

PRELIMINARY BUDGET PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2026



**MAYOR
BRANDON M. SCOTT**

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FISCAL 2026

PRELIMINARY BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

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BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

To: The Honorable Board of Estimates

From: Mayor Brandon M. Scott

Subject: Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Recommendations

Outlook for Fiscal 2026

Fiscal 2026 marks a pivotal moment for the City of Baltimore. As with most of our budget outlooks each year, this one was filled with both opportunities and challenges, exacerbated by uncertainty at the federal level and a growing state deficit. Even in the face of a challenging budget, my Administration is committed to investing in our young people and older adults, improving our core service delivery, and continuing the historic progress we have made on public safety. The Fiscal 2026 budget is a reflection of our city's values. This is not just our city's financial plan for the next year, it is a blueprint for our future—designed to continue to invest in the safety, health, and prosperity of every resident.

This budget prioritizes youth development, public safety, neighborhood revitalization, and responsible stewardship of our resources. By building on the progress we've made and strategically investing in our city's growth, we can ensure that Baltimore remains a place where opportunity is accessible to all, and every neighborhood has the tools it needs to thrive.

In these uncertain times, my administration remains focused on creating a stronger, more equitable future for all Baltimoreans. With this budget, we continue to work toward being a city where every resident has the chance to reach their full potential, and where our collective well-being is at the center of every decision.

While this budget looks ahead to next fiscal year, making lasting progress toward these goals requires us to look beyond the immediate budget and focus on the long-term strategies that will drive sustained investment in our city. Later this year I will be publishing the City's next 10-Year Financial Plan, which will outline our financial goals through Fiscal 2036. This plan will guide how we invest in our city to meet the needs of both current and future generations. The cornerstones of this plan are:

1. Making investments to continue improving core City Service Delivery
2. Increasing capital spending for Infrastructure Investment; and,
3. Investing in strategies to provide Property Tax Relief for Baltimore's homeowners

The full plan will follow later this year, but the work begins with this year's budget proposal by focusing on stepping up infrastructure investment. My proposed budget increases the GO borrowing allocation and makes additional investments in capital projects. The Capital Budget includes \$125 million in GO Borrowing for capital projects, a 56% increase from prior borrowing levels, which will grow our investments in affordable housing, school construction, and City parks. We will also invest \$40 million in additional capital projects, allowing us to increase investment in homeless shelters, home ownership incentives, and parks facilities.

Fiscal 2026 Spending Plan

The spending plan I submit for your consideration balanced an \$85.0 million shortfall by optimizing citywide costs, enhancing revenue in targeted ways, and continuing our focus on core city services. We approached these decisions by looking to avoid mistakes of the past where the budget was balanced on the backs of core services and investments in our communities. This year, we've made strategic adjustments in partnership with the agencies affected to ensure there are no major disruptions or impacts to city services. Specific actions reflected in my budget include:

- \$26.6 Million to generate new revenue. This package of proposals focuses on updating outdated fee structures and deterring nuisance behavior impacting quality of life in our city. This package does not include any increases to the City's property or income tax.
- \$43.7 Million to generate citywide savings through optimizing costs and aligning the budget with actual spending trends.
- \$14.7 Million in savings to individual agency budgets. These reductions avoid any major disruptions or impacts to City services.

The budget plan includes \$202.0 million from federal grants, which is essentially consistent with the Fiscal 2025 budget. We will continue to closely monitor the status of federal awards to understand where we may need to make future adjustments. I focused key investments in the budget around the Pillars that guide the outcomes we want to drive for our residents. These investments are summarized below.

Prioritizing Our Youth

The Preliminary Budget invests \$624.8 million across all funds in services focused on Prioritizing our Youth. Key highlights and investments include:

- YouthWorks: Allocating funds to support 8,500 YouthWorks spots for the upcoming summer. Additional funding for the program is made available by leveraging funds from the Children and Youth Fund.
- Recreation Centers: The budget funds operating costs for two new Recreation Centers that will come online in Fiscal 2026: Chick Webb and Parkview. The budget also allocates \$600,000 in recurring funding to continue enhancing programming across the City's Recreation Centers.
- Bmore for Healthy Babies: Allocating \$850,000 for the B'More for Healthy Babies program to continue providing services to over 10,000 families annually. This City investment will help to leverage matching Medicaid funds to support the program.

Building Public Safety

The Preliminary Budget invests \$1.2 billion across all funds in services focused on Building Public Safety. Key highlights and investments include:

- Gun Violence Reduction Strategy: Fully funding the staffing model for the Gun Violence Reduction Strategy allowing the program to reach citywide.
- Police Department Civilianization: Continuing the strategy of transitioning administrative tasks from sworn Police Officers to civilian roles. The Fiscal 2026 budget civilianizes administrative functions for Police Districts, Asset Forfeiture, and Employee Wellness. The net savings from these actions is \$1.1 million annually.
- Parking & Traffic Safety: Continuing to enhance parking and traffic safety efforts within the Department of Transportation. The Preliminary Budget maintains funding to continue 24-hour parking enforcement and staffing levels for these services.

Clean and Healthy Communities

The Preliminary Budget invests \$1.1 billion across all funds in services focused on ensuring Clean and Healthy Neighborhoods. Key highlights and investments include:

- **Solid Waste Stabilization:** Investing \$5.0 million to continue enhancing recycling and trash collection within the Department of Public Works. The Fiscal 2026 budget provides funding to create an additional 15 crews making way for shorter routes and less reliance on overtime. The Preliminary Budget also invests funding to create a dedicated team focused on improvements to Solid Waste facilities.
- **Deploying Opioid Restitution Funds:** The Preliminary Budget allocates \$29.6 million from the Opioid Restitution Fund into City services focused on combatting the impacts of the opioid epidemic in our City. In Fiscal 2026, these funds will be used to expand opioid response efforts within the Health Department, provide funding opportunities to community-based organizations, and enhance EMS and homeless shelter operations.

Equitable Neighborhood Development

The Preliminary Budget invests \$346.4 million across all funds in services focused on Equitable Neighborhood Development. Key highlights and investments include:

- **Bmore Fast Initiative:** Earlier this year I announced the Bmore Fast program to improve the City's permitting process. The Preliminary Budget fully funds the newly launched permitting system and allocates funding to expand the permit review staff within the Fire Department. My budget also transfers the Office of Zoning Administrator from the Department of Housing and Community Development to the Planning Department. This change ensures the team enforcing the zoning code is aligned with the team establishing the City's zoning code.
- **Vacants Initiative:** I continue to work towards executing the \$3.0 billion initiative to eliminate vacants in the City of Baltimore. My budget expands on investments made this year by adding an additional \$1.5 million to further expand staffing cost focused on this critical work.
- **Establishing the Mayor's Office of Art, Culture, & Entertainment:** Maintaining a robust and vibrant arts and culture scene is part of the heartbeat of the City. In Fiscal 2026, I am providing \$2.0 million to establish a new team within my office that will be focused on cultivating events for our City, streamlining the special events process for neighborhoods, and coordinating with community-based partners. This effort is part of a broader plan to support the arts engine in our city including a renewed and more focused BOPA investment.

Responsible Stewardship of City Resources

The Preliminary Budget invests \$219.2 million across all funds in services focused on the Responsible Stewardship of City Resources. Key highlights and investments include:

- **Investment to Reduce Reliance on Contracted Services:** During the pandemic, many services within City government turned to utilizing external contractors to backfill vacancies in critical City positions. My budget provides funding to create quality City jobs to replace the use of contractors within the Department of Finance and Information Technology. This transition is estimated to save the City \$1.5 million annually.
- **Continued Focus on Core Service Delivery:** One of the core tenets of my second term is to enhance and improve core City services that our residents depend on. Whether its ensuring trash is collected or that potholes are being repaired in a timely manner, I continue to focus all levels of City government on making these services work better for our residents. The Office of Performance and I-Team (Innovation Team) will continue to help agencies better leverage data to improve these services.

The Road Ahead

We find ourselves at a time of great uncertainty. We cannot control how decisions being made the federal level will flow through to our community, but we can ensure we have the tools to weather the upcoming uncertainty. The plan I have laid out for Fiscal 2026 seeks to do that by continuing to focus our fiscal stewardship through a structurally balanced budget while continuing to make measured investments in services that improve the quality of life for our residents.

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Brandon M. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

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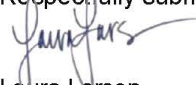
FROM	NAME & TITLE	Laura Larsen, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <i>MEMO</i>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Finance Bureau of the Budget and Management Research		
	SUBJECT	Preliminary Operating and Capital Budget Plan - Fiscal 2026		

DATE:
April 2nd, 2025

TO Honorable President and Members of the Board of Estimates

Dear Mr. President and Members:

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 4(a) of the Baltimore City Charter, transmitted herewith are the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Operating and Capital Budget Plans, as prepared by the Department of Finance.

Respectfully submitted,

 Laura Larsen
 Budget Director
 Department of Finance

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FISCAL 2026

PRELIMINARY BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Budget Plan

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Preliminary Revenues and Expenditures

The total Fiscal 2026 appropriation plan recommended by the Department of Finance for the City of Baltimore is \$4.69 billion. This is an increase of \$478.9 million or 11.38% above the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget.

The Preliminary Budget includes appropriations for both the [Operating Budget](#) and the [Capital Budget](#). The operating budget funds the daily business of the City, specifically covering programs, services, staff, and supplies. The capital budget funds physical infrastructure projects for the City, specifically major renovations and replacements that are long-term investments.

The Preliminary operating budget is \$3.68 billion, an increase of \$202.4 million or 5.82%. The Preliminary capital budget is \$1,008.9 million, which is an increase of \$276.5 million or 37.75%. The capital budget is subject to cyclical changes due to the timing of large construction projects.

See the [Key Budgetary and Financial Policies](#) for more information.

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget: Operating v. Capital

GRAND TOTAL: \$4.69 billion

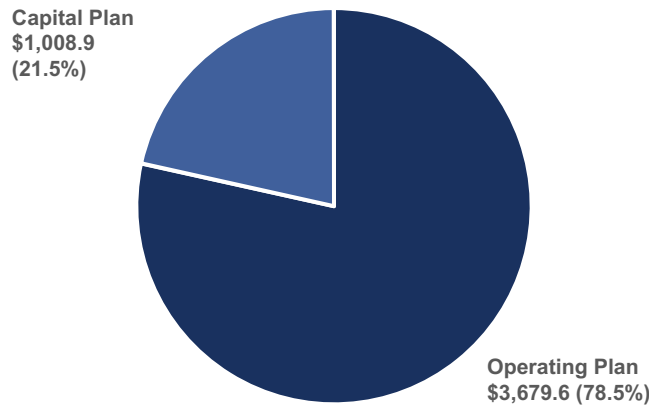


Chart in millions.

Fiscal 2026	Budget Amount		Change Amount	
	Recommended	Dollar	Percent	
Operating Plan	3,679,623,569	202,411,980	5.82%	
Capital Plan	1,008,921,286	276,467,129	37.75%	
Total	4,688,544,855	478,879,109	11.38%	

Table in dollars.

¹ Change is calculated between Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026

Operating and Capital Preliminary Budgets by Type of Fund

Expenditures by Source	Budget Amount		
	Operating	Capital	Total
General	2,454,424,000	149,600,000	2,604,024,000
Conduit Enterprise	9,108,665	0	9,108,665
Wastewater Utility	361,229,945	10,000,000	371,229,945
Water Utility	229,898,684	25,000,000	254,898,684
Stormwater Utility	45,117,331	10,000,000	55,117,331
Parking Enterprise	17,715,418	0	17,715,418
Parking Management	31,942,633	0	31,942,633
Federal	202,028,026	152,874,418	354,902,444
State	142,418,395	70,723,228	213,141,623
Special Revenue	184,169,522	0	184,169,522
Special Grant	1,570,950	0	1,570,950
General Obligation Bonds	0	125,000,000	125,000,000
Revenue Bonds	0	332,045,469	332,045,469
Other	0	133,678,171	133,678,171
Total	3,679,623,569	1,008,921,286	4,688,544,855

Table in dollars.

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary vs. Prior Year Adopted Budget

Operating Funds	Budget Amount			Change Amount	
	FY24	FY25	FY26	Dollar	Percent
General Fund					
General	2,169,922,725	2,242,700,000	2,454,424,000	211,724,000	9.4%
Special Purpose Funds					
Parking Management	28,022,898	31,105,934	31,942,633	836,699	2.7%
Grant Funds					
Federal	296,331,305	206,642,414	202,028,026	(4,614,388)	-2.2%
State	232,176,378	154,502,278	142,418,395	(12,083,883)	-7.8%
Special Revenue	199,357,797	214,010,205	184,169,522	(29,840,683)	-13.9%
Special Grant	11,293,199	1,588,432	1,570,950	(17,482)	-1.1%
Enterprise Funds					
Conduit Enterprise	8,293,160	8,635,619	9,108,665	473,046	5.5%
Wastewater Utility	314,803,781	342,132,523	361,229,945	19,097,422	5.6%
Water Utility	218,285,454	226,585,785	229,898,684	3,312,899	1.5%
Stormwater Utility	29,514,916	32,027,999	45,117,331	13,089,332	40.9%
Parking Enterprise	19,330,038	17,280,400	17,715,418	435,018	2.5%
Grand Total	3,527,331,651	3,477,211,589	3,679,623,569	202,411,980	5.8%

Table in dollars.

¹ Change is calculated between Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026

Capital Funds	Budget Amount			Change Amount	
	FY24	FY25	FY26	Dollar	Percent
Pay-As-You-Go					
General	46,175,000	105,000,000	149,600,000	44,600,000	42.5%
Conduit Enterprise	3,000,000	0	0	0	0%
Wastewater Utility	11,079,000	9,508,000	10,000,000	492,000	5.2
Water Utility	34,868,000	35,000,000	25,000,000	(10,000,000)	-28.6
Stormwater Utility	3,010,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	—
Grant and Special Funds					
Federal	53,050,000	92,455,703	152,874,418	60,418,715	65.3%
State	52,978,000	67,660,400	70,723,228	3,062,828	4.5%
Loans and Bonds					
General Oblig. Bonds	80,000,000	80,000,000	125,000,000	45,000,000	56.3%
Revenue Bonds	334,815,000	208,450,702	332,045,469	123,594,767	59.3%
Other					
Other	212,772,000	124,379,352	133,678,171	9,298,819	7.5%
Grand Total	831,747,000	732,454,157	1,008,921,286	276,467,129	37.7%

Table in dollars.

¹ Change is calculated between Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026

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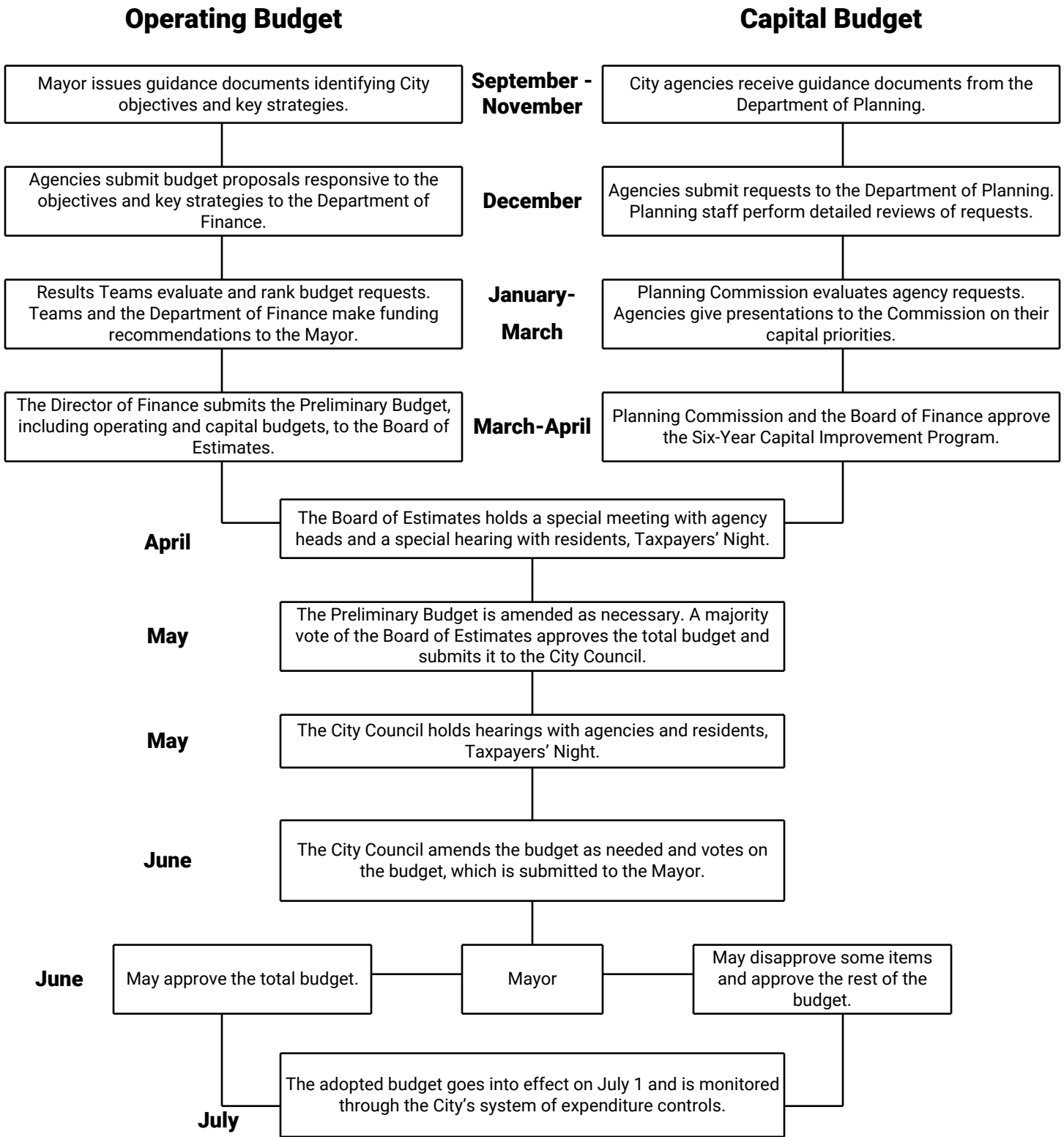
FISCAL 2026

PRELIMINARY BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Budget Process and Related Policies

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Budget Process



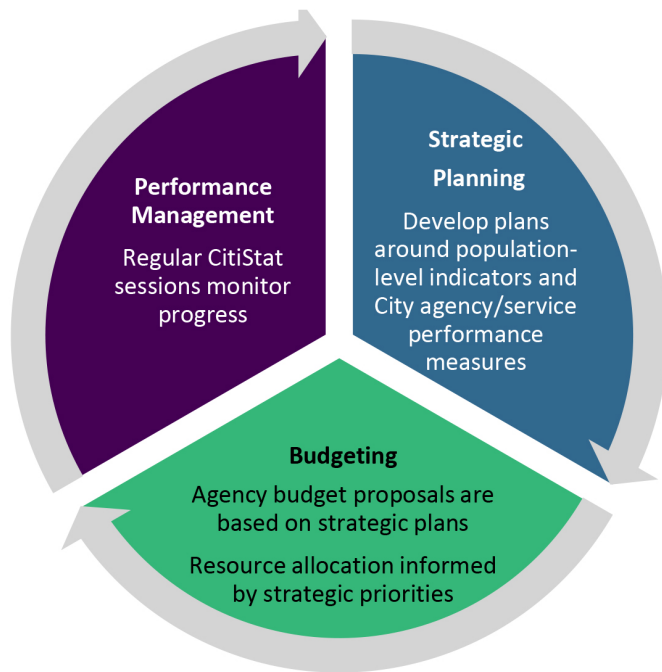
Fiscal 2026 Budget Schedule

The table below shows the budget calendar for Fiscal 2026. In accordance with the Charter of Baltimore City, a schedule is published each year to prepare the upcoming fiscal year's budget. Article VI, Section 3 of the Charter mandates the following timeline and events:

- The Department of Finance introduces a proposed budget, including operating and capital revenue and expenses, to the Board of Estimates (BOE) at least 30 days prior to the BOE adoption of the budget.
- The BOE must hold public hearings that allow City Council members, agency heads, and City residents to share their thoughts on the proposed budget.
- The BOE must submit a recommended budget to the City Council at least 45 days before the beginning of the fiscal year.
- The City Council has at least 40 days after receipt of the BOE recommended budget to enact the budget. The City Council must adopt the budget at least five days before the start of the fiscal year, July 1.

Item	Description	Scheduled Date
Preliminary Budget at BOE	Transmittal of Department of Finance Recommendations to the Board of Estimates.	April 2, 2025
Preliminary Budget Presented to BOE	Presentation on the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget by Budget Director.	April 2, 2025
Special Meeting of the BOE	Presentation of the Fiscal 2026 budget with agency heads.	April 23, 2025
Taxpayer's Night	Presentation of the Fiscal 2026 budget to the public, with an opportunity for public comment.	April 23, 2025
Ordinance at BOE	Board of Estimates adopts proposed Ordinance of Estimates. This includes transmittal of the Executive Summary Budget Book.	May 7, 2025
Ordinance at City Council	Introduction of proposed Ordinance of Estimates to City Council and publication in two daily newspapers, as well as transmittal of the Agency Detail to City Council.	May 12, 2025
Taxpayers' Night	Presentation of the Fiscal 2026 budget to the public, with an opportunity for public comment.	TBD
Budget Hearings	Budget hearings with agency representatives to discuss the Fiscal 2026 proposed budget.	TBD
Ordinance Passage	Passage of Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026.	no later than June 26, 2025

Outcome Budgeting



In Fiscal 2011, Baltimore implemented Outcome Budgeting. The process required agencies to make service-level budget proposals that justify investments in strategies geared towards achieving citywide outcomes and goals. Although the process has evolved significantly over the past decade, the underlying principle remains the same: to not only keep Baltimore's budget sustainably balanced, but also to get the best use of City resources by devoting resources to services that achieve the best results for our residents.

Strategic planning for the budget process is centered on a set of Pillars, which are broadly defined goals for the City. Although these have been modified and adjusted to reflect the priorities of each Mayoral administration, similar themes are common. The Fiscal 2026 budget was built around Mayor Scott's five citywide Pillars: Prioritizing Our Youth, Building Public Safety, Clean and Healthy Communities, Equitable Neighborhood Development, and Responsible Stewardship of City Resources. Operating budget information is provided by Pillar in the [Operating Budget Recommendations](#) chapter.

The budget process operates in a cycle that repeats each year: first, develop a strategic plan; next, budget resources in a manner informed by the strategic plan; and finally, track performance against the plan. A more detailed description of the budget process is provided below.

Performance Management

Regular performance management sessions (commonly known as Stats) are held between the Mayor's Senior Team, the Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation (OPI), and agency leadership to discuss performance, identify problems, diagnose causes, and direct resources to solve problems. Staff from the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research (BBMR), Department of Human Resources, and Baltimore City Information and Technology staff also participate in these meetings. Performance management meetings are either agency-focused or topic-focused, centered on a Mayoral priority, and include multiple agencies. OPI has developed a set of "Stat" meetings, including PoliceStat, FireStat, and CleanStat. Stat meetings are also convened around major priority and operational issues, these Stats include (but are not limited to) DowntownStat, ProcurementStat, and Grants ManagementStat.

Service-Level Performance Measures

Agency services have identified and track a family of measures that tell the story of How Much the service performed, How Well service delivery was executed, and whether anyone was Better Off. Performance measures for the budget process were originally established in the Fiscal 2011 and 2012 budgets. These measures were integrated with the City's performance plan process in Fiscal 2025.

The table below gives examples from Service 609: Emergency Medical Services.

Type	Description	Performance Measure
Output	How much service is being delivered	Number of EMS responses
Efficiency	The cost in dollars and/or time per unit of output	Percent of EMS fees collected versus total billable
Effectiveness	How well the service meets standards based on customer expectations	Percent of EMS responses within 9 minutes
Outcome	How much better off is the resident	Percent of patients surviving cardiac arrest

Performance measures must meet the S.M.A.R.T. test:

Label	Type	Description
S	Specific	Measure is clear and focused
M	Measurable	Can be quantified and allow for analysis
A	Ambitious	The target should stretch the service to improve performance
R	Realistic	The target should make sense given the organization's fiscal constraints
T	Time Bound	There should be a clear timeframe for achieving the targeted performance

Agency Performance Plans

In Fiscal 2024 City agencies prepared and submitted annual performance plans outlining performance goals for all City services. As part of their Fiscal 2026 budget proposals, agencies submitted updated performance plans to report out on prior year performance and provide performance goals for Fiscal 2026. Beyond their use in the budget process, performance plans are updated and reviewed on a quarterly basis. During quarterly reviews, the City Administrator meets with agencies to discuss and solve barriers impacting agency performance and to celebrate progress made in critical areas. Agency performance plans are published on the Office of Performance and Innovation [website](#).

Community Engagement

Community engagement is critical to any city budgeting process. As part of the Fiscal 2026 budget process, Mayor Scott hosted two budget events to provide information on the City's budget and gather feedback from the public on their priorities, allowing this feedback to be incorporated in the Preliminary Budget. Neighborhoods and community associations were also given the opportunity to request engagement sessions to discuss the Fiscal 2026 budget. Following the release of the Preliminary Budget, residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the recommended budget at Taxpayer Night events hosted by the Board of Estimates and City Council and another round of neighborhood meetings and telephone townhalls. Looking ahead, BBMR is continuously developing additional opportunities for community engagement earlier in the budget process.

Operating Budget Process

The planning process for Baltimore's budget begins in August. The major milestones in the operating budget process are described below.

Current Level of Service (CLS)

The budget planning process started with projections to determine the cost of providing the same level of service in the upcoming year. This projection served as the baseline for the preliminary budget and assumed that the City will maintain the same level of services, but added necessary costs, such as extraordinary inflation, or removed prior year one-time costs, such as a new software or study. The CLS budget also included changes across agencies, such as cost of living adjustments for salaries, negotiated pay increases, or changes in health benefit costs. Based on CLS, BBMR assessed whether the City expected to be operating with a surplus or deficit, which informed strategic planning and guidance for agencies in developing budget proposals.

Agency Budget Proposals

Following the CLS analysis, the Mayor issued budget guidance for City agencies and offices. This guidance was used by agencies to prepare proposals summarizing their performance goals, service level priorities, and funding plans to achieve these goals. The Fiscal 2026 budget guidance requested one proposal per service in all agency budgets and solicited enhancement requests for new initiatives and programs.

Operating Budget Recommendations

Budget proposals were reviewed and evaluated by BBMR and the Mayor's Office. BBMR presented recommendations throughout a series of Tollgate meetings with the Mayor's Office. Proposals were evaluated to identify key investments needed to advance citywide priorities.

Preliminary Budget

The Mayor utilized recommendations from BBMR to develop a balanced budget that reflects his priorities. The Preliminary Budget summarizes major revenues and lays out the proposed spending plan for the upcoming year. The Preliminary Budget is introduced to the Board of Estimates (BOE) for consideration.

Board of Estimates Review

The BOE will hold a series of hearings with agencies and residents to understand the recommendations outlined in the Preliminary Budget. Resident feedback is shared during the annual Taxpayers' Night. The Mayor has the opportunity to propose modifications to the Preliminary Budget based on feedback received during this stage. The BOE compiles its recommendations into the Ordinance of Estimates that is referred to the City Council for consideration.

City Council Review and Approval

Following the introduction of the Ordinance of Estimates, the City Council will hold agency hearings and a second Taxpayers' Night. Fiscal 2026 will be the third year where the City Council will have the opportunity to amend the budget through transfers across City services with General Fund appropriations.

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FISCAL 2026

PRELIMINARY BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Revenue

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Major Revenues Forecast

The Fiscal 2026 General Fund Preliminary Budget reflects \$2.6 billion in General Fund revenue, \$256.3 million, or 10.9%, higher than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget of \$2.3 billion. Revenue projections are based on trend data including actual revenue patterns through the 2nd Quarter of Fiscal 2025. Major revenue sources include Property Taxes, Highway User Revenues, Income Taxes, and Earnings on Investments among others. Each major revenue source of the Fiscal 2026 budget is detailed below.

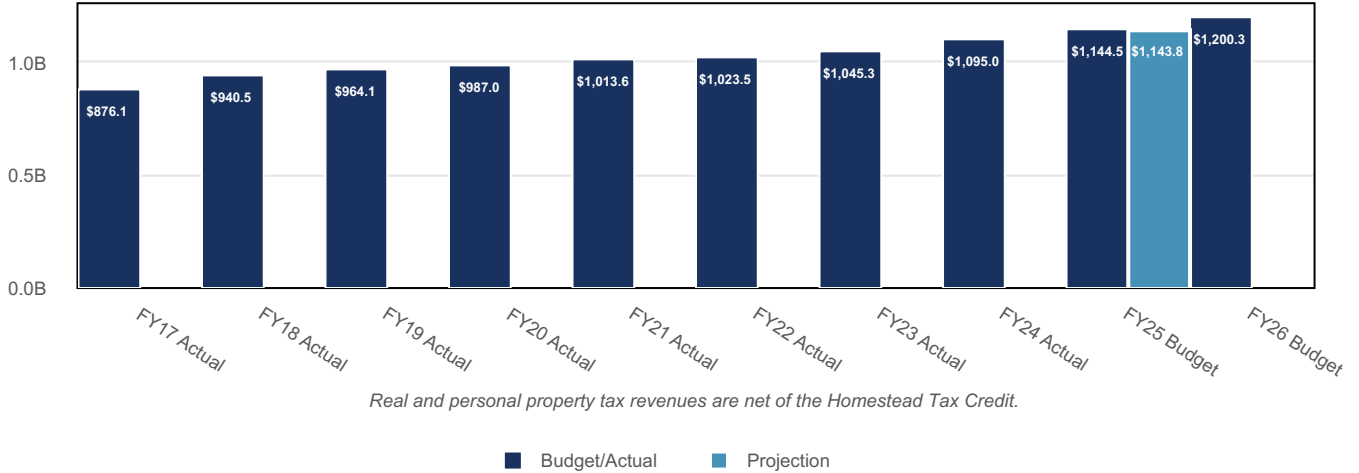
Revenue Category	Budget Amount		Change Amount	
	FY25	FY26	Dollar	Percent
Property Taxes	1,144,536,000	1,200,300,000	55,764,000	4.9%
Income Tax	466,452,000	499,593,000	33,141,000	7.1%
Highway User Revenues	234,719,000	271,940,000	37,221,000	15.9%
State Aid	107,680,000	101,445,000	(6,235,000)	-5.8%
Recordation & Transfer Taxes	92,125,000	104,825,000	12,700,000	13.8%
Energy Tax	51,166,000	51,774,000	608,000	1.2%
Telecommunication Tax	33,686,000	32,300,000	(1,386,000)	-4.1%
Net Hotel Tax	30,762,000	28,500,000	(2,262,000)	-7.4%
Earnings on Investments	41,603,000	24,441,000	(17,162,000)	-41.3%
Traffic Cameras	26,825,000	28,397,000	1,572,000	5.9%
Net Parking Revenues	23,020,466	22,026,156	(994,310)	-4.3%
Children and Youth Fund	(15,152,000)	(16,150,000)	(998,000)	6.6%
Total Tax Credits (Excl. Homestead)	(100,898,000)	(95,258,000)	5,640,000	-5.6%
All Other	211,175,534	349,890,844	138,715,310	65.7%
Total General Fund Revenue	2,347,700,000	2,604,024,000	256,324,000	10.9%

Table in dollars.

Property Taxes

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$1.20 billion
Change from Fiscal 2025: 4.9% increase

Real and Personal Property Tax Revenues
(Dollars in millions)



Property Tax revenue is projected to be \$55.8 million higher than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. The projection is driven by the continued strong growth in the assessed value of City properties. The Real and Personal Property rates will remain unchanged at \$2.248 and \$5.62 per \$100 of assessed value respectively. Each year, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) estimates the value of all taxable real property and issues new assessments for approximately one-third of properties. Personal property is assessed annually, and valuations are established by SDAT based on income tax returns filed by individual businesses.

Real Property Taxes, excluding the cost of the Assessment Tax Credit (ATC), also known as the Homestead Tax Credit, are estimated to yield \$1,098.8 million, an increase of 6.0% or \$62.3 million from the Fiscal 2025 Budget. Personal Property Taxes are estimated to yield \$137.3 million in Fiscal 2026, an increase of 2.1% or \$2.9 million from the Fiscal 2025 Budget. The Homestead Tax Credit protects owner-occupied residential properties from assessment increases that exceed 4% annual growth by phasing the increase in over multiple years. The cost of administering the City’s Homestead Tax Credit is projected to increase by \$9.4 million, or 35.5%, from \$26.4 million in Fiscal 2025 to \$35.8 million in Fiscal 2026.

The Fiscal 2026 Real Property tax projection excludes from the taxable base 3,933 properties, equivalent to \$3.1 million in property tax revenues, which are part of a newly established noncontinuous Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Conservation District as part of the Mayor’s Vacants initiative. Property tax proceeds from these properties will be used to pay for debt service costs associated with the first round of borrowing for this plan.

The Fiscal 2026 budget captures reassessments for Group 1, which represents the northern and a portion of the Downtown areas (see map below). Properties in Group 1 were last time reassessed in Fiscal 2023, which captured real estate activity up to the end of Calendar 2021. Group 1 assessments will grow an average of 17.4% over three years reflecting the strength of the real estate market, especially residential properties, that the City experienced in 2022 and 2023. This figure includes 11.0% growth for commercial, which includes taxable and exempt properties, and 21.0% growth for residential property assessments. Despite this growth, the City will experience the lowest assessment increase in the State. The statewide average assessment growth is 20.1% (commercial average=16.4%; residential average=21.1%).

Fiscal Year	Assessment Group	Full Cash Value Assessment Increase
Fiscal 2011	Group 1	(2.6)%
Fiscal 2012	Group 2	(8.7)%
Fiscal 2013	Group 3	(6.8)%
Fiscal 2014	Group 1	(3.1)%
Fiscal 2015	Group 2	7.0 %
Fiscal 2016	Group 3	9.6 %
Fiscal 2017	Group 1	10.9 %
Fiscal 2018	Group 2	6.2 %
Fiscal 2019	Group 3	3.6 %
Fiscal 2020	Group 1	8.4 %
Fiscal 2021	Group 2	9.1 %
Fiscal 2022	Group 3	4.1 %
Fiscal 2023	Group 1	6.6 %
Fiscal 2024	Group 2	21.6 %
Fiscal 2025	Group 3	17.9 %
Fiscal 2026	Group 1	17.4 %

Property Tax Credits

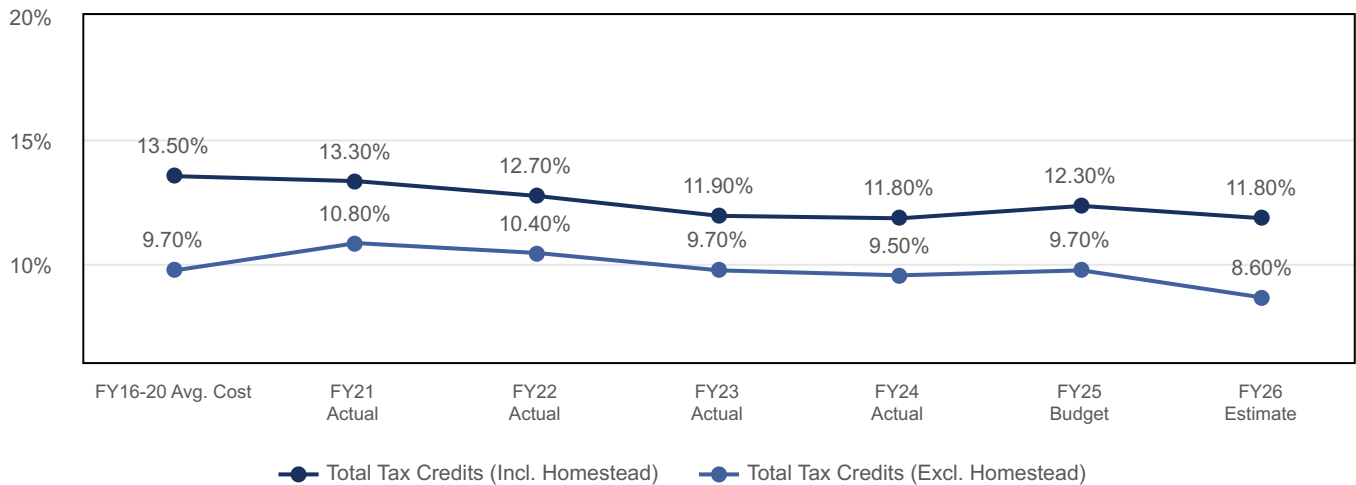
Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$95.3 million (Cost of offering tax credits) Change from Fiscal 2025: (5.6)% decrease

The anticipated cost of offering tax credit programs in Fiscal 2026, not including the Homestead Tax Credit, is \$95.3 million. This cost is realized through foregone property tax revenue from properties receiving various credits.

Since Fiscal 2010, the cost of offering various tax credits has increased by 601.3%. From Fiscal 2010 to Fiscal 2018 the average annual cost was \$43.4 million, representing 5.5% of Real Property Tax revenues. From Fiscal 2019 through Fiscal 2024 the average annual cost increased to \$96.9 million, or 10.5% of Real Property Tax revenue. This change was primarily the result of the increased costs associated with three tax credits: the High-Performance Market Rate Rental, the Brownfield, and the Historic (CHAP) tax credits. The cost of these credits grew from \$7.2 million to \$17.5 million, from \$19.7 million to \$21.5 million, and from \$10.6 million to \$12.7 million, between Fiscal 2019 and Fiscal 2024 respectively.

The Fiscal Year 2026 estimate reflects a projected reduction in the cost of three tax credits: the Enterprise Zone Tax Credit (EZTC), the Historic Preservation Tax Credit (CHAP), and the High-Performance Market-Rate Rental Housing Tax Credit (HPMRRH). The EZTC is expected to have a net decrease of \$4.8 million, or 27.5%, compared to the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. This reduction is due to the expiration of real property credits on a handful of projects and the decrease in the anticipated value of Personal Property Enterprise Zone Tax Credits (PPEZTC). The projection also includes the permanent reduction of the 50% tax credit cost reimbursement from the State for any project authorized after June 30, 2025. This policy was recommended in the Governor’s proposed budget for Fiscal 2026 (House Bill 352 of the 2025 General Assembly). The CHAP tax credit is projected to decline by \$1.9 million, or 15.2%, from the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. This is primarily due to the expiration of 387 tax credits at the end of Fiscal Year 2025. The HPMRRH tax credit is expected to decrease by \$1.3 million, or 7.8%, compared to the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. This reduction is the result of scheduled reductions in the credit percentages for HPMRRH-Targeted tax credits. The targeted portion of this credit has expired, and city properties are no longer eligible for this component. Any new qualifying properties remain eligible for the City-Wide component of the HPMRRH tax credit.

Tax Credits as a Percent of Real Property



Tax Credit Costs: Historical Trends

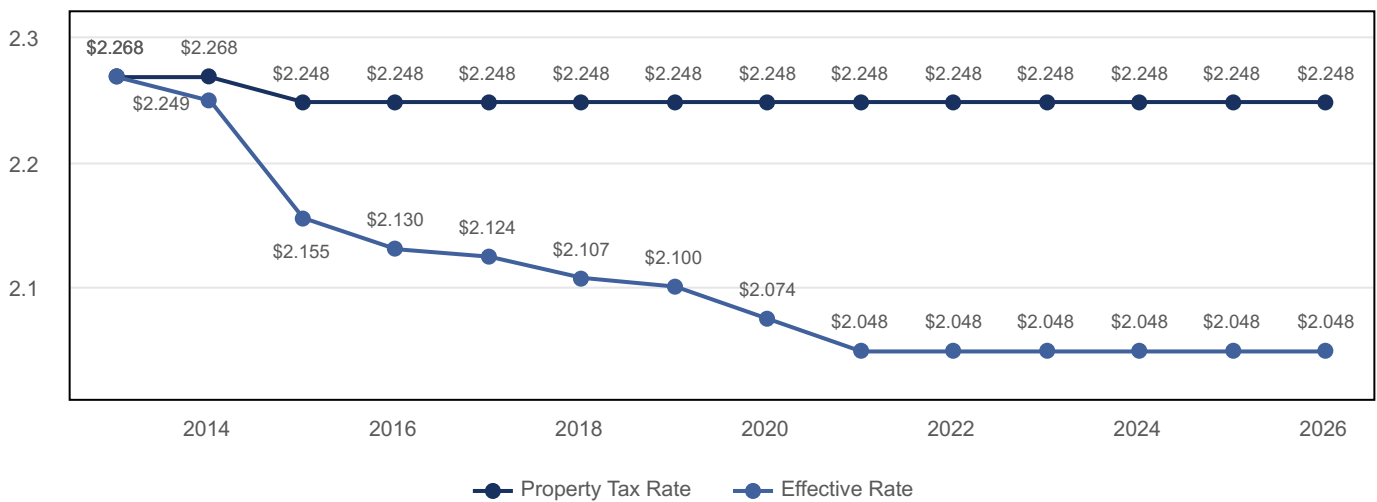
Tax Credits	Avg.Cost	Actual Amount				Budget Amount	
	FY16-20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Real Property Tax	841.3	938.9	922.4	933.3	986.5	1,036.5	1,098.8
Targeted Homeowners	(28.0)	(34.2)	(25.9)	(25.5)	(24.0)	(29.2)	(32.2)
Enterprise Zone Tax Credit	(20.0)	(18.3)	(16.9)	(15.0)	(15.4)	(17.5)	(12.7)
Historic Property	(9.6)	(11.1)	(12.1)	(12.0)	(12.3)	(12.8)	(10.8)
Brownfield and Other	(14.5)	(20.9)	(20.8)	(18.5)	(21.5)	(21.3)	(20.7)
Supplemental Homeowner's	(0.8)	(1.2)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.1)	(1.4)	(1.4)
High-Performance Market-Rate Rental Housing	(6.1)	(13.9)	(17.3)	(16.9)	(17.5)	(16.9)	(15.6)
Newly Constructed Dwellings	(2.1)	(1.3)	(1.1)	(0.9)	(0.8)	(1.1)	(1.2)
Public Safety Officer	(0.3)	(0.8)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.7)
Total Tax Credits (Excl. ATC)	(81.2)	(101.7)	(96.1)	(90.8)	(93.4)	(100.9)	(95.3)
Homestead (ATC)	(32.1)	(23.5)	(21.3)	(20.6)	(22.6)	(26.4)	(35.8)
Total Tax Credits (Incl. ATC)	(113.3)	(125.2)	(117.4)	(111.5)	(116.0)	(127.3)	(131.1)

Table in millions of dollars.

Targeted Homeowners Tax Credit

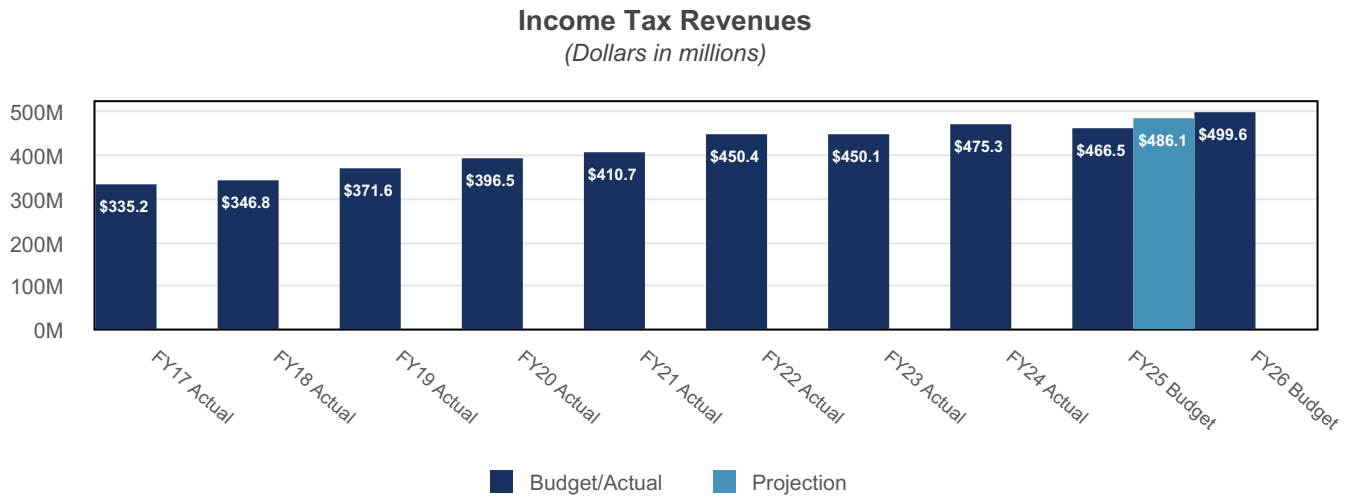
In Fiscal 2020, the City reached a significant milestone in fully implementing the 20 Cents by 2020 program. This tax reduction program, known as the Targeted Homeowners Tax Credit (THTC), provides tax relief for owner-occupied properties. The average effective rate for owner-occupied properties with the credit is estimated at \$2.048 per \$100 of assessed value, and now saves the average homeowner more than \$428 annually in property taxes to more than 74,800 homeowners in the City. In Fiscal 2026, the City will maintain this rate for owner-occupied residents. The chart below shows the history of the program to date.

Effective Property Tax Rate History (Per \$100 of Assessed Value)



Income Tax

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$499.6 million
Change from Fiscal 2025: 7.1% increase



Income Tax revenue is projected to be \$33.1 million higher than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. The projected revenue growth is driven by the continued strength in the local and statewide labor market. This projection does not capture changes in the statewide labor market since January 2025. The income tax rate remains unchanged at 3.2%; the maximum allowed under State law.

The Fiscal 2026 estimate reflects continued improvements in the City’s income taxable base resulting from the City’s job market. In December 2024, the State Comptroller released the Income Tax Summary Report showing a net decrease of 194 tax returns filed by City residents from 2022 to 2023. As shown in the table below, the City is seeing growth in the number of filers making more than \$30,000, while the number of filers making less than \$30,000 continues to decline.

Income Tax Bracket	Change in # Tax Returns
< \$30,000	5,579 Decrease
\$30,000-\$59,999	475 Increase
\$60,000-\$149,999	3,426 Increase
\$150,000-\$499,000	1,436 Increase
> \$500,000	48 Increase

Source: Maryland State Comptroller

Employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the City labor market experienced a slight downturn during calendar year 2024. Data as of December 2024 shows that an average of 3,797 residents joined the City’s labor force during Calendar 2024 from the average of 274,275 in 2023; however, only 10% or 387 were successfully absorbed by the job market, which explained the increase in the City’s unemployment rate from 2.9% in Calendar 2023 to 4.1% in 2024. The City’s unemployment rate is higher than the State’s 2.8%, and remains at the same level of the national average of 4.1%.

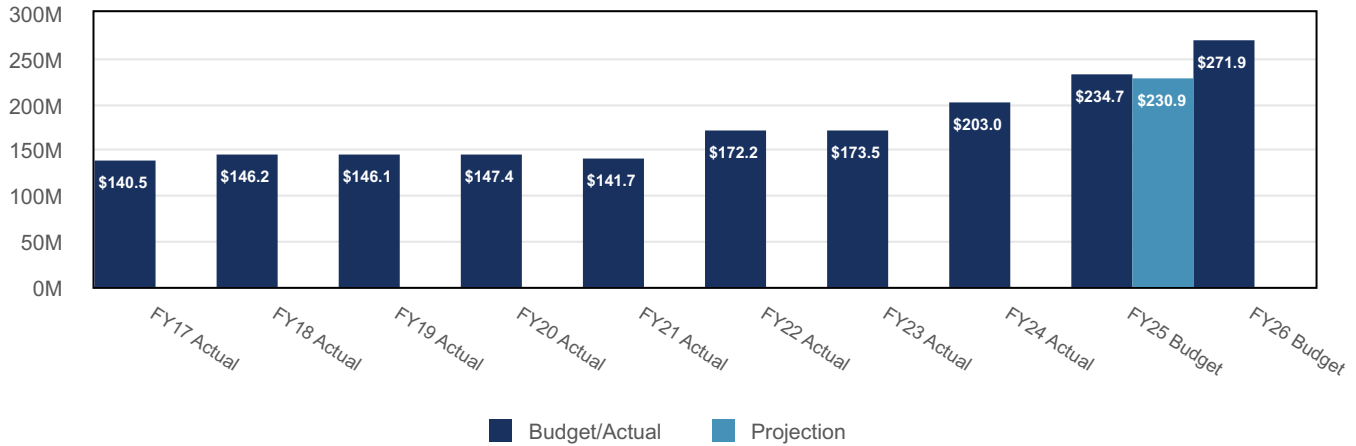
Income tax proceeds as of December 2024 reflect the growth trends indicated by Fiscal 2024 actual, which ended at \$450.9M, \$8.8M or 2.0% higher than the Fiscal 2025 Budget. The Fiscal 2025 2nd Quarter projection reflects the State income tax growth at 6.0%. The Fiscal 2026 assumes a 3.0% increase in the cash from withholding and estimated payments. The projection also accounts for adjusts to the City's allocation factors, which reflects an increase of 0.2% in the percentage allocation of total receipts to the City.

As part of his Fiscal 2026 budget, Governor Moore proposed a series of changes to the structure of income taxes. These adjustments include a higher standard deduction and eliminating itemized deductions. As of publication, final reforms continue to be debated in the General Assembly. It is anticipated that the final proposal modifying the structure of the income tax calculation would impact City revenues; however, the net impact cannot be determined until the new structure is defined.

State Highway User Revenue

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$271.9 million
Change from Fiscal 2025: 15.9% increase

State Highway User Revenue
(Dollars in millions)



Highway User Revenues (HUR) are projected to be \$37.2 million higher than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. HUR is funded by statewide proceeds from the fuel tax, titling tax, vehicle registration fees, corporate income tax, and a portion of the State sales tax. The projected growth is driven by action taken during the 2022 Legislative Session when the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 1187. Under the new allocation formula, the City's share of HUR is anticipated to continue to increase through Fiscal 2027. The City will receive 12.2% of statewide HUR in Fiscal 2026 and 2027. In Fiscal 2028 the City's share of HUR will decrease to 9.5%

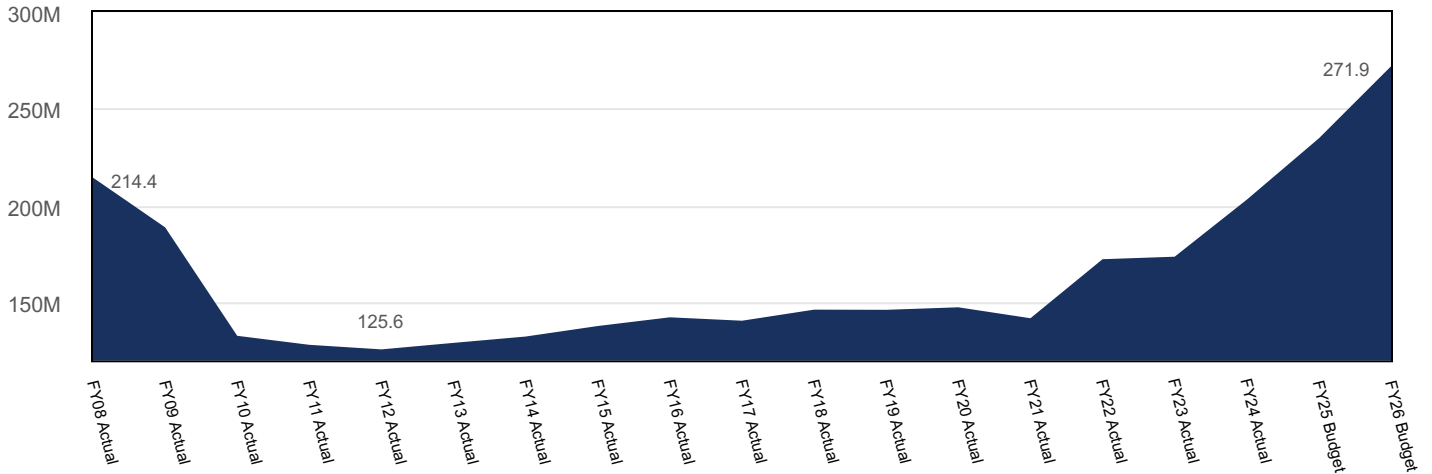
Through the 2nd Quarter Fiscal 2025, Highway User Revenues are projected to be \$3.8 million lower compared to budget. This reduction is due to lower-than-expected activity during the first five months of the fiscal year with both Fuel tax (-10.7%) and Vehicle Registration (-12.1%) showing declines compared to Fiscal 2024. Although the projected amount is higher than Fiscal 2024 actual revenue, this increase is primarily due to the increase in the Baltimore City HUR allocation of 11.0% in Fiscal Year 2025 compared to 9.5% in Fiscal Year 2024.

State law requires that HUR funds be used by local governments for eligible transportation-related uses. Eligible uses include street construction or maintenance, transportation facilities, street cleaning, police enforcement of traffic laws, stormwater drainage of roads, street lighting, and maintenance of footpaths and bicycle trails. These expenditures must equal or exceed the amount of revenue from HUR, demonstrating that the City is compliant with State law. HUR eligible costs that exceed the allocation have been subsidized through the City's General Fund. The Mayor's Preliminary Budget recommendations makes no change in service levels for HUR eligible services in the operating budget.

Service	Fiscal 2025 Budget	Fiscal 2026 Budget	Difference
Transportation			
500 - Street Lighting (Less transfers)	21.1	22.3	1.2
681 - Administration	10.6	11.3	0.7
683 - Street Management	39.0	45.7	6.7
684 - Traffic Management	11.3	12.1	0.8
688 - Snow and Ice Control	7.1	7.3	0.2
689 - Vehicle Impounding and Disposal	10.2	10.8	0.6
690 - Sustainable Transportation	1.0	1.0	0.0
691 - Public Rights-of-Way Landscape Management	5.1	5.6	0.5
692 - Bridge and Culvert Management	4.3	4.9	0.6
696 - Street Cuts Management	0.9	1.0	0.1
685 - Special Events (Special Event Support only)	1.0	1.1	0.1
697 - Traffic Safety (Pedestrian Safety, Traffic Engineering, Sign Fabrication, Street Markings only)	6.6	7.3	0.7
697 - Traffic Safety (Crossing Guards and Crossing Guards Admin only)	8.8	5.3	(3.5)
Public Works			
661 - Public Right-of-Way Cleaning (Cleaning Business Dist., Street & Alley, Graffiti Removal only)	18.6	20.6	2.0
660/676 - DPW Admin (admin. costs allocated for HUR-Eligible activities on budget basis)	2.5	2.5	0.0
Recreation and Parks			
654 - Urban Forestry (Tree Maintenance only)	4.0	4.6	0.6
Police			
816 - Special Operations Section-Traffic Section & Traffic Safety (Less transfers)	2.7	3.4	0.7
Debt Service			
123 - General Debt Service (Highways only)	11.0	11.0	0.0
Capital Budget Projects			
PAYGO	84.1	94.1	10.0
Total			
Budgeted HUR-Eligible Expenses Total	249.9	271.9	22.0
Projected HUR Revenue	234.7	271.9	37.2
From Fund Balance	20.7	0.0	(20.7)
HUR-Eligible Expenses Subsidized by General Fund	(5.5)	0.0	5.5

Table in millions of dollars.

State Highway User Revenue (Historical) (Dollars in millions)

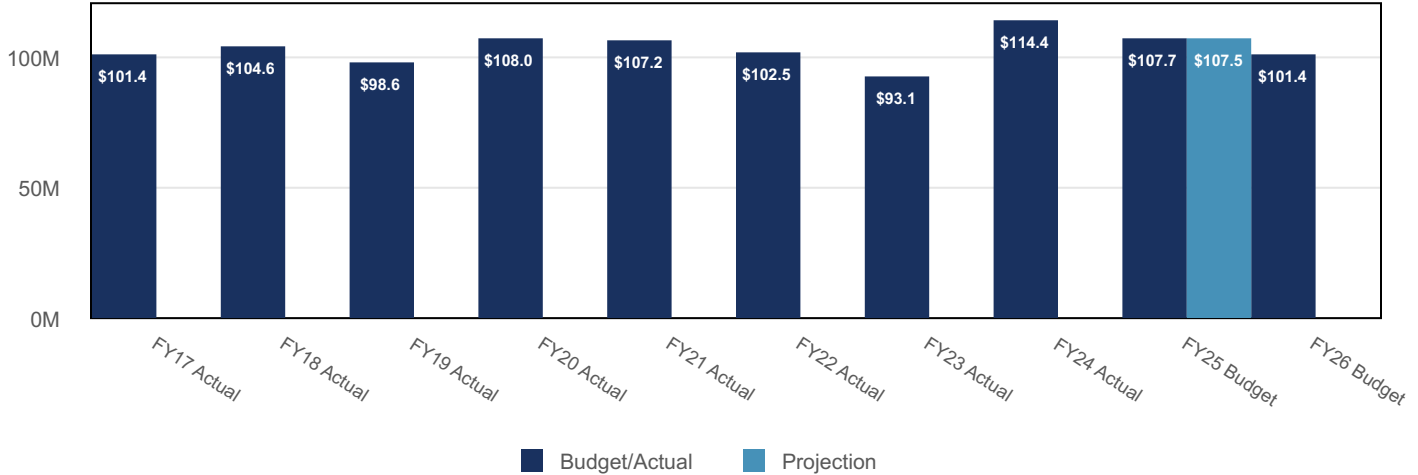


The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget is the highest allocation in HUR funding, a 116.5% increase from a low of \$125.6 million in Fiscal 2012. The rise in annual allocations over recent fiscal years has allowed the City to increase funding for transportation capital projects; however, uncertainty around a potential decline to HUR funding in Fiscal 2028 will limit the City’s ability to continuing investing in these projects.

State Aid

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$101,445,000
Change from Fiscal 2025 : (5.8)% decrease

State Aid Revenue
(Dollars in millions)



State Aid is projected to be \$(6.2) million lower than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. The decline in revenue is driven by State Aid reductions included in the Governor’s proposed Fiscal 2026 budget. The primary driver of this decline is a 50% reduction in the Teacher’s Retirement Supplement from \$10.0 million to \$5.0 million. Partially offsetting the above noted reduction is an increase of \$1.6 million in funding for local health operations. The City also receives State Aid for a portion of the maintenance costs for the War Memorial Building, the funding for this project in Fiscal 2026 is \$0.2 million, which is in line with the Fiscal 2025 Budget.

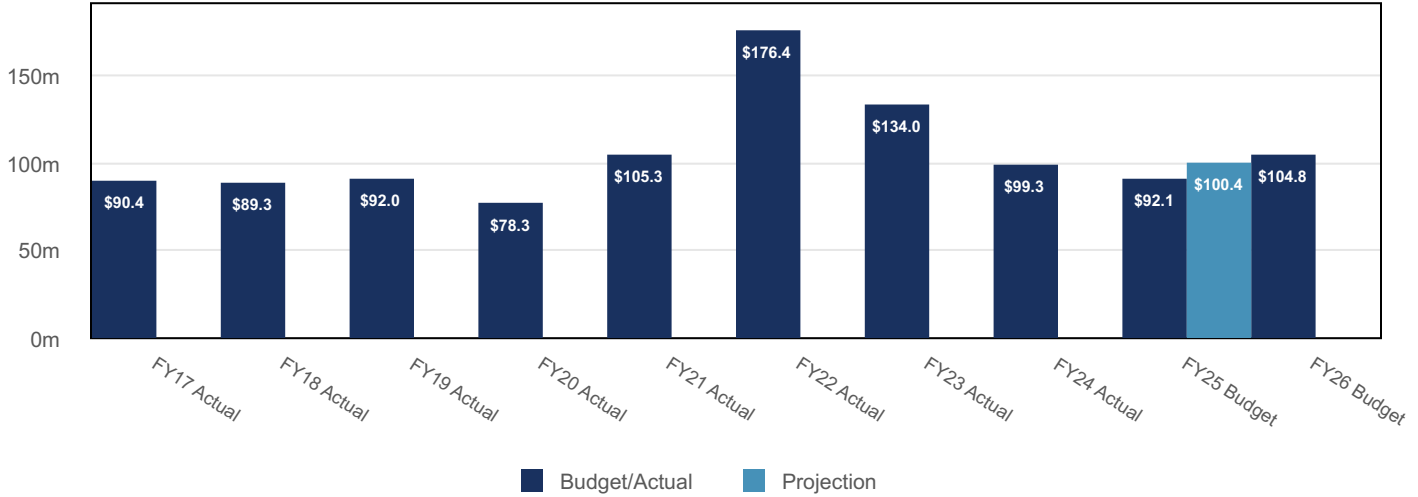
The Income Tax Disparity Grant is based on a formula designed to ensure that jurisdictions statewide receive per capita Income Tax receipts equivalent to at least 75% of the statewide average. The Governor’s proposed Fiscal 2026 Budget fully funds this program. In Fiscal 2026, the City will receive \$79.1 million from this program.

State provisions for this program restrict the increases and amounts jurisdictions can receive. However, the combination of the City’s declining population and slower income tax growth compared to the rest of the State would require this amount to be higher to achieve the 75% State average income tax level intended by the formula. Under the program caps, the City’s allocation will stay at \$79.1 million for Fiscal 2026.

Recordation and Transfer Taxes

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$104.8 million
Change from Fiscal 2025: 13.8% increase

Recordation & Transfer Taxes
(Dollars in millions)



Transfer and Recordation tax revenue is projected to be \$12.7 million higher than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. These revenue sources are largely driven by property values and levels of activity within the real estate market. While real estate activity has been in-line with budgeted expectations, City home values remain strong. Residential home sale prices have grown in value by 4.7% since July 2024. Transactions subject to Transfer Tax are up by 4.4% compared to Fiscal Year 2024, while those subject to Recordation Tax are down by 1.1%. Data as of December 2024 indicates that the average yield per transaction subject to both taxes is up by 4.9% in Transfer tax and 5.1% in Recordation Tax. This data is a sign of continued stability of prices of city properties. The Fiscal 2026 projected revenues assumes an increase in market activity.

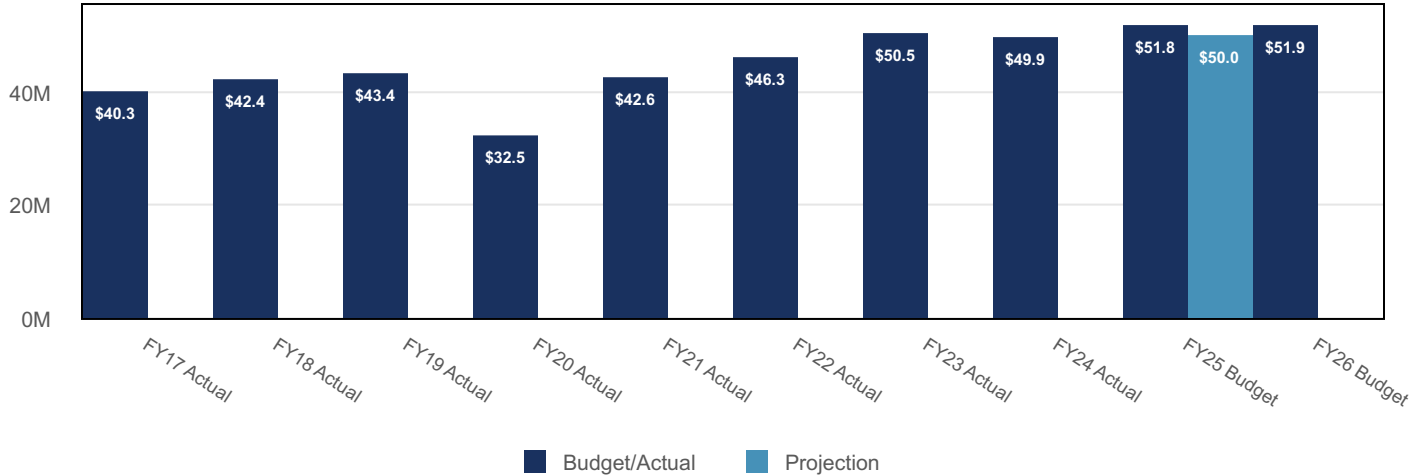
The average price of residential property sold in the City has consistently grown since it broke the \$200,000 average price mark in July 2020. Based on data from July-December 2024 the average sales price of a City home is \$264,834, a 4.7% increase from the same period of the previous year.

Activity in the real estate market has slowed substantially since interest rates have increased. In Fiscal 2024, residential units sold fell to 7,456, a reduction of 763 units or 9.3% lower than Fiscal 2023 according to data from ShowingTime. During this period, the City also saw a minor increase in the number of days properties were on the market, taking an average of 35 days to sell in Fiscal 2025, up from an average of 34 days in Fiscal 2024. Even with the slowed activity, the market is performing better than it had pre-pandemic when average days on the market lingered between 54 to 82 days during the period of Fiscal 2015 through 2020.

Energy Taxes

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$51.9 million
Change from Fiscal 2025: 0.2% increase

Energy Tax Revenues
(Dollars in millions)



Energy Tax revenue is projected to be \$0.1 million higher than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. The projected revenue growth is driven by adjustments to tax rates and changes in user group consumption patterns.

Energy Tax revenues include taxes on electricity, gas, steam, fuel oil, and liquid petroleum gas. Revenue from the Energy Tax has been relatively flat in recent years, driven by decreases in consumption that can be attributed to the broader adoption of energy efficient devices; however, unseasonably warm or cold weather can affect these receipts. Reductions due to lower consumption have been partially offset by rate increases.

Baltimore City Code mandates that the City’s Energy Tax be levied as a unit tax based on the number of units of energy delivered to users in Baltimore City. These units are kilowatt-hours for electricity, therms for natural gas, pounds for steam, and gallons for fuel oil and liquefied petroleum gas.

In accordance with Article 28, Section 25-14, the annual Energy Tax rates are adjusted by the annual percentage change in the Baltimore, Columbia, Towson Consumer Price Index (CPI) as reported by the United States Department of Labor. The metric is calculated by comparing December of the preceding calendar year to the December of the next calendar year. The CPI used for Fiscal 2026 is 3.4%, higher than the 2.1% in Fiscal 2025 .

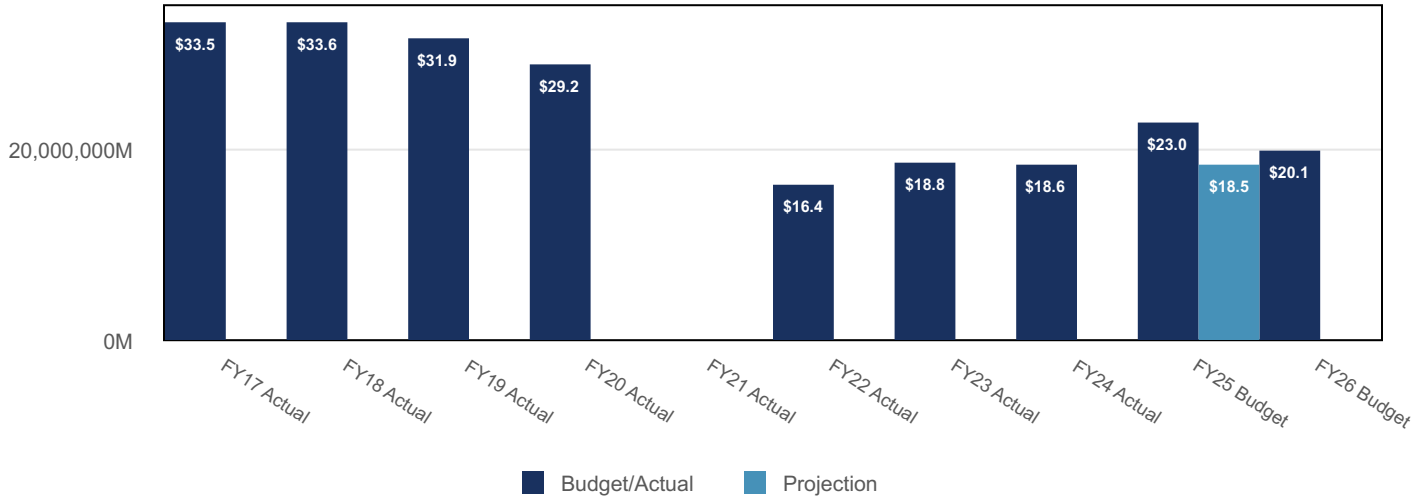
User Group	Electricity	Natural Gas	Fuel Oil	LPG	Steam
Commercial	0.010835	0.140112	0.160133	0.195429	0.003408
Residential	0.003470	0.041180	0.057795	0.061902	0.000979
Nonprofit	0.007597	0.111303	0.138206	0.169940	0.002016

¹ Units of measure: electricity = kWh, natural gas = therm, fuel oil and LPG = gal, and steam = lbs.

Net Parking Revenues

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$20.1 million
Change from Fiscal 2025: (12.6)% decrease

Parking Revenues (Net Transfer to the General Fund)
(Dollars in millions)



Net parking revenue is projected to be \$(2.9) million lower than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. The Fiscal 2026 Budget considers a set of initiatives that began in the second half of Fiscal 2025 which are expected to have a positive impact on revenues in Fiscal 2026. The projection includes recommendations for implementing across the board increases to parking fines and penalties estimated to account for \$2.6 million in additional revenues. It also accounts for anticipated increase in budgeted expenditures for parking related services (budgeted within the Department of Transportation-Service 682). Adjustments to expenditures reflect actual spending trends for services in recent years.

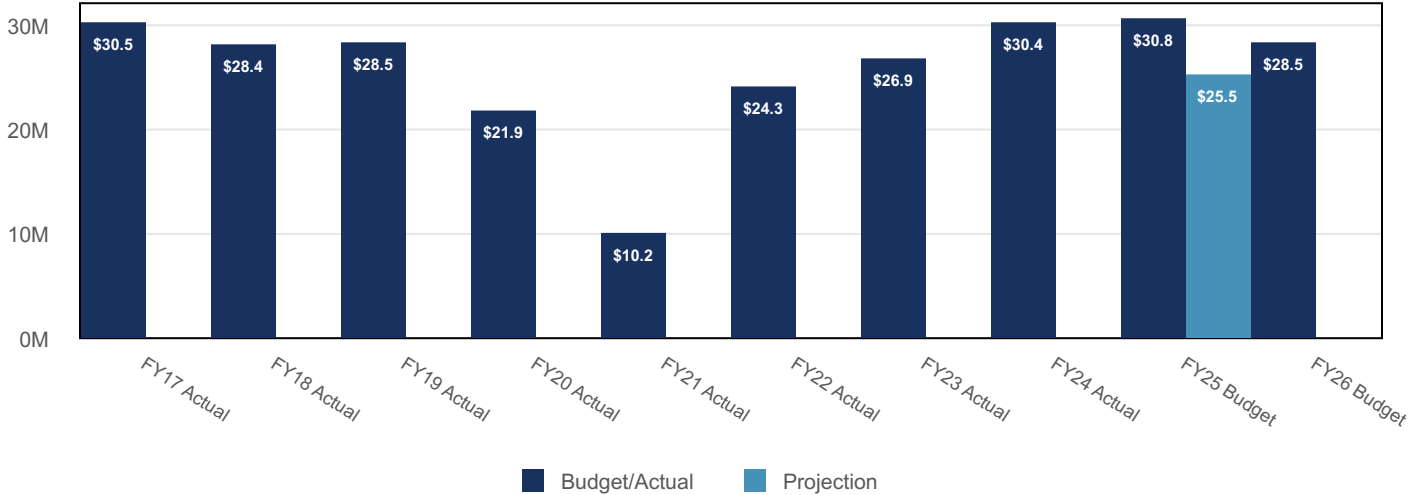
Net Parking Revenues are the remaining proceeds after the operating expenses of the Parking Enterprise and Management funds have been paid. Parking revenues are dependent on vehicle usage, City enforcement of traffic laws, and demand for garages, parking lots, and metered spaces. Primary generators of parking revenues include the Parking Tax, meters, fines and penalties on parking fines, and income from City-owned garages.

In Fiscal 2020, the City imposed a moratorium on penalties generated from unpaid Parking fines to alleviate parking related charges during the pandemic. The Fiscal Year 2025 Budget projection assumed that penalties for unpaid parking violations occurring after July 1, 2024, would be assessed. Based on data from the first half of Fiscal 2025, this action has generated an additional \$2.3 million in revenue compared to the Fiscal Year 2024 year-end estimates. The Fiscal Year 2026 budget projection assumes continued compliance with parking penalty payments, resulting in \$3.5 million in revenue, an increase of \$0.9 million from the Fiscal Year 2025 2nd Quarter projections. In the second half of Fiscal Year 2025, License Plate Reader (LPR) technology will be implemented to enforce residential parking permits. Residential permit parking violations, with the assistance of LPR technology, are projected to generate \$1.2 million in revenue for Fiscal Year 2026. Lastly, the City has been focused on filling all vacant Traffic Enforcement Officers which will increase staff capacity for parking enforcement.

Hotel Tax

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$28.5 million
Change from Fiscal 2025: (7.4)% decrease

Hotel Tax Revenue (Net Transfer to the General Fund)
(Dollars in millions)



Hotel Tax revenue is projected to be \$(2.3) million lower than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. Hotel tax revenue is projected to be essentially flat compared to Fiscal 2025 levels. Room rates and demand continue to increase. During calendar year 2024 demand increased by 5% and the average nightly room rate increased by 11.7%. The Fiscal 2026 budget adjusts for how interest and penalty payments for hotel tax collections are recorded. The projected amounts shown here do not include interest and penalties from late payments.

Prior Fiscal 2021, Visit Baltimore received 40% of the gross Hotel Tax receipts, plus or minus the reconciliation resulting from any differences between the budget and actual receipts of the most recently completed fiscal year. This process was modified during the 2021 Legislative Session when the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 1301, modifying the appropriation calculation to be based on 40% of the three-year rolling average of actual Hotel Tax receipts from the last three audited fiscal years. In Fiscal 2022, this change was adopted, preventing Visit Baltimore from experiencing sharp annual fluctuations in its appropriation when the economy, specifically the tourism industry, is affected.

In 2019, the Baltimore Tourism Investment District (TID) was created, and a 2% surcharge was imposed in addition to the 9.5% Hotel Tax. This 2% surcharge is estimated to yield \$6.9 million in Fiscal 2026 and will be used to fund additional marketing strategies to promote the City and increase tourism.

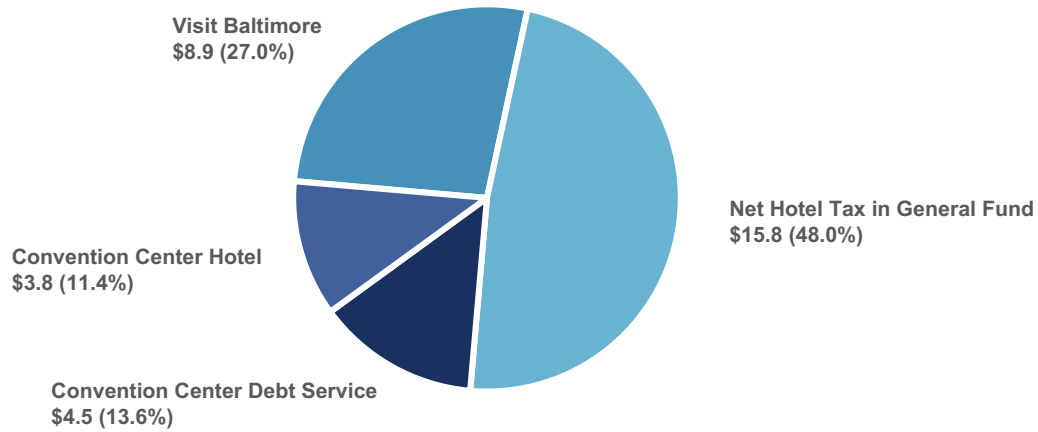
The table below summarizes the City’s allocation of Hotel Tax proceeds:

Appropriation Category	Actual Amount		Budget Amount	
	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26
Hotel Tax Revenue	36,717,352	35,262,000	33,000,000	
Convention Center Debt Service	(4,500,000)	(4,500,000)	(4,500,000)	
General Fund Subtotal	32,217,352	30,762,000	28,500,000	
Convention Center Hotel	(2,339,159)	(2,600,000)	(3,778,448)	
Visit Baltimore	(8,052,405)	(8,711,305)	(8,896,279)	
Net Hotel Tax in General Fund	21,825,788	19,450,695	15,825,273	

Table in dollars.

The following pie chart shows the distribution of Hotel Tax revenues:

GRAND TOTAL: \$33.0 million

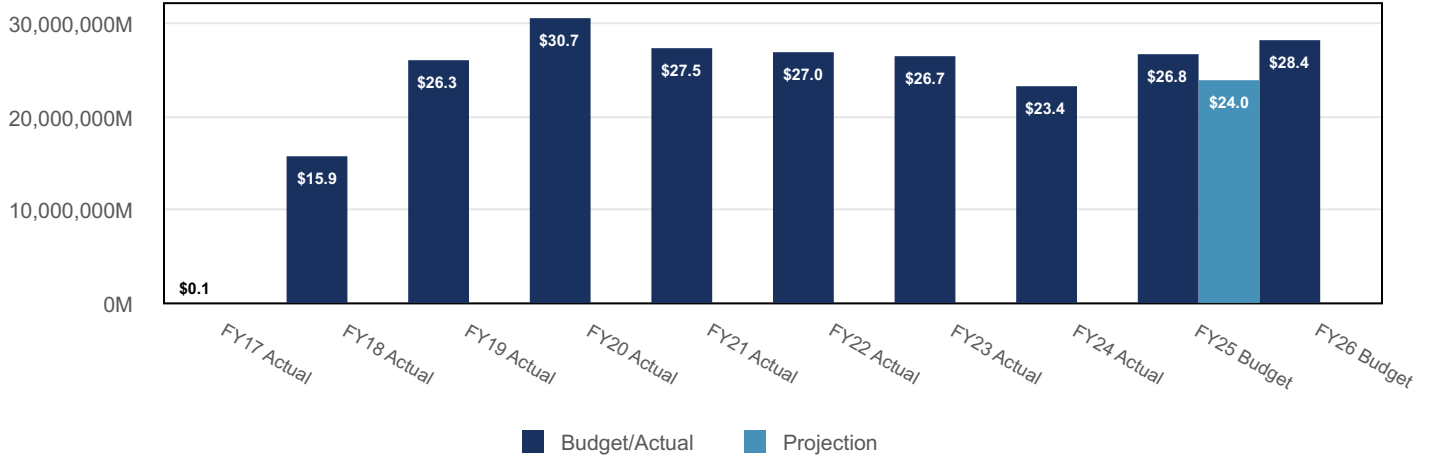


Values may not sum to 100% or 'Grand Total' due to rounding.

Speed and Red Light Camera Violations

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$28,397,000
Change from Fiscal 2025 : 5.9% increase

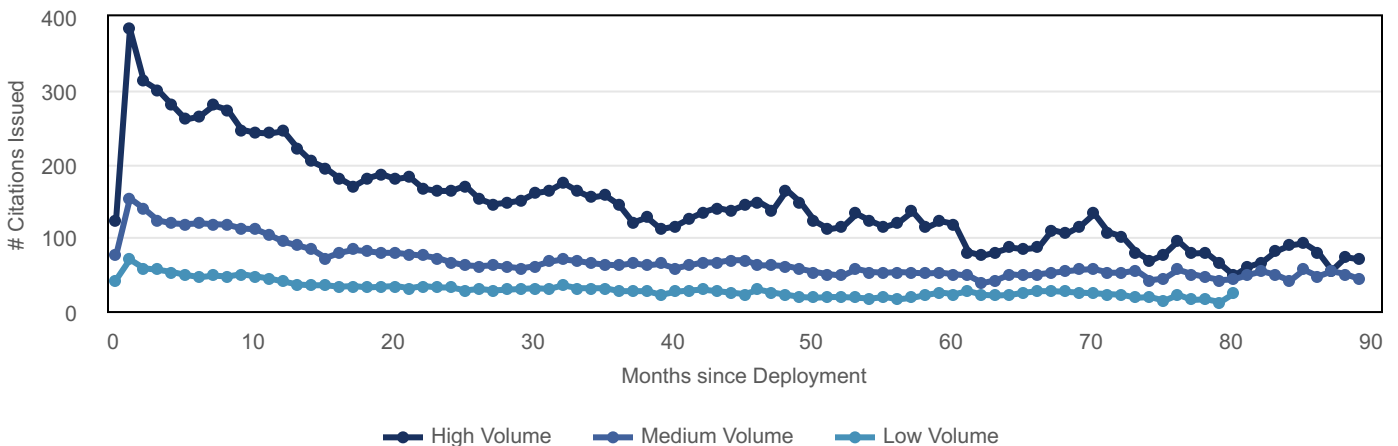
Speed and Red Light Camera Violations Revenues
(Dollars in millions)



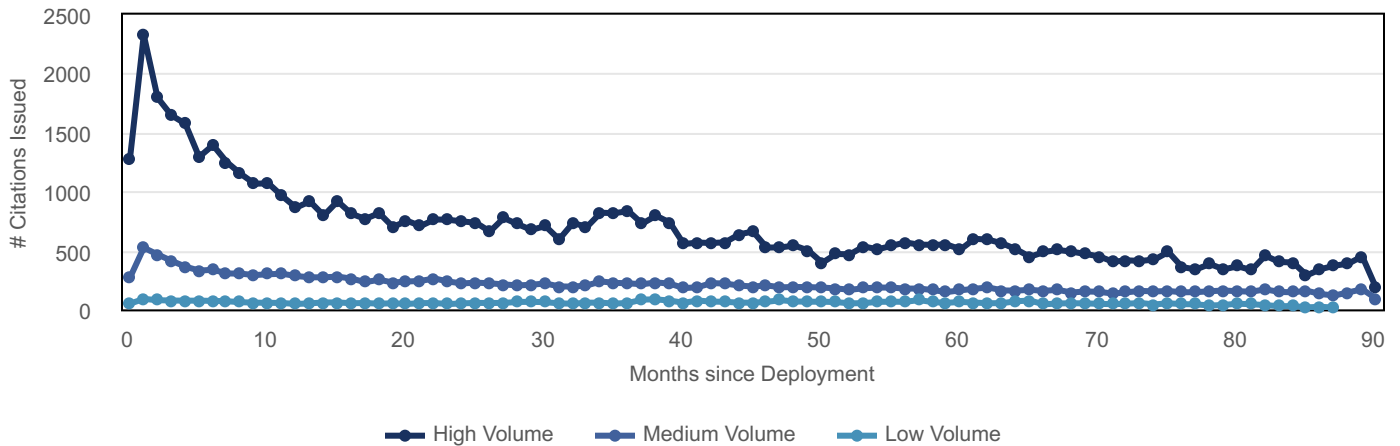
Traffic Camera revenue is projected to be \$1.6 million higher than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. These automated enforcement systems are designed to improve road safety by deterring speeding and running red lights, while also supporting funding for the City’s transportation initiatives and public safety programs.

The City analyzes camera violation data by location, deployment date, and when payments occur. Within the first year of issuance, collection rates average 55.0% then increase towards reaching levels as high as 93% over time. Considering all violations issued and all payments made since 2017, the rolling collection is 73.0% for red-related cameras and 70.9% for speed cameras.

Average Red Light Camera Violations Issued over Time per Camera



Average Speed Camera Violations Issued over Time per Camera



The graphs above display the trends in the volume of issued citations over time for both red light and speed cameras. Within the initial months of deployment, the volume of citations tends to rise sharply, reaching their peak after two to three months of deployment. As behavior changes due to awareness of the cameras, the volume of citations drops substantially over the course of time.

In Fiscal 2025, payments from prior years represented 44.2% of payments for speed camera violations and 43.0% of payments for red light violations as of December 2024. This has been an ongoing trend since this program has been in place. Outstanding violations are recorded with the State, and individuals are required to pay these fines before being able to renew or modify their vehicle registration.

The Fiscal 2026 Budget assumes there will be 6 new speed cameras installed and 60 cameras will be redeployed. These actions are projected to generate \$2.0 million of additional revenue. The budget also reflects installed 16 new red-light cameras projected to generate \$1.2 million in additional revenue.

Interstate 83 Speed Cameras

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 967, authorizing the expansion of two speed monitoring cameras on the Baltimore City section of Interstate 83 (I-83). These cameras were installed in Spring 2022, violations began being issued in July 2022.

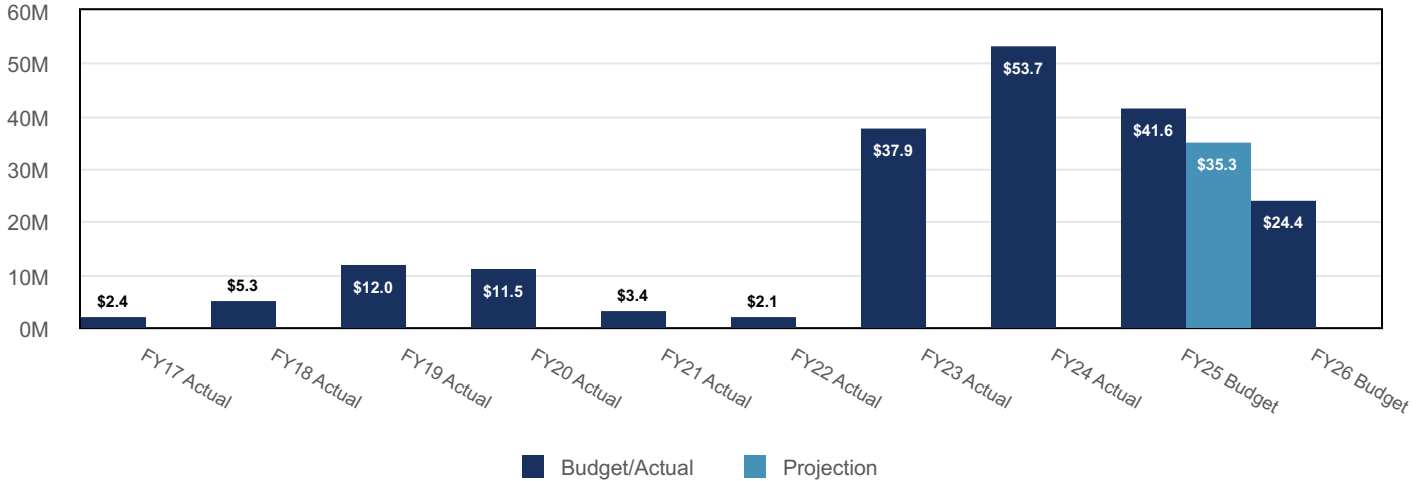
The volume of citations issued by I-83 cameras has continued to decline due to changes in driver behaviors. In Fiscal 2026, it is anticipated that the City will yield \$5.4 million in revenues from this program.

Based on State law, proceeds from these citations are restricted to fund operating costs and future safety improvements on I-83 and are therefore budgeted in a Special Revenue Fund, separate from the General Fund. Based on Fiscal 2026 projections, revenue from these cameras will support the operating costs of the program but will not be sufficient to fund capital projects on I-83.

Earnings on Investments

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$24.4 million
Change from Fiscal 2025 : (41.3)% decrease

Earnings on Investments Revenue
(Dollars in millions)

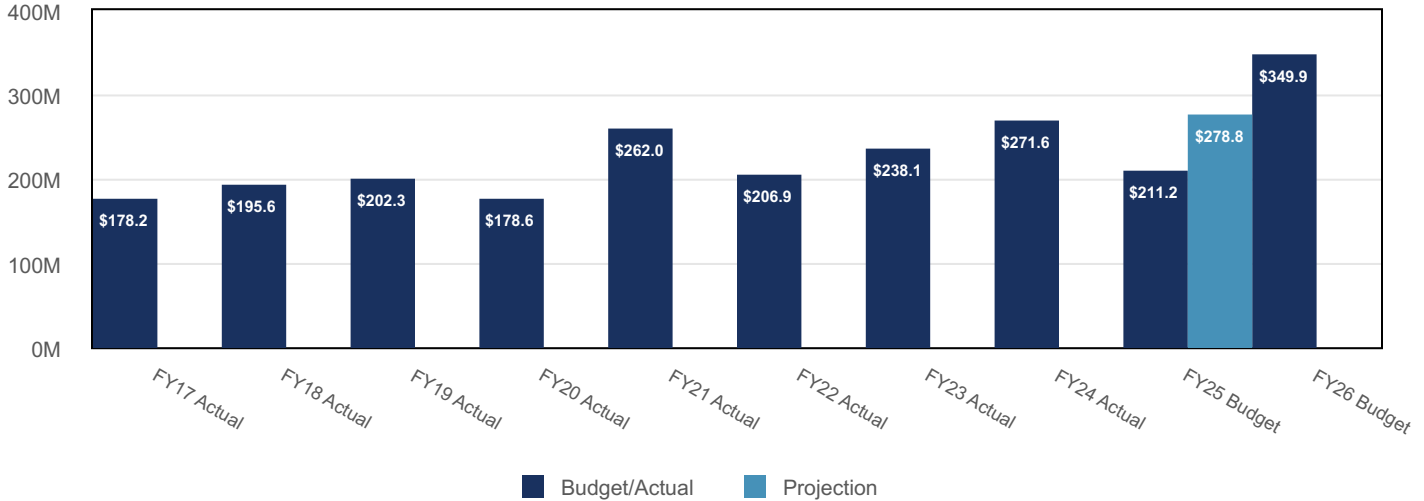


Investment earnings revenue is projected to be \$(17.2) million lower than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. The Fiscal 2025 2nd Quarter projection reflects a \$6.3 million deficit compared to the adopted budget. Data as of November 2024 shows a reduction of \$245.0 million in the annual average cash available for investment, or a \$20.4 million reduction in the monthly average cash available compared to the Budget. The Treasury Management interest rate dropped to 3.5% in November 2024, which is 0.9% lower than the anticipated rate of 4.4% for Fiscal 2025. Additionally, the cash available for investment from ARPA funds is lower than originally projected when the Fiscal 2025 Budget was created. The Fiscal 2026 Budget assumes a further decline in cash available for investment from ARPA funds compared to Fiscal 2025, and anticipates a Treasury Management interest rate of 3.9%, lower than the projected average rate of 4.4% for Fiscal 2025.

Other Sources of Revenue

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Projection: \$349.9 million
Change from Fiscal 2025: 65.7% increase

All Other Revenue
(Dollars in millions)



Other miscellaneous revenue sources are projected to be \$138.7 million higher than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. This increase is driven by multiple sources:

- **Admissions and Amusement Tax:** The overall revenue is projected to be \$6.6 million higher than Fiscal 2025 based on the CFG Arena agreement. Under the terms of this agreement the City keeps \$1.7 million of Admissions and Amusement tax generated by CFG while the remainder is refunded back to the arena. The M-R: Convention Complex budget includes the expenditure authority for this payment.
- **Water and Wastewater Utility Overhead:** The administrative overhead paid by the Water and Wastewater Utilities is projected to increase by \$3.8 million driven by increased expenditures in the Utilities.
- **Taxicab and Transportation Network Company (TNC) Excise Tax:** This revenue source is projected to increase by \$2.4 million compared to the Fiscal 2025 Budget. Pending the Mayor and City Council approval, the City will increase the per-ride charge for TNC services from \$0.25 to \$0.38 for any trip initiated or ending in the City.
- **Landfill Tipping fee and Solid Waste Surcharge:** The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget includes the proposed increase in the combined charge for Tipping fee and Solid Waste surcharge from \$67.5 to \$135 per ton. This rate increase is projected to generate additional \$8.4 million.
- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) revenues:** Starting on Fiscal 2026, EMS revenues, previously posted in a Special Fund, will be recognized in the General Fund. The projection incorporates a 20% increase in Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support E and 2 charges, as well as the increase in the per mile charge. EMS would apply to transport with insurance.
- **Grocery Bag tax:** The projection includes a change in share composition of this surcharge tax. Currently, the charge is \$0.05 per checkout bag and proceeds are split \$0.01 for the City and \$0.04 is retained by the retailers. The charge will be split 50% for the City and 50% by the retailers, will have no impact on taxpayers.

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FISCAL 2026

PRELIMINARY BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

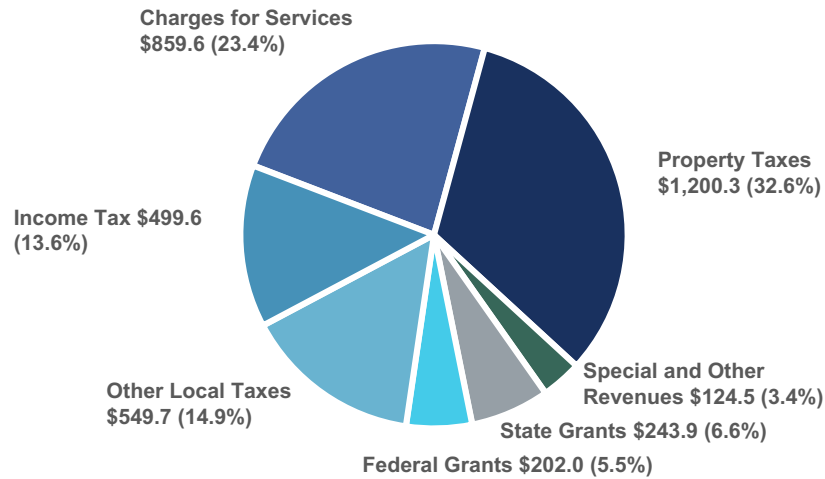
Operating Budget Recommendations

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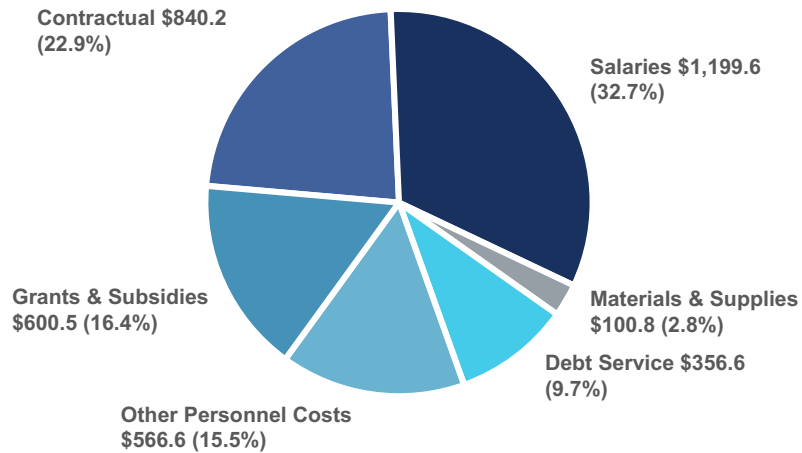
Overview of Operating Budget Recommendation

Total Operating Budget: \$ 3.7 billion

Where the Money Comes from



How the Money is Used



Totals may not equal 100% or 'Total Operating Budget' due to rounding. Charts in millions.

Pillars

Expenditures by Pillar	Budget Amount			Change Amount	
	FY24	FY25	FY26	Dollar	Percent
Prioritizing Our Youth	654,291,293	623,090,801	624,834,276	1,743,475	0.3%
Building Public Safety	1,145,500,558	1,127,803,959	1,190,320,945	62,516,986	5.5%
Clean and Healthy Communities	997,596,944	1,007,461,205	1,076,496,252	69,035,047	6.9%
Equitable Neighborhood Dev.	307,667,890	311,166,394	346,439,369	35,272,975	11.3%
Responsible Stewardship	202,430,019	208,865,392	219,227,804	10,362,412	5.0%
Other	219,844,947	198,823,841	222,304,923	23,481,082	5.0%
Total	3,527,331,651	3,477,211,592	3,679,623,569	202,411,977	5.8%

Table in dollars.

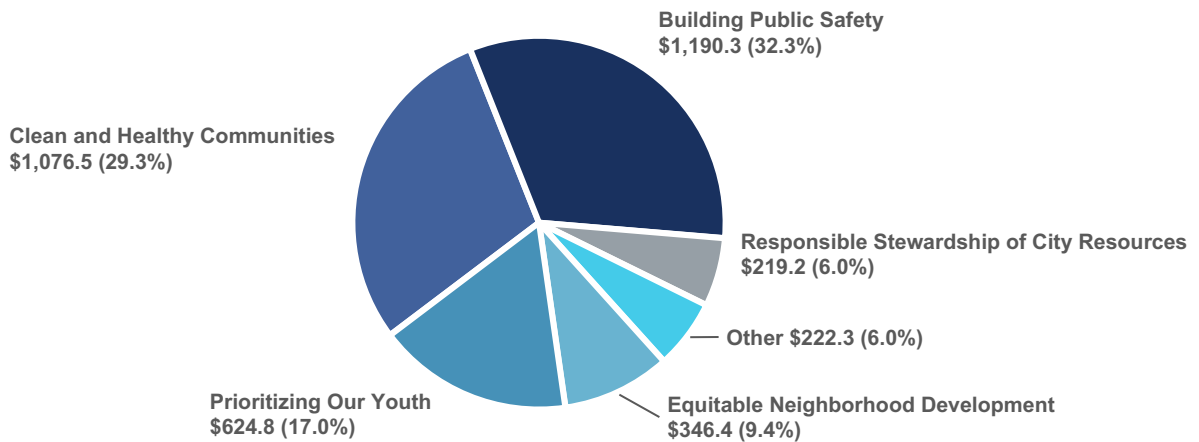
¹ Change is calculated between Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026

² Equitable Neighborhood Dev. = Equitable Neighborhood Development

³ Responsible Stewardship = Responsible Stewardship of City Resources

The chart below summarizes the Fiscal Year 2026 Recommended Budget by Pillar.

Expenditures by Pillar



Dollars in millions. Totals may not equal 100% or table budget amount due to rounding.

The Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Budget was developed using the Pillars reflected in Mayor Scott’s Action Plan: Prioritizing Our Youth, Building Public Safety, Clean and Healthy Communities, Equitable Neighborhood Development, and Responsible Stewardship of City Resources.

The Pillars focus on the operating budget; for details on the capital budget, see [Capital Budget](#).

The diagram below shows how the Pillars and goals are linked to population-level indicators that are used to monitor progress on achieving strategic outcomes for the City. Indicators are measured annually and use an external source to ensure integrity of the data. Taken together, the Pillars, goals, and indicators serve as a report card on how well the City is doing in advancing these citywide goals.

The indicators draw from a variety of data sources to capture citywide trends. Budget summaries for each of the outcomes in the next section highlight how the Fiscal 2026 budget investments prioritize services that are highly impactful and closely aligned with the Mayor’s Action Plan.



PRIORITIZING YOUTH

PILLAR GOALS

- 1 Ensure access to quality educational and recreational environments
- 2 Increase quality of opportunities for disconnected youth
- 3 Decrease number of justice-involved youth
- 4 Ensure children are ready to succeed upon entering kindergarten
- 5 Increase engagement with Baltimore youth

PILLAR INDICATORS

- Academic Achievement
- College & Career Readiness
- Infant Mortality



BUILDING PUBLIC SAFETY

PILLAR GOALS

- 1 Reduce violent crime
- 2 Achieve significant progress on the consent decree
- 3 Decrease the flow of illegal guns into Baltimore
- 4 Increase support for returning residents
- 5 Accelerate and expand 9-1-1 diversion
- 6 Modernize the City’s EMS
- 7 Strengthen coordination on joint efforts

PILLAR INDICATORS

- Homicides & Non-Fatal Shootings
- Property Crime



CLEAN AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

PILLAR GOALS

- 1 Reduce public health disparities
- 2 Provide support services to reduce housing insecurity
- 3 Improve the cleanliness of Baltimore
- 4 Ensure every neighborhood affordable, healthy food and safe, reliable public transportation, streets and sidewalks
- 5 Provide affordable, world-class water service
- 6 Move towards a more sustainable future

PILLAR INDICATORS

- Recycling Rate
- Citywide Energy Use
- Asthma Visits
- Recreational Opportunities
- Water Cleanliness
- Opioid-Related Deaths



EQUITABLE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

PILLAR GOALS

- 1 Continue to ensure an equitable recovery from COVID-19
- 2 Increase capital investment and ensure equitable access
- 3 Reimagine and provide support to Baltimore economy with a focus on local business owners
- 4 Increase population
- 5 Close the digital divide once and for all

PILLAR INDICATORS

- Employment Rate
- Number of Jobs
- Visitors to Baltimore
- Neighborhood Revitalization



RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF CITY RESOURCES

PILLAR GOALS

- 1 Improve the overall reliability, access, and transparency of the City’s financial systems
- 2 Deliver quality, efficient customer service to all residents
- 3 Recruit, retain, and develop a diverse and high-achieving workforce
- 4 Improve government performance, accountability, and cross-agency collaboration
- 5 Increase transparency and meaningful resident participation in government

PILLAR INDICATORS

- Prompt Vendor Payment
- 311 Responsiveness

Board of Elections

The Board of Elections for Baltimore City is authorized by the Public General Laws of Maryland and is authorized to make rules consistent with State laws to ensure the proper and efficient registration of voters and conduct of elections.

The Board of Elections, appointed for a four-year term by the Governor, consists of five regular members. Meetings are held at least monthly. The administrators and staff are responsible for overseeing election precincts, recruiting election judges, and ensuring the proper use of election materials. Daily activities include answering various types of voting-related inquiries and responding to registration requests that come via telephone, office visits or through the mail. During election years, additional duties include accepting the filing of candidates, receiving campaign treasury reports, and training election judges.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	9,894,804	0	9,629,962	0
Total	9,894,804	0	9,629,962	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
899: Fair Conduct of Elections	9,894,804	9,629,962
Total	9,894,804	9,629,962

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Fully funding costs for the primary elections for the November 2026 election. The recommending funding is based on cost estimates provided by the Board of Elections.
- Eliminating funding to lease a new office and warehouse location for the Board of Elections. Funding will be allocated in a future budget when a location has been identified.

City Council

The City Council was created by the City Charter as the legislative branch of the City government. The City Council conducts regular meetings; provides various services to constituents; enacts laws, including the annual Ordinance of Estimates; reviews and considers City expenditures and operations; confirms certain municipal officers; and holds hearings on topics of public interest.

The City Council is headed by a President who is elected to a four-year term in a citywide election. The President of the City Council shall be ex-officio Mayor in case of and during sickness, temporary disqualification, or necessary absence of the Mayor. The President presides over the weekly Board of Estimates meetings. The City Council is comprised of the President and Council Members from 14 single-member districts.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	10,650,904	81	11,842,051	83
Total	10,650,904	81	11,842,051	83

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
100: City Council	10,650,904	11,842,051
Total	10,650,904	11,842,051

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Increasing individual Council District budgets from \$423,000 to \$485,000 (a 14.7% increase). The Preliminary Budget annualizes funding for staff reclassifications that occurred in Fiscal 2025 and recurring funding for professional development for Council staff.
- Funding for 1 Fiscal Legislative Analyst that was included as part of the Fiscal 2025 adopted budget and 1 Council Assistant position.

Comptroller

The mission of the Comptroller’s Office is to encourage sound fiscal policy for the City, aid in the cost-efficient and effective delivery of City services, and promote the prudent management of City resources. This mission is accomplished through the performance of Charter mandated functions, legislation, and related duties. The Comptroller is an elected official of City government and a member of the Board of Estimates and Board of Finance pursuant to Article V of the City Charter. The Comptroller has executive responsibility for the City’s independent audit function as well as the Department of Accounts Payable, the Department of Real Estate, the Department of Telecommunications, and the Municipal Post Office.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	11,831,384	79	12,565,471	80
Internal Service	15,640,871	33	16,450,553	33
Total	27,472,255	112	29,016,024	113

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
130: Executive Direction and Control	2,572,817	2,770,012
131: Audits	6,398,255	6,738,678
132: Real Estate Acquisition and Management	1,378,394	1,514,299
133: Office of Telecommunications	10,727,318	11,106,659
136: Municipal Post Office	4,913,553	5,343,894
902: Accounts Payable	1,481,918	1,542,482
Total	27,472,255	29,016,024

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Creating an Operations Officer II position midyear in Fiscal 2025. This position is focused on data management and data projects within the Comptroller's Office.
- Increased funding of \$250,000 is included in the Internal Service Fund for a new municipal post office, Charm City PASS, that opened mid-year 2025 to expand constituent services at the convention center.

Council Services

The Office of Council Services provides professional staff support to the City Council and its committees. The agency is responsible for analyzing proposed legislation, support the technical needs of City Council meetings, and manage logistics associated with scheduling City Council meetings and hearings.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	955,004	6	929,478	6
Total	955,004	6	929,478	6

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
103: Council Services	955,004	929,478
Total	955,004	929,478

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Maintaining the current level of service.

Courts: Circuit Court

The Circuit Court for Baltimore City is a division of the State judicial system established by the Constitution of Maryland. There are currently 35 permanent judges who rotate among civil, domestic, juvenile and criminal courts. The Circuit Court currently has 15 magistrates and 17 retired judges who preside over various dockets on an as-needed basis.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	21,351,928	86	22,532,890	86
Federal	244,717	2	609,468	2
State	5,223,597	40	5,144,257	41
Special	1,888,214	5	1,902,028	5
Total	28,708,456	133	30,188,643	134

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
110: Circuit Court	28,708,456	30,188,643
Total	28,708,456	30,188,643

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Creating a Court Secretary position through State grant funds.
- Allocating \$400,000 in federal funds to support child support administration services.

Courts: Orphans' Court

The Orphans' Court was established by the Maryland Constitution as a division of the State judicial system. Orphans' Court judges preside over probate, estate, and guardianship cases; ensure responsible guardianship in proceedings regarding minors and their property; ensure proper accounting and administration of estates and trusts; and provide information and advice to parties seeking guidance in probate and guardianship matters.

The primary objectives of the Orphans' Court are to establish a position of statewide leadership in probate and guardianship matters; exercise judicial prerogatives to protect rights of minors and determine placement in guardianship cases; and institute strict accounting guidelines in the administration and disposition of estate cases. Article IV, Section 40 of the State Constitution mandates the election of three Orphans' Court judges.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	807,922	5	806,791	5
Total	807,922	5	806,791	5

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
817: Orphans' Court	807,922	806,791
Total	807,922	806,791

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Maintaining the current level of service.

Employees' Retirement Systems

The Employees' Retirement System (ERS), the Elected Officials Retirement System (EOS), and the Fire and Police Retirement System (F&P) were created to provide lifetime service retirement benefits, survivor benefits, and permanent disability benefits to eligible members and their beneficiaries. The cost of such programs includes recurring benefit payments, lump sum death benefits, payments to terminated members, and the cost of administering the system. The Systems are committed to protecting and prudently investing member assets and providing accurate and timely benefits with quality service to members and beneficiaries.

As of June 30, 2024, ERS membership consisted of 17,989 members, which includes 9,185 retirees and beneficiaries (currently receiving benefits), 7,534 active members (current employees), and 1,192 terminated members (entitled but not yet receiving benefits). F&P membership consisted of 9,859 members, which includes 6,506 retirees and beneficiaries and 3,353 active members.

The Retirement Savings Plan (RSP) is a 401(a) defined contribution retirement plan with hybrid and non-hybrid membership options designed to provide a secure retirement for City of Baltimore employees hired or rehired on or after July 1, 2014. The Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP) is a 457(b) retirement savings plan that provides employees an opportunity to build additional savings for retirement. As of June 30, 2024, RSP membership consisted of 4,103 hybrid members and 1,054 non-hybrid members. The DCP consisted of 8,713 members.

Administrative costs are appropriated in the City's annual operating budget. Administrative expenses for ERS and F&P systems are paid from the earnings of the systems and not from direct City support. The annual operating budget for each system's administration is approved by their respective boards, which have the legal and fiduciary responsibility to manage all operations. City contributions to F&P, ERS, and RSP are allocated to agencies based on the number of budgeted positions. ERS and F&P pension systems had positive returns in Fiscal 2024, 6.4% and 9.8% respectively.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
Special	14,431,806	84	15,000,759	84
Total	14,431,806	84	15,000,759	84

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
152: Employees' Retirement System - Administration	6,685,986	7,008,082
154: Fire and Police Retirement System - Administration	6,830,156	7,026,110
155: Retirement Savings Plan	915,664	966,567
Total	14,431,806	15,000,759

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Maintaining the current level of service.

Enoch Pratt Free Library

The mission of the Enoch Pratt Free Library is to empower, enrich, and enhance the quality of life for all through equitable access to information, services, and opportunity.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library was created by Maryland law in 1882, which enabled the City to accept the donation from Enoch Pratt to establish "The Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore City." Under the terms of Mr. Pratt's gift, the Library is owned by the City but administered by a private Board of Trustees. The Library system consists of the Central Library, 21 neighborhood libraries, and two bookmobiles. The Central Library is designated as the State Library Resource Center under State law, with responsibility for providing a wide variety of services including the operation of "Sailor," the internet-based network of the Maryland library community.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	33,408,554	330	34,855,353	330
State	11,804,519	103	12,267,520	103
Special	1,290,899	15	1,323,318	15
Total	46,503,972	448	48,446,191	448

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
788: Information Services	46,503,972	48,446,191
Total	46,503,972	48,446,191

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Decreasing funding for miscellaneous spending in books, equipment, and part-time staffing by \$165,000.

Finance

The mission of the Department of Finance is to provide a full range of financial services to City agencies; collect and invest all monies due the City; manage City debt; develop and implement the annual operating budget; manage the City's self-insurance programs; maintain the City's financial records and execute fiscal policy as established by the Board of Estimates.

The Department is comprised of six bureaus: Accounting and Payroll Services (BAPS), Budget and Management Research (BBMR), Procurement, Revenue Collection (BRC), Risk Management, Treasury and Debt Management, as well as the Office of Fiscal Integrity and Recovery and the Grants Management Office (GMO). The Finance Department also oversees the City's Print Shop and Surplus Property divisions. The Finance Director's Office provides administrative direction and control and performs the departmental personnel functions.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	34,898,720	230	35,108,048	244
Internal Service	8,302,192	32	8,849,229	32
Wastewater	0	0	433,542	7
Water Utility	269,078	3	496,774	7
Stormwater Utility	0	0	131,205	1
Parking Management	3,472,833	21	3,571,284	20
Special	521,179	7	610,015	7
Total	47,464,002	293	49,200,097	318

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
148: Revenue Collection	16,183,904	16,390,009
150: Treasury and Debt Management	1,466,850	1,511,896
698: Administration - Finance	2,922,196	2,239,485
699: Procurement	6,011,403	6,939,149
700: Surplus Property Disposal	169,757	237,857
701: Printing Services	3,572,496	3,827,858
703: Payroll	2,492,650	3,056,014
704: Accounting	4,193,983	3,758,460
707: Risk Management for Employee Injuries	4,484,739	4,750,955
708: Operating Budget Management	3,106,359	3,105,229
710: Fiscal Integrity and Recovery	1,332,707	1,375,381
711: Finance Project Management	1,526,958	1,139,912
913: Finance Grant Management	0	478,594
915: Corporate and Revenue Compliance	0	389,298
Total	47,464,002	49,200,097

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Creating 6 new positions within the Department (2 in Revenue Collections and 4 in Finance Project Management) to reduce the agency's use of contracted services. The net savings from this action is approximately \$750,000 annually.
- Creating two new services: Finance Grant Management and Corporate Revenue Compliance. These services were previously embedded in the Finance-Administration service. Funding for these services maintains the current level of service.
- Creating 12 new positions for Procurement for the ongoing Procurement Transformation work. These newly established positions are funded by enterprise funds to support specific procurements within these funds.
- Creating six new positions in Payroll, these positions were funded in the Fiscal 2025 budget and created midyear.

Fire

The Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD), established by the City Charter, is dedicated to fire prevention, suppression, and emergency medical services, all delivered with professionalism and compassion. BCFD employs innovative strategies in fire safety, community outreach, public education, and other services. While emergency response is the primary focus, increased prevention efforts—such as residential fire safety training, the Mobile Safety Center, the Youth Fire and Life Safety Program, early childhood education, and free smoke detector programs—have significantly reduced fire incidents and related injuries.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	251,619,336	1,685	339,370,425	1,679
Federal	2,645,002	9	4,788,995	8
State	1,352,944	0	3,174,895	0
Special	71,618,259	85	14,898,251	92
Total	327,235,541	1,779	362,232,566	1,779

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
600: Administration - Fire	12,252,493	13,971,691
602: Fire Suppression and Emergency Rescue	188,053,804	209,120,381
608: Emergency Management	2,939,794	2,760,556
609: Emergency Medical Services	65,836,397	72,098,856
610: Fire and Emergency Community Outreach	425,359	411,503
611: Fire Code Enforcement	5,949,638	7,170,301
612: Fire Investigation	831,871	992,260
613: Fire Facilities Maintenance and Replacement	25,865,731	29,416,304
614: Fire Communications and Dispatch	19,939,700	20,763,085
615: Fire Training and Education	5,140,754	5,527,629
Total	327,235,541	362,232,566

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Allocating \$5.2 million for the Opioid Restitution Fund for contracted EMS Services, 911 Nurse Triage, and Population Health.
- Eliminating the EMS Special Fund and transferring all EMS costs to the General Fund. Moving forward, all EMS revenue will be recorded as General Fund revenue. In Fiscal 2026 the City estimates receiving \$75 million in EMS revenue.
- Allocating \$500,000 to create additional positions within Fire Code Enforcement to improve turnaround time for permit review.

General Services

The Department of General Services (DGS) was established as an independent agency on July 1, 2009 as the result of a voter approved Charter change. The Department's mission is to deliver results for our City partners through services and solutions that are timely, cost-effective, and sustainable. DGS is comprised of five (5) divisions: Administration, Fleet Management, Facilities Management, Public and Private Energy Performance, and Capital Projects Design and Construction. The Department is fully committed to providing healthy working environments and safe, reliable vehicles for City employees.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	15,990,760	73	15,038,947	76
Internal Service	161,371,547	349	170,573,377	350
Federal	0	0	549,550	0
State	1,229,329	0	4,246,394	0
Special	1,622,699	0	3,636,434	0
Total	180,214,335	422	194,044,702	426

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
189: Fleet Management	82,092,440	89,849,620
726: Administration - General Services	1,453,374	2,050,739
730: Public and Private Energy Performance	50,753,098	44,837,760
731: Facilities Management	44,736,214	56,049,497
734: Capital Projects Division - Design and Construction	1,179,208	1,257,086
Total	180,214,335	194,044,702

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Additional funding (\$125,000) for contractual cleaning services and to create two new positions, one in DGS and one in DPW, to mitigate hazards and ensure employee safety at 8 Solid Waste facilities.
- Funding for the continuation of the Master Lease Program in Fiscal 2026 within the Fleet Management budget, which will include debt service for approximately \$37.8 million in new borrowing. This funding will support the replacement of an estimated 226 vehicles, ensuring the City's fleet remains reliable and operationally efficient.
- Reducing holding costs for surplus school sites by \$200,000 to reflect current spending trends.
- Reducing funding for various capital related contractual expenditures. Moving forward these costs will be charged directly to capital projects.
- Utilizing \$2.9 million from the Surplus Property Disposal fund to cover holding costs for the 311 Saratoga Street building vacated by the State of Maryland in 2024. The budget assumes this building will be sold during Fiscal 2026.

Health

The Baltimore City Health Department is the local public health authority responsible for protecting health, reducing disparities, and improving community well-being through education, coordination, advocacy, and direct services. It also enforces City ordinances related to public health. The department’s responsibilities include managing acute communicable diseases, animal control, chronic disease prevention, emergency preparedness, HIV/STD care, maternal and child health, restaurant inspections, school health, senior services, and addressing youth violence.

In partnership with other city agencies, healthcare providers, community organizations, and funders, the Health Department works to empower residents with the knowledge, resources, and environment needed to live healthy lives.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	53,992,429	398	55,608,620	416
Federal	92,238,339	280	84,306,797	320
State	41,612,437	128	26,439,761	93
Special	19,756,198	41	18,210,736	73
Special Grant	548,422	6	135,674	0
Total	208,147,825	853	184,701,588	902

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
303: Clinical Services	8,558,267	8,912,182
305: Health Homes	4,496,872	4,112,842
307: Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health	5,258,951	9,824,220
308: Maternal and Child Health	37,955,468	22,791,969
310: School Health Services	20,630,708	22,096,369
311: Health Services for Seniors	6,729,611	7,562,645
315: Emergency Services - Health	20,942,079	14,984,404
316: Youth and Trauma Services	2,423,090	2,755,989
715: Administration - Health	10,636,221	12,629,467
716: Animal Services	4,566,719	4,833,707
717: Environmental inspection Services	3,395,792	3,606,167
718: Chronic Disease Prevention	1,650,671	1,703,485
720: HIV Treatment Services for the Uninsured	59,879,489	45,904,693
721: Senior Centers	5,928,675	5,592,997
723: Advocacy for Seniors	2,245,268	2,947,318
724: Direct Care and Support Planning	3,836,871	6,207,443
725: Community Services for Seniors	9,013,074	8,235,691
Total	208,147,825	184,701,588

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Allocating \$7.85 million from the Opioid Restitution Fund to support the City's opioid response within the Health Department. This funding is part of a multi-year \$20.0 million commitment to increase opioid-related services through the Opioid Restitution Fund. In Fiscal 2026 this funding will support 25 new positions.
- Increasing the annual allocation for BARCS by \$500,000 from \$1.5 million to \$2.1 million.
- Allocating \$850,000 for the B'more for Health Babies program. This funding leverages 100% matching Medicaid funding.
- Increasing funding by \$819,500 to create IT Associates, HR Generalists, HR Assistants, Contract Managers, medical billing support, and Policy Analyst positions in Service 715 Administration to expand billing capacity for the agency.
- Create four new positions (three in Service 303- Clinical Services and one in Service 316-Youth and Trauma Services) to meet programmatic requirements of these services.

Housing and Community Development

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) works to ensure that all Baltimore City residents have access to safe, affordable housing in thriving neighborhoods. DHCD is dedicated to expanding housing options, fostering healthy communities, and preventing displacement through investments, code enforcement, property redevelopment, community capacity-building, and support for various programs, including emergency assistance and summer food initiatives. DHCD also focuses on preserving and developing affordable rental housing for low- and moderate-income residents through subsidies, financing, and site assembly assistance.

DHCD also supports neighborhood stability and affordable housing through homeownership repair programs, homeowner counseling, and homebuyer incentives. It promotes safe housing through code inspections, litigation, and a national receivership program, while also overseeing permitting, demolition, revitalization, and property registration and licensing.

The budget for DHCD also includes the City's annual funding for the Baltimore Development Corporation (Services 809, 810, and 813), Waterfront Partnership (Service 814), Live Baltimore (Service 815), and East Baltimore Development Inc (activity within Service 749). This goals and mission of these organizations align with the goals of DHCD. Funding for these organizations is allocated through grant agreements reviewed and approved by the Board of Estimates.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	51,767,542	363	55,289,970	373
Federal	20,956,101	68	18,615,078	84
State	5,810,231	4	4,941,567	4
Special	10,424,338	4	10,296,141	5
Total	88,958,213	439	89,142,756	466

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
593: Community Support Projects	13,387,653	12,311,549
604: Before and After Care	250,266	106,748
737: Administration HCD	6,901,642	6,505,002
738: Weatherization Services	2,682,304	1,881,897
742: Promote Homeownership	1,920,571	1,896,985
745: Housing Code Enforcement	15,222,780	10,193,233
747: Register and License Properties and Contractors	805,081	929,530
748: Affordable Housing	9,984,788	10,026,514
749: Property Acquisition, Disposition, and Asset Management	7,912,886	10,199,893
750: Housing Rehabilitation Services	6,961,646	6,122,629
751: Building Code Permitting, Inspections and Compliance	8,683,443	14,055,298

(continued)

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
752: Community Outreach Services	1,854,183	2,671,866
754: Summer Food Program	3,919,115	3,709,857
809: Retention, Expansion, and Attraction of Businesses	2,837,015	2,839,944
810: Real Estate Development	2,837,015	2,839,944
811: Inner Harbor Coordination	643,070	662,362
813: Technology Development-Emerging Technology Center	967,381	966,510
815: Live Baltimore	1,187,374	1,222,995
Total	88,958,213	89,142,756

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Allocating \$1.5 million to add positions supporting the Mayor's Vacants Initiative and annualizing funding for 13 positions created midyear for this initiative.
- Transferring funding for 7 positions from the General Fund to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The Preliminary Budget assumes the Fiscal 2026 CDBG allocation will be \$18 million, 11% lower than Fiscal 2025.
- Shifting management of the Northwood Childcare Center to the Department of Recreation and Parks, while continuing funding for the Waverly Childcare Center.
- Increasing funding by \$725K to support 8 positions (7 general funded and 1 CDBG funded), including 3 newly created positions in service 752 Community Outreach Services.
- Moving the Office of the Zoning Administrator from DHCD to the Department of Planning, reducing funding in Service 751- Building and Zoning Inspections and permits.
- Maintaining funding levels for BDC, Waterfront Partnership, Live Baltimore, and East Baltimore Development Inc., with a 3% inflationary increase for all these organizations.

Human Resources

The Department of Human Resources (DHR), in partnership with City agencies, is responsible for attracting, developing, and retaining a diverse and quality workforce by creating and implementing the City's human resource policies, regulations, programs, and special projects. DHR guides City agencies to foster a healthy, safe, equitable, and productive work environment for employees, their families, and the community. The agency is comprised of 8 business units: Classification and Compensation, Employee Benefits, Learning and Development, the Employee Assistance Program, Shared Services and Recruitment, Policy and Compliance, Human Resources Information Technology, and Engagement and Strategic Partnership. DHR serves as support to the Civil Service Commission which advises the Mayor on personnel issues to include investigations and rulings on appeals of termination, suspensions over 30 days, and demotions of civil service employees.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	12,600,741	73	12,617,603	74
Internal Service	2,651,083	3	2,749,837	3
Total	15,251,824	76	15,367,440	77

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
770: Administration - Human Resources	5,175,846	5,337,884
771: Benefits Administration	4,786,543	4,873,389
772: Civil Service Management	4,225,257	4,024,982
773: Learning and Development	1,064,178	1,131,185
Total	15,251,824	15,367,440

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Creating the Chief of Recruitment, this position was funded in the Fiscal 2025 budget and created midyear.

Law

The Department of Law is a City government agency established by the City Charter. The City Solicitor, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, leads the department. As the City's legal adviser and representative, the City Solicitor oversees all legal matters involving the City and its entities and serves as a member of the Board of Estimates.

Under the City Solicitor's leadership, the Law Department acts as the City's full-service law firm. Its key responsibilities include representing the City in litigation, protecting its financial and corporate interests in contracts, real estate, and financial transactions, collecting debts owed to the City, and providing legal counsel to the Mayor, City Council, and City agencies.

Law Department attorneys focus on the City's financial and operational needs, emphasizing innovation, revenue collection, and preservation. They engage in preventive legal work to minimize liability and resolve issues creatively to avoid disputes. These efforts have recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for the City and helped prevent significant financial losses, all while supporting the City's objectives.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	13,990,797	75	14,581,198	75
Internal Service	10,116,029	31	10,353,999	31
Special	0	0	1,000,000	0
Total	24,106,826	106	25,935,197	106

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
860: Administration - Law	1,592,121	1,737,235
861: Controversies	9,897,363	11,568,617
862: Transactions	3,074,741	3,053,008
871: Police Legal Affairs	2,971,581	2,870,675
872: Workers' Compensation Practice	6,571,021	6,705,662
Total	24,106,826	25,935,197

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Allocating \$1.75 million to create additional staff capacity for the Law Department. This recommendation includes \$750,000 from the General Fund and \$1.0 million from the Opioid Restitution Fund.

Liquor License Board

The Board of Liquor License Commissioners, a State of Maryland agency, regulates the sale, storage, and distribution of alcoholic beverages in Baltimore City. It is also responsible for licensing and regulating adult entertainment businesses.

The Board's duties include processing applications and renewals for alcohol licenses, conducting inspections of licensed businesses, collecting license fees and fines, and taking action—such as fines, suspensions, or revocations—against violators of liquor laws.

In May 1999, the Board was granted the authority to regulate adult entertainment businesses in Baltimore City through House Bill 1120, enacted in 1998, and Baltimore City Ordinance 99-417, which transferred this responsibility from the Department of Housing and Community Development to the Board.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	2,845,044	19	3,202,625	19
Total	2,845,044	19	3,202,625	19

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
850: Liquor Licensing	1,404,025	1,611,070
851: Liquor License Compliance	1,441,019	1,591,555
Total	2,845,044	3,202,625

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Increasing funding for personnel by \$445,000 to reflect state administered increases and promotions.

Legislative Reference

The Department of Legislative Reference was established by the City Charter to study and report on the subjects of proposed legislation and to advise the City Council on the preparation of any bill, ordinance, or resolution. The agency also organizes and maintains the City Code and the Code of Baltimore Regulations Annotated. As required by the Charter, the department serves as the official repository of City documents for historical preservation and research through its oversight of the City's records management program and of the City Archives. Legislative Reference's collection and indexing supports other City agencies and the public by maintaining a reference library for legislation, records, and other materials germane to the operations of City government.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	2,087,786	7	2,257,825	8
Total	2,087,786	7	2,257,825	8

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
106: Legislative Reference Services	991,337	1,084,438
107: Archives and Records Management	1,096,449	1,173,387
Total	2,087,786	2,257,825

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Annualized funding for a Legislative Service Technician that was created midyear in Fiscal 2025.
- Increasing funding for the City Archives rental space by \$46,000 to accommodate the final negotiated rent and required tenant improvements.

Mayoralty

The Baltimore City Charter establishes the Mayor as the Chief Executive Officer and empowers the appointment of persons to aid in the discharge of duties. The Mayor’s Office oversees the operation of City departments, establishes citywide policies, reviews and develops programs, and executes ordinances and resolutions.

The Mayoralty is comprised of the following activities: City Administrator, Administrative Services, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, Communications and External Affairs, Neighborhoods, Constituent Services, Special Events, Public Safety, Economic Development, Equity, Youth, and Human Services, and Government Relations. In Fiscal 2026, the following offices have been established as stand-alone services: Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs, African American Male Engagement, LGBTQ Affairs, Older Adults Affairs and Advocacy, Performance and Innovation, Infrastructure Development, Opioid Restitution Administration, and Art, Culture, and Entertainment.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	17,400,410	105	20,687,715	111
Federal	20,140	0	0	0
Special	0	0	3,534,221	7
Total	17,420,550	105	24,221,936	118

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
125: Executive Direction and Control-Mayoralty	17,420,550	11,772,659
903: Office of Performance and Innovation	0	1,931,649
904: Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs	0	966,348
905: Office of African American Male Engagement	0	1,349,764
906: Office of LGBTQ Affairs	0	405,140
907: Office of Infrastructure Development	0	1,738,874
908: Office of Older Adult Affairs and Advocacy	0	523,281
918: Opioid Restitution Administration	0	3,534,221
920: Mayor’s Office of Art, Culture, & Nightlife	0	2,000,000
Total	17,420,550	24,221,936

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Creating stand-alone services for the following offices: Performance and Innovation, Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs, African American Male Engagement, LGBTQ Affairs, Infrastructure Development, and Older Adults Affairs and Advocacy.
- Funding Opioid Restitution oversight team and Restitution Advisory Board housed within the Mayor’s Office. The Preliminary Budget includes \$3.5 million for this service funded by the Opioid Restitution Fund.
- Creating the Mayor’s Office of Art, Culture, and Entertainment. The Preliminary Budget includes \$2.0 million for this newly established service; funding for the new service was reallocated from Special Events funding previously allocated elsewhere in the City’s budget.

M-R: Office of Recovery Programs

In Fiscal 2022, the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs was established for the purposes of administering funding received by the City for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA provided \$641 million in one-time in response to the COVID-19 health emergency and its negative economic impacts. The City was required by law to commit funding operating funding by December 31, 2024.

In Fiscal 2026, the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs will be responsible for administering the Opioid Restitution Fund across multiple city agencies, following a series of settlements with various pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
Special	0	0	17,989,399	1
Total	0	0	17,989,399	1

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
916: Opioid Restitution Administration	0	589,399
917: Opioid Grant-Named Organizations	0	17,400,000
Total	0	17,989,399

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Funding of \$589,399 to support administration of Opioid Restitution Fund programming.
- Funding of \$17.4 million from the Opioid Restitution Fund for grants to named organizations.
- The budgeted amounts reflected here include the Opioid Restitution Funds. Additional detail regarding the budget to actual spend for ARPA funds is summarized in the Appendix - COVID-19 section.

M-R: Art and Culture

The Art and Culture Grants offer financial support to non-profit cultural organizations. This program includes three key services: Art and Culture Grants, the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA), and the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower. Notable organizations funded through these grants include the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), Walters Art Museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA), and the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

BOPA, with support from the City, promotes arts and culture for all Baltimore residents. As the City’s Arts Council and Film Office, BOPA offers public art programs, grants to arts organizations and individual artists, and cultural events. It helps position Baltimore as a national hub for creativity. Additionally, BOPA manages historic sites like the Cloisters Castle, Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower, and School 33 Art Center.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	11,470,661	0	11,392,891	0
Total	11,470,661	0	11,392,891	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
493: Art and Culture Grants	8,627,672	8,549,902
824: Events, Art, Culture, and Film	2,727,780	2,727,780
828: Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower	115,209	115,209
Total	11,470,661	11,392,891

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Allocating \$2.8 million for BOPA allowing the organization to continue functioning as the City's designated arts organization, administering the Creative Baltimore Fund, and overseeing operations at the Bromo Tower. The Mayoralty budget includes funding for a newly established office that will oversee special events and nightlife.
- Providing standard inflationary increases to all Art and Culture grantees.

M-R: Baltimore City Public Schools

Public schools in Maryland are funded by both local governments and the State. Prior to Fiscal 2023, local government contributions were determined by Maintenance of Effort (MOE), a formula that required appropriating at least the same level of funding on a per pupil basis as the prior year. In 2020, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, commonly referred to as Kirwan, which implemented the recommendations of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, or the Kirwan Commission. The goal of the Kirwan Commission was to establish a new funding formula for school funding across Maryland to address five key policy priorities: early childhood education, high quality and diverse teachers and leaders, college and career readiness, equitable access to resources, and accountability.

The Blueprint dramatically changed the education funding formula in Maryland and will continue to significantly impact the City's required contribution to City Schools. Under the Blueprint, local governments are required to contribute whichever amount is greater of either MOE or the combination of local share aid formulas. The local share funding formulas are based on student enrollment data, specifically students receiving free and reduced meals, English language learners, students in special education programs, and pre-kindergarten enrollment; local wealth, which is based on county property values and personal income; and education funding provided in the prior fiscal year. The formula aims to reduce the burden on less wealthy jurisdictions by providing concentration of poverty grants and the Education Effort Adjustment, which provides additional relief to jurisdictions with local share requirements that are a larger proportion of their wealth when compared with the state average.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	396,915,556	0	410,325,314	0
Total	396,915,556	0	410,325,314	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
352: Baltimore City Public Schools	396,915,556	410,325,314
Total	396,915,556	410,325,314

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Increasing the City's Local Share to City Schools by \$3.0 million based on the State funding formula as part of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. In the Fiscal 2026 funding formula the City remains in Tier Two of the Education Effort Index in the Blueprint funding formulas.
- Increasing funding for the contribution towards Baltimore City Public Schools retiree health benefits by \$10.4 million. The Fiscal 2026 funding level includes \$8.8 million in expected costs as the Governor's proposed budget shifts additional school retiree health costs to the counties; the remaining additional \$1.6 million represents inflationary-based adjustments for the retiree medical plans.

Special Exhibit: City Support for Baltimore City Public Schools

Public schools in Maryland are funded by both local governments and the State. Prior to Fiscal 2023, local government contributions were determined by Maintenance of Effort (MOE), a formula that required appropriating at least the same level of funding on a per pupil basis as the prior year. In 2020, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, commonly referred to as Kirwan, which implemented the recommendations of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, or the Kirwan Commission. The goal of the Kirwan Commission was to establish a new funding formula for school funding across Maryland to address five key policy priorities: early childhood education, high quality and diverse teachers and leaders, college and career readiness, equitable access to resources, and accountability.

The Blueprint dramatically changed the education funding formula in Maryland and will continue to significantly impact the City’s required contribution to City Schools. Under the Blueprint, local governments are required to contribute whichever amount is greater of either MOE or the combination of local share aid formulas. The local share funding formulas are based on student enrollment data, specifically students receiving free and reduced meals, English language learners, students in special education programs, and pre-kindergarten enrollment; local wealth, which is based on county property values and personal income; and education funding provided in the prior fiscal year. The formula aims to reduce the burden on less wealthy jurisdictions by providing concentration of poverty grants and the Education Effort Adjustment, which provides additional relief to jurisdictions with local share requirements that are a larger proportion of their wealth when compared with the state average.

Fiscal 2026

Initial projections from the Blueprint legislation estimated both State and Local funding steadily increasing. State funding was projected to increase by 77% over 10 years while City funding was projected to increase by 67% over the same period.

In Fiscal 2023, the State and Local share for schools were established through State law rather than utilizing the education funding formula. Fiscal 2024 was the first year of using the formula to set the State and Local share amounts for schools. Based on the results of the formula, the City’s share for City Schools grew at a much higher rate than what was assumed in the initial projections from the Blueprint legislation. This growth was driven by a sharp drop off in the Educational Effort Index. Previously, the City received a 100% credit through this component of the formula; due to the drop in the City’s calculation in Fiscal 2024, that credit fell to 35%.

In Fiscal 2026 the City’s Educational Effort Index dropped slightly, while the credit through this program increased from 45% to 55%. In Fiscal 2026 the City’s local share will increase by \$3.0 million, or 0.77%.

	FY24	FY25	FY26	Change (\$)
State Aid	1,077,130,035	1,154,010,365	1,269,451,554	115,441,189
Local Share/MOE	392,537,225	389,328,510	392,342,114	3,013,604

Table in dollars.

Support for City Schools

In Fiscal 2026 total City support for Schools is \$504.3 million, \$27.2 million (or 5%) higher compared to Fiscal 2025. This increase reflects increasing annual GO Borrowing for school construction (+\$8.5 million, 31%), additional costs for retiree health benefits for school employees (+\$1.6 million, 12% increase), and a new direct allocation to the State pension system for teacher pension costs (+\$8.8 million, 100% increase).

Expense	Budget Amount		
	FY24	FY25	FY26
Direct Operating Support			
Local Share (MOE)	392,537,225	389,328,510	392,342,114
Retiree Health Benefits	12,837,703	7,587,046	9,180,325
State Teacher Pension Costs	0	0	8,802,875
Subtotal	405,374,928	396,915,556	410,325,314
Support for City Schools Programs			
School Nurse Program (General Fund portion)	16,590,940	19,314,414	20,942,723
School Nurse Program (City Schools Fund portion)	3,000,000	0	0
School Crossing Guards	4,938,029	6,042,377	5,381,756
Subtotal	24,528,969	25,356,791	26,324,479
Capital - City Support of City Schools			
Debt Service for School Construction	20,932,824	20,932,824	20,932,824
GO Bond support for School Construction Projects	19,000,000	19,000,000	27,500,000
Subtotal	39,932,824	39,932,824	48,432,824
Capital - City Support for 21st Century School Buildings Program			
Table Games Aid - School Construction	2,056,260	1,611,000	1,611,000
Casino Lease Contribution - School Construction	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
Beverage Tax Contribution - School Construction	12,311,000	11,900,000	11,900,000
21st Century Schools-Local Debt Service Contribution	0	0	4,300,000
Subtotal	15,767,260	14,911,000	19,211,000
Total City Support for BCPS	485,603,981	477,116,171	504,293,617

Table in dollars.

M-R: Civic Promotion

Civic Promotion grants provide subsidies to non-profit organizations that provide cultural, historical, educational, and promotional activities in Baltimore. Civic Promotion provides funding for Visit Baltimore, Sail Baltimore, Pride of Baltimore, Baltimore National Heritage Area, Lexington Market, and Baltimore Public Markets.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	10,198,539	0	10,428,129	0
Total	10,198,539	0	10,428,129	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
590: Civic Promotion Grants	1,457,455	1,501,178
820: Convention Sales and Tourism Marketing	8,741,084	8,926,951
Total	10,198,539	10,428,129

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- A 2% increase to the allocation for Visit Baltimore. This increase includes the final repayment of a \$7.3 million loan to help the organization stabilize in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Maintaining the current level of service for the Baltimore Heritage Area, Lexington Market, and Baltimore Public Markets.

M-R: Cable and Communications

The Mayor's Office of Cable and Communications was established by an Executive Order to oversee the City's cable, audio/visual, and broadcast media activities. Its responsibilities include advising the Mayor and other City officials on cable television and electronic communications services and technology, developing policy recommendations, monitoring the City's cable system, promoting access to the system for schools, colleges, and the public, and providing consumer protection for cable subscribers.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	1,226,050	11	1,238,124	10
Special	724,131	0	745,855	0
Total	1,950,181	11	1,983,979	10

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
876: Media Production	1,950,181	1,983,979
Total	1,950,181	1,983,979

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Providing \$30,000 to cover the increase cost for closed captioning services for programming aired by CharmTV.
- Removing funding for one vacant Media Producer Director I position.

M-R: Conditional Purchase Agreements

The City has entered into various Conditional Purchase Agreements (CPAs) to construct or purchase certain facilities and acquire equipment for City agencies. CPAs are long-term capital leases that require annual principal and interest appropriations to fully acquire the assets upon completion of all scheduled payments. CPAs do not count as debt for the City under constitutional or statutory limitations, and they do not pledge the City's full faith, credit, or taxing power. Unlike general obligation debt, the City is not required to make an annual appropriation. If the City fails to allocate enough funds for CPA payments, the agreements are terminated. However, the City intends to make the required payments and secure ownership of the facilities and equipment that support its public service objectives. Key CPAs include payments for the emergency response 800MHz system for Fire and Police Communications and payments for public buildings.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	3,496,220	0	2,496,220	0
Total	3,496,220	0	2,496,220	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
129: Conditional Purchase Agreement Payments	3,496,220	2,496,220
Total	3,496,220	2,496,220

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Decreasing unallocated debt service funding for conditional purchase agreements by \$1.0 million.
- Maintaining current funding for conditional purchase agreement debt service of public buildings at \$1.7 million. Debt service costs for Convention Center energy projects, Transportation street lights, Police helicopters, and Fire energy enhancements are budgeted in each respective agency.

M-R: Contingent Fund

The Contingent Fund was established in accordance with Article VI, Section 5(b) of the Baltimore City Charter as amended. The Charter provides that: “The Board may include annually in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates a sum up to one million dollars of the General Fund appropriations to be used during the next fiscal year as a contingent fund in case of an emergency or necessity for the expenditure of money in excess of or other than the appropriations regularly passed for any municipal agency. At least one week before it approves a contingent fund expenditure, the Board shall report to the City Council the reasons for the expenditure.”

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0
Total	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
121: Contingent Fund	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total	1,000,000	1,000,000

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Maintaining funding at a total appropriation of \$1.0 million, the maximum allowed under the City Charter.

M-R: Convention Center Hotel

The construction of the Convention Center Hotel in Downtown Baltimore was funded with revenue bonds issued by the City of Baltimore in 2006. The initial amount borrowed was \$300,940,000 with bonds maturation set for 2039. In 2017, the City refinanced the existing hotel bond debt, selling \$269 million in new bonds with a lower interest rate to pay off the older bonds. Savings from the refinance went to capital upgrades for the facility. The new round of bonds will be paid off in 2047.

There are several categories of revenues used to pay these costs. First, the property tax revenues generated by the Hotel above the base level, as part of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, will be dedicated to the repayment of the debt costs. In addition, the Hotel Tax revenues generated only by the Convention Center Hotel will also be dedicated to the debt payment.

Any of these funds that are unused are returned to the City. If these revenues, in addition to the operating revenue from the Hotel, are not sufficient to cover the annual debt service cost, the City will budget a portion of the citywide Hotel Taxes other than those generated by the Convention Center Hotel in this account not to exceed 25% of the annual maximum debt service payment for the Convention Center Hotel to cover any deficits.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	11,631,508	0	13,632,928	0
Total	11,631,508	0	13,632,928	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
535: Convention Center Hotel	11,631,508	13,632,928
Total	11,631,508	13,632,928

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Increasing General Fund support for Hotel debt service to \$5,500,000.

M-R: Convention Complex

The mission of the Convention Complex is to provide the highest quality convention experience to all residents and visitors accessing these facilities. This budget includes both the CFG Arena and Baltimore Convention Center, although there is no operational link between the two facilities.

The Baltimore Convention Center was built in 1979 and serves the City and State as a catalyst for tourism and economic development. The Convention Center has 300,000 square feet and sells space to host events, trade shows and events by local and community, national, and international associations. The events bring attendees from outside the region to the City contributing to positive economic impact and tax revenue generation for the City and State. On an annual basis, the Convention brings in an average of 500,000 attendees and hosts over 115 events. Convention Center staff are responsible for facilitating events and ancillary services for clients and attendees, collaborating with Visit Baltimore to market and maximize building usage, and maintaining the facility and its infrastructure.

In 2022 the City entered into a new management agreement for the CFG Arena. In calendar year 2024 CFG hosted 172 live performances attracting 1.5 million visitors to the arena. Under the terms of the management agreement, the City and CFG Arena operator share admissions and amusement revenue generated at the facility.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	15,463,886	155	19,169,926	157
Special	11,378,708	0	13,549,266	0
Total	26,842,594	155	32,719,192	157

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
540: Royal Farms Arena Operations	0	4,049,279
855: Convention Center	26,842,594	28,669,913
Total	26,842,594	32,719,192

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Adding \$4.0 million for the CFG Arena to reflect the terms of the current management agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, the City retains \$1.7 million of Admissions and Amusement tax generated by arena events, any additional Admission and Amusement tax revenue is refunded back to the operator. In Fiscal 2026 arena events are projected to generate \$5.9 million in Admissions and Amusement revenue (40% of the total admissions and amusement revenue).
- \$8.4 million in projected revenue for bookings at the Convention Center based on booked and projected events, approximately \$1.2 million less than Fiscal 2025. The projected revenue reduction results in an increase in Convention Center's projected operating deficit, the cost of which is shared by the State (2/3 of deficit) and City (1/3 of deficit). Based on Fiscal 2026 budget projections, the State's share is \$13.5 million and the City's share is \$6.8 million.

- Increasing funding for the Convention Center's maintenance and repair budget to support urgent maintenance needs and mechanical failures due to the building's age.
- Funding for two additional positions created within Service 855: Convention Center. These positions include 1 Operations Officer I and 1 PC Support Technician.

M-R: Debt Service

Debt Service is the amount the City must pay each year for the principal and interest on funds borrowed to finance the purchase and/or construction of capital facilities. Appropriations in this program support general obligation loan authorization principal and interest payments for the General Fund. This program does not include revenue obligations for the enterprise operations of Water Utility, Waste Water Utility, Storm Utility, Loan and Guarantee or Parking Enterprise Funds, which are provided in the respective programs for those funds. The amount of debt authorized and issued annually is subject to limits incorporated in the City's debt policy. The debt policy is subject to review every five years or as recommended by the Director of Finance. The City will seek authority to increase the annual issuance to an "up to" amount of \$125 million each in Fiscal 2026 and 2027.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	77,061,219	0	82,861,219	0
Special	14,911,000	0	15,700,000	0
Total	91,972,219	0	98,561,219	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
123: General Debt Service	91,972,219	98,561,219
Total	91,972,219	98,561,219

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Increasing debt service payments for the next debt issuance planned for spring 2025 (estimated borrowing=\$101 million). The Preliminary Budget also anticipates \$2.5 million in savings from prepayment of outstanding debt.
- Maintaining current funding for other prior debt service issuances including Highways, Housing and Community Development, City Schools, Public Buildings, Recreation and Parks Public Facilities, and other issuances.
- The Fiscal 2026 Capital Budget seeks to authorize \$125 million in GO Borrowing, up from \$80 million in the prior issuance. This increase is part of the City's goal to increase GO Borrowing over the next 10 years. The debt service impacts of increased GO Borrowing will be realized in future budgets.

M-R: Educational Grants

Educational Grants provide funding and grants to organizations related to the education of City residents and youth. These grants fund educational programs to include operational support for Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) and support for grassroots youth-focused organizations that provide children with academic supports and extracurricular activities, and tuition reimbursement and scholarships for BCCC students.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	12,374,701	0	12,715,942	0
Special	15,152,000	0	9,225,113	0
Total	27,526,701	0	21,941,055	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
446: Educational Grants	27,526,701	21,941,055
Total	27,526,701	21,941,055

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Reallocating \$1.3 million from Expanded Youth Programming (administered by the Family League) to support additional program costs at Rec Centers, supporting youth engagement programs administered by the Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement, and the Safe Passages program. Reallocated funding was previously awarded to these agencies through a grant program administered by the Family League.
- Investing \$6.9 million from the Children and Youth fund to support youth related programming in the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED). The MOED budget includes specific appropriations that will be funded by the Youth and Children Fund in Fiscal 2026.
- Maintaining the current funding levels for all other grants funded through this program.

M-R: Environmental Control Board

The Environmental Control Board (ECB) is an independent, administrative hearing board where persons or entities can contest environmental citations issued by other Baltimore City agencies. The mission of the ECB is to change behavior and to encourage compliance with the Baltimore City Code through its administration hearing process. The mission of the ECB is to change behavior and to encourage compliance with the Baltimore City Code.

ECB also provides an appeal process for decisions made by The Department of Public Work's Office of Water Advocacy & Customer Appeals. ECB's proposed appeal decisions are recommendations that are made to the Director of DPW.

ECB provides education and community support through the BMORE Beautiful program, which encourages compliance with the Code requirements through a peer-to-peer network.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	1,682,953	8	1,841,027	8
Total	1,682,953	8	1,841,027	8

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
117: Adjudication of Environmental Citations	1,682,953	1,841,027
Total	1,682,953	1,841,027

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Maintaining the current level of service.

M-R: Health and Welfare Grants

This agency provides grants to various Health and Welfare organizations to aid disadvantaged residents and residents with various special needs in the City. Grants are awarded to the Legal Aid Bureau, the Maryland School for the Blind, and the Family League of Baltimore City’s Pre- and Post-natal Home Visiting Program.

The Legal Aid Bureau is a statewide nonprofit law firm whose mission is to provide high quality, effective civil legal assistance for low-income persons throughout the State. Legal Aid serves those with incomes equal to or less than 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Resources are focused on the most pressing needs of low-income residents and support the integrity, safety, and well-being of the family, prevent the loss of housing, and maintain and enhance economic stability.

The Maryland School for the Blind currently has an enrollment of 42 students from Baltimore with visual impairments, in combination with other moderate to severe disabilities. As required by State law, the City provides per pupil funding support, as calculated yearly by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Family League of Baltimore (Family League) works collaboratively to support data-informed, community-driven solutions that align resources to dismantle systemic barriers that limit the possibilities for children, families, and communities. Through Family League’s maternal and child health portfolio, there are investments in home visiting programs.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	1,611,072	0	1,659,405	0
Total	1,611,072	0	1,659,405	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
385: Health and Welfare Grants	1,611,072	1,659,405
Total	1,611,072	1,659,405

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Providing the standard inflationary increase for grantees funded through this program.

M-R: Office of Small Minority Business Advocacy & Development

The Mayor’s Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy and Development works to provide local, small minority and women owned businesses with equitable access to contracting opportunities and capital while working to ensure prompt and fair payment terms, and access to developmental tools and resources to allow for additional availability and utilization of minority and women owned businesses. Pursuant to Baltimore City Code Article 5, Section 28-10, the agency is responsible for the administration of the Minority & Women’s Business Program (City Code Article 5, Subtitle 28), investigates violations, conducts outreach, and certifies minority and women owned business enterprises (M/WBE). The Minority & Women’s Business program works to remedy past discrimination in the City’s contracting process by prime contractors against minority and women’s business enterprises, which has resulted in the significant underutilization of minority and women’s business enterprises in contracts awarded by the City in the major contracting markets: construction, commodities, architectural, engineering, and professional services. The program is narrowly tailored to remedy this underutilization by setting participation goals on a contract-by-contract basis, seeking to utilize M/WBEs on small spends under \$50,000, limiting certification to the Baltimore City market area, and requiring regular reviews of the necessity of the program by completing a Disparity Study, which was completed in August 2022. Beyond connecting firms with City contracts, this agency is also focused upon providing support and services to small minority and women owned businesses.

This office was established as a standalone agency in the Fiscal 2024 budget. These services were previously included in Mayoralty and the Law Department.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	4,964,937	31	6,142,442	35
Federal	260,000	0	0	0
Special	50,000	0	0	0
Total	5,274,937	31	6,142,442	35

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
834: Small & Minority Business Advocacy and Development	5,274,937	6,142,442
Total	5,274,937	6,142,442

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Increasing funding for Main Street grants by 25%. In Fiscal 2026 each of the nine Main Street programs will receive a \$75,000 operating grant.
- An overall increase of 4 positions. These positions were created during Fiscal 2025 outside the budget process. As part of the budget recommendations 1 vacant Compliance Officer position will be abolished. There is no anticipated service impact from eliminating this position.

M-R: Miscellaneous General Expenses

This program provides funding for activities that do not relate to any specific agency or program. This category of appropriations also includes the annual Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) capital contributions from the General and utility funds.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	30,685,608	0	196,093,669	0
Wastewater	0	0	10,000,000	0
Water Utility	0	0	25,000,000	0
Stormwater Utility	0	0	10,000,000	0
Federal	22,058	0	0	0
Total	30,707,666	0	241,093,669	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
122: Miscellaneous General Expenses	30,707,666	241,093,669
Total	30,707,666	241,093,669

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- \$194.6 million for PAYGO capital across all fund sources (General Fund PAYGO Capital=\$149.6 million). PAYGO capital is up by \$35.1 million compared to Fiscal 2025. This increase is due to the higher HUR allocation for Fiscal 2026. See the Capital Budget section for additional details on the Fiscal 2026 capital budget.
- Adjustments to various activities included in this overall category of appropriations. Fiscal 2026 amounts have been updated based on trend data and planned expenditures.

M-R: Office of Children and Family Success

The Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success (MOCFS) was established as an independent agency in 2020 when the Office of Human Services was split. Services provided by MOCFS seek to improve the lives Baltimore's children and families by ensuring access to the resources and opportunities needed to succeed and thrive. The agency works to coordinate City, State, and nonprofit resources that seek to benefit children and families.

Specific services provided by the agency include: the Baltimore City Community Action Partnership (CAP) and Head Start. The agency also oversees the City Youth Commission.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	5,230,360	26	5,128,726	25
Water Utility	598,739	5	626,194	5
Federal	10,165,259	16	10,335,713	18
State	10,934,019	99	6,675,392	75
Special	300,000	0	296,000	0
Total	27,228,377	146	23,062,025	123

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
109: Administration - Children and Family Success	3,399,007	3,006,191
605: Head Start	9,944,910	9,984,152
741: Community Action Partnership	13,884,460	10,071,682
Total	27,228,377	23,062,025

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Increasing funding to reflect current space costs for the City's 5 Community Action Partnership (CAP) Centers. In Fiscal 2026 these costs are up \$221,000.
- Increasing the General Fund share for CAP Center positions jointly funded by the City and various grants. Growth in state and federal grants are not keeping pace with increased personnel costs.
- An overall \$4.1 million (or 19%) reduction in federal, state, and special grant awards for the agency. The bulk of this decline is in Service 741-Community Action Partnership. Anticipated State funding for home energy programs is down by \$2.0 million compared to the Fiscal 2025 budget.
- A net decrease of 23 positions across all funds. The eliminated positions reflect the anticipated reduction in State funding in Fiscal 2026.

M-R: Office of Employment Development

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) empowers and assists Baltimore City residents to become successfully employed. It provides all residents with easy access to employment and training services, and targeted populations with intensive services that address multiple barriers to employment. MOED develops partnerships with businesses, educational institutions, government agencies and community-based organizations to achieve its mission.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	10,693,684	48	10,419,317	52
Federal	20,859,692	91	20,032,720	97
State	8,893,621	60	9,807,329	70
Special	2,994,092	49	8,953,378	52
Special Grant	0	1	157,276	1
Total	43,441,089	249	49,370,020	272

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
791: BCPS Alternative Options Academy for Youth	1,634,541	5,814,989
792: Workforce Public Assistance	4,692,848	3,917,764
793: Employment Enhancement Services for Baltimore City Residents	3,229,806	2,644,495
794: Administration - MOED	2,242,476	2,442,912
795: Workforce Services for Baltimore Residents	10,919,054	10,273,608
796: Workforce Services for Ex-Offenders	1,174,990	1,558,175
797: Workforce Services for Out of School Youth - Youth Opportunity	6,906,130	3,892,200
798: Youth Works Summer Job Program	9,242,892	14,759,529
800: Workforce Services for WIOA Funded Youth	3,398,352	4,066,348
Total	43,441,089	49,370,020

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Investing \$6.9 million from the Children and Youth Fund to support youth related programming in MOED. In Fiscal 2026, \$6.9 million from the Children & Youth Fund will be allocated to YouthWorks, Workforce Services for Out of School Youth, and a portion of administrative support for these services. The Preliminary Budget includes funding for 8,500 YouthWorks slots in Fiscal 2026.
- Shifting of \$564,000 of award administrative overhead costs from the General Fund to respective grants. This includes transferring 3 Human Resource Specialist and 2 Workforce Managers from various grants to the General Fund.

- Increasing Private Grant funding via a grant from The Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) program to provide funding to develop, launch, replicate, and test financial empowerment strategies.
- Increasing in operational positions for new Federal Funded programs, such as Amtrak and Key Bridge construction workforce support services, Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-based Program (COSSUP) for justice-involved residents, and the Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training program for all city residents.

M-R: Office of Equity and Civil Rights

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) aims to promote equity, eliminate discrimination, and protect civil rights. OECR is responsible for administering the following Commissions and services: Wage Commission, the Equity Office, the Community Relations Commission, the Police Accountability Board, the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities, and the Baltimore Commission for Women.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	6,134,637	43	6,018,729	41
Special	181,981	0	5,187,441	0
Total	6,316,618	43	11,206,170	41

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
656: Wage Investigation and Enforcement	647,722	404,348
844: Equity & Inclusion	726,790	5,785,004
846: Discrimination Investigations, Resolutions and Conciliations	1,731,160	811,286
848: Police Community Relations	1,033,149	0
849: Police Civilian Oversight	2,177,797	2,405,095
914: Administration - OECR	0	1,800,437
Total	6,316,618	11,206,170

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Abolishing two long-term vacant positions, this action is projected to save \$144,887 annually.
- Reorganizing activities and positions across services within the agency's budget. This reorganization includes eliminating the Police Community Relations service as that function is now provided through the Police Accountability Board and Police Civilian Oversight. This reorganization is net neutral overall.
- Allocating \$5,000,000 from the Community Reinvestment and Reparations Fund; this includes \$300,000 to complete the citywide equity assessment.

M-R: Office of Homeless Services

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) is to make homelessness rare, brief, and preventable by providing outreach and emergency services to individuals and families. MOHS became a stand-alone agency in Fiscal Year 2020, when the Mayor's Office of Human Services was split to form MOHS and the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success (MOCFS).

MOHS administers the federal, state, and local funding that is awarded to the City of Baltimore to address homelessness. The agency contracts with nearly 40 local service providers to provide permanent, transitional, and temporary housing, in addition to emergency shelter, supportive services, and outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness. MOHS coordinates the City's application for federal Continuum of Care funding and manages all reporting and monitoring requirements. The agency's Homeless Management Information System compiles data on services provided, supports over 300 users, and is used to monitor program and system outcomes.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	15,093,064	18	17,234,013	20
Federal	43,216,762	45	46,899,379	41
State	3,754,852	3	6,434,557	3
Special	138,370	3	3,156,000	1
Total	62,203,048	69	73,723,949	65

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
356: Administration - Homeless Services	6,386,929	6,642,794
893: Homeless Prevention and Support Services for the Homeless	130,292	155,323
894: Outreach to the Homeless	2,925,238	1,184,654
895: Temporary Housing for the Homeless	15,228,906	24,275,390
896: Permanent Housing for the Homeless	37,531,684	41,465,788
Total	62,203,048	73,723,949

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- A \$5.2 million (47%) increase in operating and service provider contracts at the City's homeless shelters. The Preliminary Capital Budget also includes \$18.0 million for capital investments in the City's network of homeless shelters. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic increased shelter costs have been funded through temporary sources (i.e. FMEA, CARES Act, and ARPA).
- Centralizing administrative staff under the General Fund and Service 356: Administration. This results in an additional contract administrator and accounting assistant being funded via the General Fund.
- Assigning operational staff to their respective award-funded funding source, and unfunding 4 vacant positions whose grant funding has expired.

M-R: Office of Information and Technology

The Baltimore City Office of Information and Technology (BCIT) is responsible for providing information technology leadership to the entire City, utilizing and leveraging information technology to enhance productivity, broaden the capabilities, and reduce the operating costs of Baltimore City government, thereby improving the quality and timeliness of services delivered to residents.

BCIT is modernizing the IT environment to keep up with increasing demands of a digital society. To this end, BCIT will move workloads to the cloud and use virtualization technology whenever possible. From projects that help to improve broadband access to increasing the City's mobile application portfolio, BCIT will seek partnerships and make technology investments to improve service delivery, replace aging infrastructure, and secure City data.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	49,344,867	159	52,514,128	166
Internal Service	14,350,830	5	14,888,836	6
Federal	2,450,754	0	0	0
Special	716,282	0	30,000	0
Total	66,862,733	164	67,432,964	172

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
757: CitiWatch	3,670,647	3,139,730
802: Administration	5,493,060	5,002,735
803: Enterprise Innovation and Application Services	16,831,335	17,251,598
804: 311 Call Center	5,767,825	6,670,894
805: Enterprise IT Delivery Services	32,649,111	33,534,285
873: Broadband and Digital Equity	2,450,754	0
911: Digital Services	0	484,087
919: Municipal ID	0	1,349,635
Total	66,862,733	67,432,964

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Creating two new services: Service 911: Digital Services and Service 919: Municipal ID. Digital Services will promote equitable access to information and services available through the City's digital platforms. Municipal ID will manage the municipal identity card program, which aims to increase access to government-issued identification.
- Holding funding for contractual services flat compared to Fiscal 2025. The Preliminary Budget reallocates \$750,000 from funding for contractual staffing to support creation of new positions.
- Continuing the IT Optimization Plan focused on aligning citywide IT resources under the direction of BCIT. The Fiscal 2026 budget recommends transferring \$197,464 from the Department of Housing and Community Development to support DHCD's permitting system.

M-R: Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) leads efforts to address crisis levels of gun violence today, while addressing broader social determinants of health for a safer and more equitable Baltimore. MONSE leads the implementation of the five-year Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan (CVPP) and serves as an interagency accountability partner.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	8,526,760	17	10,201,861	28
Water Utility	1,121	0	0	0
Federal	1,200,781	2	2,839,876	2
State	5,451,911	4	6,475,110	6
Special	1,321,093	0	1,129,900	0
Special Grant	700,000	0	1,268,000	0
Total	17,201,666	23	21,914,747	36

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
617: Criminal Justice Coordination	2,993,461	4,416,609
618: Neighborhood Safety and Engagement	10,478,520	12,706,369
619: Community Empowerment and Opportunity	1,182,149	1,543,211
758: Coordination of Public Safety Strategy - Administration	2,547,536	3,248,558
Total	17,201,666	21,914,747

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Funding 9 previously ARPA-funded positions in the General Fund: 2 Group Violence Reduction Strategy Managers, 1 Communications Chief, 1 Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Deputy Chief, 2 Data Analysts, 1 Re-entry Coordinator, 1 Grants and Contracts Administrator, and 1 Community Engagement Coordinator.
- Increasing funding by \$105,000 within the General Fund to support security costs for the Baltimore City Visitation Center which serves victims of domestic violence. This increase will provide 24/7 security services at the Visitation Center managed by the City.
- Flat funding for grants and contracts to community organizations in Fiscal 2026.

An overall \$2.8 million increase, or 24%, in Federal, State, and Private grant funding, The Fiscal 2026 reflects all grants the agency expects to receive in the upcoming fiscal year. This amount includes receiving two new grants: Supportive Housing for Returning Citizens in Baltimore City under the Performance Incentive Grant Fund (JRA GF) program and Baltimore City Visitation Center under the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program.

M-R: Office of the Labor Commissioner

The Office of the Labor Commissioner was created by City ordinance to serve as the professional labor relations liaison between Baltimore City municipal government and its employees’ collective bargaining units. The responsibilities of the Office of the Labor Commissioner include serving as chief negotiator of the City’s management team for collective bargaining, consulting with the administration on labor relations issues, and recommending new, and revising existing, policies on employee labor relations. The Labor Commissioner negotiates contracts with eight City unions and meets and confers with one managerial and professional society. The office oversees contract administration by handling grievance hearings, mediation sessions and arbitration cases, interpreting contract language, responding to labor relations questions from City officials, union leaders and employees, and providing timely information through an office publication (Labor Commissioner’s Office Bulletin).

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	1,315,787	8	3,216,074	8
Total	1,315,787	8	3,216,074	8

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
128: Labor Contract Negotiations and Administration	1,315,787	3,216,074
Total	1,315,787	3,216,074

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Fully budgeting the cost of legal fees for union negotiations within the Labor Commissioner's budget. These costs were previously reflected elsewhere in the City's budget. The Preliminary Budget includes \$1.9 million for these costs.

M-R: Retirees' Benefits

This service provides funding for health care benefits for retired City employees. Of 23,184 retirees eligible to enroll in City retiree healthcare plans, 14,340 or 62% are enrolled in plans. Among those retirees enrolled in plans, 8,856 are City retirees and 5,484 are retirees of City Schools or State librarians. \$17.9 million for Baltimore City Public School retirees is budgeted in Service 352: Baltimore City Public Schools. In addition, \$3.9 million of funding is paid by Enterprise Funds to this service for the cost of retirees of Enterprise Fund services. The City pays 50% of the healthcare premium cost for the majority of enrolled retirees based upon years of service. Prescription drug coverage is bundled with medical coverage for retirees over the age of 65 enrolled in City plans. The City pays 80% of the premium of the prescription drug premium cost for the 2,466 retirees under the age of 65 enrolled in a prescription drug plan.

In 2007, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) instituted an accounting rule change which mandates that Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) be recorded as accrued liabilities in the annual financial statements of governmental entities. Pursuant to this change, the City established an OPEB Trust Fund.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	19,532,638	0	23,336,225	0
Total	19,532,638	0	23,336,225	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
351: Retirees' Benefits	19,532,638	23,336,225
Total	19,532,638	23,336,225

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Increasing funding for retiree health benefits of \$3.8 million, due to inflationary-based adjustments for the retiree medical plans. This includes both the City's General fund contribution and cost shares borne by the City's enterprise funds.

M-R: Self-Insurance Fund

The City's Self-Insurance Fund provides funding to cover property losses, tort claims, auto liability, and workers' compensation. The fund is managed by the Office of Risk Management in the Department of Finance. The annual contribution to the Self-Insurance Fund is made from a variety of funding sources. This service provides a portion of the General Fund contribution to the Self-Insurance Fund and to the Unemployment Insurance Fund. Other contributions to the Self-Insurance Fund, such as those from grant funds, and the Water and Waste Water Utility Funds, are contained within the respective agencies' budgets. The Baltimore City Public Schools System also participates in the City program. Appropriations are based on both prior loss experience and on estimated premium costs for insurance policies. Beginning in Fiscal 2006 annual worker's compensation costs were allocated to all City agency budgets. This initiative is meant to further the City's goal of holding individual agencies more accountable for their worker's compensation expenses. The goal is to provide an incentive for agency heads and managers to implement safety initiatives and other means of reducing the occurrence and severity of employee injuries.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	27,371,052	0	24,700,544	0
Total	27,371,052	0	24,700,544	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
126: Contribution to Self-Insurance Fund	27,371,052	24,700,544
Total	27,371,052	24,700,544

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Reducing funding for legal fees and settlements by \$3.5 million, based on lower projected cost identified from recent claims experience.
- Increasing funding for risk management premiums and administrative costs of \$800,000; this is based on identified 5% inflationary growth for self-insurance costs for the upcoming fiscal year.

M-R: TIF Debt Service

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Bonds are special obligations of the City secured by the incremental increase in property taxes resulting from development projects. The City utilizes this financing option by designating within its borders a TIF district. The district is then given a base property valuation (assessable base) from which taxes continue to be collected and used for general government purposes.

Once the assessed valuation within the district increases, the taxes derived from the increased valuation (tax increment) are used to pay debt service on the bonds used to fund necessary public improvements within the district. When the TIF debt is repaid, the district is dissolved and the taxes collected from the increased assessed valuation revert to the City's General Fund.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	24,744,046	0	25,717,046	0
Total	24,744,046	0	25,717,046	0

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
124: TIF Debt Service	24,744,046	25,717,046
Total	24,744,046	25,717,046

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Increasing funding to support the Perkins Home Tax Increment Financing project at \$1.7 million.
- Maintaining funding for current Tax Increment Financing projects, which includes the Belvedere Square, Clipper Mill, Harbor View, Strathdale Manor, Mondawmin Mall, Harbor Point, North Locust Point, EDBI Phae Two, Poppleton, and Port Covington projects.
- Decreasing unallocated debt service funding for Tax Increment Financing by \$700,000.

Municipal and Zoning Appeals

The Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA) is a Charter agency established to hear and render decisions regarding zoning, land use, and other municipal matters that promote the health, security, morals, and general welfare of the community. The BMZA acts as a quasi-judicial board and administrative appeals agency for major departments of City government. The BMZA also makes recommendations to the City Council on land use, zoning, and municipal matters. The BMZA’s goal is to ensure proper land use and development through the application of the appropriate City Code and apply the relevant law to the facts presented. The agency evaluates appeals filed by businesses, homeowners, and others with an interest in Baltimore City property balancing the appeal request with the interests of public safety, impact on neighboring land uses, and maintaining harmony with the purpose and intent of City Code.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	607,196	4	722,454	5
Total	607,196	4	722,454	5

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
185: Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals	607,196	722,454
Total	607,196	722,454

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- A net increase of one position in the General Fund; one Zoning Officer position was transitioned from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the General Fund.

Office of Inspector General

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) seeks to promote accountability, efficiency, and integrity in the City government by identifying financial waste, fraud, and abuse. The OIG was created in 2005 by Mayoral Executive Order and was established as a Charter agency in 2018. The Office conducts and supervises objective and independent reviews and investigations to: prevent and detect fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct in City government; promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of City operations; promote program and public integrity; review and respond to citizen complaints; and inform the Mayor and agency heads of problems and deficiencies, and recommend corresponding corrective actions.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	2,663,158	18	2,677,810	18
Total	2,663,158	18	2,677,810	18

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
836: Inspector General	2,663,158	2,261,206
910: Office of Ethics	0	416,604
Total	2,663,158	2,677,810

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- The creation of a new service, Office of Ethics, which better represents the Ethics Board as an independent body separate from Service 836: Inspector General. The budget moves \$417,000 from Service 836: Inspector General to the new service, including 3 positions and \$100,000 for software maintenance funding.

Planning

The Department of Planning oversees urban planning, historic preservation, zoning, design, development, and capital budgeting in Baltimore. It promotes the City's economic, social, and community development, in line with Articles VI and VII of the Baltimore City Charter and the Zoning Code.

The Planning Commission, which includes the Mayor (or a designee), the Director of Public Works (or a designee), a City Council member, and six Mayor-appointed residents, regulates the City's physical development. Its responsibilities include updating development plans, reviewing land subdivisions, submitting the annual capital budget and Capital Improvement Program, and recommending changes to the Zoning Ordinance. The Comprehensive Master Plan guides future development.

The Department also supports several advisory groups, including the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation, the Sustainability Commission, the Planning Academy, the Food Policy Advisors, and a group for the Comprehensive Plan. These groups, along with the Community Planning and Revitalization Division, ensure the Department stays connected to the community and operates transparently and equitably.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	7,725,761	51	8,574,035	59
Federal	20,000	0	0	0
State	10,000	0	341,500	0
Special	4,339,489	3	4,811,147	6
Special Grant	340,010	0	10,000	0
Total	12,435,260	54	13,736,682	65

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
761: Development Oversight and Project Support	1,236,120	1,006,331
762: Historic Preservation	642,479	800,036
763: Comprehensive Planning and Resource Management	5,530,928	5,536,378
765: Planning for a Sustainable Baltimore	3,170,975	3,832,027
768: Administration - Planning	1,854,757	1,959,481
909: Office of the Zoning Administrator	0	602,429
Total	12,435,260	13,736,682

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Transferring the Office of the Zoning Administrator from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to Planning. The Preliminary Budget includes \$602,000 and seven positions for this service. Previously this activity was embedded within Service 751: Building Code Permitting, Inspections, and Compliance in DHCD. The staffing level and budget for this service is consistent with Fiscal 2025 funding levels.

- Two positions created midyear in Fiscal 2025 to support the capital budget process. These positions are responsible for supporting capital budget development and oversight, system administration, and special projects. These positions are fully funded by the capital budget; the Preliminary Budget eliminates \$109,000 previously allocated for additional capital budget staff.
- \$200,000 for plan implementation and development. The Preliminary Budget includes \$125,000 for implementation costs related to the Comprehensive Plan and \$75,000 to update multiple plans developed by the Office of Sustainability.

Police

The Baltimore Police Department’s (BPD) mission is dedicated to enforcing laws fairly, impartially, and ethically. BPD is committed to creating and maintaining a culture of service that builds trust and legitimacy in all communities, values the sanctity of human life, and provides for the safety and well-being of all. The agency’s purpose is to safeguard the lives and properties of persons within the areas under the control of the City of Baltimore, and to assist in securing protection under the law for all persons.

The BPD endeavors to reduce violent crime and strengthen public trust while striving to be national leaders in policing. These goals align with the Federal Consent Decree, a court enforceable agreement made in April 2017 between the City and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The consent decree is designed to develop a stronger police department that fights crime while protecting the civil and constitutional rights of residents. To meet its goals, the BPD will focus on three broad strategies: targeted enforcement, community engagement, and building partnerships.

The Department’s first objective is to reduce violent crime through targeted enforcement. This is accomplished by focusing on identifying and apprehending the most violent offenders in the City. BPD emphasizes proactive policing, maximizing the impact of personnel through effective communication, coordination, and information sharing.

The second objective is to engage the community to assist in crime fighting efforts. BPD is working to instill a community policing mindset throughout the agency to effectively communicate with the public and build trust. Through increased neighborhood foot patrols, neighborhood-policing programs, and other initiatives, police officers provide support to residents so they are able to assume an active role in preventing crime. By working collaboratively with our City’s residents, businesses, advocacy groups, non-profit organizations, faith leaders, elected officials, and other city, state, and federal agencies, BPD provides a multi-layer approach to solving underlying issues that lead to crime.

The third objective is to build strong partnerships with fellow law enforcement agencies along with other City agencies. The BPD employs a data-driven enforcement policing model, capitalizing on partnerships and technology as force multipliers. Police officers act as advocates for the neighborhoods to which they are assigned, working with other City agencies to address problems such as drug abuse, inadequate housing, and trash removal. Collectively, new strategies are formed to attack the catalysts of gun and group violence.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	540,128,046	3,072	567,799,722	3,110
Federal	7,084,269	17	5,475,129	16
State	42,340,997	143	36,831,922	184
Special	3,299,030	0	3,907,466	0
Total	592,852,341	3,232	614,014,239	3,310

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
621: Administrative Bureau	74,592,326	74,158,999
622: Police Patrol	226,564,056	224,554,748
623: Criminal Investigation Division	100,574,733	110,182,974
626: Data Driven Strategies	13,135,763	11,260,214
628: Public Integrity Bureau	18,039,044	20,179,743
635: Recruitment Section	29,818,350	32,371,715
642: Crime Laboratory and Evidence Control	24,952,741	26,834,795
807: Compliance Bureau	74,625,779	82,186,459
816: Special Operations Section	25,072,533	26,601,906
853: Patrol Support Services	5,477,015	5,682,686
Total	592,852,341	614,014,239

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Creating 9 new civilian positions to professionalize the agency's district administration offices, Employee Health and Wellness Section, and the Asset Forfeiture section. These civilian positions will allow 15 positions to return to Patrol functions and reduce overtime costs. The net savings from this action is \$1.1 million.
- 29 civilian positions that were created mid-year with funding provided in the Fiscal 2025 budget. As part of the professionalization process, these positions include 17 Investigative Specialists in Service 623: Criminal Investigation Division, 7 Police Information Technicians in Service 807: Compliance Bureau, 3 Operations Director IIs and 1 Operations Assistant I in Service 621: Admin Bureau, and 1 Operations Officer II in Service 622: Police Patrol.
- Fully funding the Fiscal 2025 union contract with the Fraternal Order of Police, which includes salary increases and adjustments for contractual requirements.
- An additional savings of \$2.4 million based on historic spending for grant-funded position benefits in the agency.
- The creation of 5 new cost centers in Service 623: Criminal Investigation Division and Service 642: Crime Laboratory and Evidence Control. The budget also transfers the Building Security cost center from Service 626: Data Driven Strategies to Service 622: Police Patrol. In addition, 11 cost centers were discontinued in an effort to accurately reflect structural assignments and eliminate historic cost centers no longer in use.
- \$19.6 million in State Aid for Police Protection (SAPP) grant funding to support recruitment and retention programs, training, and operational and technological enhancements. The SAPP grant continues to support both phases of the professionalization efforts in the department.
- \$11.4 million in State Crime Reduction Block Grant Continuation to fund 69 sworn positions to assist the agency in public safety efforts through community patrols and targeted violence initiatives.

Public Works

The Department of Public Works' mission is to enhance and sustain healthy quality of life for every resident and customer by providing efficient management of its services. The Department of Public Works consists of three major divisions: the Bureau of Solid Waste, the Bureau of Water and Wastewater, and the Surface Water Service.

The **Bureau of Solid Waste (BSW)** is responsible for providing waste removal and recycling services, including curbside collection of mixed refuse, recycling, and seasonal waste for residents in approximately 210,000 households. The Bureau also provides vacant and abandoned property maintenance services, rat control services, and public right-of-way cleaning of streets, alleys, and lots. The BSW is also responsible for disposal of refuse in accordance with governmental regulations and mandates. This includes the management of the Northwest Transfer Station on Reisterstown Road, which is a transfer point for mixed waste and recycling as well as housing the Small Haulers Program, and management of a 125- acre active landfill at Quarantine Road. Through agreements with the Wheelabrator Waste to Energy facility and recycling service providers, the BSW provides for the proper and safe disposal of waste and a variety of recyclable materials. The Bureau also promotes and markets special initiatives for a cleaner and greener Baltimore.

The **Bureau of Water and Wastewater** is responsible for the operation of a water distribution system that supplies water to 1.8 million customers in the Baltimore Metropolitan Region. These responsibilities include the operation, maintenance, and security of three watershed systems; three filtration plants; pumping stations; and 3,800 miles of water distribution mains. The Bureau's wastewater activities include collection and treatment of wastewater, the operation and maintenance of two wastewater treatment plants, approximately 3,100 miles of collection and conveyance lines, pumping stations, and the City's system of storm drains.

The **Surface Water Service** consolidates all Stormwater related functions and includes the Watershed Liaison Office, Stormwater Management and Sediment and Erosion Control, Storm Drain Engineering, Storm Drain and Waterway Maintenance, Water Quality Monitoring and Inspections, and Environmental Engineering. The Division's mission is to restore the City's surface water to swimmable, fishable conditions in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Water Act. The Maryland General Assembly passed a law mandating that certain jurisdictions, including Baltimore, create a Stormwater remediation fee by July 1, 2013. The State rescinded the mandate in 2015, but allows jurisdictions such as Baltimore to determine whether to charge the fee. Baltimore began collecting this fee on July 1, 2013. The fee provides a dedicated revenue source for the purpose of improving water quality and flood control, reducing runoff into the harbor, and expanding green space. Revenue from the fee is deposited in the Stormwater enterprise fund and used exclusively for stormwater related services.

On January 22, 2025, the Board of Estimates approved a rate adjustment for the water, wastewater, and stormwater utility funds for the remainder of Fiscal 2025 through Fiscal 2027. The preliminary budget reflects the second of a three-year rate change with a rate of 9.0% for water, 9.0% for sewer, and 3.0% for stormwater. The rate changes will finance major capital projects to replace aging infrastructure and improve customer service.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	121,376,839	750	134,708,213	779
Wastewater	342,132,523	921	360,796,403	912
Water Utility	225,716,847	978	228,775,716	974
Stormwater Utility	32,027,999	148	44,986,126	147
Federal	1,345,000	0	2,283,000	0
State	0	0	0	0
Special	3,909,362	3	558,000	3
Special Grant	0	0	0	0
Total	726,508,569	2,800	772,107,458	2,815

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
660: Administration - Solid Waste	3,917,812	2,864,050
661: Public Right-of-Way Cleaning	28,254,992	35,257,318
662: Vacant and Abandoned Property Cleaning and Boarding	14,360,139	16,017,448
663: Waste Removal and Recycling	48,292,329	54,437,275
664: Waste Re-Use and Disposal	34,600,323	36,580,531
670: Administration - Water and Wastewater	62,851,215	58,000,811
671: Water Management	93,307,595	104,605,898
672: Water and Wastewater Consumer Services	30,563,470	35,687,101
673: Wastewater Management	174,759,597	185,104,009
674: Surface Water Management	25,114,577	30,308,641
675: Engineering and Construction Management - Water and Wastewater	198,101,194	198,776,940
676: Administration - DPW	12,385,329	14,467,436
Total	726,508,569	772,107,458

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- An overall increase of \$5.0 million in funding for solid waste services. This funding will support 6 months of continued contractual solid waste staffing for the first half of Fiscal 2026 and creation of 15 additional solid waste crews for the latter half of Fiscal 2026.
- Additional funding (\$125,000) for contractual cleaning services and to create two new positions, one in DPW and one in DGS, to mitigate hazards and ensure employee safety at 8 Solid Waste facilities.
- Decreasing funding for tipping fees by \$400,000 to reflect current spending trends.
- Decreasing funding (\$795,000) for administrative non-personnel costs to reflect current spending trends.
- A net increase of 29 positions in the General Fund for Fiscal 2026. These positions include 10 Solid Waste crews that were created with ARPA funding in Fiscal 2024 and transitioned to the General Fund in Fiscal 2025.
- An overall increase of \$34.9 million, or 5.82%, across the Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater utility budgets. This reflects anticipated rate increases for the Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Utilities.

Recreation and Parks

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) is the primary provider of recreational, cultural, and physical activities to the residents of the City of Baltimore. The agency is comprised of three major divisions: Recreation, Parks, and Horticulture.

The Recreation Division administers activities in its more than 45 community centers. In addition to full-time staff, the agency operates with up to 600 part-time and seasonal employees during the busy summer months. The agency also provides therapeutic recreation activities and senior recreation programs. City residents can participate in many types of activities which include indoor/outdoor aquatics, ice and roller skating, hockey, soccer, basketball, football, dancing, acting, music, tennis, track and field, boxing, biking, kayaking, after-school, and out-of-school programs.

The Parks Division is responsible for the beautification, management, and maintenance of parkland, playgrounds, and turf. It also plans and implements outdoor recreation programs in City parks, including nature and environmental education, sports, and various festivals. Regular park maintenance functions include grass mowing, ball field preparations, and building and playground repairs.

The Horticulture Division is responsible for the Rawlings Conservatory and Cylburn Arboretum. The Urban Forestry Division is responsible for the planting and caring of all trees in the public rights-of-way and City parks. Park Programs is responsible for the Rhythm and Reels program, park permits, park volunteer program, the "\$5 5K" running series, biking, kayaking, hiking, and camping in city parks.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	56,090,018	354	61,139,978	351
Federal	691,273	4	700,125	4
State	7,281,356	61	6,979,306	62
Special	11,343,547	17	10,272,832	17
Total	75,406,194	436	79,092,241	434

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
644: Administration - Recreation and Parks	10,456,879	10,951,739
645: Aquatics	3,623,709	3,579,985
646: Park Maintenance	19,642,292	13,242,725
647: Youth and Adult Sports	1,660,985	1,717,024
648: Community Recreation Centers	20,269,964	23,392,983
649: Special Facilities Management - Recreation	4,044,216	2,667,623
650: Horticulture	2,479,643	2,530,317
651: Recreation for Seniors	582,528	608,799
652: Therapeutic Recreation	692,164	692,522
653: Park Programs and Events	2,420,592	1,889,545
654: Urban Forestry	9,533,222	10,429,554
912: Facility Maintenance	0	7,389,425
Total	75,406,194	79,092,241

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Eliminating three positions and the costs associated with the care and housing of the former mounted unit under now under the joint partnership between Rec and Parks and BPD's Community Policing Section.
- Reducing the Aquatics budget by \$268,000 to reflect opening six days a week during summer 2025. The six-day week will allow for maintenance and upkeep of park pools once/week.
- Increased operating costs for two newly renovated Recreation Centers, Chick Webb and Parkview, that will come online in Fiscal 2026. The Preliminary Budget includes a \$2.4 million increase for these facilities, this increase includes additional staff and operating costs for these locations.
- Creating a new Facility Maintenance service within the agency. The total budget for the new service is \$7.4 million including 28 positions. This service was created by reallocating existing positions and services from elsewhere in agency. The new service is intended to improve the agency's ability to monitor and track agency wide maintenance costs.
- Continued State funding of \$10 million from Program Open Space, with \$7 million dedicated to operating expenses and \$3 million to support ongoing capital projects.

Sheriff

The mission of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office is to provide law enforcement services to the City's District and Circuit Courts and citizenry of Baltimore City as required by the State Constitution and the Public General and Local Laws of the State of Maryland. These services include, but are not limited to, service of court documents, execution of warrants and Sheriff's sales, collection of fines and fees, transportation of prisoners, and providing courthouse security. Deputy Sheriffs have the authority to enforce civil, criminal, and traffic laws allowing them to perform duties in conjunction with the Baltimore City Police Department. These duties include, but are not limited to, criminal patrol and crime suppression details, traffic enforcement, and crowd control for special events.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	26,463,851	212	26,871,159	206
Special	1,883,717	0	283,000	0
Total	28,347,567	212	27,154,159	206

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
881: Courthouse Security	5,129,341	5,851,873
882: Deputy Sheriff Enforcement	15,137,108	15,304,786
883: Service of Protective & Peace Orders	2,756,439	2,851,925
884: District Court Sheriff Services	3,276,378	3,145,575
889: Child Support Enforcement	2,048,302	0
Total	28,347,567	27,154,159

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Includes a \$1 million reduction in Fiscal 2026 by defunding six vacant positions and reducing miscellaneous non-personnel expenses.
- Consolidating Service 889 - Child Support Enforcement into Service 882 - Deputy Sheriff Enforcement, transferring the total budget and 14 positions as part of a service-level realignment. This movement will not impact overall services provided by Sheriff's Office.
- Reducing the Special Fund (Sheriffs Asset Forfeiture Fund) appropriation by \$1.6M. This reduction is based on the actual balance in the fund as of Spring 2025.

State's Attorney

The mission of the State's Attorney's Office (SAO) is to represent the citizens of Baltimore City in the prosecution of criminal offenses. These duties include investigating and prosecuting misdemeanors, felonies and juvenile petitions; and conducting Grand Jury investigations. The SAO also provides assistance to victims and witnesses of crime in Baltimore City and supports community engagement efforts involving both youths and adults.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	45,778,411	313	46,966,102	340
Federal	2,883,581	28	1,706,829	3
State	6,634,811	52	9,649,587	75
Special	352,462	0	361,059	0
Total	55,649,265	393	58,683,577	418

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
115: Prosecution of Criminals	41,001,833	45,953,478
781: Administration - State's Attorney	9,999,268	8,149,776
786: Victim and Witness Services	4,648,164	4,580,323
Total	55,649,265	58,683,577

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Funding for an additional 27 positions in the General Fund, including 21 Assistant State Attorney's, 4 Paralegal positions, and 2 Law Clerks that were previously frozen. These positions were funded by reallocating funds within the State's Attorney budget.
- Ten Paralegal positions created midyear in Fiscal 2025 through a State grant.
- Seven positions including five federal grant funded positions and two state grant funded positions will be unfunded due to the expiration of their associated grants.

Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for building and repairing public streets, bridges, and highways, as well as maintaining streetlights, alleys, footways, and the conduit system. Other duties include managing traffic movement; inspecting City construction projects; and developing sustainable transportation solutions. Capital and Federal funds are allocated for engineering, design, construction, and inspection of streets and bridges.

The agency maintains nearly 4,800 lane miles of roadways, including 305 bridges and culverts. The City's road network comprises 540 miles of collector streets and 1,460 miles of local streets. About 8.1% of statewide vehicle miles traveled occur on City roadways. This amounts to 3.5 billion vehicle miles per year. The Department of Transportation maintains 3,600 miles of sidewalks, 1,100 miles of alleys and 80,000 roadway and pedestrian lights throughout the City.

The Department of Transportation ensures the orderly and safe flow of traffic by conducting studies on pedestrian and vehicular safety, and providing traffic signals, signs and pavement markings. The agency maintains about 1,300 signalized intersections, over 250,000 traffic and informational signs and over 4.5 million linear feet of lane markings. The agency also operates public transportation options, including the Charm City Circulator and water taxi "Harbor Connector" commuter service, and is providing oversight for a dockless scooter and bicycle program.

The City has several traffic safety initiatives. The traffic camera program is designed to reduce the number of motorists who run red lights and violate speed limits. Also, the agency conducts safety education programs, such as Safety City and related bicycle programs, and deploys approximately 230 crossing guards at elementary and middle schools.

Finally, the agency maintains and repairs all open air malls across the City, operates a vehicle storage facility, conducts the sale of abandoned and/or unclaimed vehicles at public auctions, and is responsible for the removal and impounding of illegally parked, abandoned, or disabled vehicles. The agency leads snow removal efforts and facilitates special events. The Department of Transportation works closely with the Parking Authority, which is responsible for on-street and off-street parking, including the management of the metered parking system and maintenance of over 800 pay-by-license-plate multispace parking meters, and over 3,400 single-space parking meters; administration of special parking programs such as residential permit parking and car sharing; enforcement of parking regulations; and management and development of offstreet parking facilities.

Recommended Budget

Fund Name	Fiscal 2025 Budget		Fiscal 2026 Budget	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
General	148,002,850	833	158,155,656	829
Conduit	8,635,619	67	9,108,665	67
Parking Enterprise	17,280,400	0	17,715,418	0
Parking Management	27,633,101	141	28,371,349	141
Federal	338,687	3	2,885,367	0
State	2,167,655	1	3,009,298	1
Special	19,461,350	12	17,601,763	12
Total	223,519,662	1,057	236,847,516	1,050

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
500: Street Lighting	21,936,175	21,921,450
548: Conduits	8,635,619	9,108,665
681: Administration - DOT	10,645,179	11,347,747
682: Parking Management	29,319,307	29,850,621
683: Street Management	40,338,588	45,707,354
684: Traffic Management	12,023,196	12,909,390
685: Special Events	1,774,711	1,935,055
687: Inner Harbor Services - Transportation	1,167,128	1,199,677
688: Snow and Ice Control	7,063,027	7,319,651
689: Vehicle Impounding and Disposal	10,186,405	10,790,324
690: Sustainable Transportation	14,332,430	18,558,535
691: Public Rights-of-Way Landscape Management	5,139,645	5,578,105
692: Bridge and Culvert Management	4,291,576	4,856,738
693: Parking Enforcement	15,594,194	16,236,146
694: Survey Control	358,722	394,747
695: Dock Master	180,930	366,255
696: Street Cuts Management	919,386	991,662
697: Traffic Safety	36,428,306	34,261,105
727: Real Property Management	3,185,138	3,514,289
Total	223,519,662	236,847,516

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget reflects:

- Increasing funding for the Dock Master service by \$140,000 to support movement of Marina Store lease to DOT from Miscellaneous General Expenses
- Reducing the agency's overall full-time position count by seven positions. This reduction reflects unfunding 3 federally funded positions that are no longer associated with grants. Additionally, within the General Fund, 1 Operations Manager I position is moved into Mayoralty, 1 vacant Office Support Specialist II is unfunded, and 2 Crossing Guards are adjusted to permanent part-time status.
- Maintaining the current level of service for General Fund services within in the agency. Most operating costs in DOT are funded through Highway User Revenue. In Fiscal 2026 the City will receive 12.2% of statewide Highway User Revenue (see page 25 for a full summary of Highway User Revenue spending plan reflected in the Preliminary Budget).
- Ongoing costs for the City's traffic camera program. In Fiscal 2026 the City will operate 152 speed cameras and 182 red light cameras. Costs for this program are included in Service 697-Traffic Safety. The Preliminary Budget also includes \$5.4 million for the I-83 speed camera program. Revenue from the I-83 program is used for the cost of operating the program and capital investments for I-83; to date there has not been sufficient revenue to fund capital improvements.

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Comparison of Current and Upcoming Year Operating Budget

Summary by Fund

Fund Name	Budget Amount		Change Amount
	FY25	FY26	Dollars
General	2,242,700,000	2,454,424,000	211,724,000
Conduit Enterprise	8,635,619	9,108,665	473,046
Wastewater Utility	342,132,523	361,229,945	19,097,422
Water Utility	226,585,785	229,898,684	3,312,899
Stormwater Utility	32,027,999	45,117,331	13,089,332
Parking Enterprise	17,280,400	17,715,418	435,018
Parking Management	31,105,934	31,942,633	836,699
Federal	206,642,414	202,028,026	(4,614,388)
State	154,502,278	142,418,395	(12,083,883)
Special Revenue	214,010,205	184,169,522	(29,840,683)
Special Grant	1,588,432	1,570,950	(17,482)
Total	3,477,211,589	3,679,623,569	202,411,980

Table in dollars.

Internal Service Fund by Agency

Agency Name	Budget Amount		Change Amount
	FY25	FY26	Dollars
Comptroller	15,640,871	16,450,553	809,682
Finance	8,302,192	8,849,229	547,037
General Services	161,371,547	170,573,377	9,201,830
Human Resources	2,651,083	2,749,837	98,754
Law	10,116,029	10,353,999	237,970
M-R: Office of Information and Technology	14,350,830	14,888,836	538,006
Total	212,432,552	223,865,831	11,433,279

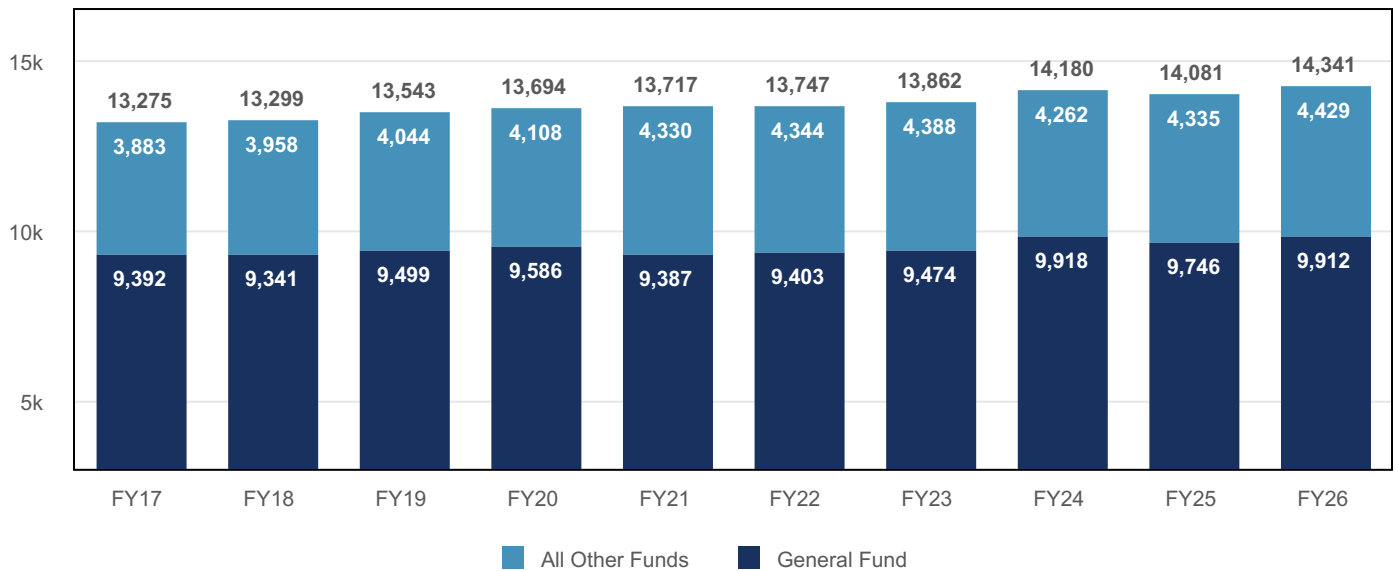
Table in dollars.

Permanent Full-Time Positions

This section summarizes position counts by agency as reflected in the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget. The budget includes funding for 14,341 full-time positions—an increase of 260 (1.8%) compared to the Fiscal 2025 budget. The overall increase includes capturing positions that were created following adoption of the Fiscal 2025 budget (+115 positions; 80 in the General Fund), creating new positions as part of the Fiscal 2026 budget (+84 positions; 49 in the General Fund), and funding previously unfunded positions (+61 positions; 37 in the General Fund).

By Fund

Permanent Full-Time Positions by Fiscal Year and Fund



Fund Name	Budget Amount			Change Amount
	FY24	FY25	FY26	Positions
General	9,918	9,746	9,912	166
Internal Service	452	453	455	2
Conduit Enterprise	67	67	67	0
Wastewater Utility	919	921	919	-2
Water Utility	981	986	986	0
Stormwater Utility	148	148	148	0
Parking Management	162	162	161	-1
Federal	0	565	595	30
State	583	698	717	19
Special Revenue	297	328	380	52
Special Grant	5	7	1	-6
Total	14,180	14,081	14,341	260

¹ Change is calculated between Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026

By Agency

Fund Name	Budget Amount			Change Amount
	FY24	FY25	FY26	Positions
City Council				
General	81	81	83	2
Agency Total	81	81	83	2
Comptroller				
General	77	79	80	1
Internal Service	33	33	33	0
Agency Total	110	112	113	1
Council Services				
General	6	6	6	0
Agency Total	6	6	6	0
Courts: Circuit Court				
General	86	86	86	0
Federal	14	2	2	0
Special Revenue	0	5	5	0
State	33	40	41	1
Agency Total	133	133	134	1
Courts: Orphans' Court				
General	5	5	5	0
Agency Total	5	5	5	0
Employees' Retirement Systems				
Special Revenue	82	84	84	0
Agency Total	82	84	84	0
Enoch Pratt Free Library				
General	337	330	330	0
State	112	103	103	0
Special Revenue	14	15	15	0
Agency Total	463	448	448	0
Finance				
General	228	230	244	14
Internal Service	32	32	32	0
Wastewater Utility	0	0	7	7
Water Utility	3	3	7	4
Stormwater Utility	0	0	1	1
Parking Management	21	21	20	-1
Special Revenue	7	7	7	0

(continued)

Fund Name	FY24	FY25	FY26	Positions
Agency Total	291	293	318	25
Fire				
General	1,674	1,685	1,679	-6
Federal	9	9	8	-1
Special Revenue	85	85	92	7
Agency Total	1,768	1,779	1,779	0
General Services				
General	73	73	76	3
Internal Service	349	349	350	1
Agency Total	422	422	426	4
Health				
General	491	398	416	18
Federal	301	280	311	31
State	102	128	93	-35
Special Revenue	48	41	82	41
Special Grant	4	6	0	-6
Agency Total	946	853	902	49
Housing and Community Development				
General	380	363	373	10
Federal	68	68	20	-48
State	4	4	4	0
Special Revenue	4	4	69	65
Agency Total	456	439	466	27
Human Resources				
General	74	73	74	1
Internal Service	3	3	3	0
Agency Total	77	76	77	1
Law				
General	80	75	75	0
Internal Service	31	31	31	0
Agency Total	111	106	106	0
Legislative Reference				
General	7	7	8	1
Agency Total	7	7	8	1

(continued)

Fund Name	FY24	FY25	FY26	Positions
Liquor License Board				
General	20	19	19	0
Agency Total	20	19	19	0
M-R: Cable and Communications				
General	10	11	10	-1
Agency Total	10	11	10	-1
M-R: Convention Complex				
General	152	155	157	2
Agency Total	152	155	157	2
M-R: Environmental Control Board				
General	8	8	8	0
Agency Total	8	8	8	0
M-R: Minority and Women's Business Development				
General	19	31	35	4
Agency Total	19	31	35	4
M-R: Office of Children and Family Success				
General	26	26	25	-1
Water Utility	5	5	5	0
Federal	16	16	18	2
State	103	99	75	-24
Agency Total	150	146	123	-23
M-R: Office of Employment Development				
General	48	48	52	4
Federal	131	91	97	6
State	7	60	70	10
Special Revenue	10	49	52	3
Private Grants	0	1	1	0
Agency Total	196	249	272	23
M-R: Office of Equity and Civil Rights				
General	44	43	41	-2
Agency Total	44	43	41	-2

(continued)

Fund Name	FY24	FY25	FY26	Positions
M-R: Office of Homeless Services				
General	18	18	20	2
Federal	40	45	41	-4
State	1	3	3	0
Special Revenue	3	3	1	-2
Agency Total	62	69	65	-4
M-R: Office of Information and Technology				
General	157	159	166	7
Internal Service	4	5	6	1
Agency Total	161	164	172	8
M-R: Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement				
General	16	17	28	11
Federal	5	2	2	0
State	0	4	6	2
Agency Total	21	23	36	13
M-R: Office of the Labor Commissioner				
General	8	8	8	0
Agency Total	8	8	8	0
M-R: Office of Recovery Programs				
Special Revenue	0	0	1	1
Agency Total	0	0	1	1
Mayorality				
General	102	105	111	6
Special Revenue	0	0	7	7
Special Grant	1	0	0	0
Agency Total	103	105	118	13
Municipal and Zoning Appeals				
General	4	4	5	1
Agency Total	4	4	5	1
Office of the Inspector General				
General	18	18	18	0
Agency Total	18	18	18	0
Planning				
General	49	51	59	8
Special Revenue	3	3	6	3

(continued)

Fund Name	FY24	FY25	FY26	Positions
Agency Total	52	54	65	11
Police				
General	3,128	3,072	3,110	38
Federal	24	17	16	-1
State	113	143	184	41
Agency Total	3,265	3,232	3,310	78
Public Works				
General	758	750	779	29
Wastewater Utility	919	921	912	-9
Water Utility	973	978	974	-4
Stormwater Utility	148	148	147	-1
Special Revenue	3	3	3	0
Agency Total	2,801	2,800	2,815	15
Recreation and Parks				
General	362	354	351	-3
Federal	3	4	0	-4
State	61	61	62	1
Special Revenue	16	17	21	4
Agency Total	442	436	434	-2
Sheriff				
General	212	212	206	-6
Agency Total	212	212	206	-6
State's Attorney				
General	313	313	340	27
Federal	34	28	3	-25
State	46	52	75	23
Agency Total	393	393	418	25
Transportation				
General	847	833	829	-4
Conduit Enterprise	67	67	67	0
Parking Management	141	141	141	0
Federal	3	3	0	-3
State	1	1	1	0
Special Revenue	22	12	12	0
Agency Total	1,081	1,057	1,050	-7
Grand Total	14,180	14,081	14,341	260

¹ Change is calculated between Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026

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FISCAL 2026

PRELIMINARY BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Special Revenue Budget Recommendations

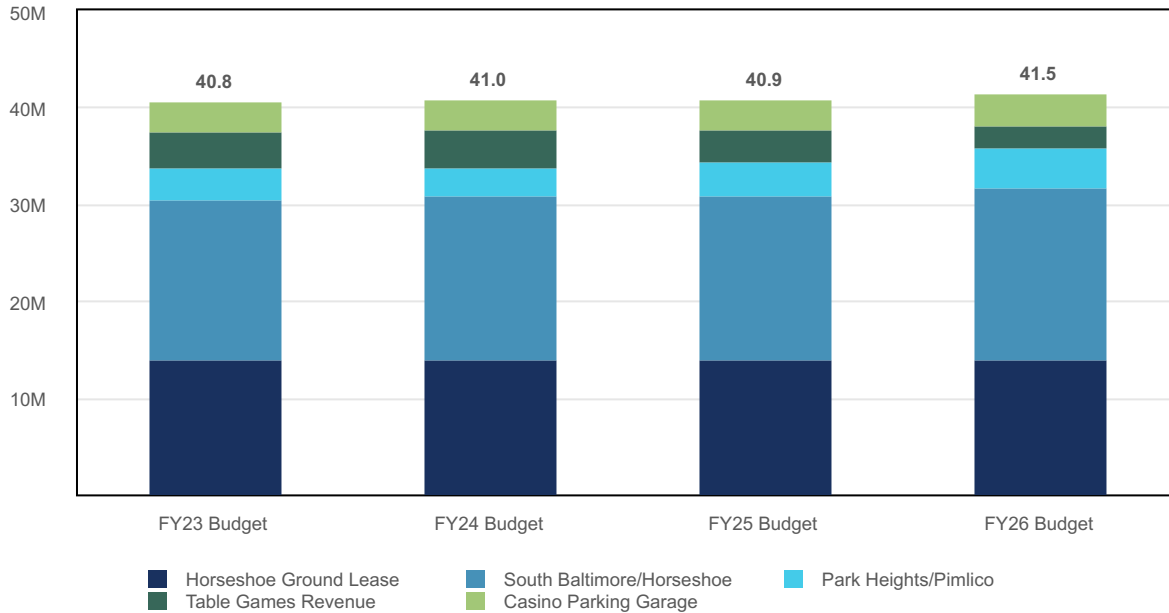
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Special Revenue Fund Summaries

Casino: Video Lottery Terminals and Table Games

Casino related revenue is used to support City services and capital investment in neighborhoods impacted by the Pimlico Racetrack and Horseshoe Casino. Along with investments in these neighborhoods, casino revenue is also used for citywide school construction, recreation and parks projects, and property tax relief.

Casino-related Revenues
(Dollars in millions)



The Fiscal 2026 allocations adhere to the following funding formulas:

Horseshoe Ground Lease Agreement Revenue - \$14.0 million

- The Horseshoe Casino ground lease payment to the City is calculated at either 2.99% of the Casino’s gross gaming revenue, comprised of both Table Games and Video Lottery Terminals, or an alternate minimum payment amount determined by the contract, whichever is higher.
- The Fiscal 2026 estimated payment is the minimum payment of \$14.0 million.
- Of this amount, 90% is allocated to the General Fund to support the Targeted Homeowners Tax Credit (THTC) and 10% is dedicated to school construction.

Horseshoe Ground Lease	Allocation	FY26 Budget
THTC	90.0%	12.6
School Construction	10.0%	1.4
Minimum Ground Lease Payment		14.0

¹ Budget in millions of dollars.

South Baltimore/Horseshoe Casino Local Impact Fund - \$17.8 million

- The State combines gross terminal revenue from Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) at the Maryland Live, MGM National Harbor, and Horseshoe casinos.
- 5.5% of total combined VLT revenue is used as the starting point for the City's local impact fund allocation.
- 82% of the 5.5% total combined VLT revenue is then equally divided among Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, and Prince George's counties; the City receives approximately 27.1% of this amount.
- The Fiscal 2026 estimate for Baltimore City is \$17.8 million, an increase of \$800,000 compared to the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget.
- State law requires that 50% of the City's allocation be remitted to the South Baltimore Gateway Community Benefits District to support local projects.
- The remaining 50% is budgeted for core City services within one mile of the casino area, such as security costs, support for park operations, sanitation, and employment development, among other projects.

South Baltimore/Horseshoe	Allocation	FY26 Budget
South Baltimore District	50.0%	8.9
Horseshoe One-Mile Radius	50.0%	8.9
Baltimore City Allocation		17.8

¹ Budget in millions of dollars.

Park Heights/Pimlico Local Impact Fund - \$4.3 million

- The remaining 18% of the 5.5% of total combined VLT revenue is dedicated to Baltimore City after reductions of \$720,000 for smaller jurisdictions.
- Of the 18% distribution, \$3.5 million is withheld for the State Lottery fund for Pimlico redevelopment, \$2.8 million or 24% is withheld for Park Heights Renaissance, \$1.0 million is withheld for Prince George's County, and \$500,000 is withheld for communities within 3 miles of the Laurel Race Course.
- The Fiscal 2026 projection for Baltimore City is \$4.3 million, \$847,000 more than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget.
- The City has allocated 85% towards the Park Heights Master Plan since Fiscal 2018; in Fiscal 2026, the City will continue to allocate 85%, or \$3.6 million, for this purpose.
- The remaining funding of 15%, or \$600,000 must be spent within a one-mile radius of the Pimlico Race-track. Some projects funded within the one-mile radius include Ambassador Theater, Ashburton Area Community Lighting, Community Organizing and Services Support in Fallstaff, and Community Organizing in the Northwest Community Planning Forum Area.

Park Heights/Pimlico	Allocation	FY26 Budget
Park Heights	85.0%	3.6
Pimlico One-Mile Radius	15.0%	0.6
Baltimore City Allocation		4.2

¹ Budget in millions of dollars.

Table Games Revenue - \$2.3 million

- Baltimore City receives 5% of gross Table Games revenue generated by the Horseshoe Casino.
- The Fiscal 2026 projection for Baltimore City is \$2.3 million, \$960,000 less than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. This additional funding will support the expansion of citywide Recreation and Parks capital projects and school construction debt service.
- State law requires that 50% of the funding be used to support citywide recreation and parks projects and that 50% be allocated for school construction debt service.

Table Games Revenue	Allocation	FY26 Budget
Recreation and Parks	50.0%	1.1
School Construction	50.0%	1.1
Baltimore City Allocation		2.2

¹ Budget in millions of dollars.

Casino Parking Garage Property Tax Agreement - \$3.2 million

- As part of the Horseshoe Casino Ground Lease Agreement, the City grants a partial credit on the Real Property Tax due from the Casino’s parking garage.
- If the net tax due is less than \$3.2 million, the Casino must make an additional contribution so that the total minimum guarantee to the City equals \$3.2 million.
- The Casino parking garage’s Real Property Tax net of credits has never exceeded \$3.2 million; the Fiscal 2026 projection continues to assume the minimum guarantee.
- This revenue supports the General Fund at large.

Gambling Local Impact Aid Expenditures

The Preliminary Budget recommends \$13.1 million from Local Impact Aid funding, consisting of approximately \$8.9 million of Baltimore Casino and \$4.3 million of Pimlico funds. Of that, \$5.7 million is appropriated for operating expenditures and \$6.9 million is appropriated for capital projects. The following tables show Fiscal 2026 budgeted operating and capital expenditures for these funds.

Operating Budget - Projects

Agency	Project Description	FY26 Budget
Baltimore Casino Funded Projects		
Children and Family Success	Educational Partnerships	140,000
	Summer Head Start	156,000
Employment Development	Employment Connection Center	681,200
	Job Training Programs & ITA's	30,000
	YouthWorks Summer Employment	300,000
Homeless Services	Anti-Homelessness Strategies	156,000
Housing & Community Development	Community Development Fund	450,000
	Housing Code Enforcement	115,000
Information Technology (BCIT)	CitiWatch Maintenance Reserve	30,000
Neighborhood Safety & Engagement Planning	Community Outreach (MONSE)	130,000
	Clean Corps	374,400
Public Works	Enhanced Security: Horseshoe	500,000
	Environmental Education Programming	104,000
	Reimagine Middle Branch Initiatives	200,000
	Harbor Hospital Produce rx*	125,000
	Project Coordination (CLIF Staff)	667,400
Recreation & Parks	Enhanced Solid Waste Services	208,000
	Marine Trash Removal: MB-Ridgely's Cove	350,000
	Baltimore Casino Funds Total	4,867,000
Pimlico Impact Aid Funded Projects		
Planning	Administrative Fee	198,000
	Baltimore Speaks Out	40,000
	Camp New Vision	75,000
	Career Awareness Project	40,000
	Community Organizing and Services Support in Fallstaff	100,000
	Community Transport	60,000
	Future Makers: My Baltimore, My Vision	29,000
	Green Futures: Cultivating Community Wellness and Sustainability	150,000
	Liberty Coalition of Neighborhoods	50,000
	Rockstar Arts	50,000
	Sankofa After School Program	50,000
	Sustaining Middle Neighborhoods	70,000
	Trash-Free Walkways & Spaces in Glen & Fallstaff	72,000
	"Open Doors" Community Health Program at Gaudenzia Recovery Campus	100,000
	Community Organizing in the Northwest Community Planning Forum Area	100,000

(continued)

Agency	Project Description	FY26 Budget
Mayor's Office of Employment Development	Neighborhood-Based Career Navigation	200,000
Pimlico Impact Aid Funds Total		1,384,000

Table in dollars.

Capital Budget - Projects

Agency	Project Description	FY26 Budget
Baltimore Casino Funded Projects		
Baltimore Development Corp	Warner-Stockholm Complete Streets	1,000,000
Recreation and Parks	Solo Gibbs Phase 1	3,000,000
Baltimore Casino Funds Total		4,000,000

Pimlico Impact Aid Funded Projects		
Housing and Community Development	4500 Pimlico Single Family Townhomes	175,000
	Abe Dua Residences	750,000
	Agrihood Baltimore Food Hub Phase 2	150,000
	Central Park Heights Homeowner Repair Grants	405,000
	Dayspring, Inc. Visions For Education Project	75,000
	Gillis Memorial Grandfamily Apartments	50,000
	Housing Upgrades to Benefit Seniors	90,000
	New Homeowner Booster Grant	150,000
	Park Heights Corridor Blight Elimination	105,000
	The Zeta Center for Healthy and Active Aging	200,000
	Hayward Ave TOD Project	121,000
	Delta Community Center Technology Upgrade	100,000
	Park Heights Healthy Homes	300,000
Planning	Ambassador Theater Redevelopment	120,000
Transportation	Ashburton Area Community Lighting	100,000
Pimlico Impact Aid Funds Total		2,891,000

Table in dollars.

Opioid Restitution Fund

In August 2024, Mayor Scott released an Executive Order outlining the playbook on how opioid restitution funds would be invested back in the community. The Executive Order established five directives for this funding:

1. Establish a separate Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund
2. Establish a trust fund that will sustain the impact of these funds for at least 15 years
3. Create positions in the Mayor’s Office including an Executive Director of Overdose Response and an Opioid Restitution Program Manager
4. Establish a Restitution Advisory Board
5. Outline key documents that the City will publish for accountability and transparency

Upon receipt, these funds were placed in a segregated fund. In February 2025 the City Council approved a supplemental appropriation allocating \$14.6 million for this fund. Balances remaining from this supplemental appropriation will carry forward to Fiscal 2026.

Fiscal 2026 Recommended Funding Level

The Preliminary Budget recommends \$36.7 million in appropriations from the Opioid Restitution Fund. Appropriations from this fund were determined based on preliminary recommendations from the ongoing needs assessment guiding the City’s response.

This allocation represents 5% of the total amount awarded to the City. To date, the City has received \$181.9 million from companies involved in the lawsuit. The City expects to receive an additional \$80.0 million in Fiscal 2026. Litigation is ongoing, the remaining funds are due to the City when all appeals have been exhausted.

The Fiscal 2026 recommended funding level is based on projections aimed at hitting the 15-year target for these funds. Large appropriations against the fund could negatively impact the City’s ability to hit this target.

Agency Name	Budgeted Amount
	FY26
Fire	5,193,671
Health Department	6,009,503
Law	1,000,000
M-R Office of Homeless Services	3,000,000
Mayoralty	3,534,221
M-R Office of Recovery Programs	17,989,399
Total	36,726,794

Table in dollars.

Fire Department: \$5,193,671

This funding will be used to for the Population Health and 911 Nurse Triage programs focused on reducing the number of non-emergency 911 calls. Funding will also be used to expand the use of contracted EMS services.

Health Department: \$6,009,503

This funding establishes the Division of Overdose Prevention within the Health Department. Funds will be used to create 25 new positions, expanding the SPOT Mobile Clinic, and funding the needle exchange program.

Law Department: \$1,000,000

This funding will be used to create additional positions within the Law Department to continue work for ongoing litigation regarding the impacts of the opioid epidemic in Baltimore.

Mayor's Office of Homeless Services: \$3,000,000

This funding will be used to further enhance services in the City's shelters. This funding will ensure the City has adequate beds to provide shelter for men, women, and families along with additional shelter capacity during the winter.

Mayoralty: \$3,534,221

This funding supports staff responsible for providing the overall guidance and oversight for the Opioid Restitution Fund. This also includes stipend and support costs for the Restitution Advisory Board. This funding also provides \$2.0 million for additional non-profit community-based grants based on a funding process overseen by the Restitution Advisory Board.

Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs: \$17,989,399

This majority of this funding (\$17.4 million) is allocated for non-profit organizations named in specific settlements. In total, there was \$87.0 million set aside for specific organizations as part individual settlements. The Fiscal 2026 Recommended funding level assumes these grants will be paid out over a 5-year period.

The recommended budget for the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs also includes supporting additional staff responsible for coordinating and overseeing grant agreements with individual non-profits receiving grants through the Opioid Restitution Fund.

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FISCAL 2026

PRELIMINARY BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

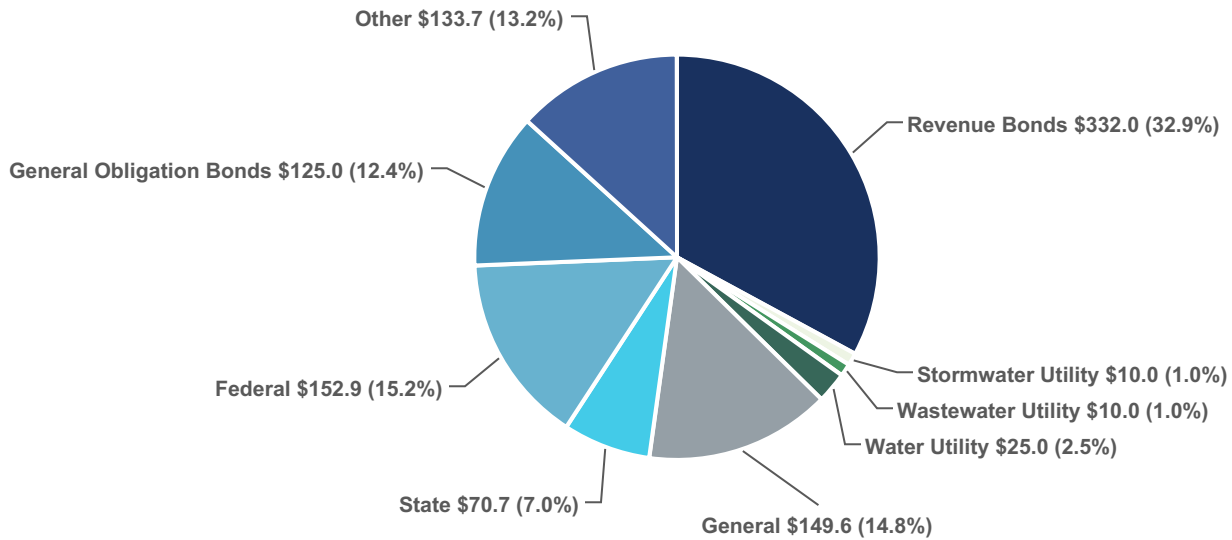
Capital Budget Recommendations

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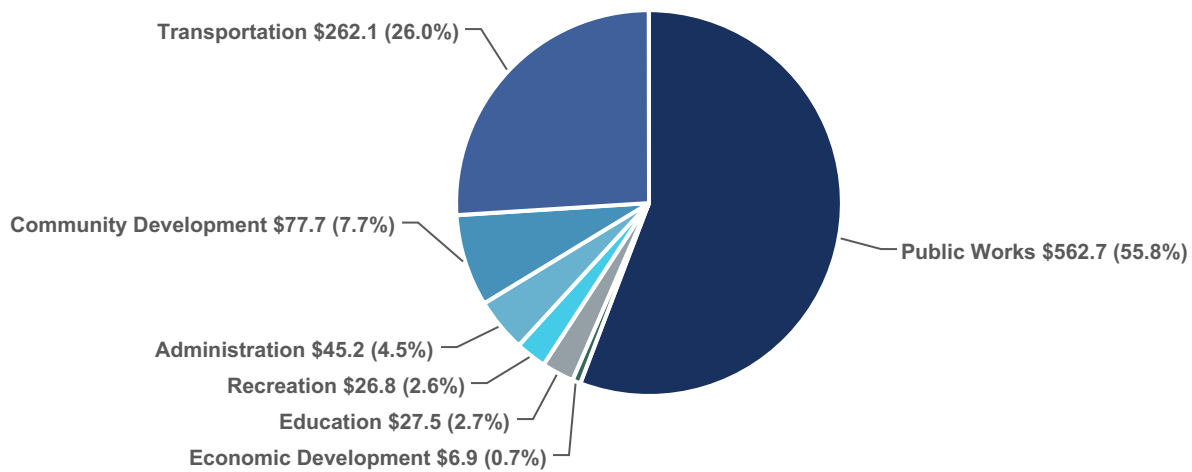
Overview of Capital Budget Recommendation

Total Capital Budget: \$1,008.9 Million

Where the Money Comes from



How the Money is Used



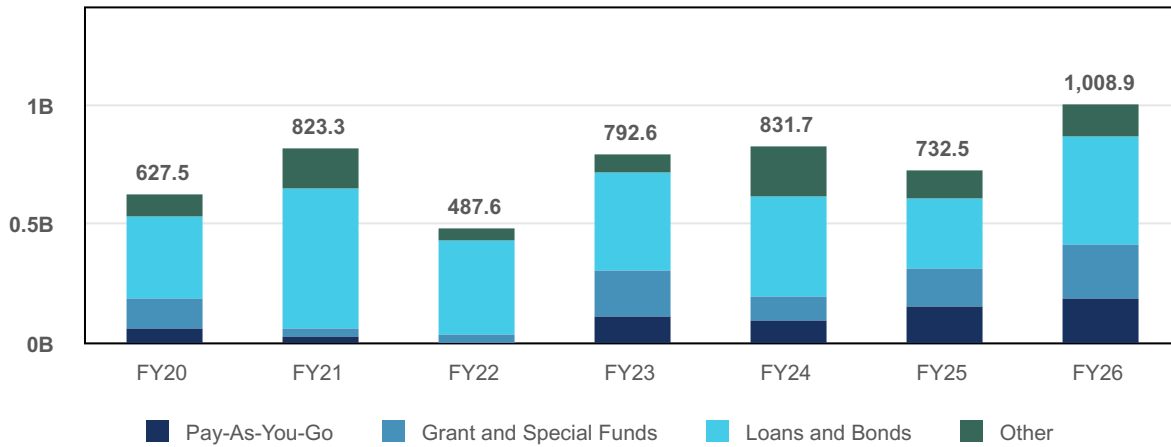
Totals may not equal 100% or "Total Capital Budget" due to rounding. Charts in millions.

Capital Budget Trends

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Capital Budget is \$1,008.9 million, an increase of \$276 million, or 38%, from Fiscal 2025. The capital budget can fluctuate considerably from year to year due to project schedules, the timing of borrowing, and the availability of grant funding. Per Board of Estimates policy, a capital project is a physical betterment or improvement costing more than \$50,000 and any preliminary studies relative to that project. It does not include projects that cost less than \$50,000, vehicular equipment, repairs and maintenance costing less than \$100,000, and salaries for positions that are not part of the cost of the project. The chart and table below show historical trends of the capital budget by fund type.

Capital Budget by Fund

(Dollars in millions)



Historical Capital Budget Trends

Capital Funds	Budget			
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Pay-As-You-Go				
General	70.5	46.2	105.0	149.6
Conduit Enterprise	23.4	3.0	0.0	0.0
Wastewater Utility	0.0	11.1	9.5	10.0
Water Utility	0.0	34.9	35.0	25.0
Stormwater Utility	0.0	3.0	10.0	10.0
Grant and Special Funds				
Federal	94.0	53.1	92.5	152.9
State	102.1	53.0	67.7	70.7
Loans and Bonds				
General Obligation Bonds	80.0	80.0	80.0	125.0
Revenue Bonds	314.1	334.8	208.5	332.0
County Trans. Bonds	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other				
Other	93.5	212.8	124.4	133.7
Grand Total	792.6	831.7	732.5	1,008.9

Table in millions of dollars.

¹ Totals may not equal figures in graph due to rounding.

Six-Year Capital Plan

Capital Plan

Fund Name	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Pay-As-You-Go						
General	149,600,000	118,184,152	51,884,152	43,065,848	38,865,848	31,400,000
Conduit Enterprise	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wastewater Utility	10,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000
Water Utility	25,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000
Stormwater Utility	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	9,500,000
Grant and Special Funds						
Federal	152,874,418	54,910,000	54,550,000	54,750,000	54,750,000	54,750,000
State	70,723,228	60,800,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000
Loans and Bonds						
Revenue Bonds	332,045,469	458,001,404	615,348,926	480,128,915	158,944,139	154,672,280
Gen. Oblig. Bonds	125,000,000	125,000,000	140,000,000	140,000,000	170,000,000	170,000,000
Other						
Other	133,678,171	240,357,852	147,902,137	92,431,453	64,352,720	145,412,920
Grand Total	1,008,921,286	1,112,253,408	1,094,685,215	895,376,216	571,912,707	640,735,200

Table in dollars.

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Highlights

The City's capital budget includes capital General Funds (PAYGO capital), General Obligation Bonds (debt), and General Funds- Highway User Revenues (HUR; PAYGO capital dedicated to transportation). Fiscal 2026 is the fourth of a five-year increase in the City's allocation of HUR revenue. In Fiscal 2026, the City will receive 12.2% of statewide HUR. Funding for transportation-related capital projects represents 31% of the total HUR budget.

General Funds and Highway User Revenue Pay-As-You-Go Funding

Using General Funds for PAYGO reduces the City's debt burden while also being one of the most flexible funding sources for capital projects. The City dedicates a portion of its annual State Highway User Revenue (HUR) allocation to capital improvements. HUR is collected by the State and allocated to jurisdictions for certain eligible uses, such as transportation projects.

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget includes \$149.6 million in General Funds and HUR for capital projects, including:

- \$18 million for acquisition and/or renovation of homeless services facilities
- \$45 million for Complete Streets-compliant road resurfacing, including \$4.0 million to upgrade ADA ramps along resurfaced roads
- \$5.7 million for traffic signal construction and reconstruction
- \$12.6 million for sidewalk reconstruction and repair, including \$12.0 million for the ADA partial consent decree.

General Obligation Bonds

In 2024, voters authorized \$125 million in General Obligation bonds per year for Fiscal 2026 and 2027. General Obligation bonds must be used for affordable housing, schools, public infrastructure, and community and economic development in accordance with the loan authorization approved by voters. The debt service to repay the bonds is paid from the City's General Fund revenue. Funded projects for Fiscal 2026 include:

- \$21 million for Phase I and Phase II of Eastside Transfer Station (renovation of existing administrative building and compost facilities)
- \$4 million for demolition and stabilization of vacant and abandoned buildings
- \$8 million for investments in Impact Investment Areas
- \$3 million toward an expansion of the Quarantine Road Landfill
- \$8 million toward police station HVAC improvements (Southeast District, Eastern District)
- \$2.9 million to complete full funding for the Forest Park Library Addition and Renovation
- \$27.5 million for Baltimore City Public Schools facilities, including \$1.4 million toward the expansion of Armistead Gardens Elementary/Middle, \$2.9 million toward renovation of Edmonson High School, \$2.5 million toward construction of the new Furley Elementary School, \$2.3 million for Curtis Bay Elementary HVAC, and \$17.3 million for healthy schools projects across various buildings.
- \$6.5 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Federal Funds

The Fiscal 2026 Recommended Budget includes approximately \$152.9 million in Federal Funds. Funded projects for Fiscal 2026 include:

- \$42 million per year in federal Highway Transportation funds for the Department of Transportation. The City must provide a 20% match for eligible projects, such as bridges.
- \$85 million in federal funds for West Baltimore United based on the Reconnecting Communities announcement of this award, as well as matching local funds.

- Community Development Block Grant funds to be used for capital projects that serve low and moderate-income residents.

State Funds

The Fiscal 2026 Recommended Budget includes \$70.7 million in State Funds. State Funds include items requested from the State. This figure will likely be higher once the State budget is finalized and changes are incorporated in the City's capital budget. Funded projects for Fiscal 2026 include:

- Recreation and Parks allocates Program Open Space funding for various capital projects. A portion of these funds require a 25% match from the City that has been appropriated in local funding sources.
- The Department of Housing and Community Development recommendations include \$20 million in State funds as part of the Baltimore Vacants Reinvestment Initiative for Impact Investment Areas.
- The recommendations for DPW include a \$20 million grant for the Middle Branch Resiliency Initiative for improvements to restore shoreline along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River and protect neighborhoods from storms and flooding.
- State funds will be finalized after the conclusion of the 2025 Maryland General Assembly Session and updates will be included in the Board of Estimates recommendations.

Utility Funds

Utility funds include bonds issued by the City to be repaid with future revenue and funds from current operating revenues such as water bills. The Fiscal 2026 capital recommendations also include utility projects funded through existing cash (Pay-As-You-Go).

Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Funds

The Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater funds are overseen by the Department of Public Works. Capital investment in the utilities are fully funded with enterprise revenue generated by the fees paid for water, sewer, and stormwater services. Individual projects are funded through a combination of revenue bonds, Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) cash, and grants.

Capital Budget Process

The [Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Plan \(CIP\) process](#) operates on a similar timeline to the operating budget process, but is managed and facilitated by the Department of Planning. The Department of Planning works with agencies to prepare recommendations for the Planning Commission, which submits recommendations to the Board of Estimates. The budget process begins in late September as the Department of Planning works with participating agencies to solicit project requests, prioritize projects for funding, and prepare the six-year CIP. The major capital budget agencies are the Departments of Information Technology, General Services, Recreation and Parks, Transportation, Public Works, Housing and Community Development, as well as the Baltimore Development Corporation and City School System. Once the Planning Commission recommends a six-year CIP, it moves on to the Board of Finance and then the Board of Estimates for review and approval. Once approved, the first year of the CIP is submitted to City Council as part of the Ordinance of Estimates. Finally, the Ordinance of Estimates is formally adopted by the City Council and signed by the Mayor.

Funding Considerations

Funding for capital projects comes from either current revenues (referred to as “Pay-As-You-Go” or “PAYGO”) or from borrowed funds (referred to as “Loans and Bonds”). Loan and bond fund amounts are constrained by the need to ensure that future repayment of debt service can be made from the City’s operating budget. Discretionary sources are limited to General Obligation (GO) bonds and PAYGO capital. The City follows the requirements of the GO bond authorization, which specifies how that source can be spent. The City also must ensure that outstanding debt meets reasonable benchmarks and does not put an undue financial burden on future generations. Every five years, the City conducts a study to evaluate the City’s debt burden and make recommendations on appropriate annual borrowing levels.

Baltimore’s aging infrastructure requires hundreds of millions of dollars of investments to address decades of deferred maintenance, in addition to investments to provide modern facilities and amenities. Therefore, capital budget planning requires the City to prioritize limited resources in upgrading and maintaining City structures and infrastructure. The City must balance these infrastructure needs with community and economic development activities.

Capital Projects Impact on Operating Budget

Policy

Agencies are required to report the estimated operating budget impacts of capital projects. Agencies must identify and project reasonably quantifiable revenue and expenditure impacts of capital projects on the operating budget following completion.

Fiscal 2026 Operating Impact of Capital Projects

Most of Baltimore City’s capital program focuses on capital infrastructure maintenance and replacement. New facility projects or expansions with operating impacts are limited.

The City pays debt service, the interest and principal costs on the bonds issued by the City to build capital projects, through the operating budget.

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FISCAL 2026

PRELIMINARY BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Appendix

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ACTIVITY: A subdivision of a service that specifies how the service is performed. Some services may be accomplished through the performance of only one activity, while other services may require the performance of two or more activities.

ACTUAL: This term is used in various contexts with different meanings. The definitions for the two contexts in this book are specified below.

- **Performance Management:** A number that reflects the result(s); this is different from a target, which is a prediction of result(s).
- **Financial:** The recorded (or posted) revenues and expenditures; this is different from a budget, which is a planned estimate.

AGENCY: An organization authorized by the Mayor and City Council to operate in the best interest of the public. Each agency is obligated by the City Charter to submit a budget request outlining projected costs of operation for the upcoming fiscal year to the Director of Finance and/or Planning Commission, as applicable.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA): [The American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#) is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law in March 2021. ARPA includes State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), which provides direct aid to state, local, and Tribal governments to support the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

APPROPRIATION: The legislative authority to spend and obligate a specified amount from a designated fund account for a specific purpose.

ASSESSABLE BASE: The value of all taxable property within the boundaries of the City of Baltimore.

ASSESSED VALUATION: A valuation set upon real estate and other taxable property by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation and utilized by the City of Baltimore as a basis for levying taxes. All taxable real property follows a 3-year reassessment cycle, and the resulting assessed valuation is an estimate of the current market value.

BALANCED BUDGET: When the revenues the City projects to receive in the next fiscal year from all existing revenue sources are sufficient to cover the total anticipated expenditures of the next fiscal year. Total revenues are either equal or greater than the recommended appropriations, and may be supplemented, if necessary, with prior year fund balance.

BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE: Commonly referred to as [Kirwan](#). This legislation was passed in 2021 guided by the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. The law enacts a comprehensive reorganization of education funding in Maryland to improve the quality of education and close equity gaps. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is different from the City schools' [Blueprint for Success](#).

BOARD OF ESTIMATES (BOE): [The Board of Estimates \(BOE\)](#) is the highest administrative body of the City. It consists of five voting members: the President of the City Council, who serves as President of the Board, the Mayor, the Comptroller, the City Solicitor, and the Director of Public Works. The BOE is responsible for formulating and executing the fiscal policy of the City, with its primary policy tool being the recommended annual Ordinance of Estimates, the City's budget. It is also responsible for awarding contracts and supervising all purchasing by the City.

BUDGET: A proposed plan of revenue and expenditure for a given year.

CAPITAL FUND: A set of budget accounts established to plan for specific capital projects financed by revenues received from City funds, bonds, State, federal, and other miscellaneous funds.

CAPITAL BUDGET: The appropriations for capital projects, which comprise the first year of the Capital Improvement Program.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP): A six-year plan specifying physical improvements recommended by the Planning Commission after reviewing the requests of City agencies.

CAPITAL PROJECT: An improvement to City property, which by policy of the Board of Estimates must be physical betterment or improvement costing more than \$50,000 and any preliminary studies relative to that project. It does not include projects that cost less than \$50,000, vehicular equipment, repairs and maintenance costing less than \$100,000, and salaries for positions that are not part of the cost of the project.

CHARTER: A [legal document](#) that defines the City's:

- organization (agencies, commissions, offices, etc.),
- rules and processes,
- services provided, and
- authority and powers held by specific offices or agencies.

CONDUIT ENTERPRISE FUND: Established to budget for revenue charged to private and public entities renting space in the City-owned and operated underground conduit system and system-related expenses.

CONVENTION CENTER BOND FUND: Established in Fiscal 1995 to budget and account for hotel tax revenues to be dedicated to support the payment of principal and interest associated with City indebtedness to finance one-third of the \$150 million cost of the joint City-State expansion of the Baltimore Convention Center. In Fiscal 2020, the City fully paid off the bonds associated with this expansion; however, the City may continue appropriating funds for future renovation or expansion of the Center.

CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES): [The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act \(CARES\)](#) is a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law in March 2020, in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Under CARES, state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments received direct aid to assist in responding to the pandemic.

CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICES BUDGET: Estimates of the appropriations needed by each municipal agency for the next ensuing fiscal year. These estimates are formulated in order to maintain the same service level for each particular service, purpose, activity, or project included in each agency's budget.

DEBT SERVICE: Principal and interest payments on debt (bonds) incurred by the City.

DEDICATED FUNDS: Includes revenue, which by law, contract, or regulation may be used only to support appropriations for specific purposes.

ESTIMATE: An approximation of the amount to be spent or collected.

EXPENDITURE: Spending to purchase goods or services.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA): [The Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) is an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security, which coordinates the response to disasters and emergencies that occur in the United States. As part of the federally declared COVID-19 emergency, FEMA emergency aid has been made available to state and local governments on a reimbursement basis.

FISCAL YEAR: The time frame to which the annual budget applies; this period is July 1 through June 30.

FORECAST: An estimate of expected, actual future spending and/or revenues for a specific period of time.

FUND: A sum of money segregated for specific activities. Use of this money requires adherence to special regulations established for each type of fund. The funds identified within Baltimore City's budget are the Capital Fund, Conduit Enterprise Fund, Convention Center Bond Fund, General Fund, Internal Service Fund, Parking Enterprise Fund, Parking Management Fund, Special Grant Fund, Special Revenue Fund, Stormwater Utility Fund, Water Utility Fund, and Wastewater Utility Fund.

FUND BALANCE: A fund balance is the accumulated difference between actual revenues and expenditures over time in each fund.

FUNDING SOURCE: Income/revenue received which supports an appropriation.

GENERAL FUND: A central fund into which most of the City's tax and unrestricted revenues are budgeted to support basic City operations and pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) capital projects.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND: A municipal bond backed by the full faith and credit of the jurisdiction. Every two years, the City of Baltimore must get permission from voters through a ballot referendum to issue General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds). GO bonds are borrowed funds that are used for capital projects, including affordable housing, schools, public infrastructure, and community and economic development. The debt service to repay the bonds is paid from the City's future General Fund revenue.

GRANT: A contribution made from either the private sector to the City or by one governmental unit to another unit. The contribution is usually made to support a specified service, function, or project.

HIGHWAY USER REVENUE (HUR): Money received from the State from specific taxes (e.g., gasoline, titling) associated with driving vehicles.

INDICATOR: A measure that represents a quality of life improvement that the City tracks and is ultimately aiming to improve. The City has measurable Indicators organized within each of the Priority Outcomes that reflect many of the City's greatest challenges.

INTERNAL SERVICE FUND: Established to budget for the financing of goods and/or services provided by certain City agencies to other City agencies or programs on a cost reimbursement basis.

LIABILITY: A contractual obligation to pay an amount of money, usually associated with legal settlements.

OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE: A group of similar services, commodities, equipment, or personnel costs used to clarify spending within the budget. Objects of expenditure identified within Baltimore City's budget are:

- **Salaries:** Payment to personnel for services rendered to the City including overtime, shift differential, sick leave conversion, full-time, part-time, and contractual personnel costs.
- **Other Personnel Costs:** Payment for benefits provided to City personnel including City contributions for Social Security, retirement, health plans, and prescription drug costs.
- **Contractual Services:** Payment for services rendered to the City under contractual arrangements, such as rents and telephone service.
- **Materials and Supplies:** Payment for consumable materials and supplies, such as custodial supplies and heating fuel.
- **Equipment:** Payment for replacement or procurement of City property other than real property.
- **Grants, Subsidies and Contributions:** Payment in support of various non-profit or private sector activities, which will provide health, welfare, educational, cultural, and/or promotional benefits to residents of Baltimore.
- **Debt Service:** Payments for interest and principal of bonds issued by or on behalf of the City.
- **Capital Improvements:** Payment for the acquisition of real property or improvements made to existing City property.

OPERATING BUDGET: A plan, approved by the Mayor and City Council, for appropriating funds to agencies for operating costs during the fiscal year. This plan establishes legal expenditure limits and will reflect appropriations budgeted according to services, sources of funding, and costs of service operation other than capital improvements over \$50,000; items of repair, maintenance or emergency nature over \$100,000; or Bureau of Water and Wastewater items of repair, maintenance, or emergency nature over \$250,000.

ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES: A bill enacted by the City Council, and approved by the Mayor, which gives legal effect to the appropriations included in the annual budget.

OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB): The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) mandates that OPEB be recorded as accrued liabilities in the annual financial statements of governmental entities. Annual contribution to a Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund is required.

OUTCOME BUDGETING: A budget process that aligns resources with results that matter most to residents. It's a budgeting tool that integrates strategic planning, long-range financial planning, and performance management.

OVERTIME: Payments to employees eligible for additional compensation for services rendered after a regularly scheduled work period subject to negotiated labor contracts and the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

PARKING ENTERPRISE FUND: Established to budget for operating and debt service expenses for City financed garages substantially supported by revenues derived from operation of these garages.

PARKING MANAGEMENT FUND: Established to budget for the administration of the City's parking garages and lots, parking enforcement activities, and operation of garages and lots financed with General Obligation Bonds.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO (PAYGO): Capital projects funded from current year General Fund revenues.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Specific performance metrics that show the results or public benefits of the services provided. The benefits can be in the form of an amount of products or services provided (outputs); reflect the cost per unit of output or outcome (efficiency); gauge how well a service meets customer expectations (effectiveness); or changes in attitudes, behaviors, knowledge, skills, and conditions as a result of the service (outcome).

PILLARS: Goals established by the Mayor for improving the quality of life for Baltimore's residents. The current Pillars are:

- Prioritizing Our Youth
- Building Public Safety
- Clean and Healthy Communities
- Equitable Neighborhood Development
- Responsible Stewardship of City Resources

POSITIONS: Represents those permanent full and part-time jobs that have a job number assigned.

- **Permanent Full-Time:** Payments to an employee filling a permanent full-time budgeted position for services rendered on a continuing basis.
- **Permanent Part-Time:** Payments to an employee who works less than a full-time schedule.

PROJECTION: An estimate of likely, possible future spending and/or revenues for a specific period of time.

RESULTS TEAMS: An interdisciplinary group of six to eight members assigned to a particular Pillar that reviews and ranks agency budget proposals in order to help the Mayor develop a budget recommendation that maximizes outcomes, or results, achieved for dollar spent.

REVENUE: Income generated by taxes, fines, penalties, notes, bonds, investment income, property rental, user charges, federal grants, State grants, private grants, county grants, and miscellaneous services.

REVENUE BUDGET: A forecast of the next fiscal year's income based on the collection of received payments in the current fiscal year, policy and legislative changes affecting the collection of income, and economic and market conditions.

SERVICE: Replaces program in the budget structure. An activity or set of activities performed by an agency that has:

- identifiable costs for budgeting purposes,
- a clear public purpose and measurable objectives,
- and clear lines of accountability for its performance and fiscal management.

Services are the means to achieving desired outcomes for City residents. Each Service has a unique three-digit numeric code used to identify services within an agency.

SEVERANCE PAY: Payments to permanent full-time and part-time employees due to them for accumulated leave balances, including vacation, personal, sick, etc., pursuant to provisions of negotiated labor agreements.

SPECIAL FUNDS: Established to budget for revenues derived from certain State, federal, and private governmental grants, as well as other revenue sources that are restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.

STIPENDS: Payments to participants in certain grant-funded programs for a specific purpose.

STORMWATER UTILITY FUND: Established to budget for the operating and capital expenses of the City's stormwater management system.

SUB-OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE: A subdivision of an object of expenditure in which groups of similar services or related articles are further delineated into more specific types of expenditures.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS: Additional spending authority provided by the City Council and approved by the Mayor derived from revenues from any source, other than the full rate property tax and other taxes, imposed in excess of or in addition to those relied upon by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the annual Ordinance of Estimates. These appropriations include grants from private or governmental sources that could not be expected with reasonable certainty at the time of the formulation of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates, additional appropriations for services included in the annual budget made necessary by a material change in circumstances, or new services which could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of formulation of the Ordinance of Estimates.

All such appropriations must be embodied in a separate ordinance limited to a single service, purpose, activity, or project and provide the revenue necessary to support the appropriation.

TARGET: Targets are the annual numerical benchmarks an agency aims to achieve for a performance measure.

TAX: Any charge of money or property by a government upon individuals or entities that the government has authority to collect from.

TAX CREDIT: An incentive that lets taxpayers subtract an amount from their owed tax based on specific qualifications.

TRANSFERS: Charges or expenditure reimbursements used as follows:

- To reimburse a program for costs which are charged as overhead to special grants.
- To transfer expenditures between funds in order to adjust the amounts derived from various sources for a multi-funded program rather than split each object and sub-object of expenditure.
- To reimburse a program for services rendered where the reimbursement is calculated on a fee basis rather than for specific expenditures.

WASTEWATER UTILITY FUND: Established to budget for the operating and capital expenses of the City's sewage facilities.

WATER UTILITY FUND: Established to budget for the operating and capital expenses of the City's water supply system.

WORKDAY: An enterprise, cloud-based application designed for human capital management (HCM) and financial management systems. Baltimore's Workday implementation is divided into multiple phases:

- Phase 1 involved the City's HCM system (personnel management and payroll) and went live in January 2021.
- Phase 2 involves the City's financial management systems (grants management, accounting, procurement, etc.) and went live on August 8, 2022.
- Phase 3 involves the City's recruitment and learning systems (job postings, application processing, employee training, etc.) and is going live in incremental stages, beginning in December 2022 through summer 2023.

Key Budgetary and Financial Policies

The establishment of clear objectives to align budget planning and ongoing agency operations to address the long-term issues and concerns confronting the City fails unless supported by sound fiscal management policies. This section presents major budgetary and financial policies that frame annual budget plan development and implementation. Many supporting policies, including payroll, purchasing, and retirement, are not summarized here.

Operating and Capital Budget Policies

Fundamental budget policies are set forth in the City Charter.

- **Balanced Budget:** The adoption of a balanced budget is not mandated by the conditions stated in Article II of the City Charter; however, it is implicit that the revenues the City projects to receive in the next fiscal year from all existing revenue sources must be sufficient to cover the total anticipated expenditures of the next fiscal year. The Department of Finance recommends an operating budget to the Board of Estimates that includes the appropriations needed for the operation of each City agency, program, purpose, activity, and project, as well as the specific revenue sources. Total revenues are either equal or greater than the recommended appropriations, and may be supplemented, if necessary, with prior year fund balance.
- **Public Hearings:** The Charter mandates that the Board of Estimates and the City Council conduct public hearings on the proposed budget.
- **Timely Adoption:** The Charter schedule requires budget adoption no later than five days before the fiscal year begins.
- **Budget Amendment:** The Charter provides means for adopting supplemental appropriations funded from unanticipated revenues and/or new grants and sources that materialize during the year, except for property tax revenue. The City's policy is to minimize the use of supplemental appropriations. In addition, the Charter allows for and spells out the procedures for amending the budget to transfer appropriations between programs within an agency and between agencies.
- **Budget Monitoring and Execution:** Budget analysts work closely with agency fiscal officers throughout the fiscal year, from implementing the current year budget to planning the next year's budget. Expenditure and revenue projections are developed and reviewed on a monthly basis. The Mayor, through the Department of Finance, exercises appropriate fiscal management to adjust budget policies, as necessary, to live within the limits of the current adopted plan. The City Council reviews budget performance each quarter, during the budget development period in the fourth quarter, and during the normal course of hearings on supplemental appropriations.
- **Long-Range Capital Plan:** The Charter requires the Department of Planning to develop a long-range Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which is updated every year. The plan is prepared in conformance with basic capital budgeting policies, which include appropriating funds in the year in which projects are likely to begin, financing a portion of capital improvements from current revenues, and estimating the impact of capital projects on the operating budget.

Financial Forecasting Policies

The City maintains a ten-year revenue and expenditure forecast for the General Fund. The multi-year forecast provides the basis for establishing budget targets and resource allocation to meet the Mayor's budget priorities.

Reserve Policies

In 1993, the Budget Stabilization Reserve, also known as the unassigned fund balance or Rainy Day Fund, was established. The Reserve is designed to provide budgetary flexibility should material funding shortfalls or unanticipated expenses occur. It may not be used to supplement a planning year budget, and funds drawn from the reserve must be replenished within five fiscal years.

In 2010, Baltimore voters approved a Charter amendment that eliminated a provision limiting the size of the unassigned portion of the General Fund balance to 1% of budgeted revenues. This restriction had placed the City in a relatively poor position compared to other large cities and worked against the City's interest in achieving sound financial practices. The Charter permits a \$1 million contingency appropriation and the Fiscal 2025 Preliminary Budget includes the full \$1.0 million.

Financial Reporting Policies

The City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) annual award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for over 25 years and the Distinguished Budget Presentation award each year applied since Fiscal 1988. The [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report](#) is prepared in conformance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board requirements. The City annually prepares the required full disclosure statements to comply with Securities and Exchange Commission requirements, provides fully descriptive notes in its annual financial report and disclosure statements, and secures an unqualified independent audit report.

Investment Policies

The City's investment policy, adopted in July 1995, covers investment objectives, types of investments, delegation of authority to invest, internal controls, and reporting requirements. The City operates on a pooled cash basis and maintains a tiered portfolio containing a pyramid of investments with a long-term base and short-term top, in order to maximize and stabilize returns. The City has maintained a ratio of current assets to current liabilities greater than 1.0 since 1989, a ratio of less than 1.0 is considered a fiscal stress warning sign.

Self-Insurance Policies

The City, through its Office of Risk Management, has a comprehensive program of risk exposure identification, evaluation, control, and financing. The City is self-insured in the area of casualty and property losses, including the uninsured portion of City buildings and contents, worker's compensation and employers' liability, employees' and retirees' health insurance, and third party general liability and automobile liability losses. To the extent possible, the City plans to address concerns about risk management reserves by making additional appropriations and by adjusting agency premiums to help provide adequate funding.

Debt Policies and Credit Rating

In 1990, the City adopted a formal debt policy which sets forth annual borrowing limits, consolidation of all financing arrangements within the Department of Finance, refunding and refinancing policies, and limits on key debt management ratios. In the development of the annual borrowing plan, the effects of debt on key ratios outlined in the policy are updated and analyzed. The objective is to maintain the City's reputation in the credit rating community as having a conservative approach to all aspects of debt management including debt service expenses, debt retirement schedules, and debt capacity ratios. The policy recognizes the fundamental role that debt has in the effort to maintain or improve the City's credit rating.

Long-Term Bond Ratings	Moody's Rating	Standard & Poor's Rating
General Obligations Bond	Aa2	AA
Water Senior Lien	Aa2	AA-
Wastewater Senior Lien	Aa2	AA-
Water Subordinate Lien	Aa3	A+
Wastewater Subordinate Lien	Aa3	A+
Stormwater Senior Lien	Aa2	AA-

The City maintains a General Obligation (GO) bond rating of 'Aa2' from Moody's Investors Service and 'AA' from Standard & Poor's. In May 2007, both of these ratings were upgraded from 'A1' and 'A+', respectively, after 40 years of being at the same rating, reducing the City's borrowing costs and saving the City money. In 2014, Standard & Poor's upgraded the City's bond rating from 'AA-' to 'AA', citing strong fiscal management. The City prepares an annual debt report, semi-annual multi-year debt service projections, and a periodic debt affordability analysis.

Fiscal Policies for Economic Development

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy plan submitted to the State in 1999 sets forth economic development goals, objectives and priorities. A primary goal of the economic development plan is to attract more job generating businesses to the City. To that end, the City has developed a variety of development incentives including loans, grants, and tax incentive programs. The budget plan estimates and reports on one type of tax expenditure, property tax credits. The City is committed to performing consistent and thorough analysis of the cost and benefit of its tax incentive programs.

Fiscal Stability Practices

- **Employee and Retiree Benefits Program Costs:** Since total employee compensation costs are the largest share of the City's expenses, it is absolutely essential that options to control costs of employee benefits be examined. The City has an ongoing joint labor-management Health Insurance Committee. Certain recommendations made by the committee are subject to bargaining processes with employee groups.
- **Budget Emergencies:** The City Charter provides a mechanism for the Department of Finance, under guidelines approved by the Board of Estimates, to establish expenditure schedules or strict budgetary allotments when warranted by financial conditions. In addition, the City Charter permits the budget to include up to \$1.0 million in General Fund appropriations as a contingent fund for emergencies.

Operating and Capital Plan Budgetary Control

Operating Plan

Level of Control

Budgetary control is maintained at the service level for each operating fund (and at the project level for each capital project), by the encumbrance of estimated purchase or contract amounts prior to the release of purchase orders to vendors. All purchasing requisitions require review by direct supervisor and agency fiscal personnel. Purchase orders which result in an overrun of either operating or capital balances are not released until additional appropriations are made available. The City has also established a program of financial vulnerability assessment to provide ongoing review of internal financial controls.

Mechanisms

- *Bureau of the Budget and Management Research:* All significant purchase requisitions are reviewed for justification and approved for funds by an analyst in the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research (BBMR). BBMR prepares regular revenue and expenditure projections to serve as operating guides for policy makers and budget administrators in support of budget monitoring in order to ensure that budgetary shortfalls are not incurred. All purchase requisitions and all items going before the Board of Estimates (BOE) for contract awards are reviewed for justification and approved for funds by an analyst in BBMR.
- *Mayor's Expenditure Control Committee:* All personnel matters that require BOE approval must be submitted to the Expenditure Control Committee for review and recommendation prior to submission to the BOE.
- *Space Utilization Committee:* All actions affecting the disposition of property through sales, the leasing of City-owned real property and City leasing of property owned by third parties, interdepartmental leases, and the declaration of surplus real property are reviewed by the Committee. Recommendations are developed prior to submission to the BOE for final action to assure optimum return on real estate transactions.
- *Contingent Fund:* This account exists to fund emergency and/or unanticipated expenditures. The City Charter limits the annual contingent appropriation to \$1 million. Prior to approval of expenditures from the Fund, the BOE reports to the City Council the circumstances surrounding the request of the expenditure.

Appropriations

The adopted budgetary plan is prepared and appropriated on a service basis by fund. The City's integrated financial management system tracks spending by service, activity, and object level within each fund. Purchase orders which result in an overrun of either operating or capital balances are not released until additional appropriations are made available.

Encumbered Funds

Funds encumbered for contracts, purchase orders and capital improvements are carried over to the next fiscal year upon agency request and availability of funds.

Carryovers

Unencumbered appropriations for a particular service, purpose, activity, or project may, upon the recommendation of the head of the municipal agency concerned and the Director of Finance, and with the approval of the BOE, be carried over to the next fiscal year if necessary to accomplish that service, purpose, activity, or project. Appropriations which are not carried over lapse at the end of the fiscal year in which appropriated, except for special funds (e.g., State and federal grants, enterprise funds, etc.), the balances of which are automatically carried over.

Capital Plan

Government accounting standards and the City Charter require that operating revenues and expenses be clearly distinguished from revenues and expenses associated with capital projects (these are the design, development, construction and extraordinary repair and rehabilitation of physical plant and facilities, excluding vehicle acquisitions). The BOE has defined capital projects as physical betterment or improvements costing more than \$50,000; items of repair, maintenance, or emergency nature costing more than \$100,000; and Bureau of Water and Wastewater items of repair, maintenance, or emergency nature costing more than \$250,000. Physical improvements are not restricted to buildings, but encompass a wide range of projects including street and highway construction, maintenance and improvement of water and sewer systems, community development programs, and playground development. In general, capital facilities are considered to have at least a 15-year useful life. Projects funded in the Capital Budget Plan have been included in the six-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Appropriations

A large share of appropriations in the Capital Budget derive from federal grants, State grants, General Obligation bonds, revenue bond proceeds, and County grants. County grants pay for a prorated share of water and wastewater improvements.

Significant appropriations are derived from the Water Utility and Wastewater Utility Funds used to finance the local share of utility improvements.

The City embraces a Pay-As-You-Go capital funding policy, which annually finances a portion of capital improvements from current revenues of the General Fund and Water and Wastewater Utility Funds.

Monitoring

The Capital Accounting Section of the Bureau of Accounting and Payroll Services manages an automated system which checks documents and actions creating obligations or charges in capital project accounts against available appropriations. All documents creating shortfalls are returned to agencies for corrective actions. In addition, the Section reviews BOE actions, extra work orders, and other actions to determine impact on project balances. All agencies' ongoing capital projects are monitored by agencies on a continuous basis by assigned project engineers who are responsible for construction oversight to prevent project delays and overruns, as well as to ensure compliance with project approval procedures and appropriation limits.

Periodic surveys are conducted to assess the physical condition of facilities in the City's inventory. Those facilities in need of improvements are considered in a subsequent Capital Improvement Program along with other City priorities for funding in a future year.

Particular attention is directed in the Capital Improvement Plan to infrastructure rehabilitation and facilities modernization.

Integrated Financial System

The Department of Finance has an integrated financial management system, which links capital planning and the accounting function. This system supports the monitoring activity described above. This system allows a careful tracking of authorized charges to the various projects and comparison to detailed project cost estimates. The system also assures the integrity of project payments to consultants and contractors.

Cost Control

Value engineering standards and techniques are applied to control costs in the design and project scope development phases, as well as to anticipate and resolve project problems early. The BOE must approve all costs that would exceed any funding previously approved by the Board for a project.

Expenditures: Operating and Capital Fund Types

The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget is \$4.69 billion budgeted in six different fund sources. Each type, and the individual fund sources that comprise it, are described below.

General Fund

The General Fund is the City's largest and principal fund, supported by locally generated revenues and some State Aid. The General Fund is used to budget and account for all activities not required by law, accounting practice, or management objective to be separately budgeted. These funds have the most flexibility in how they can be spent.

Special Purpose Budget Funds

The City's budget contains two special purpose budgetary funds, the Parking Management and Convention Center Bond funds. These funds are merged with the General Fund in the City's [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#). The Parking Management Fund budgets for the operations of on-street parking activities and operations of parking facilities supported by the General Fund. The Convention Center Bond Fund budgets for debt service supported by the City's Hotel Tax, a General Fund revenue source. The City completed its final Convention Center debt service payment in Fiscal 2020, with future year contributions being made to offset future expansion or renovation costs.

Grant Funds

These funds are used to budget and account for all activities that have restricted uses supported by dedicated revenue. This group consists of federal, State, special revenue, and private grant funds.

Enterprise Funds

These funds are used to budget and account for operations, including debt service, that are financed and operated as an ongoing concern. Costs of providing services, including depreciation, are financed or recovered primarily through user charges or other dedicated revenues. Enterprise funds in the City's budget are the Conduit, Parking, Stormwater Utility, Water Utility, and Wastewater Utility funds. Repayment of debt service expenses incurred by the City Industrial Development Authority, an enterprise fund, are reflected in the debt service payments of the respective funds that have utilized Authority financing.

Internal Service Funds

The budget includes proprietary type funds accounting for the financing of goods and services provided by certain City agencies to other agencies on a cost reimbursement basis. These include: Mobile Equipment, Printing and Graphics, Municipal Post Office, Department of Telecommunications, Risk Management, Public Buildings, Unemployment Insurance, Hardware and Software Replacement, and 800 MHz Radio Maintenance.

Capital Project Funds

All revenue sources, including loan proceeds, intergovernmental grants, certain dedicated revenues, and fund transfers comprised of Pay-As-You-Go support from current revenues of other funds are budgeted and accounted for in this fund group.

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COVID-19 Federal Aid

Federal aid served as a lifeline for the City through the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the onset of the pandemic, the City has been receiving federal support to offset costs associated with the response and impacts of COVID-19 on the community. FEMA first declared the national emergency for the pandemic in January 2020, the emergency declaration ended on May 11, 2023. During this time the City tracked all expenses associated with the COVID-19 response to receive reimbursement from FEMA. The City is in the final stages of seeking reimbursement for these costs.

In addition to FEMA funds, Baltimore received funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). All funds received from CARES (\$103.4 million) were fully expended by the December 2021 deadline. All funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act (\$641 million) have been fully obligated and will be spent down by the December 31st, 2026 deadline.

Sustainability

The Fiscal 2026 budget does not include funds from federal programs associated with COVID-19. The City's fiscal policy establishes that when temporary grant funding ends, costs and services are not taken on by the General Fund. Planning efforts surrounding the remaining ARPA fund programs are ongoing with City agencies, the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs, and BBMR to identify sustainability plans for these programs following ARPA deadlines.

FEMA Funding

The FEMA reimbursement period for COVID-19 response costs ended on May 11, 2023. The City is in the final stages of submitting documentation to receive reimbursement for these costs. Throughout the pandemic the City received reimbursement for the following costs: hotel sheltering for individuals experiencing homelessness, Health Department staffing for COVID-19 related activities, feeding programs, and the vaccine rollout. These expenses were unbudgeted throughout the pandemic due to their temporary nature. All programs were either transitioned to other funding sources or suspended following the FEMA cost reimbursement deadline. Over the course of the pandemic the City has received \$116.36 million in cost reimbursement, with an additional \$80.3 million pending reimbursement.

Type of Expense	Funding Status		Total
	Reimbursed	Pending	
Feeding	42,630,548	1,610,553	44,241,101
Materials, Supplies, & Equipment	1,463,958	1,277,632	2,741,590
Other	15,573,926	22,369,024	37,942,950
Sheltering	44,882,674	43,769,324	88,651,998
Vaccines	11,805,438	11,263,308	23,068,746
Total	116,356,544	80,289,841	196,646,385

Table in dollars.

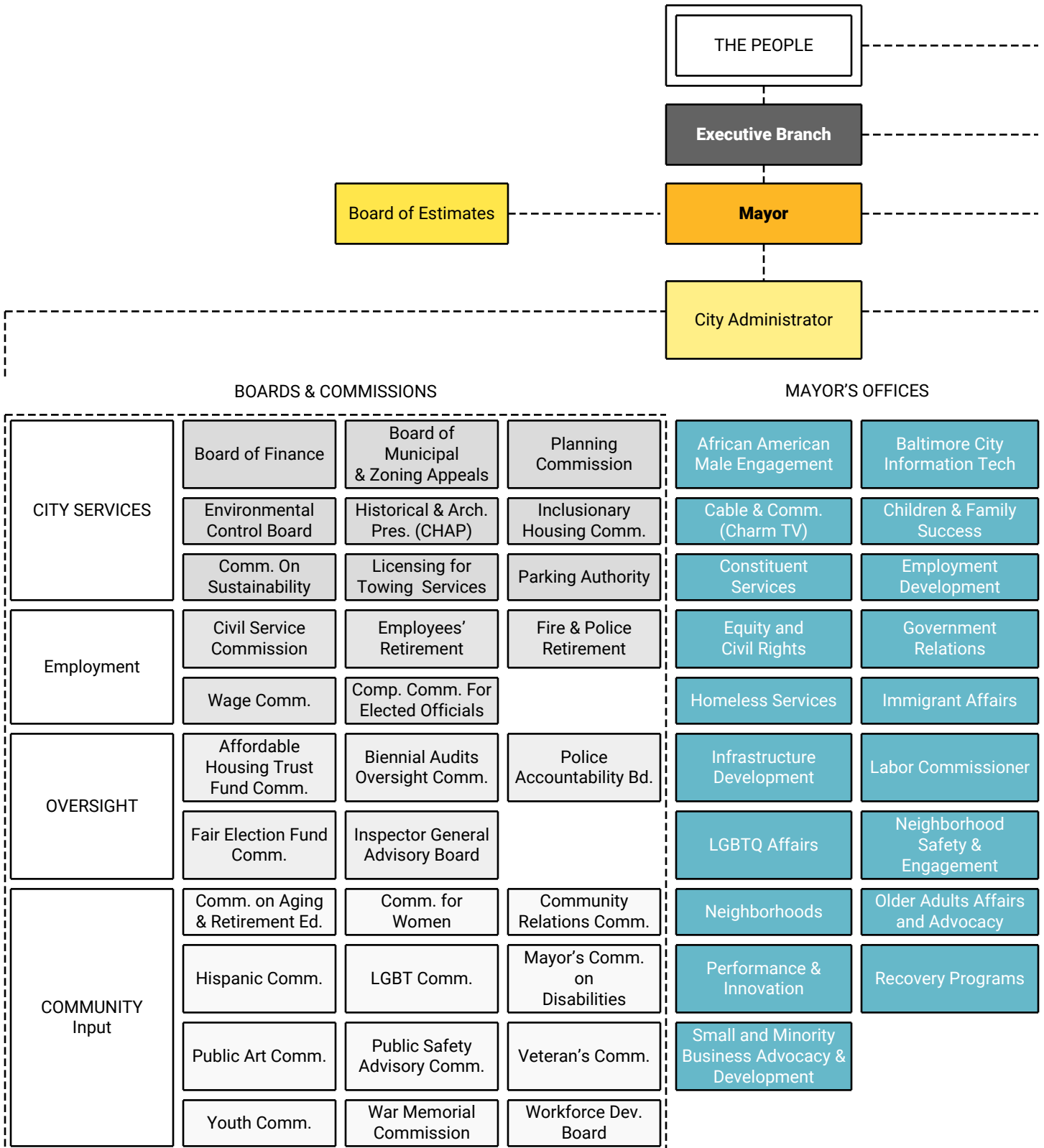
ARPA Funding

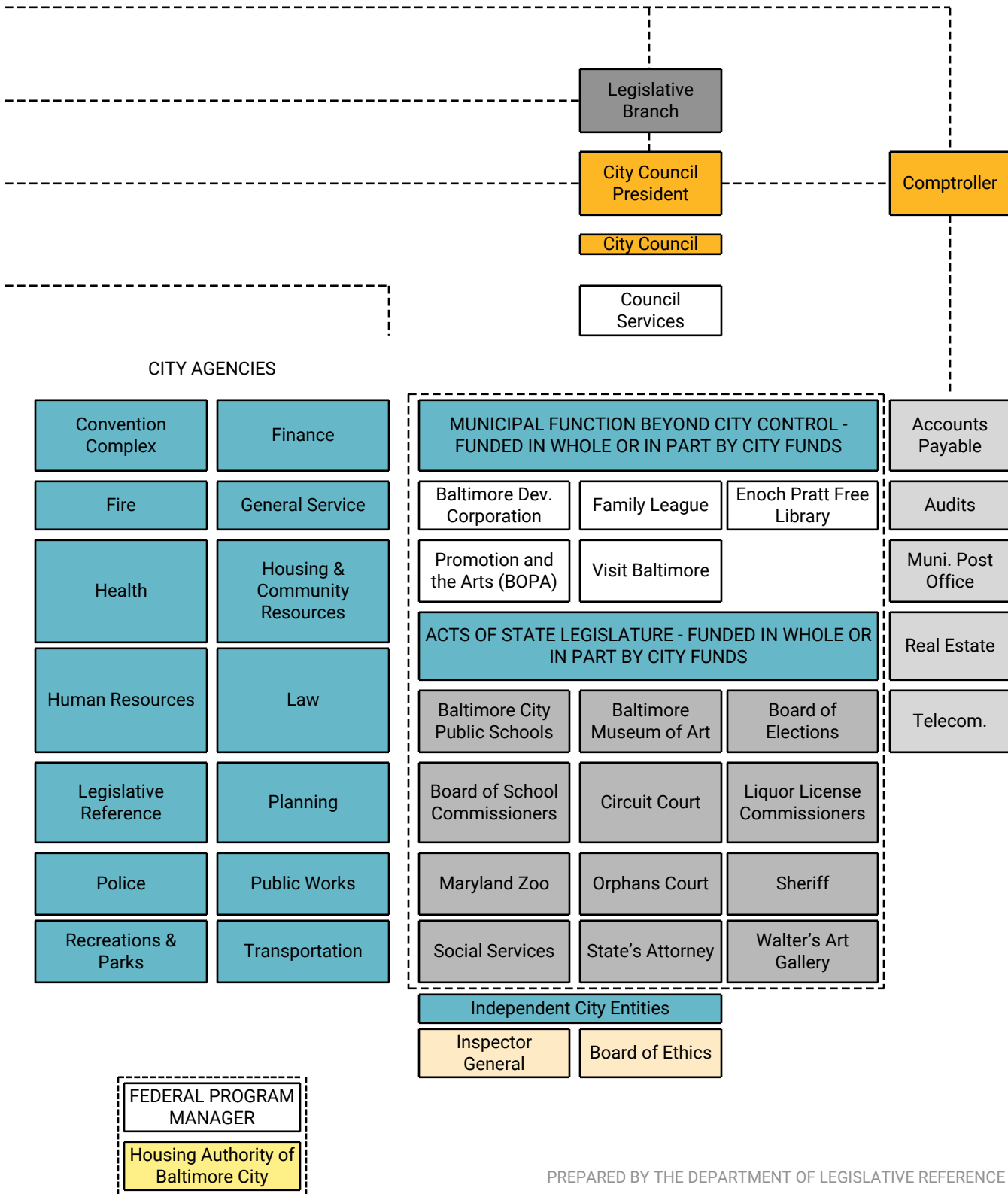
The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), specifically the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, allocated \$641 million to the City of Baltimore in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. In Fiscal 2022, Mayor Brandon M. Scott established the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs (MORP) to administer this funding on behalf of the City.

To date, the full ARPA award has been committed to individual projects being implemented by City agencies, quasi-agencies, and local non-profits. Per spending deadlines, ARPA funds were obligated by December 31st, 2024, and must be fully spent down by December 31st, 2026.

MORP provides regular updates regarding spending through quarterly reports to the U.S Department of Treasury, monthly reports to the City Council, and an annual report. These reporting tools provide project level detail regarding the status of ARPA-funded projects. All reporting materials are available on the MORP [website](#).

Municipal Organization Chart





Municipal Structure

Under the Baltimore City Charter the City's executive functions are vested in the Mayor, the Board of Estimates, and an independent Comptroller. The City's legislative functions are vested in the City Council.

Recent Charter Amendments

The City Charter defines the organization, powers, functions, and procedures of the City of Baltimore. In addition, it establishes the terms for election and removal, as well as term limits for elected officials.

In November 2022, Baltimore City voters passed a Charter amendment establishing term limits for the Mayor, City Council, City Council President, and Comptroller. The term limits establish that elected officials cannot hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms and cannot hold the same office for more than eight years during any 12-year period. These limits begin taking effect with officials elected in 2024.

Executive

Mayor

The Mayor is the chief executive officer of the City elected for four-year terms with no term limit restrictions. If the Mayor is disabled or absent from the City, the President of the City Council acts as ex-officio Mayor. If the Mayor resigns, is permanently disqualified, or dies in office, the President of the City Council becomes Mayor for the remainder of the term. The Mayor appoints department heads and municipal officers, serves on the Board of Estimates, and appoints two of the other four members of the Board of Estimates. The Mayor also has the authority to approve or veto ordinances.

- *Mayor:* Brandon M. Scott

Chief Administrative Officer

The Chief Administrative Officer provides additional professional management capacity to support the day-to-day operations of City government and advises the Mayor on the effective, efficient, and economically prudent administration of public resources. The City Administrator executes the Mayor's policies with the assistance of colleagues across City government. The City Administrator's Office is comprised of the Deputy City Administrator and three Deputy Mayors.

- *Chief Administrative Officer:* Faith P. Leach
- *Deputy City Administrator:* Shamiah Kerney
- *Deputy Mayor for Community and Economic Development:* Justin Williams
- *Deputy Mayor for Equity, Health, and Human Services:* John David Merrill (Interim)
- *Deputy Mayor for Public Safety:* Anthony Barksdale

Comptroller

The Comptroller is a citywide elected official that is a member of the Executive branch, but is independent of the Mayor. The Comptroller is elected to four-year terms with no term limit restrictions. Pursuant to Article V of the City Charter the Comptroller serves as a member of the Board of Estimates and the Board of Finance. The Comptroller has executive responsibility for the Department of Accounts Payable, the Department of Audits, the Department of Real Estate, the Department of Telecommunications, and the Municipal Post Office.

- *Comptroller:* Bill Henry

Board of Estimates

The [Board of Estimates](#) (BOE) formulates and executes the fiscal policy of the City with its primary policy tool being the recommended annual Ordinance of Estimates, the City's budget. The BOE is also responsible for awarding contracts and supervising all purchasing by the City. The BOE is composed of five voting members: the President of the City Council, who serves as President of the BOE, the Mayor, the Comptroller, the City Solicitor, and the Director of the Department of Public Works.

- *City Council President:* Zeke Cohen
- *Mayor:* Brandon M. Scott
- *Comptroller:* Bill Henry
- *City Solicitor:* Ebony Thompson
- *Director of Public Works:* Khalil Zaied

Legislative

City Council President

The City Council President is citywide elected position that presides over the City Council and serves as a voting member. The Council President is also President of the Board of Estimates. The Council President is elected to four-year terms with no term limit restrictions. In the event of a vacancy in the Mayor's office, the Council President becomes Mayor for the remainder of that term. If the position of Council President is vacant, the members of the Council elect a new Council President

- *City Council President:* Zeke Cohen

City Council

The [City Council](#) is the City's legislative body, with the power to enact all ordinances and resolutions. City Council members are elected from 14 districts, and the President is elected at-large, by all voters of the City.

- *First District:* Mark Parker
- *Second District:* Danielle McCray
- *Third District:* Ryan Dorsey
- *Fourth District:* Mark Conway
- *Fifth District:* Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
- *Sixth District:* Sharon Green Middleton, Vice President
- *Seventh District:* James Torrence
- *Eighth District:* Paris Gray
- *Ninth District:* John T. Bullock
- *Tenth District:* Phylicia Porter
- *Eleventh District:* Zac Blanchard
- *Twelfth District:* .Jermaine Jones
- *Thirteenth District:* Antonio Glover
- *Fourteenth District:* Odette Ramos

Learn More

Below are ways to engage with the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research (BBMR) and learn more about the City's budget.

Budget Publications

Every year, the City publishes five budget documents.

1. The Preliminary Budget Plan publication contains the initial budget recommendations from the Department of Finance, which is presented to the Board of Estimates.
2. The Executive Summary publication contains the Board of Estimates recommendations for the budget, which is presented to the City Council.
3. The Agency Detail publications, Volume I and Volume II, contain detailed budget information by agency and service.
4. The Community Guide to the Budget contains an overview of the major funding recommendations of the budget.
5. Summary of the Adopted Budget contains the adopted budget, as well as additional exhibits about the City's financial policies and practices as outlined in the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program.

A copy of the Executive Summary and Agency Detail budget publications can be found at the Enoch Pratt Central Library in the Maryland Room for reference use. The Central Library is located at 400 Cathedral St, Baltimore, MD 21201.

All publications are available in PDF format from the [BBMR website](#).

Capital Improvement Program

The Department of Planning develops the City's six-year Capital Improvement Program. Information on the capital budget process, agency proposals, the annual equity analysis, and more details about the capital budget can be found on the [Department of Planning website](#).

Taxpayers' Night

Every year, the Board of Estimates, which is tasked in the City Charter with formulating and executing the fiscal policy of the City, hosts a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget Plan called Taxpayers' Night, as required by the City Charter. This event provides City residents the opportunity to provide feedback on the Preliminary Budget, which the Board of Estimates takes in to consideration before submitting the recommended budget, formally called the Ordinance of Estimates, to the City Council. The City Council also hosts a Taxpayers' Night on the Ordinance of Estimates.

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) is a financial document that complies with standards set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Baltimore City's current and past ACFRs can be accessed through the [Department of Finance website](#).

Baltimore City Charter

The City Charter is a legal document that establishes the organization, powers, functions, and essential procedures for Baltimore City. It can be accessed through the [Department of Legislative Reference website](#).

Social Media

Connect with the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) @bmorebudget, for infographics, budget process updates, events, and more.

Newsletter

Subscribe to BBMR's newsletter "Bmore Budgets Brief", a simple way to stay up to date on the City of Baltimore's budget. The newsletter includes regular updates on the budget process, legislative and policy notes, community engagement opportunities, and more. Sign up to receive this newsletter visit the Get Involved section of budget.baltimorecity.gov.

Budget Presentations and Questions

Residents and community groups can request a community budget presentation from a member of BBMR or ask questions about the budget by emailing budget@baltimorecity.gov.

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Chief Administrative Officer:

Faith P. Leach

Finance Director:

Michael Mocksten

Deputy Finance Directors:

Robert Cename

Yoanna Moises

Budget Director:

Laura Larsen

Deputy Budget Director:

Benjamin Brosch

Assistant Budget Director, Revenue and Long-Term Financial Planning:

Pedro Aponte

Budget Management Analysts:

John Burklew

Rob Feehley

Malachi Gaines

Kamaria Harmon

Sumaiya Binta Islam

Laura Paone

Simonas Sungaila

Evelyn Yuen

Revenue and Long-Term Financial Planning Analyst:

Michael Brede

Data Lead and Systems Analyst:

Sarah Schulte

Zachary Harris

Policy Lead:

Gabriel Stuart-Sikowitz

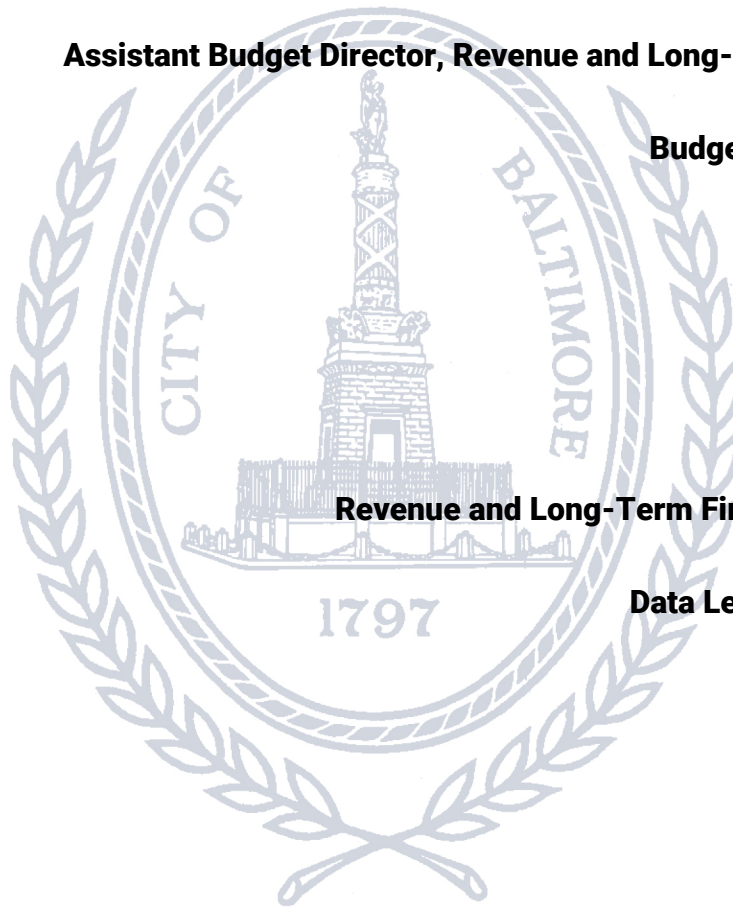
Executive Assistant:

Jeanine Murphy

HBCU Fellows:

Tearha Hill

Chiamaka Nnabugwu





City of Baltimore

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

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