

Revenue Forecast 2027-2028

City Council Workshop – September 8, 2026

Why forecast 10 years?



Provides insights into current trends into the future



Allows for what-if scenarios for policy development



Checks to see if decisions are financially sustainable



Highlights potential structural deficits

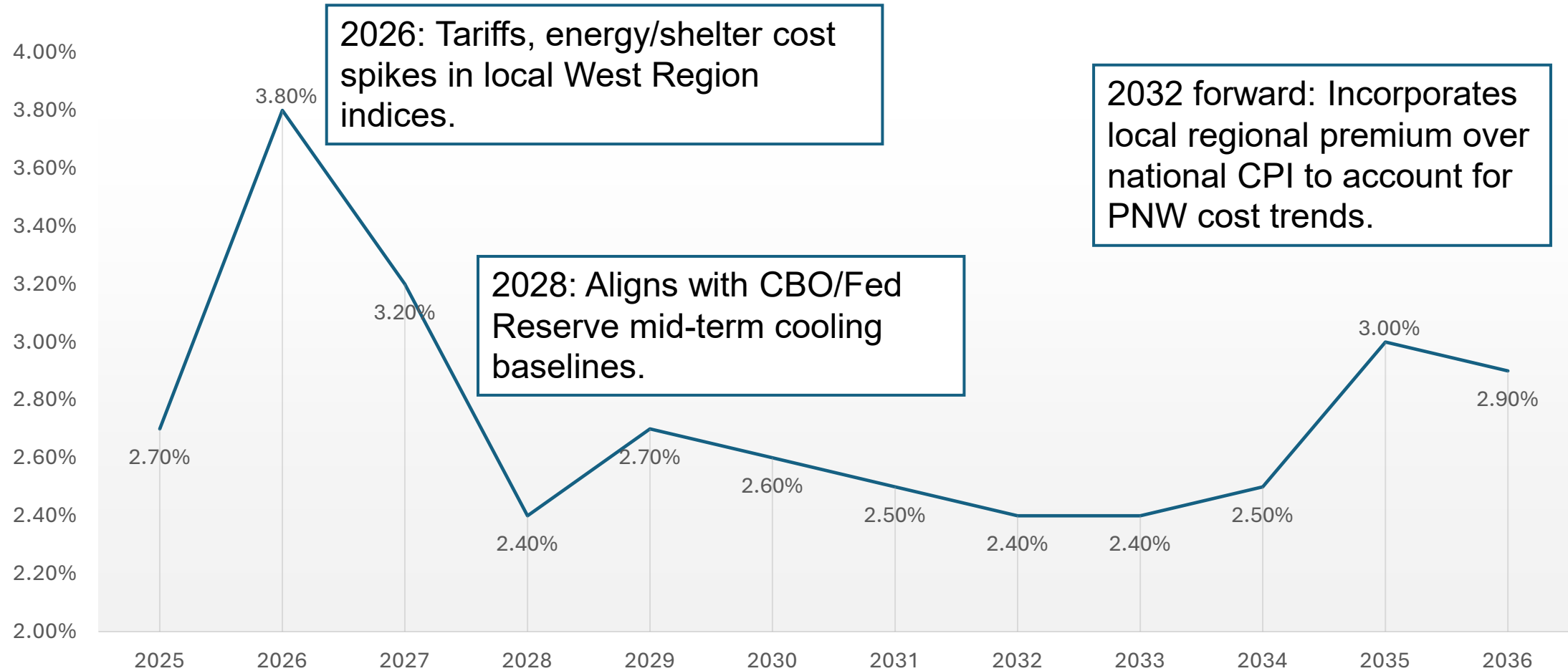


Determines potential burn rate of fund balance

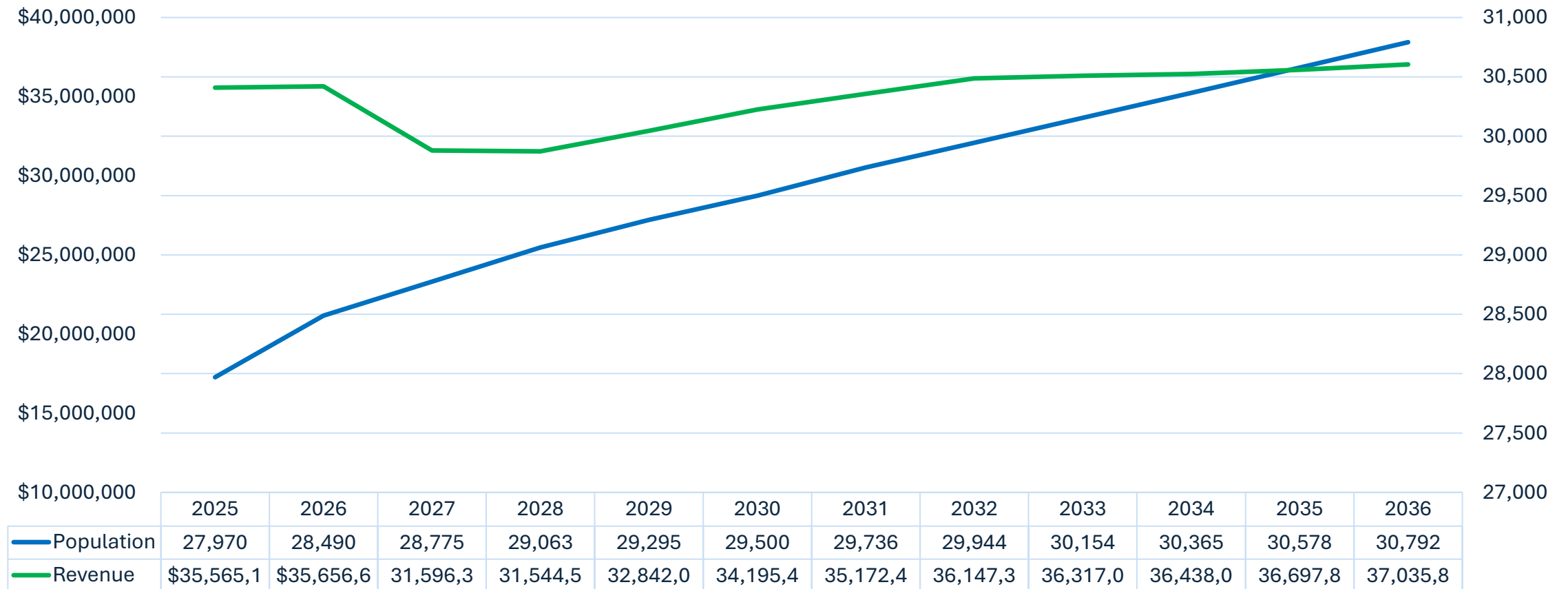
CPI Forecasts

Forecasts	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Moody's Analytics	3.4%	2.8%				
City of Camas	3.6%	3.2%	2.4%	2.7%	2.6%	2.5%
WA State ERFC*	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%	4.0%	4.1%	4.2%

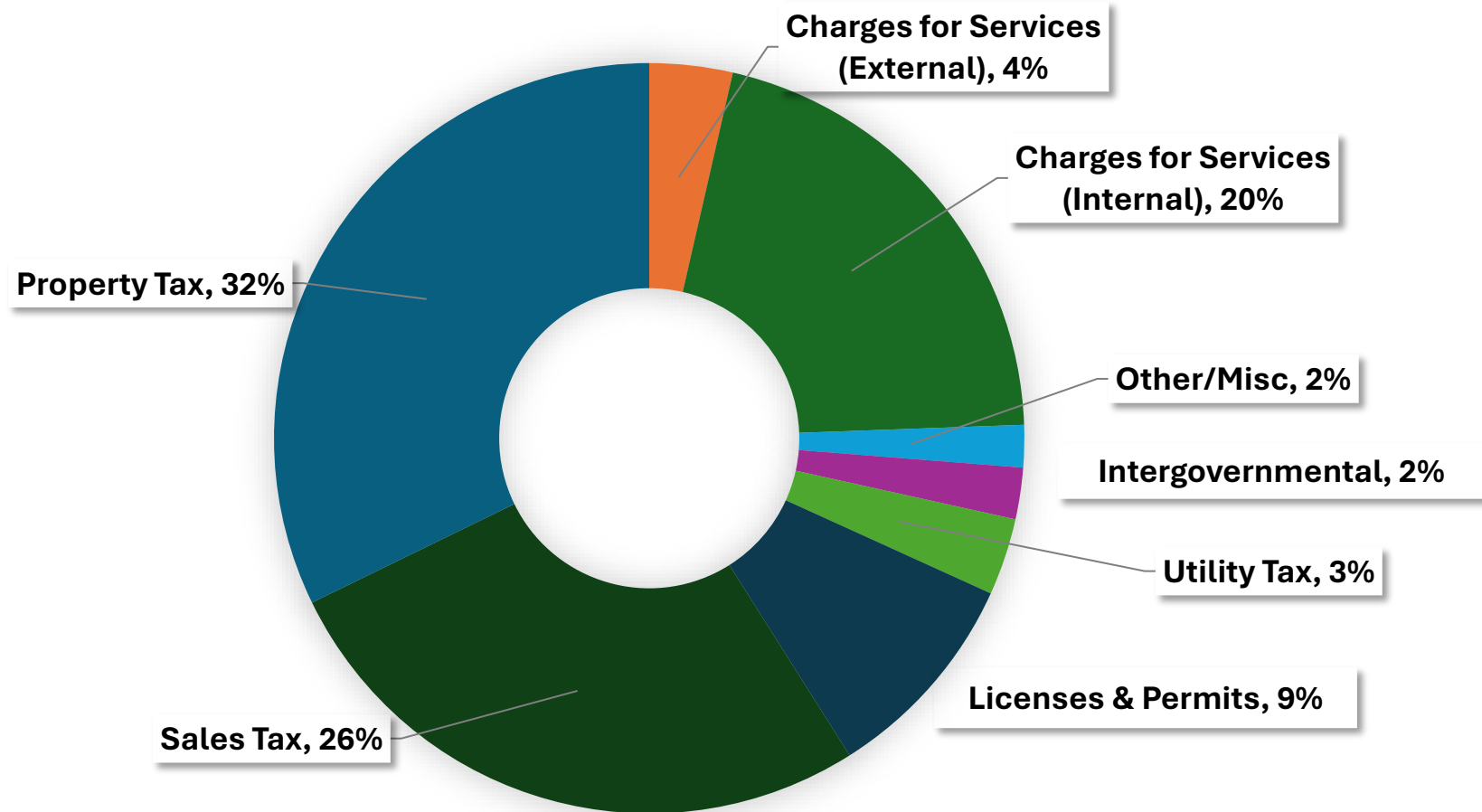
Inflation



General Fund and Population



General Fund Revenues, Projected 2027



Rethinking the Three-Legged Stool: Tax Engine vs. Cost Recovery



The Traditional Municipal Model

Property Tax

- Predictable baseline
- (capped at 1% growth under RCW 84.55).

Sales Tax

- Dynamic growth tied to local economic retail activity.

Utility Tax

- Stable, broad-based local tax lever under direct Council policy authority.

Camas's Projected 2027 Reality

Utility Tax Underutilized

- Provides little structural support compared to peer Clark County cities, where utility taxes actively carry general fund operational weight.

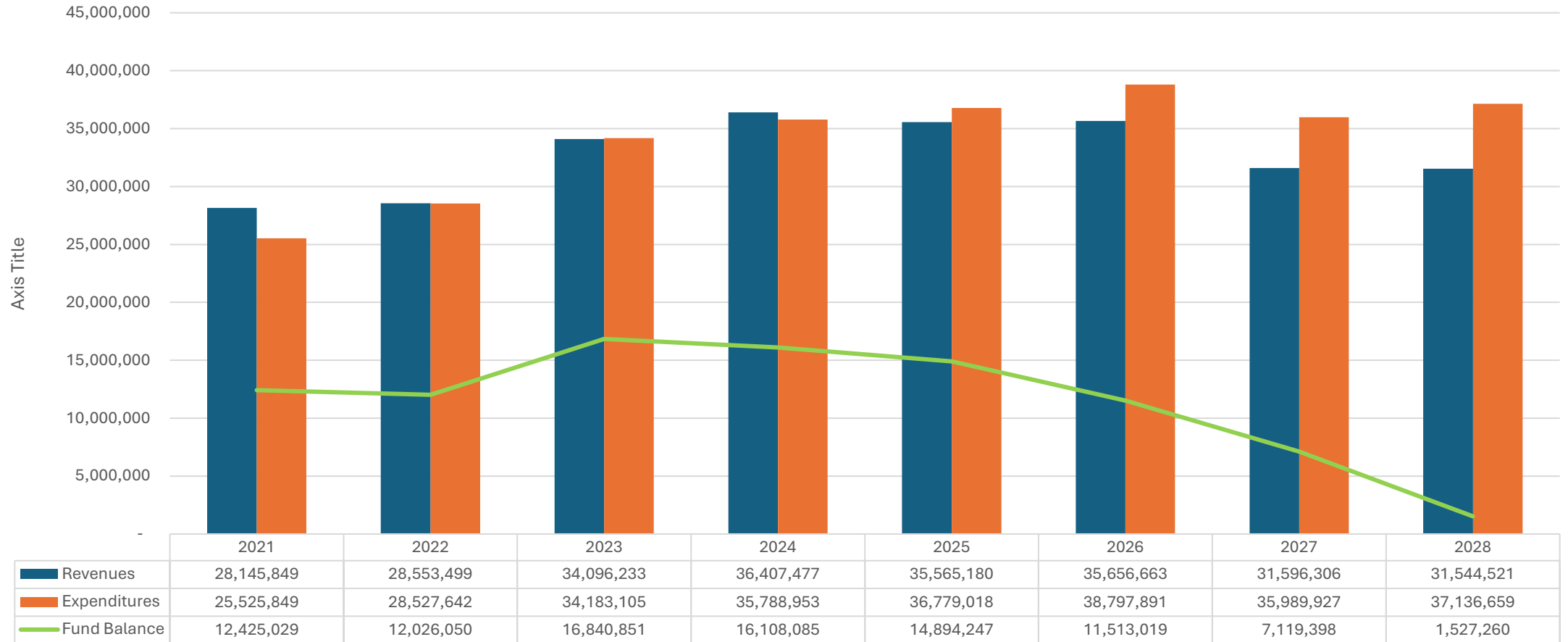
Over-Reliance on Internal Charges

- General Fund relies heavily on internal service chargebacks (admin, legal, finance support allocated across other funds).

Policy Takeaway

- Internal cost recoveries cannot balance a structural gap without bleeding enterprise and dedicated funds. Sustainable solutions require evaluating external, broad-based tax authority.

Projected Revenues and Expenditures



Common Budget-Balancing Tricks

These tactics “balance” budgets on paper while masking underlying problems

Tactic	What It Looks Like	What’s Under the Mask
One-time asset sales	Selling city property, or leasing assets	Provides cash once, creates no recurring revenue
Draining reserves	Drawing down general fund balance each year	Eliminates the city’s emergency cushion
Deferred maintenance	Postponing road repairs, building upgrades	Creates larger infrastructure costs later
COLA freeze	Skipping or reducing cost of living increases (COLA)	Wage disparity postponement increases exponentially

Remaining Budget Process

Forecast

- Baseline Budget
- Revenue Forecast
- Decision Packages

Engagement

- Public Engagement
- Council Engagement

Draft

- Revenue Budget
- Property Tax
- Fee Schedule, Internal and External

Recommendation

- Recommended Budget Presentation

Approved

- Property Tax Resolutions
- Fee Schedule
- Budget formally adopted