

SHOW ME THE MONEY

Basics of City Finance

City of Coachella Youth Commission

\$40M

General Fund
Revenues

~47%

Public Safety
Spending

\$66M

FY 26-27 Capital
Improvements

What We'll Cover Today

- 01 Why Government Finance Matters to You
- 02 Modified Accrual Accounting – How Government Tracks Money
- 03 Fund Types & Their Purposes
- 04 The General Fund – Follow the Dollar
- 05 Public Safety – The Biggest Slice
- 06 Staffing Costs – The People Behind the Services
- 07 Grant Funding – Coachella's Superpower
- 08 Capital Improvement Budget – \$60M Invested

Why Government Finance Matters To You

It Funds YOUR Parks

City parks, recreation programs, and youth services are all financed through the budget.

It Pays for Safety

Police, fire, animal control, and emergency services keep your community safe every day.

Your Voice Matters

Youth Commissioners help shape priorities. Understanding the budget means understanding what is possible.

Future Taxpayer & Leader

Today's commissioners are tomorrow's voters, council members, and decision-makers.

Modified Accrual Accounting

How government tracks money differently than a private business

Private Business (Full Accrual)

- Revenue recorded when EARNED
- Expenses matched to revenues
- Goal: measure profitability
- Long-term assets on books
- Focuses on income & net worth

VS

City Government (Modified Accrual)

- Revenue recorded when AVAILABLE (≤ 60 days)
- Expenditures = when liability incurred
- Goal: fiscal accountability & compliance
- Emphasis on budget vs. actual
- Focuses on current-period cash flow

Fund Types & Their Purposes

Think of each fund as a separate bank account with rules about what it can be used for

General Fund	Day-to-day city operations — police, parks, admin, code enforcement
Special Revenue	Legally restricted funds: Gas Tax, Measure A, CDBG, Grants, Dev. Impact Fees
Debt Service	Set aside to pay bond principal & interest when due
Capital Projects	Finance construction & major infrastructure purchases (roads, facilities)
Enterprise Funds	Business-like operations: Water Authority, Sanitary District — self-supporting

The General Fund – Follow the Dollar

WHERE IT COMES FROM

Sales Tax (incl. Measure U)

~35%

Property Tax

~15%

Intergovernmental

~20%

Charges for Services

~10%

Licenses & Permits

~8%

Other (Fees, Interest)

~12%

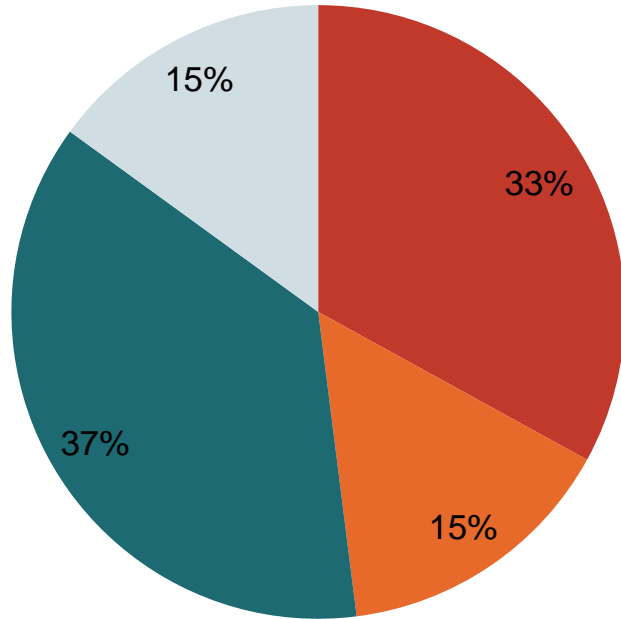
~\$40 Million

Estimated General Fund Revenue
FY 2026–2027

Sounds like a lot...

But once public safety (~47–50%) and staffing (30–40%) are covered, only a small fraction remains for everything else — maintenance, programs, equipment, and new initiatives.

Public Safety – The Biggest Slice



■ Police Services

■ Fire / EMS / Animal Control

■ Staffing (City)

■ Discretionary & Other

Police: ~33%

Contracted through Riverside County Sheriff. Increased 4.1% in FY24-25.

Fire/EMS/Animal: ~15%

Coachella Fire Protection District & Cal Fire contract. Up 24.8% in FY24-25.

Combined: ~47-50%

Nearly HALF the General Fund before any other service is funded.

Staffing Costs – The People Behind the Services

30–40% of the General Fund goes to salaries, benefits & retirement contributions



💡 Staffing costs are high — but they represent the real people delivering every city service you use.

The Fiscal Reality: What's Left?



On \$40M in revenues, only ~\$3.2M is available for discretionary spending

- Every new program competes against maintenance, emergencies, and cost increases
- Rising Riverside County contract costs eat directly into the discretionary margin
- This is why grants, fees, and special revenues matter SO much for Coachella

Grant Funding – Coachella's Superpower

The City punches well above its weight class when it comes to securing grant funding.

Grant Source	What It Funds for Coachella
Federal (HUD/CDBG)	Affordable housing, community development, infrastructure
Caltrans / FHWA	Street rehabilitation, active transportation, safety improvements
State HCD	Housing programs, homelessness prevention
SCAG / CVAG / RCTC	Regional transportation and planning
EPA / Water Resources	Environmental programs, water quality projects
Various Public Safety	COPS grants, Homeland Security, emergency management

✓ Dedicated Grants Manager on staff | Multiple grant programs tracked in Fund 152 & CDBG Fund 210

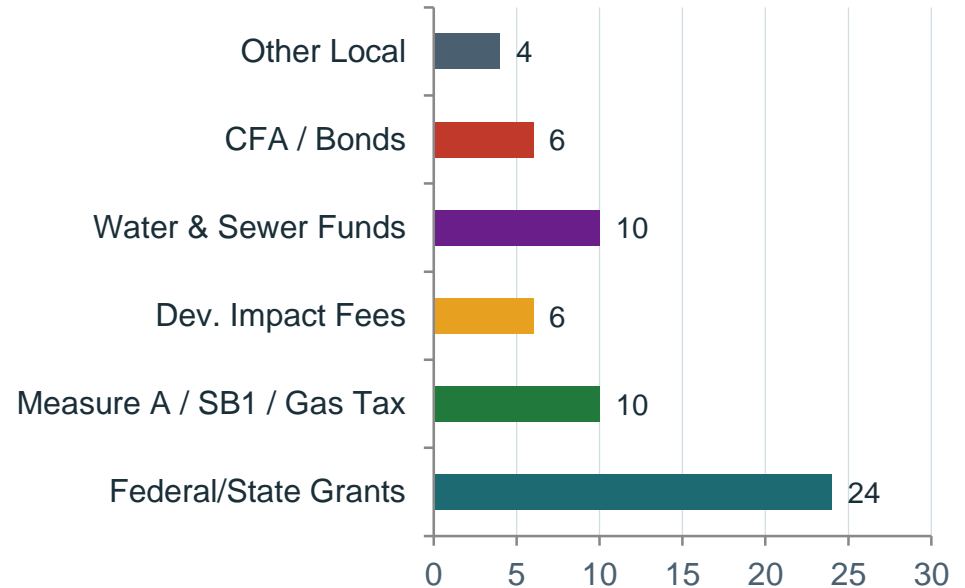
Capital Improvement Budget – FY 2026–2027

~\$66M

Capital Investment
FY 2026–2027

- Streets, sidewalks & active transportation
- Parks, trails & recreation facilities
- Water system upgrades
- Sewer & sanitation improvements
- Public facilities & technology

Where Does the \$60M Come From? (\$M)



For Every General Fund Dollar...

33¢

Police Services

7¢

Debt & Fixed Costs

15¢

Fire, EMS & Animal

8¢

Discretionary (left over)

37¢

City Staff (all depts)

Key Takeaways

- 1 Government uses Modified Accrual accounting — focused on fiscal accountability, not profit.
- 2 Funds are separate accounts with legal restrictions on how they can be used.
- 3 The General Fund (~\$40M) is the main operating budget but heavily obligated.
- 4 Public safety alone takes ~47–50% of the General Fund. Those costs keep rising.
- 5 Staffing (30–40%) represents the people who make city services happen every day.
- 6 Coachella excels at grants — multiplying limited local dollars into \$60M+ in capital.
- 7 The FY 2026–27 CIP of ~\$66M is built mostly on non-General Fund sources.

Questions & Resources

Explore City of Coachella Financial Documents:

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

www.coachella.org/departments/finance/financial-statements

Adopted Annual Budget (all funds & departments)

www.coachella.org/departments/finance/budgets

Capital Projects Information

Included in the Annual Budget document

City Finance Department

www.coachella.org/departments/finance