	2,700,000
Other Sources	<u>165,800</u>
Total Revenues	<u><u>2,936,730</u></u>
Appropriations	
Operating Expenses	<u>2,936,730</u>
Total School Cafeteria Fund	<u><u>2,936,730</u></u>
School Building/Bus Replacement Fund - 063	
Estimated Revenues	
Other Sources	<u>18,455</u>
Total Revenues	<u><u>18,455</u></u>
Appropriations	
Appropriations	<u>18,455</u>
Total School Building/Bus Repl Fund	<u><u>18,455</u></u>
Total Budget Request	<u><u>73,571,302</u></u>



General Resolutions for April 16, 2026

Warrants

Review of Bills

March

26-04-G1

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that bills in the amount of \$1,111,528.71 (Operating Fund) & \$125,982.35(Cafeteria Fund) for March have been presented and reviewed by the Hopewell City School Board.

Approval of FY27 Budget

26-04-G2

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the FY27 Hopewell City Public Schools Budget be and is hereby approved as indicated below:

<i>Bus/Building Replacement</i>	<i>\$ 18,455</i>
<i>School Operating Fund</i>	<i>\$ 70,082,064</i>
<i>Textbook Fund</i>	<i>\$ 534,053</i>
<i>Food Service Fund</i>	<i>\$ 2,936,730</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$ 73,571,302</i>

R-3

May 16, 2026

Via email to Cheryl.Mayo@deq.virginia.gov

Cheryl Mayo
DEQ Piedmont Regional Office
4949-A Cox Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Re: Public Comments on Draft Federal Operating Permit No. PRO-50232 for AdvanSix Resins and Chemicals LLC, Hopewell, VA

Dear Ms. Mayo:

The Southern Environmental Law Center; Appalachian Voices; Chesapeake Bay Foundation; and Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter hereby submit comments on Draft Federal Operating Permit No. PRO-50232 for AdvanSix Resins and Chemicals LLC (“AdvanSix”), which the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”) has noticed for public comment. AdvanSix has applied for a significant modification to the Title V permit for its chemical manufacturing facility at 905 East Randolph Road in Hopewell, Virginia.

AdvanSix’s Hopewell facility is one of Virginia’s largest emitters of nitrogen oxides (“NO_x”), fine particulate matter (“PM_{2.5}”), sulfur dioxide (“SO₂”), and ammonia.¹ As DEQ is well aware, AdvanSix also stands apart as a chronic violator of federal and state air pollution law. Last month, DEQ finalized a \$2 million consent order with AdvanSix, resolving violations of air pollution control requirements spanning five years.² And barely a week ago—during the public comment period on this draft Title V permit—an unplanned release of ammonia vapor from the AdvanSix facility prompted an emergency response from the City of Hopewell and a temporary shelter-in-place order for area residents.³ It is for facilities like AdvanSix that the Title V permitting process is especially important; it is incumbent on DEQ to issue a permit with conditions sufficient to assure the facility’s compliance with applicable requirements.

The draft Title V permit for AdvanSix also warrants DEQ’s special consideration for its potential impacts on an environmental justice community. The Virginia Environmental Justice Act provides that it is “the policy of the Commonwealth to promote environmental justice and

¹ See DEQ, *2023 Annual Point Source Criteria Pollutant Emissions*, <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/25498/638616480076600000> (listing AdvanSix’s Hopewell facility as Virginia’s third largest emitter of NO_x, fifth largest emitter of PM_{2.5}, tenth largest emitter of SO₂, and largest emitter of ammonia in 2023).

² DEQ, Order by Consent Issued to AdvanSix Resins & Chemicals LLC for Hopewell Plant (Apr 14, 2026), <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/28052241-advansix-consent-order-executed/>.

³ Media Release, City of Hopewell, Virginia, City of Hopewell Responds to Ammonia Vapor Release Incident (May 10, 2026), <https://perma.cc/M8JZ-QYR7> (“Hopewell Media Release”).

ensure that it is carried out throughout the Commonwealth, with a focus on environmental justice communities and fenceline communities.”⁴ Accordingly, it is Virginia policy to afford environmental justice communities meaningful involvement and fair treatment, and to ensure that they do not “bear[] a disproportionate share of any negative environmental consequence resulting from industrial, governmental, or commercial operation, program, or policy.”⁵ Separate legislation enacted in 2020 made it an express DEQ policy “to further environmental justice and enhance public participation in the regulatory and permitting processes.”⁶

Within a one-mile radius of AdvanSix’s Hopewell facility, people of color make up 58% of residents and 54% of residents are classified as low-income.⁷ People of color also make up 54% of residents within a three-mile radius and within a five-mile radius of the facility.⁸ The AdvanSix facility is located in close proximity to five other major sources of air pollution in Hopewell.⁹ And more than 900 occupied housing units are located within one mile of the facility,¹⁰ with some of these homes just beyond the AdvanSix fenceline. To the extent that the Title V permit for this facility does not include sufficient conditions to assure compliance with all applicable requirements, the surrounding community will bear a disproportionate burden of the resulting adverse impacts on public health and welfare.

We offer the following comments on the proposed modifications to AdvanSix’s Title V permit.¹¹

⁴ Va. Code § 2.2-235.

⁵ *Id.* § 2.2-234.

⁶ *Id.* § 10.1-1183(B)(4); *see also id.* § 10.1-1182 (defining “environmental justice” as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of every person, regardless of race, color, national origin, faith, disability, or income, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies”).

⁷ EJSCREEN Community Report (1 Mile Ring) at 1, <https://ejamapi-84652557241.us-central1.run.app/report?lon=-77.272892&lat=37.299552&buffer=1> (retrieved Apr. 20, 2026), accessed through Public Environmental Data Partners (distributor) (“EJSCREEN 1-Mile Report”).

⁸ EJSCREEN Community Report (3 Mile Ring) at 1, <https://ejamapi-84652557241.us-central1.run.app/report?lon=-77.272892&lat=37.299552&buffer=3> (retrieved Apr. 20, 2026), accessed through Public Environmental Data Partners (distributor); EJSCREEN Community Report (5 Mile Ring) at 1, <https://ejamapi-84652557241.us-central1.run.app/report?lon=-77.272892&lat=37.299552&buffer=5> (retrieved Apr. 20, 2026), accessed through Public Environmental Data Partners (distributor).

⁹ EPA’s Enforcement and Compliance History Online database lists six major sources in Hopewell: AdvanSix, Ashland Specialty Ingredients, Hopewell Cogeneration Facility, Hopewell Power Station, Hopewell Water Renewal, and WestRock. EPA, *Facility Search – Enforcement and Compliance History Online*, <https://echo.epa.gov/facilities/facility-search> (last updated May 13, 2024) (select “Virginia” for “State/Territory,” “Hopewell city” for “County,” “Yes” for “Major Designation,” and “Yes” for “Active/Operating”).

¹⁰ EJSCREEN 1-Mile Report at 3.

¹¹ It is our understanding that the Hopewell City Council will consider a resolution at its next regular meeting on May 26, 2026, to lend its support to these comments.

A. DEQ must consider whether the proposed 405.7-tons-per-year increase in permitted carbon monoxide emissions was, or is, a “significant” increase triggering major new source review.

The draft statement of basis notes that the proposed modification of the Title V permit would increase AdvanSix’s permitted emissions of several pollutants: volatile organic compounds (“VOC”) (1.2 tons/yr), particulate matter (“PM”) (1.0 ton/yr), PM_{2.5} (0.6 ton/year), NO_x (14.3 tons/yr), hydrogen sulfide (“H₂S”) (7.0 tons/yr), and carbon monoxide (“CO”) (405.7 tons/yr).¹² The CO increase in particular is sizeable, yet the draft statement of basis notes only that “[t]he increase in permitted CO emissions includes 398.3 tons/yr of existing startup/shutdown/rate change emissions that were not previously included in the permit.”¹³

It appears that DEQ added these permitted CO emissions to AdvanSix’s underlying new source review (“NSR”) permit for its caprolactam manufacturing operations (“Caprolactam NSR Permit”) as part of a permit amendment in August 2024.¹⁴ A net emissions increase of this magnitude should have triggered major new source review at the time they were added to the underlying permit. Major new source review is important for modifications that cause “significant” emissions increases because it requires modeling to demonstrate that the emissions increase will not cause or contribute to a violation of applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and because it involves public participation in the permitting process.

Although the record is unclear, DEQ may have determined that the sizeable increase in permitted CO emissions did not exceed the major modification threshold because that emissions increase was “netted out” by emissions decreases associated with modifications to coal boilers at a different time.¹⁵ It appears that in 2018 and 2019, AdvanSix permanently shut down certain coal boilers at the AdvanSix facility and took potential-to-emit limits for others, and that AdvanSix may have used the resulting emissions decreases to net against the recent increase in permitted CO emissions.¹⁶

Notably, for Step 2 netting, or contemporaneous netting, a facility owner or operator may count only those emissions decreases that are “contemporaneous”—that is, occurring within a five-year period preceding “construction” on the change associated with the emissions increase

¹² Draft Statement of Basis at 15.

¹³ *Id.* at 15 n.2.

¹⁴ See generally DEQ, Stationary Source Phased Construction Permit; New Source Performance Standards Permit; Permit to Construct and Operate (Aug. 8, 2024); DEQ, Engineering Analysis, AdvanSix Resins and Chemicals LLC (Aug. 8, 2024) (“August 2024 Caprolactam NSR Permit Amendment EA”) (engineering analysis for August 2024 Caprolactam NSR Permit amendment).

¹⁵ See August 2024 Caprolactam NSR Permit Amendment EA at 2, 13–20.

¹⁶ See AdvanSix, Minor New Source Review Permit Application: Strategic Caprolactam Projects, tbl. D-27 n.4, tbl. D-28 n.1, tbl. E-27 n.4, tbl. E-28 n.1 (rev. July 2024) (referring to “Boiler Application dated July 2018” to support “Creditable Reductions” associated with coal boiler shutdowns and reduced potential-to-emit limits).

at issue.¹⁷ If the “construction” occurred in August 2024 when the emissions increase was incorporated into the Caprolactam NSR Permit, then some or all of the boiler-related emissions decreases appear to have occurred more than five years before construction and cannot be used in Step 2 netting. Alternatively, if the “construction” occurred at some point *prior to* the boiler-related emissions decreases in 2018 and 2019, those decreases cannot be used in Step 2 netting because they predated “construction.”

If AdvanSix improperly performed Step 2 netting and the net CO emissions increase was, in fact “significant,” then DEQ must perform major new source review in connection with the change. At a minimum, DEQ must revise the statement of basis to explain its determination that emissions decreases that occurred in 2018 and 2019 may be considered “contemporaneous” for Step 2 netting purposes.

We recognize that this comment is directed in part at decisions made by DEQ in connection with its August 2024 amendment of the Caprolactam NSR Permit. Because DEQ did not provide an opportunity for public comment in connection with that permitting action—in contravention of federal law requiring opportunity for public comment on the issuance of minor NSR permits¹⁸—DEQ must consider this comment as part of the current Title V permitting proceeding.¹⁹

B. DEQ must perform a BACT analysis and impose appropriate limits for emissions during startup, shutdown, and other rate changes at the Kellogg Ammonia Plant and Girdler Synthesis Gas Plant.

The majority of the proposed increase in permitted CO emissions discussed above is reflected in Conditions 433 and 454 of the draft permit. Condition 433 provides that emissions from the operation of the Kellogg Ammonia Plant “during startup, shutdown, and other rate changes” shall not exceed 70,883 pounds per hour or 260 tons per year of CO, and shall not exceed 23 pounds per hour or 0.3 tons per year of VOC.²⁰ Condition 454 provides that emissions from the operation of the Girdler Synthesis Gas Plant “during startup, shutdown, and other rate changes” shall not exceed 6,694 pounds per hour or 138.3 tons per year of CO, and shall not

¹⁷ See 9 VAC 5-80-1615(C) (defining “net emissions increase”).

¹⁸ 40 C.F.R. §§ 51.160, 51.161.

¹⁹ See *In the Matter of Suncor Energy (U.S.A.), Inc.*, Order on Petition Nos. VIII-2022-13 & VIII-2022-14 at 45–48 (EPA July 31, 2023), <https://perma.cc/342U-G8C3> (finding it appropriate for EPA to review, in Title V renewal proceeding, claims arising out of underlying NSR permitting process where that process did not involve public notice and opportunity for public comment); see also Clarifying the Scope of “Applicable Requirements” Under State Operating Permit Programs and the Federal Operating Permit Program, 89 Fed. Reg. 1150, 1169 (Jan. 9, 2024) (noting that, in Title V permit proceedings, “EPA has also reviewed, and will continue to review, substantive NSR issues where the underlying NSR permit was not issued following public notice and the opportunity for comment and judicial review.”).

²⁰ Draft Permit at 114.

exceed 2.4 pounds per hour or 0.13 tons per year of VOC.²¹ Neither this permitting record nor the permitting record for the August 2024 amendment of the Caprolactam NSR Permit indicates that any of the emission limits in Conditions 433 and 454 are based on DEQ’s review of the maximum reductions achievable for those types of sources—that is, a “best available control technology,” or “BACT,” analysis. It appears that a BACT analysis was required.

Title V permits must incorporate all “applicable requirements,” including “any standard or other requirement provided for in the applicable implementation plan approved or promulgated by EPA.”²² Chapter 80, Article 6 of Virginia’s air pollution control regulations (part of the State Implementation Plan approved by EPA) subjects both major and minor sources to BACT review “to determine if the emissions units will be designed, built and equipped to comply with all applicable standards of performance.”²³ That review requires DEQ to establish “an emission limitation” “based on the maximum degree of emission reduction” DEQ “determines is achievable” for a stationary source.²⁴ Virginia further defines “emission limitation” as a “requirement . . . that limits the quantity, rate, or concentration of *continuous* emissions of air pollutants, including any requirements which limit the level of opacity, prescribe equipment, set fuel specifications, or prescribe operation or maintenance procedures to assure *continuous* emission reduction.”²⁵ Accordingly, if an emission unit or process is subject to BACT, it must have either a single BACT limit that applies at all times (including periods of startup, shutdown, and other rate changes) or separate BACT limits for each type of operation. Either way, emissions during startup, shutdown, and other rate changes must be subject to a BACT limit.

Because the Kellogg Ammonia Plant and Girdler Synthesis Gas Plant processes were at one point subject to new source review (whether major or minor), under Virginia law, DEQ should have performed BACT analyses of those processes and based the limits on emissions during periods of startup, shutdown, and other rate changes on the results of those analyses. If DEQ has not previously performed this analysis, it must do so now, and it must base the limits in Conditions 433 and 454 on the results of that analysis. At a minimum, if DEQ has determined that the startup, shutdown, and rate change operations at the Kellogg Ammonia Plant and Girdler Synthesis Gas Plant are not subject to Article 6 BACT requirements, DEQ must revise the statement of basis to explain that determination.²⁶

²¹ *Id.* at 120.

²² 40 C.F.R. §§ 70.1(b), 70.2.

²³ 9 VAC 5-80-1190; *see also* 9 VAC 5-50-260.

²⁴ 9 VAC 5-50-250(C); *see also* 42 U.S.C. § 7479(3) (defining BACT similarly under Clean Air Act).

²⁵ 9 VAC 5-10-20 (emphasis added); *see also* 42 U.S.C. § 7602(k) (defining “emission limitation” under Clean Air Act as “a requirement . . . which limits the quantity, rate, or concentration of emissions of air pollutants *on a continuous basis* . . .” (emphasis added)).

²⁶ As with the comment in Section A, DEQ must consider this comment as part of the current Title V permitting proceeding because it did not provide an opportunity for public comment in connection with the August 2024 amendment of the Caprolactam NSR Permit. *See supra* note 19.

C. DEQ must revise conditions in the draft permit to specify *how* compliance with applicable emission limits and opacity limits will be determined.

As written, the draft permit fails to adequately identify how AdvanSix or DEQ will determine AdvanSix's compliance with numerous conditions of the permit that establish emission, opacity, or operational limits. By neglecting to specify the operative conditions or methods that will be used to evaluate the facility's compliance with applicable limits—or by specifying a method that is not adequate for that purpose—the permit does not inform the permittee, regulators, or the public as to how the permit will assure compliance with applicable requirements, and thus does not comply with Title V.²⁷ DEQ must revise the conditions listed below so that they specify appropriate methods of determining compliance.

1. Numerous conditions identify no method for determining compliance.

Conditions 60, 65, 70, 71, 78, 81, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 260, 261, 270, 271, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 348, 351, 354, 356, 406, 433, and 454, which set hourly limits on emissions of various pollutants, do not identify how compliance with those limits is to be determined.²⁸ We also note that to the extent DEQ is relying on unspecified annual throughput or operating limits appearing elsewhere in the permit, neither the draft permit nor the draft statement of basis explains how AdvanSix's compliance with *annual* throughput or operating limits assures compliance with *hourly* emission limits.

Conditions 60, 65, 70, 71, 75, 79, 81, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 260, 261, 270, 271, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 351, 354, 356, 357, 406, 433, and 454 contain annual limits on emissions of various pollutants but similarly do not identify how compliance with those limits is to be determined.²⁹

Other conditions set opacity limits (Conditions 362, 550, 551, and 552),³⁰ require a minimum removal efficiency for control devices (131, 313, and 314),³¹ or limit the total dissolved solids in cooling water (Condition 318)³²—again, without specifying how AdvanSix will demonstrate compliance.

Various conditions setting operational limits—such as annual limits on throughput, input, startup time, downtime for control devices, use of portable screening equipment, cooling tower liquid drift, or operation of emergency engines—also lack any reference to a method for

²⁷ See 40 C.F.R. § 70.6(a)(1), (a)(3), (c)(1); 9 VAC 5-80-110(B)(1), (E)–(F), (K)(1).

²⁸ Draft Permit at 11, 12, 13–14, 15, 16, 43–46, 72, 74–75, 92–93, 94, 95, 96, 106, 114, 120.

²⁹ *Id.* at 11, 12, 13–14, 15–16, 43–46, 72, 74–75, 92–94, 95, 96, 106, 114, 120.

³⁰ *Id.* at 97, 152.

³¹ *Id.* at 38, 88.

³² *Id.* at 89.

determining compliance: Conditions 33, 50, 146, 153, 154, 190, 248, 249, 313, 314, 315, 318, 319, 327, 329, 335, 336, 429, 430, 451, 452, 539, 540, and 541.³³

2. Other conditions identify methods for determining compliance that are inadequate for that purpose.

Condition 479 states that compliance with hourly and annual limits on emissions of filterable PM, small PM (“PM₁₀”), PM_{2.5}, SO₂, NO_x, CO, and VOC from the FU-17 boiler will be determined as stated in Conditions 464, 468, 470, 472, 474, 475, 487, 499.³⁴ This is problematic for several reasons:

- The referenced conditions do not appear sufficient to determine compliance with limits on emissions of any of the listed pollutants, with the exception of NO_x (through the CEMS requirement in Condition 487) and SO₂ (through the fuel sulfur content limits in Conditions 468 and 475).
- Neither the draft permit nor the draft statement of basis explains how adhering to the *annual* fuel throughput limits in Conditions 472 and 474 assures compliance with the *hourly* emission limits in Condition 479.
- The initial performance tests for filterable PM and CO in Condition 499 cannot assure ongoing compliance with the hourly limits on those pollutants in Condition 479. The permit should instead require periodic testing of filterable PM and CO emissions from the FU-17 boiler—at least every five years—to confirm compliance.
- The permit fails to require adequate performance testing to assure compliance with the hourly limits on emissions of PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and VOC from the FU-17 boiler. DEQ should require initial and periodic testing.

Condition 549 states that compliance with annual limits on emissions of filterable PM, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, NO_x, CO, and VOC from the four engine-generator sets and four fire pump engines combined will be determined as stated in Conditions 539, 540, and 541.³⁵ Yet Conditions 539, 540, and 541 merely establish annual limits on the number of hours these units may operate;³⁶ compliance with those annual operating limits alone is not sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the annual emission limits in Condition 549. Condition 549 should also refer to the fuel restrictions in Conditions 542, 543, and 544; the diesel certification requirement in Condition 545; the non-resettable hour meter requirement in Condition 553; and the recordkeeping

³³ *Id.* at 7, 10, 41, 42, 55, 70, 88–89, 90, 91, 113–14, 120, 149.

³⁴ *Id.* at 128–29.

³⁵ *Id.* at 151–52.

³⁶ *See id.* at 149.

requirements in Condition 557 as methods for determining compliance with Condition 549's annual emission limits.

D. DEQ should consider including a compliance schedule in the draft permit to address AdvanSix's apparent noncompliance with applicable requirements.

If a Title V permit applicant is out of compliance with an applicable requirement at the time the application is submitted, the Clean Air Act requires that the permit contain a compliance schedule, "including an enforceable series of actions or operations," that will lead to compliance.³⁷ The applicant must describe and propose a schedule for when and how it will bring the facility into compliance with the requirement.³⁸ The permit, in turn, must contain an enforceable compliance schedule.³⁹

On the evening of May 9, 2026, during DEQ's public comment period on this draft permit, residents in the area of AdvanSix's Hopewell facility reported an unusual odor, prompting the City of Hopewell to dispatch emergency personnel and to issue a shelter-in-place order notification for residents in the immediate vicinity.⁴⁰ City officials and AdvanSix confirmed that the odor was the result of a release of ammonia vapor from the AdvanSix facility.⁴¹ The release was just the latest in a long history of unpermitted releases from the facility, including releases of ammonia, NO_x, SO₂, and oleum.

Adherence to the Clean Air Act's compliance schedule requirement is important to protect people in the vicinity of the AdvanSix facility from exposure to ammonia emissions. Exposure to ammonia emissions can cause irritation of the eyes, skin, eyes, throat, and lungs; coughing and burns; and, in cases of exposure to high levels of ammonia, lung damage and death.⁴² DEQ should investigate this latest incident, determine whether AdvanSix's recent release of ammonia reflects noncompliance with applicable requirements, and, if so, revise the draft permit to include an enforceable compliance schedule to bring the AdvanSix facility into compliance with such requirements.

E. DEQ should hold a public hearing on the draft permit.

Our four organizations request a public hearing so that DEQ may hear directly from affected community members and other members of the public. As described in this letter, the AdvanSix facility is located in an environmental justice community, in close proximity to residents and to several other major sources of air pollution; it is one of Virginia's largest

³⁷ 42 U.S.C. §§ 7661(3), 7661c(a).

³⁸ 40 C.F.R. § 70.5(c)(8)(iii)(C).

³⁹ *Id.* § 70.6(c)(3); *Pub. Int. Rsch. Grp., Inc. v. Johnson*, 427 F.3d 172, 182 (2d Cir. 2005).

⁴⁰ Hopewell Media Release.

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² *Ammonia: Chemical Fact Sheet*, Ctrs. for Disease Control (May 5, 2026), <https://perma.cc/VFS3-TZCL>.

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May 16, 2026

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emitters of NO_x, PM_{2.5}, SO₂, and ammonia; and it has a long history of noncompliance with federal and state air regulations. By failing to assure the facility's future compliance with such regulations, an inadequate Title V permit directly and adversely affects the air quality, health, and safety of local residents in particular and of Virginians more broadly—interests that are represented by the undersigned organizations. We have included in these comments specific references to the proposed permit's terms and conditions and suggested revisions.

* * *

For the reasons set forth in this letter, we urge DEQ to address each of the permit deficiencies identified herein and to hold a public hearing to solicit input from affected community members and other members of the public.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mark Sabath

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Resolution No: _____

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER'S
(SELC) PUBLIC REGARDINGS ADVANSIX'S DRAFT DEQ PERMIT**

WHEREAS, the City Council of Hopewell, Virginia, recognizes the importance of protecting public health, environmental quality, and natural resources for current and future generations;

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") has issued a draft permit related to operations conducted by AdvanSix;

WHEREAS, the Southern Environmental Law Center ("SELC") has submitted public comments to DEQ raising concerns and requesting careful review and consideration of the draft permit and its potential impacts, and calling for a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports efforts to ensure that all applicable environmental laws, regulations, monitoring requirements, and public health protections are fully considered prior to the issuance of any final permit decision. Now Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Hopewell, Virginia, that it hereby expresses support for the public comments submitted by the Southern Environmental Law Center regarding the draft DEQ permit, which is attached to this resolution. Further documents relevant to the DEQ permit are available for review with the City Clerk.

Adopted on _____

Witness this signature and seal

Johnny Partin, Mayor
Hopewell City Council, Ward 3

VOTING AYE:

VOTING NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINING:

ATTEST:

Sade' Allen, City Clerk

R-4

Resolution No: _____

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY2026 BUDGET TO FUND AN OPERATIONAL
AUDIT FOR THE HOPEWELL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the City Council of Hopewell, Virginia approved the FY2026 operational budget on May 27, 2025;

WHEREAS, Council recognizes the importance of accountability, transparency, and effective operational management within agencies serving the residents of the City;

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority (“HRHA”) provides critical housing and redevelopment services to residents of the City of Hopewell;

WHEREAS, Council desires to conduct an independent operational audit of HRHA in order to evaluate administrative operations, financial practices, organizational effectiveness, internal controls, compliance procedures, and overall operational efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the FY2026 Budget must be amended to provide funding necessary to retain qualified independent professionals to perform the operational audit. Now Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Hopewell, Virginia, that the FY2026 Budget is hereby amended to appropriate the sum of \$397,000 from Unallocated Capital (\$216,610), Contingency (\$93,000), and Fringe Benefit Savings (\$87,390) for the purpose of funding an independent operational audit of the Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or his designee, is authorized to take all actions necessary to procure and execute agreements with qualified professionals or firms to conduct the operational audit in accordance with applicable procurement requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and recommendations of the operational audit shall be presented to the City Council upon completion.

DONE this _____ day of _____

Witness this signature and seal

Johnny Partin, Mayor
Hopewell City Council, Ward 3

VOTING AYE:

VOTING NAY:

Resolution No: _____

ABSENT:

ABSTAINING:

ATTEST:

Sade' Allen, City Clerk

ADJOURNMENT