



FY 2025 Budget

April 17, 2024





Budget Approach & Process

Budget Approach

The Town Manager's Office and Finance Director/Town Accountant have spent the last several weeks reviewing department requests, meeting with departments to better understand their needs, and scrutinizing our revenue projections to ensure we can justify every expense and that we're confident in our projections for revenue to fund those expenses. This has been a very iterative process that has involved every department at Town Hall. Our aim has been to conservatively estimate our revenue to avoid mid-year deficits while also accounting for new growth and new or expanded revenue sources to maximize our funding capacity. This approach has remained consistent in Town and resulted in the Town maintaining a healthy free-cash balance and avoiding the precarious financial situation many of our neighbors are currently in.

Process/Timeline

Departments were asked to submit their requests by December 21, 2023 and to craft a budget that maintained level-service, assumed a 2.5% increase in labor, and that sought creative approaches to delivering the services residents expect. We spent the weeks following December 21 in multiple meetings with departments refining requests, considering their new requests, and collaborating on a proposed budget that works for everyone.

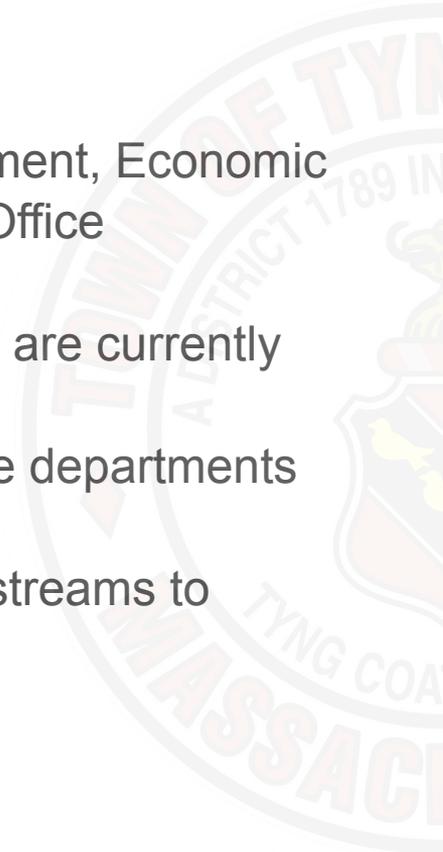
Revenues



Revenue Forecast

How do we calculate the revenue forecast?

- Collaboration between the Assessors Office, Finance Department, Economic Development, Building Commissioner, and Town Manager's Office
- Look at 5 year trends
- Analyze the current FY trend to identify see how the numbers are currently tracking
- Incorporate anticipated new growth based off of input from the departments listed above
- Consider the factors that play into the various other revenue streams to identify anticipated changes in the coming fiscal year.



Middle School Debt Interest

- The budget represents modest growth in terms of new items but also includes the first interest payment on the Tyngsborough Middle School project. That interest payment comes to \$1.2M which will be billed directly to residents as excluded debt in accordance with the Town Meeting and Town Election approval authorizing the project. The first year of the full debt payment on the Middle School will be realized in Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026) and will be the first year of the Town's \$1M annual contribution to lower the burden on taxpayers. As a part of the funding agreement, the Select Board and Finance Committee endorsed a plan to offset the debt payment by committing \$1M from the general fund each year of the 30 year loan which will commence in FY26. Over the course of the loan, this \$30M general fund contribution will substantially lower the impact on top of the average tax bill.
- The Town Manager and Finance Director spent much of the spring working with the Town's borrowing agency to determine the approach for the permanent borrowing that would result in the lowest impact in FY25 and would ensure the most favorable long-term position as the Middle School Project approaches completion. By early April, it became clear that the Town's original approach to doing a permanent borrowing in November of 2024 following two short term borrowings (one in November 22 and one in November 23) was still the best financial approach. In doing so, the Town was able to lock in the interest payment that will come due in November 2024 when the last short term borrowing is closed out. This was presented first to the Tri-Board meeting on April 8th and a final discussion on the matter was held at the Select Board's meeting on April 22.
- As such, the budget that was presented in final form to the Tri-Board on April 8th was amended on April 22 prior to being posted as a part of the Town Meeting warrant to show an increase on the revenue side under "Excluded Debt" of \$1,231,339 and by adding that same amount on the expenditures side under "Exempt Debt Service". As approved by Town Meeting and by Town Election, this appears as excluded debt on the FY25 tax bills which is billed on top of the tax levy.

Revenue Forecast

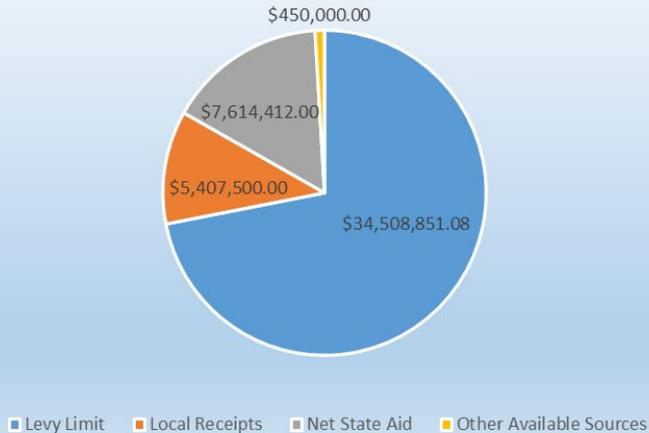
What makes up our revenue?

Levy Limit	\$34,508,851
Local Receipts	\$5,407,500
Net State Aid	\$7,613,490
Other Available Sources	\$450,000
TOTAL	\$47,979,841
Middle School Excluded Debt	\$1,231,338
FINAL TOTAL	\$49,211,179

Revenue Forecast

What makes up our revenue?

FY25 Revenue Sources



Property Tax Breakdown





Revenue Forecast

Source	Amount	Source	Amount
MV Excise	\$2,280,000	Fines	\$40,000
Other Ex	\$417,000	Misc Rev	\$200,000
Cannabis	\$400,000	Cemetery	\$11,000
Pen & Int	\$232,000	Library	\$20,000
Fees	\$75,000	Medicaid Reimb	\$150,000
Licenses & Permits	\$820,000	Cherry Sheet	\$7,614,412
Dept Rev	\$300,000	Rentals	\$127,500
Investments	\$300,000	PILOT	\$35,000



Revenue Forecast

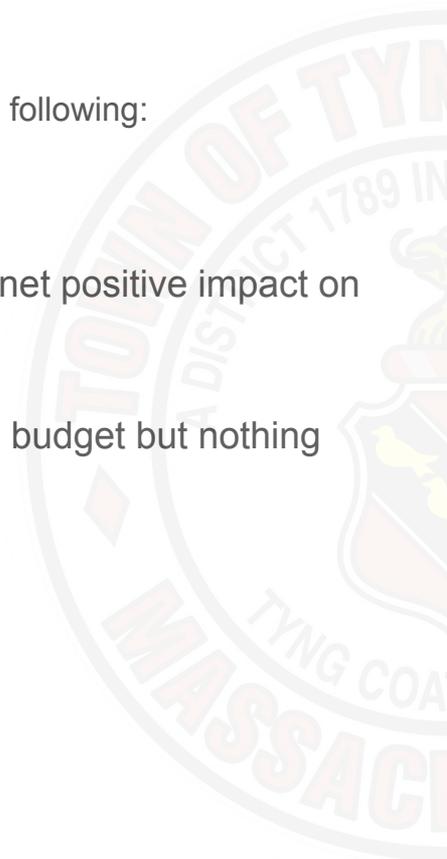
Revenue Notes

- RE & PP taxes increase by 2.5% plus estimated new growth (**\$250,000**). Note that new growth has to be captured by end of this fiscal year to be approved by DOR in the fall as a part of our tax rate recap.
 - Toll Brothers (\$160,000)
 - Affordable Units on Sherburne Ave (\$67,165)
 - 45 Middlesex Road Building Improvements (\$21,210)
 - Washville Carwash- **Most new growth experienced in Fy24**
 - Epigram Brewery - **Most new growth experienced in Fy24**
- Meals taxes have been increased and trending well beyond FY24 budget (Epigram, Tavern in the Square)
- Cannabis - Expecting a boost when new facility opens, sales of existing facility remain strong
- Building Permit Fees - Expecting these to increase as the majority of Toll Brothers project is built out & the new fee schedule considered by the Board tonight.
- Town hasn't balanced the indirect costs from Sewer Commission in two years, this balancing resulted in a substantial decrease (**\$93,615**) in general fund reimbursement

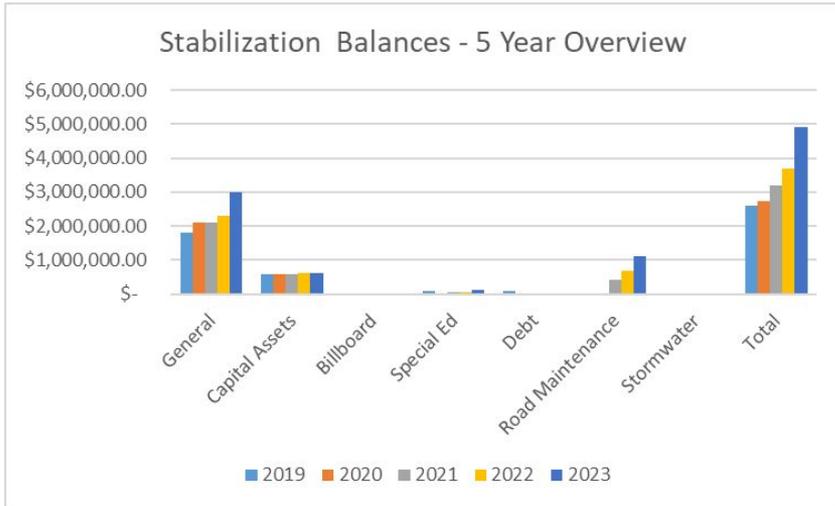
Revenue Forecast

State Aid

- Governor Healey filed her FY25 Budget Proposal on January 22, 2024. This included the following:
 - State Aid: \$9,572,928 (a **\$68,000 decrease** over Fy24)
 - \$8,151,906 in Education Items
 - Reduction over Fy24 in Charter School Reimbursement
 - \$1,421,022 in General Government Aid
- The Governor's Proposal calls for a decrease in our assessments which has a net positive impact on our state aid revenue
 - FY 24 Assessment \$2,081,642
 - FY 25 Assessment **\$1,959,438**
- The House released their proposal last week, minor changes to the Governor's budget but nothing substantial for Tyngsborough.



Stabilization Fund Information

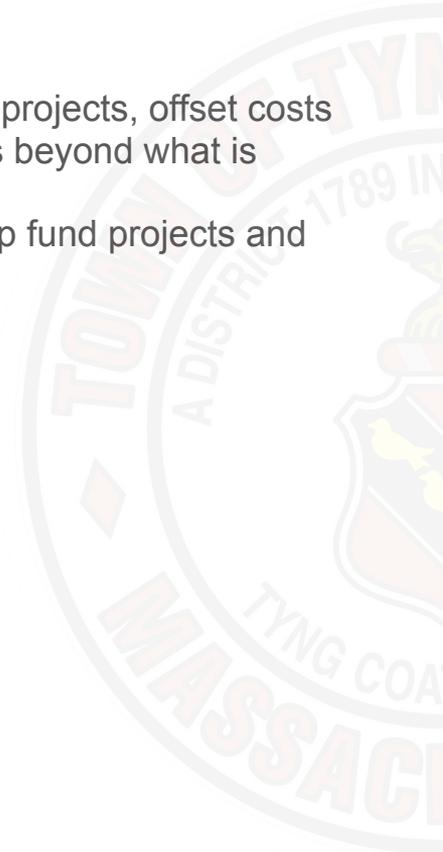


Stabilization	Balance
General	\$2,999,163.95
Capital	\$625,445.33
Billboard	\$17,168.00
Special Ed	\$134,162.02
Debt	--
Road Maint.	\$1,123,743.05
Stormwater	\$20,000.00
Total	\$4,919,682.35

Grants

Approach to Grants

- Town staff are diligent in seeking out any and all grant opportunities to fund large projects, offset costs where possible, and leverage a multitude of funding sources to accomplish things beyond what is possible with the operating budget.
- In Fiscal 2024 to date, Town staff have received more than **\$3.9M** in grants to help fund projects and expand our service/program offerings.
 - **\$2M** MassWorks Grant
 - **\$400,000** Regional Public Health Grant
 - **\$869,000** Congressional Earmark for Sewer Commission Design
 - **\$100,000** Economic Development Earmark
 - **\$289,600** Fire Department Safer Grant
 - **\$15,000** Technical Assistance Grant - Planning Department
 - **\$25,645** Municipal Road Safety Grant - Police Department



General Fund Expenditures



Summary - Proposed FY25 Budget (General Fund)

Category	FY24 Budget	FY25 Recommended
Education	\$24,504,397.00	\$25,172,471.00
Town	\$16,396,348.00	\$16,831,584.38
Public Safety	\$5,283,398.00	\$5,653,427.00
Total	\$46,185,143.00	\$47,657,482.38
Middle School Debt Interest	\$-	\$1,231,338
FINAL TOTAL	\$-	\$48,888,821

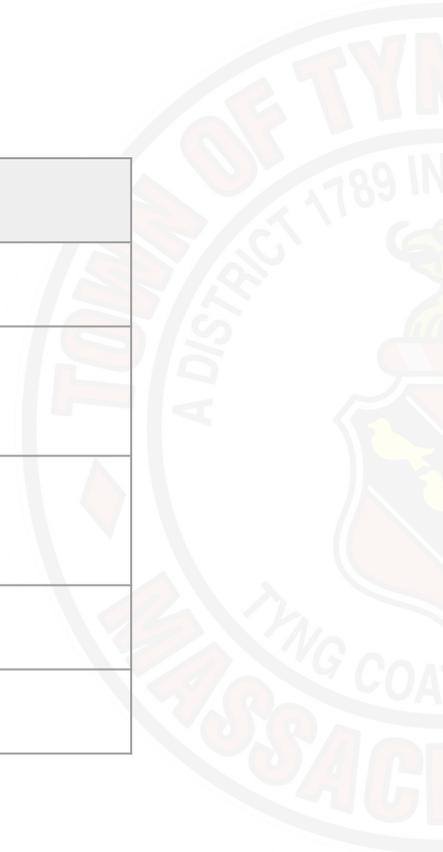
Proposed General Fund Budget represents a \$1.4M increase, or 3.1% over prior fiscal year (NOT INCLUDED MS DEBT WHICH IS EXCLUDED)



Proposed FY 25 Budget (General Fund)

Budget Requests not Recommended by Town Manager

Department	Item	Cost
Information Technology	Social Media Archiving	\$12,000
Information Technology & Police Department	24/7 IT Support- Contracted Services	\$34,344
Information Technology	Cyber Incident Response Plan	\$12,000
Police Department	Cruiser Lease	\$30,000
Treasurer/Collector	PT Finance Clerk	\$19,271

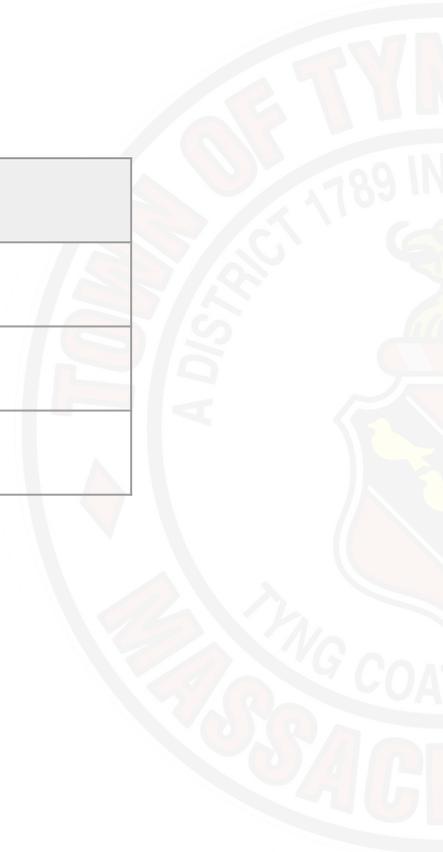




Proposed FY 25 Budget (General Fund)

New Position Proposals - Not Recommended

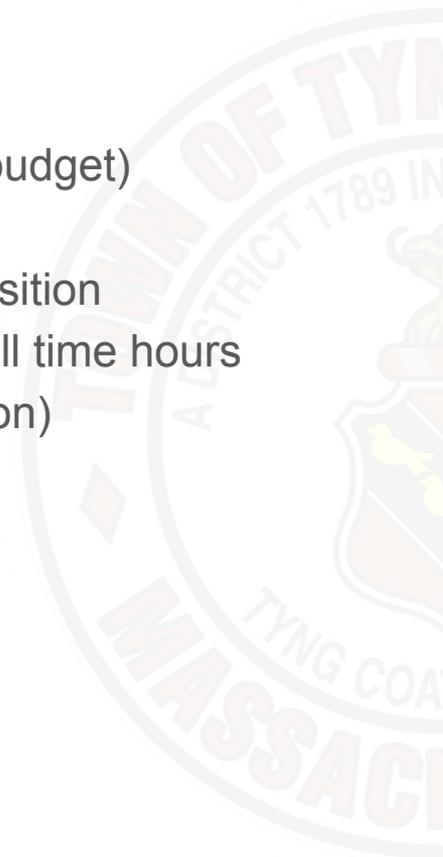
Department	Position	Cost
Police Department	Part-Time Records Clerk	\$23,490
Police Department	Patrol Officer	\$63,311
Fire Department	Fire Inspector	\$68,598



Proposed FY 25 Budget (General Fund)

New Items Funded in FY 25

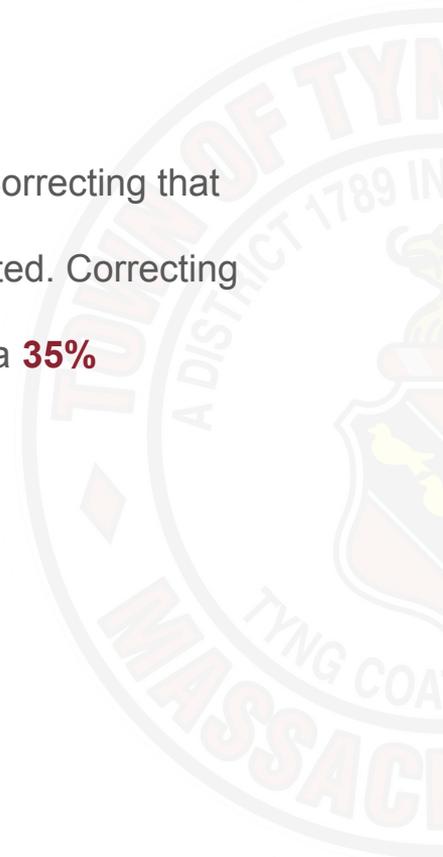
- \$24,400 - Admin Support for the Fire Department (cut from FY24 budget)
- \$50,000 increase in road improvements budget
- \$10,000 increase in Highway to make PT Admin Assistant a FT position
- \$13,420 increase in IT to increase Support Specialist position to full time hours (an additional \$10,000 from PEG enterprise will support this position)



Proposed FY 25 Budget (General Fund)

Other Budget Drivers in FY 25

- Trash & Recycling Contract **5.7% increase**
- Fire Dept. holiday pay hasn't been accurately budgeted for in previous years. Correcting that this year results in a **102% increase**
- Fire Dept. overtime was cut in FY24 but has always trended higher than budgeted. Correcting to avoid mid-year issues results in a **27% increase**
- Software costs in IT dept. Budget have increased for vital software resulting in a **35% increase**
- Police Department additional cruiser lease resulting in **24% increase**

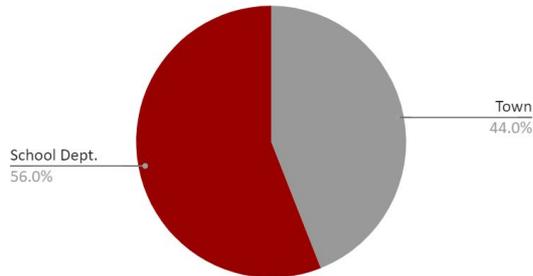


Proposed FY 25 Budget (General Fund)

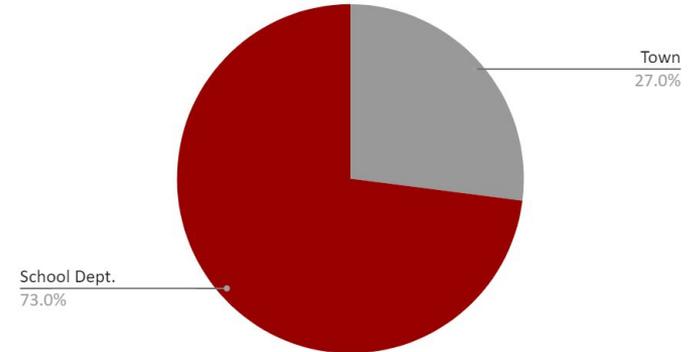
Health Insurance

- Health insurance represents one of the largest drivers in the budget year over year. Important to note that the general fund covers the health insurance benefits for the school department so these increases aren't included in their budget.

Retiree Insurance Breakdown



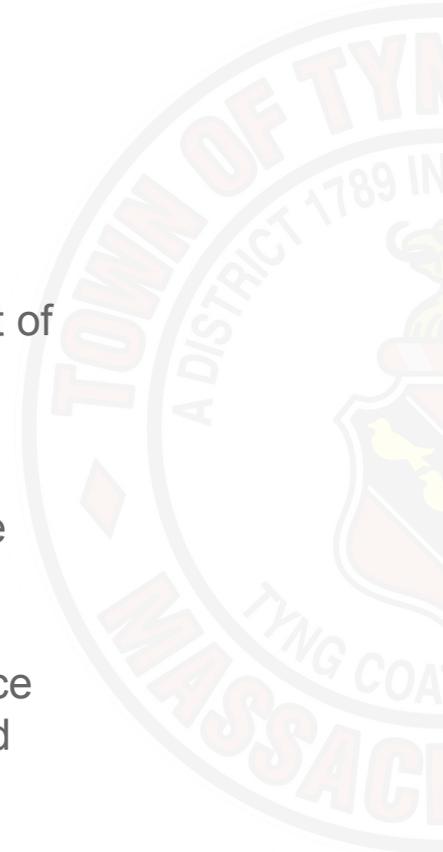
Active Employee Insurance Breakdown



Breaking Down the Budget

What goes into the budget breakdown?

- 1) Salaries
- 2) Expenses
- 3) Health Insurance - *Based on FY24 Enrollment
- 4) Retirement - *Excludes Teachers (MTRS); Based on percentage split of workforce
- 5) Other
 - a) Includes property insurance, liability insurance, workers compensation, life insurance, and medicare. Property insurance and liability insurance are distributed based on the category's percent of budget and the worker's compensation, life insurance/medicare is based on the percentage split of workforce
 - b) Police & Fire have their own accident liability insurance included in the other category for public safety.



Budget Categories

General
Government

Land Use/
Community
Development

Public Works

Public Safety

Health & Human
Services

Education

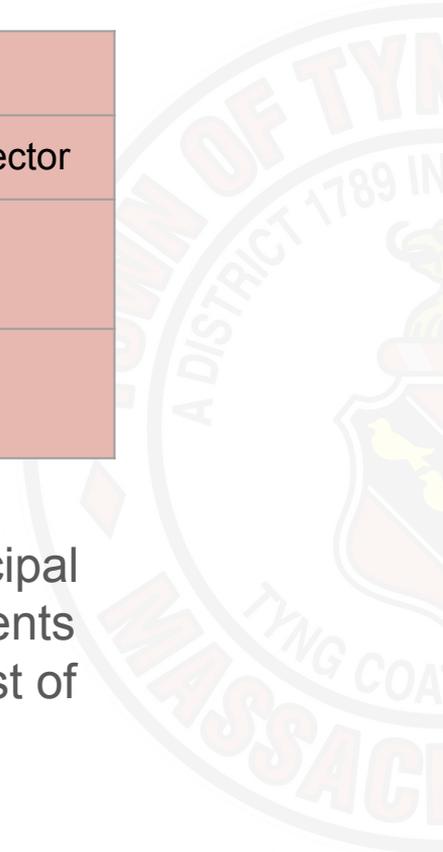
Debt



General Government

Accounting	Administration	Town Moderator	Select Board
Finance Committee	FinCom Reserve	Town Counsel	Treasurer/Collector
Town Reports	Historical Commission	Intergovernmental Assessments	Assessors
Personnel	Information Technology	Library	Town Clerk

General government as a category reflects all of the “core” municipal functions. Think of this bucket as your most front-facing departments & the behind the scenes departments that are essential to the rest of categories running smoothly.



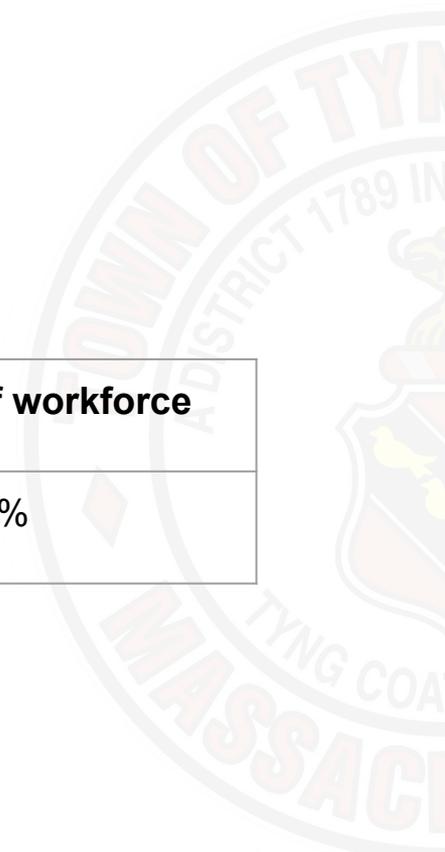


General Government

Expenditures & Staff

Salary	\$1,609,109.63
Expenses	\$1,245,585.00
Health Insurance	\$149,331.12
Retirement	\$521,291.40
Other	\$80,947.41
Budget Total	\$3,606,264.56
% of Operating Budget	7.61%

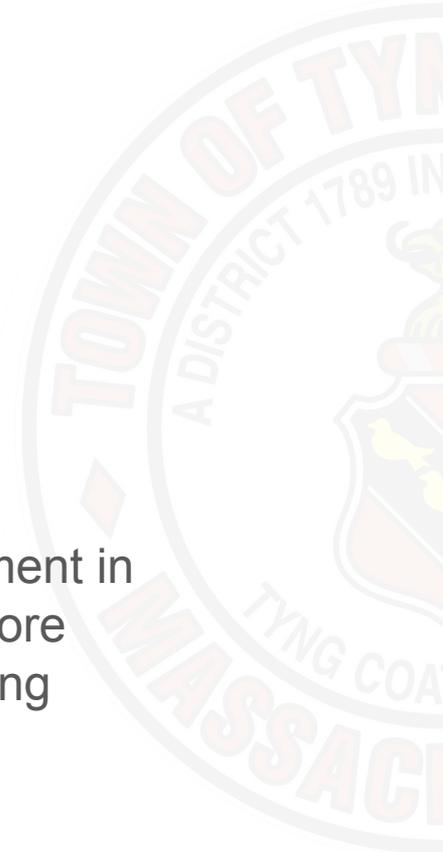
Number of FTE	% of workforce
21.5	6.47%



Land Use/Community Development

Building Department
Conservation
Planning
Zoning Board of Appeals

This category represents the departments behind development in town, permitting, and land use regulations. These are the core departments that any new development touches before being implemented.

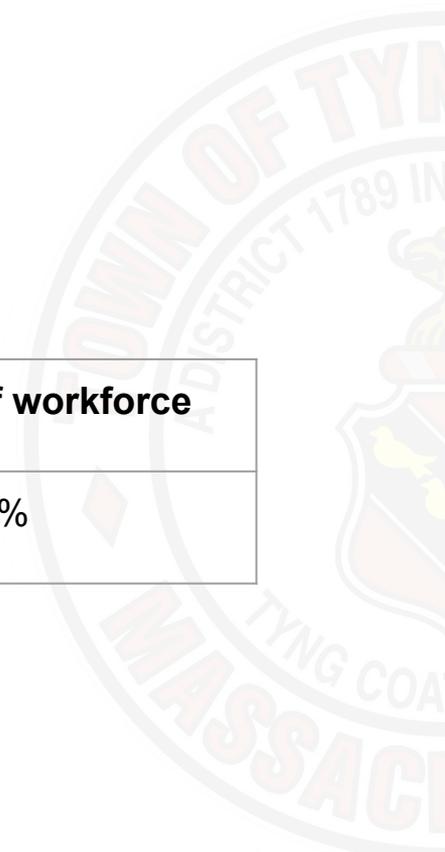


Land Use/Community Development

Expenditures & Staff

Salary	\$428,637.00
Expenses	\$54,955.00
Health Insurance	\$7,375.92
Retirement	\$99,293.64
Other	\$15,992.51
Budget Total	\$606,254.07
% of Operating Budget	1.28%

Number of FTE	% of workforce
6	1.81%



Public Works

Forestry	Engineering	Stormwater
Highway Department	Snow & Ice	Street Lighting
Vehicle Maintenance	Cemetery	Public Buildings

Public works encompasses all of our “physical” assets including roads and public buildings. These departments are the infrastructure focused departments.

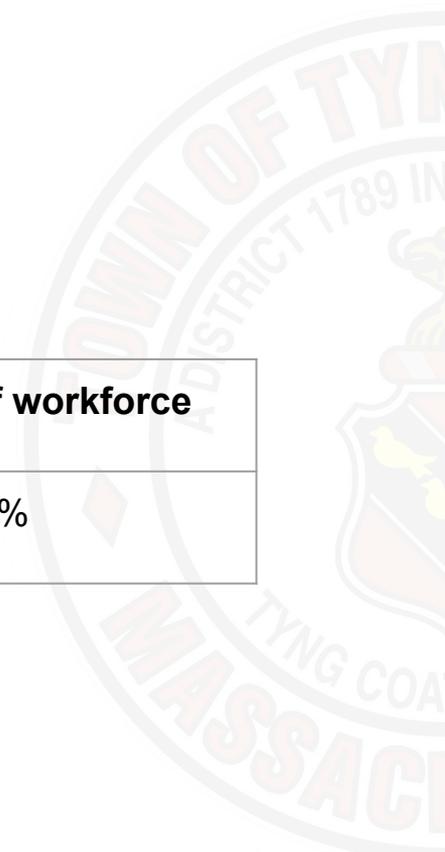


Public Works

Expenditures & Staff

Salary	\$937,065.00
Expenses	\$1,127,191.25
Health Insurance	\$103,303.44
Retirement	\$210,998.99
Other	\$42,205.18
Budget Total	\$2,420,763.86
% of Operating Budget	5.11%

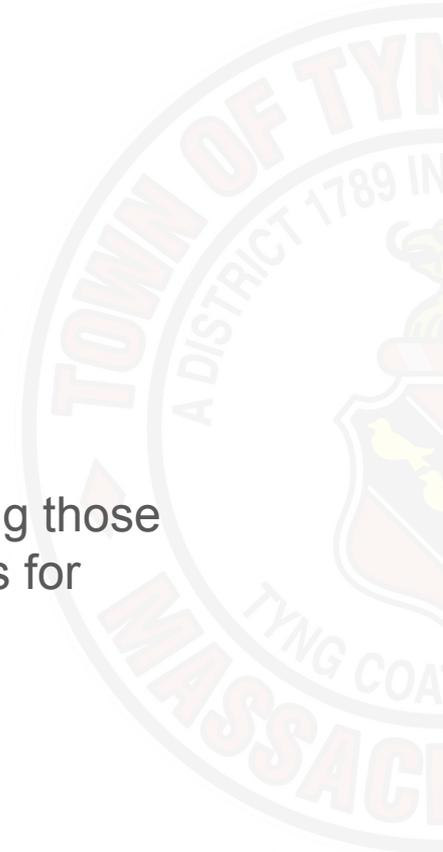
Number of FTE	% of workforce
12.75	3.84%



Public Safety

Fire Department	Emergency Management
Police Department	Communications
School Resource Officer (SRO)	Animal Control

Public Safety are our front-line emergency workers including those who physically respond to calls and those who answer calls for service and direct resources as appropriate.



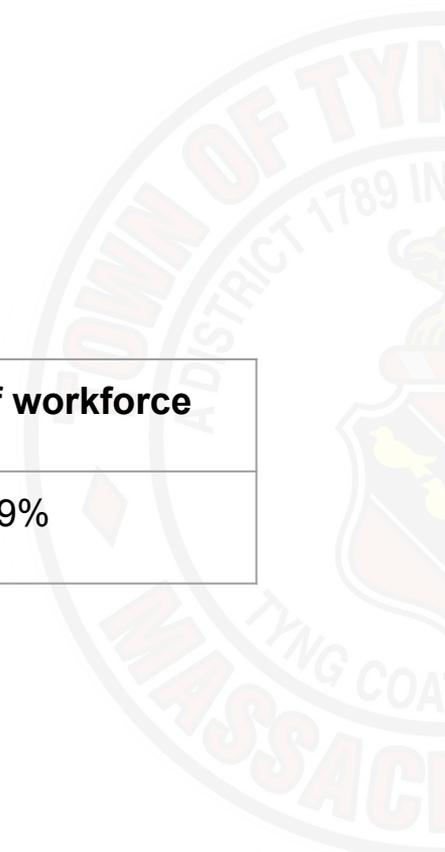


Public Safety

Expenditures & Staff

Salary	\$4,838,342.00
Expenses	\$805,878.00
Health Insurance	\$469,573.44
Retirement	\$736,427.83
Other	\$313,395.68
Budget Total	\$7,163,616.95
% of Operating Budget	15.11%

Number of FTE	% of workforce
44.5	13.39%



Health & Human Services

Memorial Day Committee	Waste Collection
Board of Health	Council on Aging
Recreation	Veterans' Agent

Health & Human Services departments are the folks responsible for providing critical human services to the community, promoting public health, and engaging the community in recreation and community building.



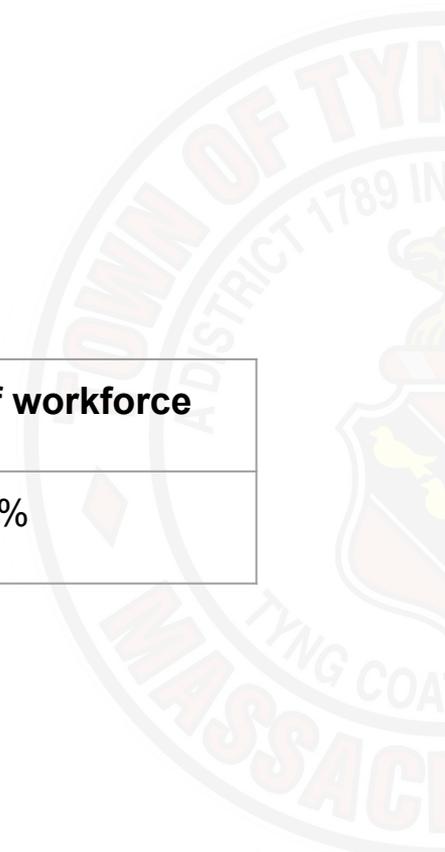


Health & Human Services

Expenditures & Staff

Salary	\$428,154.00
Expenses	\$1,733,067.00
Health Insurance	\$54,805.44
Retirement	\$119,979.82
Other	\$31,199.22
Budget Total	\$2,367,205.48
% of Operating Budget	4.99%

Number of FTE	% of workforce
7.25	2.18%





Education

Tyngsborough Public Schools	Greater Lowell Technical High School
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The education category represents the operating budget of the Tyngsborough Public Schools as well as the annual assessment we get from Greater Lowell Technical High School, of which Tyngsborough is a member.



Education

Expenditures & Staff

Salary	\$19,807,329.00
Expenses	\$5,365,142.00
Health Insurance	\$3,202,054.00
Retirement	\$1,290,817.32
Other	\$683,828.01
Budget Total	\$30,349,170.33
% of Operating Budget	64.03%

Number of FTE	% of workforce
240.3	72.31%

Tyngsborough Public
Schools only.

Debt

Exempt	\$321,787.50
Non-Exempt	\$564,475.00

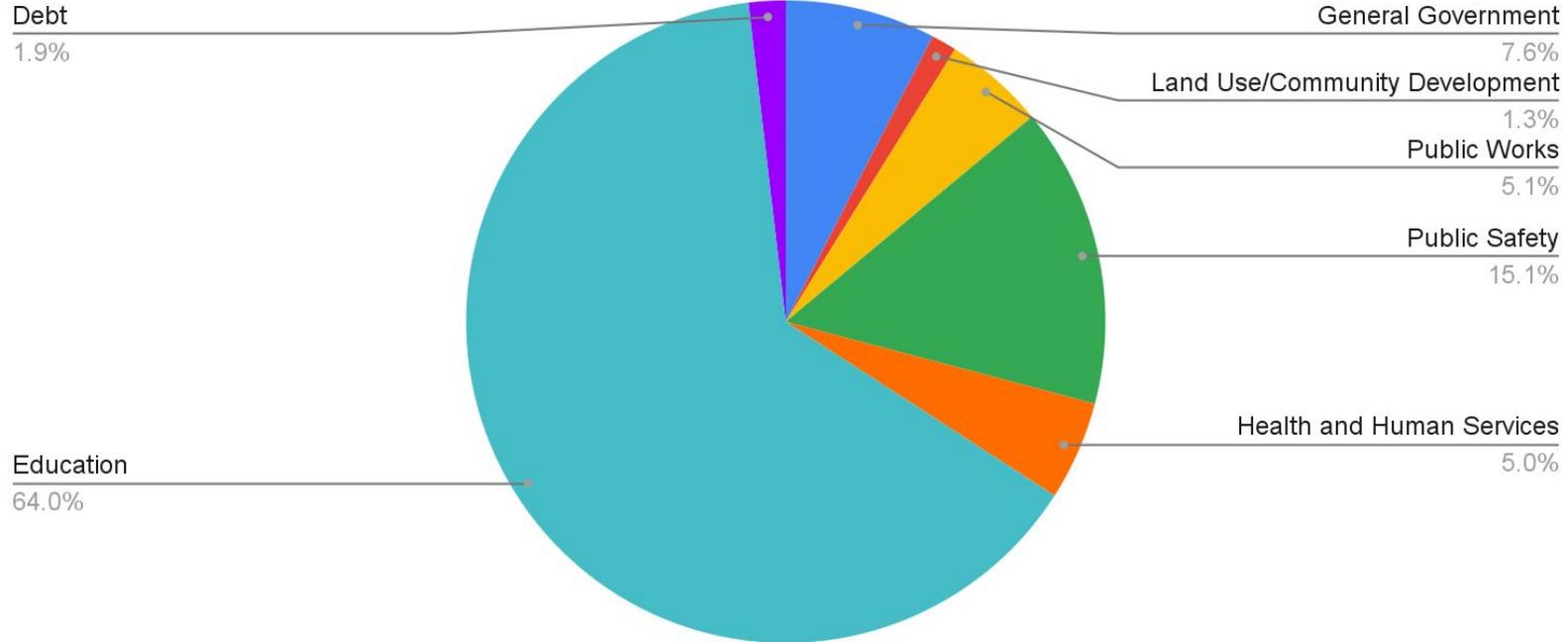
Exempt: Tyngsborough Elementary School & High School Roof & Boiler replacement (final year)

Non-Exempt: Various capital projects with most being paid off in FY 2027



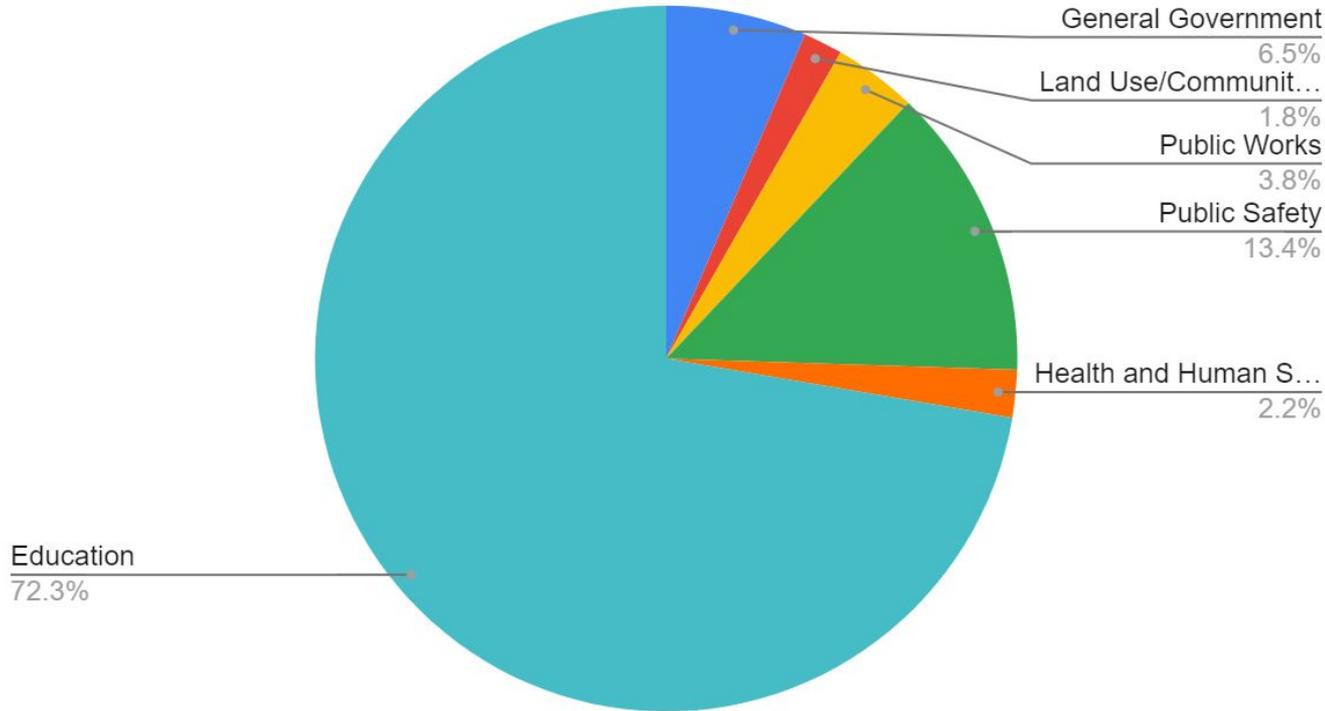
What does this look like?

Where do we spend our money?



What does our workforce breakdown look like?

Where do our staff work?



Enterprise Funds



Sewer Enterprise Fund FY 25 Recommendation

	Fiscal 24 Budget	Fiscal 25 Recommended
Salary	\$339,401	\$349,977
Expenses	\$3,032,813	\$3,623,377
Total	\$3,372,214	\$3,970,354

Revenue Sources

- Department Receipts \$1,740,635
- Betterments \$879,356
- Retained Earnings \$1,350,363

TOTAL: \$3,970,354



Ambulance Enterprise Fund FY 25 Recommendation

	Fiscal 24 Budget	Fiscal 25 Recommended
Salary	\$558,822	\$597,500
Expenses	\$69,788	\$73,810
Total	\$628,610	\$671,310

Ambulance Enterprise budget impacted by previous budgeting lapses on holiday pay, resulting in large increase this year.

Revenue Notes

- **FY23 closed with \$69,000 in retained earnings which is after the enterprise fund closed the gap on the new ambulance.**
- **FY24 projection will have the enterprise fund add another \$30,000 in retained earnings (projected to bring in \$655,790)**

PEG Enterprise Fund FY 25 Recommendation

	Fiscal 24 Budget	Fiscal 25 Recommended
Salary	\$114,166	\$111,732
Expenses	\$44,446	\$73,547
Total	\$158,612	\$185,279

Notes

- FY25 request includes capital request of **\$40,000** to fund the installation of 2 additional video monitors in the Community Room, upgrade cameras, switches, and the production suite.