



TOWN OF SOMERS ANNUAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 18, 2023

Public Hearing Agenda

The Board of Finance thanks you for attending this evening's Annual Budget Public Hearing. Your interest, and involvement, creates a strong, responsive, and transparent government. The evening's program will include the following:

Welcome	Board of Finance	Joseph Tolisano
Board of Education	Superintendent of Schools	Paul Gagliarducci
Board of Selectmen	First Selectman	Timothy Keeney
Overall Budget	Assistant Finance Director	Brian Wissinger
Revenue Projections	Assistant Finance Director	Brian Wissinger
Public Comments	Board of Finance	Joseph Tolisano



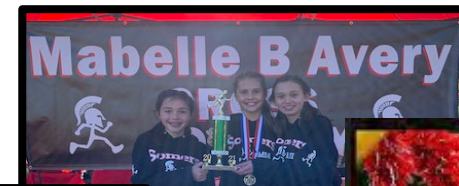
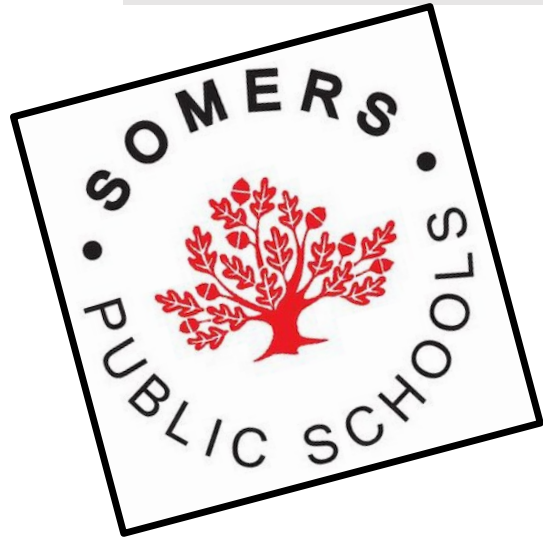


Board of Education

Paul Gagliarducci, Superintendent

FY 24 BOE School Budget

One Purpose: Start to Finish!



Budget Goals

- ✓ **Main current programs**
 - ✓ Curricular
 - ✓ Co-Curricular
 - ✓ Extra-Curricular
- ✓ **Be fiscally responsible**
- ✓ **Maintain all needed staff positions as determined by district administrators**
- ✓ **Compensate for previous year's federal funding**
- ✓ **Adjust for Health Insurance increase**



Budget Realities

- ❖ No new programs
- ❖ Two positions reallocated
 - ❖ Special Education (Mid-Year)
 - ❖ SES Teacher
 - ❖ SES STEM coach/teacher
 - ❖ SHS Social Worker
- ❖ Two positions eliminated
 - ❖ -Virtual Ed. Facilitator-SHS
 - ❖ -Academic Tutor-SHS
- ❖ Reduction in technology replacement plan
- ❖ Delay of science textbooks at SHS
- ❖ Change Health Insurance plans



Budget Request: Focused on Our Goals!

- ❖ **\$27,411,632**
- ❖ **4.34% increase**
- ❖ **\$1,140,860 increase**

- ❖ **FY23=\$26,270,772**
- ❖ **FY22=\$25,239,742 (exp.=\$25,227,638)**
- ❖ **Increase=\$1,031,030**
- ❖ **Increase= 4.08**

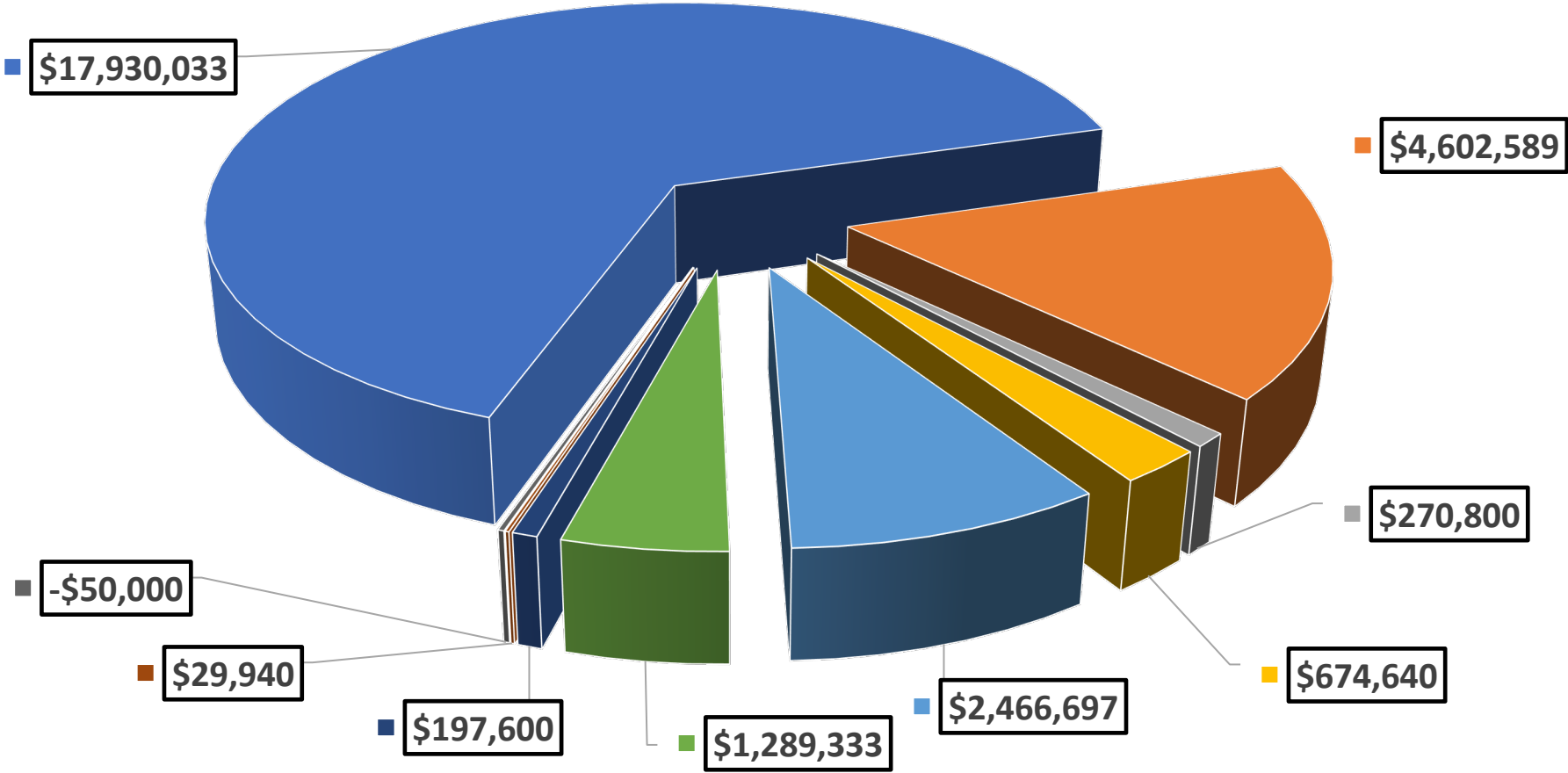


Object budget categories

- ❖ **1000-Salaries** All salaries for all school personnel
- ❖ **2000-Benefits** Insurances, Social Security, pensions, etc.
- ❖ **3000-Prof. Services** Any outside service-doctors, athl. trainer, etc.
- ❖ **4000-Prop. Services** Maintenance contracts, copiers, etc.
- ❖ **5000-Purchased Serv.** All tuitions, Adult Ed., travel
- ❖ **6000- Supplies** General supplies for all depart. and utilities
- ❖ **7000- Property** Capital equipment
- ❖ **8000- Dues/Fees** All professional members
- ❖ **9000- Other** Occasional expenditures and revenues

The Budget

- 1000 Salaries
- 2000 Benefits
- 3000 Prof. Services
- 4000 Property Serv
- 5000 Purchased serv.
- 6000 Supplies
- 7000 Prop./Capital
- 8000 dues/fees
- 9000 Other



Inside the Budget



❖ Grant funded positions integrated from FY23 to FY24- (whole or part)

❖ Certified

- ❖ 1 Special Ed Kindergarten Teacher
- ❖ 1 6-12 STEM Coach
- ❖ 1 K-5 Math Interventionist
- ❖ ~~1 SHS Social Worker (reallocated)~~
- ❖ 1 Pupil Services Coordinator

❖ Non-Certified

- ❖ ~~1 SHS Edmentum Facilitator (cut)~~
- ❖ 2 MBA Tutors
- ❖ 1 SES Tutor - 20 hrs./week
- ❖ 1 SES Tutor - 25 hrs./week
- ❖ 5 SHS/SES Kindergarten Paraeducators - 5hrs/day

Inside the Budget

- ❖ **Some heavy hitters:**
 - ❖ **Oil heat- +\$30,665**
 - ❖ **Fuel- +\$50,520**
 - ❖ **Ins.- +\$101,470 ***
 - ❖ **Staffing- +\$1,130,498****

***Projected +\$350,000 (insurance change)**

**** Includes positions funded with ARP Fed. funds**



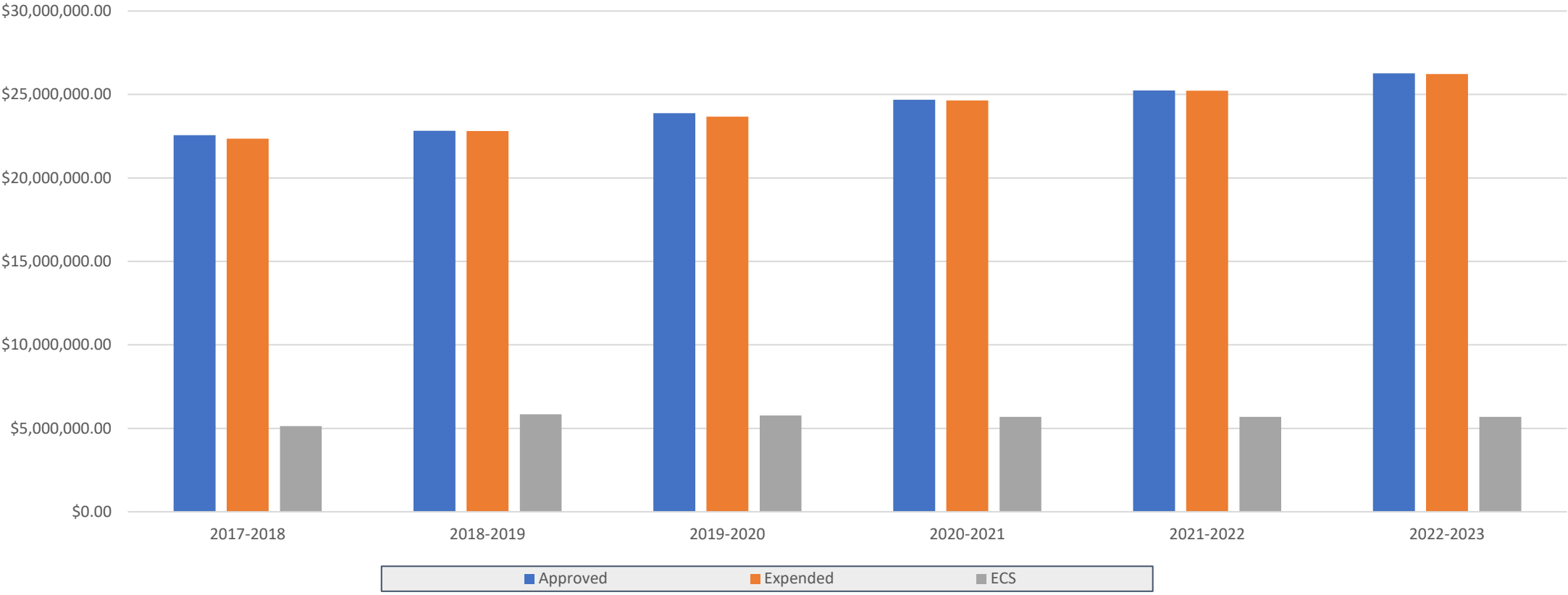
“A little help from our friends”!

(Supplement or Supplant??)

- **State Choice (Racial Diversity)**
- **State TEAM (Teacher mentoring)**
- **State CT SEDS (Special Education)**
- **Federal Title I (Academic Support)**
- **Federal Title II (PD)**
- **Federal Title III (ESL)**
- **Federal Title IV (Ed. Enhancement)**
- **Federal IDEA 611 (Special Education)**
- **Federal IDEA 619 (Special Education)**

Some History-FY 18 to FY 23

Budget History-Approved/Expended/ECS



“And now you know the rest of the story!”

Famous radio personality Paul Harvey would always tell interesting stories about people and events on his radio show. He would hold his listeners captive while he told the story and always have an interesting or surprising ending. When he finished he would say, “And now you know the rest of the story!”

Here is our budget story:

- ❖ Budget increase : 4.34% increase
- ❖ Budget increase minus expiring grant funds (direct to BOE and/or provided by BOF=\$667,425) : 1.77% increase

\$ Our Yearly Investment \$



Town Government

Tim Keeney, First Selectman



A large orange circle graphic on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

Board of Selectmen's Budgeting Approach

- Departmental Collaboration
- All Public Sessions
- Data Driven Decisions
- Enhance Provided Services
- Fiscally Responsible
- Deliver Value



Town Government Proposed Budget

Prior Year FY2023

\$8,592,511

Proposed FY2024

\$8,688,388

Increase

\$95,877

Percentage

1.12%

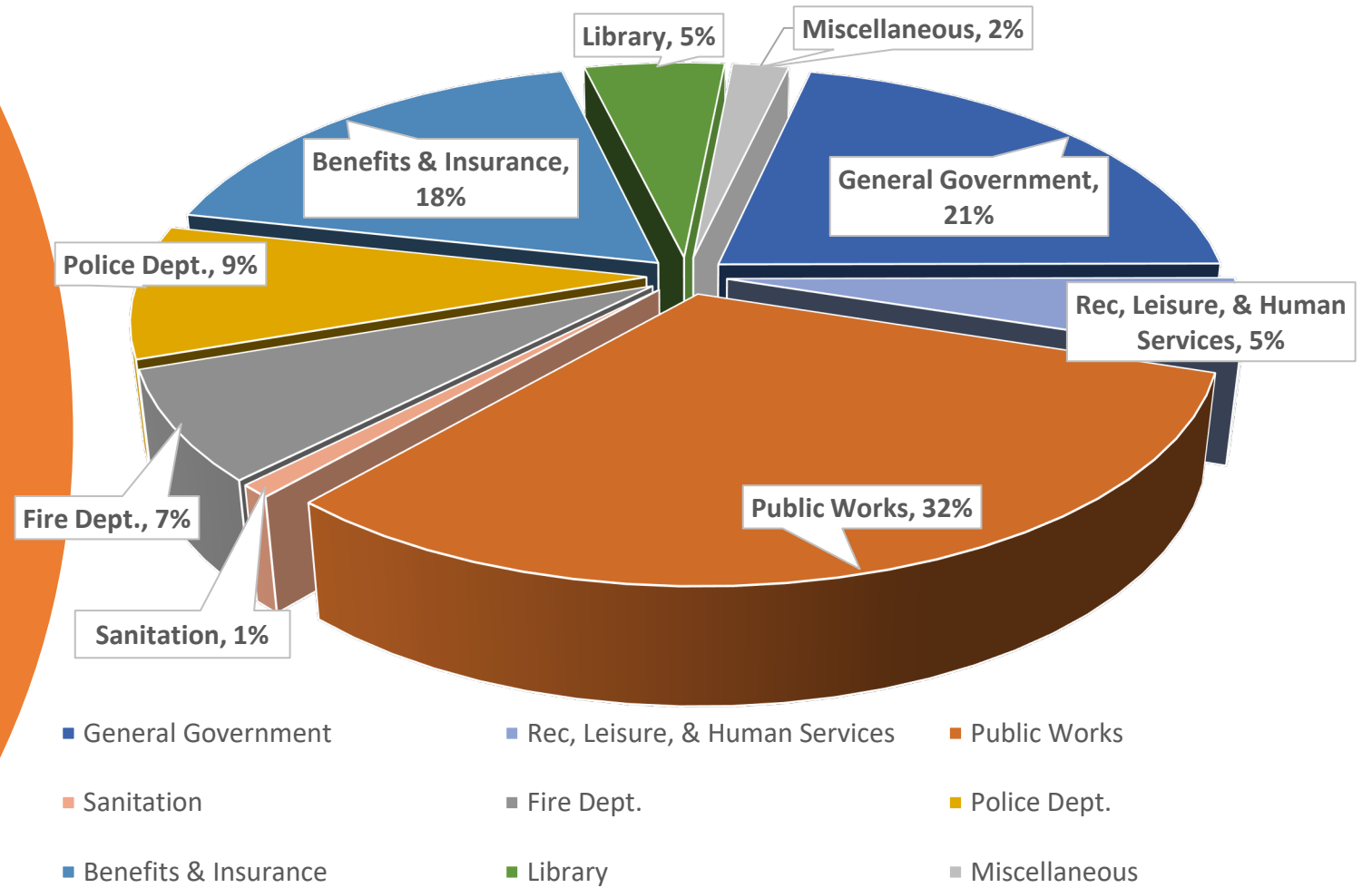
Budgetary Changes

- Addition of a Part-Time HR Assistant
- Completed 3-Year process of centralizing all energy and utility costs
- Full-Time Recreation Coordinator previously funded by ARPA
- Town's IT Firm previously funded by ARPA

- Increased employee health insurance cost share
- Reorganized Town Finance Group
 - Tax, Assessment, and Finance Departments
- Moved Direct EMS Expenses to the Ambulance Fund to match incoming revenues

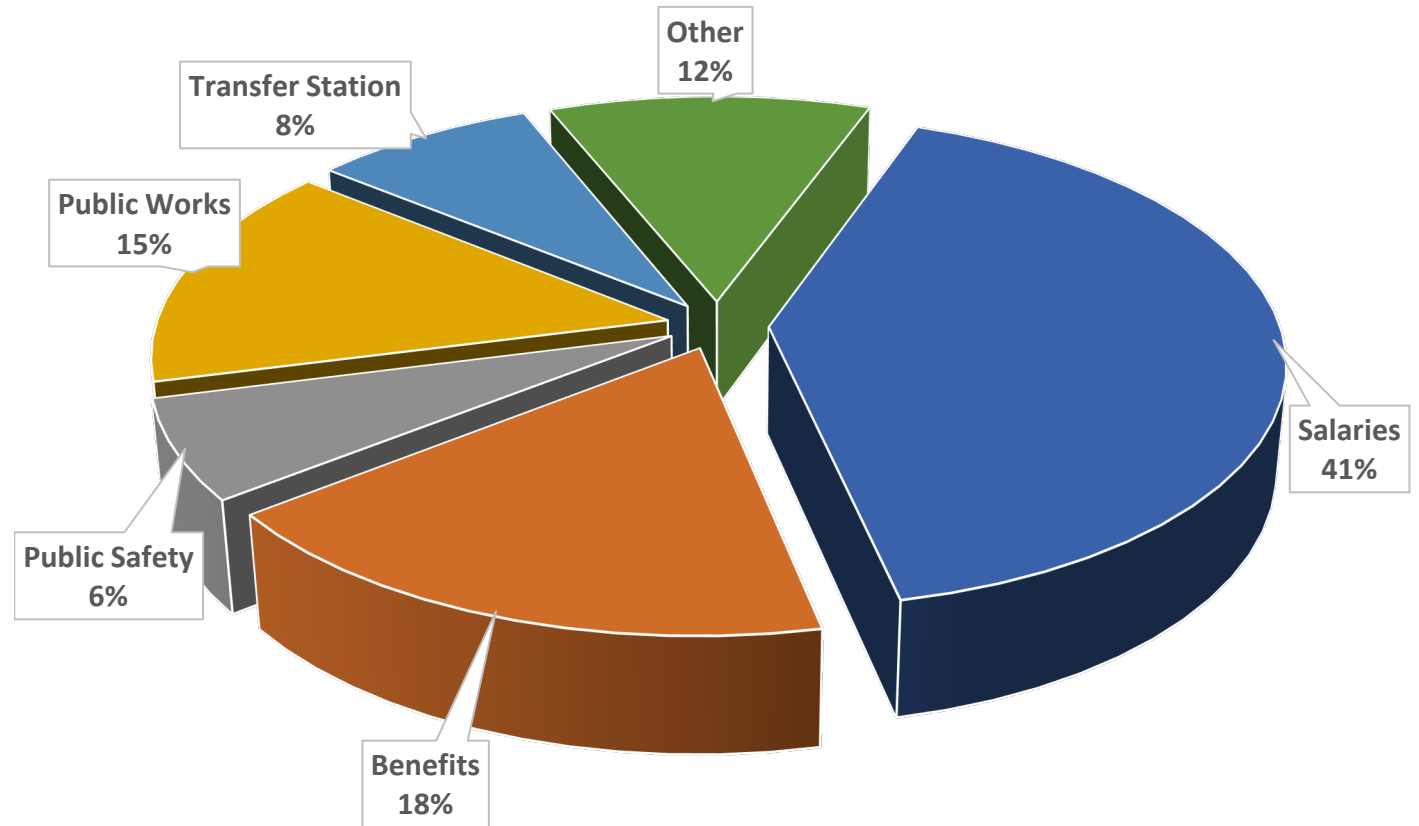
Departmental Expenditures

Departmental Budget View



Categorical Expenditures

Categorical Budget View



■ Salaries ■ Benefits ■ Public Safety ■ Public Works ■ Transfer Station ■ Other

Categorical Budgetary Changes

Salaries

The budget includes a 3.5% salary pool increase, the addition of a part-time HR Assistant, and the full-time Recreation Coordinator. Direct EMS related salaries were transferred to the Ambulance Fund.

**Decrease:
\$415,744**

Benefits

Health Insurance premiums increased 7.1%. The Board of Selectmen increased the employee cost share to combat a portion of the increase.

**Increase:
\$106,074**

Public Safety

Direct EMS related costs were removed from the General Fund Budget and transferred to the Ambulance Fund.

**Decrease:
\$95,968**

Public Works

Increased energy and fuels costs as well as additional road maintenance costs are the budgetary cost increases.

**Increase:
\$331,915**

Transfer Station

These increases are directly related to the continually increasing and contractually obligated costs of hauling waste and recycling materials.

**Increase:
\$28,413**

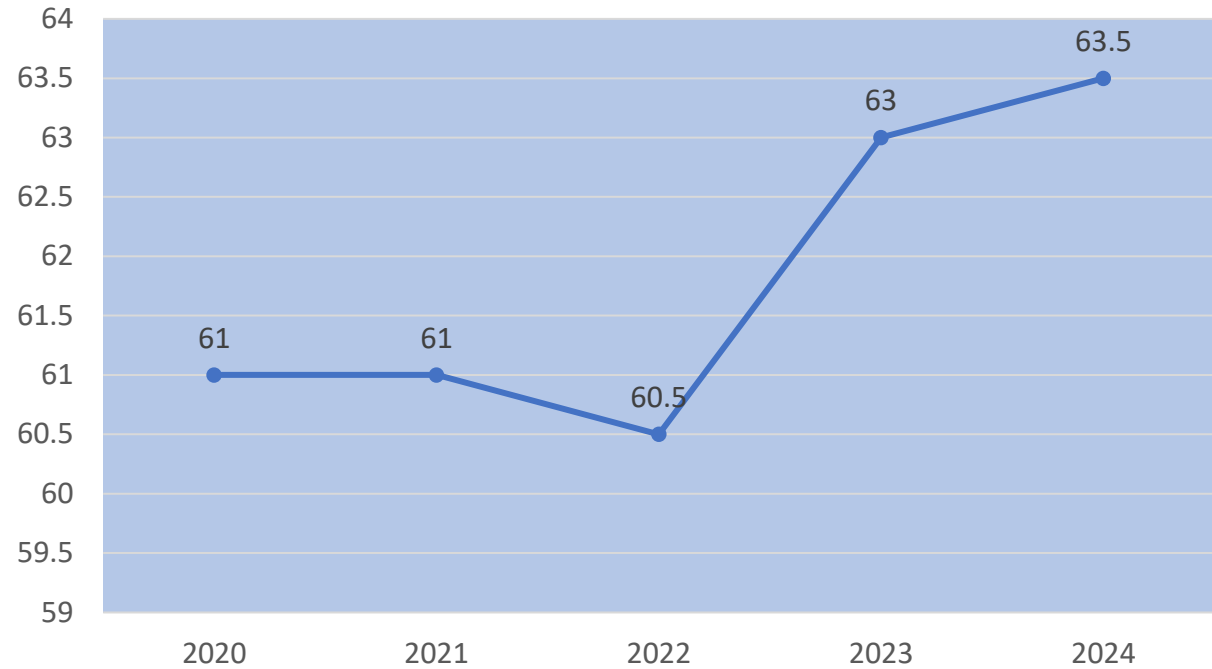
Other

This cost group contains supply budgets, legal fees, dues & seminars, an allocation for revaluation, an allocation for the separation payout fund, and other miscellaneous costs.

**Increase:
\$141,187**

Staffing Comparison

Town Employees – Full Time Equivalents (FTE's)



Actual FY 2023 FTE's	63
Full Time	45
Part Time	36 (18 FTE's)

Approved FY 2024 FTE's	63.5
Full Time	45
Part Time	37 (18.5 FTE's)

Selectmen's Vision for the Future

- Senior/Community Center
- Development of the Somersville Mill Site
- Expansion of the Town's Sidewalk System
- Upgrades of the Somersville Wastewater Treatment Facility



Overall Budget and Revenue Projections

Brian Wissinger, Assistant Finance Director



Overall Budget

Town Government \$8,688,388

Board of Education \$27,411,632

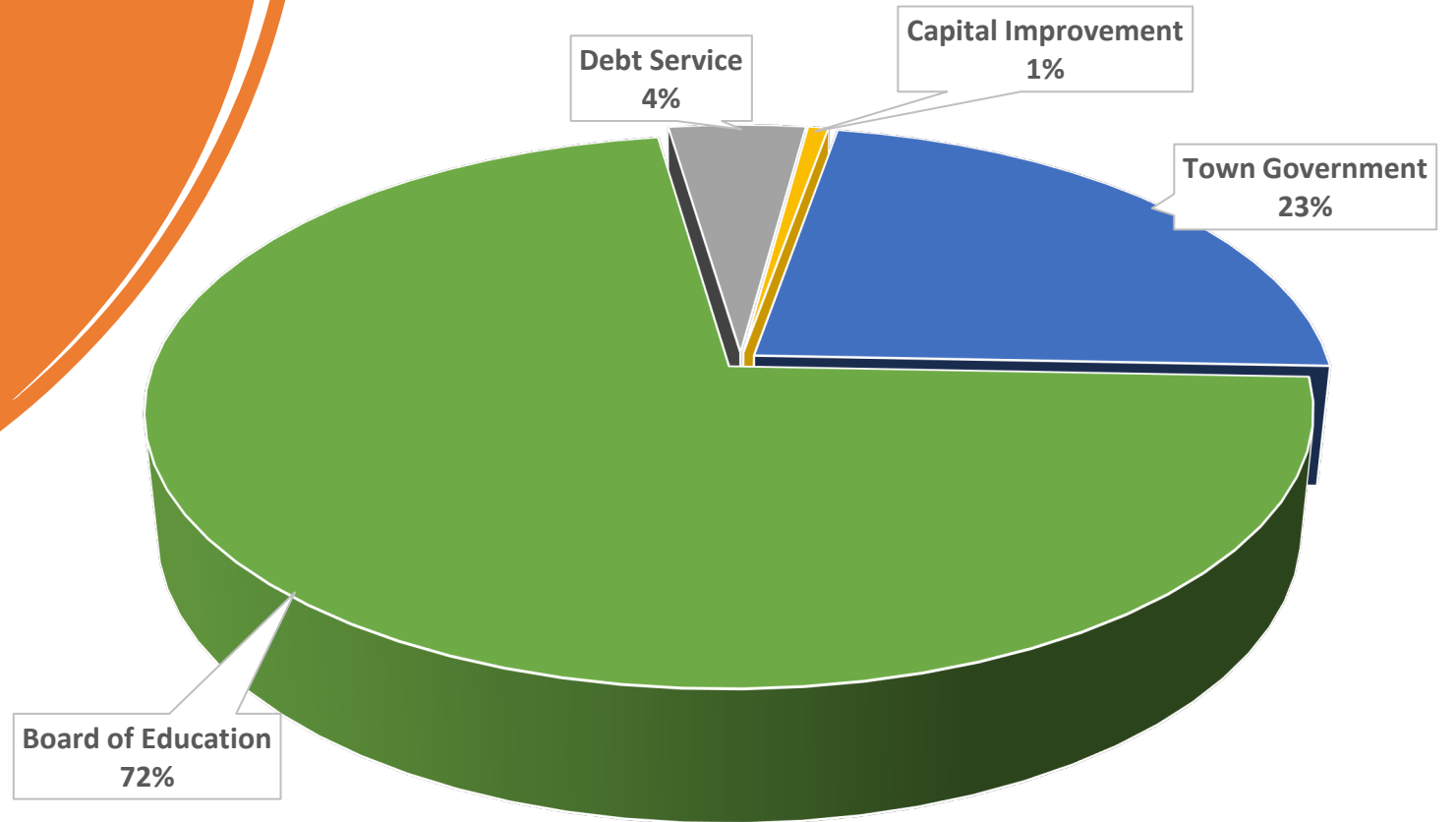
Debt Service \$1,698,538

Capital Improvement \$250,000

Total Budget \$38,048,558

Total Budget 1.28%

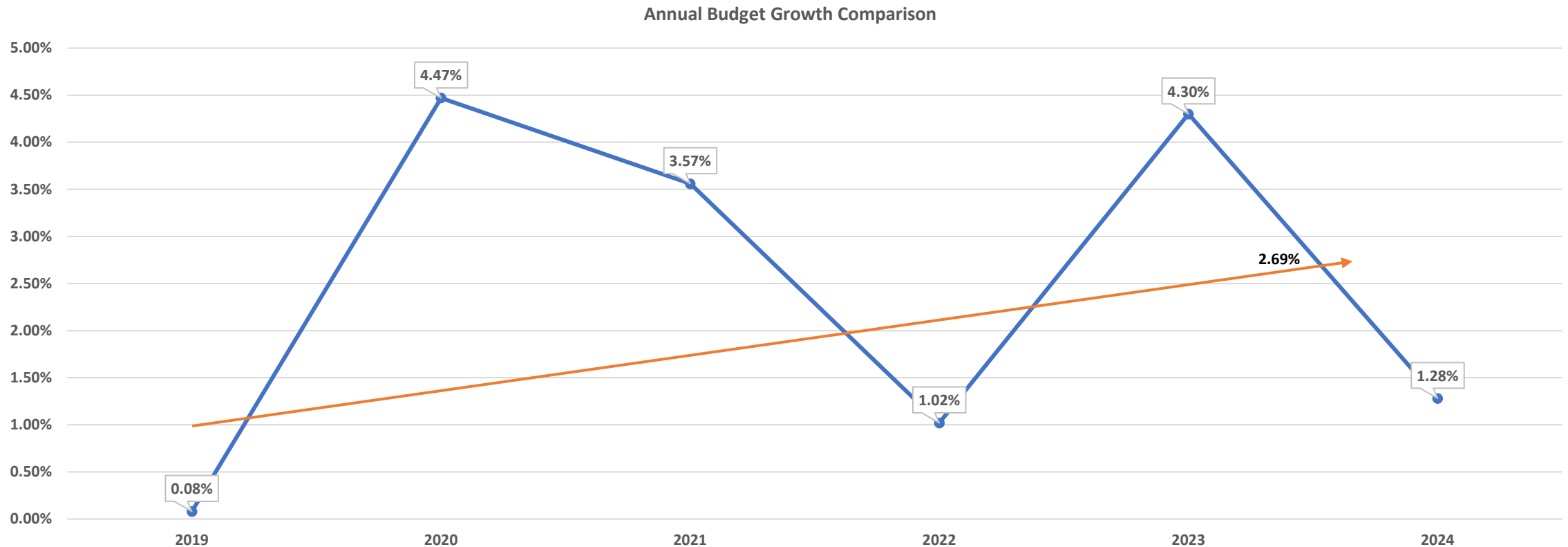
Budget Allocations



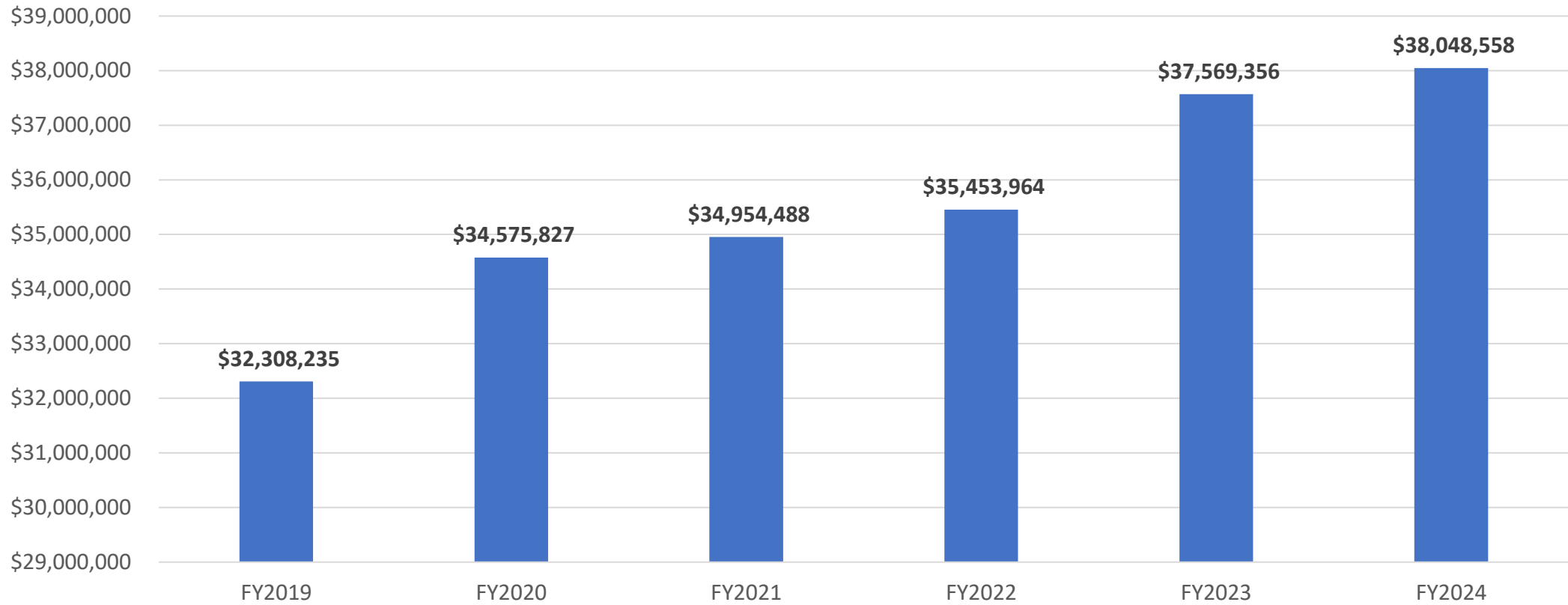
■ Town Government ■ Board of Education ■ Debt Service ■ Capital Improvement

Annual Budget Growth

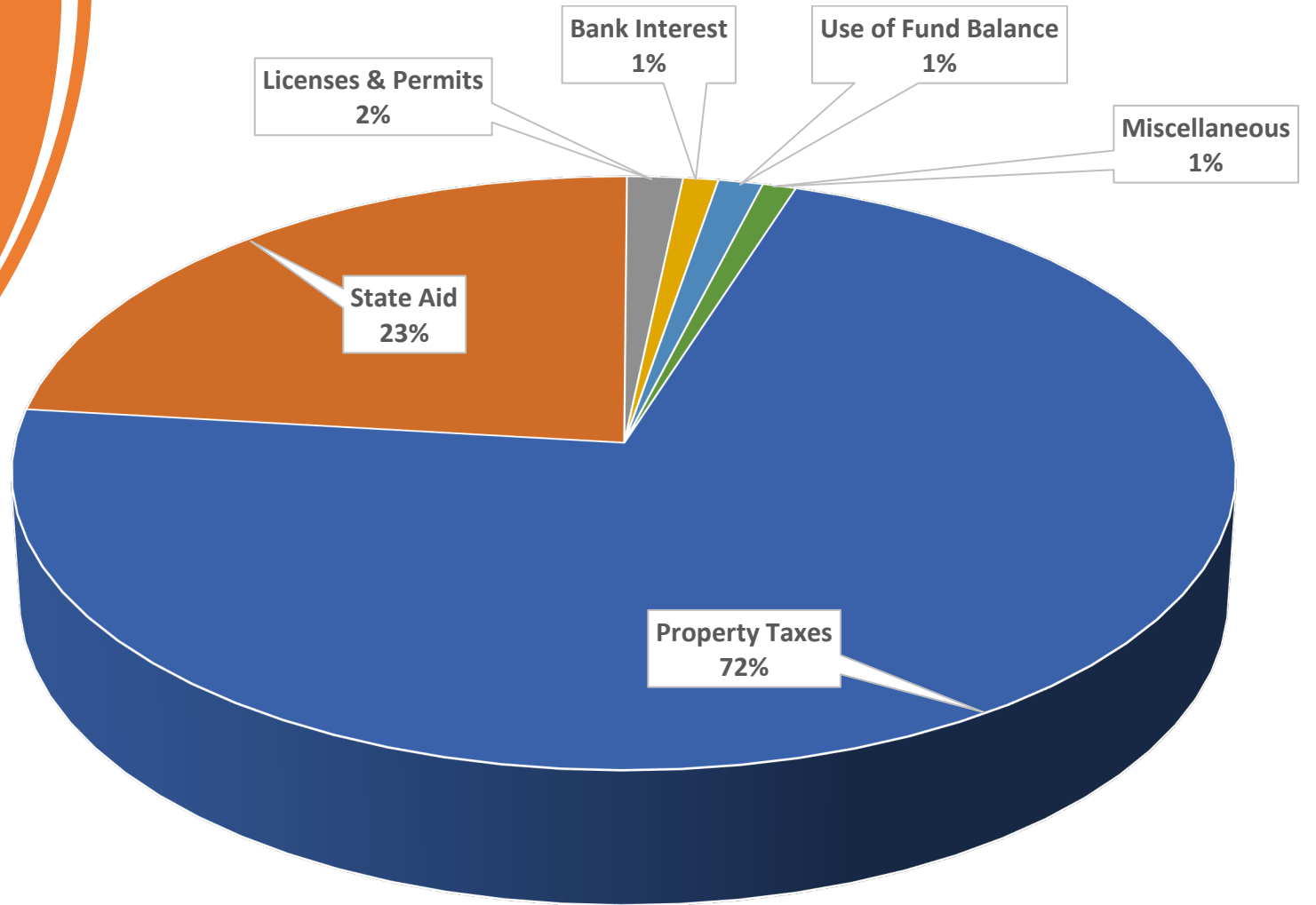
- Average Annual Budget Growth Rate of 2.69%
- Average Annual Inflation of 3.98%
- Current Year Inflation Rate of 6.5%



Budget History



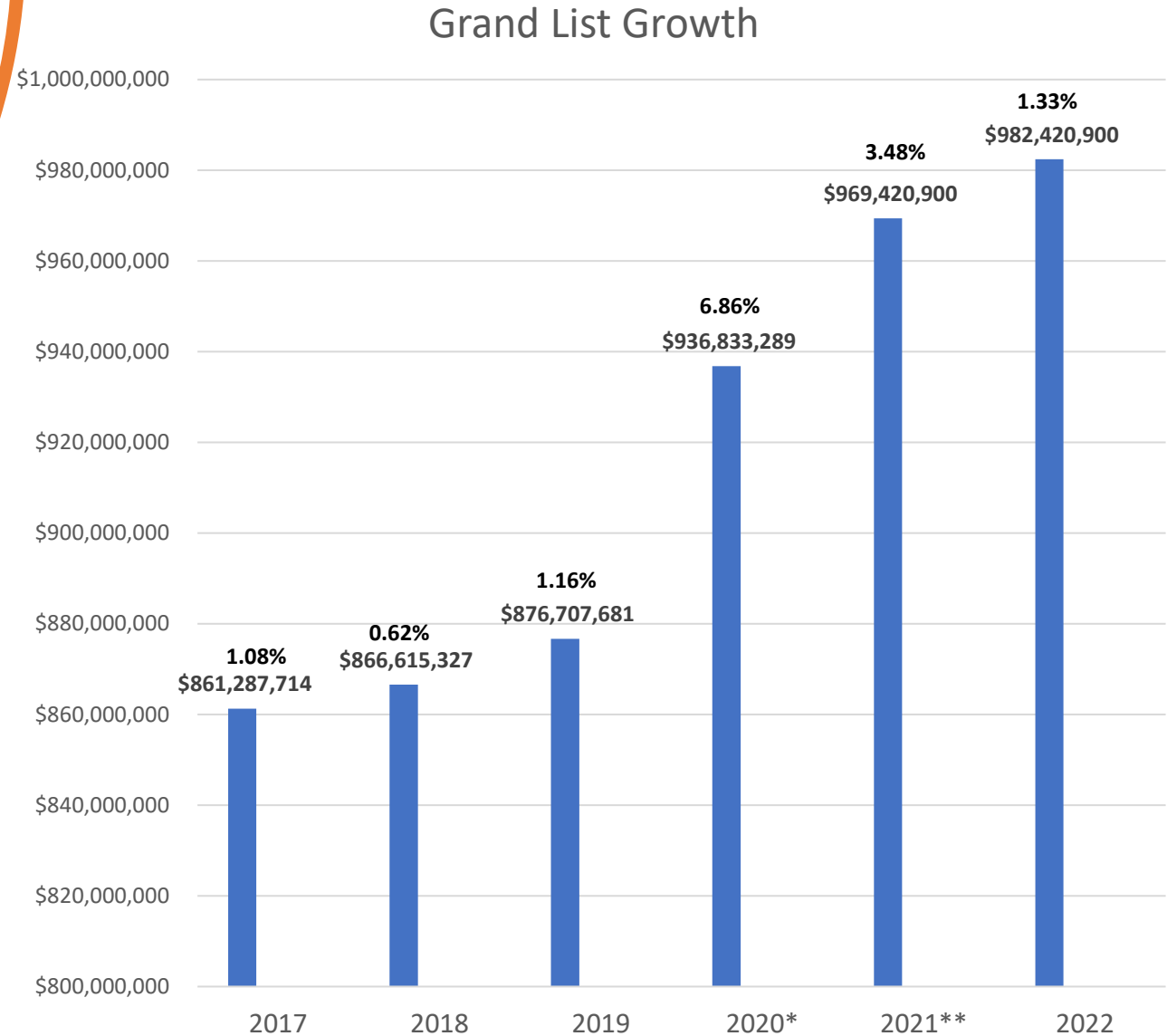
Town-Wide Projected Revenues



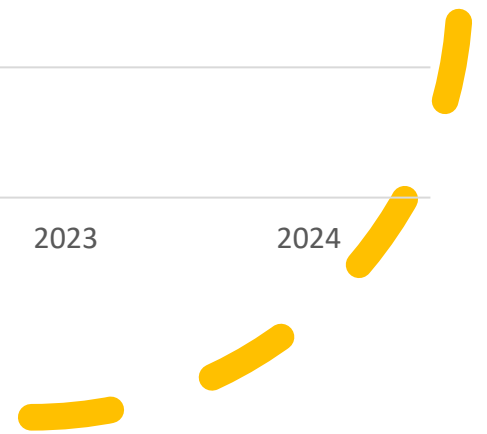
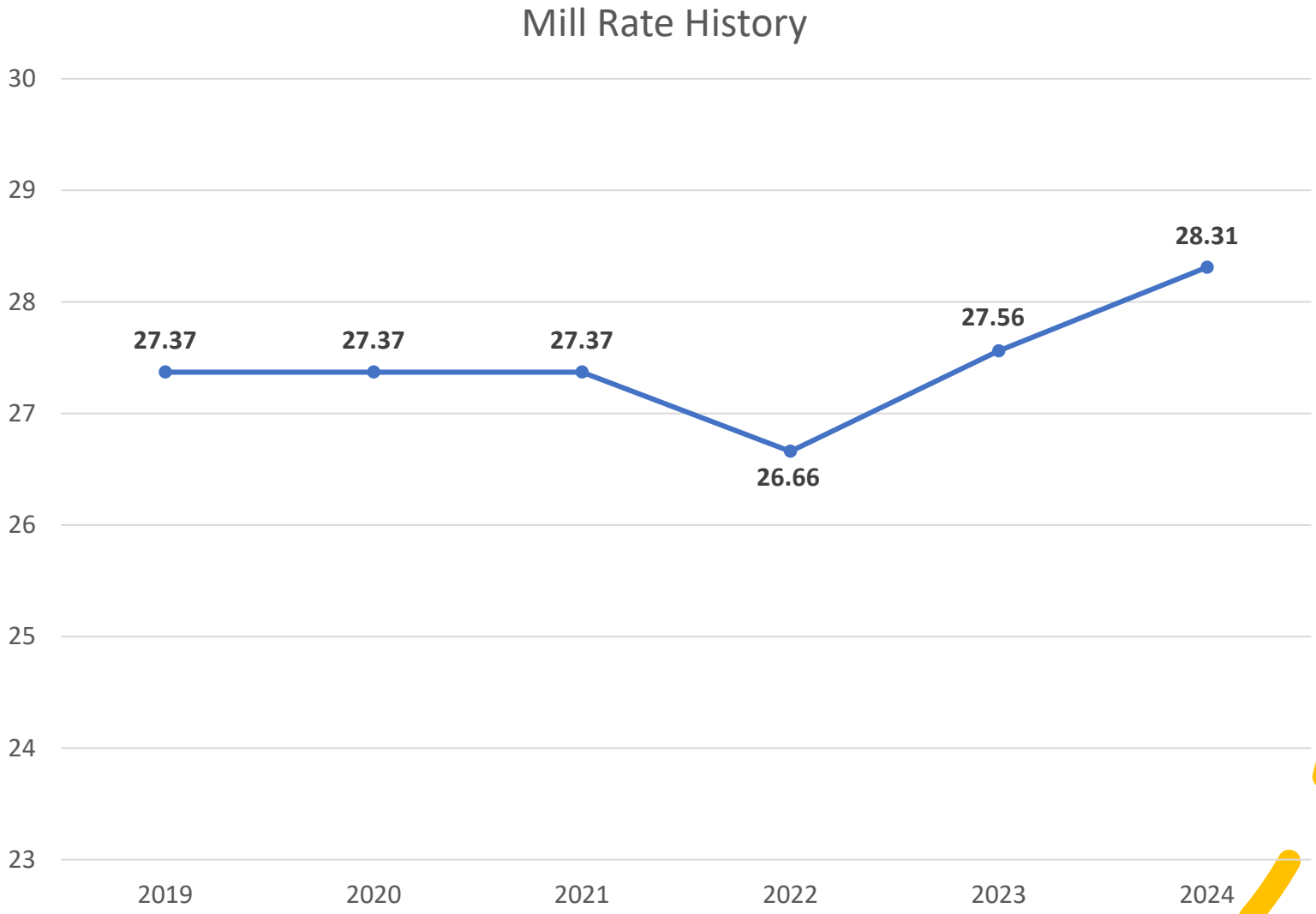
■ Property Taxes ■ State Aid ■ Licenses & Permits ■ Bank Interest ■ Use of Fund Balance ■ Miscellaneous

Grand List Growth

- * 2020 – Revaluation Year
- ** 2021 – Motor Vehicle Appreciation due to COVID Pandemic



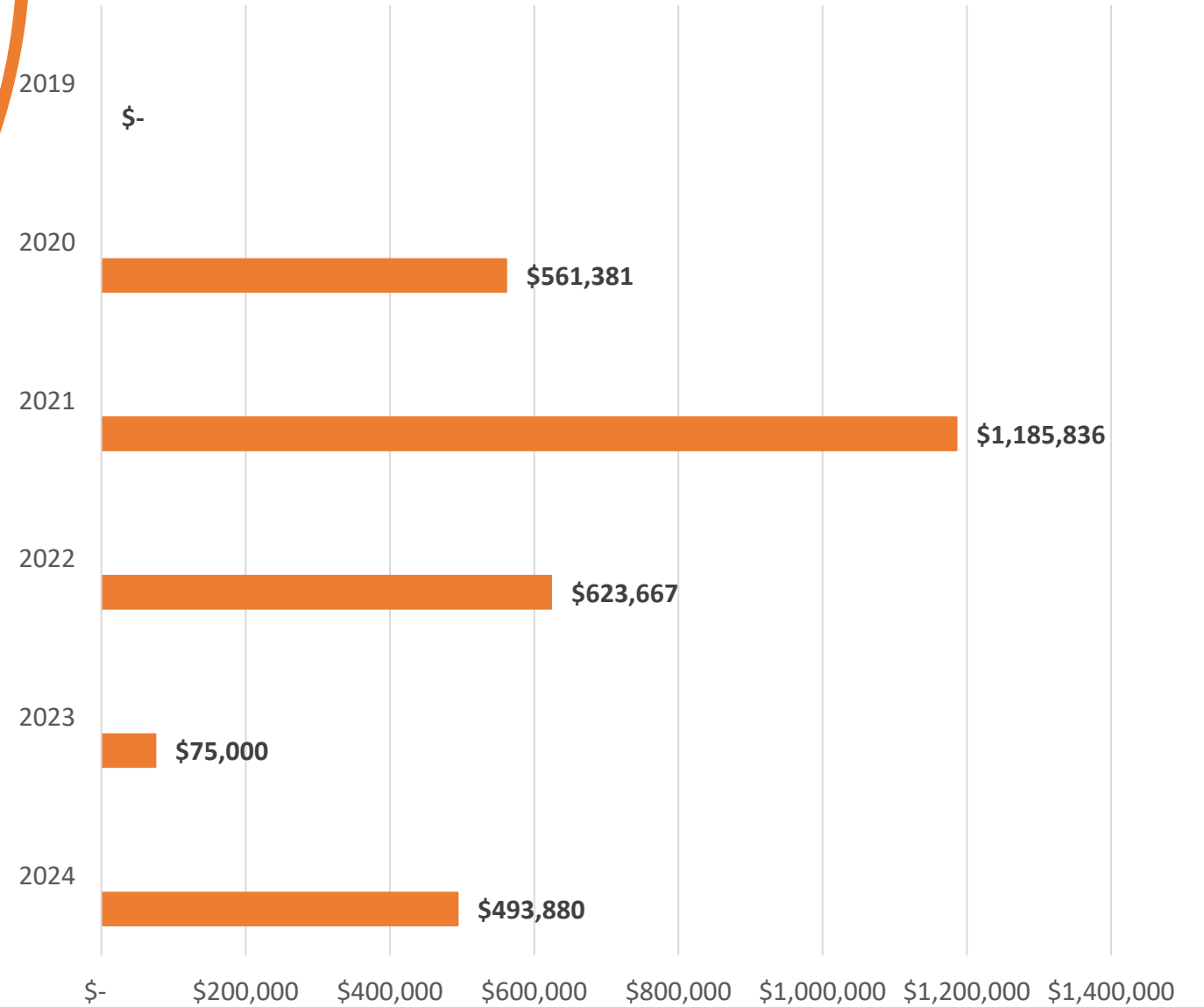
Mill Rate History



Fund Balance Strategic Plan

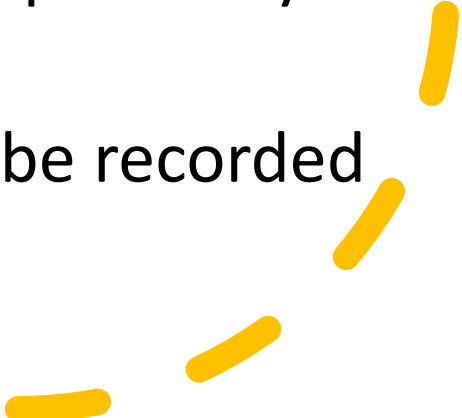
- Strategic Utilization to Reduce Property Tax Increases
- Usage Totals \$2,445,884 FY2019 – FY2023
- Equivalent to 2.48 Mill Increase
- Board of Finance Policy to Maintain Minimum 15% Unrestricted Fund Balance
- FY2024 Proposal Uses \$493,880 – 0.50 Mill

Historical Fund Balance Usage



Public Comments

Public Comment Guidelines

- Only one person to speak at a time
 - Clearly state your name and address prior to your comments or questions
 - Please limit your comments to 5 minutes
 - Once everyone has had an opportunity to comment, you will be given an opportunity to speak again
 - All comments and questions will be recorded
 - Thank you for your cooperation
- 



Important Information

**Annual Town Meeting
Town Hall Auditorium
May 2, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**

**Budget Referendum
Town Hall Auditorium
May 16, 2023 – 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM**

Additional Questions

Michael Marinaccio –

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Paul Gagliarducci –

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