



2026 Operating Budget

February 25, 2026

Brandon Ferguson

Director of Finance/Treasurer



2026 Operating Budget

Process

The operating budget encompasses the City's normal operating expenses and revenues associated with the day-to-day provision of services.



- Alignment with Budget **policy** framework and **Council guidelines**
- Maintain Council guided process and **Strong Mayor legislation**
- Expiries; Council Amendment **Feb 27**, Mayor Veto **Mar 9**, Council Override **Mar 24**



2026 Operating Budget



2026 Budget - Survey #1

(May 13 to June 6)

• Respondents: **705**

Increase

- Doctor Recruitment
- Long-term Care
- Roads & Sidewalks

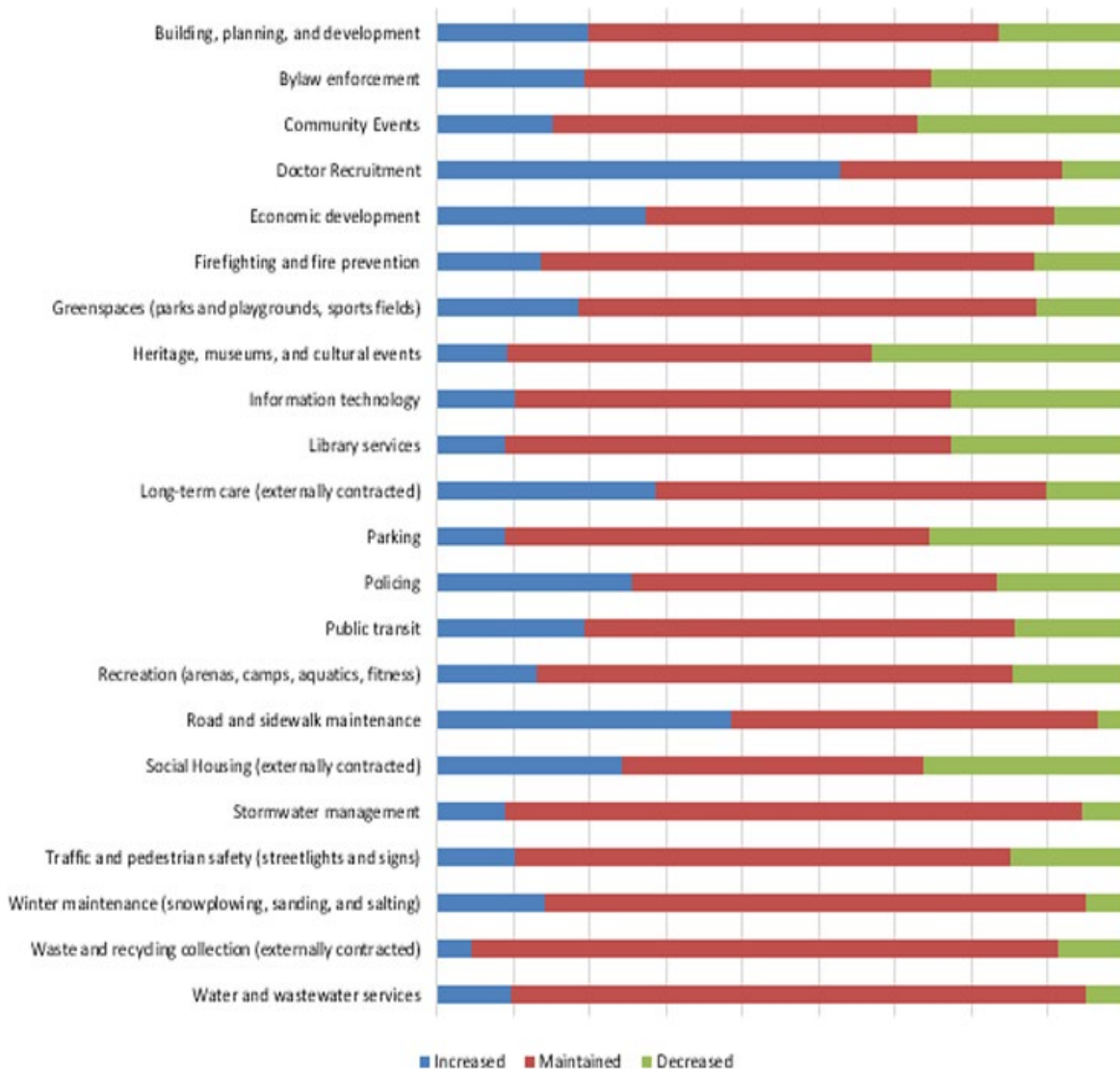
Decrease

- Heritage, Museum, Cultural
- Parking
- Community Events

Taxes – Maintain/Reduce

User Fees – Increase

(less receptive to bag tags)





Operating Budget Objectives

2026 Operating Budget Council Guidelines (August 25th Council Meeting)

1. Residential property tax rate increases not to exceed 5%, excluding any tax rate increases generated from the 2024 Fire Master Plan phase-in approved by Council;
2. Service areas prioritized through public input received;
3. Prioritize initiatives aligned to Strategic Plan, Departmental Operating Plans, Legislative Compliance, Health & Safety, and Maintenance of Service Levels. Enhancement of Service Levels align with public input;
4. Moderate increase in tax funded Capital contributions aligned with the 2025 Asset Management Plan.



Operating Budget Objectives

Community Engagement - Community Priorities



Primary Care Recruitment

\$1.285 million available for recruitment/retention



Additional recruitment funding in 2025-2026



Long-term Care (Hastings County)

11.69% estimated budget increase
Increased care per resident



Museum Community Events

Efforts to reduce reliance on taxation



Roads / Sidewalk

Enhanced investment in infrastructure



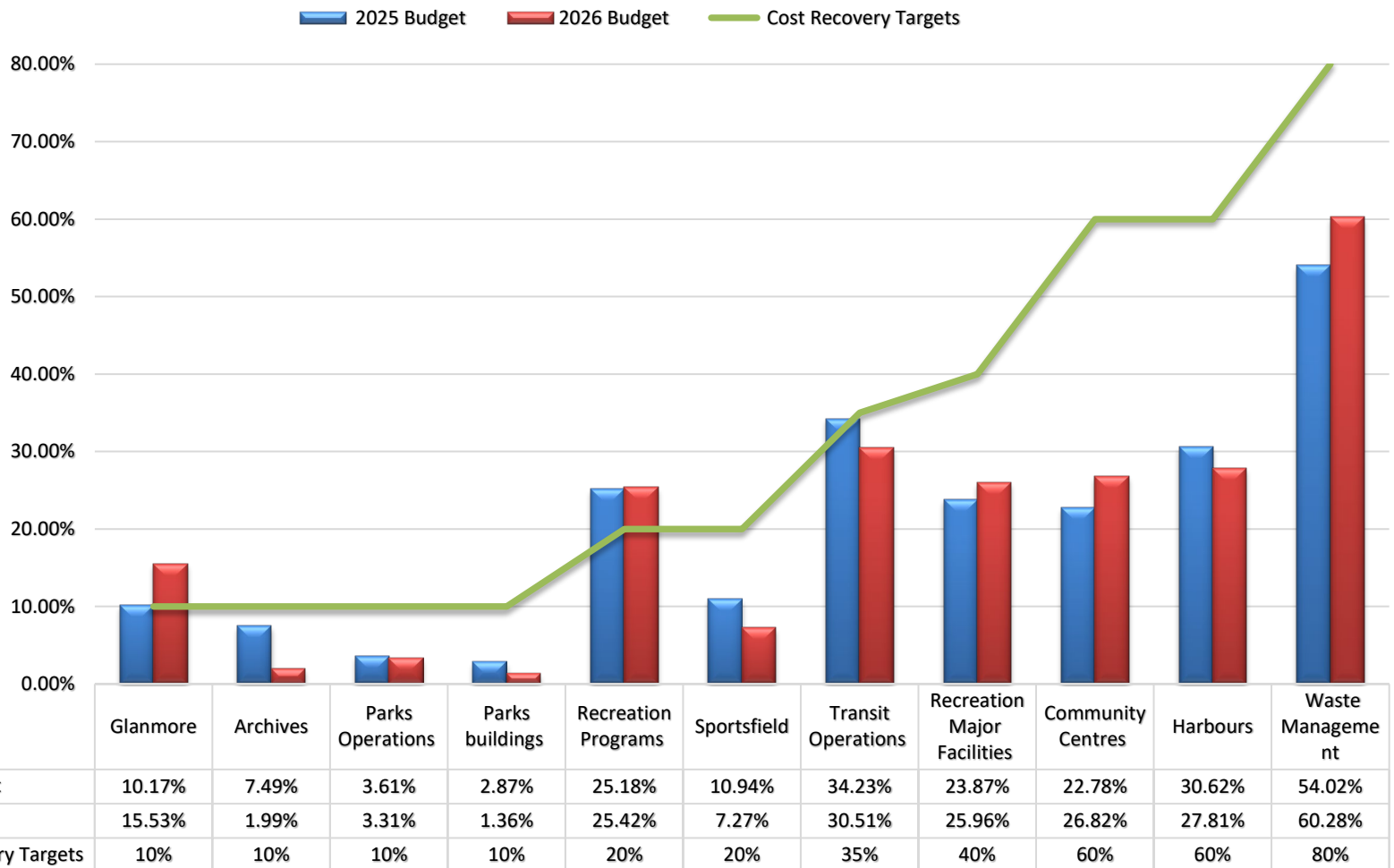
Affordability

Low-income rebate programs enhanced



Operating Budget Objectives

User Funded Tax Services – Cost Recovery Rates



*Note: Waste management cost recovery rate has been assumed based on historic levels, no formal cost recovery ratio has been identified / approved by Council. Costs inclusive of full waste management portfolio



2026 Operating Budget

Operating Budget Survey Feedback *(Jan. 29 to Feb.18)*

- **Number of respondents:** 312
- Questions focusing on proposed 2026 Operating budget feedback for consideration in final decision making and areas for improvement

Feedback Highlighted:

\$ Affordability concerns



Policing costs



Service level sensitivity



Information

Areas where would like to see additional information;

- **More information on Police and Fire**
- **Policing cost comparisons**
- **Service level differences (Area Rating)**
- **Compensation**





2026 Operating Budget

	Proposed 2026	Approved 2025	% Change 2026-2025
City Operating	\$ 230,273,000	\$ 222,550,800	3.47%
Education Taxes	20,408,500	20,155,300	1.26%
Total	\$ 250,681,500	\$ 242,706,100	3.29%
<hr/>			
Tax Supported	\$ 187,581,700	\$ 183,884,400	2.01%
User Rate Supported		-	
Water	21,721,200	19,693,100	10.30%
Wastewater	19,826,400	18,113,300	9.46%
Parking	1,143,700	860,000	32.99%
	\$ 42,691,300	\$ 38,666,400	10.41%
City Operating	\$ 230,273,000	\$ 222,550,800	3.47%



2026 Operating Budget

Tax Funded Budget

- **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**
- **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**
- **ENGINEERING**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**
- **TRANSPORTATION & OPERATIONAL SERVICES**
- **PROTECTIVE SERVICES**
- **RECREATION & CULTURAL**
- **HEALTH SERVICES** (*External Agency*)
- **SOCIAL & FAMILY SERVICES** (*External Agency*)

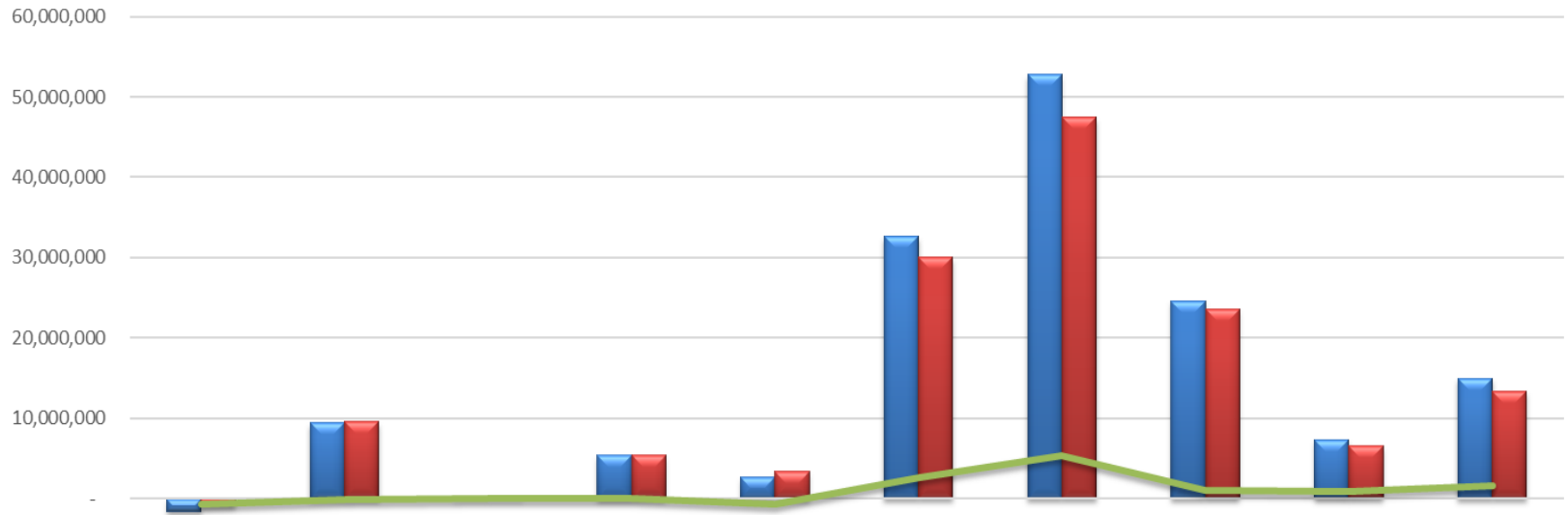


2026 Operating Budget – Taxation

	Proposed 2026	Approved 2025	% Change 2026-2025
Total Tax Supported Expenditures	\$ 187,581,700	\$ 183,884,400	2.01%
Less: Other Revenue Sources			
<u>Departmental Revenue</u>			
User Fees & Charges	16,645,400	15,264,000	9.05%
Automated Speed Enforcement	-	2,465,500	-100.00%
Admin Reserve Funding - DC Exemption	1,597,100	2,208,500	-27.68%
Transfers from Reserve - other	8,183,900	10,365,800	-21.05%
Municipal Accommodation Tax	1,100,000	1,100,000	0.00%
Development Charge funding	1,525,500	1,853,600	-17.70%
Elexicon Funding	-	1,113,000	-100.00%
The Bridge - Health Canada funding	2,641,000	3,500,000	-24.54%
Conditional Grants	6,221,600	6,887,200	-9.66%
	\$ 37,914,500	\$ 44,757,600	-15.29%
Other Taxation	\$ 661,900	\$ 188,500	251.14%
Other Revenue	930,000	730,000	27.40%
	\$ 39,506,400	\$ 45,676,100	-13.51%
Property Tax Funding Required	\$ 148,075,300	\$ 138,208,300	7.14%



2026 Operating Budget – Taxation



	Other Revenue/Taxation	General Government	Contribution to Capital	Engineering, Planning & Development	Environmental Services	Transportation & Operational Services	Protective Services	Recreation & Cultural	Health Services	Social & Family Services
2026 Tax Levy Proposed	(1,590,500)	9,369,100	-	5,341,100	2,658,000	32,587,000	52,786,900	24,620,800	7,322,200	14,980,700
2025 Restated Tax Levy	(918,500)	9,559,300	-	5,334,200	3,319,600	29,987,800	47,432,700	23,596,300	6,519,300	13,377,600
Increase (decrease)	(672,000)	(190,200)	-	6,900	(661,600)	2,599,200	5,354,200	1,024,500	802,900	1,603,100

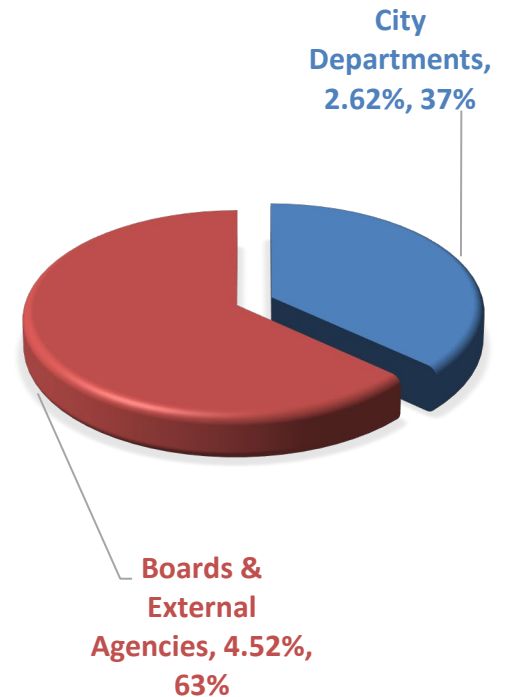
Operations	(1,590,500)	8,790,000		4,308,100	2,278,600	16,923,600	49,365,200	17,027,500	7,322,200	14,980,700
Capital Financing	-	579,100		1,033,000	379,400	15,663,400	3,421,700	7,593,300	-	-
2026 Tax Levy Proposed	(1,590,500)	9,369,100		5,341,100	2,658,000	32,587,000	52,786,900	24,620,800	7,322,200	14,980,700



2026 Operating Budget – Taxation

2026 Tax Levy Increase

Issues Summary Category	Description	\$ increase (decrease) in Tax Levy	% increase (decrease) in Tax Levy
B1-1	Pre-approved budget items	3,385,000	2.45%
B1-2	Contractual Service Agreements	303,800	0.22%
B1-3	Capital Financing	1,387,700	1.00%
B1-4	Operating Revenue / Costs	(1,499,500)	-1.08%
B1-5	Annualized Prior Year Issues	663,000	0.48%
D4	Legislative / Health & Safety	1,545,600	1.12%
D5	Maintain Existing Service Levels	-	0.00%
D6	Enhance Existing Service Levels	-	0.00%
D7	Tax Relief Measures	(2,168,100)	-1.57%
Total City Departments		\$ 3,617,500	2.62%
D1	City Boards - Library	69,500	0.05%
D1	City Boards – Police Services	4,531,200	3.28%
D2	External - Special Purpose Bodies	57,900	0.04%
D3	External - Provincially Mandated	1,590,900	1.15%
Total Boards & External Agencies		\$ 6,249,500	4.52%
Proposed Increase in Tax Levy		\$ 9,867,000	7.14%





2026 Operating Budget – Taxation

Billing Tables & Services

Table 1 Urban Belleville	Table 2 Urban Cannifton	Table 3 Rural Cannifton	Table 4 Rural Belleville	Table 5 Rural to Urban Cannifton
<i>Core</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Core</i>
Urban Police	Urban Police	Urban Police	Rural Police	Urban Police
Urban Fire	Urban Fire	Rural Fire	Rural Fire	Urban/Rural Fire
Transit				
Streetlighting	Streetlighting	Streetlighting		Streetlighting

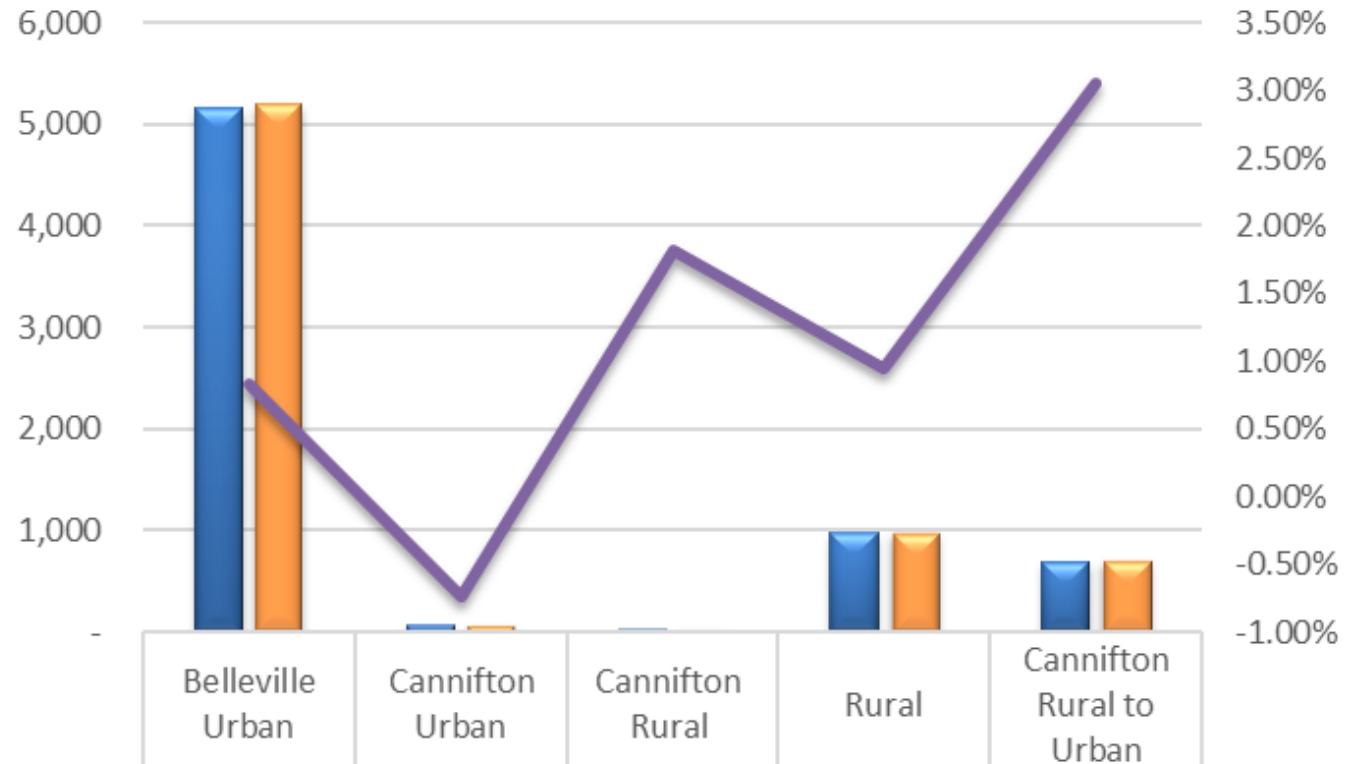
Urban Fire
Transition
Year 2




[Tax Billing Table Map](#) and [Fire Master Plan impacts and transition](#)
information available on the City's website



Property Assessment

Assessment Growth by Area



 2025 Assessment (\$M)	5,168	77	30	971	696
 2026 Assessment (\$M)	5,211	77	31	980	718
 % Change in Assessment (%)	0.83%	-0.74%	1.81%	0.95%	3.05%



2026 Operating Budget – Taxation

Tax Class	2026 Taxation	Belleville Urban	Cannifton Urban	Cannifton Rural	Belleville Rural	Cannifton Rural to Urban	% by Class
Residential	80,842,955	58,207,410	817,797	277,636	10,594,591	10,945,521	54.60%
Commercial	47,443,788	43,532,452	894,744	341,126	754,744	1,920,722	32.04%
Industrial	8,018,791	7,104,898	105,321	101,391	465,902	241,279	5.42%
Multi- Residential	10,908,503	10,836,204	-	-	48,017	24,282	7.37%
Pipe	504,273	234,453	-	-	269,820	-	0.34%
Farm	356,990	27,119	1,227	2,120	323,887	2,637	0.24%
Total	148,075,300	119,942,536	1,819,089	722,273	12,456,961	13,134,441	
% by Billing Table		81.00%	1.23%	0.49%	8.41%	8.87%	



Operating Budget – Tax Impact

2026 Residential Tax Increase

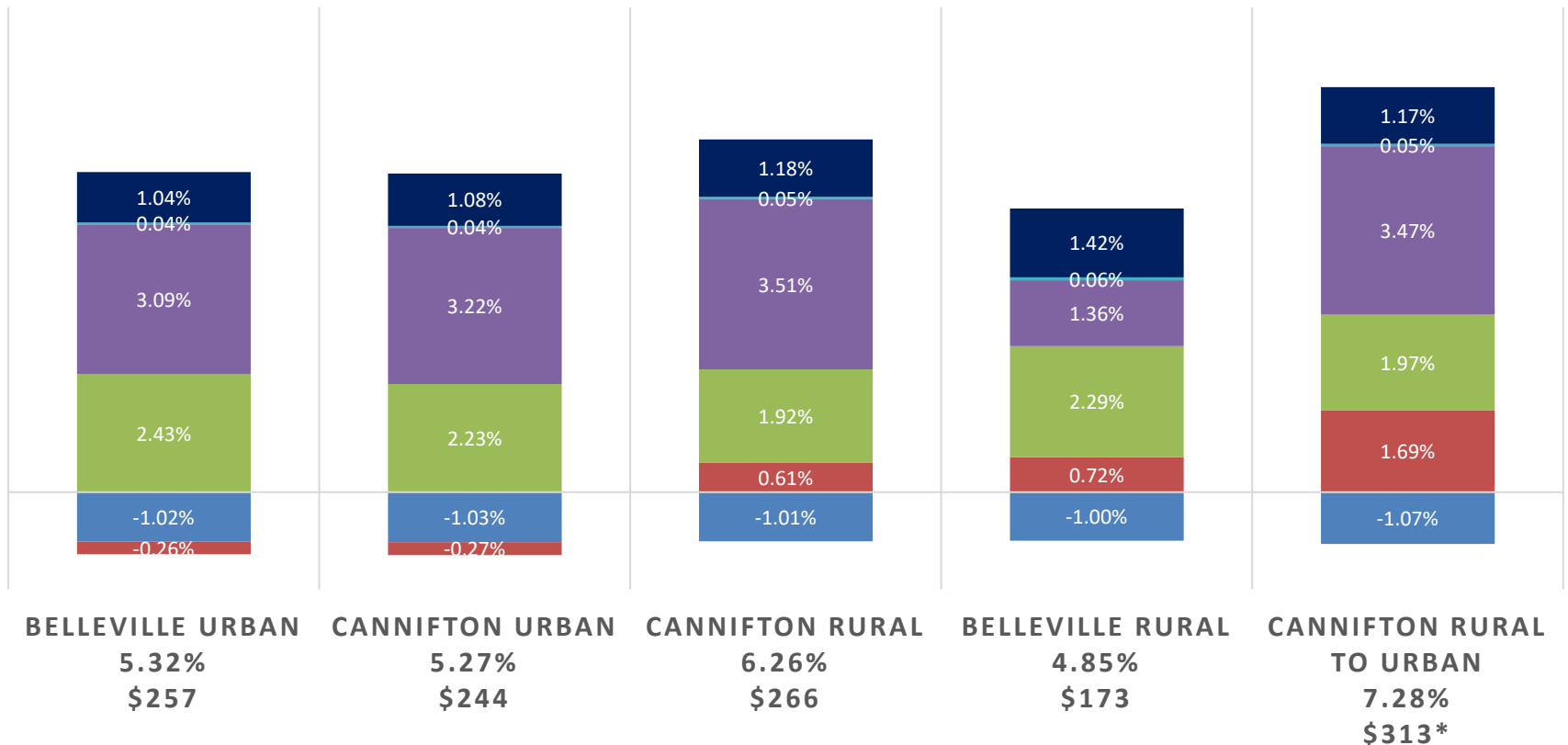
Residential Tax Increase (Assessment \$250,000)	Belleville Urban	Cannifton Urban	Cannifton Rural	Belleville Rural	Cannifton Rural to Urban
<i>2025 Total taxes (incl Education)</i>	4,829.49	4,631.08	4,244.82	3,573.60	4,291.56
<i>2026 Total taxes (incl Education)</i>	5,086.35	4,875.29	4,510.38	3,746.89	4,604.02
<i>Annual increase</i>	256.86	244.21	265.56	173.29	312.46
<i>per month</i>	21.41	20.35	22.13	14.44	26.04
<i>per day</i>	0.70	0.67	0.73	0.47	0.86
Total Tax % increase	5.32%	5.27%	6.26%	4.85%	7.28%
<i>Fire Master Plan impact adjustment</i>	-0.26%	-0.27%	0.61%	0.72%	1.69%
Guideline Tax % Increase (Under 5%)	5.57%	5.54%	5.65%	4.13%	5.59%



Operating Budget – Tax Impact

2026 Residential Tax Increase

- Assessment Growth
- Fire Master Plan Transition
- City Departments
- City Board - Belleville Police
- City Board - Belleville Library
- External Agencies



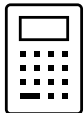
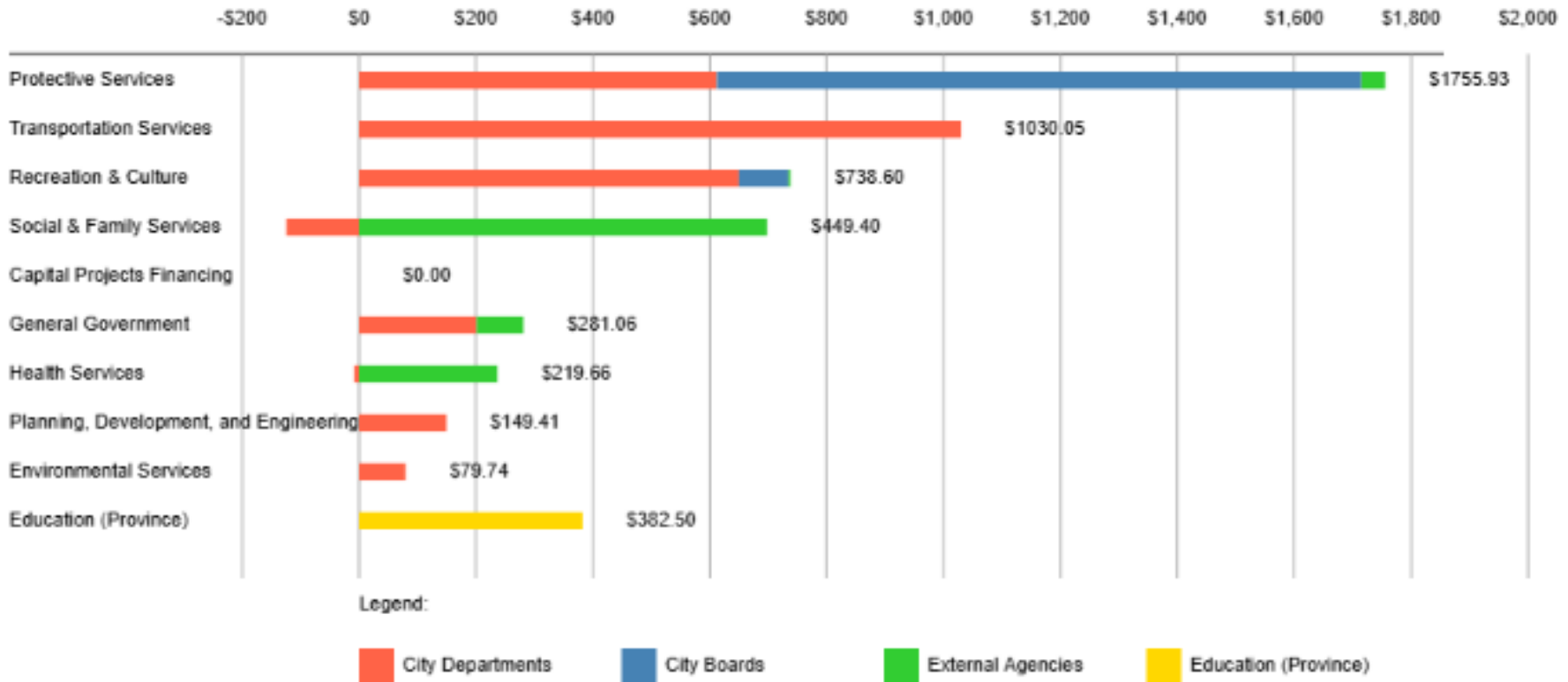
Annual increase (\$) Based on \$250,000 residential assessment

*2026 is year 2 of the Fire Master Plan implementation, resulting in a shift from rural to urban fire tax tables.



Operating Budget – Tax Impact

2026 Residential Tax Increase Belleville Urban



Visit the [tax rate calculator](#) to get a full breakdown on where your taxes go



2026 Operating Budget

User Rate Funded Areas

- **Water**
- **Wastewater**
- **Parking**



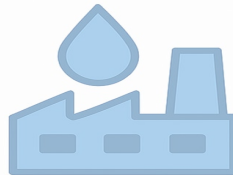
2026 Operating Budget - User Rate

Water Budget

	<i>% of Total Budget</i>	Proposed 2026	Approved 2025	% Change 2026-2025
Water Revenue				
Water Sales	50.90%	11,055,400	10,674,400	3.57%
Fixed Charges	33.86%	7,354,900	6,901,900	6.56%
Customer Fees	0.46%	100,000	74,600	34.05%
Other Revenue	14.78%	3,210,900	2,042,200	57.23%
Total Water Revenue	100.00%	21,721,200	19,693,100	10.30%
-				
Water Expenditures				
Water Treatment	18.86%	\$ 4,097,700	\$ 3,911,200	4.77%
Water Distribution	16.10%	3,497,500	3,250,100	7.61%
Customer Service / Administration	8.92%	1,936,900	1,926,000	0.57%
Meter Reading	0.84%	182,100	151,000	20.60%
Capital Financing	55.28%	12,007,000	10,454,800	14.85%
Total Water Expenditures	100.00%	21,721,200	19,693,100	10.30%



Water Rebates



Capital Investment



Rate Adjustments



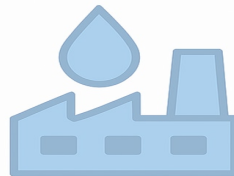
2026 Operating Budget - User Rate

Wastewater Budget

	<i>% of Total Budget</i>	Proposed 2026	Approved 2025	% Change 2026-2025
Wastewater Revenue				
Metered	93.43%	18,523,200	16,381,000	13.08%
Development Charges	0.57%	113,300	113,300	0.00%
Transfer from reserve	5.44%	1,078,200	1,423,200	-24.24%
Other	0.56%	111,700	195,800	-42.95%
Total Wastewater Revenue	100.00%	19,826,400	18,113,300	9.46%
		-	-	
Wastewater Expenditures				
Collection (incl Work Orders)	8.03%	1,591,800	1,668,800	-4.61%
Pumping Stations	1.78%	352,700	356,600	-1.09%
Treatment (incl Grinder Pumps)	19.99%	3,963,100	3,901,100	1.59%
Administration	22.50%	4,461,300	4,598,700	-2.99%
Transfer to Capital	47.70%	9,457,500	7,588,100	24.64%
Total Wastewater Expenditures	100.00%	19,826,400	18,113,300	9.46%



Wastewater
Rebates



Capital
Investment



Development
Charge Fee
Waivers



2026 Operating Budget - User Rate

Parking Budget

	<i>% of Total Budget</i>	Proposed 2026	Approved 2025	% Change 2026-2025
Parking Revenue				
Meters	31.98%	365,800	300,000	21.93%
Permits	28.21%	322,600	216,000	49.35%
Fines & Violations	39.81%	455,300	344,000	32.35%
Total Parking Revenue	100.00%	1,143,700	860,000	32.99%
-				
Parking Expenditures				
Lots & Maintenance	23.36%	267,100	225,200	18.61%
Enforcement	23.91%	273,500	221,000	23.76%
Financing (Debt)	6.02%	68,900	68,900	0.00%
Operations	36.55%	418,000	341,900	22.26%
Contribution to Reserve	10.16%	116,200	3,000	3773.33%
Total Parking Expenditures	100.00%	1,143,700	860,000	32.99%



Parking Rate Study



Capital Investment



2 Hour Free Parking



2026 Departmental Plans

Departmental Operating Plans

- Reporting added to Budget and Financial controls policy in 2023
- **Plans provide**
 - Corporate and departmental overviews
 - Budget and financial performance review
 - Past accomplishments and 2026 initiatives
 - Strategic objectives and operational goals
 - Performance reporting and KPIs
- **Enhancements in 2026**
 - External agency and one-page quick reference [operating summaries](#)
 - Additional [Key Performance Indicators \(KPIs\)](#), and dashboard update





Closing Remarks

Property Tax billing;

- Tax bylaws will be forwarded to the April 13th Council meeting
- Property Tax bills will be mailed out the week of May 25th;
- Tax Instalments will be due on June 26th and September 28th

Re-assessment

originally scheduled for January 1, 2020, Still awaiting direction from the Province

Revenue Sources

Continued review of revenue sources (user fees, grants) to balance affordability and cost recovery targets

Economic Uncertainty

local economy and tariff impacts

Asset Management Plan

Continued Capital Plan and asset maturity development

Departmental Plan

Key Performance Indicator, Community engagement, and External agency enhancements