

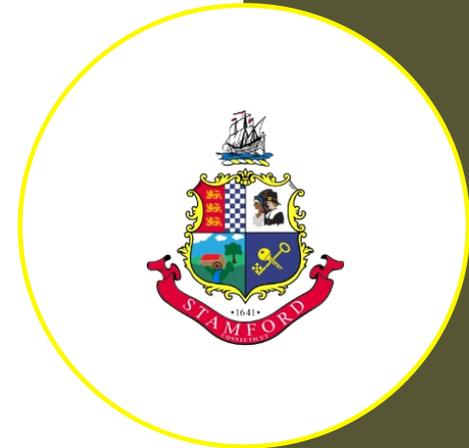


March 6, 2024
Mayor Caroline Simmons
City of Stamford
FY 24-25 Budget
Presentation



Agenda

1. Administration's Vision
2. Economic Outlook
3. Budget Priorities
4. Operating Budget
5. Capital Budget
6. State & Federal Funding
7. Conclusion



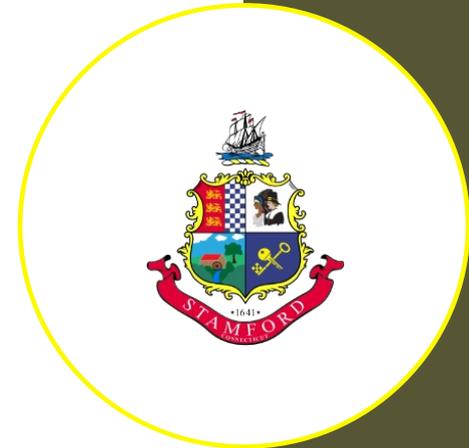
Administration's Vision

Vision for the City of Stamford:

Continuing to build a more inclusive, equitable, vibrant, affordable, and innovative City where everyone can thrive.

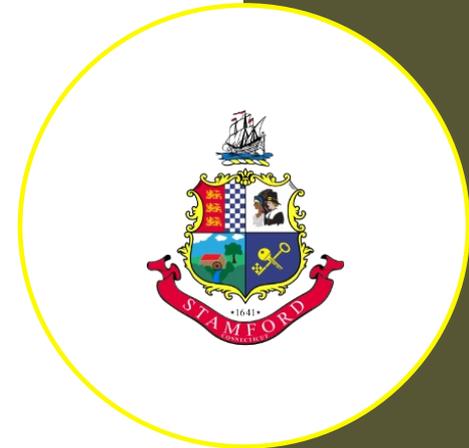
Budget Priorities:

- Investing in essential services to enhance quality of life for Stamford residents;
- Minimizing the property tax burden on residents and maintaining fiscal responsibility;
- Executing Stamford's unprecedented school building program in a fiscally responsible and transparent manner; and
- Investing in parks, roads, sidewalks, pedestrian safety, public safety, housing, and sustainability initiatives.



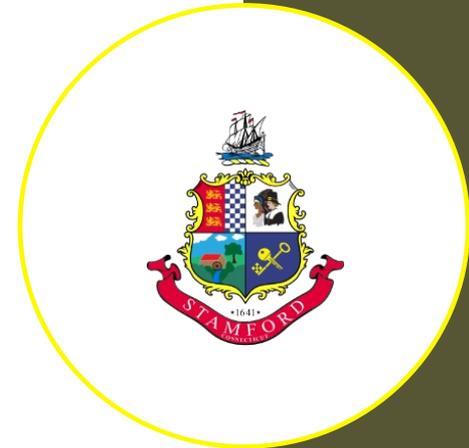
Economic Outlook

- **Population:** 135,470
- **Stamford Stats:**
 - 214th largest city in the country;
 - Safest city over 100,000 in New England;
 - 15th most diverse city for our size in the country;
 - Largest international trade center between New York and Boston;
 - Top 10% nationally for the number of corporate HQs;
 - 1.2 M visitors a year
- **Commercial Vacancy Rate:** The vacancy rate in Stamford's Central Business District (CBD) decreased to 28% in the fourth quarter of 2023, down from 34% at the end of 2022. The Non-Central Business District vacancy rate is 36%. (Source: Cushman and Wakefield).



Economic Outlook

- **Jobs: Stamford's unemployment rate remains low with strong employment nationally.** Stamford's unemployment rate is 3.9% as of Dec 2023, up from 3% a year ago; Connecticut statewide average: 3.8%; national average: 3.7%. (Source: CT DOL & Bureau of Labor Statistics) Latest jobs report showed an increase of 353,000 jobs created in the United States in January 2024. (U.S. DOL Employment Report)
- **Inflation:** As of January 2024, annual inflation is 3.1%, compared to 6.4% in January 2023 and 7.5% in January 2022. In Stamford, housing cost growth continues, with median housing sales rising by 11% to \$610,000 during 2023.
- **Interest Rates:** the Fed recently announced that it was holding interest rates steady at 5.25%-5.5%, the fifth time in the last six meetings that the Fed has left rates unchanged; the Fed expected to lower rates in 2024.



New Business Growth in 2023



Snapology



K9 Resorts



Iron Health



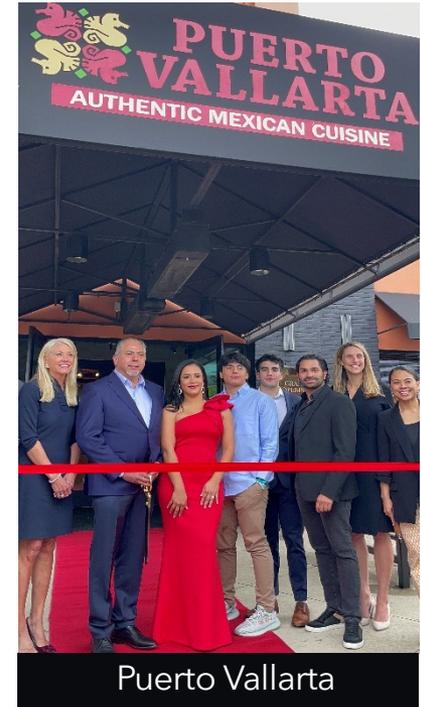
GE CoCreate



Pickleball America



Llama Lips



Puerto Vallarta

Mayor's Proposed Operating Budget: Fiscal Year 2024-2025



The total combined proposed City and BOE expense budget and contingency is **\$685.4 million**, a **5.52% increase** from last year. The average mill rate would drop by 1.1 mills to 24.14.



The proposed total City Government expense budget is **\$341.7 million**. This request represents a 5.9% increase for City government.

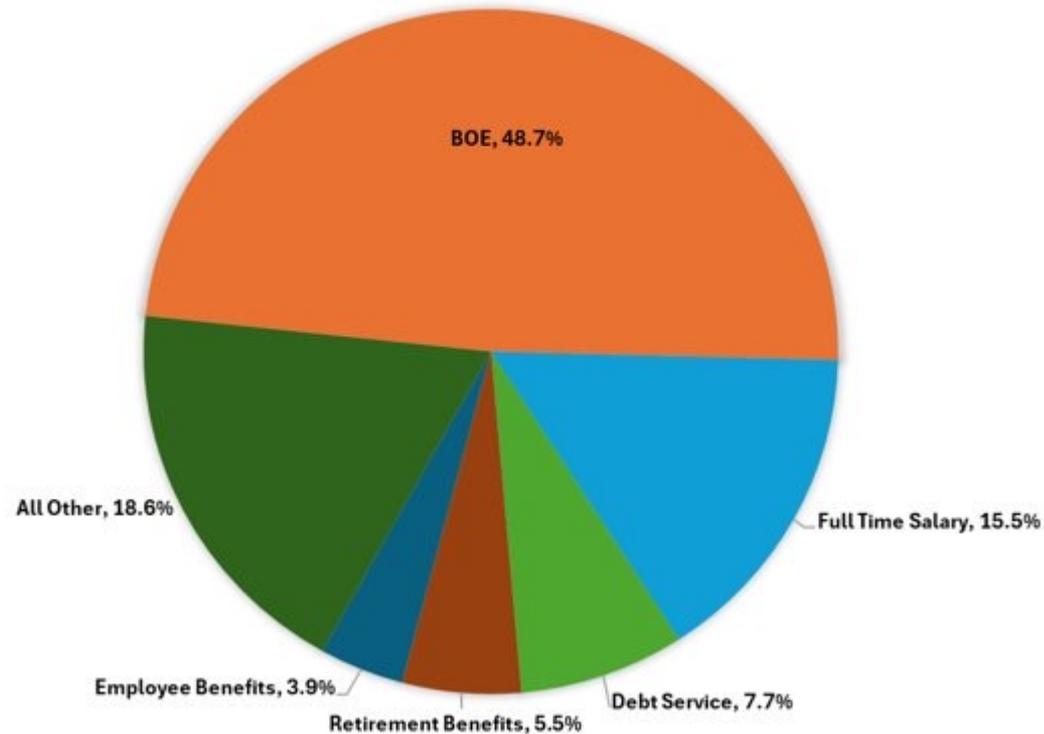


The total proposed Board of Education budget is **\$333.7 million** with an additional \$4.9M related to City support to education. This combined request represents an increase of **6.4%** from the Board of Education.



Total FY24-25 Expenses by Master Category

OPERATING BUDGET EXPENSES BY MASTER CATEGORY - FY 24/25



Budget Priorities Overview

Investing in high quality services for Stamford residents:

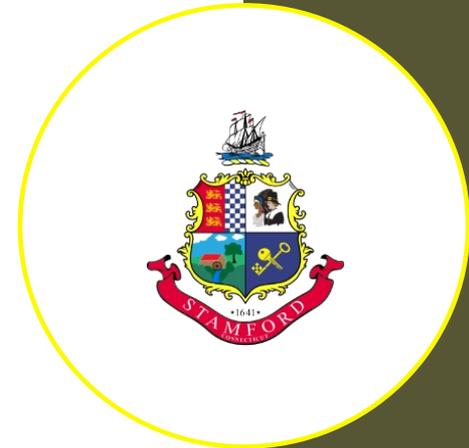
- **Schools:** Increased reserve for school construction to \$20M
- **Public Safety:** Investments in Police, Fire, EMS and 911 Call Center to meet City's growing needs
- **Parks and Sustainability:** Increased investment for parks enforcement and sustainability initiatives
- **Roads, Sidewalks, and Pedestrian Safety:** Investments in road paving, sidewalks, and pedestrian safety initiatives
- **Seniors and Veterans:** Continued expansion of senior citizen and veterans' property tax credit levels
- **Financial Reporting:** Investments in new systems to address financial reporting



Budget Priorities Overview

Fiscal Responsibility and Minimizing Tax Burden on Residents

- **Limited Major Spending Increases:** Limited discretionary City operating budget increases to mission critical positions and core public safety & operations priorities and cut Department requests by \$5M.
- **Personal Property and Motor Vehicle Rates:** Recommend holding Personal Property and Motor Vehicle Mill Rates flat to account for the 2nd year of the property revaluation phase-in.
- **Safe Debt Limit, Retirement Cost Savings & School Capital:** Reduced debt service cost by \$1M, identified cost savings in retirement benefits and continued funding for Fund 57 School Capital Reserve.
- **Responsibly Funding OPEB and Pension Obligations:** OPEB is 97.3% funded; pension plans are 84.2% funded.
 - CERF: 94.8% funded
 - Custodians: 108.2% funded
 - Fire: 77.1% funded
 - Police: 73.8% funded

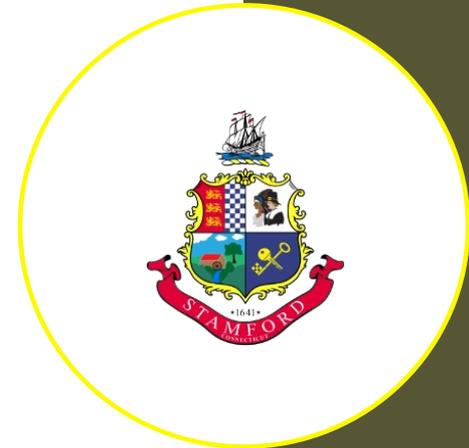


Operating Budget Expenses FY24-25

- **Expense Increases Due Primarily To:**
 - Contractual wage increases (example: settled Fire contract that expired in 2017)
 - Mandated and contractual positions in 911 and Fire Departments
 - Grants to community organizations (increase of \$1.7M to enhance financial support to agencies serving the homeless population)
 - Insurance expenses are projected to increase by 3.8%, driven by a 38% increase in property insurance premiums

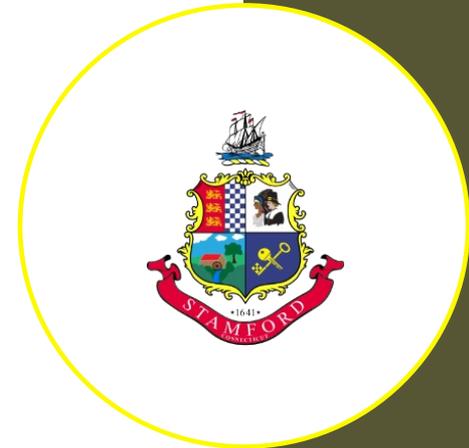
- **Debt Service Reduction:** Debt service costs are projected to decrease by \$1M, to \$52.8M.

- **Benefits:** Savings in Employee and Retiree Health benefits are achieved through expansion of the State Partnership Plan to additional groups. The SPP has saved the City \$16 million between 2019 and 2023.



Operating Budget Revenues FY24-25

- **Departmental Revenues:** Department revenues are projected to increase by 19.2%, or \$4.4M, due to higher building permit fees and bulk waste tipping fees.
- **Intergovernmental Revenue:** State revenue is projected to increase by 7.8% or \$1.8M, due to PILOT, Enterprise Zone Reimbursement, and the Vocational Agriculture Grant.
- **Revenues from the Use of Money:** Expected to increase by 100%, or \$2M, driven by the current higher interest rate environment.
- **Other Revenue:** Cannabis municipal sales tax is projected to increase to \$1.8M.

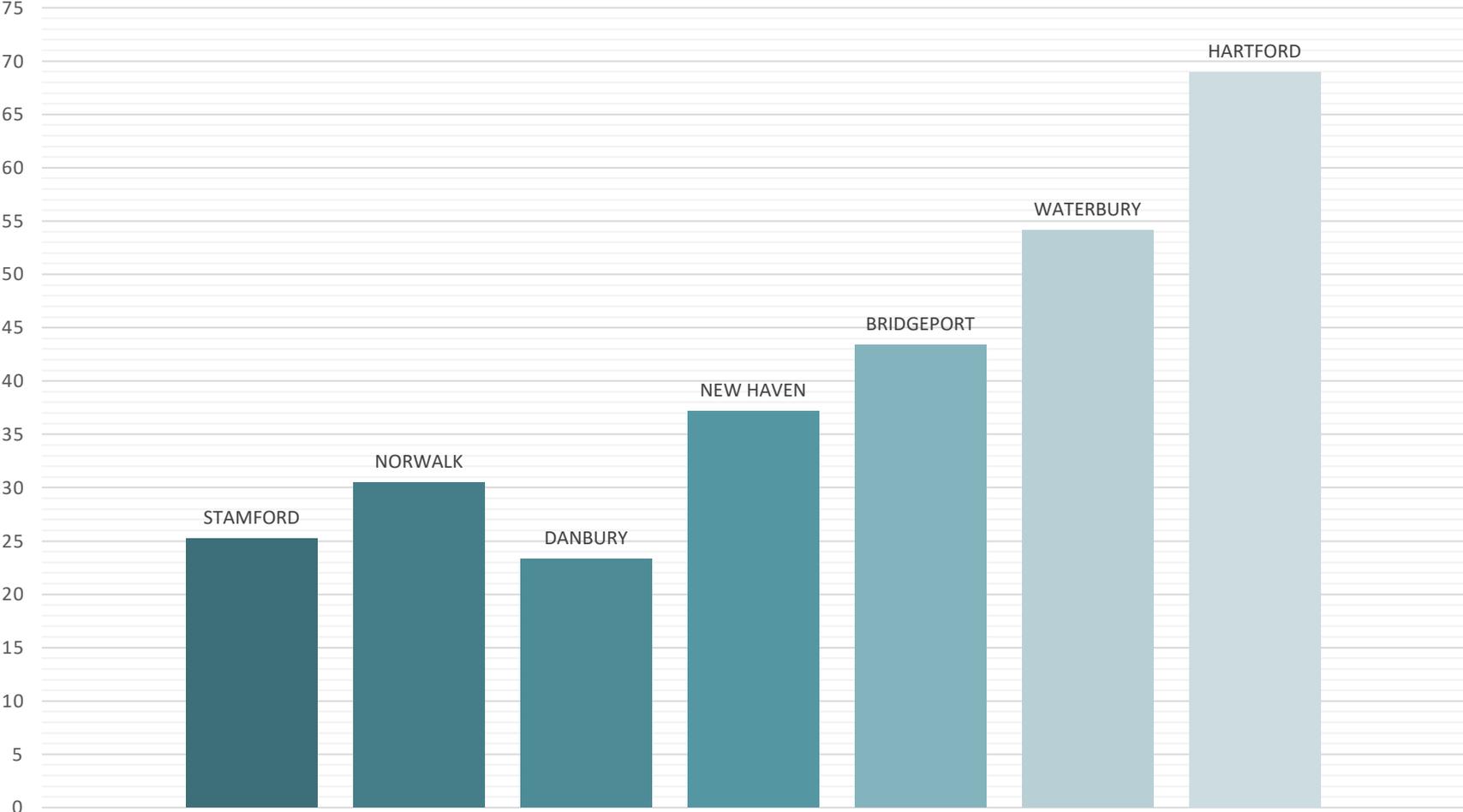


October 2023 Grand List

- The October 1, 2023, grand list is **\$27.1B**, up **\$2.4B** from the 2022 grand list.
- Overall, the **2023 grand list increased by 9.8%**, which includes the second half of the market changes from the phase-in of the revaluation, and .9% increase in organic growth.
- Grand List Breakdown:
 - Real Estate - \$24B
 - Personal Property - \$1.3B
 - Motor Vehicle - \$1.3B
- New apartment buildings and residential development fueled the growth in real estate for the 2023 grand list.
- Personal property increased by 4.9%.
- Motor vehicle values dropped by 4.9% in 2023 after they had an increase in value in 2021 and leveled off in 2022.
- Stamford has the 2nd highest grand list in the state after Greenwich.
- Mill Rate: Projected reduction of 4.43%, with Stamford's mill rate dropping from 25.26 to 24.14, one of the lowest mill rates in CT.



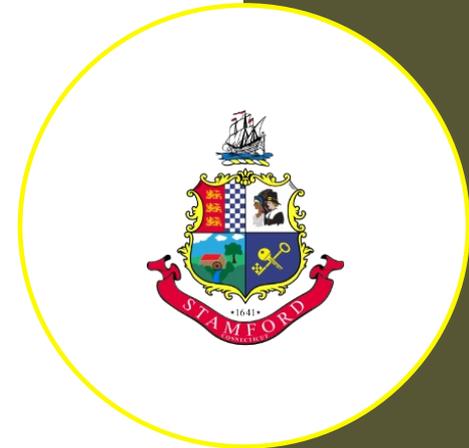
MILL RATE COMPARISON BY CITY (FY24)



Capital Budget FY24-25

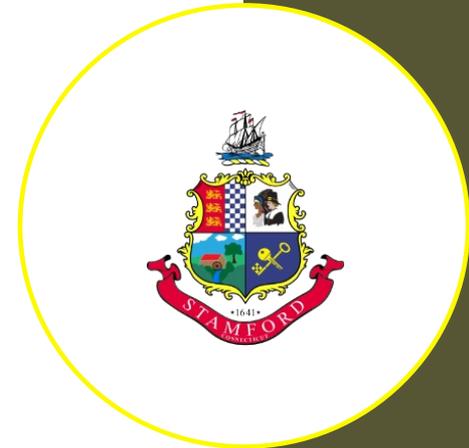
The FY24-25 Capital Budget proposes \$66.1M in proposed project authorizations, \$43.5M funded by GO Bonds and \$22.6M from other sources.

- **Schools:** \$14.1M authorized for 14 schools and \$700K for school security improvements.
- **Parks:** Doubled the amount of funding for parks with \$4.1M dedicated to projects at Cummings, Boccuzzi, Scalzi, West Beach, Cove, Kosciuszko, Susan Nabel at Chestnut Hill, Barrett, and Northrop Parks.
- **Housing:** Investing \$1.75M in affordable housing for seniors and home ownership opportunities.
- **Roads:** Continuing to invest in the Pave Stamford initiative with the goal of paving 200 roads by 2025.

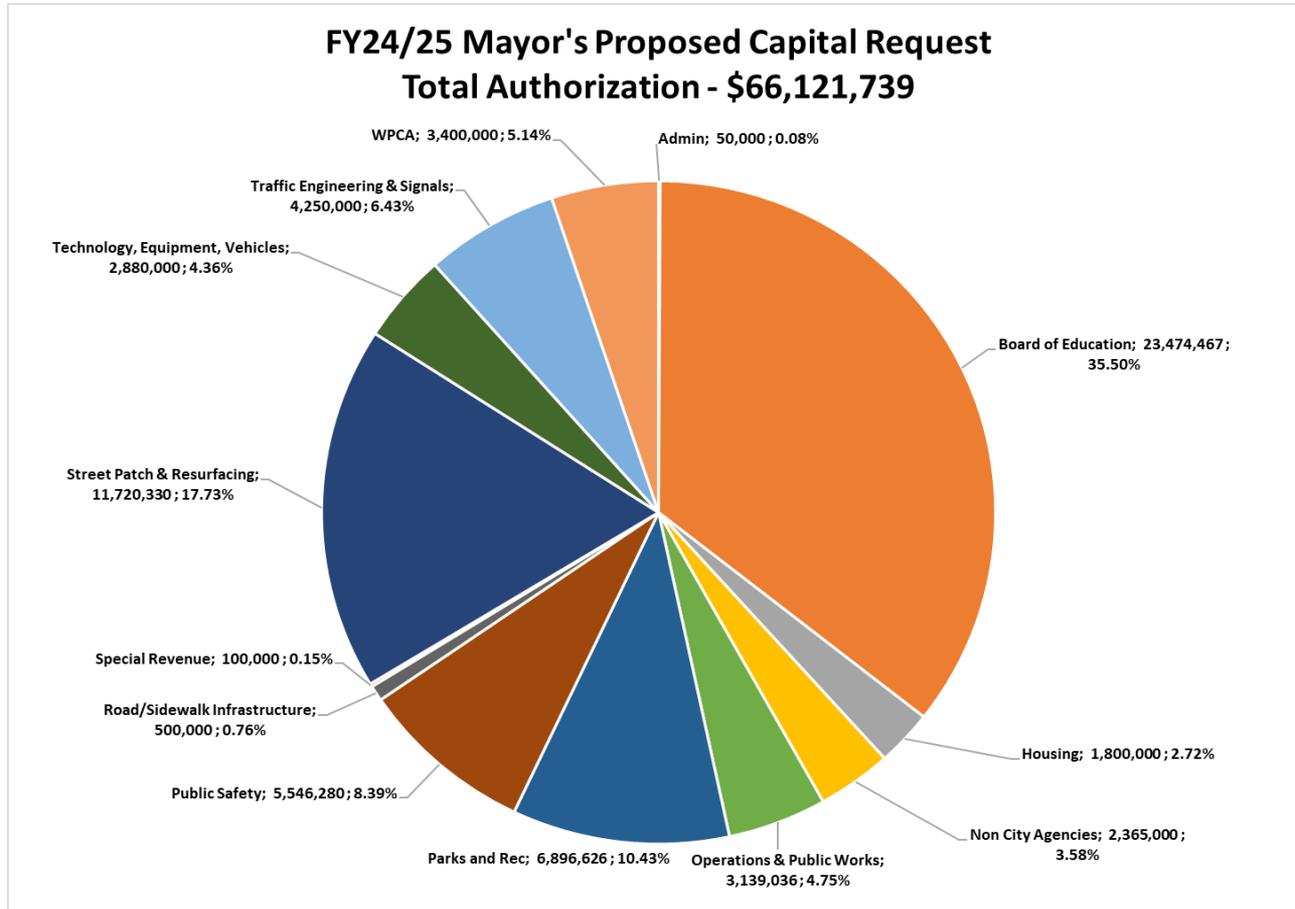


Capital Budget FY24-25

- **Sidewalks:** Investing \$1.5M in city sidewalks.
- **Pedestrian Safety:** Investing over \$1.1M for roadway safety improvements on Lower Summer Street, West Side bumpouts, Bedford Street/Forest Street intersection, \$500K for Stamford's Vision Zero Program and \$1M for the design and construction match for the Strawberry Hill/Newfield Ave corridor.
- **Public Safety:** Investing \$3.5M to support the Police and Fire Departments, EMS, and 911 call center.
- **Sustainability:** Investing \$6M in solar projects, \$1.2M in electric vehicle charging stations and \$50,000 more in city-wide tree planting.

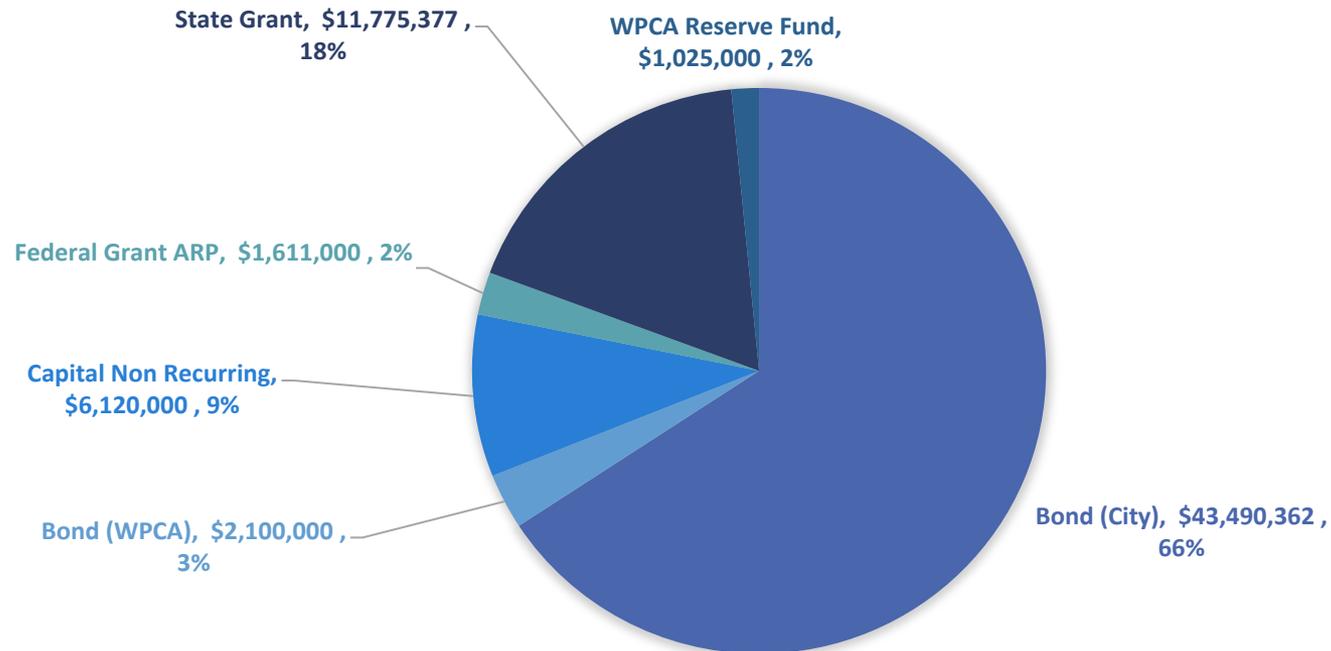


Total FY24-25 Capital Request Bond Authorization

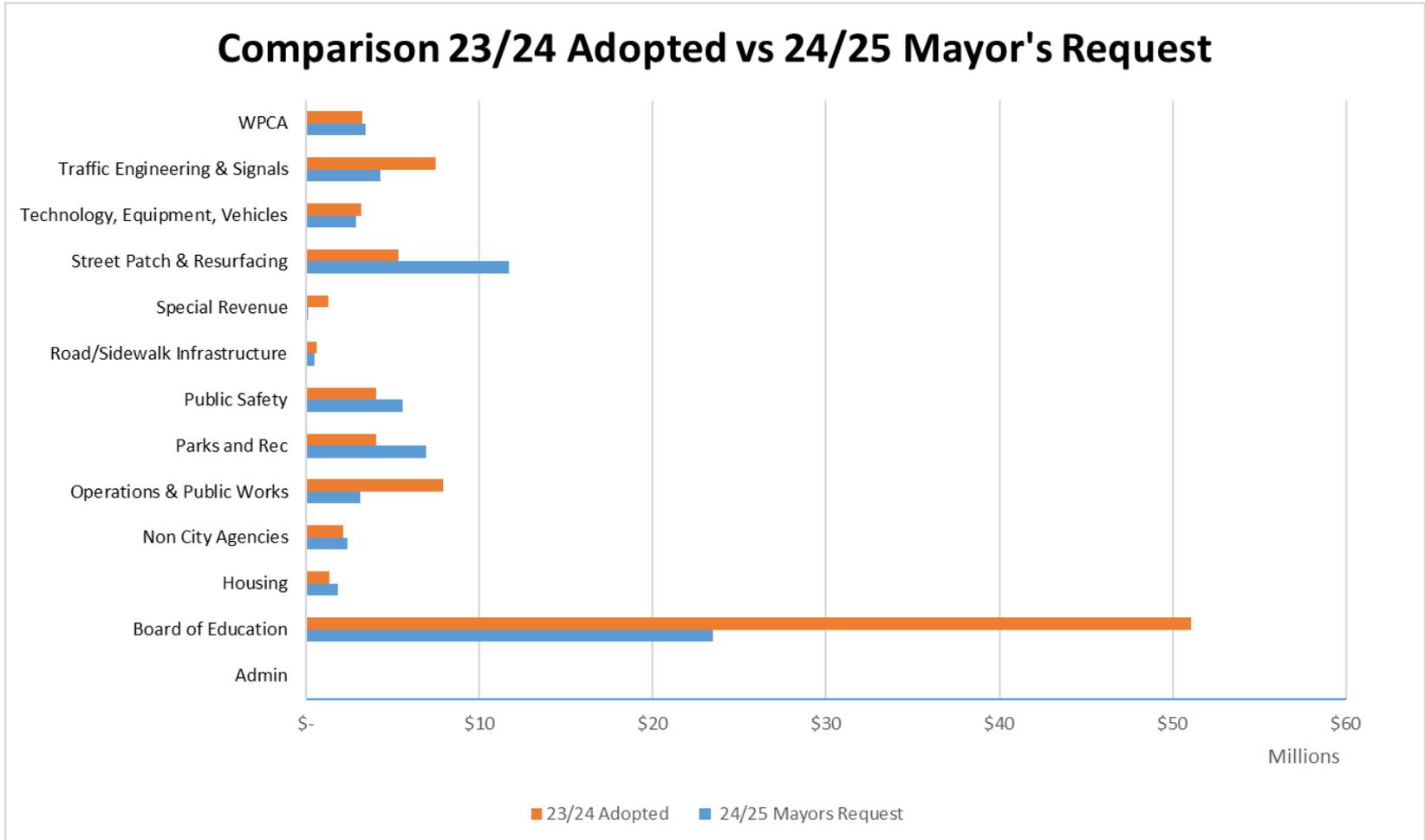


Capital Budget Summary by Funding Source

FY24/25 CAPITAL BUDGET SUMMARY BY FUNDING SOURCE TOTAL ALL SOURCES: \$66,121,739



Capital Budget Comparison of 23/24 Adopted Budget vs. 24/25 Mayor's Request



Capital Projects: Public Safety

Police Specialty Vehicles



Public Safety Vehicle Replacement



Glenbrook Fire Station



Main HQ Fire House Upgrades



Fire Apparatus



South End Fire House Upgrades



Capital Projects: Roads, Sidewalks, and Pedestrian Safety

Lower Summer Street Pedestrian Promenade



Pave Stamford



Pedestrian Safety - Bumpouts



Roadway Safety Improvement



Capital Projects: Schools

Stamford High School



Westhill High School



Northeast Elementary School



Davenport Ridge Elementary



Westover



Newfield Elementary School



Julia Stark Elementary School



AITE



Strawberry Hill School



Capital Projects: Schools

Rogers International School



Rippowam Middle School



Hart School



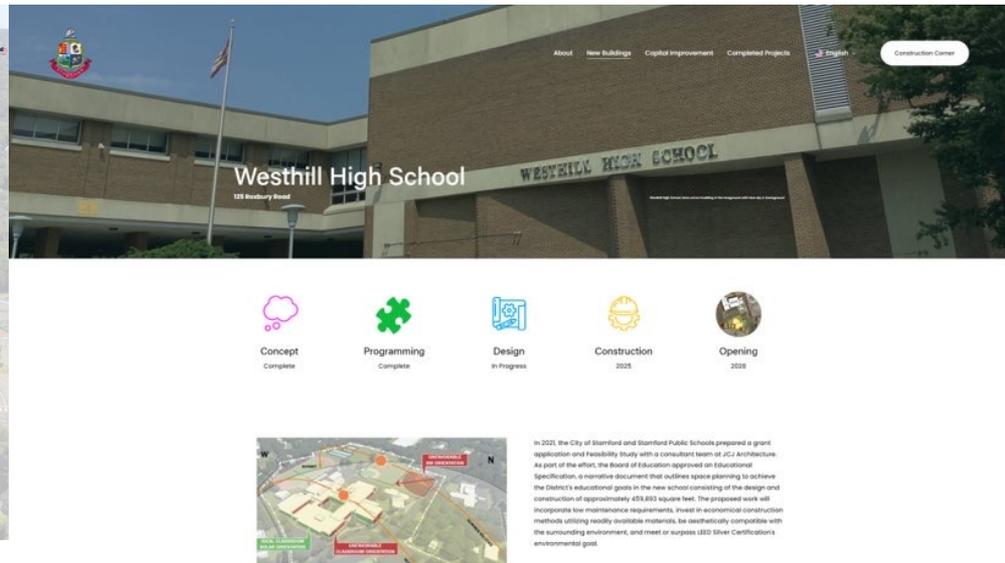
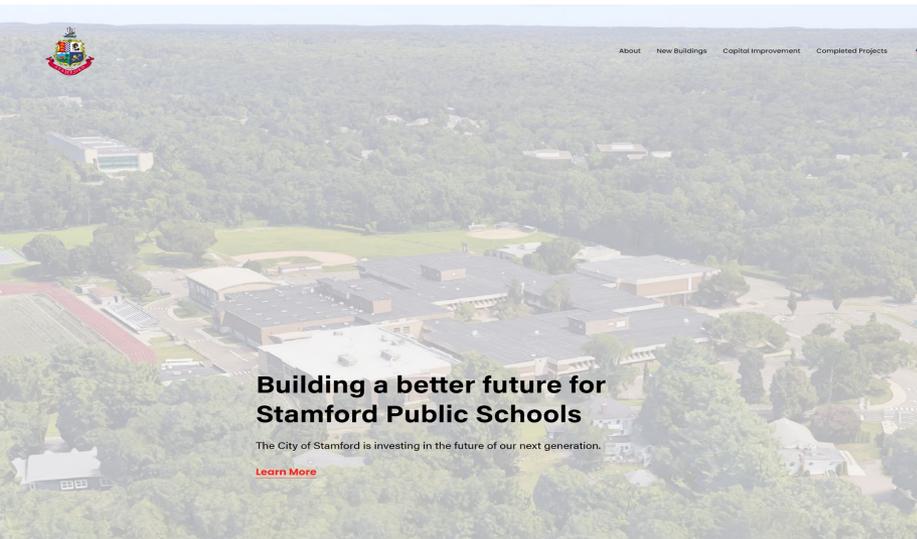
Toquam Elementary School



Turn of River School



New Stamford Public Schools (SPS) Builds Website



Visit: spsbuilds.com or scan the QR code

Capital Projects: Parks and Sustainability

Barrett Park



Cove Island Park - Tennis Courts



Kosciuszko Park



Lione Park -Field



Scofield Park - Dog Park



Courtland Park - Dog Park



Boccuzzi Park



Scalzi Park Tennis and Bocci Courts



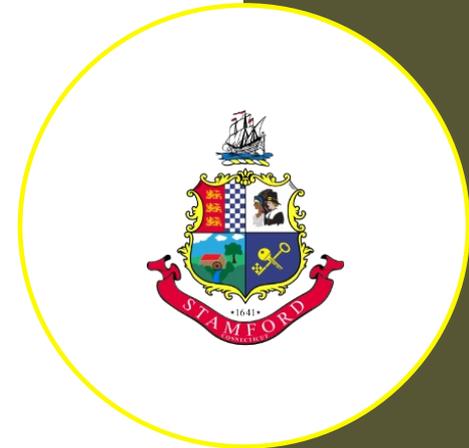
Cummings Park



State Funding

In partnership with Governor Ned Lamont and Stamford's legislative delegation, the City secured state funding for the following projects aimed at improving quality of life:

- **School Construction:**
 - Westhill High School - original award in FY22 for \$257,938,824; increased in FY23 to \$301,313,888 due to cost escalation.
 - Roxbury School - \$51,600,000 approved in FY23.
- **HVAC Indoor Air Quality Improvements:**
 - Stamford Public Schools was awarded \$2.7 million in state reimbursement for HVAC projects in seven schools including Julia Stark, Davenport, Cloonan Middle, Stamford High, Westover, Rippowam, and Northeast.
- **Resiliency Projects:**
 - \$598,125 to evaluate flooding issues in the Toilsome Brook watershed
 - \$481,125 to address stormwater flooding in the Cummings Park watershed
 - \$210,750 to develop neighborhood heat plan for Downtown, the West Side, and Waterside
- **Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Projects:**
 - \$2 million for roadway safety improvements at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Richmond Hill Avenue
 - \$2 million for pedestrian safety improvements around the Springdale Train Station
 - \$1 million for the construction of sidewalks on Long Ridge Road

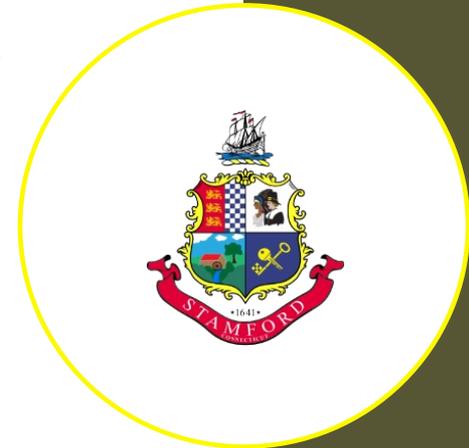


My goal is to secure more state and federal funding to increase intergovernmental revenue, advance the City's policy priorities, and reduce the burden on Stamford taxpayers.

Federal Funding

Working in partnership with our federal delegation, the City has secured funding from federal agencies for projects, including:

- **Federal Transit Administration:**
 - \$26M for 20 electric buses for the CT Transit Stamford division
- **Department of Transportation:**
 - \$2.1M Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to revitalize the West Main Street Corridor
 - \$2M Safe Streets and Roads for All grant for school sidewalk improvements
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):**
 - \$2.7M BRIC grant for pump station improvements
- **National Park Service:**
 - \$1.81M Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant for improvements to Boccuzzi Park.
- **Department of Agriculture:**
 - \$1M Urban and Community Forestry grant for street trees
- **Department of Labor:**
 - \$513K workforce development grant for pre-apprenticeship programs and job training for students.
- **Department of Justice:**
 - \$133K body-worn camera policy and implementation program.
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):**
 - \$68K enhanced air quality monitoring grant
- **National Endowment for the Arts:**
 - \$25K grant for mural at the Stamford Train Station garage



Conclusion

The City of Stamford FY24/25 budget:

- Reflects our values as an administration to build a more inclusive, equitable, innovative and vibrant City where everyone can thrive.
- Prioritizes essential services to enhance quality of life for Stamford residents, with a focus on investments in schools, roads, sidewalks, and infrastructure projects, parks, public safety, affordable housing, and sustainability initiatives.

