BOROUGH OF LINDENWOLD

2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 13, 2026

Presented by: Dawn S. Thompson, CMFO

2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

AGENDA

- ❑ 2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
- ❑ 2026 BUDGET PRIORITIES
- ❑ 2026 BUDGET CHALLENGES
- ❑ 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AT GLANCE:
  - ❑ GENERAL FUND
  - ❑ SEWER UTILITY FUND

- ❑ OVERVIEW OF CAPITAL AND AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) FUNDED PROJECTS AS WELL AS FUTURE BUDGET STRATEGIES

2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

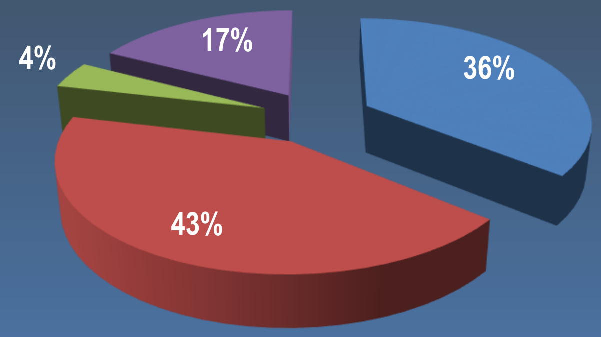
GENERAL FUND

- 2025 Total Tax Collections = $31,956,491.79

  (Incl. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes)

Allocation of 2025 Tax Collections

Municipal Levy	11,443,340.03
Local School	13,680,775.00
Special District	1,286,418.00
County	5,545,958.76



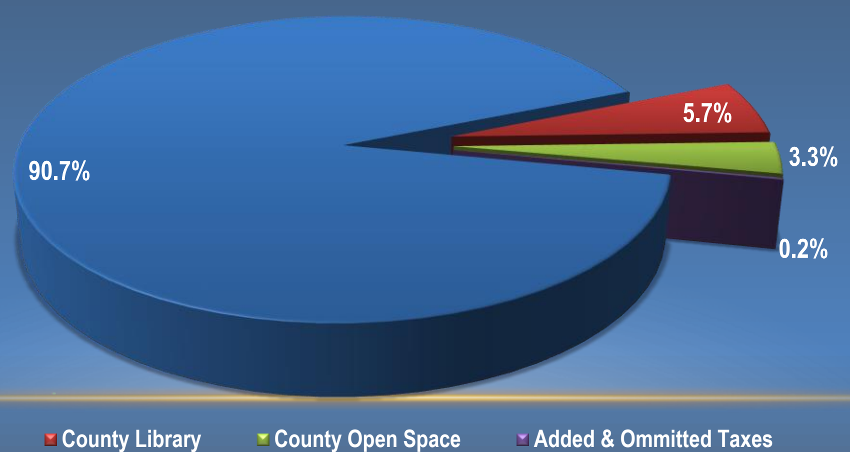
- Tax Collection Rate: 98.37% vs 98.44% in 2024
- Available Cash Surplus: 43% down from 2024

2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

GENERAL FUND

Allocation of County Taxes - $5,545,958.76

General County	$5,031,882.23
County Library	$318,707.59
County Open Space	$184,446.10
Added & Omitted Taxes	$10,922.84



2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
(CONTINUED)

SEWER UTILITY FUND

- 2025 Total Sewer Fee Collections - $2,050,884.39 up 5.4% from 2024
- Self Liquidating – Funded by user fees
- Available Cash surplus up 14.9% from 2024

2026 BUDGET PRIORITIES

Despite ongoing financial challenges—reduced surplus reserves and rising healthcare costs—this governing body remains committed to responsible fiscal management and maintaining essential services for our community. The key budget priorities for 2026 are as follows:

- **Keeping Property Taxes Steady**
  Maintain same level as in past years while maintaining essential services without placing an added burden on families.

- **Improving Public Communication and Accessibility**
  Enhance how we connect with residents by upgrading our website to be more user-friendly and inclusive. Improvements include the addition of a Chatbot and the integration of an AudioEye to ensure full ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance, making the site accessible to individuals with disabilities.

- **Continued Enhancement of Pedestrian Safety**
  Pursue grant funding for the construction of sidewalks, especially in high-traffic areas and near schools, to improve walkability and reduce safety risks for pedestrians. Increase traffic enforcement in areas with heavy pedestrian activity to encourage safer driving and help protect residents crossing or walking along roadways. In addition, partner with the State on the installation and operation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Route 30 and US Avenue. This project is intended to improve visibility, traffic control, and overall safety at this busy intersection.

2026 BUDGET PRIORITIES

(CONTINUED)

- **Return Foreclosed Properties to Productive Use**
  Auction properties acquired by the town. These efforts support long-term economic stability while improving the appearance and condition of neighborhoods throughout the town.
- **Expansion of Public Safety Camera Infrastructure**
  Installation and upgrade of CCTV cameras (AI features) in strategic locations throughout the town to assist law enforcement where monitoring can help deter criminal activity and improve overall community safety.

2026 BUDGET CHALLENGES

- **Increased Health Insurance Premiums**
  - Transitioned from the State Health Benefits Program to the Southern NJ Employee Benefits Fund for cost saving

- **Reduction in Surplus Reserves**
  - Reserves have been used over the years to help stabilize taxes and support essential operations.
    - Actively focused on rebuilding surplus reserves by closely monitoring spending and financial trends as the Governing Body remains committed to responsible fiscal management and long-term financial stability.

2026 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

GENERAL FUND

Statutory Budget CAP calculations:

TAX LEVY CAP (2%) – (Limits how much property tax can increase.)

Maximum permitted to be Raised	13,292,503.00
Amount to be Raised	**12,576,252.00**
Remaining (Excess)	716,251.00

APPROPRIATION CAP (3.5% per COLA) - *(Limits how much the town can spend overall.)*

Maximum Allowable	18,618,234.58
Total Appropriated	**18,618,234.46**
Remaining (Excess)	.12

2026 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

GENERAL FUND

- ❑ Total Assessed Valuation (Ratables) increased to $1.3B up 107.97% from from the prior year as a result of the Revaluation.
- ❑ 2026 Anticipated Revenues and Appropriations = $21.3M
- ❑ Utilized $2.7M of General Fund Surplus in addition to $2M of Sewer Fund Surplus in order to support general appropriations.
- ❑ Utilized a tax collection rate of 97.86% to calculate the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (RUT) leaving a small margin to help generate surplus.
- ❑ Deferred Charge – Special Emergency Authorization 5 years
  - ❑ $400K spread over 5 Years = $80K per budget year.

2026 BUDGET AT A GLANCE
(CONTINUED)

GENERAL FUND

Based on a $21.3M budget for 2026, the 2% Levy CAP has been met as well as the Appropriation CAP. **Local projected tax rate of .949 equates to a tax rate decrease of .805.**

2026 BUDGET SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

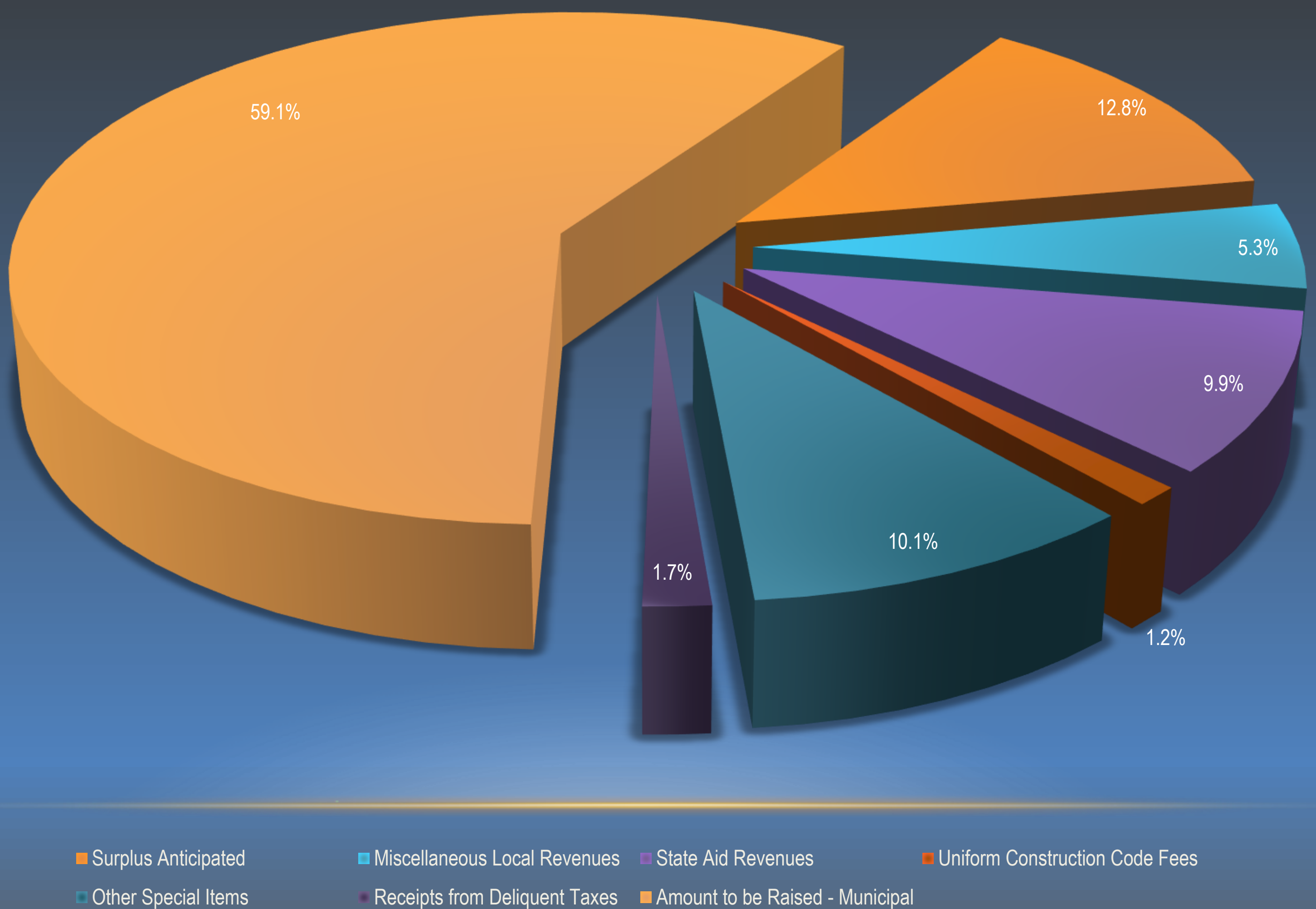
GENERAL FUND

	2026	2025	$ Change	% Change
TAX				
Total Assessed Valuation (Ratables)	$ 1,325,536,384	$ 637,360,284	$ 688,176,100.00	107.97%
Total Local (Municipal) Levy	$ 12,576,251.93	$ 11,177,883.80	$ 1,398,368.13	12.51%
Municipal Tax Rate	**0.949**	**1.754**	**(0.805)**	**-45.90%**
Averaged Assessed Home	$ 237,879	$ 113,368	$ 124,511.00	109.83%
Average Tax per Home	**$ 2,256.92**	**$ 1,988.22**	**$ 268.70**	**13.27%**
TOTAL BUDGET				
Total Revenue	$ 21,271,483.98	$ 21,024,821.26	$ 246,662.72	1.17%
Total Appropriatons	$ 21,271,483.98	$ 21,024,821.26	$ 246,662.72	1.17%

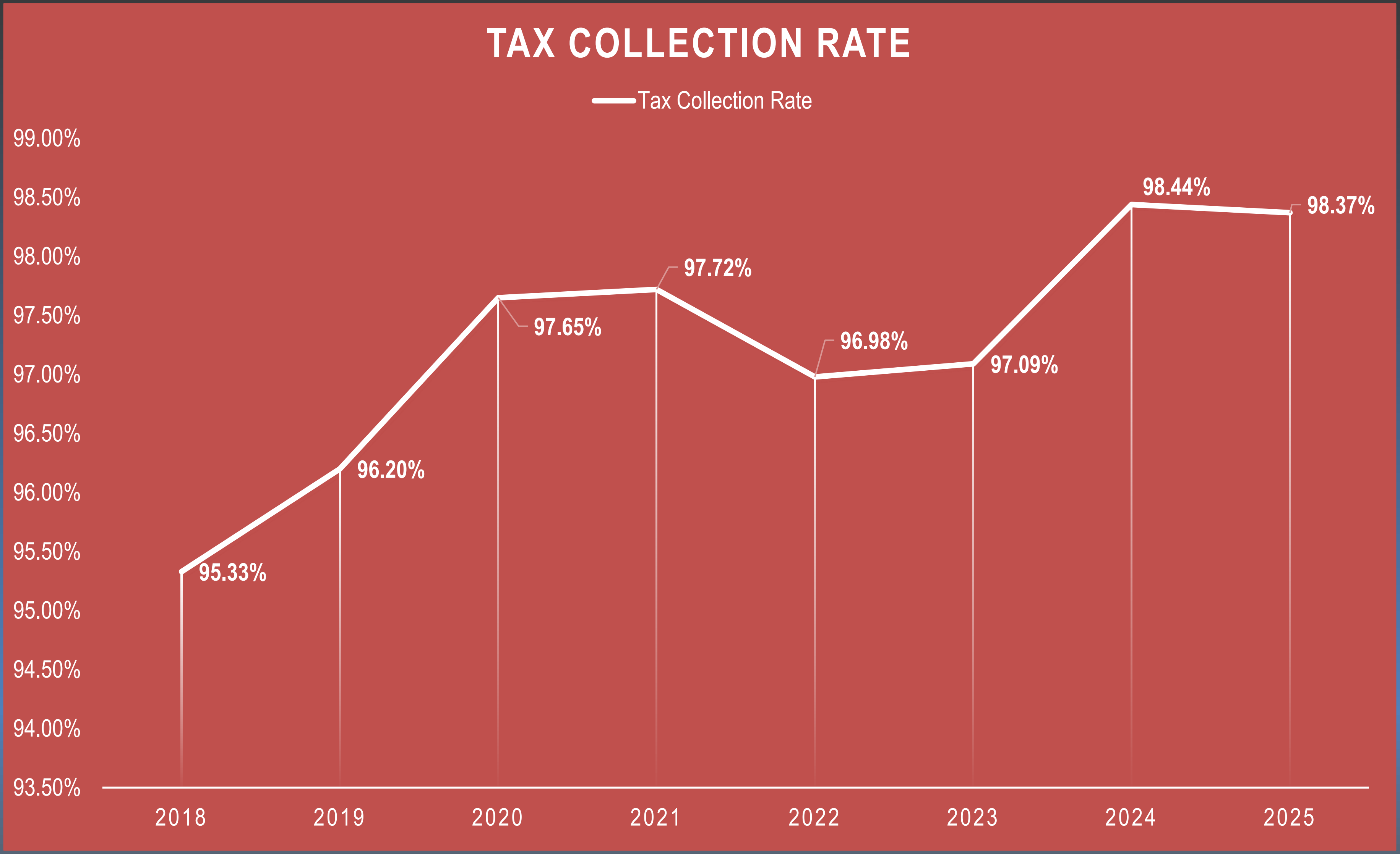
GENERAL FUND
ANTICIPATED REVENUES – 5 YEAR TREND
SOURCES OF REVENUES TO SUPPORT THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Revenues	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Surplus Anticipated	$ 3,644,000.00	$ 4,556,900.00	$ 4,676,500.00	$ 5,333,000.00	$ 2,700,000.00
Miscellaneous Local Revenues	$ 1,214,954.08	$ 1,612,414.26	$ 874,238.81	$ 1,768,537.45	$ 1,131,954.47
State Aid Revenues	$ 2,075,649.00	$ 2,198,270.92	$ 2,316,902.10	$ 2,100,400.00	$ 2,100,400.00
Uniform Construction Code Fees	$ 165,000.00	$ 175,000.00	$ 160,000.00	$ 200,000.00	$ 250,000.00
Other Special Items	$ 90,000.00	$ 90,000.00	$ 90,000.00	$ 90,000.00	$ 2,147,877.58
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	$ 500,000.00	$ 575,000.00	$ 575,000.00	$ 355,000.00	$ 365,000.00
Amount to be Raised - Municipal	$ 10,398,026.99	$ 10,797,559.01	$ 11,038,371.09	$ 11,177,883.80	$ 12,576,251.95
Total Revenues	$ 18,087,630.07	$ 20,005,144.19	$ 19,731,012.00	$ 21,024,821.25	$ 21,271,484.00

ALLOCATION OF 2026 ANTICIPATED GENERAL REVENUES



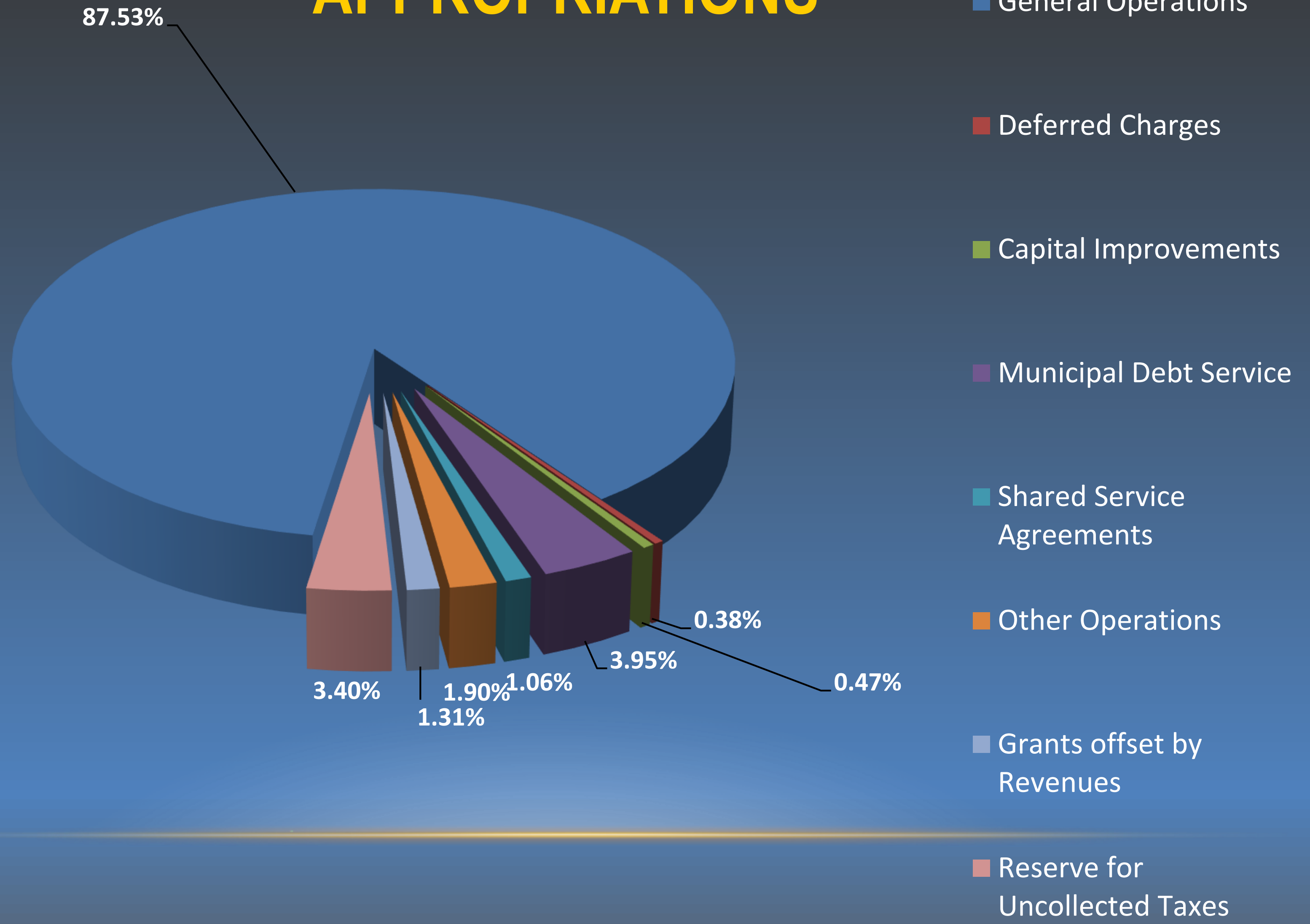
PERCENTAGE OF TAX COLLECTIONS
8 YEAR TREND



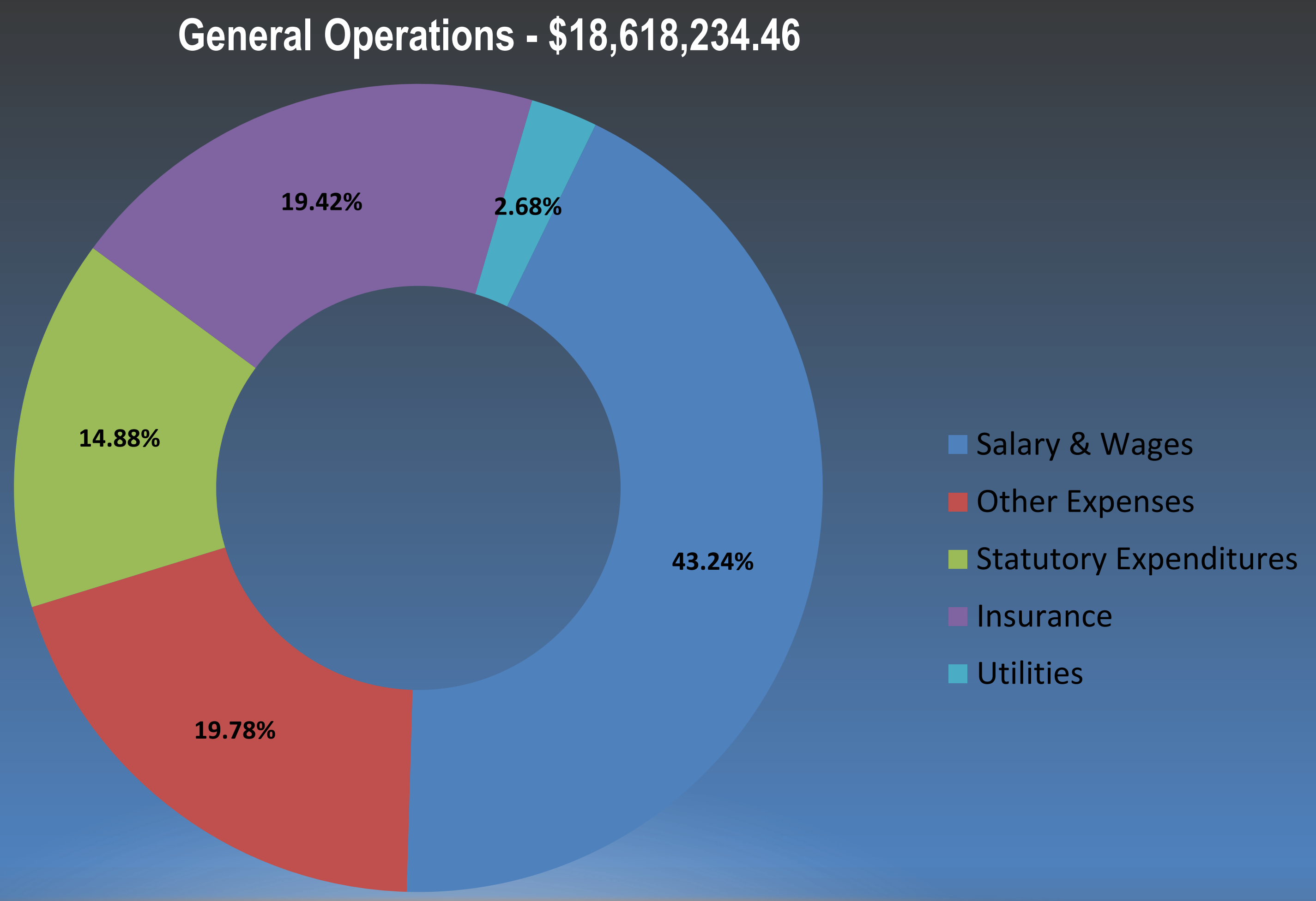
GENERAL FUND
BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS – 5 YEAR TREND

Appropriations	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
General Operations	$ 15,592,149.34	$ 16,430,576.94	$ 17,264,479.28	$ 17,931,140.83	$ 18,618,234.46
Deferred Charges	$ -	$ 280,000.00	$ 50,325.00	$ 80,000.00	$ 80,000.00
Capital Improvements	$ 353,768.00	$ 703,782.00	$ 119,100.00	$ 645,623.00	$ 100,375.00
Municipal Debt Service	$ 676,467.50	$ 676,194.60	$ 745,721.70	$ 807,371.70	$ 840,227.10
Shared Service Agreements	$ 188,649.00	$ 190,544.00	$ 195,714.00	$ 199,297.00	$ 225,802.00
Other Operations	$ 37,385.00	$ 320,899.23	$ 166,163.59	$ 212,075.68	$ 405,002.36
Grants offset by Revenues	$ 210,037.08	$ 288,588.26	$ 191,024.81	$ 426,372.45	$ 278,902.47
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	$ 1,029,174.15	$ 1,114,559.16	$ 998,483.62	$ 722,940.59	$ 722,940.61
Total Appropriations	$ 18,087,630.07	$ 20,005,144.19	$ 19,731,012.00	$ 21,024,821.25	$ 21,271,484.00

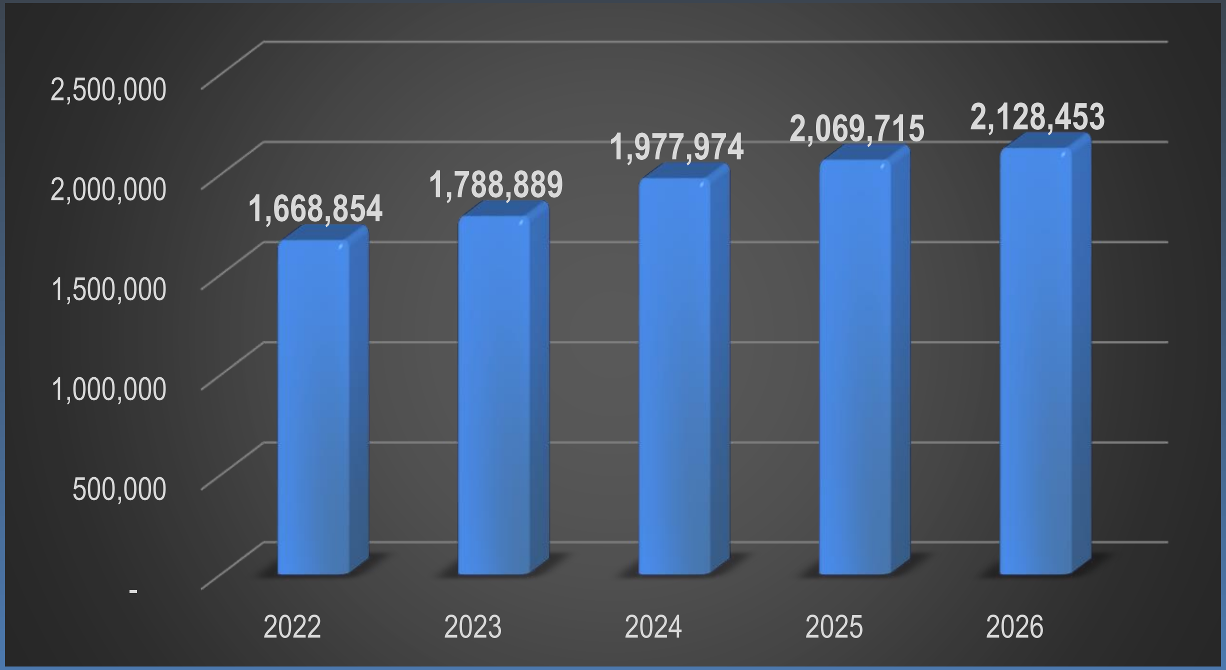
ALLOCATION OF 2026 GENERAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS



ALLOCATION OF 2026 GENERAL OPERATIONS
(within CAPS)

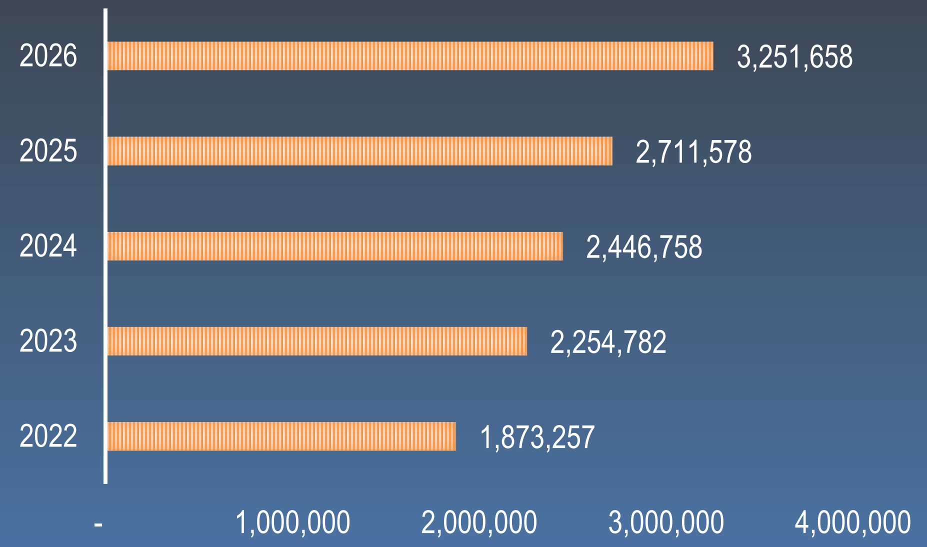


PENSION COSTS ~ 5 YEAR TREND



Note: Combined costs for Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS), and Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (DCRP)

HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE
5 YEAR TREND



Inclusive of Health Waiver Payments

2026 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

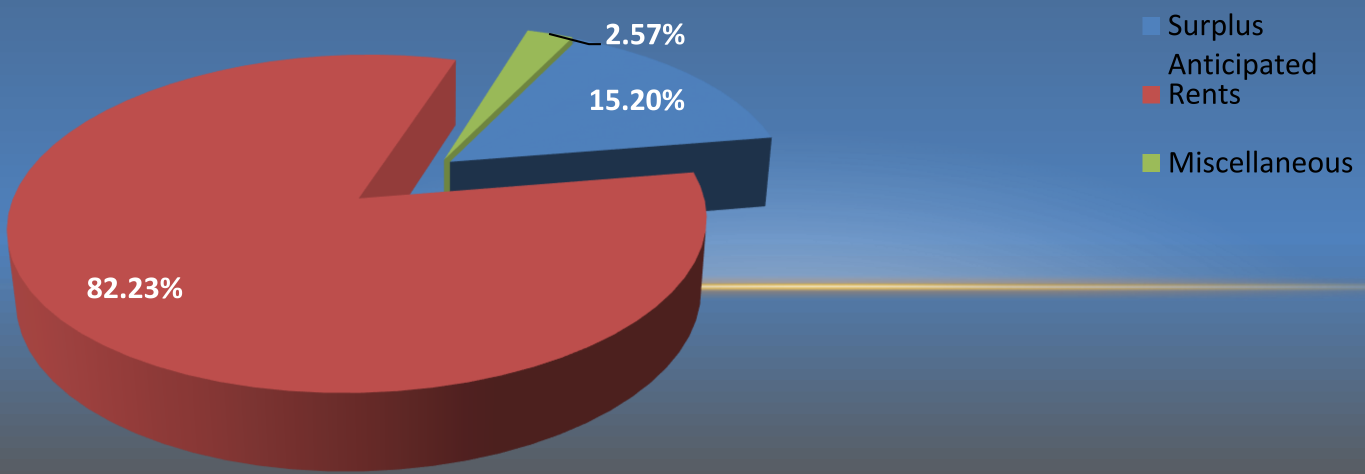
SEWER UTILITY

- ❑ 2026 Dedicated Revenues and Appropriations = $1.95M
- ❑ Utilized $296K of surplus to support Sewer Utility Operations and $2M to support General Fund Operations.

SEWER UTILITY
ANTICIPATED REVENUES – 5 YEAR TREND

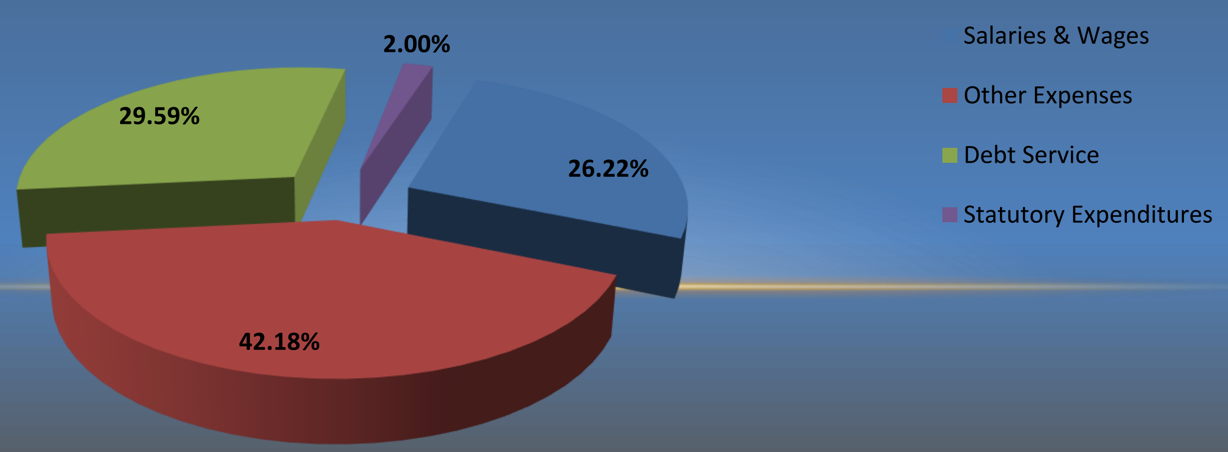
Revenues	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Surplus Anticipated	$ 173,383.00	$ 135,126.00	$ 158,462.00	$ 288,418.00	$ 295,749.00
Rents	$ 1,300,000.00	$ 1,350,000.00	$ 1,365,000.00	$ 1,450,000.00	$ 1,600,000.00
Miscellaneous	$ 40,000.00	$ 45,000.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00
Total Revenues	$ 1,513,383.00	$ 1,530,126.00	$ 1,573,462.00	$ 1,788,418.00	$ 1,945,749.00

2026 Revenue Allocation



SEWER UTILITY
BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS – 5 YEAR TREND

Appropriations	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Salaries & Wages	$ 467,271.00	$ 485,717.00	$ 464,121.00	$ 487,011.00	$ 510,192.00
Other Expenses	$ 622,866.00	$ 622,331.00	$ 687,374.00	$ 771,863.00	$ 820,787.00
Debt Service	$ 387,500.00	$ 384,920.00	$ 386,461.67	$ 492,287.66	$ 575,740.00
Statutory Expenditures	$ 35,746.00	$ 37,158.00	$ 35,505.33	$ 37,256.34	$ 39,030.00
Total Appropriations	$ 1,513,383.00	$ 1,530,126.00	$ 1,573,462.00	$ 1,788,418.00	$ 1,945,749.00



2026 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Issued General Obligation Bonds - $13,930,000

- ❑ General Improvement Bonds - $8,260,000
- ❑ Sewer Utility Bonds - $5,670,000

These bonds provide permanent long-term financing by converting short-term notes into long-term debt and funding new capital improvement projects. This approach supports needed infrastructure improvements while helping keep the annual budget more manageable for taxpayers.

2026 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS

General Capital

Road Reconstruction/Improvements:

- ❑ Completion of Carver Avenue
- ❑ Completion of Lindenwold Park Bikeway Connector
- ❑ Completion of Carlton Sidewalk Improvements (SRTS)
- ❑ Completion of Reconstruction of Linden Ave, Oak & Hawthorn)
- ❑ Reconstruction of various roads

Other Improvements/Equipment:

- ❑ Various improvements to Municipal Buildings
- ❑ Improvements to Various Borough Parks and Recreational Facilities (gazebos, backstop fence repairs, and parking lot enhancements)
- ❑ Acquisition and Installation of CCTV Camera and Security System for various Borough Locations

2026 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS

(continued)

- Tasers for the Police Department
- Various Replacement Equipment for the Public Works Department

Sewer Capital

- Restoration of Various Sewer Lines
- Various Improvements to the Sewer Utility System
- Acquisition of a 2026 Ford F-350

ARP FUNDED PROJECTS

Completed Projects

- ❑ Expansion of Municipal Building Parking Lot
- ❑ Reconstruction of various roads (Wallace Avenue)
- ❑ Installation of HVAC Management System (Police Department)
- ❑ Additional enhancements to the Dog Park
- ❑ Paving/resurfacing of Police Department parking lot
- ❑ Roof Repairs
    - ❑ File Storage Building
    - ❑ Ambulance Building
    - ❑ Field House Memorial Park
- ❑ Basketball Court Resurfacing
- ❑ Upgrades to Pump Station #6

ARP FUNDED PROJECTS

To Be Completed in 2026

Sewer Capital

- ❑ Upgrades to Pump Station #8

General Capital

- ❑ Traffic Light Installation (US Ave & Rte 30)
  - ❑ 25% Cost Share with NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT)

FUTURE STRATEGIES AND LOOKING AHEAD

- **Rebuild Financial Reserves**
  Continue strengthening surplus reserves through responsible budgeting and careful financial management to maintain long-term fiscal stability and reduce reliance on one-time revenues.

- **Pursue Grants and Shared Services**
  Aggressively seek grant funding and expand shared service opportunities to help offset costs, improve efficiency, and reduce the burden on local taxpayers.

- **Invest in Infrastructure and Public Safety**
  Continue improving roads, sidewalks, traffic and public safety measures throughout the town.

- **Promote Economic and Property Redevelopment**
  Return foreclosed and underutilized properties to productive use to strengthen neighborhoods, encourage investment, and increase future tax ratables for the town.