

2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET

SUSTAINING SERVICES WHILE STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE

Michael Cohen, Comptroller

Theresa Ungerer, Deputy Comptroller

Cherie Gitto, Deputy Purchasing Agent/Chief Accountant

September 24, 2025

DAVID VANLUVEN - SUPERVISOR

2026 Budget Schedule

Town Board Meetings & Discussion

Unless otherwise noted all meetings begin at 6:00 pm

Town Board Meetings will be Webcast & Archived

-
- **Capital Plan** September 10 Town Board
 - **Tentative Budget Presentation** September 24 – 7:00 Town Board
 - **Continuing Budget Discussion** October 8 Town Board
 - **Public Hearing/Preliminary Budget** October 22 Town Board
 - **Final Budget Adoption** November 12 Town Board

**“2026 Town Budget”
link on the Town website
provides comprehensive information
and is regularly updated**

2026 BUDGET HEADLINES

\$55.1 MILLION +\$2.7 MILLION ↑5.25%

Budgeted Revenues

- **Property Tax and PILOTs increase \$442K**
 - Below property tax cap since its inception in 2012
 - Average tax rate increase for Town Taxes is projected to be 2.68% or \$28.92 for an average homeowner (\$250,000 median assessed value)
 - 12% of total property tax bill goes towards Town provided services
- **Sales Tax increase of \$1.2M**
- **Metered Water & Sewer Charge increases of \$494K & \$100K, respectively**
- **Solar Revenue Increase \$251K**
- **Use of Fund Balance \$215K**
 - Utilizing approx. 19% of 2012 Retirement Reserve to offset a portion of NYS retirement costs



All increases are comparisons to the 2025 Adopted Budget

2026 BUDGET HEADLINES

\$55.1 MILLION +\$2.7 MILLION ↑5.25%

Budgeted Expenditures

- **NYS Retirement Contributions projected by New York State to increase \$414K**
 - 2026 state projected costs are up \$1.53M since 2022 actual
- **Employee Health Insurance increased \$442K**
 - Health insurance premium increase of 13.3% for 2026
- **Employee Salaries and Wages increase of \$1.2M**
 - COLA of 2% as well as a step table shift for all full-time, ERS, non-union employees
- **Retiree Health Insurance Increase of \$192K**
 - Retiree Health insurance premium increases up to 13.3% for 2026
- **Electricity Increased \$428K**



All increases are comparisons to the 2025 Adopted Budget

TAXPAYER IMPACT

Under Tax Cap:

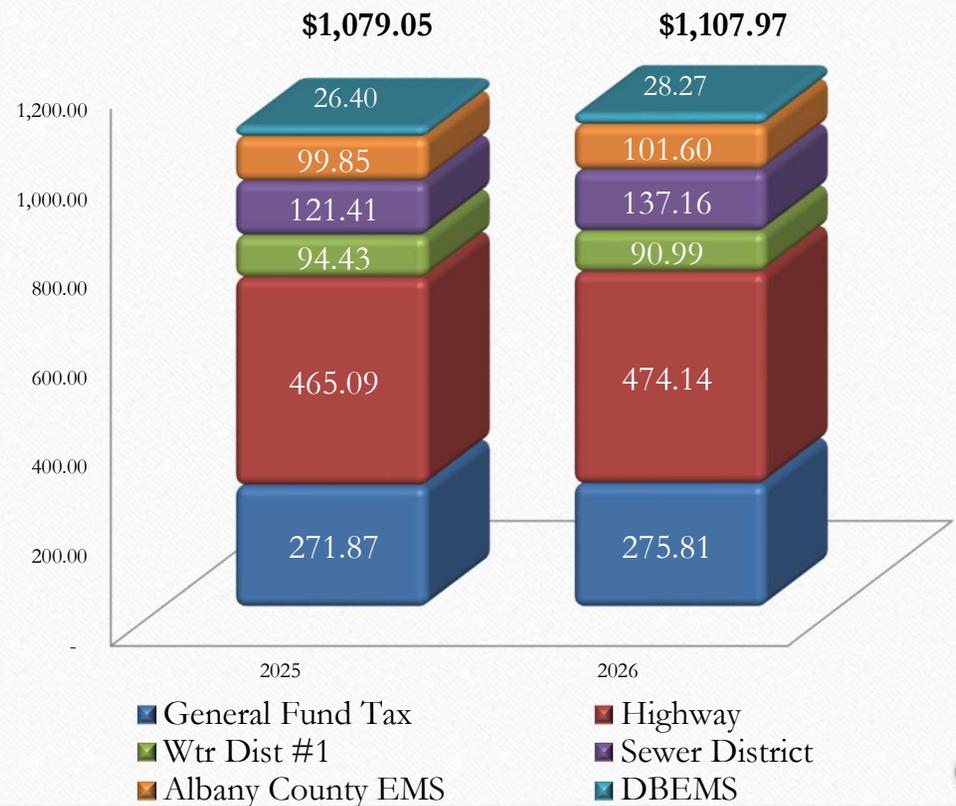
Total Levy Increase: 2.54%

- State Levy Growth Factor: 2.0%
- Town Growth Factor: 0.41%
- Retirement allowance: \$37K

Tax Rate Increase: 2.68%

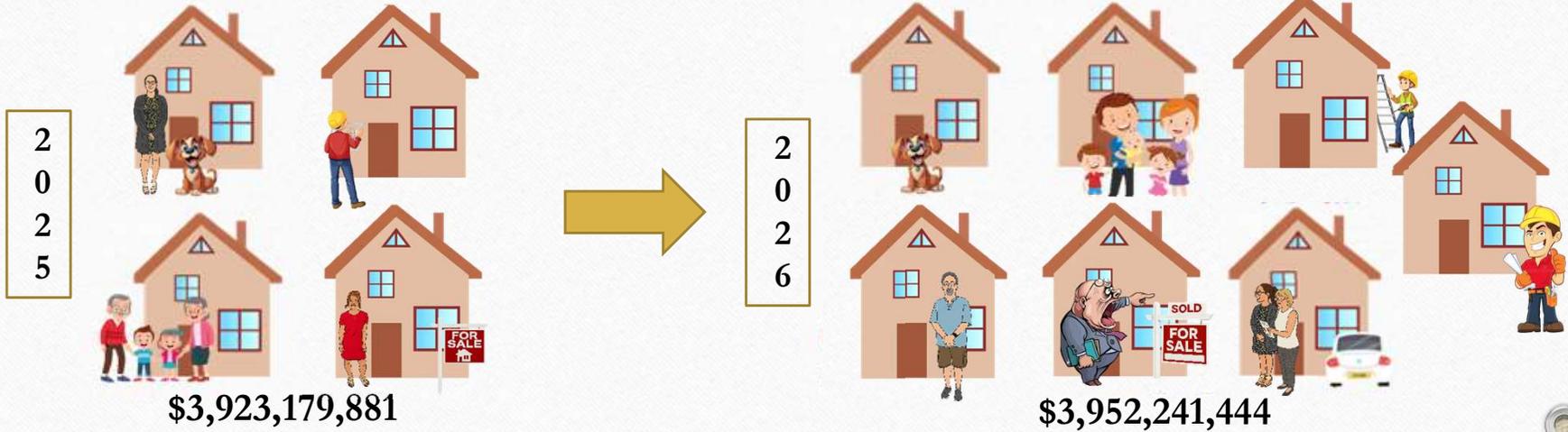
- \$28.92 bill increase (based on a \$250K median assessment in all taxing districts)
- \$70K shift from 2025 PILOT payment to property taxes due to one time addition related to excess revenues earned based on terms of agreement.

Distribution of Property Tax Dollars for Average Homeowner (\$250,000 Median Assessed Value)



CHANGE IN TAX LEVY VS. TAX BILL

	<u>Tax Levy¹</u>	<u>Weighted Avg. Assessed Value²</u>	<u>Tax Rate (Per \$1,000 Assessed Value)</u>
<u>2025</u>	\$17,412,542	\$3,923,179,881	\$4.3162
<u>2026</u>	\$17,854,269	\$3,952,241,444	\$4.4319
<u>Increase</u>	2.54%		2.68%



¹2025 Actual Tax Levy & 2026 Projected Tax Levy

²Cumulative Total Assessed Value of Town (Excludes Exempt Properties)

TAXPAYER IMPACT

Where your tax dollar goes



* Due to timing, the weighted fire districts and County tax rates for 2026 were projected based on historical data.

TAXPAYER IMPACT

Where your tax dollar goes

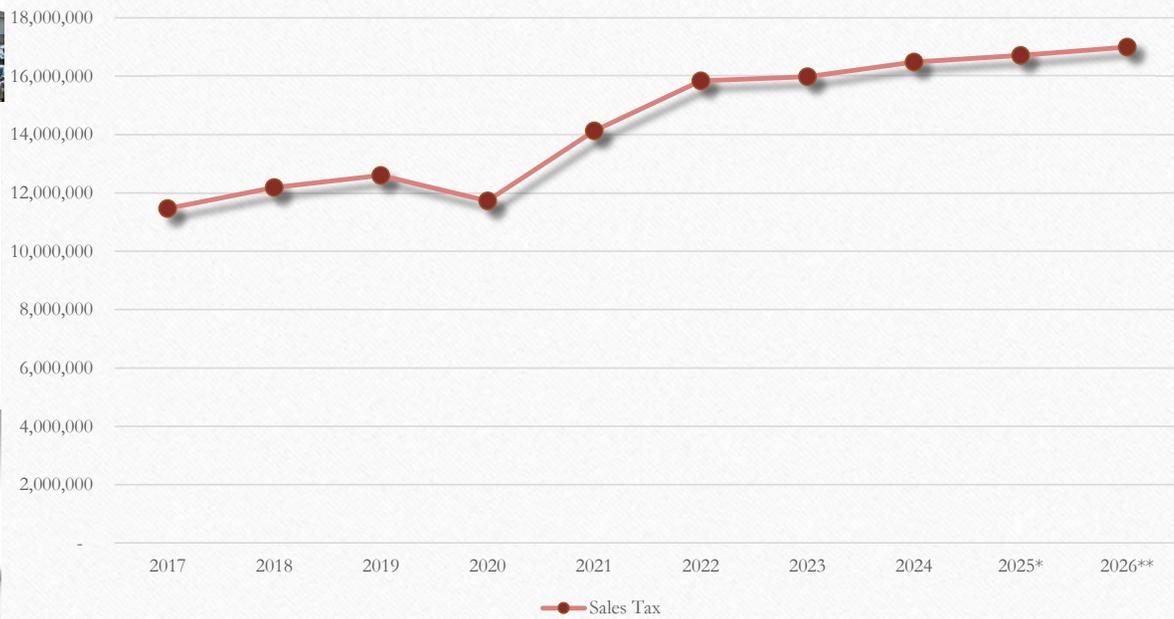
The County charges \$0.01/dollar through the Town for **their** ambulance service; so in reality, the Town only receives \$0.12 of every property tax dollar to provide critical town services.



* Due to timing, the weighted fire districts and County tax rates for 2026 were projected based on historical data.

SALES TAX TRENDS

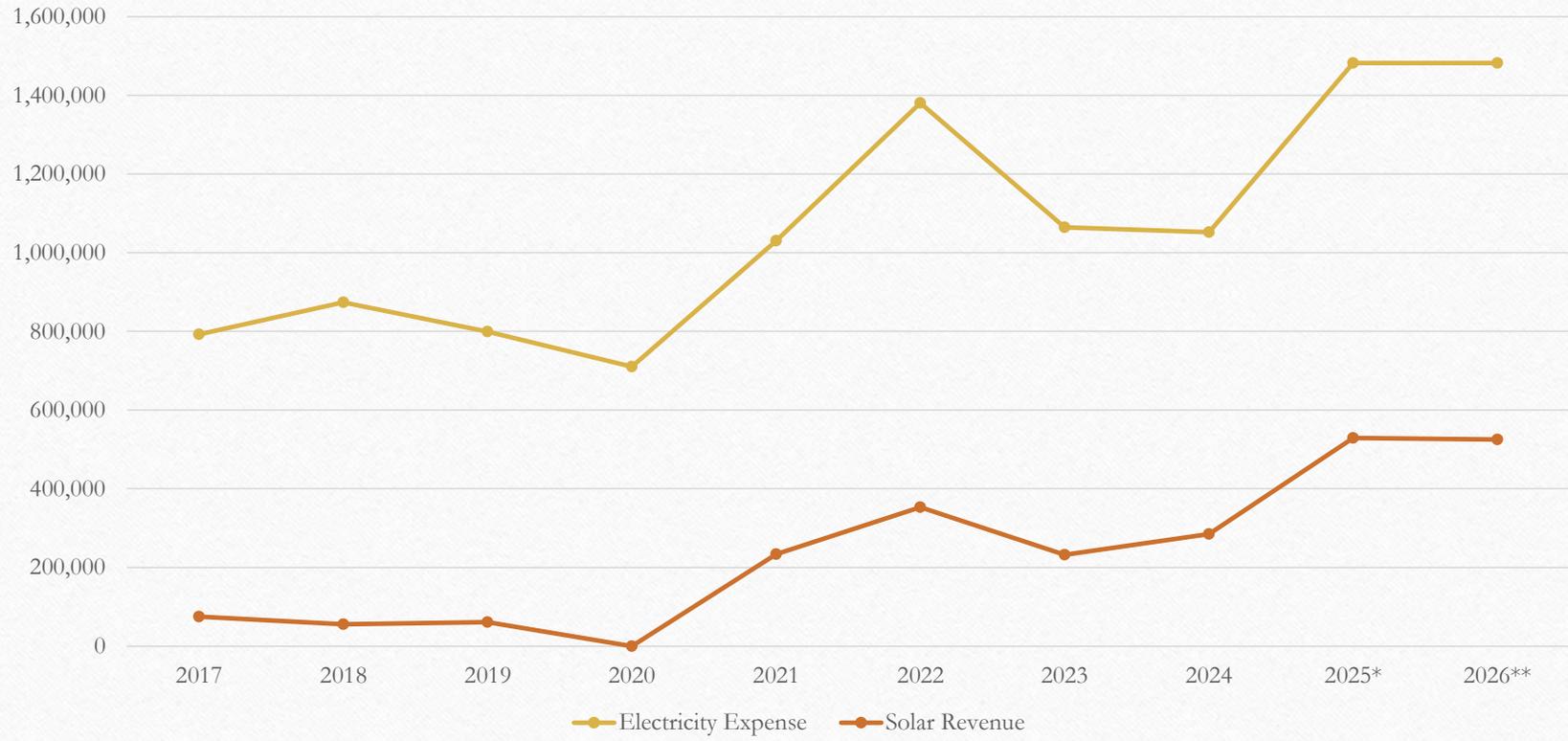
Sales Tax



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	2026**
— Sales Tax	11,470,119	12,183,704	12,600,632	11,727,684	14,130,649	15,840,039	15,981,081	16,483,822	16,715,872	17,004,328

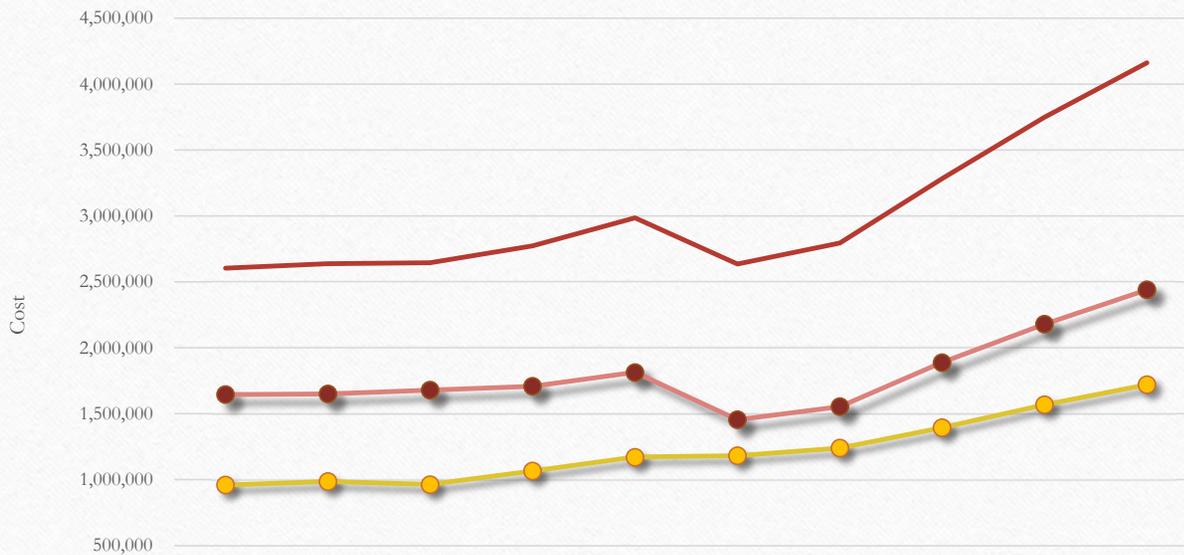
*Estimated **Budgeted

SOLAR FIELD REVENUE & ELECTRICITY TRENDS



*Estimated **Budgeted

ERS & PFRS RETIREMENT COST INCREASES 2017 THROUGH 2026



The most recent increases in retirement costs came from certain benefit enhancements, added by the legislature in 2023 and 2024, for members of Tier 6, notably:

- Reduction of 10 year vesting period to 5; and
- Reduction of 5 year FAS to 3 year.

These changes materially improved the value of the benefits for that tier as well as increased the cost to NYS residents.

**Budgeted

ERS & PFRS RETIREMENT COST HISTORY 2010 THROUGH 2016



Retirement Reserve created in 2012 to reserve funds for paying future increased retirement contribution costs. Reserves were allocated to the following funds:

General Fund: **\$672,197**
 Highway Fund: **\$307,780**
 Water Fund: **\$126,088**
Total: \$1,106,065

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
ERS & PFRS	1,332,31	2,426,16	2,939,94	2,814,42	2,978,97	2,786,12	2,561,12

ERS & PFRS RETIREMENT COST HISTORY 2010 THROUGH 2016

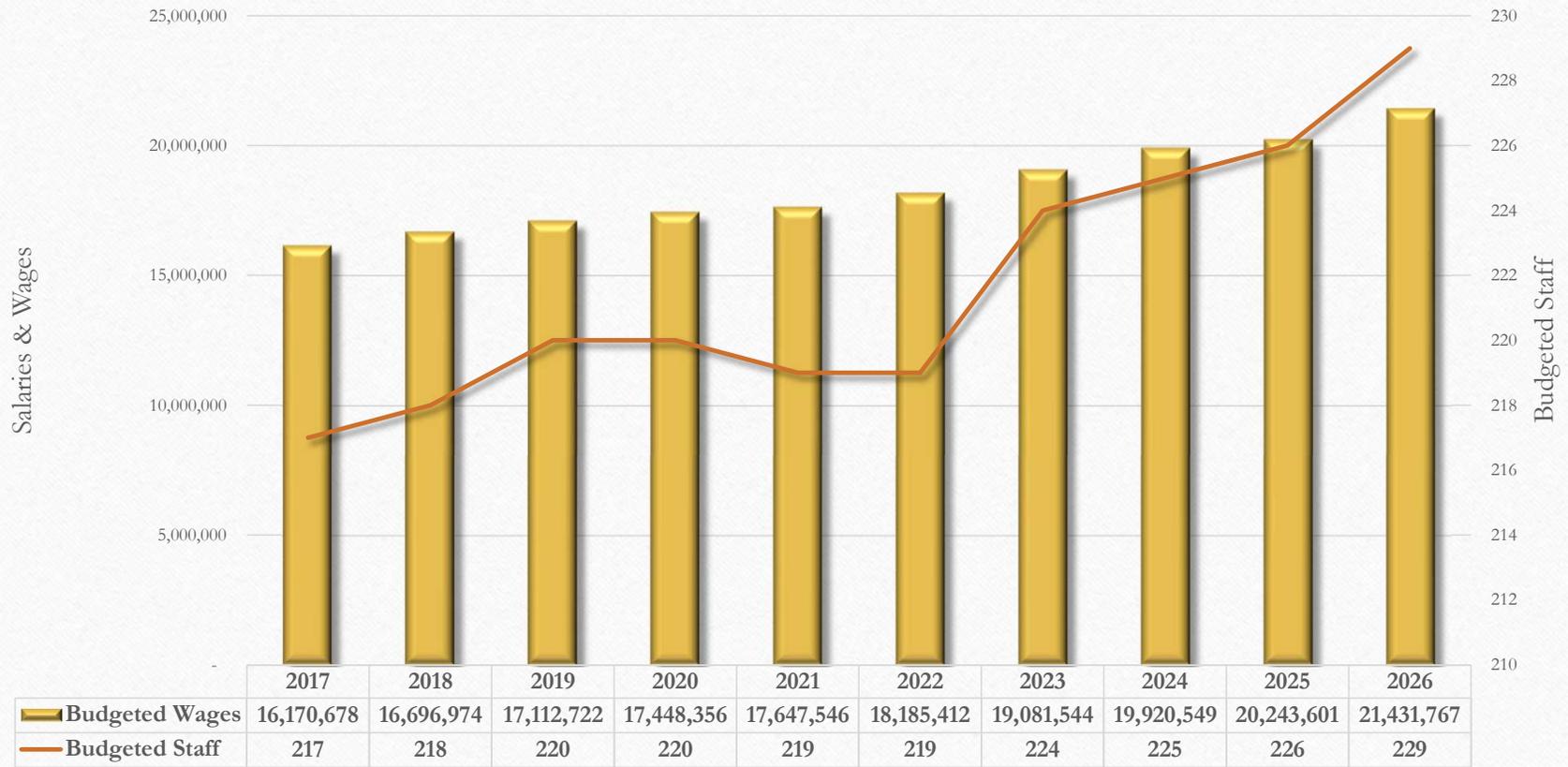


	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
— ERS & PFRS	1,332,314	2,426,163	2,939,941	2,814,427	2,978,974	2,786,126	2,561,129

\$215,000 is budgeted for the purpose of smoothing the steep increase of 2026 in anticipation of an eventual decrease in retirement contribution costs as seen in 2013.

Note: 2012 was the first year of Tier 6, which was created to combat the continuing increased costs of the pension plan due to market downturns and increased life expectancy.

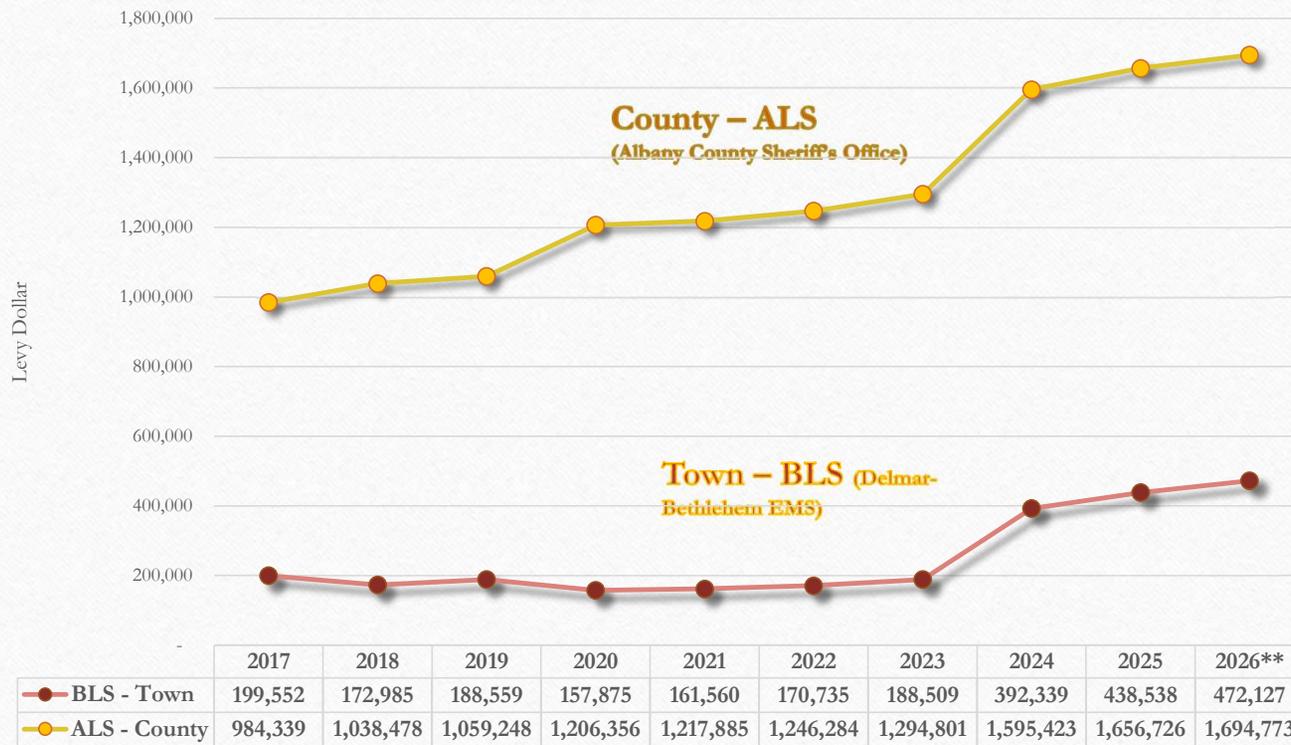
SALARIES AND WAGES 2026 BUDGET



STAFFING

			Full Time Personnel Counts									Change from 2025 to 2026 Budget
Fund	Dept Code	Department Name	Final Check Run of the Year				Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Budget 2026	
			Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Actual 2025 Thru 8/15						
110	1110	Justice	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	-
110	1220	Supervisor	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	-
110	1315	Comptroller	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	-
110	1330	Tax Collection	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	-
110	1355	Assessment	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	1.0
110	1410	Town Clerk	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	-
110	1430	Human Resources	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	-
110	1620	Shared Services	4.6	3.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	-
110	1680	MIS	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	-
110	1685	GIS	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-
110	3110	Telecommunications	10.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	-
110	3120/30	Police (Sworn & Non)	44.0	41.0	40.0	41.0	44.0	44.0	44.0	44.0	44.0	-
110	3620	Building	5.5	5.5	5.0	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	6.0	0.5
110	5010-60	Highway (General Fund)	4.3	5.3	4.1	3.0	8.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	-
110	6772	Seniors	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	-
110	7110-45	Parks	9.7	11.0	11.0	11.0	9.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	-
110	8020	Planning	5.5	5.5	5.0	6.0	5.5	5.5	6.5	6.5	6.0	(0.5)
110	8160	Recycling	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.0	-	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	-
110	8590/95	DPW Admin	4.4	5.2	4.4	4.2	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	-
210	5010-42	Highway Fund	42.0	43.8	45.3	46.2	46.7	47.7	47.7	47.7	47.7	-
220	8510-40	Water Fund	29.1	28.9	31.7	29.6	30.9	31.0	31.0	31.0	32.0	1.0
230	8510-45	Sewer Fund	15.6	14.8	15.5	17.2	17.5	17.7	17.7	17.6	18.6	1.0
Grand Total			209.0	211.0	215.0	217.0	219.0	224.0	225.0	226.0	229.0	3.0

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROPERTY TAX LEVY 2017 THROUGH 2026



**Budgeted

MULTI-YEAR PLANNING

	Actual				25 Bdgt to 26 Bdgt Dollars	25 Bdgt to 26 Percent	Out Year Assumptions			
	2023	2024	2025	2026			2027	2028		
Revenues										
Real Property Taxes	\$15,986,092	\$16,607,130	\$16,949,076	\$17,532,344	\$18,195,305	\$18,506,161	583,268	3.4%	3.6%	1.9%
Payments In Lieu of Taxes	387,361	377,262	463,124	321,925	\$56,012	69,377	-141,939	-30.5%	-82.6%	23.9%
Sales and Use Tax	15,981,081	16,483,822	15,812,418	17,004,328	\$17,514,458	18,039,892	1,919,910	7.5%	3.0%	3.0%
Mortgage Recording Taxes	1,325,136	1,369,227	940,000	987,000	\$987,000	987,000	47,000	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
State Aid	975,565	1,123,072	860,819	915,627	\$915,627	915,627	54,808	6.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Federal Aid	134,239	1,277,947	84,400	69,000	\$69,000	69,000	-4,400	-6.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Interfund Transfers - Revenue	612,240	627,234	610,204	661,107	\$674,794	688,779	50,803	8.3%	2.1%	2.1%
Fines and Forfeitures	179,524	160,443	178,000	175,000	\$176,750	178,518	-3,000	-1.7%	1.0%	1.0%
Cable Franchise Fees	624,632	588,897	552,260	535,550	\$514,128	498,422	-16,710	-3.0%	-4.0%	-5.0%
Refuse and Garbage Charges	417,194	456,128	440,000	440,000	\$440,000	440,000	-	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Interest Income	1,620,139	2,138,093	1,463,396	1,385,918	\$1,413,636	1,441,909	-77,468	-5.3%	2.0%	2.0%
Metered Water Charges	7,414,611	8,619,509	7,675,000	8,169,066	\$8,332,447	8,499,096	494,066	6.4%	2.0%	2.0%
Sewer Charges	2,974,104	3,024,561	3,010,000	3,110,000	\$3,172,200	3,235,644	100,000	3.3%	2.0%	2.0%
Charges for Services	2,510,268	2,630,565	2,378,050	2,419,600	\$2,452,337	2,486,792	41,550	1.7%	1.4%	1.4%
Rental Income	65,000	34,736	83,000	82,000	\$82,820	83,648	-1,000	-1.2%	1.0%	1.0%
Insurance Recoveries	157,144	130,128	60,000	60,000	\$64,694	74,694	-	0.0%	7.8%	15.5%
Use of Fund Balance	0	0	185,000	295,000	80	0	50,000	-30.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Revenue	1,837,413	1,810,582	854,933	1,032,164	\$1,044,059	1,055,075	378,231	57.8%	1.1%	1.1%
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$54,709,203	\$57,525,302	\$52,359,770	\$55,107,629	\$56,056,868	\$57,250,633	\$2,747,859	5.2%	1.7%	2.1%
Expenditures										
Personal Services	\$18,305,389	\$19,020,623	\$20,243,601	\$21,431,767	\$22,074,720	\$22,736,962	\$1,888,166	5.9%	3.0%	3.0%
Health Insurance	2,537,665	2,789,989	3,401,837	3,843,421	4,035,592	4,237,372	441,584	13.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Employee Retirement System	1,554,051	1,888,431	2,179,097	2,440,335	2,639,222	2,838,220	261,238	12.0%	8.1%	7.5%
Police Retirement System	1,233,992	1,393,361	1,568,552	1,721,370	1,817,595	1,947,371	152,818	9.7%	5.6%	7.1%
Other Employee Benefits and Payroll Taxes	2,341,571	2,400,982	2,624,267	2,725,439	2,807,202	2,891,418	101,172	3.9%	3.0%	3.0%
Retiree Health Insurance	1,169,595	1,233,507	1,424,439	1,616,726	1,697,562	1,782,440	192,287	13.5%	5.0%	5.0%
Equipment and Capital Outlay	4,153,287	2,134,701	3,050,400	2,895,250	2,629,775	2,536,749	-165,160	-6.1%	-9.2%	-3.5%
Paving	743,305	590,229	1,120,000	1,170,130	1,175,130	1,180,130	50,130	4.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Vehicle Maintenance	515,093	464,271	594,043	552,917	595,724	598,545	8,874	1.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Gasoline & Diesel Fuel	487,339	452,546	456,625	413,862	422,694	431,749	-42,763	-9.4%	2.1%	2.1%
Road Materials	282,753	274,613	339,000	339,000	342,545	346,163	-	0.0%	1.0%	1.1%
Salt & Sand	177,606	180,286	227,500	210,000	211,050	212,105	-17,500	-7.7%	0.5%	0.5%
All Other Supplies	204,180	99,069	494,123	275,223	276,424	277,632	-218,900	-44.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Albany Water Contract	2,196,667	543,508	170,000	200,000	100,000	100,000	30,000	17.6%	-50.0%	0.0%
Engineers	108,935	180,185	631,000	479,500	481,898	484,307	-151,500	-24.0%	0.5%	0.5%
Taxes: Town of New Scotland	421,567	425,483	434,000	451,100	452,250	454,511	17,100	3.9%	0.3%	0.5%
Equipment Repairs	384,569	402,647	336,050	344,550	346,273	348,004	8,500	2.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Property Repairs	367,737	207,163	230,925	295,355	276,732	276,115	-5,570	-1.9%	-3.0%	0.5%
Electricity	1,064,250	1,052,291	1,053,379	1,462,216	1,497,041	1,510,012	428,240	40.6%	1.0%	1.0%
Chemicals	570,560	718,969	631,500	711,500	712,168	712,938	20,000	2.9%	0.1%	0.1%
Maintenance Contracts	249,507	290,719	615,910	441,195	461,680	484,764	-174,715	-28.4%	4.6%	5.0%
Other Contract Services	1,074,645	717,584	990,964	1,004,594	1,009,617	1,014,665	13,630	1.4%	0.5%	0.5%
Other Appropriations	3,759,497	4,281,259	4,363,243	4,768,182	4,792,023	4,815,983	404,939	9.3%	0.5%	0.5%
Debt Service (Principal and Interest)	2,554,191	3,900,787	2,973,451	3,097,094	3,196,575	3,186,019	123,643	4.2%	1.9%	0.9%
Interfund Transfers - Expenditures	2,447,841	2,637,958	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Ambulance Charges	1,483,310	1,987,762	2,095,264	2,165,900	2,210,201	2,254,399	71,636	3.4%	2.0%	2.0%
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$50,378,102	\$50,685,423	\$52,359,770	\$55,107,629	\$56,221,692	\$57,662,474	\$2,747,859	5.2%	2.0%	2.6%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$4,331,101	\$6,839,879	\$0	\$0	-\$164,824	-\$411,841				

Benefits

- Assists in balancing the budget responsibly in future years
- Prepares for, and helps to prevent, revenue or service shocks (for example):
 - Expiration of the City of Albany Water Contract
 - Retirement and Albany County EMS increases
- Important tool for maintaining a healthy NYS Fiscal Stress score
- S&P Global Ratings has identified this as one reason for the Town's AA+ bond rating, resulting in lower borrowing rates

Only community in the Capital Region that prepares a multiyear plan

BEYOND 2026 – MULTI-YEAR PLANNING

- Projection shows deficits of (\$165K) and (\$412K) in 2027 & 2028, respectively
- The fund balance policy states that the “Town will strive to maintain a contingency fund balance” of 15% of the most recent budget.
 - The current projection shows that we should be appropriately funded at 17.7% and 17.0%.
 - The key changes relate to salaries and benefits, which are projected to increase approx. \$2.5M over the next two years, while the property tax levy and PILOTs, sales taxes, and metered water charges are projected to increase \$2.1M.



	Surplus/(Deficit)	
	2027 Projection	2028 Projection
General Fund	(\$523,536)	(\$722,477)
Highway Fund	(\$122,702)	(\$212,543)
Water Fund	\$392,265	\$338,515
Sewer Fund	\$89,149	\$184,664
Ambulance Fund - DBEMS	\$0	\$0
Ambulance Fund - County	\$0	\$0
Total	(\$164,824)	(\$411,841)
Fund Balance Percentage	17.7%	17.0%



THANK YOU!

