



Town of Simsbury

FY 2024/2025 BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APPROVED BUDGET

MARCH 19, 2024

First Selectman's Opening Comments

- ❖ 4 New members of the BOS bringing new voices to the table and 2 Returning members brought back some items to reconsider from the pilot program – showed fiscal concerns and responsibility in revisiting this, as we said we would do. (Social Worker 2 year Pilot)
- ❖ Shaping town hall for the future in our Town Manager form of government. This is the staff he emphasized was needed. As our board finalizes our goal setting, and we establish our TM's goals, we will emphasize efficient operations and a technology focused, customer service municipal government that continues to improve over the next few years.
 - ✓ Stronger HR department and services to support staff
 - ✓ Enhanced services to the customer facing areas of Assessor, Tax Collector and Town Clerk
 - ✓ Maintenance of vehicles for all departments in town, PD, BOE – save on outsourcing and also longer life of vehicles
 - ✓ PD records clerk needed to keep us in compliance and a part of the recommendation of the CERTUS study (2 clerks) we funded last year
- ❖ The taxation concerns hit all of us, so any tax increase is not taken lightly. As a long time resident, I faced a \$600+ tax increase last year and will be facing an additional \$500+ increase, in a household of 2 retired professionals planning to remain in our family home in Simsbury.
- ❖ We used our ARPA funds to improve town assets, create new projects that contributed to economic development, and did not create any cliffs on the BOS side. But this \$7.5M funding is gone this year.
- ❖ Economic development came out as one of our top priorities, as without growth in the grand list, we will not have the revenue needed to curb tax increases. Residents will need to be willing to accept new businesses, creative housing and other ideas or else will have to accept future tax increases.
- ❖ Key Capital projects that the community supported came back for additional funding - the Flower Bridge and Tariffville Pickleball Courts. We heard from the public during our ARPA outreach and these were projects residents wanted to see, so we made sure they were kept them moving. The ECG and bike path continues to be a priority, with the receipt of a great deal of grant funding. New project for the Performing Arts Center to complete the backstage is now prioritized, given the funding from state, prior funding from the town, and expected fundraising from the PAC to make this project possible. It brings thousands of people to town each year, who get to know our community.

Board of Selectman 2023-2025

Wendy Mackstutis First Selectman

Steven Antonio, Deputy First Selectman

Heather Goetz, Ranking Member

Kevin Beal

Curtis Looney

Diana Yeisley



Board of Selectmen 2023-2025 Goal Setting



Economic Development
Technology, Transparency & Efficiency
Housing



Funding & Revenue Sources
Public Safety, Community Health & Quality of
Life

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

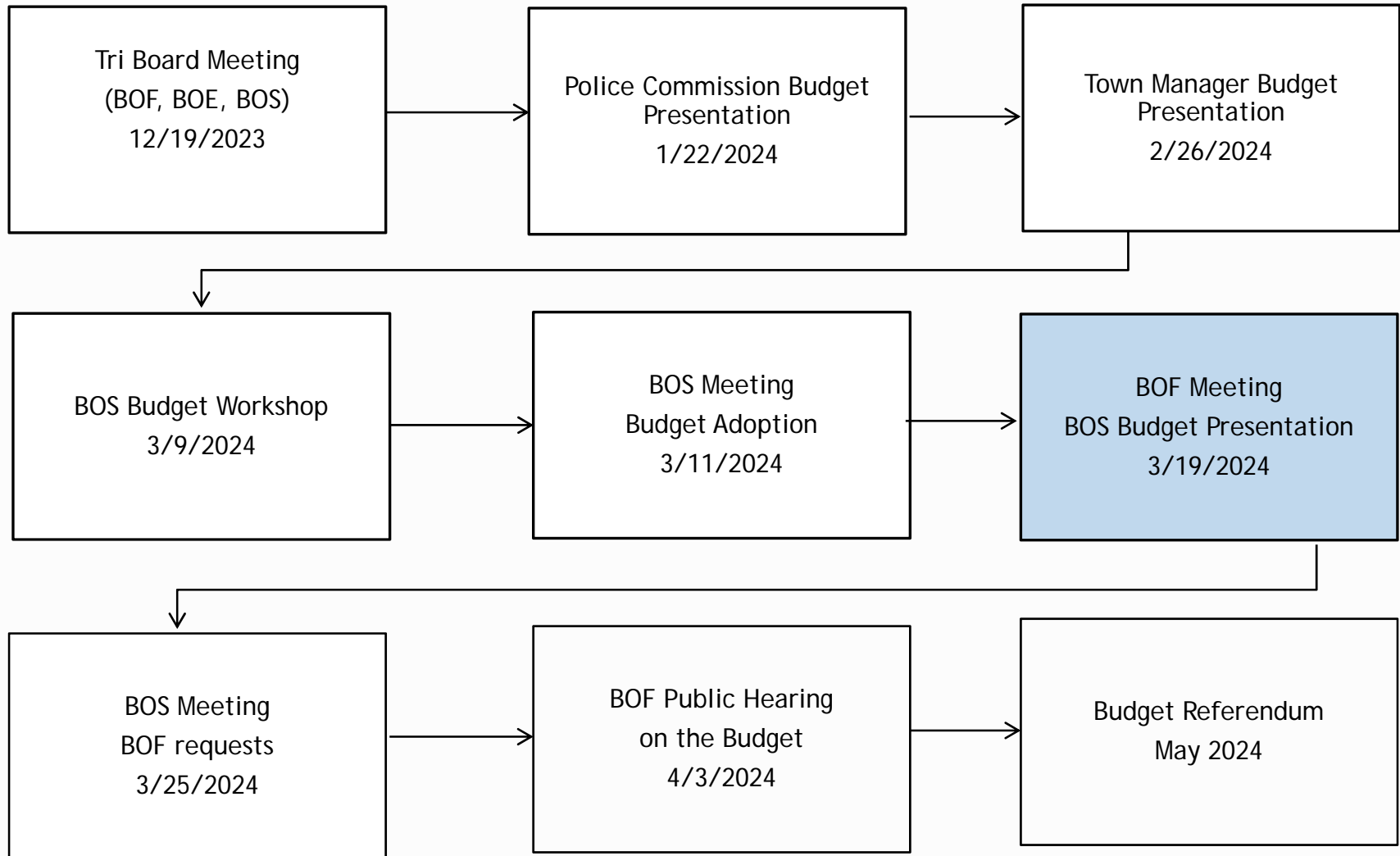
Parks & Recreation

Charter Review

Personnel



FY 24/25 Budget Calendar



FY 24/25 Budget Summary

- ❑ \$28,103,721 Town Operating Budget (25% of total, 75%BOE)
- ❑ 908,893 increase 3.34%; with transfers 2.93%
(speaking in terms excluding ARPA for reference to 3.5% BOF guidance)
- ❑ Mill rate 32.84 (excluding 1.0 Fire District)
Increase of 6.55% from 30.82 to 32.84
Increase of 6.04% from 30.82 to 32.68 with revenue increase
- ❑ Median home value example: \$553 increase / \$509 with revenue
- ❑ Budget drivers:
 - \$1.5 million reduction in revenue due to decrease in motor vehicle mill rate reimbursement (State @ 32.46)
 - Fixed costs (salaries/benefits, health insurance, inflationary impacts)

FY 24/25 Revenue Assumptions

- ❑ Nominal Grand List Growth - 0.06% or \$1,990,770 in grand list value generating approximately \$66,193 in additional revenue.
- ❑ Tax Collection assumption rate of 98.5%
- ❑ Utilized Governor's proposed budget for estimating state revenues
 - Most revenues remain flat
 - ECS increases by \$261,270 from \$7,222,805 (23/24 actual) to \$7,484,165
 - We will not receive a motor vehicle mill rate reimbursement due to the FY24 mill rate falling under the state cap, resulting in a decrease of \$1,554,882 in revenue
- ❑ Investment Interest intended change by BOS
 - Increased to TM budget in the amount of \$500K (not yet approved, but will show impact)

FY 24/25 Revenue Assumptions

Grand List Past and Projections

	FY2021/22	FY2022/23	FY2023/24	FY2024/25	FY2025/26	FY2026/27
	Actual	Actual	(without reval)	Projected	Projected	Projected
Real Estate	2,229,495,273	2,249,857,460	2,303,543,089	2,973,341,033	2,972,000,000	2,975,000,000
Personal Property	139,309,393	155,796,015	153,458,111	156,740,419	160,000,000	162,000,000
MV Grand List	214,666,419	273,863,640	288,250,220	273,677,219	300,000,000	305,000,000
Total Grand List	2,583,471,085	2,679,517,115	2,745,251,420	3,403,758,671	3,432,000,000	3,442,000,000
Percent Change	2.93%	3.72%	2.45%	0.06%	0.83%	0.29%
Change in Grand List		96,046,030	65,734,305	1,990,770	28,241,329	10,000,000

Thank you Amy and Francine

FY 24/25 Budget Overview

	FY2023/24 Budget	FY2024/25 Projected	Change	Percent Change
Town Operating Budget	\$ 27,194,828	\$ 28,103,721	\$ 908,893	3.34%
Operating Transfers	726,736	636,956	(89,780)	-12.35%
Total Town Budget	27,921,564	28,740,677	819,113	2.93%
School Operating Budget	81,576,437	85,217,644	3,641,207	4.46%
Non-Public School Budget	605,699	588,724	(16,975)	-2.80%
Debt Service & Capital	7,806,810	8,915,868	1,109,058	14.21%
Gross Expenditures	117,910,510	123,462,913	5,552,403	4.71%
Anticipated Revenue	13,396,233	12,721,197	(675,036)	-5.04%
Total Revenue and Approp of Fund Balance	13,396,233	12,721,197	(675,036)	-5.04%
Net Expenditures	\$ 104,514,277	\$ 110,741,716	\$ 6,227,439	5.96%

Mill Rate Calculation

Property Taxes				
Supplemental Auto	1,100,000	600,000		
Property Taxes	94,547,022	101,258,153		
Car Taxes	8,867,255	8,883,563		
Total Property Taxes	104,514,277	110,741,716		
Net Grand List (non-vehicle)	3,114,056,830	3,130,081,452		
Tax Collection Rate	98.50%	98.50%		
Mill Rate	30.82	32.84	2.02	6.55%
Fire	1.00	1.00	-	0.00%
Total Mill Rate	31.82	33.84	2.02	6.35%
Median Home Impact	8,431	8,984	553	6.55%

FY 24/25 Budget Overview

Impact of Revenue Increase \$500,000

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Debt Service & Capital	7,806,810	8,915,868	1,109,058	14.21%
Gross Expenditures	117,910,510	123,462,913	5,552,403	4.71%
Anticipated Revenue	13,396,233	13,221,197	(175,036)	-1.31%
Total Revenue and Approp of Fund Balance	13,396,233	13,221,197	(175,036)	-1.31%
Net Expenditures	\$ 104,514,277	\$ 110,241,716	\$ 5,727,439	5.48%

Mill Rate Calculation

Property Taxes				
Supplemental Auto	1,100,000	600,000		
Property Taxes	94,547,022	100,758,153		
Car Taxes	8,867,255	8,883,563		
Total Property Taxes	104,514,277	110,241,716		
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Tax Collection Rate	98.50%	98.50%		
Mill Rate	30.82	32.68	1.86	6.04%
Fire	1.00	1.00	-	0.00%
Total Mill Rate	31.82	33.68	1.86	5.85%
Median Home Impact	8,431	8,940	509	6.04%

FY 24/25 Operating Budget Changes

Changes to Town Manager Budget

Description	Amount
Eliminate Youth & Family Social Worker Position (2-year pilot)	(\$100,000)
Move BOS Public Agency Support for SVAA to Reserves	(\$200,000)
Increase Contingency for Vacancy Rate from \$250K to \$350K	(\$100,000)
Decrease Simsbury Farms contribution (push to year-end savings)	(\$205,749)
Decrease Paving for Highway Facilities and Programs	(\$100,000)
Decrease in Road Safety for Highway Facilities and Programs (salt)	(\$25,000)
Increase to Public Works for Iron Horse Median (removed \$60K CNR item)	\$5,000
Net reduction to original operating	(\$725,749)
<i>Increase to Revenue Investment Income</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>

- Outside Agency Funding remained flat, Chamber of Commerce (\$7500) moved to Contingency
- CNR Payback replacement (\$60,000) TBD

FY24/25 Staffing Changes

- ☐ Human Resources (HR) Department Restructuring - \$148,062
 - Reclassify existing HR Coordinator to HR Director (\$37,690)
 - Add HR Generalist (\$110,372)
- ☐ Town Hall Administrative Specialist - \$99,833
 - Support for Assessor, Town Clerk and Tax Collector
- ☐ Mechanic Driver - \$51,424
 - Maintenance of Town, PD and BOE vehicles
 - Budgeted for half year, next year full amount
- ☐ Police Records Clerk - \$92,510
 - Recommended by Certus Study, Needed to stay compliant
 - CNR request for space tied to this position

- Salary research on related positions/salaries was performed by Town Manager's Office
- Estimated benefits and payroll taxes included
- Information from Comp and *Classification* Study is being *incorporated* into descriptions
- Personnel Subcommittee to review results of study, approve job description changes

FY24/25 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Public Works/Engineering - \$ 6,366,620

Highway Pavement Management	TAR/LOCIP/B/GF-OT	1,600,000
Public Works Truck Replacement and Plow	GF-OT/VT	266,220
Sidewalk Reconstruction	B	223,400
Tariffville Connection - East Coast Greenway Gap Closure	PS/G	450,000
Old Drake Hill Road Flower Bridge Rehabilitation - Supplemental*	PS/CRF	2,646,000
Town Hall Rooftop Units	B	275,000
Municipal Site and Safety Improvements (Town Hall)	B	460,000
Barn and Facility Repairs - Wolcott Road	B	275,000
Dam Evaluation & Repairs (Stoddard Dam Breach)	B	171,000

Flower Bridge already approved in FY 23/24 but additional funds needed.
Appears in CIP as it needs to go to referendum due to project cost.

WPCA - \$ 200,000

Sewer Replacement - Pine Hill - Supplemental	SUF	200,000
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FY24/25 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Culture, Parks & Recreation - \$ 2,932,881

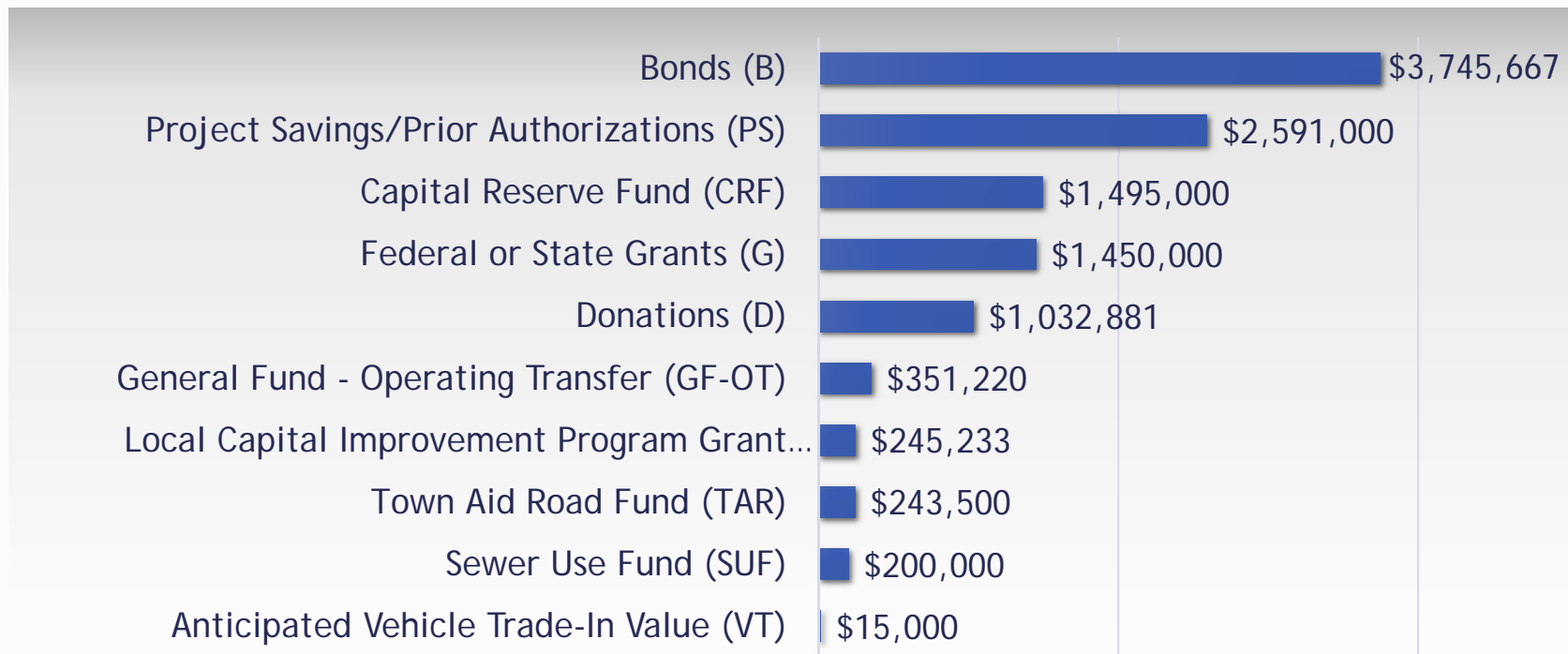
Memorial Pool Redesign	CRF	150,000
Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Bandshell Addition	G/D/CRF/PS	2,782,881

Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Funding breakdown		
Previous Municipal Funding	\$350,000	PS
DECD Grant - State Bond Commission	\$900,000	G
Capital Reserves Fund	\$500,000	CRF
TOTAL	\$1,750,000	
Funding by PAC	\$1,032,881	D, Other

Board of Education - \$ 1,870,000

District Network Infrastructure	CRF	350,000
SHS - Auditorium & Amphitheater Improvements	B	400,000
Tootin Hills - Replace Roof (V3, V4)	B/G	1,120,000

FY24/25 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Funding Distribution Totals



FY24/25 Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) Funded Projects

Public Works/All - \$510,430

Community Farm Maintenance & Repairs	GF-OT	5,000
Material Recycling	GF-OT	25,000
Plow Blades	TAR	31,000
Truck Wash Barn Roof	CRF	170,000
11' Snowplow	TAR	31,000
Pickup F-150 4x4 (Director)	PS	42,000
Medium Duty Trailer	TAR	29,580
Condenser - BOE/Maintenance Building	GF-TP	22,000
Town Hall HVAC Controller Upgrade	GF-TP	11,500
Repoint Marble Railings - Eno Hall	ET	21,500
2015 Ford Pick-Up	GF-TP	60,000
Town Hall ADA Hardware Upgrade	GF-TP	40,000
Scagg Zero Turn Mower (Replace 2012)	GF-TP	21,850

Water Pollution Control - \$250,000

Sewer Lining	SUF	100,000
HVAC Systems Replacement	SUF	150,000

FY24/25 Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) Funded Projects

Culture, Parks & Recreation - \$931,500

Various Playscapes/Playground Refurbishments	GF-TP	40,000
Park Entrance Signs Replacement	GF-TP	16,000
Greenway Improvements	GF-TP	75,000
Irrigation Replacement - Various Fields & Parks	CRF	100,000
Simsbury Farms Apple Barn Roof and Carpets	CRF	75,000
Cart Path Paving	SF	200,000
Rebuild Tee #13	SF	2,500
Golf Course Rough Mower (replace 2012)	E	95,000
Simsbury Farms Parking Lot Drainage	GF-TP	51,000
Tariffville Park Court Replacement - Supplemental	CRF	100,000
Golf Course Drainage Projects	SF	15,000
Small Parks Mower (replace 2015)	GF-TP	20,000
Ice Rink Edger (replace 1995)	GF-TP	12,000
Dump Truck Replacement (replace 2012)	CRF	70,000
Memorial Park Athletic Field Mower (replace 2007)	CRF	60,000

Library - \$47,250

Computer Replacements (Public Terminals)	GF-OT	7,000
Library Compressor/HVAC Controls Replacement	GF-TP	40,250

FY24/25 Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) Funded Projects

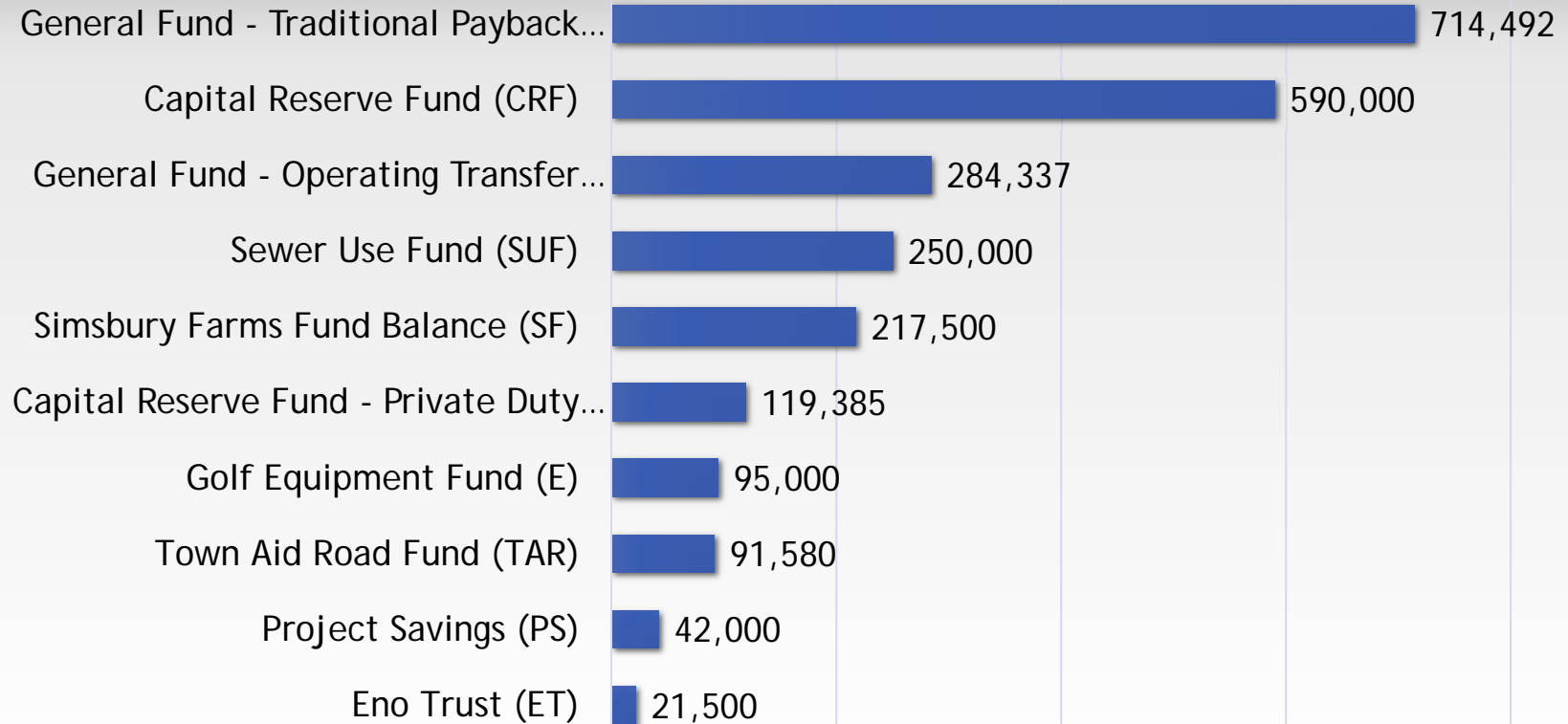
General Government - \$ 329,892.00

Revaluation	GF-TP	68,600
Computer/Technology Upgrades	GF-TP	30,240
Public Safety Radio System Maintenance/Repairs	GF-OT	10,000
Budget Software	GF-TP	16,352
Firewall Upgrades	GF-TP	17,000
Network Switches	GF-TP	24,700
Security Camera Infrastructure & Equipment	GF-TP	38,000
Neighborhood Planning & Small Area Plans	GF-TP	50,000
Zoning Regulations Update	GF-TP/CRF	75,000

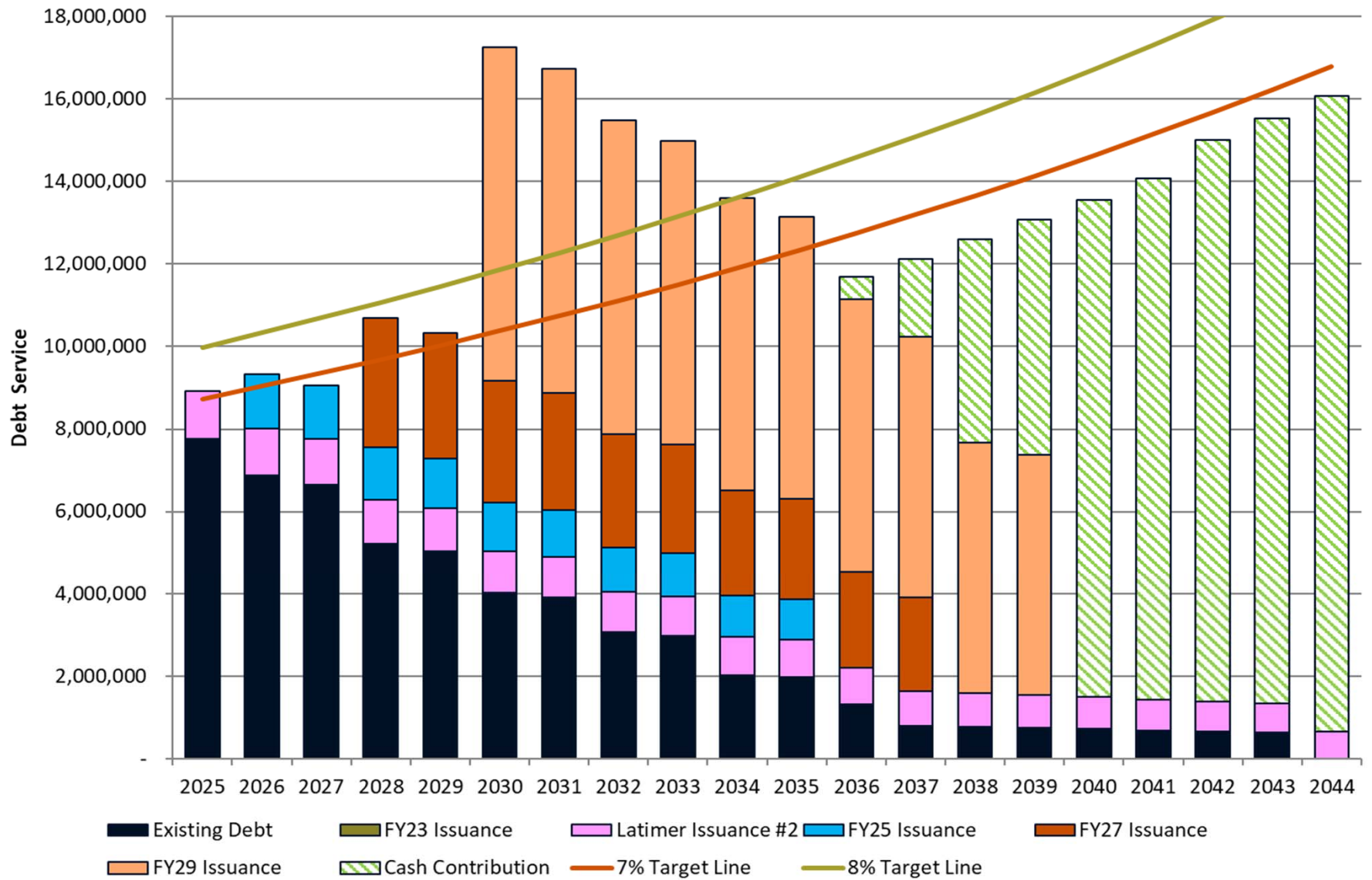
Police - \$356,722

Police Cruisers (3)	GF-OT	121,710
Police Administrative Vehicles	GF-OT	54,772
Document Storage/Digitization of Records	CRF-PD	25,000
Records Office & Storage Renovation	GF-OT	60,855
Body Worn Cameras and Car Cameras	CRF-PD	47,424
Interview Room Audio/Video Recording System	CRF-PD	4,700
Soft Body Armor/Vest Replacement	CRF-PD	5,000
Tasers	CRF-PD	37,261

FY24/25 Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) Funding Distribution Totals



Capital Budget Planning FY25 - FY30



Next Steps

- ❑ Public Hearing - April 3
 - First public hearing must be held no later than April 10
- ❑ Public hearing continuation - April 16 (if needed)
 - Board of Finance must approve and file budget no more than 10 days after final public hearing
- ❑ Budget Referendum - April 30 or May 14
 - Must be held 14-21 days after budget is filed

