

## **CAPITAL BUDGET TRANSMITTAL MESSAGE**

February 12, 2022

Presented herein is the Planning Board's recommended Capital Budget for FY 2022-2023 totaling **\$46,315,480**.

While the Planning Board is cognizant of the fiscal constraints set by the Administration and the Board of Finance, the Planning Board believes our primary role is planning for the capital needs of the City and attached hereto is the recommended Capital Plan for FY 2023-2029 for the City of Stamford in which to adequately address the City's needs.

<b>Tiers</b>			
<b>Tier</b>	<b>GO Bonds</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Planning</b>
1	31,517,880	5,825,600	37,343,480
2	5,569,500	-	5,569,500
3	3,402,500	-	3,402,500
4			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$40,489,880</b>	<b>\$5,825,600</b>	<b>\$46,315,480</b>

The Stamford Charter sets the ground rules and timing for formulation and adoption of the Capital Budget: a process that is initiated in September when the Planning Board sets up its departmental review calendar and ends in May when the Board of Representatives gives final approval of the Capital Budget. In September, the Planning Board, along with the Director of Office of Policy & Management (OPM), sent out guidelines to City Department Heads and Outside Agencies on how to prepare their Capital Plans. Included in the guidelines were Capital Planning Policies that stressed the continuation of "Site Specific Project Information"; unbundled project submissions; existing project balances and department and outside agency project prioritization. During four joint public meetings, the Planning Board and members of the Board of Representatives (NOTE: The Board of Finance was also invited but declined to participate), along with OPM staff, heard requests from each Department and Outside Agency and reemphasized the Capital Planning Policies, as well as the fiscal restraints of \$40 million Safe Debt Limit. The Planning Board's assumptions were that: (a) approximately \$34 million for all projects the City was anticipating for FY 2022-2023; (b) approximately \$6 million for the City's new accounting system.

As per Section C8-20-5 of the City Charter, the Planning Board held a Public Hearing on the Planning Board's Draft Capital Budget on **Tuesday, January 11, 2022** where residents came and addressed a number of issues for the Planning Board's consideration. The Planning Board took in all these suggestions and used them to guide the final decisions of what to include in this Final Planning Board Capital Budget submission for FY 2022-2023 and Capital Plan FY 2023-2029. It is the Planning Board's opinion the guidelines and joint public meetings have resulted in improved capital planning, and better project prioritization; however, it is also clear to the Planning Board that the City's backlog of infrastructure needs far exceeds capital funds into the foreseeable future.

In addition to establishing the rules and timing for formulation and adoption of the Capital Budget, the Stamford Charter also establishes a process for the referral and review of individual public works proposals that comprise the Capital Budget. In accordance with these procedures, the projects described herein represent the Planning Board's recommended Capital Budget FY 2022-2023, and along with this Budget Transmittal Message, constitute the Planning Board's report called for by Section C6-30-13 of the Stamford Charter.

This recommended Capital Budget was developed by thoroughly reviewing each department's / agencies' requested project(s), using the following **Project Review Criteria:**

- a. What are the department's or agencies' highest priorities?
- b. Does the project reflect the short and long term planning goals of the City of Stamford?
- c. Can the project be completed in one year or is it a multi-year project?
- d. Is it legally mandated?
- e. Will the project make money or save money for the City?
- f. Does the project include grants (Federal, State or private), or rebates?
- g. What level of funding was provided in previous years, and what is the current balance?

The Planning Board has carefully examined projects focusing only on the 2022-2023 fiscal year and considers the Capital Plan FY 2023-2029 to only serve as a benchmark in place for that time period.

**Criteria for Tiers:** After using the Project Review Criteria outlined above, the Planning Board placed all of its Capital Budget FY 2022-2023 requests into four (4) Tiers, based on the following criteria:

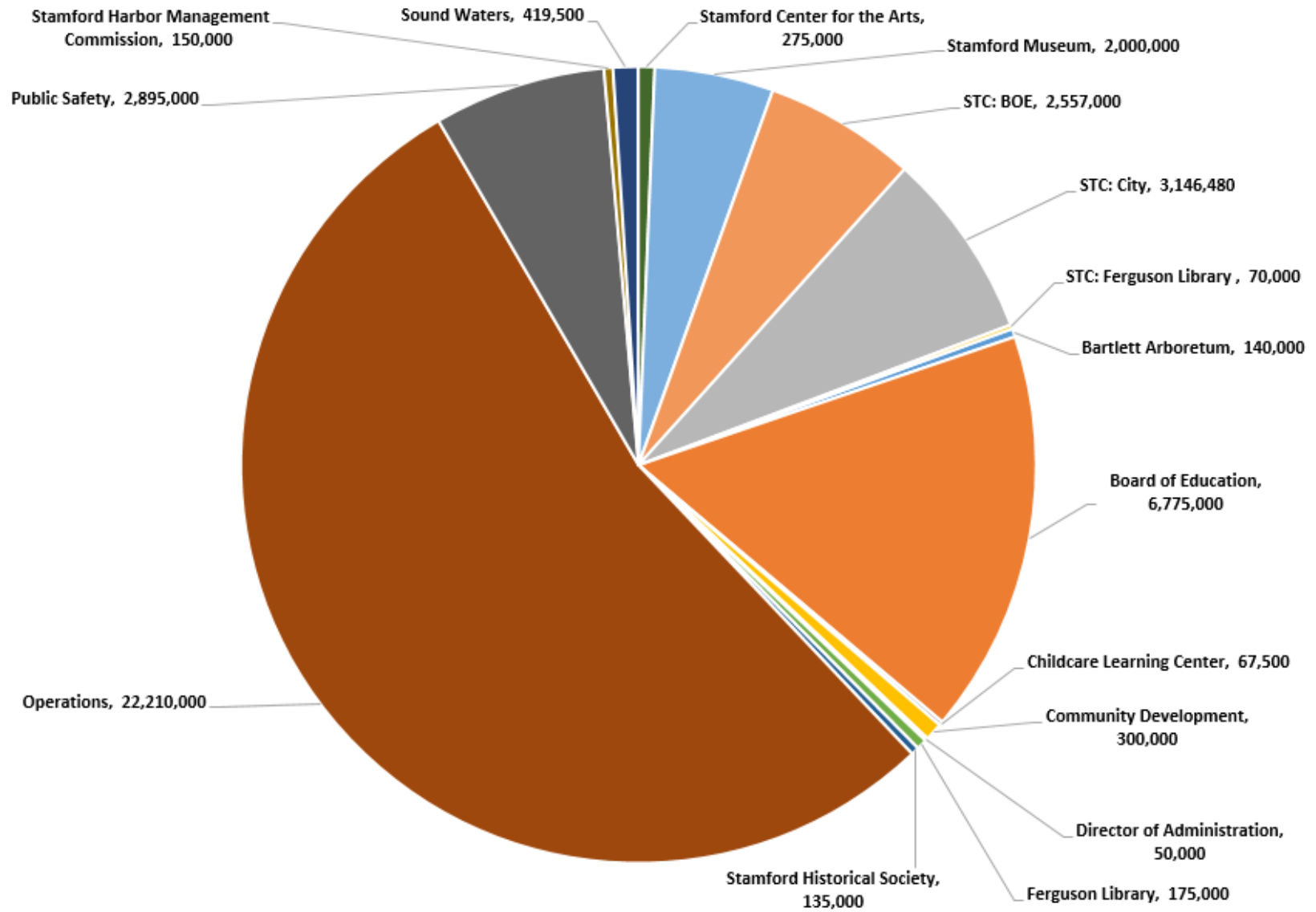
**Tier 1:** The Planning Board recommends the City needs to include these projects in its Capital Budget FY 2022-2023 to protect the public health, safety and welfare, or if it is a high priority project that excludes grants. You will also find that the majority of the Board of Education and Operations projects recommended by the Planning Board focuses on infrastructure as the Planning Board continues to recognize the need for infrastructure upgrades. The Planning Board also recommends the Animal Shelter as an important project that should move forward. The Planning Board recommends \$31,517,880.

**Tier 2:** The Planning Board recommends these projects as important to include in its FY 2022-2023 Capital Budget, but given the fiscal constraints on the City, the Mayor needs to review and decide whether to include these projects in this year's Capital Budget, and at what level. The Planning Board would like the Mayor to pay extra attention to the Stamford Museum Observatory as we feel the project would benefit the Stamford Community and its children. The Planning Board recommends \$5,569,500 of the projects to be placed in Tier 2.

**Tier 3:** ARP Related Projects. Following the City's guideline, Projects that are HVAC and Storm related qualify for ARP Funds. The Planning Board recommends \$3,402,500.

**Tier 4:** Due to the City's capital budget constraints, the Planning Board decided not to fund these projects during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

# Planning Board FY 2022/2023 Capital Budget



**Total \$ 46,315,480**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD**

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