

Town of Lake Park Solid Waste Utility

The 2023 Rate Study Public Works Department June 21, 2023







Project Milestones

- On January 18, 2023, the Town Commission engaged Raftelis to prepare a solid waste rate study
- Town staff held a special workshop for residents and business owners on June 8, 2023
 - Public notices (in three languages) and a follow-up letter were sent to all Town properties; project information was also added to Town's website in April 2023
 - The agenda and presentation materials were made available on the Town's website on June 7, 2023
 - The presentation was also recorded for those who could not join the meeting in person



June 8th Workshop – Discussion Topics

- 1. Introductions
- 2. Solid Waste Utility Background
- 3. Solid Waste Utility Operations
- 4. The Solid Waste Utility Rate Analysis
- 5. Principal Cost Drivers
- 6. Study Objectives & Tasks
- 7. Major Study Assumptions

- 8. Summary of Current Operations
- 9. Conclusions and Recommendations
- 10. Q&A

11. Closing Comments



Executive Summary







Solid Waste Utility – Background

- Collects solid waste from residential and commercial properties
- First line of defense for the health of the community
- Protects the environment, avoids air/water contamination, and recovers materials through recycling processes







- Provides a variety of educational opportunities during public outreach events
- Provides Roll-off disposal services through franchise agreements with three (3) haulers
- Partners with national, regional and local public/private organizations for continuous process improvement



- Authorized Staff: Nine (9) full-time employees:
 - > Supervisors (2)
 - Sanitation Truck Operator I (3) (Some vacant 12 months)
 - Sanitation Truck Operator II (3) (Some vacant 12+ months)
 - Sanitation Truck Operator Trainee (1)





Fleet Inventory

 The Solid Waste Division is assigned ten (10) primary collection trucks:

Automatic Side Loader (ASL)

- Primary Uses: Residential Garbage, Recycling
- > Inventory: Four (4)
- > Average Yrs. in Service: 6.5 Yrs.





Fleet Inventory

• The Solid Waste Division also operates:



Front-End Loader (FEL)

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Fleet Inventory

• The Solid Waste Division also operates:

Clam Truck

- Primary Uses: Residential Vegetation Debris and Bulk Trash
- > Inventory: Three (3)
- > Average Yrs. in Service: 5.75 Yrs.





Fleet Inventory

Recommended Equipment Backup Ratio per Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA): 1:1.2/1:1.5

Asset (# in Fleet)	Needed for Daily Operations	I:I.2 Ratio	I:I.5 Ratio	
Automatic Side Loader	2	2.4	3	
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Grapple (Clamshell) Truck	2	2.4	3	
Rear Loader	0	1.2	Ι.5	



- Operates as a self-supporting enterprise fund with separate accounting from other Town departments and resources
- Town has historically used operating reserves to cover actual expenses that exceeded the budgeted amounts while phasing in rate adjustments over time

Historical Sanitation Annual Assessment- Residential					
Assessment Year	Single-Family/Multi-Family <5	<u>Multi-Family >4</u>			
2019-2020	\$215.49	\$145.93			
2020-2021	\$234.88	\$159.06			
2021-2022	\$234.88	\$159.06			
2022-2023	\$246.62	\$167.01			
2022-2023	\$258.37	\$174.97			





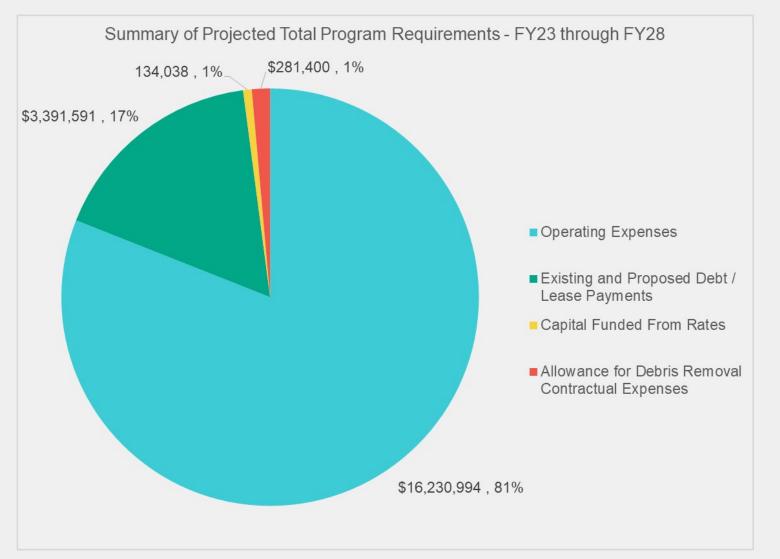
The 2023 Solid Waste Utility Rate Study





Solid Waste Program Requirements

 Total program needs through FY28 are estimated to exceed \$20.0 million





Projected Revenues

- Annual revenues estimated at \$2.2 million per year
 - Most residential property owners take advantage of the 4% discount by paying early
- Assumed 1% growth in residential and multifamily cart services
- Growth in dumpster accounts based on development projections provided by Town staff





Principal Cost Drivers

- Current operating deficiency
 - FY23 operating expenses <u>exceed</u> current revenues by approximately \$250,000 (12% of existing rates)
- High costs, frequency and severity of mechanical, fleet repairs
 - > Service Interruptions
 - Emergency contract operations / limited providers
 - Urgent and specialized repair needs / sole source providers with little competition
 - Unable to shop around repair costs



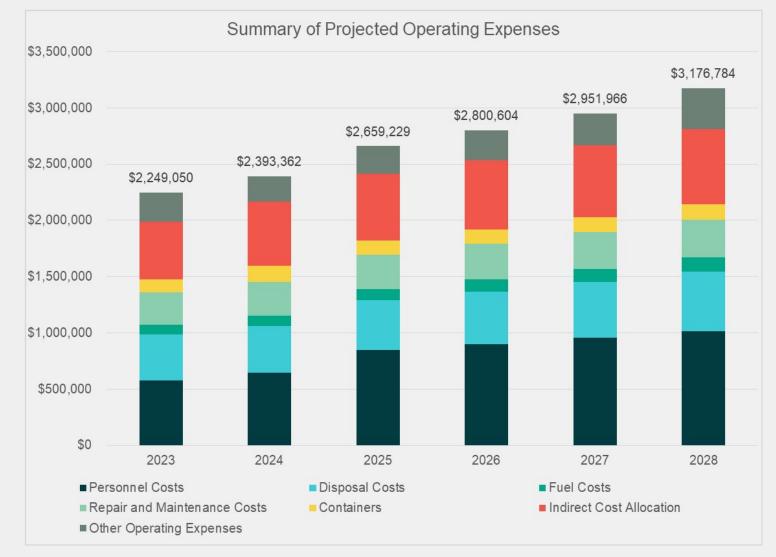


Principal Cost Drivers (cont.)

- Compensation and Recruitment:
 - > Highly competitive labor market
 - Some Sanitation Truck Operator positions vacant 12+ months
 - Recommended changes to operating salaries and associated benefits
- Competition: long lead times for materials, supplies, equipment and vehicles
 - > Inflationary increases on all business expenditures

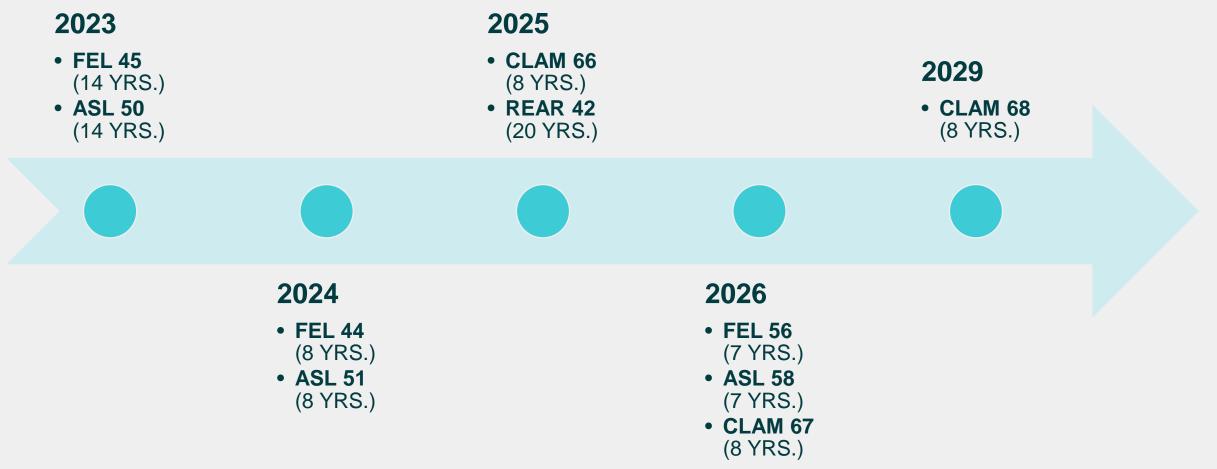


Projected Operating Expenses



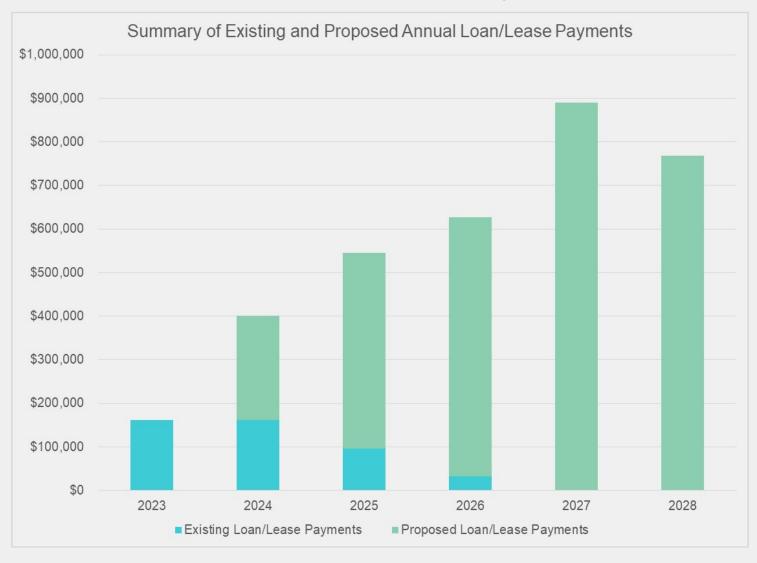


Proposed Vehicle Replacement Timeline





Projected Loan & Lease Payments



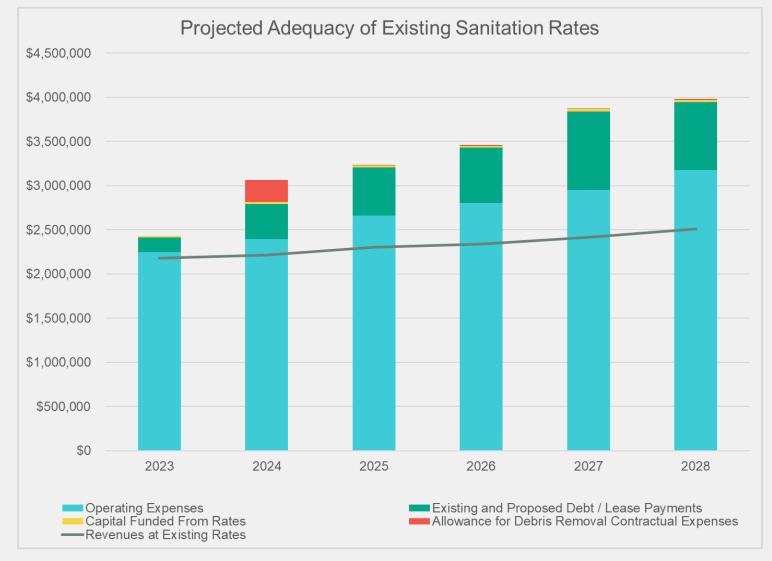


Proposed Reserve Requirements

- Based on discussions with Town staff, we established funding of an allowance account for contractual debris removal expenses for storm events
 - > Transfer of \$250,000 in FY24 as initial deposit
 - Nominal annual deposits of approx. \$7,900 per year to keep pace with inflation (3% per year)
- Minimum balance in unrestricted operating fund of 60 days of annual expenditures as minimum target in FY24
 - Additional deposits to the operating fund over the study period to target at least 90 days of reserves



Adequacy of Existing Rates





Proposed Solid Waste Rates

Description	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Funds Total Program					
Percent Rate Increase	48%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Proposed Annual Charge per Cart (Current Fee \$258.37)	<u>\$382.39</u>	<u>\$393.86</u>	<u>\$405.68</u>	<u>\$417.85</u>	<u>\$430.38</u>
Proposed Charge per Cubic Yard (CY) – Per Dumpster Size / Per Frequency of Pickup (Current Fee \$11.31)	<u>\$16.74</u>	<u>\$17.24</u>	<u>\$17.76</u>	<u>\$18.29</u>	<u>\$18.84</u>
	Sample – Monthly Fees for Dumpster Services				
2 CY Dumpster – 1 Pickup / Week (\$98.02)	\$145.08	\$149.41	\$153.92	\$158.51	\$163.28
4 CY Dumpster – 1 Pickup / Week (\$196.04)	\$290.16	\$298.83	\$307.84	\$317.03	\$326.56
6 CY Dumpster – 1 Pickup / Week (\$294.06)	\$435.24	\$448.24	\$461.76	\$475.54	\$489.84

• A schedule of proposed fees included at the end of this Executive Summary



Conclusions & Recommendations

- The Solid Waste Utility should operate as a self-supporting enterprise fund with separate accounting from other Town departments
 - Town has consistently used operating reserves to cover actual expenses, but those reserves have been mostly depleted
 - Existing rates are not adequate to cover the current operations



Conclusions & Recommendations

- 2. On or about January 18, 2023, the Town Commission adopted an ordinance that moves multi-family dumpster accounts to the standard dumpster rates
 - The projected financial results were prepared based on the adopted service classifications
 - The Town Commission should consider adopting the proposed rates through FY28

Conclusions & Recommendations (cont.)

- 3. The Town Commission should consider adopting a reserve policy for the Solid Waste Utility to provide working capital and to help address unforeseen contingencies
 - We recommend a target operating reserve balance of at least 90 days of annual expenditures that may be achieved by FY26 if the adopted rates are implemented
 - A separate contingency fund of \$250,000 for emergency, debris removal should also be established
- 4. This study should be updated within 5-years

Next Steps & Timeline



- January-May 2023: Solid Waste Rate Analysis
- June 8, 2023: Follow-up Meeting on the Solid Waste Rate Analysis
- June 21, 2023: Presentation to Town Commission on findings and recommendations from Solid Waste rate analysis (for discussion only)
- July 28, 2023: Town submits <u>maximum proposed</u> Solid Waste assessment rates to PB County (TRIM Notice)
- August 2023: Fee Schedule Resolution presented for approval
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Questions & Comments







Proposed FY-24 Dumpster Fee Schedule

Cubic Yards	1x/Week	2x/Week	3x/Week	4x/Week	5x/Week
0.5		72.54			
2	145.08	290.16	435.24	580.32	725.40
3	217.62	435.24	652.86	870.48	1088.10
4	290.16	580.32	870.48	1160.64	1450.80
6	435.24	870.48	1305.72	1740.96	2176.20
8	580.32	1160.64	1740.96	2321.28	2901.60

- Fee per EA (1) dumpster
- Fees billed monthly directly to customers utilizing dumpster services.



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Appendix: June 8, 2023 Workshop Presentation



Town of Lake Park Solid Waste Utility

Follow-Up Meeting on the 2023 Solid Waste Rate Study Public Works Department June 8, 2023









Please Scan to View this Presentation on your Device.



Follow-Up Meeting Agenda

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Project Team

- Members of the Town Commission
- John D'Agostino Town Manager
- Roberto Travieso Public Works Director
- Jeff Duvall Finance Director
- **Dwayne Bell** Public Works Operations Manager
- Fensely Wisdom and Jackie Harris Sanitation Foremen
- Murray Hamilton Vice President, Raftelis
- Shawn Ocasio Manager, Raftelis



Solid Waste Utility – Background

- Collects solid waste from residential and commercial properties
- First line of defense for the health of the community
- Protects the environment, avoids air/water contamination, and recovers materials through recycling processes





Solid Waste Utility – Background

- 2021/2022 Mixed-Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Production:
 - > 30.6-Million pounds of garbage
 - > 8.9 Million pounds of bulky trash/vegetation debris
 - > 2.3 Million pounds of recyclable materials





Solid Waste Utility – Background



- Provides a variety of educational opportunities during public outreach events
- Provides Roll-off disposal services through franchise agreements with three (3) haulers
- Partners with national, regional and local public/private organizations for continuous process improvement



Solid Waste Utility – Background

Where does your trash go?

- All solid waste and vegetation debris is transported to Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority's (SWA) North County Transfer Station
- Recyclable materials are sorted, packaged and commercialized
- Solid waste is incinerated to generate electrical energy; leftover materials are neutralized stored underground.





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- > Supervisors (2)
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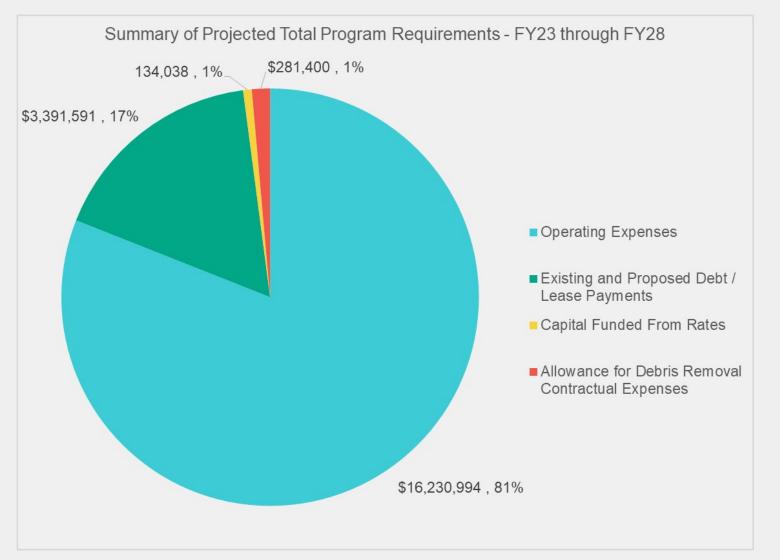
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- Competition: long lead times for materials, supplies, equipment and vehicles
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Authorization

- The Solid Waste Utility has almost exhausted its reserves
 - Unappropriated reserve fund balance at the end of FY23 is estimated to be less than \$265,000
- On January 18, 2023, the Town Commission engaged Raftelis to prepare a Solid Waste Utility Rate Analysis







Study Objectives

- Develop a funding strategy to pay for Solid Waste Utility operations, maintenance and vehicle replacement needs
 - Emphasis on improving the fleet replacement schedule to provide higher service reliability, reduce costs related to service interruptions, and reduce maintenance expenses
 - Proposed strategy may also result in higher auction values at the time of resale which may be reinvested in the system
- Estimate revenue requirements to be recovered from solid waste rates
- Identify the need for future rate adjustments



Study Tasks

Prepare a financial forecast
 > Fiscal years 2023 through 2028

- Develop projections of:
 - Disposal requirements and revenues
 - > Operating expenses
 - > Fleet replacement program & funding
 - > Cash reserve requirements
 - > Adequacy of revenues at existing rates

Discussion Topics

Major Study Assumptions

Revenues and Expenses

Capital Leases and Minor Equipment

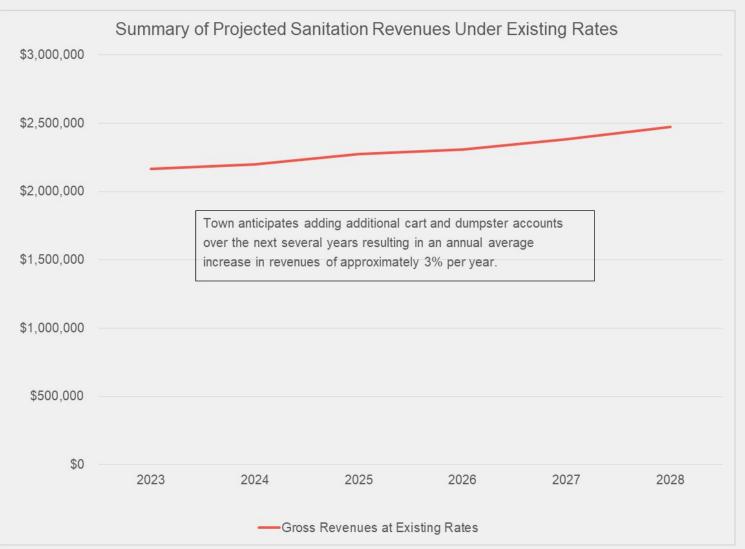
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Projected Operating Expenses

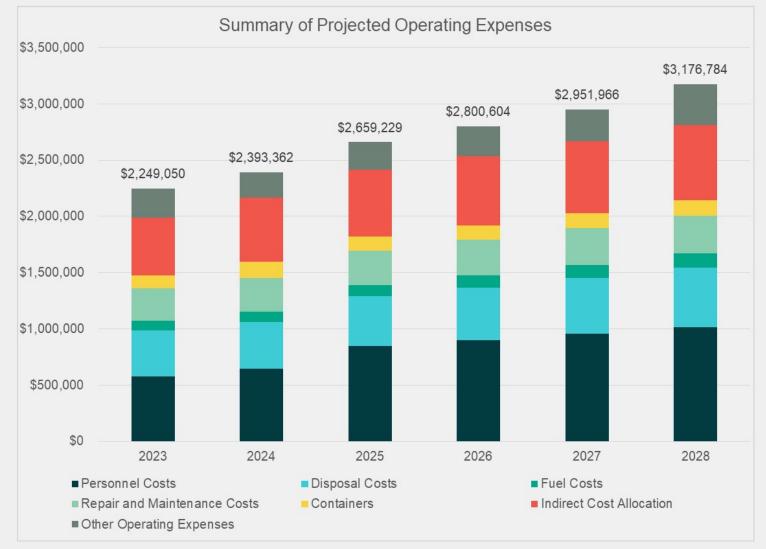
- Based on the adopted FY23 budget of \$2.2 million [*]
 - Adjustment made to disposal costs based on an estimated increase in the tonnage for 2023 of +\$92K
 - > Adjustment for operating and revenue contingencies of \$27K
- (1) Additional Sanitation Truck Operator II to be hired in FY25
 - New operator required to support future customers connecting to the system based on planned development projects
- (1) Additional Solid Waste Code Officer to be hired in FY25
- Projections include costs associated with fleet repairs and maintenance over the study period

^[*] Excludes capital outlay, capital lease installments, and loan payments to General Fund.[K] Thousands



Projected Operating Expenses (cont.)

- Budgeted expenses beyond FY23 were increased based on estimated inflationary allowances as follows:
 - Labor: 11% (FY24); then
 4% per year
 - Health & Liability
 Insurance: 15% per year
 - Fuel & Utilities: 5% per year
 - General Inflation: 3% per year



Vehicle Replacements & Minor Equipment

- Total vehicle replacement / capital program of \$4.0 million
 - > Replacement of 10 trucks \$3.9 million (proposed capital leases)
 - 3 Front end loader trucks
 - 3 Side loader trucks
 - 3 Grapple trucks
 - 1 Rear loader trucks
 - > Other capital outlay \$0.1 million (rate funded)
 - Minor equipment and machinery



Proposed Vehicle Replacement Timeline



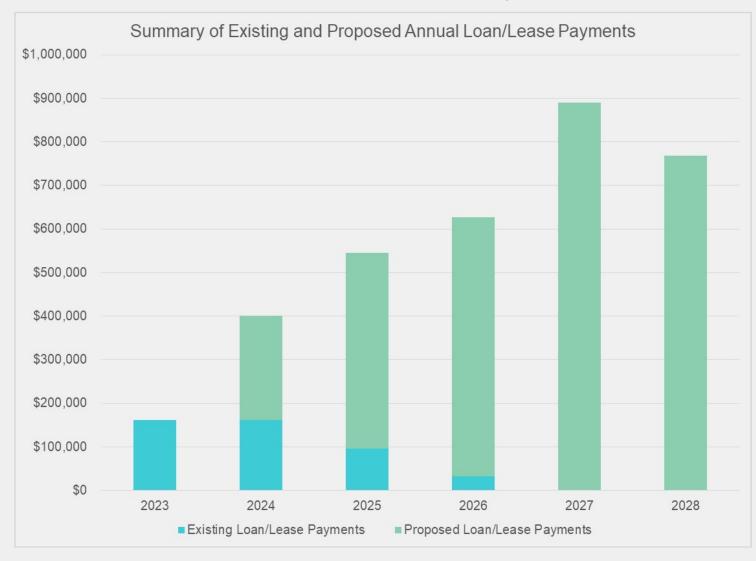


Projected Loans & Lease Payments

- Existing annual loan and lease payments of \$161,000 in FY23 decreasing to \$0 by FY26
 - > Existing Side Loader lease of \$65,000 ends in FY24
 - > Existing Mack MD7 Grapple Truck lease of \$65,000 ends in FY25
 - > General Fund Loan of \$31,000 ends in FY26
- Proposed annual capital lease payments starting in FY24 at \$239,000 and increasing to \$768,000 by FY28
 - > All proposed capital leases assume 4-year payback term and interest rate between 5.99% - 6.75%



Projected Loan & Lease Payments (cont.)



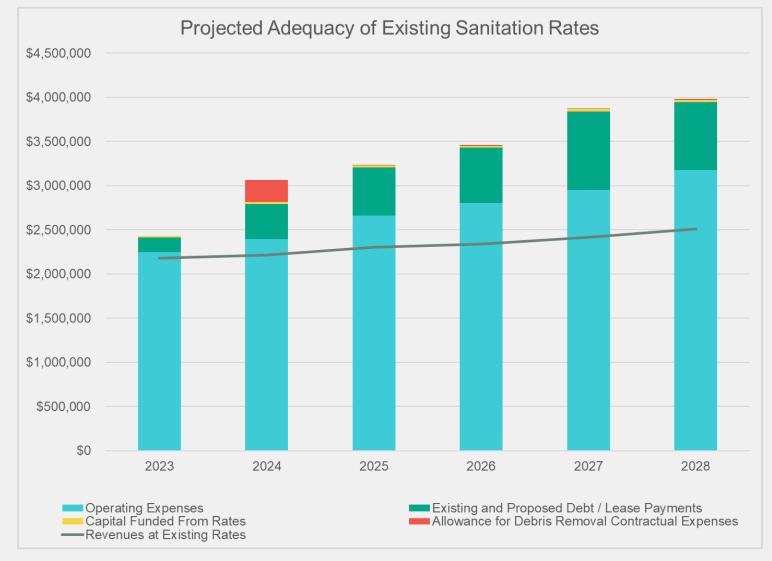


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