



FY26 Budget Work Session

General Fund

July 14th, 2025



Budgeting Philosophies

State/Fed

Use it or Lose it:

Unspent funds at the end of a fiscal year are forfeited and may not be available for use in the following year

Consequences of the Policy:

Departments may engage in "year-end spending sprees", purchasing items or services that may not be essential or important, to avoid the perception of "losing the money".

Municipal

Fund Budgeting:

Unspent funds at the end of a fiscal year remain in the overall fund account

Consequences of the Policy:

Unspent funds are available within the Fund for the next fiscal year.

Fund Accounting

The City of Columbia budget is made up of five different fund types and each type is unique.

- General Fund
- Enterprise Funds
- Internal Service Funds
- Special Revenue Funds
- Debt Service Funds

General Fund

- The General Fund is one of the City's largest funds and is made up of what you typically think of when you think of local government.
- General Fund revenue doesn't have the same restrictions that other funds have. It can be used for a variety of purposes.
- The largest expense in the General Fund is personnel.
- The largest functional group is public safety.

General Fund Departments/Divisions

- **Administrative:** City Council, City Clerk, City Manager, Finance, Human Resources, Law, and Public Works Admin
- **Health & Environment:** Public Health & Human Services, Community Development, Housing & Neighborhood Services, Economic Development, Office of Sustainability, and Office of Cultural Affairs
- **Public Safety:** Police, Fire, and Municipal Court
- **Supporting Activities:** Facilities Management, Creative Services & Marketing, and Contact Center
- **Transportation:** Public Works - Streets & Engineering and Parking Enforcement

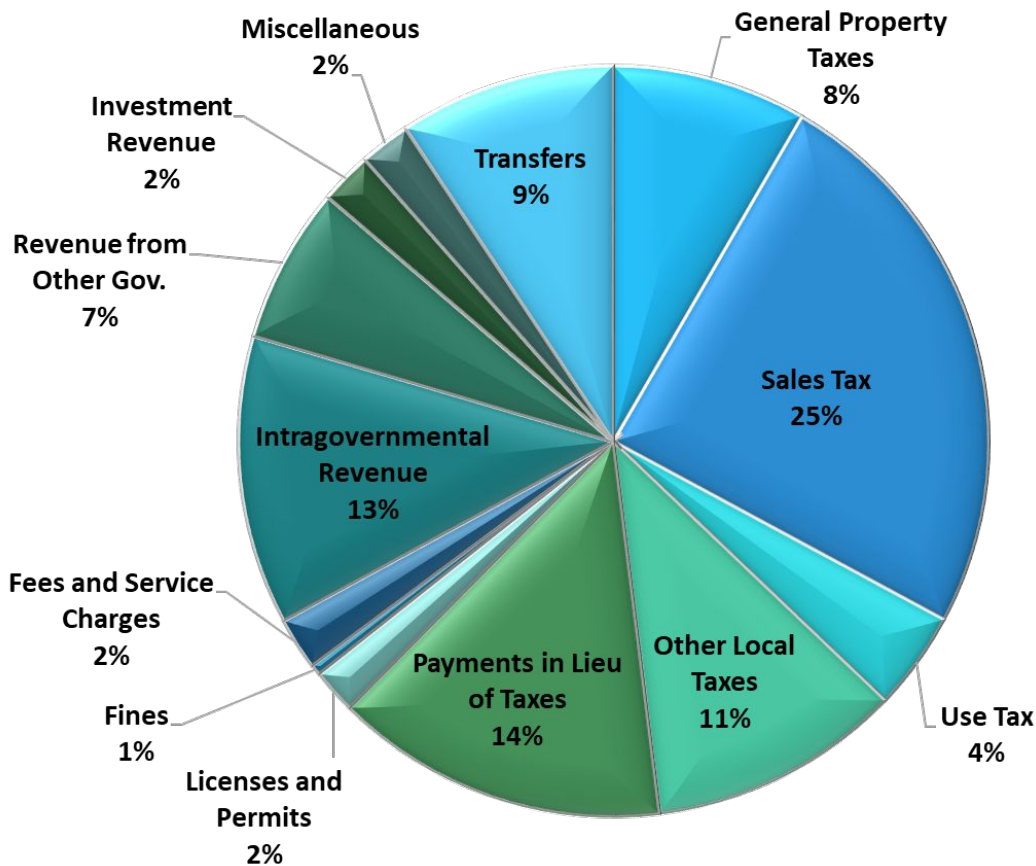
General Fund Outlook

	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Proposed
Beginning Available Cash	39,030,636	42,775,484	39,806,420	38,935,261
Total Revenue	112,142,203	123,819,778	130,291,095	132,939,415
Total Expenditure	(105,733,215)	(127,659,234)	(131,162,254)	(136,513,711)
Over/(Under)	6,408,988	(3,839,456)	(871,159)	(3,574,296)
Ending Available Cash	45,439,624	38,936,028	38,935,261	35,360,965
20% Cash Reserve Target	21,146,643	25,531,847	26,232,451	27,302,742
Cash above/below Target	24,292,981	13,404,181	12,702,810	8,058,223

Where the Revenue Comes From

The sales tax rate in Columbia is 7.975%. Of this, 2.00% goes to the City.

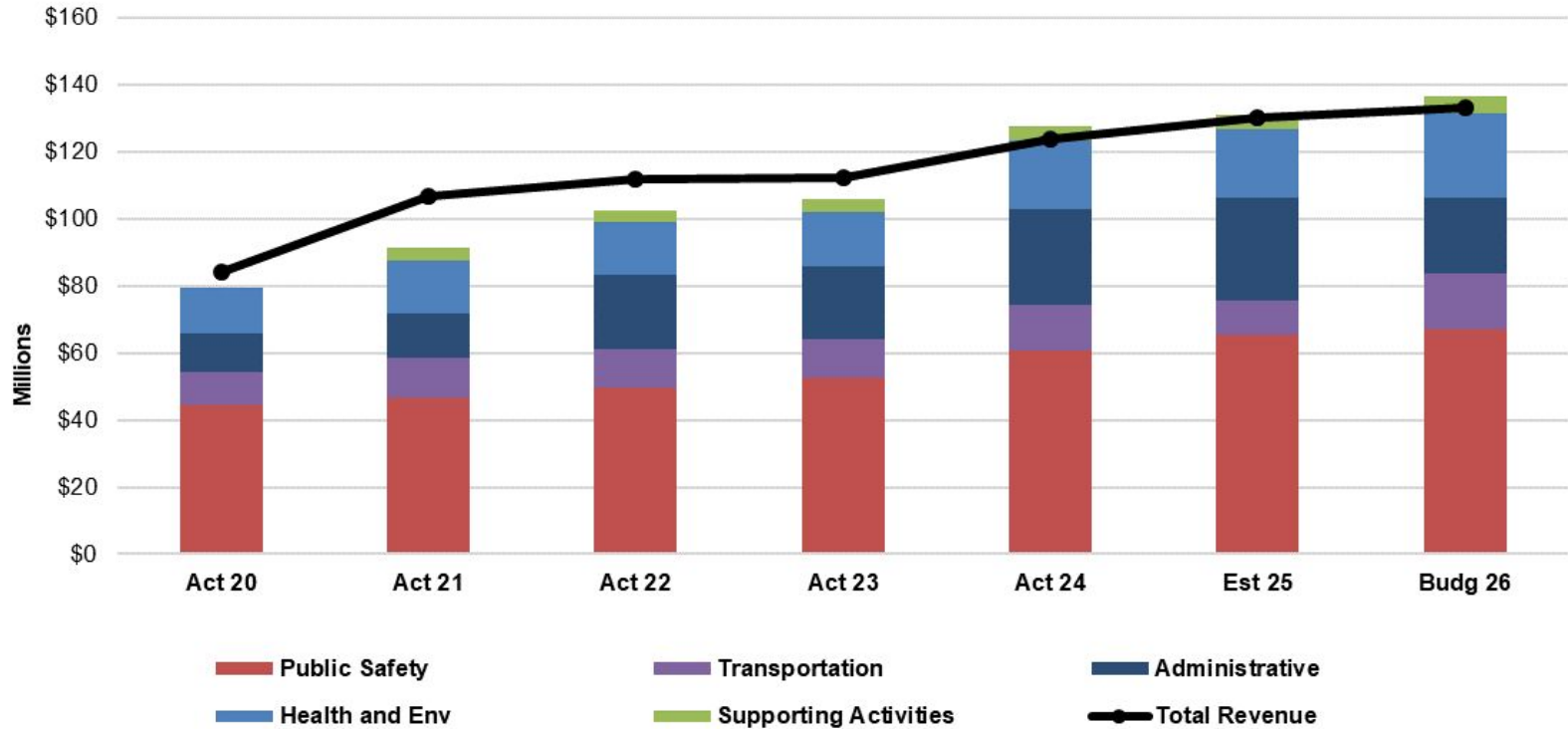
The City's revenue comes from a variety of sources, but the sales and use tax makes up nearly 30% of all GF revenue.



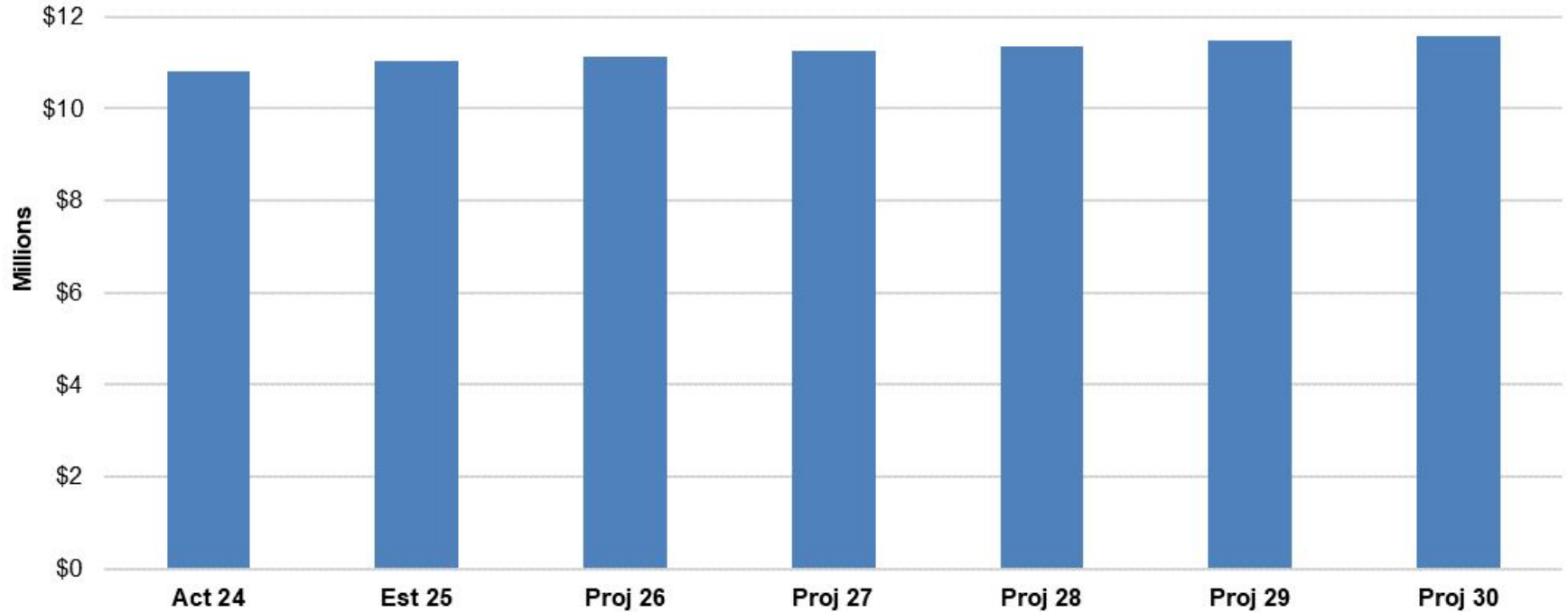
Where the Revenue Comes From

Sales tax and Use tax	\$38,228,500
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	19,147,163
Intragovernmental revenue	16,593,574
Other local taxes	14,493,193
Transfers	12,406,602
General property taxes	11,128,271
Revenue from other governmental units	8,924,843
Investment revenue	3,000,000
Fees and service charges	2,940,367
Miscellaneous	2,888,457
Licenses and permits	2,555,777
Fines	632,668
Total Revenue	132,939,415

General Fund History Vs Forecast

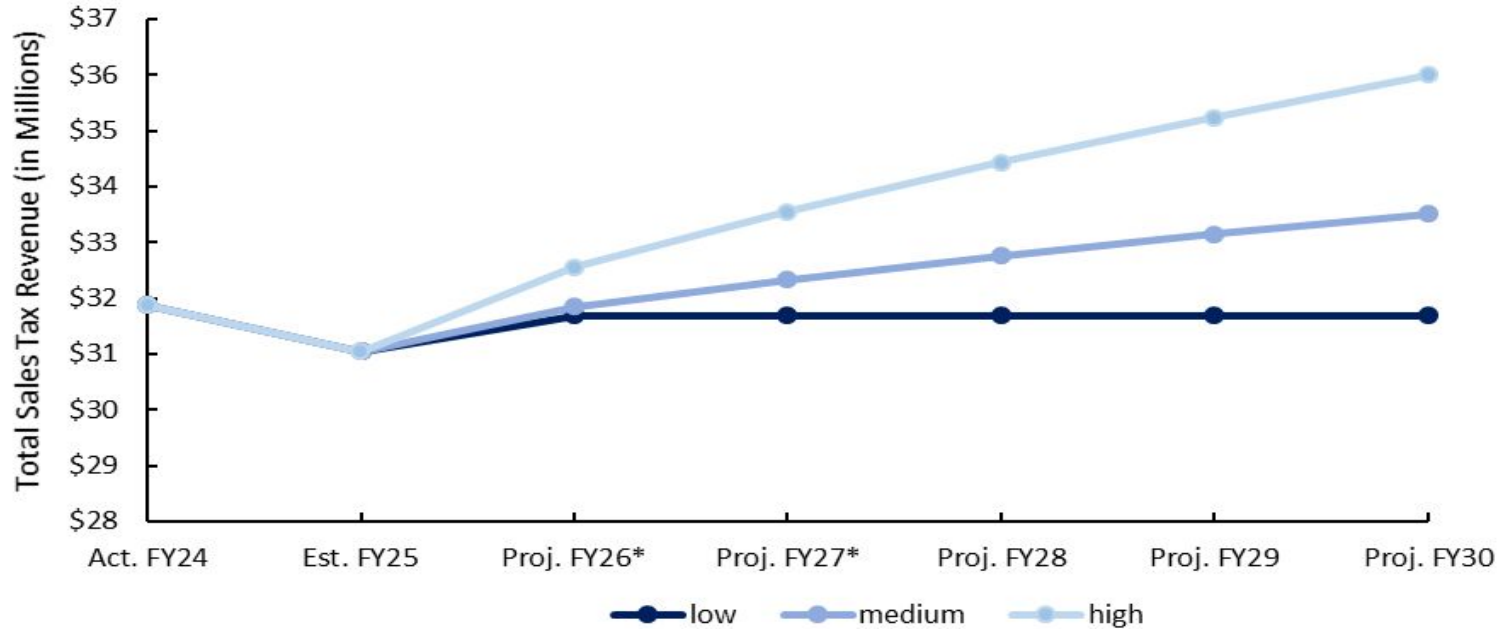


Property Tax Forecast



FY 2026 Property Tax Forecasted: \$11,128,271

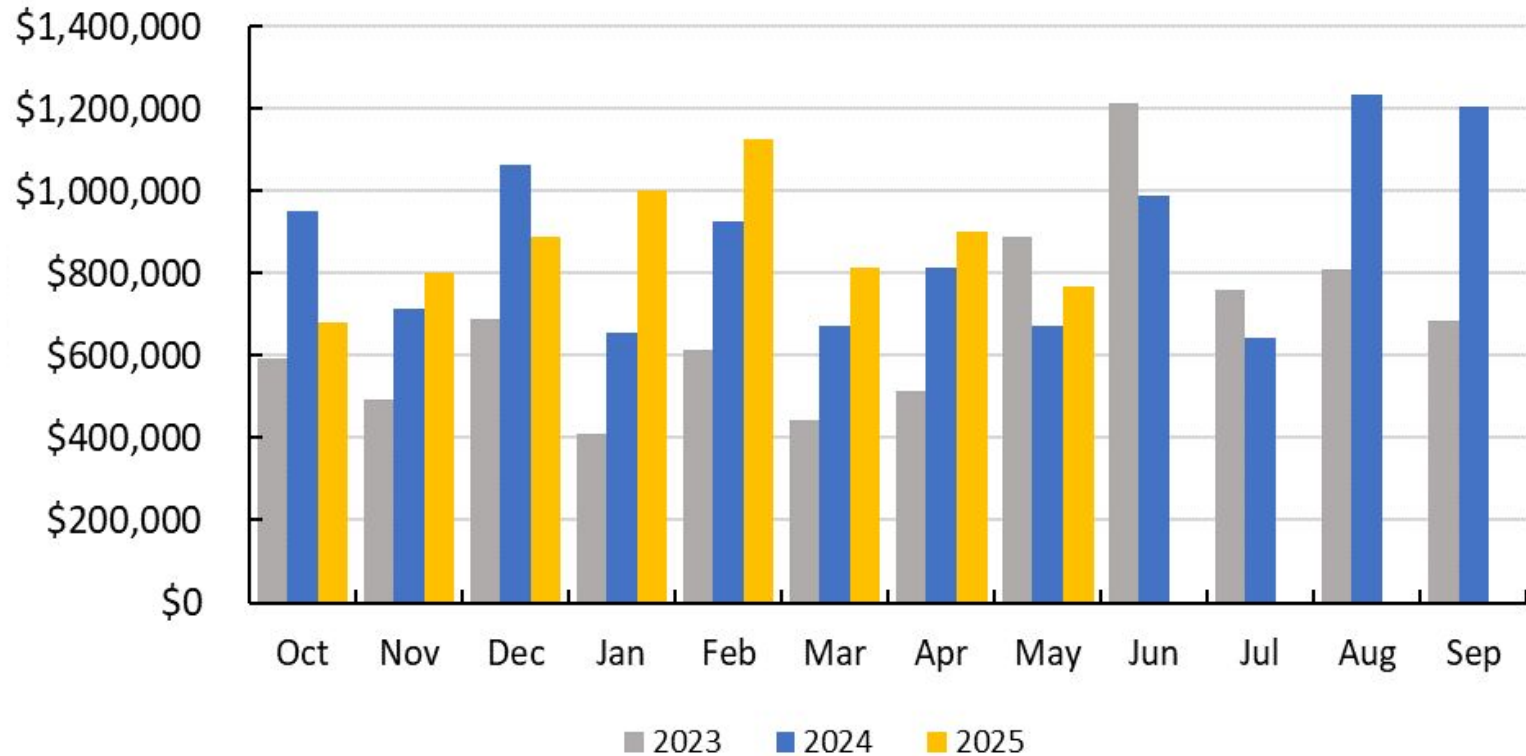
General Fund Sales Tax Forecast



FY 2026 Forecasted: \$32,562,400

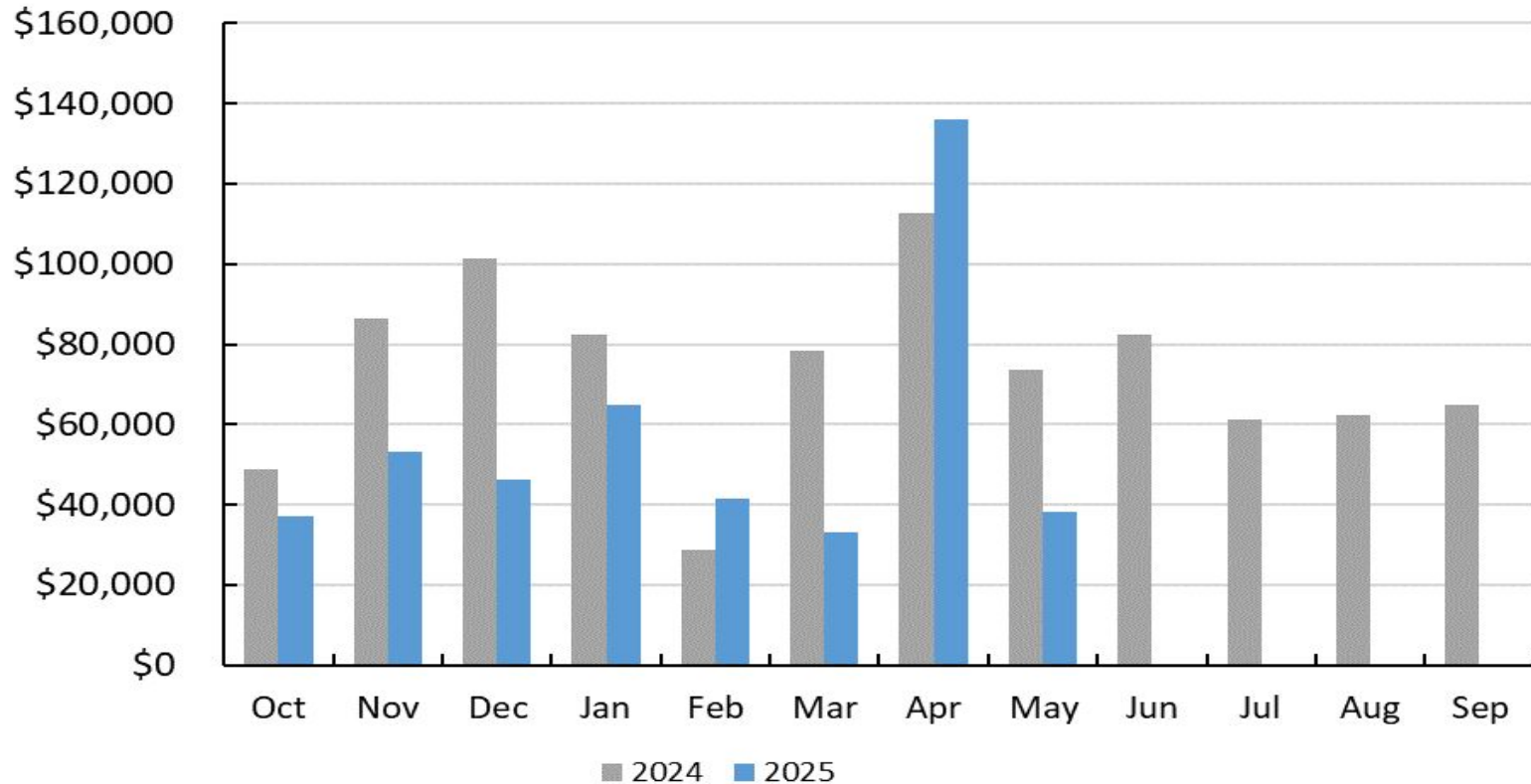
*Note: FY26 onwards, Public Improvement Sales Tax is added to the General Fund Sales Tax totals

Use Tax Comparison



FY 2026 Use Tax Forecasted: \$5,666,100

Marijuana Tax Comparison



FY 2026 Marijuana Tax Forecasted: \$609,805

Other Local Tax

GF Other Local Tax	Act FY20	Act FY21	Act FY22	Act FY23	Act FY24	Annual Changes	Est FY25	Bud FY26
Cigarette Tax	423,248	388,945	347,123	345,178	297,622	(47,556)	294,646	291,700
Gross Rec Telecommunications	1,966,839	1,759,081	1,532,787	1,792,434	1,685,571	(106,863)	1,668,715	1,652,029
Gross Rec Union Electric	2,244,234	2,341,569	3,087,006	3,518,887	2,691,008	(827,879)	2,918,205	2,985,505
Gross Rec Boone Electric	1,312,458	1,360,358	1,409,046	1,497,135	1,606,048	108,913	1,622,109	1,638,330
Gross Rec CATV Franchise	206,678	618,544	577,077	536,640	430,997	(105,642)	426,687	422,421
Gasoline Tax	2,766,311	2,899,919	3,439,867	4,436,183	4,794,347	358,164	4,842,290	4,890,714
Motor Vehicle Sales Tax	1,013,648	1,176,507	1,096,447	1,315,313	1,394,493	79,180	1,408,438	1,422,523
Motor Vehicle License Fee	485,434	537,406	513,828	568,800	568,733	(67)	574,421	580,166
Marijuana Tax	-	-	-	-	883,311	883,311	603,768	609,805
Total	10,418,850	11,082,329	12,003,181	14,010,569	14,352,131	341,562	14,359,279	14,493,193

Cigarette, Telecommunications, and Cable TV taxes are declining

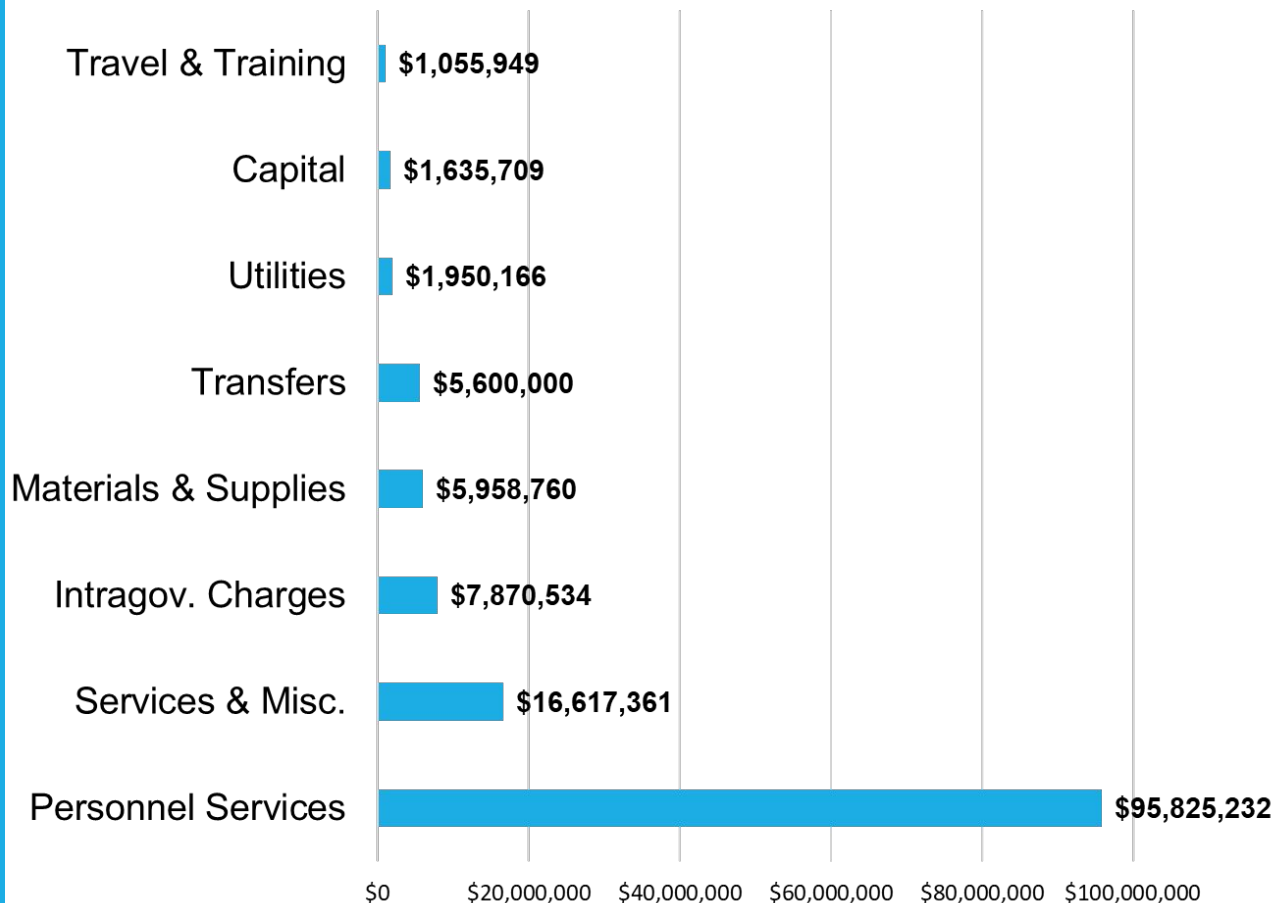
*Rec. - Receipts

*GF - General Fund

Where the Money Goes

70% of all General Fund expenses go toward personnel services, which includes salaries, paid leave and other benefits.

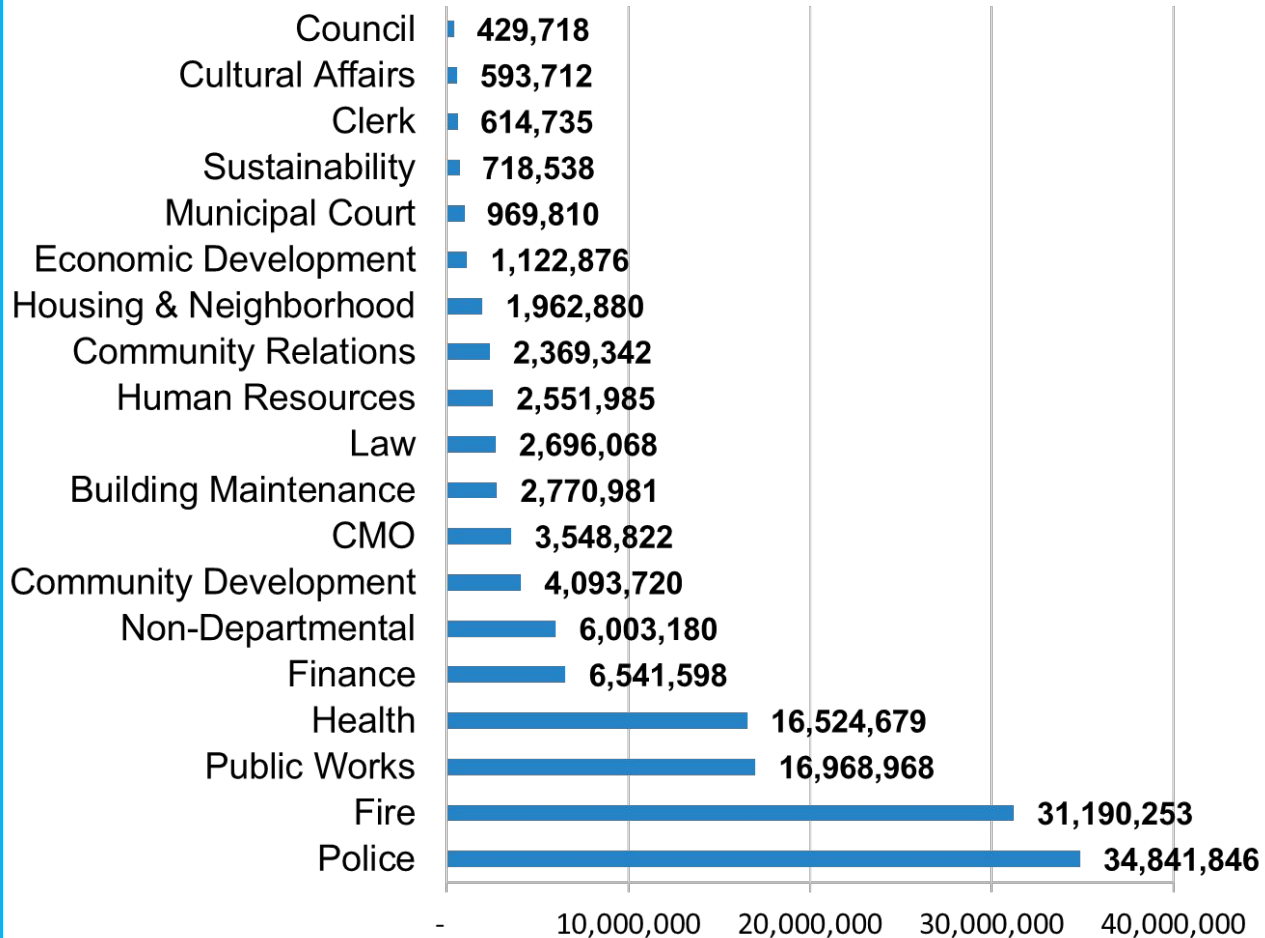
The City of Columbia is a serviced based organization, which is reflected in our personnel numbers



Where the Money Goes

“Don't tell me where your priorities are. Show me where you spend your money and I'll tell you what they are.”

- James W. Frick



General and Administrative Fees (G&A)

- G&A fees recover the cost to operate the City departments or divisions in the General Fund that serve a general and administrative function for all City departments, but do not generate their own revenue.
- Costs for these departments or divisions are “billed” to other departments through G&A Fees. The portion that each department is charged is based on the percent of that department’s share of the total Materials & Supplies, Travel & Training, Services, and Miscellaneous budget for the City, as of the date the fees are calculated.

General and Administrative Fees (G&A)

- There are several items that are billed directly to specific departments, such as Airport Safety and credit card fees.
- The final piece of this fee recovers the cost to operate General Fund Human Resources and Payroll operations on a per employee basis.

General and Administrative Fees (G&A)

These fees recover the cost to operate the following departments and divisions:

- Law (City Counselor Division)
- Finance (excluding Business License)
- City Council (excluding Boards & Commissions)
- City Clerk (excluding Elections)
- City Manager's Office
- Human Resources

Other administrative departments are excluded from fee calculations because their duties are focused externally, rather than performing an internal service for the City.

Public Communication Fees

- Creative Services & Marketing is the City's in-house agency providing extensive services including marketing, campaign design and execution, graphic design, website and app development, social media management, and video production and event services.
- The Contact Center provides a centralized source of information and reporting hub for citizens by maintaining the city's main phone number, online reporting tool, live chat and chatbot systems, city email and City Hall information desk. The division also serves internal customers through customer service assistance and internal mail services.

Public Communication Fees - Creative Services

- Creative Services & Marketing fees recover the cost of the division in the General Fund that serves a general function for all City departments, but does not generate its own revenue.
- Each department is charged is based on the percent of that department's share of the total Materials & Supplies, Travel & Training, Services, and Miscellaneous budget for the whole City, as of the date the fees are calculated.
- Some items that are billed directly to specific departments, such as the cost of producing the City Source newsletter that is billed to the Utilities.

Public Communication Fees - Contact Center

- Contact Center fees recover the cost of the Contact Center division in the General Fund based on call referral history from the last five completed fiscal years. This data is provided by the Contact Center.
- Most of the calls received by the Contact Center can be referred to a specific department, however a small subset of calls fall into the “General Utility” category and are divided up to be billed to the utilities based on established percentages.

Facilities Fees - Building Maintenance, Utilities, & Custodial

- Maintenance and custodial hours are tracked for each building by staff and averaged over four years to estimate the percentage of time spent in each building.
- Fees are then charged to departments per square foot using each department's approximate square footage in each building that the maintenance and custodial departments service.
- Utility costs for City buildings are also recovered from departments on a square foot basis.

Streets & Engineering

- The cost to operate the Streets & Engineering division is funded by a portion of Transportation Sales Tax
 - The Street Division provides maintenance of roadway surfaces, winter weather response, emergency response during other weather or catastrophic events, street cleaning/sweeping, and vegetation control for public right-of-way.
 - The Engineering division provides design, contract administration, and construction inspection of Capital Improvement Program projects for the Public Works department. Survey and right-of-way services, which are also part of the Engineering division, are used by departments across the City.

Public Health and Human Services

- Nearly half of the cost to operate the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) is recovered through Federal, State, and County contributions.
 - PHHS provides essential services that support optimal health, safety, and well-being for all city and county residents and visitors. Services include vital records, immunizations, communicable disease control, the Women, Infant, and Children nutrition program, and Animal Control.

Changes in the FY26 Proposed Budget

- **Sales Tax**
 - No transfer to Public Improvement Fund
- **Park Safety Officers will become sworn Police Officers**
 - Parks will become part of normal patrol
- **New positions**
 - 2 Divert (Health)
 - 1 Code Enforcement Specialist I (Housing & Neighborhood Services)
 - 2 Airport Safety Officer (Police)
 - 2 Civilian Investigator - Internal Affairs (Police)
 - 1 Civilian Investigator - Criminal Investigations (Police)
 - 1 Property & Evidence Technician (Police)

