1 2 3 4 5	DRAFT MINUTES TOWN OF APEX TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024 2:00 P.M.
6 7	The Apex Town Council met for a work session on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Apex Town Hall located at 73 Hunter Street in Apex North Carolina.
8 9	This meeting was open to the public. Members of the public were able to attend this meeting in-person or watch online via the livestream on the Town's YouTube Channel:
10	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F67QICl15lw&t=11s
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Elected Body Mayor Jacques K. Gilbert (presiding) Mayor Pro-Tempore Ed Gray Councilmember Brett Gantt Councilmember Terry Mahaffey Councilmember Arno Zegerman Councilmember Audra Killingsworth Absent: None
20 21 22 23 24 25	Town Staff Town Manager Randy Vosburg Deputy Town Manager Shawn Purvis Assistant Town Manager Demetria John Assistant Town Manager Marty Stone Town Attorney Laurie Hohe
27 28 29 30	Town Clerk Allen Coleman DEI Director Linda Graham Jones Fire Chief Tim Herman Police Chief Jason Armstrong
31 32 33	Public Works Director John Mullis Planning Director Dianne Khin Budget and Performance Management Director Amanda Grogan
34 35 36	Finance Director Antwan Morrison IT Director Erika Sacco Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Director Craig Setzer (attended via virtually via
37 38 39	Microsoft Teams) Electric Utilities Manager Eric Neumann (attended via virtually via Microsoft Teams) Water Resources Director Michael Deaton (attended via virtually via Microsoft Teams)

1 All other staff members will be identified appropriately below.

[COMMENCMENT]

 Mayor Gilbert welcomed everyone and introduced Randy Vosburg, Town Manager, to say a few words.

Town Manager Vosburg thanked the staff for the work that has been done thus far and for catching him up to speed on Budget materials. He handed it off to Amanda Grogan to start the Budget Review Presentation.

[FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET REVIEW]

Amanda Grogan, Budget and Performance Management Director, gave an overview of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Review.

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1 **[SLIDE-2]**

Agenda Call to Order General Fund Water & Sewer Fund Stormwater Utility Fund Electric Fund Important Dates Comments & Questions

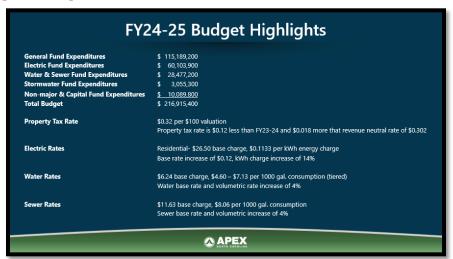
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• Revenues • Updated property tax estimates from Wake County • Leal Estate • Vehicles (Tax & Tag) • Property Lease Olive Farm (+ \$2,400) • Pending • SRO contract with Wake County (budget includes current amount) • Powell Bill (uses current funding formula, potential increase with State budget)

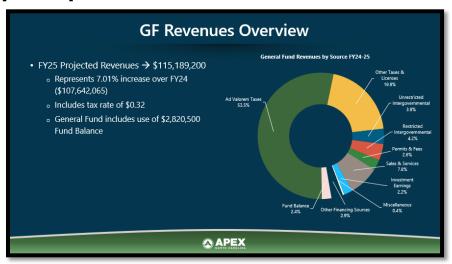
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Budget Changes since 4/19 Draft • Expenditures • Personnel • Reallocate excess personnel expenses from DEI position, convert costs to \$40k contract with Lead for NC Fellow Placement (-44k) • CDNC: replace 1 Neighborhood improvement specialist with 2 Customer Service Representatives (PT 30 hour) (+45k) • PD: Push out 2 SROs with opening of new high school in FY26 (-475k), using to offset allocation of fund balance • Vision Benefit increase from \$150 to \$200 allowance for contacts or glasses +\$7,825 • Operating • Call center minor remodel • Facility contract additions – Fire (PSS 6 & Fire Admin) +\$80,000

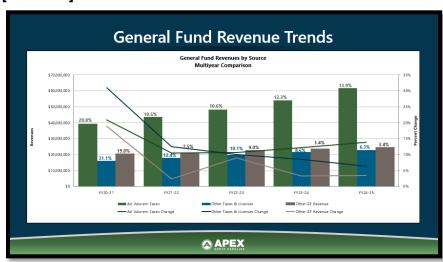
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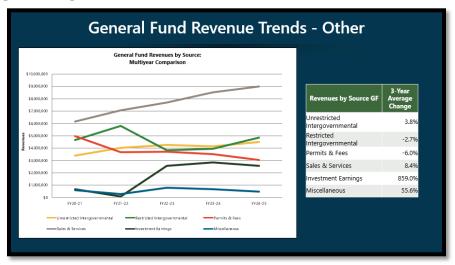
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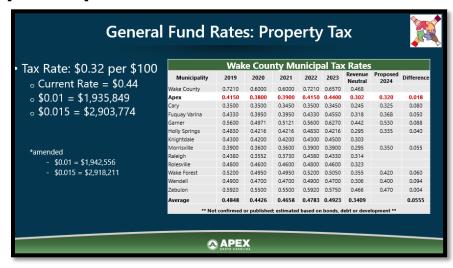
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General Fund Revenues by Source						
Source	FY22-23 Actual	FY23-24 Budget	FY23-24 Estimate	FY24-25 Budget	Percent Change	
Ad Valorem Taxes	48,234,835	54,294,000	54,149,889	61,661,700	13.57%	
Other Taxes & Licenses	19,871,951	21,078,500	21,579,857	22,947,000	8.86%	
Unrestricted Intergovernmental	4,261,249	4,330,000	4,135,000	4,506,000	4.06%	
Restricted Intergovernmental	3,806,524	4,259,790	3,938,367	4,833,200	13.46%	
Permits & Fees	3,710,146	2,514,000	3,509,337	3,038,200	20.85%	
Sales & Services	7,677,681	7,803,400	8,517,060	8,998,700	15.32%	
Investment Earnings	2,544,666	1,320,850	2,820,000	2,545,000	92.68%	
Miscellaneous	804,309	191,500	136,345	467,000	143.86%	
Other Financing Sources	4,122,338	2,025,000	2,025,000	3,371,900	66.51%	
Fund Balance	-	9,825,025	3,167,925	2,820,500	-71.29%	
Total	\$95,033,698	\$107,642,065	\$103,978,780	\$115,189,200	7.01%	

[SLIDE-10]



1 [SLIDE-11]



Town Manager Vosburg said there are decision points in the upper right corner are to refer back to if needed later on for open discussion.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked if there was any information from the last discussion on the increase of yard waste rates.

Director Grogan said she is happy to do a memo and gather some data and get it to Council.

Councilmember Mahaffey said his only concern is when this calculation is done the Town is 30 percent behind. He said the Town needs to raise it six dollars.

Director Grogan said that topic was talked about in the Finance Committee and it was presented to hold the rate at this point, because of certain unknowns that ordinance changes may bring.

Councilmember Zegerman said to Mr. Mahaffey's point said the time to change things around is now before the budget is passed. He asked how fast can assessments get done in the next two weeks so it can be included it in this year's budget.

Director Grogan said yes, she can have something to Council in the next couple weeks. She said there isn't a hard deadline on, and to keep in mind that the town's rates and fees can be changed at anytime throughout the year.

Councilmember Gantt said this program may change in the future and asked about a Glide path.

Director Mullis said he would suggest for an increase incrementally. He said to Councilmember Zegerman's point that the rate could be raised, but it depends on the level of subsidy Council wants.

Director Grogan said Solid Waste is set up in the General fund, so it doesn't operate the same as water and sewer.

Councilmember Mahaffey said in principle there shouldn't be a subsidy for this, and the system should be self-supporting.

Councilmember Zegerman asked what would happen if another dollar was added to the Solid Waste Collection Fees, and where does the subsidy land.

Councilmember Mahaffey said it's not done right now but Council can change it anytime in the future.

Director Grogan said they want to be cautious, and she will present information with a glide path and methodology.

Councilmember Gantt said he thinks what they have been doing with water and sewer has been good because things have gotten aligned over time.

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Fee Schedule — • Labor, Inflation & Availability • Fee-in-Lieu Administration Fee (pg 2) – labor increase • Exception Requests (pg 2) – requests significantly increased, increasing staff time & resources needed • Stormwater & Soil & Erosion Control Plan Review Fees (pg 2) – inflation, last update in 2014 • Electrical Underground & Service Lateral Fees (pg 5) – labor & material increase, increase in size of transformers required to support electric vehicles & larger home size • Water Tap & Meter Fees (pg 5) – due to availability & variability of cost depending on specific meter • Utility Fees (pg 6) – increase in costs to analyze wastewater • Outdoor Lighting (pg 8) – increased energy costs & materials for maintenance

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[SLIDE-13]

Fee Schedule Comparison Adjustments • Fee Additions (based on staff time & resources) Development Submittal Fees (pg 1) 。 SCM As-Built Inspection Fee (pg 2) Water System Management Plan & Pump Station Review Fees (pg 2) – increased standards & specializations complicate the process. Separation of review & inspection portions of this fee 。 SCM As- Built Review (pg 2) Floodplain Development Fees (pg 3) 。 Riparian Buffer Authorization (pg 3) Utility Fees (pg 6) Dioxane & PFAS 1633 are upcoming new regulations by NCDEQ Water & Sewer Inspection Fees (pg 2) Commercial Building Permit Fees (pg 3) 。 PRCR Fees (pg 8-10): One & Two Family Dwelling Permit Fees (pg 4) Due to demand: Parks & Rec Facilities, Fields & Splash Pad (pg 8-9) Ages 18-54 Exercise Memberships Lost Card Fee 。 Special Events Policy Fees Allows for annual revisions & adjustment of fees No adjustments made since policy adoption * All fees are common practice within Wake County **△ APEX**

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Councilmember Mahaffey said he was curious to why the additional 100 dollar charge in annexation fees for a well and septic failure mattered.

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Director Khin said she thought that was keeping things the same.

6 7 **Councilmember Mahaffey** said he had things backwards. **Councilmember Gantt** asked the numbers of Solar PV that were installed.

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Assistant Town Manger Stone said about 80 a month.

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Councilmember Zegerman said last year there were about 800 customers for solar, he asked if there are there over 2,000 customers now.

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Assistant Town Manager Stone said he will verify that information.

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Councilmember Zegerman asked what kind of subsidy is this if Council chooses not to do this.

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Councilmember Gantt said the chart shows an upward trend in solar.

15 16 **Director Grogan** said the revenue would go to the electric fund.

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Town Manager Vosburg said the subsidy currently comes from the electric fund.

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Councilmember Zegerman asked about installing of LED lighting and new solar on Town buildings.

19 20 **Director Grogan** said LED lighting currently is electric and the Town solar is general fund.

21 22 **Councilmember Killingsworth** asked to hear from the Finance Committee about the split decision.

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Councilmember Mahaffey said he was opposed to adding the fee back. He said there was some context: the fee was removed in 2018 or 2017 as part of an initiative to encourage solar adoption. He said this would be a reversal of that policy and it's not something that he was in favor of. He said he likes the fact Apex is viewed as the most solar friendly community in the state, and he thinks the policy is working well.

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Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said they are on a path where they will have to do it. He said the Town has plenty of incentives to encourage solar use. He said now is the time to

make a move on this and when looking at some long-term costs it makes sense. He said this is something that needs to be addressed now.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked is there another fee that would be a better source.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said to ask staff to take a look and find out what other options are out there.

Councilmember Gantt asked was a decision ever made on the net metering and the two-way metering.

Councilmember Zegerman said it was depending on the ERP upgrades and the meter upgrades. He said instead of going below zero the \$26 base fee was decided to apply to all customers.

Councilmember Gantt asked when the metering was going to be finished.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said it's still in progress, and setting up infrastructure now. He said it will take a year and a half or more to get all the meters implemented in place. He said he has some quick data points: the Town has 1,053 solar systems today. He said the average is 23 per month and apologized for the high estimate he gave earlier. He said he had 800 totals in 2023. He said the town loses \$455 per solar customer in revenue and that number was provided by the consultants in April of last year.

Mayor Pro Tempore Gray said there was a budget year coming up that would have a lot of costs for water/sewer and retirement, so he wanted to get these kinds of things done now, so things can be made easier in the future. He thinks 2027 and 2028 will already be difficult for the town. He said they may get to a point where they can no longer afford to provide certain services.

Councilmember Zegerman said he would like to continue to encourage solar adoption. He said if the Town is going to charge this and it creates a revenue stream for electric, he said he would want it to fund the town's solar adoption.

Deputy Town Manager Purvis said it's not a money revenue stream, it's cost recovery. He said it's money in and money out.

Councilmember Killingsworth said she agrees with Mayor Pro Tempore Gray, and said that the town should be charging for meter installs. She said the more that is recovered now, the less has to be recovered later.

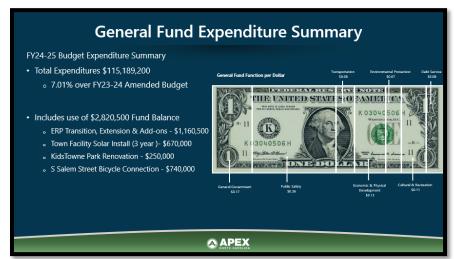
Councilmember Mahaffey said Apex embraces solar and it fits with our values. He said the loss that the town is taking represents a level of investment and he said the town should be making these types of initiatives, and it's something he's proud of and would be sad to see it go to a fee.

Councilmember Killingsworth said the town is asking \$280 for meter to be installed. She said its not a lot to ask for a fee to reimburse the people who go out and put it in.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said when the town has to renegotiate the ElectriCities contract and talking about how Duke is going to charge the town, he said the conversation becomes different. He said he doesn't think this is the price that residents are going to be paying in 2027 when looking at how much and the town has to got start buying this back up.

Councilmember Gantt said residents are making a decision on a \$10,000 investment in solar, not \$300 they are saving on the installation the net metering. He said he agrees with Councilmember Killingsworth.

[SLIDE-15]



Councilmember Gantt asked if the town has never paid for solar using electric fund money, and that it's always been general fund, because of the types of allowed uses.

Director Grogan said yes. She said there is no return on investment so it's not something they will greatly benefit from for the electric department, and it isn't a business decision. She said the capital costs are covered by the electric funds and the operating costs are covered by the general fund.

Councilmember Zegerman said the street lights have a higher return on investment and suggested maybe some of the funds needs to go there and reduce the consumption instead of increasing our general fund.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said the return is much higher on LED lights.

Councilmember Gantt said it has lower maintenance cost and last longer and said he would like to do more with that.

Director Grogan said Councilmember Gantt asked if they could use 1 million dollars per year on street lights.

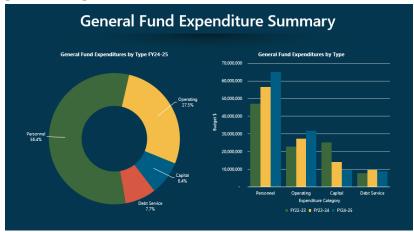
Assistant Town Manager Stone said yes, but a lot of that money would have to go to contracting staff, since town staff would not be sufficient for that supplemental work. He said there would be more payback on installing LED lights through contracting services than spending on solar installation.

Director Grogan said the costs have gone up a lot.

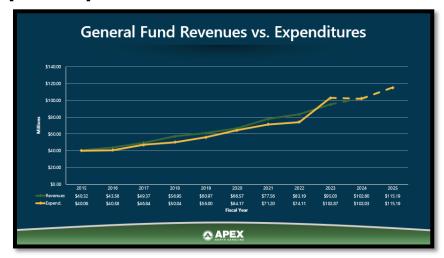
Councilmember Zegerman asked how many street lights are currently LED.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said he would look it up but they are a long way from where the town wants to be.

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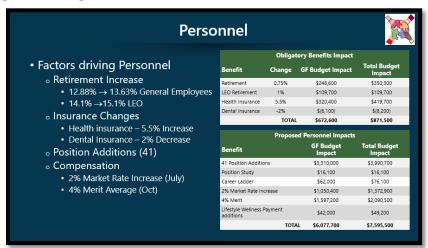
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Councilmember Zegerman said moving forward he would like to see a separation of Capital cash flow and Operating expenses.

Director Grogan said they can do that. She said capital can sometimes be variable, and sometimes bids go higher than anticipated.

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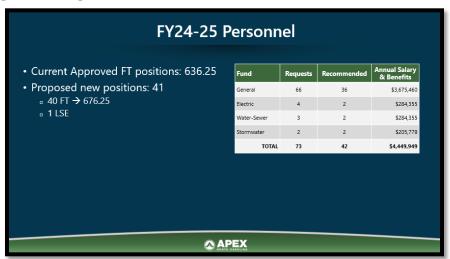
Councilmember Zegerman said there are departments have a higher increase in expenses than other departments, without adding new staff. He asked why is it not a standard rate of 6% across the board.

Director Grogan said some money is used to allocate for open positions, which is a spike in rates in some departments. She said one department might have seven vacancies and that money would need to be reallocated in some departments versus others. She said some departments support other departments, such as Finance and Utilities, and some funding went towards that.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said the way it looks is that the current year is the one that is not accurate, because some money from vacant positions has been moved elsewhere. In the next budget, that money is projected to be back in those positions, so it looks like an increase.

Councilmember Zegerman said he didn't think they were talking about the same thing and he would follow up in a separate conversation.

1 **[SLIDE-19]**



2 [SLIDE-20]



[SLIDE-21]



Councilmember Mahaffey asked if the Lobbyist should get on board with this, as they are disappointed every year by the reimbursement rates. He said there is a lot of support for SRO's at the state level.

Director Grogan said it's more a county issue, as there are grants available the town is willing to apply for that they need the county to work with.

Chief Armstrong said the last conversation he had with the school district was they were not on board with pursuing the grant component. He said their explanation was if they something for one district, then they would have to do it for all jurisdictions, and there's not enough funding to accommodate everyone. He said he did speak to Dr. Taylor, the superintendent, a couple weeks ago regarding Apex's desires. He said with this relationship with Wake County the funds should be split between the County and Town half and half.

Mayor Gilbert said this has been going on for decades and Wake County is not willing to give. He said some agents still get appropriations from the general assembly.

Councilmember Gantt said he would like to see normal officers in grade schools and would like to make a vote on this action. He said he feels strongly that schools are not seeing the public safety benefit of grade school SROs by their lack of funding.

Mayor Gilbert said SROs are appreciated by schools because of their long-term investment and ability to create relationships. He said there is also a high vacancy rate among deputies.

Councilmember Killingsworth said because the town hires our own and train our own it becomes a lot easier to know who's going to be in the schools, and know more about their disposition and/or temperament. She said with Wake County deputies, the town would have zero control over that.

Councilmember Gantt said he doesn't see the need for the SROs in grade schools, and that regular officers would be more beneficial. He said in middle schools and higher it makes sense, as the students are more adult-acting.

Mayor Gilbert said he did the SRO job and there's a lot of benefit, and he encouraged Councilmember Gantt to do a ride along or walk along.

Councilmember Gantt said if they continue voting on it he will do that. He said he wanted to see if he was in the minority on the three that the town has in the budget for next year.

Mayor Gilbert said he isn't willing to entertain that at the moment. He asked if Councilmember Gantt understood the implications that gave to the community.

Councilmember Gantt said he understood, but he wanted to know if he was in the minority based on his position.

Councilmember Zegerman said he's not there yet but thinks it's an interesting perspective. He said there is benefit of having SROs in schools even at the elementary level. He said he isn't willing to vote on this now.

Councilmember Gantt said he hasn't seen data on this, other than information on positive interactions.

Councilmember Zegerman said he wanted to have more of a plan on this before proceeding.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said he is not there. He said there is a lot of support for SROs at all levels of the school, and said they seem to be doing a good job at all level of the school. He said the conversation is that they are paying a lot of money for a resource the County could be paying. He said the Sheriff's Office is understaffed if they pulled out SROs, and they wouldn't staff Apex. He said this is an unfair expense, but he doesn't see the alternative right now.

Councilmember Gantt said most other municipalities in Wake County don't do this. He said they think it is either too unfair or not worth it. He said it is just Holly Springs and Apex.

Councilmember Mahaffey said there are funding inequities that bother him. He said part of the solution needs to be the advocates funding. He said his impression is they're passing through the state funding, and that's why the state needs to increase. He said he thinks that are other ways to address this before trying what Councilmember Gantt is suggesting.

Councilmember Gantt said when he first joined, there were none in grade schools, now there is 3 in 6 grade schools. He said that's more than \$300,000.

Town Manager Vosburg said he has a meeting at the end of the month with the County. He said there are vacancy dollars, and while they can't fill those positions, in theory they may be able to have some of those dollars available from those positions to offset.

[SLIDE-22]



Councilmember Mahaffey asked if is the town buying more EV's.

Director Grogan said the intention is to prioritize EV and/or hybrid vehicles, if it's something the town has access too and can utilize. She said in some cases EVs are not practical.

Councilmember Zegerman asked what is the replacement mileage for the town. He said there is a lot of capital on replacing cars that not have reached 100,000 miles and most cars live beyond that. He asked what's the difference and asked would the town be better off with hiring a mechanic.

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Director Grogan said there are different standards by type of vehicle based on how old it is and then the number of miles and determine what the life cycle is based off that information. She said they determine when it would be cheaper to replace than continue to maintain.

Councilmember Zegerman asked how often are those standards revised.

Director Grogan said it's on the list for this year, and finance is working to update the depreciation schedule and then going to take a look at the vehicle replacement policy. She said they don't replace everything that's requested, but they tend to focus on replacing police and fire vehicles/apparatus on schedule.

Councilmember Zegerman asked if the town needs to custom design our own fire trucks. He said why not buy a shell ready to go fire truck and go through the entire design process. He asked what is the difference in money if the town did that.

Chief Herman said he met with their vender this week about some stock vehicles not just for saving money but getting it faster. He said those prices were still in the \$900,000 range. He said still talking \$100,000 difference and with the increased price of apparatus the town will have to look at what needs to be cut as the trucks keep going up.

Councilmember Zegerman asked would it be feasible or beneficial to lease the vehicles instead of purchasing them.

Chief Herman said he did look into those options and he said it's about a million dollars a year right now. He said it does not seem to be beneficial.

Councilmember Zegerman said he would like to look into more options regarding the fire truck expenses.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said this is something that maybe the town can incentivize. He said maybe taking a look at refining our budget process down the road and looking at different ways of cost moderation over time. He said he thinks it would be good to give directors more ability to determine those things.

Chief Armstrong said that's actually what his team does. He said he had a number of vehicles that met the requirement for replacements, and that number was way too high to bring to Council. He said his team got together internally and went through all the vehicles that were listed and checked each one to see if any could be repurposed, assigned to patrol, passed to an SRO, and things that are not putting the wear and tear on it every day. He said he did end up finding 5 or 6 vehicles that he could repurpose by doing that by passing it down.

Mayor Pro Tempore Gray said he likes that, as they are able to be the experts on their resources and make the professional determinations.

Councilmember Zegerman said the number of new officers and number of new vehicles as they seem to be very closely related. He said since there are officers not on duty 24/7, he asked is there opportunity for some vehicle sharing.

Chief Armstrong said that's one of the biggest recruiting tools, having officers with their own cars, and it would be doing a disservice to move away from that. He said there is a an area that they have to keep the vehicle within, and a mileage policy.

Mayor Gilbert asked if an officer has an EV and wants to take their vehicle home how would they charge it. He asked has the discussion as far as cost happened.

Deputy Town Manager Purvis said that's coming. He said when the town does get to that point that police will be one of the last to transition. He said they may benefit from more mileage but there are other complications they need to explore.

Chief Armstrong said they do have an EV patrol car. He said it's not assigned to anyone to take home but he said it did take some time to get outfitted and its currently being tested to see if it will hold up doing what police needs it to do. He said it stays in town.

Councilmember Mahaffey said he noticed a debate over the size of the fire trucks and asked the Chief to talk more about the type of trucks to purchase.

Chief Herman said the town fire trucks are a common size. He said he has been working to get the truck smaller due to turning radius and how the town is developing neighborhoods. He said he's speaking of taking the truck from 35ft to 32ft long. He said the smaller trucks would be the brush trucks and that's not suitable to maintain the standard of class one.

Mayor Gilbert called for a recess and to be back at 3:45p.m.

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FY24-25 Capital - Improvements Annual Pavement Management - \$2.5M KidsTowne Playground Renovation - \$250K Annual Misc. Road & Sidewalk Improvements - \$200K Environmental Education Center - \$1M Pleasant Park Baseball & Softball Complex - \$14,35M GoApex Transit Improvements - \$200K Jessie Drive Phase 1 - \$1.5M Town Hall Remodel - \$900K Old US 1 at Friendship Road Improvements Cost Share - \$200K Brine Equipment Relocation - \$150K Center Street Railroad Crossing Improvements - \$150K Fire Station 3 Renovation - \$500K HVAC/Chiller Upgrades to Town Facilities - \$405K Chatham Street Railroad Crossing Improvements - \$150K West Williams Street Sidewalk - \$150K Parking Lot & Internal Street Assessment - \$50K · Apex Peakway North Widening - \$900K · Regional Yard Waste Transfer/Processing Center Study - \$250K Go Apex Transit Program - \$100K Town wide Solar Initiative - \$670K · Safe Routes to School - \$5M PW Work Stations & Sound Masking - \$18.6K S Salem Street Bicycle Connections - \$740K EV Charging Stations - \$68K Technology Drive Enhancement Cost Contribution - \$300K Public Safety Conversion Consultant - \$225K Olive Chapel Road at Apex Barbecue Road Improvements - \$450K Gen Al Copilot Microsoft - \$31.2K Annual Misc. Greenway Connections - \$300K Saunders Parking/Displays - \$95K ♠ APEX

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Councilmember Zegerman asked if the \$6.7M is unreserved.

Director Grogan said yes and no. She said it's restricted typically when it's paid in and reserved for different parks, improvements, or amenities in that development area.

Councilmember Zegerman asked is there an opportunity to put some of the money towards greenways in those development areas.

Director Grogan said it has been done before with Ready Branch subdivision. She said it's allocated depending on the project and their location. She said a lot of it has to do with staff capacity.

Councilmember Zegerman said having this untouched is making to value become less and less over time with inflation. He said he wanted to look at seeing if they could do more with that.

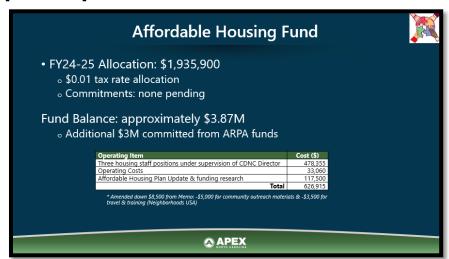
Councilmember Mahaffey asked if there was a project that could pull this year to use some of that 7 million.

Ms. Reincke said she's in hopes to move into a more cyclical program where she will know each year when there will be projects and potentially move others. She said where there's a gap is money that's funded for construction when there are no plans yet in place.

Director Setzer said if additional greenway projects get pulled there are operating expenses that go along with it. He said it's not just about the impact of time but also impact of operations perspective.

Councilmember Zegerman said his only ask is to look into that and see if there's an opportunity to accelerate some of the projects. He said he wants to see some of this money get to work.

1 [SLIDE-25]



Councilmember Zegerman said this is a hard no for him. He said this fund is to make investments and make it actually happen and not to pay our operating expenses.

Mayor Gilbert asked how anyone else felt about it.

Councilmember Mahaffey said it felt it was appropriate for spending on staff to look into studies to work on affordable housing.

Director Grogan said there are approximately 3.8 million that is currently the fund balance that's in the fund from previous allocations. She said the town will have an additional 3 million that's committed to ARPA funds for affordable housing.

Councilmember Gantt said which have to be spent by 2026.

Director Grogan said instead of doing a transfer for the affordable housing fund, it would offset those operating cots the \$626.000 from that annual allocation. She said its still allocating 1.3 million to the fund this year but it removes the \$626,000 from the general fund.

Councilmember Killingsworth said she's thinking something like the affordable housing plan update would be appropriate to be a part of this since we're talking about our incentives within the affordable housing. She said she doesn't agree with the staff operating cost being pulled from this.

Councilmember Gantt said he's thought that fund balance is an important thing if the town needs to make a major purchase but having ARPA now he is less concerned with that.

Councilmember Killingsworth said it's part of the housing plan initiatives that the housing fund is working toward. She said she's good with the housing plan update being included, that's part of the indicatives, but not necessarily the operating or the staff positions being funded through this.

Councilmember Mahaffey said to not look at it the wrong way. He said housing staff positions are funded with a dedicated funding source. He said Council can change that number year after year regarding how much to give them.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said to keep it as a funding source.

Councilmember Gantt asked is the consensus to have the top two operating items be from the annual allocation and the housing plan be from the fund balance.

Director Grogan said is the affordable housing plan would be from the affordable housing fund, positions and operating costs would be from the general fund. She said this would be charged to the affordable housing funds where Councilmember Mahaffey thinks that everything can go under affordable housing fund.

Councilmember Zegerman said he looks at this as our investments, like the towns war chest, to support affordable housing.

Councilmember Killingsworth said like Councilmember Mahaffey and Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray was saying earlier it is more likely to continue if the expenses are coded to the Affordable Housing fund from the beginning.

Councilmember Mahaffey said two things to make clear, the property tax rate can be changed to increase the fund balance, if there was an opportunity for affordable housing. He said for example if the town is 500K short in this fund because last year the town funded a couple positions, the money can come from general fund if necessary. He said its not about doing less or anything different, its how the money is accounted for and where its appropriated.

Councilmember Zegerman said he's afraid the funds will rapidly decrease over time if the town doesn't start investing now.

Councilmember Mahaffey said they're still working on affordable housing so there's still investments being made in future years.

Councilmember Killingsworth said she changed her mind and is okay with operating and personnel expenses being charged to the Affordable Housing Fund.

Director Grogan said to clarify, operating and personnel expenses should be charged to the affordable housing fund. She said it appears as though at least three were in favor of moving in this direction.

Councilmember Gantt said he was also onboard with charging affordable housing expenditures to the affordable housing fund.

Director Grogan said sounds good.

Mayor Gilbert said everyone has stated their position and preferences.

[SLIDE-26]

GF Fund Balance

- Current Unassigned (available) Fund Balance: \$28.8M
- Policy requires at least 25% → \$26.3M of FY24 Amended Budget
- General Fund use of \$2,820,500 Fund Balance
 - ERP Transition, Extension & Add-ons- \$1,160,500
 - Town Facility Solar Install (3 year)- \$670,000
 - KidsTowne Park Renovation- \$250,000
 - S Salem Street Bicycle Connection \$740,000

APEX

Councilmember Zegerman said there's a projection to go below the policy.

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Director Grogan said it depends on how Council chooses to prioritize projects moving forward.

Councilmember Gantt asked if the consequence of this long term is that the town would be more reliant on bonds to pay for onetime things.

Deputy Town Manager Purvis said that's their next step, as a significant portion of funding relies on debt. He said Director Morrison is working on some debt modeling and that will come back next season.

Councilmember Zegerman said if they know they're heading towards a cliff then they can make incremental changes.

Deputy Town Manager Purvis said that's what they are working to put in place. He said things have changed, and it may be better to look at debt service percentage and capital percentage. He said if there's more debt that's needed to do projects, that combination will capture it.

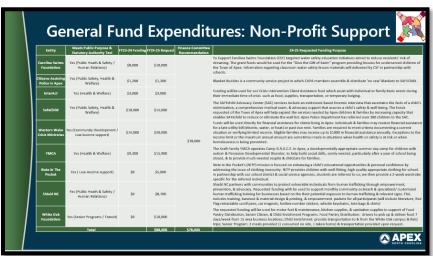
Councilmember Zegerman said he thinks there is a lot of room to use debt service to get over the hump of demand, before things can get smoothed out.

Deputy Town Manager Purvis said he thinks that would likely be necessary.

Councilmember Gantt asked will this come with the general fund usage policy that could be developed to save the really big projects for debt service, and have some capital projects that are smaller paid for by the general fund balance.

Deputy Town Manager Purvis said in general you would want to finance everything, but in practice some things would have to be funded by debt. He said at the end of summer or fall, staff will be coming back to Council with a lot more information about what modeling looks like.

[SLIDE-27]



Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said looking at the non-profit support this year, as opposed to in the past, there's some traditional entities that aren't on the list. He said Finance Committee is looking at moving those resources to potentially Economic Development as a different source for them and looking at different funding sources for them. He said they

wanted to focus on providing this funding for direct services to our residents that the town does not provide.

Councilmember Gantt asked where the capital purchases for nonprofit was going. **Councilmember Mahaffey** said that money is already dedicated towards nonprofit support.

Director Grogan said the application process will open in July. She said to clarify the town has a policy that was adopted for non-profit funding which sets the funding level at \$1 per capita. She said the policy would need to be updated in order to amend the funding level, which the Council could do if they wished.

Mayor Gilbert asked how many applications are there each year.

Director Grogan said four more on top of the ones listed in the slide.

Councilmember Mahaffey said staff also worked with some applicants that didn't quite meet the criteria.

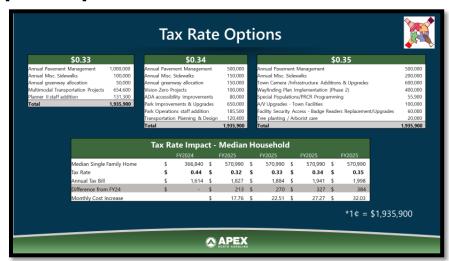
Councilmember Killingsworth said the money that hasn't been allocated yet should be allocated equally. She said there were too many good causes to have to choose between to not give something to these organizations.

Mayor Pro Tempore Gray said some of this list are more attractive for ARPA funding than others, so they could think about that as well.

[SLIDE-28]



1 [SLIDE-29]



Councilmember Gantt asked what the amount of money in pavement management meant in terms of how many neighborhoods get paved. He asked how much did Scott's Mill cost.

Director Johnson said it was three or four million. He said he could get a lot more lane miles if they were doing preservation versus resurfacing, and try to do more of that as a lot of the town's streets are resurfaced. He said its good to get those preservation measures moving quickly before it starts to degrade, and it can cover up to fix to six times many miles with the same dollar with preservation work. It keeps the best roads in best shape. He said for example, resurfacing would cover about five to ten miles, where preservation will cover 20 miles. He said currently, there is about 240 miles total right now to cover.

Councilmember Gantt said the map is still showing a lot of red.

Director Johnson said the town has the bond coming in 2026 that will go towards resurfacing.

Councilmember Mahaffey said the extra million would have been for preservation.

Director Johnson said it would be a mix of preservation and resurfacing.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked to clarify what preservation means.

Director Johnson said to preserve the road it could be putting down rejuvenators which going on like liquid and then it goes away and you can't hardly tell it was there. He said there's also an option of going in to fill the cracks and make sure drainage is not getting in. He said you can also do thin micro surfacing which in a quarter inch deep, very unimpactful, looks a little different than asphalt.

Councilmember Zegerman asked is the town setting themselves up for trouble by staying at a conservative tax. He said if we don't do this now the town could be looking at a bond for 20 million dollars to catch up on a couple years down the road instead of adding a few pennies here and there now to keep up. He wondered if they should be more like their neighbors and be more aggressive in recovering expenses.

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Town Manager Vosburg said things are not going to get cheaper either. He said with the limited staff and resources, it's cheaper to get these things done now versus delaying to avoid the inflating cost down the road.

Councilmember Zegerman said then the question becomes spending any on debt to get leverage. He said instead of getting 1.9 million out of the penny the town could get 10 million out of the penny because it's a service and could be a better outcome.

Councilmember Mahaffey said Pleasant Park baseball field this year is going to be out of bond debt.

Councilmember Zegerman said he was wondering what putting money into debt service rather than the capital fund, and see how much that can get them.

Councilmember Mahaffey said that would be issuing more bonds.

Councilmember Zegerman said something they can look at to get ahead on these projects.

Director Grogan said for clarification the town does have a debt service fund. She said bond debt is not the only kind of debt.

Director Morrison said not to feel like the town is doing a disservice and could increase the rate, and when comparing that to our neighbors, it depends on what the town is comfortable with. He said to Town Manager Vosburg's point, the town could take into consideration one or two more cent but then the town doesn't have the staff and the resources available to push those projects forward and make things happen. He said it's a matter of the funding versus putting it to work.

Councilmember Zegerman said if there is so much demand and the town is being conservative with our tax rate increase right now. He said he's trying to gauge form staff and where they see the risks or potentials.

Director Grogan said there's always a risk as its going to get more expensive. She said this is solely based on debt services growth. She said she will update them as they find out what other town's are doing this year.

Deputy Town Manager Purvis said the two cents that Council asked may not even accomplish the offset with inflation.

Councilmember Killingsworth said its not considering the personnel cost. She said the Council needs to think about if fully staffing and bringing people in that can do all the projects then Council would need to put more money in too.

Councilmember Mahaffey said he's comfortable with \$0.33 cents. He said he likes the idea of investing in the streets that will save the town money in the long term. He said the proactive maintenance that can be done on the streets whether its resurfacing or preservation and that this sounds like a wise investment.

Councilmember Gantt said he is going with \$0.34. He said he can justify vision zero and park operations. He said he really wants the wayfinding phase one to happen.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gray said he's comfortable with \$0.34 as well.

Councilmember Killingworth said agreed with the \$0.34 rate.

Councilmember Zegerman said he's good with \$0.34, He said he would be curious if the town can get more leverage, like a bond issue this year, which would give the town more to work with than 4 million.

Deputy Town Manager Purvis said the two cents could go to this year then going into next year the Council could bring those two cents into debt calculations. He said this is for capital and not operating costs.

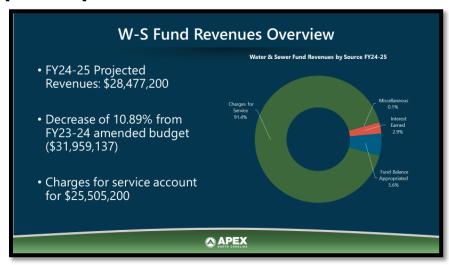
Councilmember Gantt asked what the Transportation Planning & Design is.

Director Grogan said that is a fund for smaller scale transportation projects.

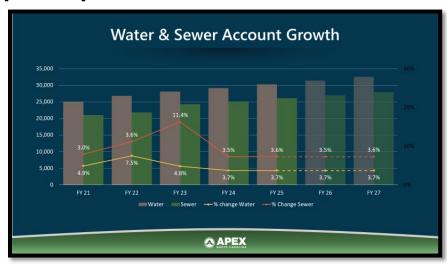
Deputy Town Manager Purvis said there are a lot of things that pop up every year that Transportation has to go look into.

Councilmember Mahaffey asked for a memo or email with a little more detail about the items listed. He said he would like a few sentences in case Council is asked questions.

[SLIDE-30]



[SLIDE-31]



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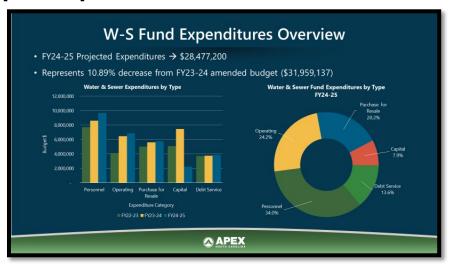
5 **[SLIDE-33]**



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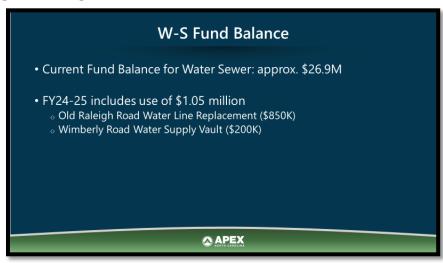
2 [SLIDE-36]



5 **[SLIDE-37]**

W-S Fund FY24-25 Expenditure Overview Personnel Capital Projects o Utilities Engineering Manager Old Raleigh Road Water Line Replacement - \$850K Little Beaver Creek Gravity Sewer Extension - \$300K Utility Crew Field Supervisor Wimberly Road Water Supply Vault - \$200K • Vehicles & Equipment 。 Itron Handheld Equipment - \$10K o Hach Water Analyzers - \$12K 。 Radio Comm Operator Headsets - \$26K 。Replacement truck (Unit 669) - \$43K 。 Bypass Pump - \$57K Service Camera - \$12K Pump Mechanic Truck with Crane - \$180K APEX

[SLIDE-38]



 Councilmember Killingsworth asked if a vault is the same thing as a tank.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said a vault is a metering point and helps to provide needed redundancy.

Councilmember Zegerman said he's trying to make sense of the narrative in the budget message. He said he's confused on what exactly the town is raising rates for based on the outlook of the budget message. He said the charge for service number is flat year after year.

Director Grogan said she wasn't clear on the question, and confirmed it was for water and sewer funds. She said this is not just charges for services on the water and sewer bill, and there are different charges for saleable water that comes through, which is tied to development. She said there are other things as well.

Councilmember Zegerman said the charges for service are increasing 7%, even though the numbers are the same year to year

Town Manager Vosburg said the 7% comes from the difference in budget.

Councilmember Zegerman said it doesn't imply a rate increase because the town's actual collections this year is already 25 million.

Director Grogan said the 25 million is an estimate.

Councilmember Zegerman said the town is two months away from the end of the year and said our estimates should be on point by now. He asked what the town's year end outlook is going to look like.

Director Grogan said the estimates were done at the end of March. She said the estimate was dependent on what was done previous years and what those costs are.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said if it included water purchase than the number showing today would be different.

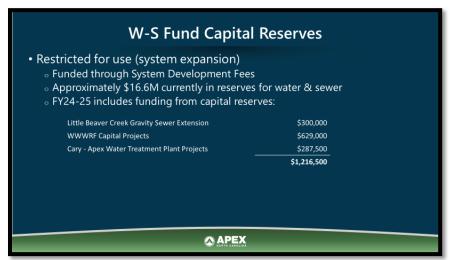
Councilmember Zegerman said the budget message does not support a rate increase, he said he doesn't understand why its being proposed today as a rate increase.

Mayor Gilbert asked if staff needed more time to look into it.

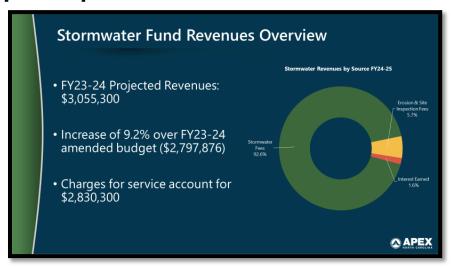
Councilmember Zegerman said he can have more discussion in the second session in May and can defer the conversation until then.

Director Grogan said she will pull the numbers and connect with Councilmember Zegerman on how she came up with the outcome.

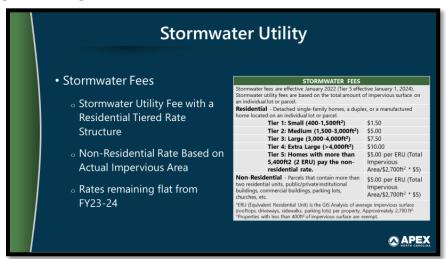
[SLIDE-39]



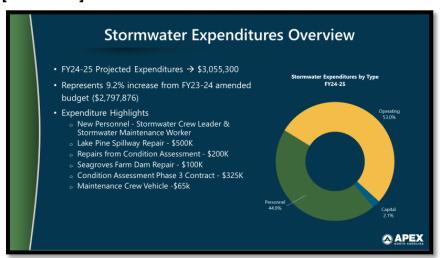
[SLIDE-40]



1 [SLIDE-41]



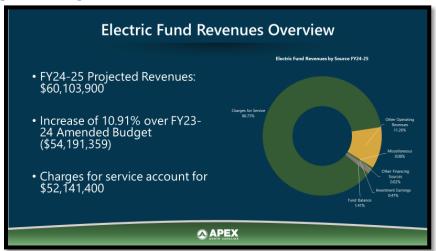
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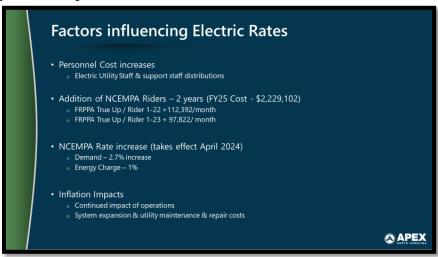
Councilmember Gantt asked if the masterplan was in last year's budget for storm water.

Director Grogan said stormwater had a phase two condition assessment that they are currently working on now and then this would be their third. She said they are coming up with the master plan and then budget will work with them to build out the CP.

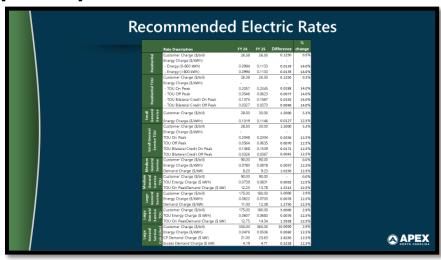
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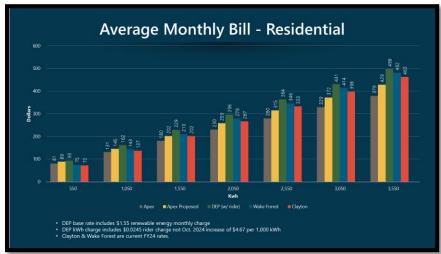
[SLIDE-44]



[SLIDE-45]



[SLIDE-46]



Councilmember Mahaffey said he wished there was more time to talk more about this slide. He said residents will see the increase and have concerns. He asked to simplify what is the reason driving the electric increase. He asked is it the true-up entirely or is it increasing costs.

Director Grogan said it's tied to the increase in costs. She said even though the town is spending 4 million on system expansion but electric has also increased those rates. She said electric has drastic increase in their revenue because their substantially increased and their trying to put those costs back onto developers so residents that are using it are paying for the system expansion. She said the bigger issue that the town is running into is the costs that are associated with system maintenance. She said it taking six months to three years lead time to get equipment and equipment is being ordered before it's even needed. She said also some of it is time to operating inflation which has hit the utility funds the most and being tied back to true-up.

Councilmember Gantt said he's bothered that the town doesn't have a tier system for electric like the town does for water and other stormwater related things.

 Director Grogan said Duke is the only one that has that tier system and said the town had a similar one to it years ago. She said certain seasons of the year changes the rate.

 Councilmember Gantt asked would it explain the difference between low and high end for the town.

 Director Grogan said that is tied to base rate.

Councilmember Mahaffey said last year the town raised the base rate and lowered the per kWh and this year the town is raising our kWh back to what it was last year.

Councilmember Zegerman asked if the town can do tiers if they choose or is it constrained by the billing systems.

Director Grogan said the town used to charge that way but it was shifted to simplify the rate structure.

Councilmember Mahaffey said it's not as big for equity as it would seem. He said it wouldn't just impact larger, newer homes, it could negatively impact older and less energy efficient homes as well.

Assistant Town Manager Stone said the time of use is going to be a better way to handle rates. He said they can't get there until the switch over to the new system. He said older homes have much less insulation, and have to use more energy to try and keep the home cool at times.

Councilmember Mahaffey said the best way to help out our residents that need help is to invest in programs that help educate on energy efficiency.

Councilmember Zegerman He said the town is losing \$450 per solar customer, and that can be spread out more equitably.

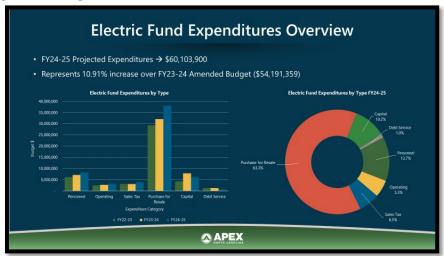
Councilmember Killingsworth said that once the AMI system was in place, they could approach the homeowners as apart of the APEX CARES program to help them on saving energy, which would also help the town out.

Councilmember Zegerman said he has the same narrative around the electric fund as he made about the water fund and will talk about this in the next session.

[SLIDE-47]



[SLIDE-48] 1



[SLIDE-49]

FY24-25 Electric Fund Expenditures Overview

- Personnel
 - 。 2 Positions Recommended
 - Line Technician
 - Assistant Director
- Capital Projects
 - LED Street Light Upgrades \$500K
 - System Fault Indicators \$175K
 - o Mount Zion Upgrades \$230K
 - o System Expansion \$4.2M

- · Vehicles & Equipment
 - Bucket Truck Replacement \$275K
 - Pulling Rig \$96K

 - Dump Trailer \$20K
 Truck Replacement (unit 125) \$50K
 - New Vehicle Addition \$50K
 - ARGO Centaur Replacement \$28K
 - Fault Locators \$24K

[SLIDE-50]

Electric Fund Reserves

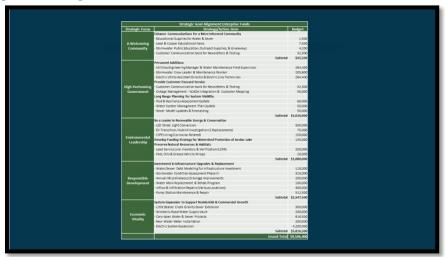
♠ APEX

- Current Electric Fund Balance \$12.9M
 - _o Limited available for appropriation due to restrictions
- FY24-25 does include use of fund balance

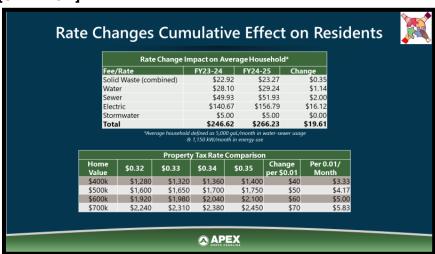
System Fault indicators \$175,000 LED Street Light Upgrades \$500.000 Mount Zion Upgrades \$230,000 \$905,000

APEX

[SLIDE-51]



[SLIDE-52]



[SLIDE-53]



1 [SLIDE-54]



Mayor Gilbert asked has there been an analysis made regarding to personnel costs with special events. He said regarding options for personnel from special event companies that provide staff like security and etc.

Director Grogan said staff did look into that and it will be incorporated into the memo. She said it will talk through some of the different opportunities, like the internship program potentially utilizing Mutual Aid for Police Officers. She said also contracting out someone who could collect trash as well.

[ADJOURNEMENT]

Mayor Gilbert adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Jacques K. Gilbert Apex, Mayor

Allen Coleman, CMC, NCCCC
Town Clerk to the Apex Town Council

Submitted for approval by Apex Town Clerk Allen Coleman

23 Minutes approved on _____ of _____, 2024.