



Proposed

Budget FY2024

March 7, 2023

STAFFORD
Virginia

Balancing Needs And Resources
To Shape A Stronger Future

2022 Accomplishments



FY2022 Budget awarded GFOA's Distinguished Budget Award (34th consecutive year).

Stafford completed its first Community Survey to poll the community's priorities for Stafford County.

Stafford reaffirmed Triple-AAA bond rating from Moody's Investors Services, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings.

Multiple businesses have succeeded and been supported by the Virginia Smart Community Testbed located at Stafford's campus.

The County worked to expand broadband access through new partnerships by receiving Virginia Telecommunications Initiative grants in 2020 and 2022.

FY2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report awarded GFOA's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (40th consecutive year)

Stafford debuted AskBlu, a chatbot, app and text request to expand customer service offerings. The County also launched Blu's News, a monthly newsletter for residents.

Stafford Ranks: #13 VA Population – US Census; #1 Military Population in VA – US Census; #19 Median Household Income – US Census; #3 Fastest Growing County in VA – Weldon Cooper; #14 VA School Rankings - Niche

Stafford received two National Association of Counties Achievement (NACo) Awards: one for the Stafford Cares program to help raise mental health awareness and assist restaurants and families in need; and one for the color-coded wayfinding system at the Government Campus.

Stafford County Fire and Rescue earned an improved rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This rating assesses a community's fire protection efforts, potentially lowering insurance costs for residents and businesses.

Stafford County Profile



MEDIAN HOME
MARKET PRICE
\$485,000

MEDIAN INCOME
\$119,818

MEDIAN ASSESSED
HOME VALUE
\$386,000

POPULATION

163,417

UNEMPLOYMENT

3.6%

VETERANS PERCENTAGE OF
COUNTY POPULATION

19.4%

Proposed Budget Drivers

Proposed Budget Overview

FY2024 Proposed Budget Priorities

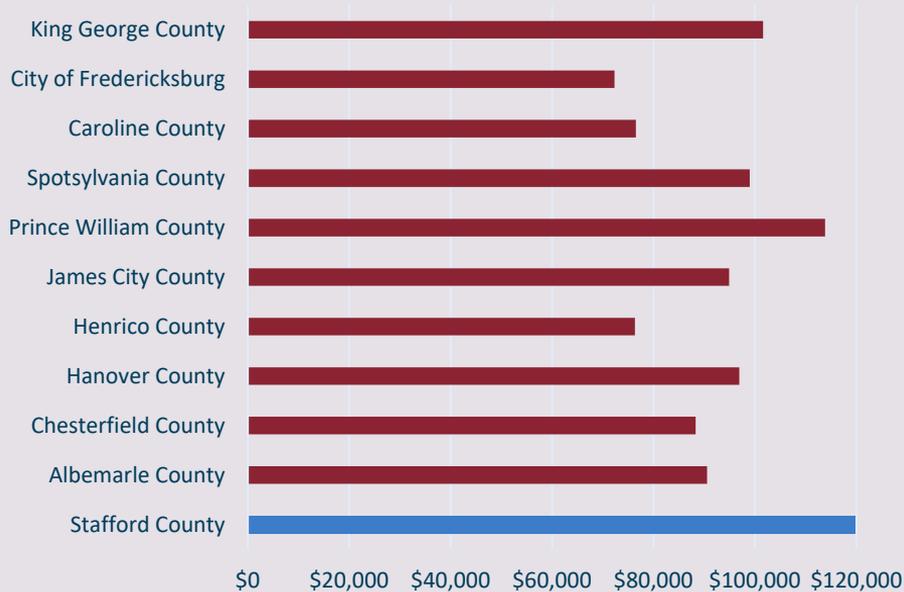
Proposed Budget Other Funds

Proposed Budget Summary

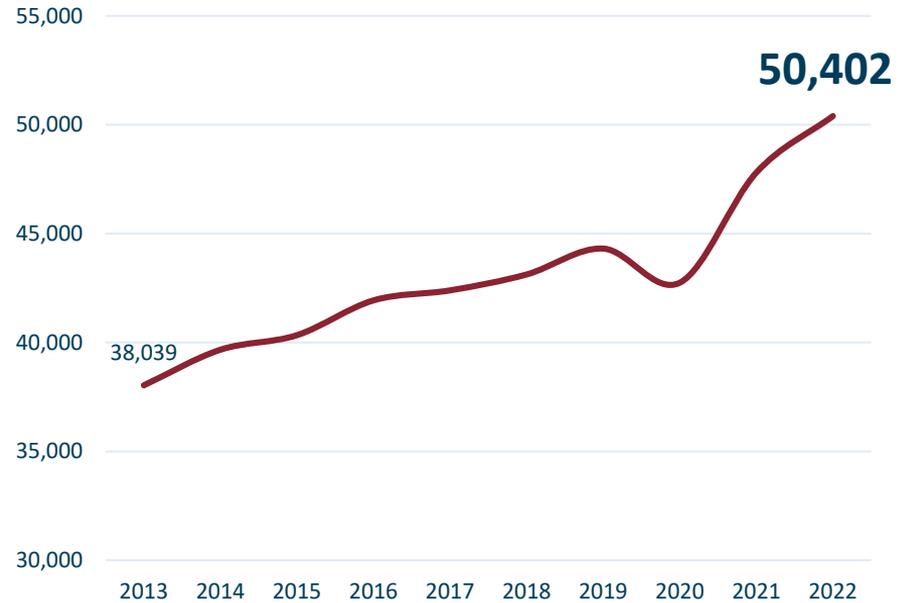
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Stafford Growth

2022 Median Household Income



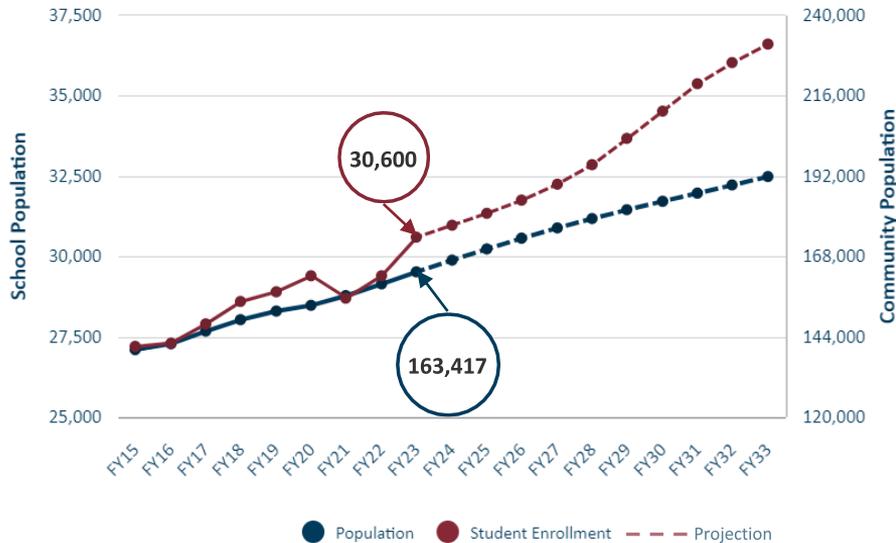
Stafford 10-Year Quarterly Average Employment Growth



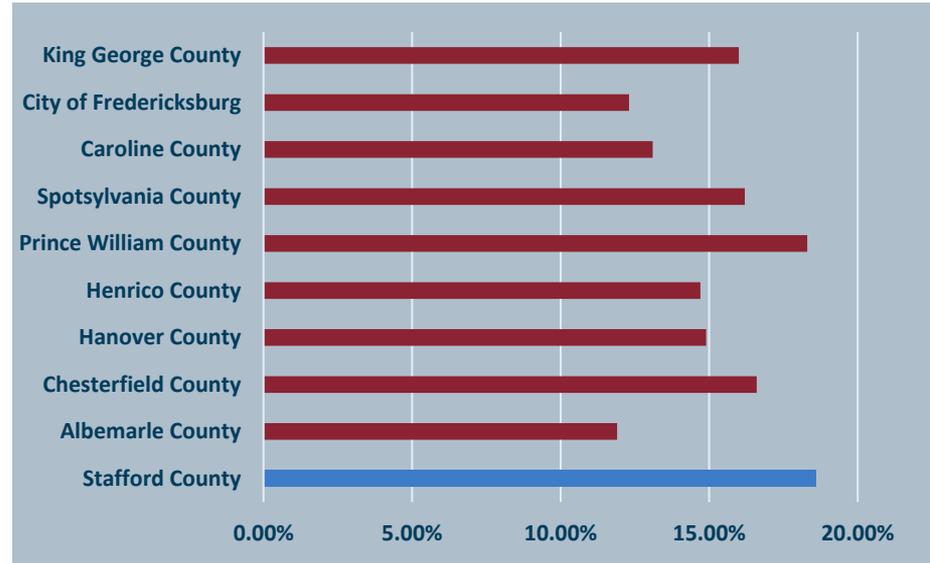
Source: Office of the Commissioner of Revenue (excludes exempt values)

Education Growth Impacts

Projected Growth



Percentage of School Students Per Population

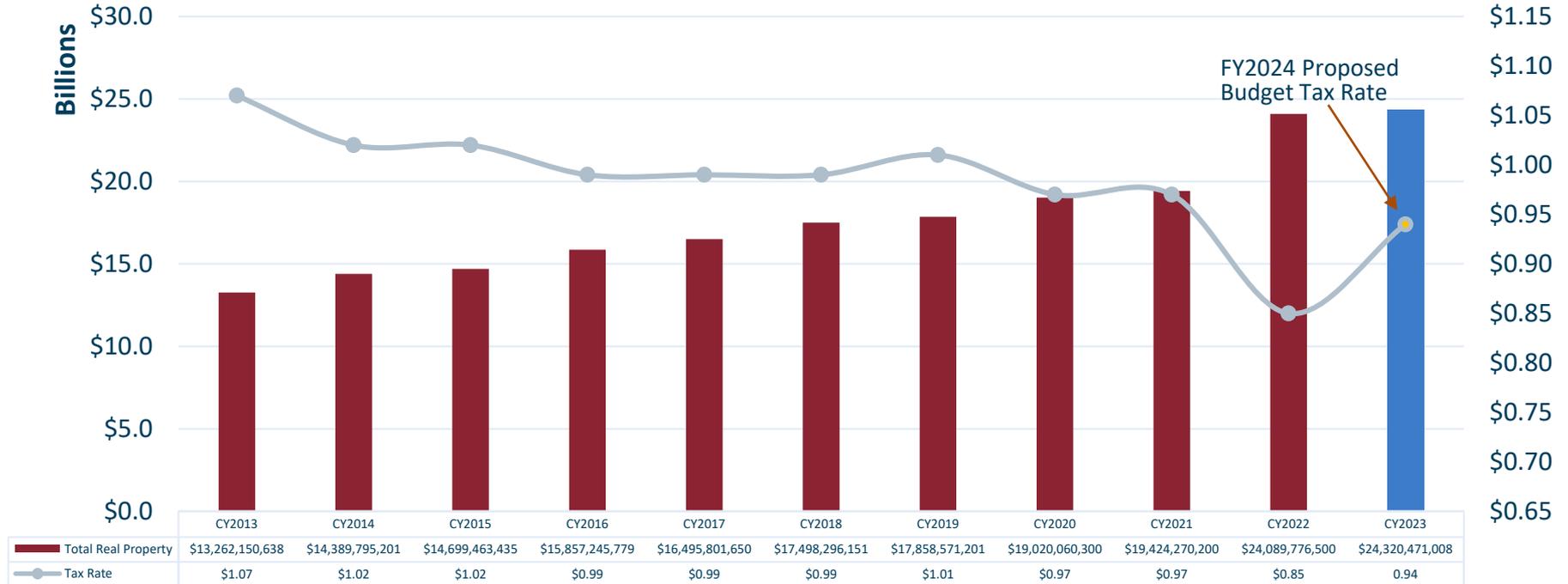


Tax Relief Impacts

FY2022	
Tax Relief	\$9.7M
Number Pennies on the Tax Rate	4.6¢
FY2023	
Tax Relief	\$14.5M
Number Pennies on the Tax Rate	6.5¢
FY2024 - Projected	
Tax Relief	\$16.2M
Number Pennies on the Tax Rate	7.3¢

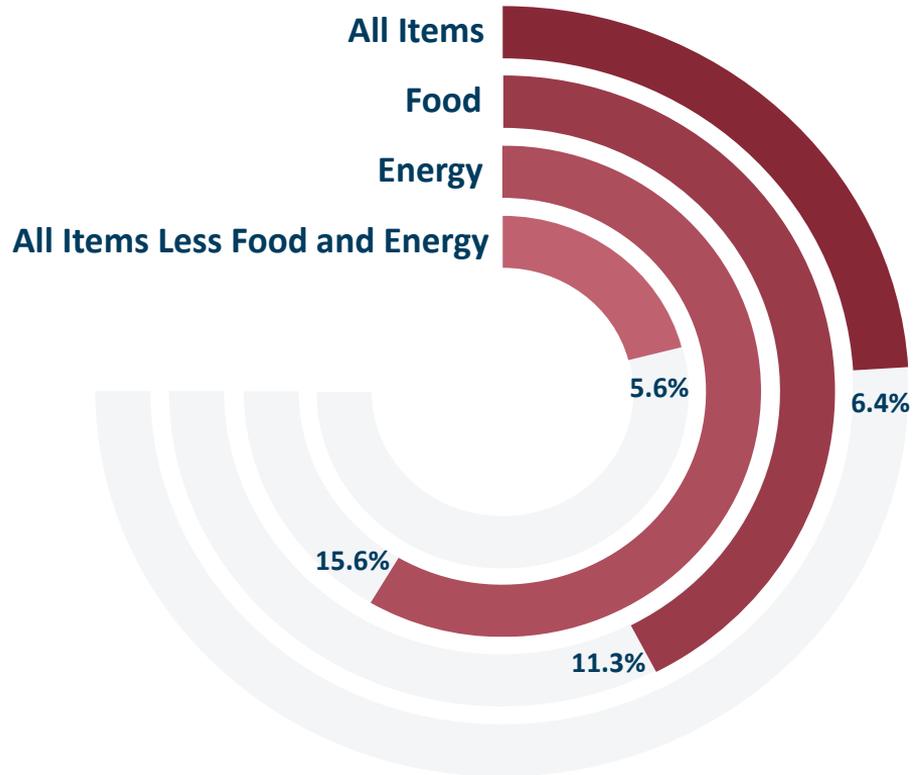
With Stafford County having the largest amount of veterans per capita in Virginia, the unfunded mandate known as the Veterans Tax Relief program continues to place challenges on future revenues as it represents 92% of all tax relief.

Assessed Value of Real Property / Tax Rates



Source: Office of the Commissioner of Revenue (excludes exempt values)

12-Month Consumer Price Index, January 2023



Inflation Pressures

44%

Increase in gas prices since 2021

13%

Cumulative inflation increase for utility operating expenses (32% jump for industrial chemicals)

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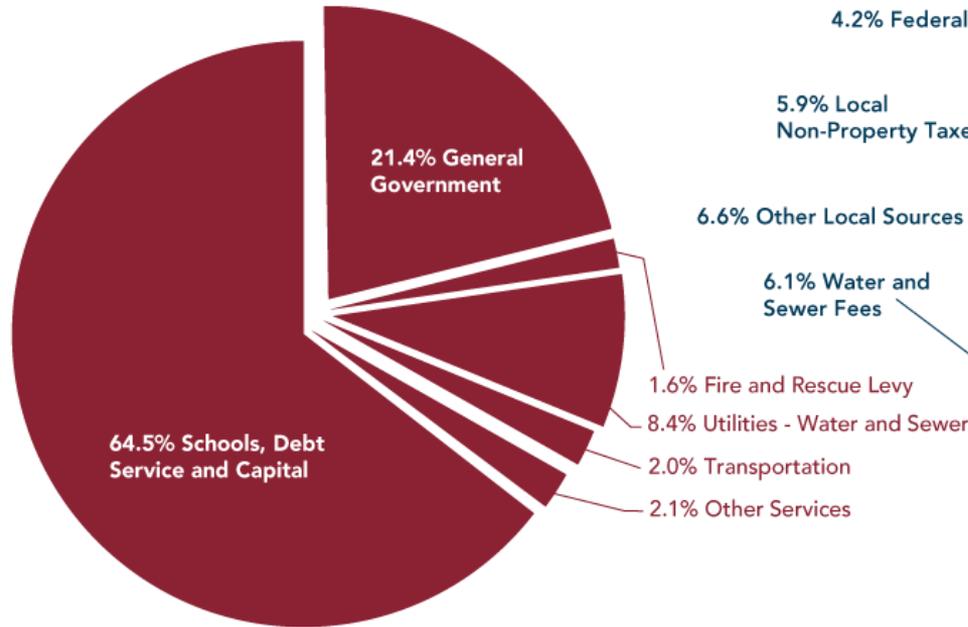
Balancing Needs And Resources To Shape A Stronger Future

Financial Planning Process

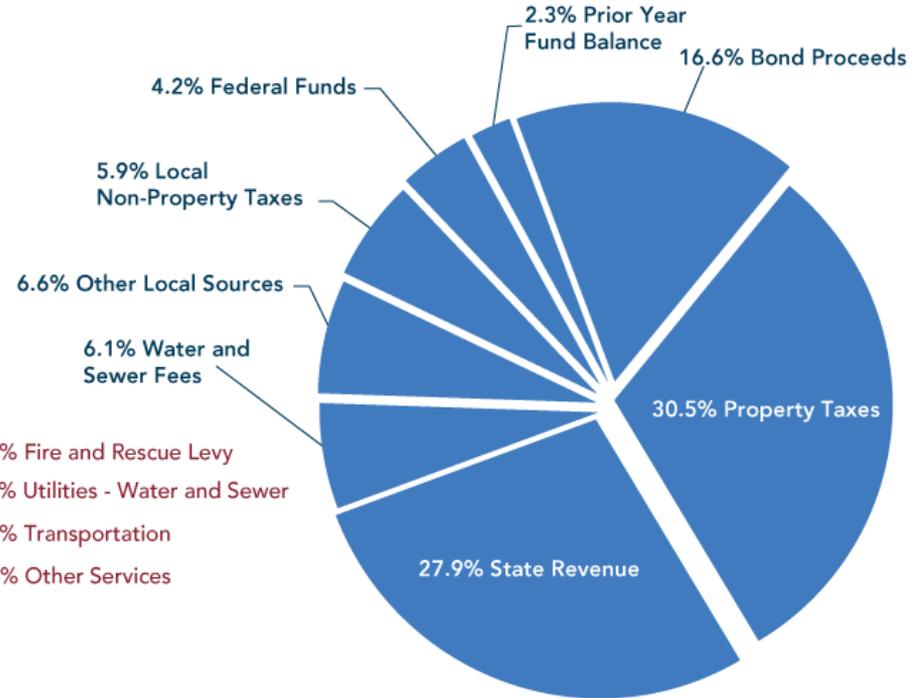


Proposed Budget Overview – FY2024 All Funds

All Fund Expenditures



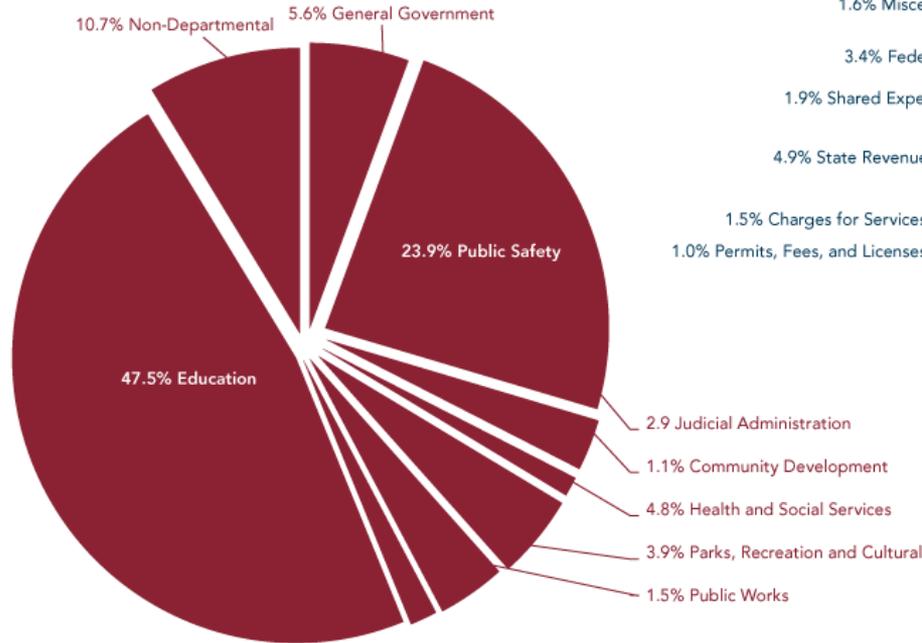
All Fund Revenues



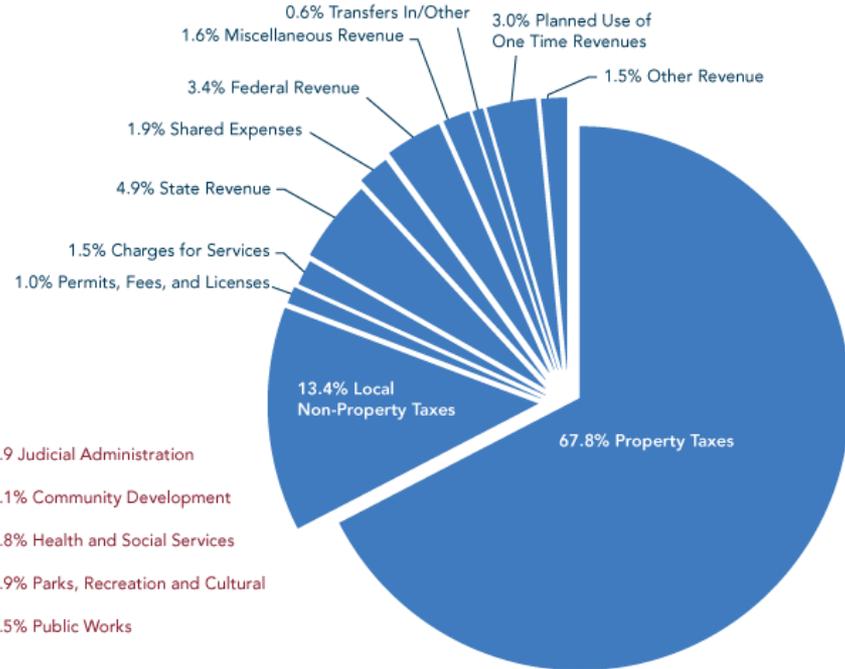
All Funds Total: \$947,177,270

Proposed Budget Overview – FY2024 General Fund

General Fund Expenditures



General Fund Revenues



General Fund Total: \$414,926,761

Budget Overview

Revenues

- FY2023 \$0.85 to Proposed FY2024 \$0.94
- Proposed FY2024 Fire Levy \$0.03
- 3.1% Assessment Increase
- 13.1% Property Tax revenue increase
- 11.2% increase in Tax Relief
 - Includes a \$500 increase for the Elderly Tax Relief
- 2.7% Consumption Tax revenue increase
- Median assessed home value - \$386,000
- Average tax bill – \$3,628

Expenditures

- 10.5% Overall General Fund increase
 - 1.5% + for ARPA Funding
- 8.3% Overall School Fund increase

General Fund Operating Budget Drivers

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| • Education Funding | \$17.5M |
| • Public Safety Support | \$13.0M |
| • General Gov. Support | \$7.1M |
| • Transportation | \$4.2M |

Proposed Budget Drivers

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Balancing Needs And Resources To Shape A Stronger Future



STAFFORD *Virginia*

FISCAL YEAR 2024

Proposed Budget Priorities

Address Commitments and Needs

Prioritizing essential services focused on funding past, present and future obligations to meet the community's needs.

Strengthen Resources and Investments

Creating a stronger and more connected community requires investing in our future with programs and initiatives dedicated to achieving this mission.

Budget Commitments

8	Sheriff - Deputy Sheriff-Field Ops
4	Sheriff - Communications Officers
1	Sheriff – BWC* Record Specialist
12	Fire and Rescue - Transport Unit Positions
3	Fire and Rescue - Battalion Chiefs
1	BWC* Assistant Commonwealth Attorney

*BWC – Body Worn Cameras



- Commissioner of the Revenue - Personal Property Specialist
- Human Resources Specialist
- Cultural Resource Specialist (Planner III)
- Security Manager
- Northern Virginia Land Conservation Staff – Conservation Effort
- General Government 1.5% Mid-year Raise

Essential Service Needs

Sheriff Pay

17.75%*

Sheriff Uniformed 1st Sergeant and Below

10.75%

Sheriff Uniformed Lieutenant and Above

8.00%

Sheriff Non-Uniformed Staff

Fire and Rescue Pay

10.75%

Fire and Rescue Uniformed Staff

8.00%

Fire and Rescue Non-Uniformed Staff

Government Staff Pay

8.00%

General Government Staff

Inflation Increases

\$570K

Increases directly related to inflation for all departments

Overtime Impacts

\$1.2M

Increases for Fire and Rescue and Sheriff's Office

\$50K

Increases for Social Services

Community Partners

\$372K

Rappahannock Jail and Magistrate

\$174K

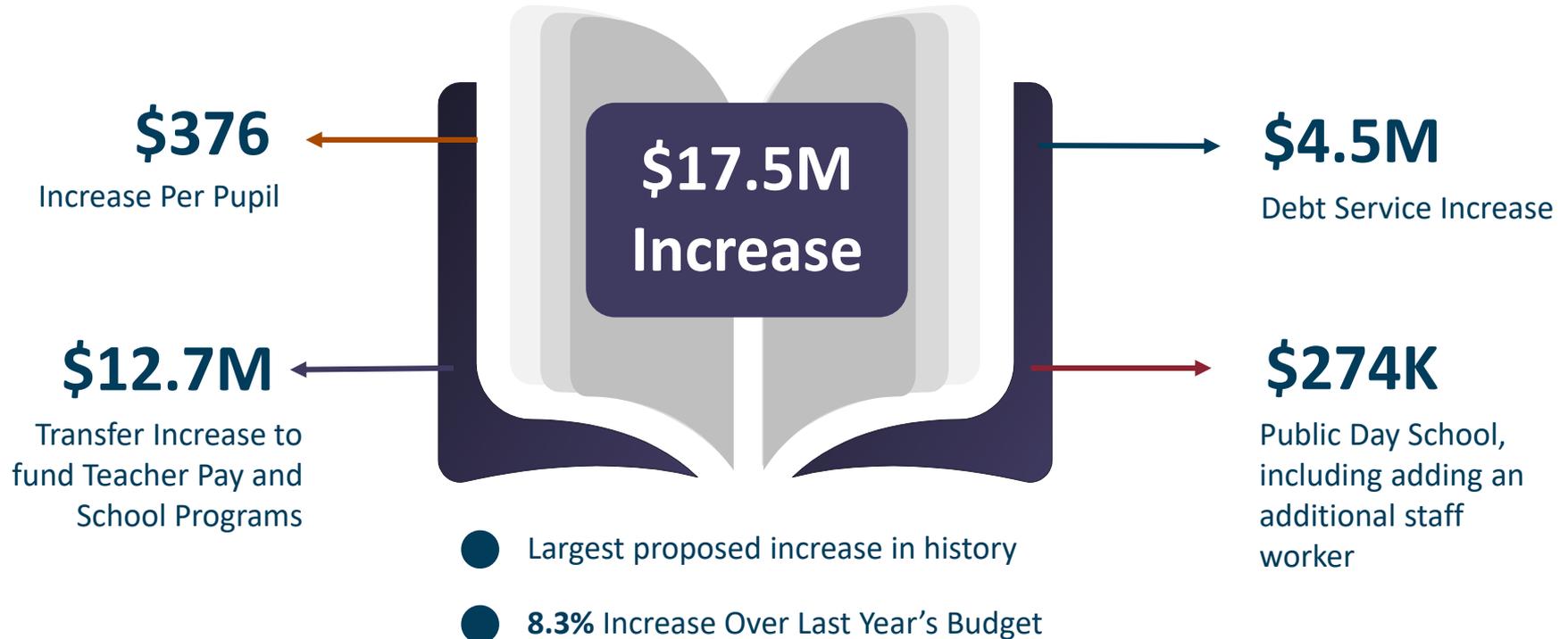
Regional Juvenile Center

\$462K

Central Rappahannock Library System

* Mid-Year 15% Increase

Education Investments



Public Safety Investments



MARKET AND COMPENSATION

Current market conditions present challenges for all positions. This budget **dedicates funding** to those most competitive positions supported by a Market Pay Study for General Government.



ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

To keep up with growth and the need for resources to meet community expectations, excellent service requires high-quality support positions for the public and the organization.



Social Service Commitments

8 Positions

The budget includes the following positions: Benefits Program Specialist, Family Services Supervisor, Office Associate, Self-Sufficiency Specialist II, and Family Services Specialist II.

IT Security and Support

BOARD SUPPORT

After a market review for Board support, this budget **funds mid-year raises** and the need to implement funding for **administrative Board assistance** for the seven members. Additional constituent communication support is also included at **\$10,000 per district**.



Operational Staffing

3 Positions

The budget includes the following positions: Long Range Planner, Building Maintenance Mechanic and Clerk of Court Deputy Clerk.

2 Positions

The budget includes the following positions: Cyber Security Engineer and Desktop Support Tech.

Resource Support for Service Excellence

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Transportation Fund

\$8.8M
Bond Projects



Garrisonville Road Widening
Onville Road Widening
Route 1 and Layhill Road Intersection Improvements
Leeland Road Widening
Shelton Shop Road Improvements
Road widening and safety improvement projects

\$4.4M
New and Continuing Road Projects

Brooke Road Reconstruction
Stefaniga Road and Mountain View Road Intersection Improvements
US-17 Business STARS Improvement
Smart Scale
Enon Road and Route 1 Improvements
Route 628 Left Turn Lanes at Route 1
US-17 Business Pedestrian Improvements (Olde Forge to Lendall Lane)

Transportation Strategy

2022 | COMMUNITY SURVEY

One of the top issues that residents indicated in Stafford County's first-ever community survey is transportation challenges.



\$4.99

Proposed Personal Property Tax Rate
(Effective Rate: \$2.50)
(Current Rate: \$4.49)



\$4.2M

Dedicated new funding to Transportation



\$8.0M

Total Transportation Funding for FY2024 Proposed Budget

This Proposed Budget also dedicates funding to the Capital Program from the General Fund.

\$1M



\$75K

Phase Two begins at the Patawomeck Park that will focus on community-driven amenities.

Rebuild at Rockhill Fire and Rescue Station starts along with the design for Embrey Mill Fire Station.

\$10.9M



\$129M

Schools are the largest investment in the Capital Program, which includes High School #6, Elementary School #18 and School rehabilitation projects.



Capital Program – FY2024

\$237M | Capital Improvement Plan (FY24-FY29)

Major Projects

Ongoing Major Projects:

- Smith Lake and Aquia Treatment Plant Rehab
- Lake Mooney to North Stafford Distribution
- Butler Road Water Line Replacement
- Potomac Creek Sewer Improvements
- Utilities Department Facility Expansion

New Projects in the Capital Program:

- Centralized Sludge Management (FY24)
- Water Plant Regulatory Upgrades (FY24)
- Smith Lake Filter Repairs (FY33)
- Abel Lake to Lake Mooney Waterline(FY33)

Resource Investments

As the systems continues growth, risk management and customer service take priority. This request includes:

- Safety Officer
- SCADA, Network and Tech Specialist
- Customer Service Representative

6.5% →

The fiscal policy minimum of a 3.3% rate increase does not include necessary inflationary drivers impacting utility services. To sustain system growth and absorb purchase increases as high as 30% on products, it is essential to increase the higher rate to maintain high-quality service levels.

Utilities Fund - \$83.5M

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Balancing Needs And Resources To Shape A Stronger Future



Balancing Needs And
Resources To Shape A
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Healthy Economy and Community

Address Commitments and Needs

Growth and Inflation Impacts

Strengthen Resources and Investments

STAFFORD
Virginia

Mar
2023

07 County Administrator Proposes FY2024 Operating Budget and FY2024-34 CIP

9 BWS: General Fund Revenues and Expenditures

16 BWS: Follow up from March 9, 2023 if needed

21 BWS: Joint Board and School Board meeting for the School Board/staff to provide School Board's FY2024 Budget request

21 Authorize advertisement of the FY2024 Budget, CIP, VPSA, and Calendar Year 2023 Tax Rates

21 BWS: Utilities, Transportation and Other Funds

23 BWS: Follow up from March 21, 2023 if needed

28 BWS: CIP and project status

Apr
2023

30 BWS: Follow up from March 28, 2023 if needed

04 Public Hearing FY2024 Budget, CIP, VPSA, and CY2023 Tax Rates

04 BWS: If needed

11 FYFP

18 Presentation of County and Schools Third Quarter Review

18 BWS: If needed

18 Adopt the FY2024 Budget, CIP, VPSA and CY2023 Tax Rates

May
2023

05 Treasurer's Office Sends Bills to Tax Payers

June
2023

05 Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Bills Due

Public Participation

FY2024 BUDGET CALENDAR

staffordcountyva.gov/budget

BWS - Budget Work Session
CIP - Capital Improvements Plan
FYFP - Five-Year Financial Plan
TRC - Technical Review Committee
VPSA - Virginia Public School Authority
***March 13-17: SCPS Spring break**