

2026 **PROPOSED BUDGET**

We anticipated a \$10 million gap between projected revenues and expenses in the City's General Fund for 2026. To close this gap, we had to make difficult choices to balance the budget through both increased taxes and cuts to services and staffing.

Taking a holistic, City-wide approach, we made strategic changes to deliver a responsive and responsible budget. We were able to do this by proposing:

- **Increasing local sales tax by 0.1%** to fund public safety services.
- **Reducing staffing costs by eliminating over 40 jobs** – most of which are vacant, frozen positions.
- **Cutting services or funding them through other, dedicated resources.**

Ultimately, these decisions put us in a solid financial position for 2026. However, the imbalance in the General Fund is an ongoing structural problem, and we will continue working on long-term solutions so that we can be on a better, more sustainable path in the future.

Budget guiding principles

Ensure financial sustainability.

The City must be financially secure. We no longer have the capacity in our reserves to wait for a better economic outcome tomorrow. We have to live within our means today.

Focus on the work only we can do.

We prioritized areas of work that only the City can provide. Our core work happens not only in public-facing departments, but also includes the vital internal functions that make it possible for us to deliver frontline services.

Leverage dedicated resources.

Though the General Fund is hit hardest by our current financial challenges, the City has dedicated funding streams to continue work in defined areas – such as utility and transportation infrastructure, parks and trails, affordable housing, and human services.

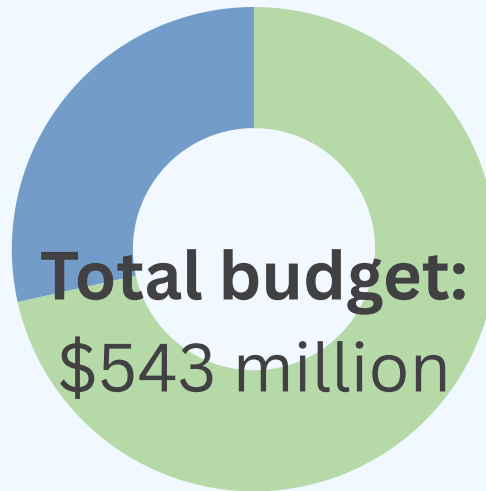
Visit [**cob.org/budget**](https://cob.org/budget) to learn more.

2026 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Capital budget \$154.8 million

Budget highlights

- Salish Landing Park and waterfront environmental clean up
- Post Point upgrades and other utility infrastructure improvements
- Upgrade WhatCOMM to a secure and resilient dispatch facility



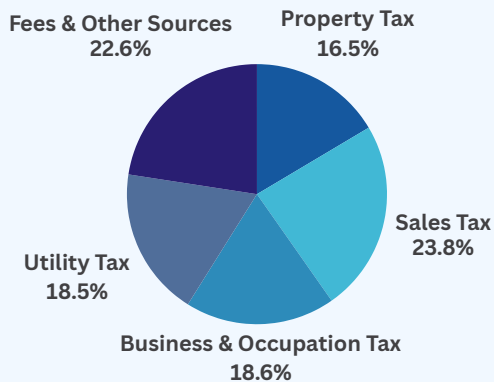
Operating budget \$388.2 million

General Fund: \$128.6 million

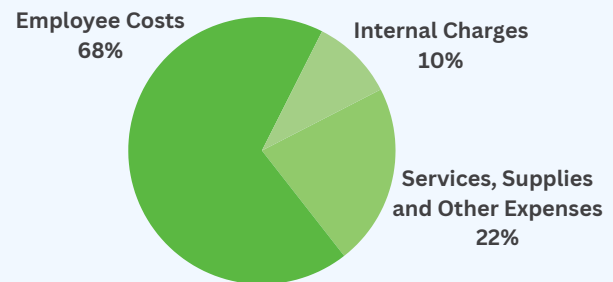
Budget highlights

- Maintaining essential City services
- Continue to use dedicated resources to support social services, affordable housing, and parks and recreation priorities

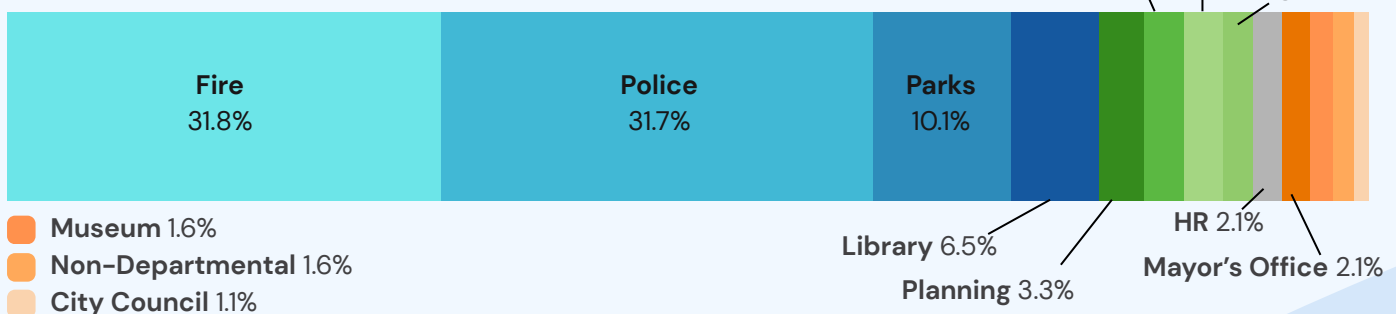
General Fund Revenue \$128.5 million



General Fund Expenditures \$128.6 million



General Fund Expenditures by Department



Public Works and IT are not directly funded through the General Fund.