

CITY OF ONEIDA, NEW YORK

2027 CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET

A structural reset that balances recurring operations without using General Fund reserves.

Presented October 2026

23.00%

PROPOSED residential tax-rate
increase

\$1.339M

net reduction from department
requests

\$0

General Fund balance used

No General Fund reserves used to balance the
2027 proposal



The 2027 General Fund at a glance

WHAT IS THE GENERAL FUND?

The General Fund is the City's primary operating fund. It pays for core City services such as Police, Fire, streets, parks, administration and other day-to-day municipal operations.

It is supported by property taxes, sales tax, State aid, fees and other General Fund revenues. Water and Sewer are accounted for separately.

GENERAL FUND BALANCE USE

\$0

NO GENERAL FUND RESERVES USED TO BALANCE THE 2027 PROPOSAL

Operating result: \$0 — balanced

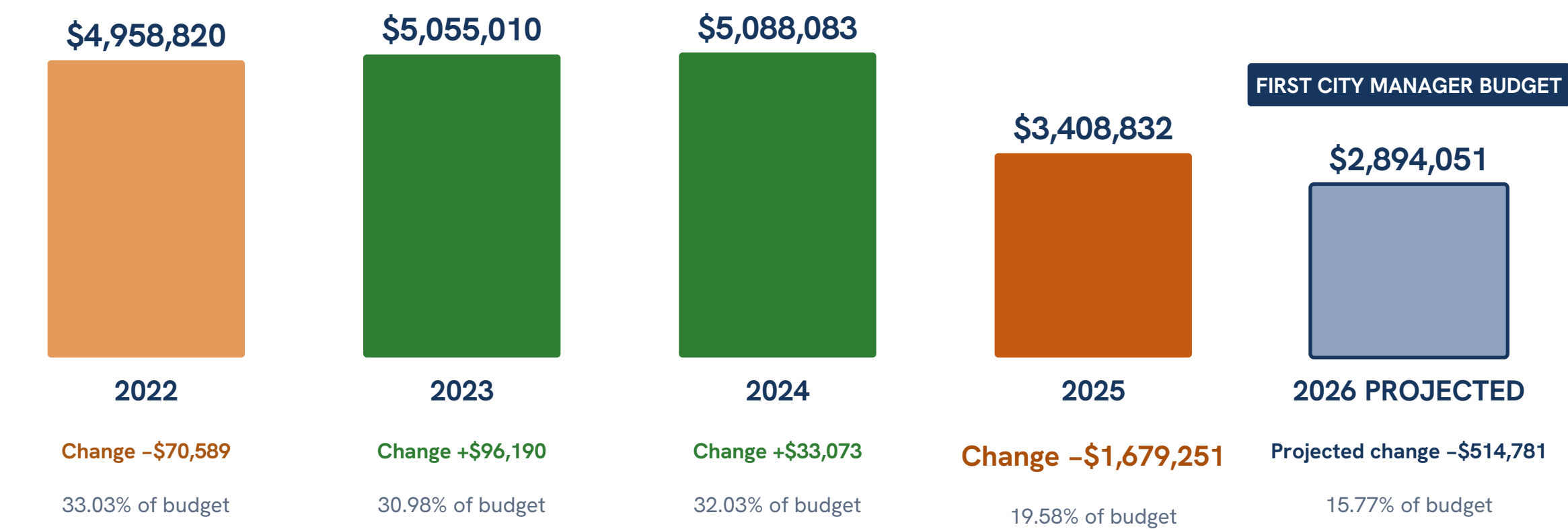
Revenue	Appropriations	Projected ending balance
\$19,769,425.30	\$19,769,425.30	\$2,894,051
		14.64% of appropriations

The 2027 proposal balances recurring General Fund operations without drawing from General Fund reserves.



Five Years of General Fund Results

The current fiscal position developed over several budget years — not in a single year.



Fund balance remained near \$5 million through 2024, then declined sharply in 2025 and continued declining in 2026.

Source: City of Oneida General Fund historical financial schedules and 2027 budget analysis



2025 Used Approximately \$1.679 Million in General Fund Reserves

\$1.679M

General Fund reserve use

≈30% tax-rate equivalent

\$388,478 originally planned + \$1,290,776 additional use authorized ≈ \$1.679M total

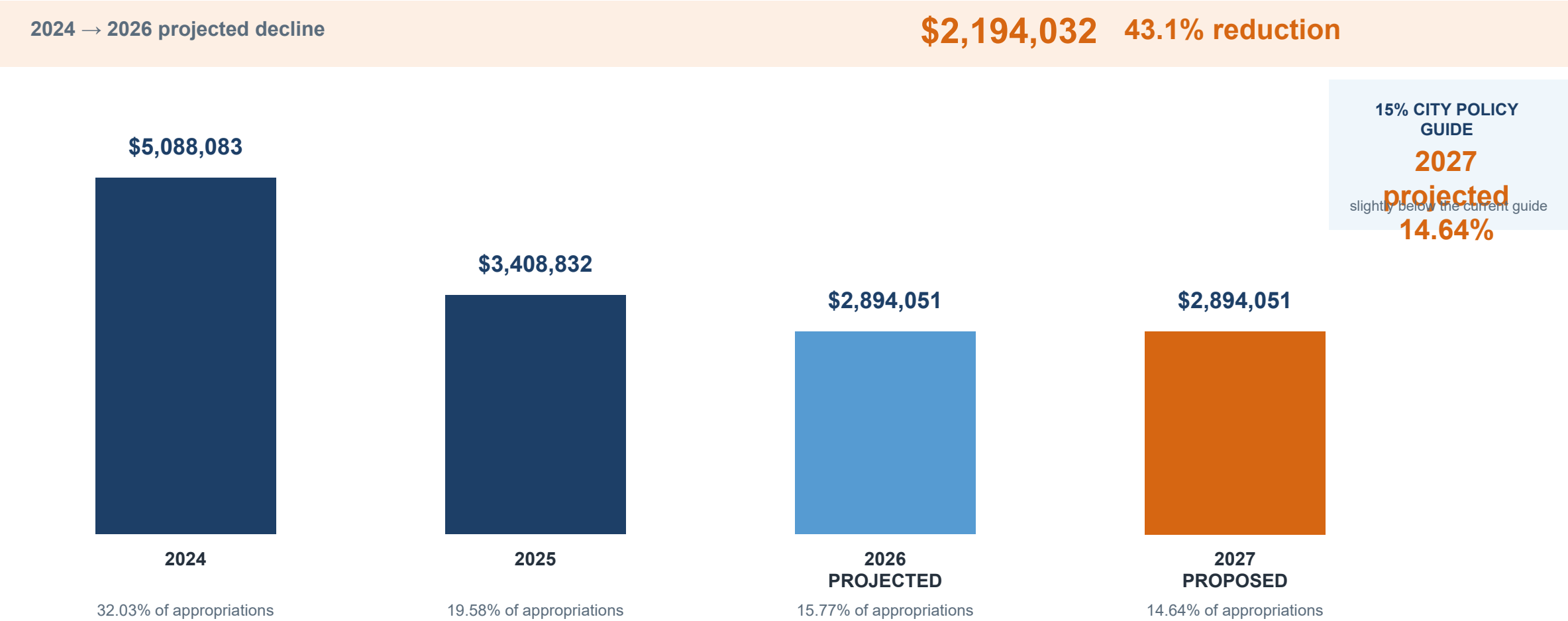
The operating cost did not disappear.

It was paid from accumulated reserves instead of recurring revenue.



How the structural imbalance developed

Ending General Fund balance fell sharply in 2025 and continued declining in 2026.



2027 STOPS THE DRAW \$0 new General Fund balance use · recurring operations balanced



The opening requests were not the proposal

If taxes alone had been used to balance the opening requests, the implied tax pressure was approximately 64%–65%.

STARTING POINT — NOT THE PROPOSAL

64%–65%

Opening department requests implied approximately 64%–65% tax pressure if property taxes were the only balancing source.

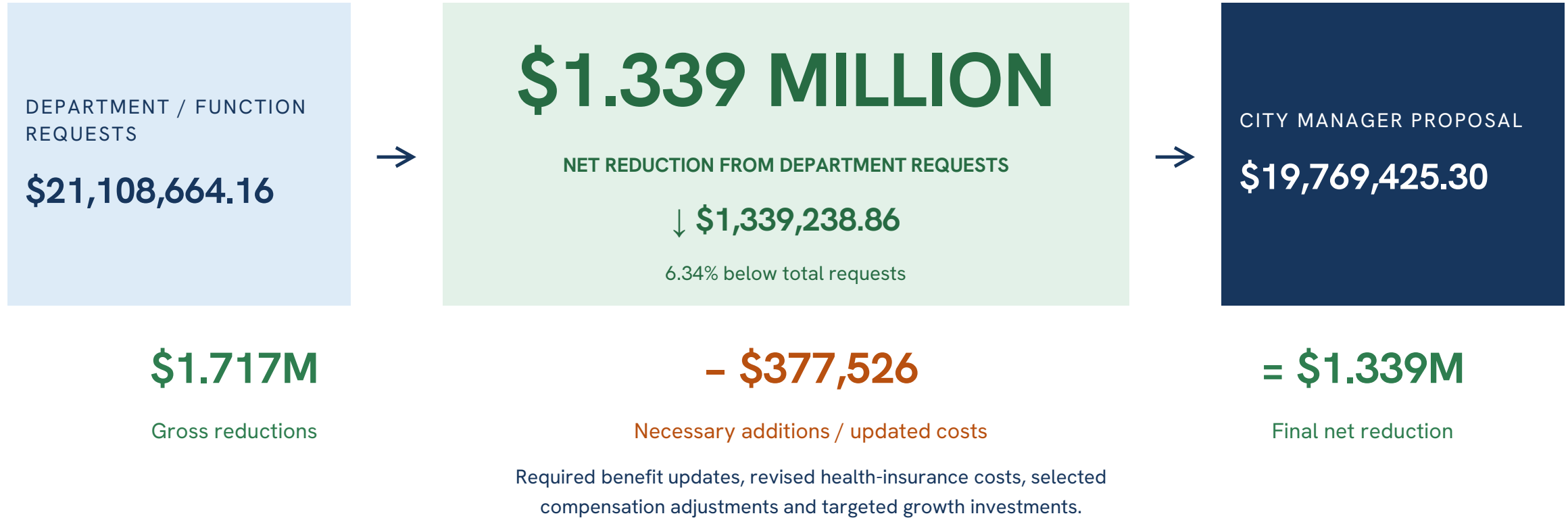
Management reductions and revenue work came first.

The final proposed tax rate was calculated only after that review.



Management Reduced Department Requests by \$1.34 Million

Before proposing a tax-rate increase, every General Fund department and function was reviewed line by line.



The 23% proposed tax-rate increase was not the starting point.

Management first reduced requested General Fund spending by more than \$1.34 million.



Where the largest reductions occurred

Major 2027 General Fund department and operating-function reductions.

FUNCTION	ORIGINAL REQUEST	CITY MANAGER PROPOSAL	REDUCTION
Police	\$4,324,926	\$3,807,249	\$517,677
Parks & Recreation	\$682,210	\$509,044	\$173,166
Fire	\$3,104,326.47	\$2,945,679.47	\$158,647
Buildings	\$394,415	\$260,704	\$133,711
Code Enforcement	\$314,773	\$217,228	\$97,545
Information Technology	\$274,647.24	\$190,000	\$84,647.24
Central Garage	\$394,036	\$323,236	\$70,800
Street Maintenance	\$1,216,430	\$1,146,580	\$69,850

Additional listed reductions

Administration allocation \$66,072 · Assessor \$27,300 · Snow & Ice \$21,000 · Traffic \$12,500

Gross reductions across all General Fund lines totaled approximately \$1.717 million.



Where funding was added back

The proposal was not an across-the-board cut. Selected lines increased where operational needs or strategic priorities justified it.

CIVIL SERVICE / HR

+\$1,870

Management salary adjustment

CITY CLERK

+\$3,749

Management salary adjustments within the Clerk salary line

PLANNING

+\$9,500 net

Planning salaries and Comprehensive Planning Grant, partly offset by other reductions

DPW ADMINISTRATION

+\$19,328 net

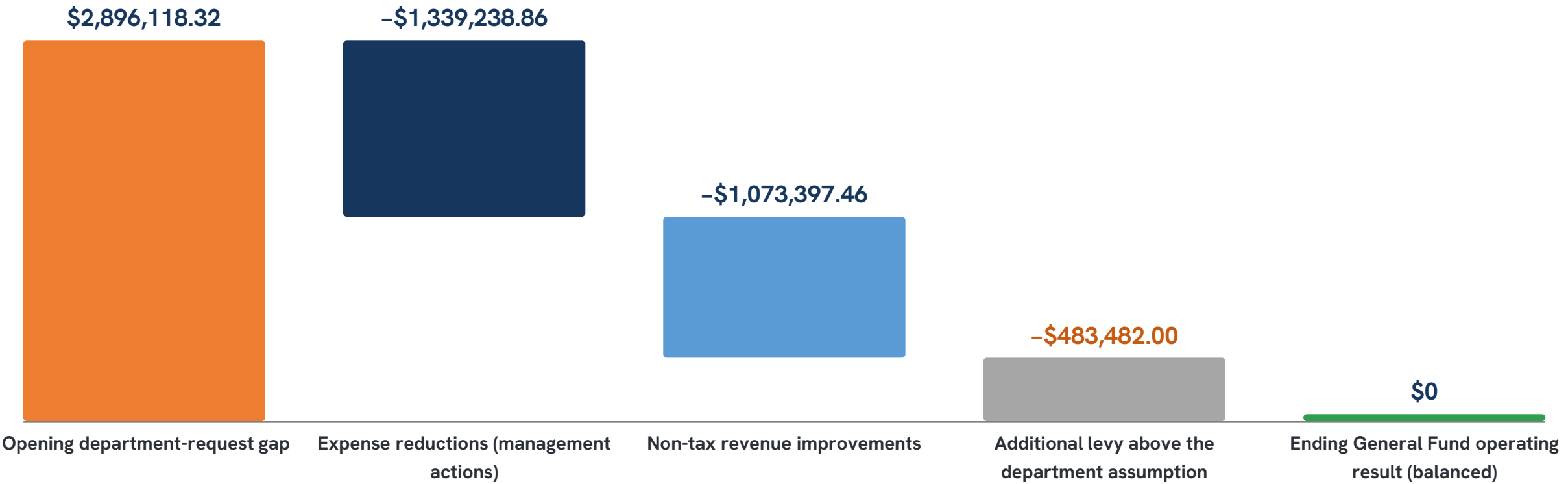
\$75,000 for outside licensed engineering, offset by other DPW administrative changes

Cut where requests could be scaled back. Add where the City still needs capacity.



\$2,412,636 in additional property-tax levy avoided.

Additional levy avoided versus the all-tax request scenario: \$2,412,636.32



The final \$1.339 million spending reduction and \$1.073 million in non-tax revenue improvements account for approximately \$2.413 million of the original gap; the remaining \$483,482 is supported by the proposed levy.

Source: 2027 Proposed Budget Workbook — General Fund



Tax rate and tax levy are not the same thing

PROPOSED TAX RATE INCREASE

23.00%

Proposed residential tax-rate increase

≠

LEVY INCREASE

24.93%

General Fund levy increase

2027 GENERAL FUND LEVY

\$7,433,588

2027 General Fund levy

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Tax Rate

The amount charged against taxable assessed value, generally expressed per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Tax Levy

The total amount of property-tax dollars the City raises to support the General Fund.

How They Work Together

Tax rates applied to the City's taxable assessment base produce the total property-tax levy.

The levy is not an additional tax on top of the tax rate—it is the total amount generated by property taxes.

Because taxable assessed value can change, the percentage change in the levy does not have to equal the percentage change in the tax rate.



1 Percentage Point = Approximately \$60,436

Each one percentage point of the City tax-rate model represents approximately \$60,436 in recurring General Fund revenue.

1 percentage point = $\approx$ \$60,436

5 points

= $\approx$ \$302,178

10 points

= $\approx$ \$604,356

20 points

= $\approx$ \$1.209 million

At \$100,000 assessed value, one percentage point is approximately \$12.94/year Inside and \$6.54/year Outside using the underlying rate model.



Impact on Inside and Outside taxpayers

The proposed 23% rate change is measured from the underlying 2026 budget-rate baseline. The actual billed-rate comparison is approximately 28.77% because 2026 included a one-time credit

23% PROPOSED CITY TAX-RATE INCREASE

Budget baseline measure — not the percentage increase in a homeowner’s total property-tax bill.

INSIDE DISTRICT

ACTUAL 2026 BILLED → 2027 PROPOSED

ANNUAL CITY-TAX INCREASE

+\$355.64

≈ +\$29.64/month

2027 City tax per \$100,000 assessed: \$1,591.97

OUTSIDE DISTRICT

ACTUAL 2026 BILLED → 2027 PROPOSED

ANNUAL CITY-TAX INCREASE

+\$179.81

≈ +\$14.98/month

2027 City tax per \$100,000 assessed: \$804.87

WHY IS THE ACTUAL CHANGE ABOUT 28.77%?

The 2026 certified City rate included a one-time \$266,442 prior-year excess-levy credit that temporarily lowered the rate taxpayers paid. The credit does not recur in 2027.



INSIDE DISTRICT

CITY OF ONEIDA TAX ONLY

2026 certified rate: \$12.363271 → 2027 proposed rate: \$15.91969

\$200,000 TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE PROPERTY

Annual City-tax increase: **+\$711.28**

Approximately **+\$59.27/month**

\$100K

+\$355.64/year

\$150K

+\$533.46/year

\$250K

+\$889.10/year

\$300K

+\$1,066.93/year

OUTSIDE DISTRICT

CITY OF ONEIDA TAX ONLY



2026 certified rate: \$6.250630 → 2027 proposed rate: \$8.04869

\$200,000 TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE PROPERTY

Annual City-tax increase: **+\$359.61**

Approximately **+\$29.97/month**

\$100K

+\$179.81/year

\$150K

+\$269.71/year

\$250K

+\$449.52/year

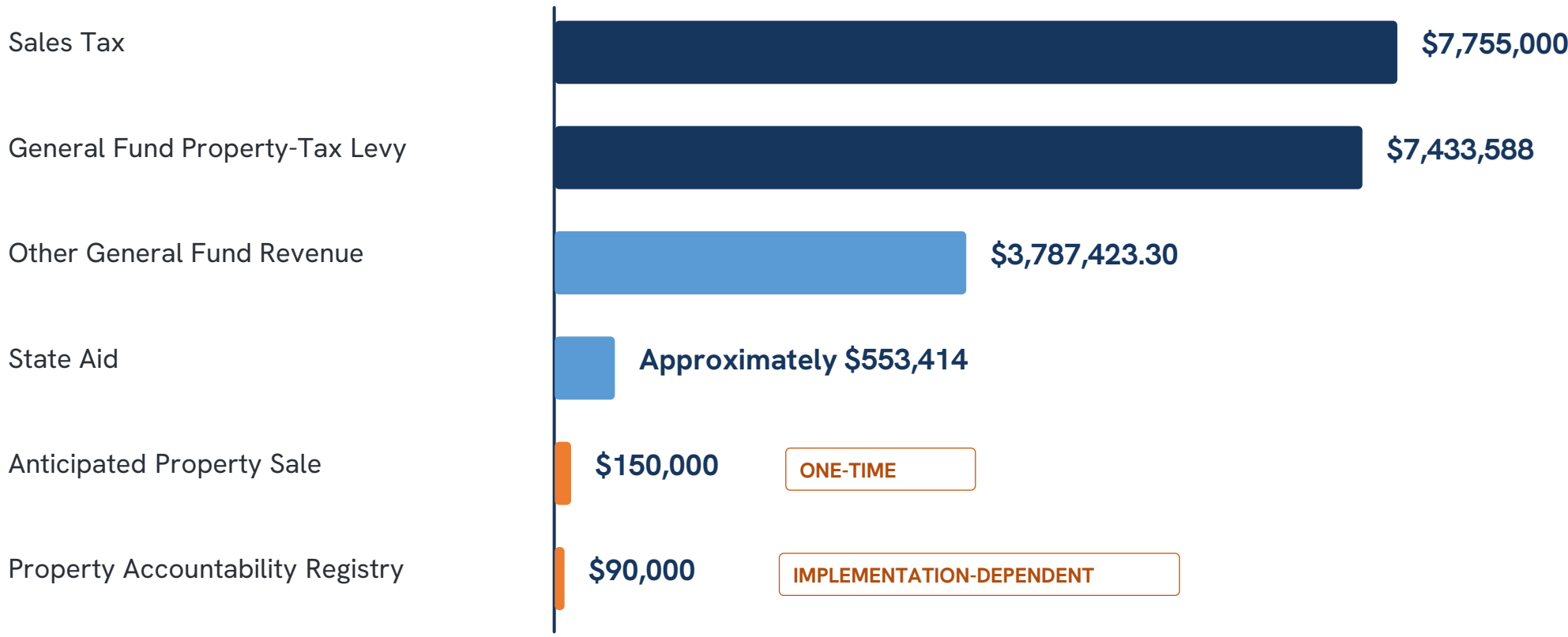
\$300K

+\$539.42/year



Where the Money Comes From

2027 General Fund revenue: \$19,769,425.30



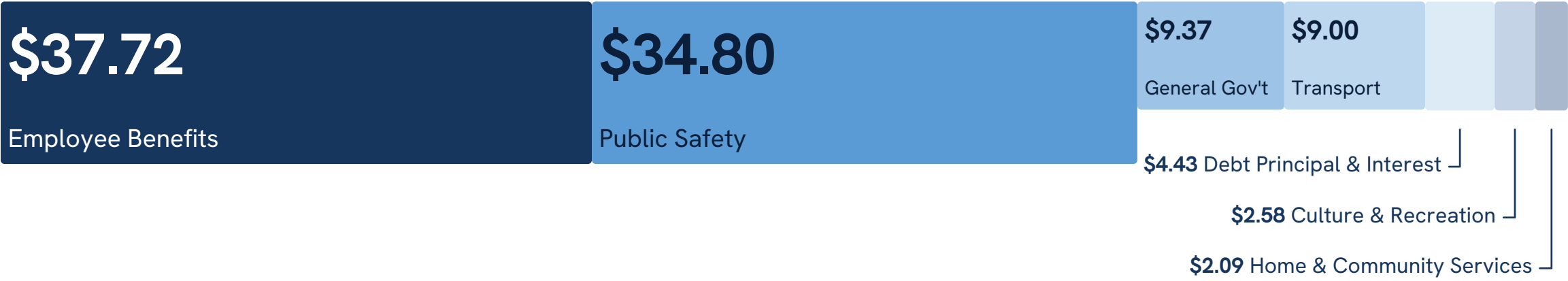
Other General Fund Revenue represents the balance of General Fund revenue sources not individually displayed above.
Source: 2027 Proposed Budget Workbook — General Fund



WHERE THE MONEY GOES

For Every \$100 the General Fund Spends

2027 proposed General Fund appropriations: \$19,769,425.30



Employee Benefits	\$7,456,701	Debt Principal & Interest	\$876,119
Public Safety	\$6,880,700	Culture & Recreation	\$509,921
General Government	\$1,853,058	Home & Community Services	\$412,728
Transportation	\$1,780,198		

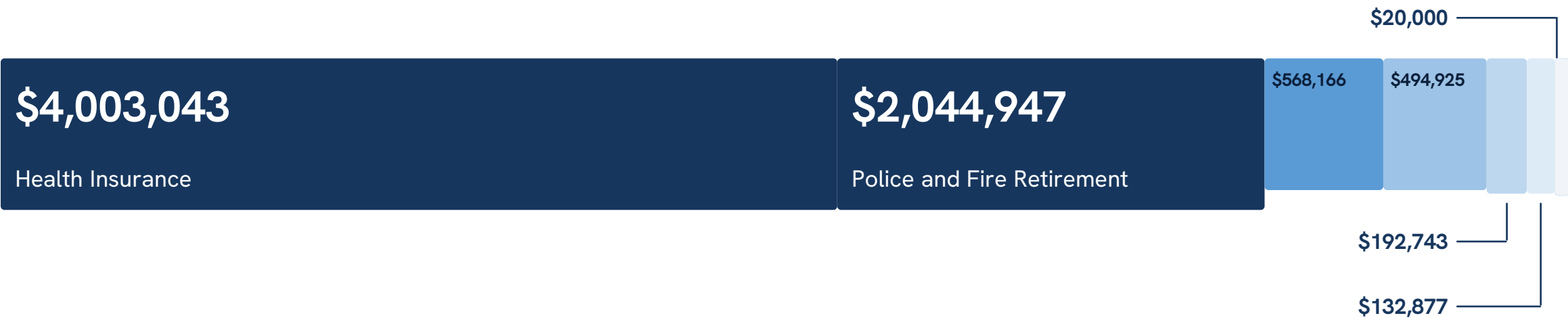
Dollar-per-\$100 figures are approximate and may not total exactly \$100 due to rounding. Source: 2027 Proposed Budget Workbook — General Fund



WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Employee benefits and statutory costs

\$7.457 million — Benefits and statutory costs total approximately \$7.457 million, the largest General Fund spending category.



Health Insurance	\$4,003,043	Workers' Compensation	\$192,743
Police and Fire Retirement	\$2,044,947	Medicare	\$132,877
Social Security	\$568,166	Unemployment	\$20,000
Employees' Retirement System (ERS)	\$494,925		

Segment widths are proportional to each cost's dollar value; total \$7,456,701.

Source: 2027 Proposed Budget Workbook and final City Manager budget reconciliation



No broad staffing expansion

The 2027 proposal holds the line on general staffing growth while funding two targeted positions for specific legal and revenue-related needs.

NOT FUNDED

Hold existing staffing

- No additional Police officers or investigator
- No new Fire positions
- No additional Code Enforcement Officer
- Public Safety Commissioner remains abolished and unfunded

TARGETED POSITIONS PROPOSED

2 positions

FULL-TIME ASSESSOR

Charter-required capacity for reassessment and real-property work

DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Capacity to implement the Property Accountability Registry and support redevelopment

Details and revenue offsets → next slide

Targeted capacity — not across-the-board staffing growth.



Two targeted 2027 positions with a defined purpose

Both positions are tied to specific operational needs and identifiable 2027 revenue activity.

FULL-TIME ASSESSOR

CHARTER-REQUIRED

\$97,000

2027 proposed salary

WHY FUNDED

- The City Charter requires a City Assessor.
- Provides full-time capacity for the necessary citywide reassessment.
- Supports City-owned property disposition and related real-property work.

2027 RELATED REVENUE

\$150,000

anticipated sale of real property

One-time and transaction-dependent; not a permanent recurring funding source.

DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

REVENUE-SUPPORTED

\$60,000

2027 proposed salary

WHY FUNDED

- Implement and administer the Property Accountability Registry.
- Support redevelopment and economic-development initiatives.
- Provide staff capacity to turn adopted policy into implementation.

2027 RELATED REVENUE

\$90,000

Property Accountability Registry

Implementation-dependent and must be monitored during 2027.

Targeted capacity — not across-the-board staffing growth.



2027 Overtime: Budgeted, Categorized and Controlled

Public-safety overtime cannot be eliminated, but it can be budgeted deliberately, monitored closely and restricted where it is discretionary.

\$349,000

TOTAL POLICE + FIRE OT

POLICE	\$147,000
Regular operations	\$120,000
STEP — grant-supported	\$12,000
DWI — reimbursement-supported	\$15,000
Special Detail	\$0 unless offsetting billing exists

FIRE	\$202,000
Regular operations	\$140,000
Short-shift staffing	\$35,000
Training	\$22,000
EMS training	\$3,000
Fire Marshal assignment	\$2,000

OVERTIME IS NOT AN OPEN-ENDED AUTHORIZATION

MONTHLY REPORTING

By employee · shift · cause · account

PRE-APPROVAL

Non-emergency discretionary overtime requires prior approval

OPERATIONAL GUARDRAILS

Emergency response, minimum staffing and CBA requirements remain controlling

Fund what is necessary. Control what is discretionary. Recover costs where possible.



A Different Engineering Model for 2027

FULL-TIME CITY ENGINEER

\$0 funded

versus

OUTSIDE LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING

**\$75,000
budgeted**

Nelson AE professional-services rate: \$155/hour

Budget assumption: approximately 9 hours/week × 52 weeks ≈ \$72,540

\$75,000 provides a modest allowance above that baseline.

Administrative DPW leadership remains separate from licensed professional engineering authority.



Management Compensation: Full Transparency

POSITION	2027 PROPOSED SALARY	2027 INCREASE
City Manager	\$150,000	0% INCREASE · \$0 ADDITIONAL SALARY
Assistant City Engineer	\$72,061	3%
City Clerk	\$83,938	3%
Deputy City Clerk	\$50,893	3%
Director of Planning & Development	\$94,500	5%
Parks & Recreation Executive Director	\$77,571	3%
Human Resource Manager	\$98,691	4%
Police Chief	\$135,184	3%
Fire Chief	\$120,991	3%
Water Superintendent	\$100,452	3%

CITY MANAGER ALLOCATION

GENERAL FUND \$50,000	WATER FUND \$50,000	SEWER FUND \$50,000
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ADJUSTMENT POLICY

- 0% — City Manager
- 5% — Director of Planning & Development
- 4% — Human Resource Manager
- 3% — Other active management positions

OTHER MANAGEMENT / ORGANIZATIONAL DECISIONS

- Codes Oversight Stipend — \$18,000 — 0% change
- Full-Time City Engineer — \$0 funded in 2027
- Outside Licensed Engineering Services — \$75,000 (budgeted separately; not employee compensation)

Management compensation was selectively adjusted rather than increased uniformly.

The City Manager receives no salary increase in the proposed 2027 budget.

\$0

City Manager salary increase

\$0

General Fund balance used

Source: 2027 Proposed Budget Workbook and revised 2027 management compensation schedule
Management compensation is reflected in the final 2027 City Manager budget. Employee-benefit appropriations remain conservatively budgeted.



ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Water and Sewer Funds

Enterprise funds are supported through user charges and enterprise revenue—not the General Fund property-tax increase.

ENTERPRISE FUND — USER CHARGES

WATER

Revenue

\$5,271,821

Appropriations

\$5,583,339.27

Operating result

Operating Deficit: \$311,518.27

Covered through planned use of Water Fund balance/reserves.
Hydrant Fund activity is accounted for separately in the detailed budget schedules.
No General Fund property-tax revenue is used to support the Water Fund.

ENTERPRISE FUND — USER CHARGES

SEWER

Revenue

\$8,546,429

Appropriations

\$8,546,429

Operating result

Balanced: \$0



2027 Water Rate Impact

Water rates are separate from the General Fund property-tax increase.

COMMODITY RATE INCREASE

Approximately 15%

Current retail commodity rate: \$6.16 per 1,000 gallons

Working 2027 rate: Approximately \$7.08 per 1,000 gallons

For usage above 150,000 gallons: \$4.39 → approximately \$5.05 per 1,000 gallons

REPRESENTATIVE COMBINED BILL

Approximately +9.6%

Total customer-bill impact

WHY ARE 15% AND 9.6% DIFFERENT?

The approximately 15% increase applies to the water commodity rate. A customer's total bill includes other components, so the percentage increase in the overall bill is lower.

HOW THE INCREASE WAS MODERATED

The City Manager's proposal uses approximately \$311,518 of Water Fund balance/reserves to reduce the amount that must be recovered through 2027 water rates.

No General Fund property-tax revenue is used to support the Water Fund.

Working 2027 rate figures remain subject to Common Council rate-setting action.

Source: 2027 City Manager Proposed Budget Binder and working Water Department rate schedule; final rates subject to Common Council action.

Debt and capital planning



OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL ACROSS FUNDS

\$73.44 million

Approximately

2027 DEBT SERVICE

\$5.32 million

Approximately

Proposed capital program: \$750,000–\$850,000

Police Station Roof, HVAC & Exterior Renovation
New roof · HVAC repairs · Exterior renovation work

\$350,000

Citywide reassessment

\$400,000–\$500,000

The proposed \$750,000–\$850,000 capital program is separate from recurring General Fund operations. Capital projects and financing remain subject to Common Council authorization.



Why Oneida Needs a Citywide Reassessment

60%

CITY OF ONEIDA EQUALIZATION RATE — 2026

At the community-wide level, a 60% equalization rate means the City’s assessed values collectively represent approximately 60% of estimated full market value.

This does not mean every individual property is assessed at exactly 60% of market value.

2021 — 97%	2022 — 93%	2023 — 83%
2024 — 76%	2025 — 71%	2026 — 60%

97% → 60%

37 percentage-point decline in five years

WHAT THE STATE SAYS

- An equalization rate of 100% means assessments, in the aggregate, are at approximately full market value.
- A rate below 100% means assessed values overall are below current market value.
- New York State reassessment guidance explains that lower equalization rates can indicate that assessments have not kept pace with changing market values and that more time has passed since a comprehensive reassessment.
- Properties within an assessing jurisdiction must be assessed at a uniform percentage of value.



The Issue Is Fairness

The issue is not simply that assessments are low.

The issue is fairness.

Property values do not all change at the same rate. Over time, some properties can become relatively over-assessed while others become relatively under-assessed.

That can shift the property-tax burden unfairly among taxpayers.

REASSESSMENT $\neq$ TAX-LEVY INCREASE

The Common Council separately determines how much property-tax revenue the City collects. Reassessment updates how that tax burden is distributed among properties.

60% is the warning sign. Fairness is the reason to act.

A citywide reassessment is proposed to restore current, consistent and defensible property values across the City.

The goal is not to increase the tax levy. The goal is to distribute that levy more fairly.



Citywide Reassessment: What It Is — and What It Is Not

Reassessment updates property values so the property-tax burden can be distributed more fairly across the community.

WHAT IT DOES

CURRENT VALUES Updates assessments to better reflect current market conditions.

FAIRNESS Helps ensure similar properties are treated consistently.

UNIFORMITY Brings properties toward a common, defensible level of assessment.

Some assessments may rise. Some may fall. Some may stay similar.

WHAT IT DOES NOT DO

A reassessment does not automatically increase the amount of City property tax collected.

The Common Council separately determines the tax levy. Reassessment changes how that levy is distributed among properties.

REASSESSMENT CHANGES THE SLICES — NOT AUTOMATICALLY THE SIZE OF THE PIE.

2027 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS **\$400,000—
\$500,000**

Anticipated completion: 2028–2029

Funding remains subject to Common Council authorization.



Budget Risks and Management Controls

The proposal identifies where assumptions require active monitoring and what management action follows.

RISK Revenue estimates

→ Monthly budget-to-actual reporting

RISK Property-sale revenue is one-time

→ Keep it identified as one-time; do not treat it as recurring

RISK Registry revenue depends on implementation

→ Track launch, billing base and collections

RISK Overtime requires active controls

→ Department-head pre-approval and monthly reporting

RISK Capital funding is not yet determined

→ Separate Common Council authorization required

RISK Water / Hydrant treatment

→ Use Water reserves to moderate rates; Hydrant budget balanced through revised transfer

**NO MATERIAL GENERAL FUND
CONTINGENCY**

Unforeseen costs require expense control or Council-approved transfers.



How We Keep the Budget Sustainable

The 2027 proposal is intended to be a structural reset — not a one-year fix.

01 WATCH THE BUDGET EVERY MONTH

Know early when spending or revenue moves off plan.

Monthly budget-to-actual review · overtime monitoring · early corrective action

02 PROTECT THE CITY’S SAVINGS

Fund balance is a safety net — not a routine source for operating bills.

Preserve reserves for emergencies, cash flow and genuine one-time needs

03 PAY RECURRING BILLS WITH RECURRING REVENUE

Ongoing expenses need dependable ongoing funding.

Do not rely on property sales or routine reserve draws to support continuing operations

2025

≈ \$1.679M General Fund draw



2027 PROPOSAL

\$0 General Fund balance use

Goal: build budgets the City can sustain year after year.



APPENDIX

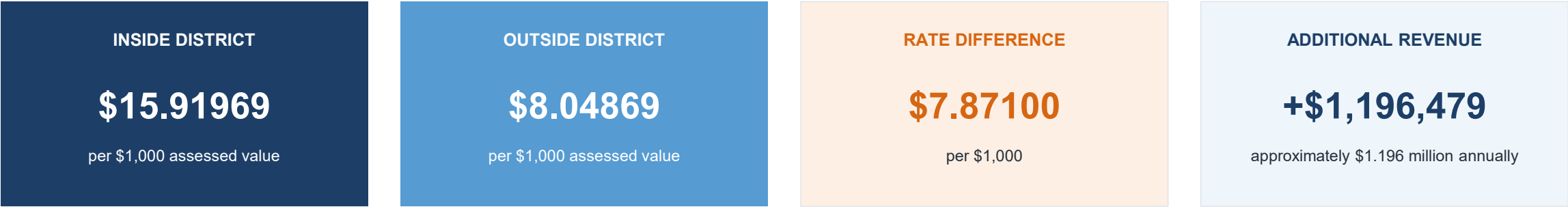
Additional Policy Analysis

Illustrative scenarios not included in the 2027 City Manager's Proposed Budget



What if the Inside and Outside City tax rates were equalized?

NOT INCLUDED IN THE 2027 CITY MANAGER’S PROPOSED BUDGET



CALCULATION	$\$152,010,980 \div 1,000 \times \$7.8710037 = \$1,196,478.99$	Outside District taxable assessment: \$152,010,980
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IMPORTANT CONTEXT Illustrative only. The Inside rate remains unchanged. The separate Fire-Outside levy and Hydrant levy are not changed in this scenario. The Outside District assessment used here is \$152,010,980 — not the separate Fire-Outside assessment.

2027 proposed General Fund levy: \$7,433,588 · Illustrative levy if added revenue were retained: \$8,630,067



What would this mean for an Outside District property?

NOT INCLUDED IN THE 2027 CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET



\$100,000 assessed

+\$787.10

/year

\$150,000 assessed

+\$1,180.65

/year

\$200,000 assessed

+\$1,574.20

/year

\$250,000 assessed

+\$1,967.75

/year

\$300,000 assessed

+\$2,361.30

/year

These amounts are the additional impact of equalization compared with the proposed 2027 Outside District rate — not the taxpayer's total property-tax bill.

Examples are based on taxable assessed value, not market value. Actual tax liability may vary based on exemptions and taxable status.

Source: 2027 Proposed Budget Workbook; calculated from proposed tax rates



Sales Tax Sharing: Where does revenue generated in Oneida go?

Economic activity inside the City generates local sales-tax revenue for both the City of Oneida and Madison County.

NO CHANGE TO SALES-TAX PREEMPTION IS ASSUMED IN THE 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

HOW THE 8% SALES TAX IS SPLIT



Within the 4% local share generated inside Oneida: 2% goes to the City and 2% goes to Madison County.



For every additional \$1 of City sales-tax revenue generated by growth, Madison County receives approximately another \$1 from the same taxable activity.

2027 POLICY WINDOW Additional 1% County authorization is scheduled to expire Nov. 30, 2027.

Implied taxable-sales base: ≈ \$387.75M · total local sales tax: ≈ \$15.51M