

BUDGET BOOKLET



2027 City of Rapid City
Municipal Government Budget





**THIS PAGE IS
INTENTIONALLY LEFT
BLANK**

Table Of Contents

- 4. **Rapid City Common Council**
- 5. **A Letter From Mayor Jason Salamun**
- 8. **A Letter Regarding the Sports Complex**
- 10. **A Day in the Life With City Services**
- 12. **2027 Priorities**
- 13. **Mission, Vision, & Guiding Principles**
- 14. **City Services & Recognition**
- 15. **Elevate Rapid City Economy Overview**
- 17. **Total Budget Revenue**
- 18. **Total Budget Expenditures**
- 19. **Sales Tax Distribution**
- 20. **Utility Rate Distribution**
- 21. **Property Tax Distribution**
- 22. **Government Funding 101**
- 25. **Government Interdepartmental Costs**
- 26. **General Fund Revenue & Expenses**
- 27. **General Fund Department Overview**
 - Mayor's Office
 - City Council
 - City Attorney's Office
 - Community Development
 - Finance Department
 - Fire Department
 - Human Resources
 - Information Technology
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Police Department
 - Public Library
 - Public Works
- 51. **Community Investments**
- 53. **Enterprise Funds**
 - Airport
 - Ambulance
 - The Monument / Energy Plant
 - Solid Waste
 - Water Reclamation
 - Water
- 65. **Capital Improvement Project Allocation**
- 66. **Major CIP Projects By Year**
- 68. **Tax Increment Financing & Districts**
- 69. **Active Tax Increment Districts**
- 70. **What is the Vision Fund?**
- 71. **Vision Fund Allocation**
- 72. **Vision Fund Project Benefits**
- 73. **Real America Birthday Bash**
- 74. **City Council Budget Approval**

Rapid City Common Council



Stephen Tamang
Ward 1



Josh Biberdorf
Ward 1



Bill Evans
Ward 2



Lindsey Seachris
Ward 2



Greg Strommen
Ward 3



Kevin Maher
Ward 3



John Roberts
Ward 4



Lance Lehmann
Ward 4



Callie Meyer
Ward 5



Laura Armstrong
Ward 5

A Letter From Mayor Jason Salamun

To the People of Rapid City and
Members of the Common Council,

It is with deep gratitude that I present the proposed 2027 City of Rapid City Budget. This is far more than a collection of numbers and plans. It is a roadmap for 2027 and beyond as we work together to make Rapid City the best place possible.

Rapid City has always been a place where possibility lives. It is where families put down roots, where children grow up with room to dream, and where hard work still opens doors. This budget is shaped by that simple yet powerful truth. We want Rapid City to remain a community where kids can thrive, where parents can raise their families with confidence, and where neighbors look out for one another.

We believe in building a city that feels like home. Through historic investments in infrastructure, we are strengthening the foundation that supports everyday life and future growth. By strengthening public safety,



Jason Salamun
Mayor



we are making our community and neighborhoods even safer. By investing in quality of life, we are improving our parks, public spaces, and the reliable services that make everyday life better. We are also working to keep taxes in check so that raising a family here is more affordable and attainable and so seniors can enjoy the years they have worked so hard to reach.

We also believe Rapid City should be a place where ideas can grow into businesses. Whether someone is starting something new or expanding what they have already built, this community should offer the support, the infrastructure, and the spirit of partnership that helps good ideas become lasting success. When local businesses thrive, our whole community grows stronger.



In 2026 we came together to celebrate 150 years since the founding of Rapid City and 250 years of American independence. Those moments of reflection and joy reminded us of our deep roots and inspired us to keep building a future worthy of the generations who will come after us. It is about creating a city where people from all walks of life can work hard, build something meaningful, and know their children will have even greater opportunities than they did. It is about a community that values integrity, excellence, and service, and that never loses sight of the people it exists to serve.

None of this happens by accident. It happens because of the dedicated men and women who work for our city every day, because of public servants who put people first, and because of neighbors like you who care deeply about our future. I am continually inspired by the spirit of this community and by the quiet, steady ways so many of you give back.

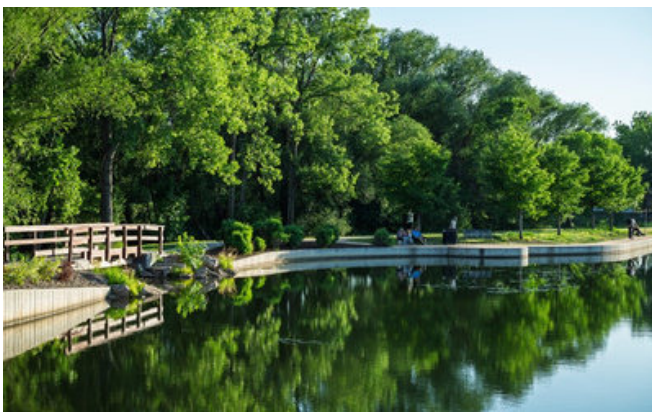
As we look ahead, I am filled with hope. Rapid City is not just growing. It is maturing into an even better version of itself, one where families feel secure, where businesses see a bright future, and where the promise of the American Dream is alive and well.

The future looks bright. Thank you for the honor of serving you. May God bless Rapid City and each and every one of you.

With appreciation,



Jason Salamun
Mayor, City of Rapid City



A Letter Regarding the Sports Complex

Rapid City's Sports Complex Is a Win for Our Community and the Next Generation

When asked about our vision for Rapid City, it's simple: to be a community where kids thrive and families flourish. That is what separates healthy communities from those in decline. This vision is a driving force behind the proposed sports complex.

As we look to the future, we want the next generation to play, compete, and grow in high-quality facilities right here in Rapid City. We want parents and grandparents to share in those moments, building memories that strengthen our neighborhoods and our sense of belonging. The sports complex will also bring kids from different walks of life together, giving them the opportunity to build long-lasting relationships through sport.

Athletics, like the arts and other worthwhile endeavors, offer young people a powerful, productive outlet. They teach discipline, teamwork, resilience, and leadership, essential life skills that extend far beyond the court or field. By channeling energy into structured competition and achievement, sports help shape confident, responsible individuals who become strong contributors to our society.

This facility will deliver modern courts and fields for basketball, volleyball, soccer, and other sports. Local athletes will gain quality training and competition opportunities without long-distance travel. Families and residents will have a welcoming year-round destination to stay active, including an indoor walking track, regardless of weather. In a city that values health, community, and opportunity, these spaces matter.

Beyond its benefits for residents, the complex will help advance Rapid City's goal of becoming a true year-round visitor destination. By hosting regional and national tournaments and events, it will bring steady activity even



during our quieter seasons. Visitors will fill hotel rooms, support local restaurants and businesses, and discover everything the Black Hills have to offer. It's projected that the facility will generate approximately \$11 million in direct annual economic impact at full operation, along with thousands of new hotel room nights and visitor days.

This economic boost is significant. Over time, it benefits local taxpayers and provides additional sales tax revenue for essential city services and quality of life initiatives. Sports tourism is already building momentum through basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, wrestling, football, volleyball, tennis, adventure sports, rodeo, and more. The new complex will build on that foundation, allowing us to increase our capacity to host even more sports events, which is why The Monument supports this project. Furthermore, the sports complex is a win for the entire state, returning 4.5 cents of every sales tax dollar collected in Rapid City to South Dakota.

The sports complex has been a major focus since I was elected in 2023 and reflects years of dedicated teamwork. The Rapid City Sports Commission, led by Executive Director Domico Rodriguez, completed a comprehensive feasibility study confirming both the community need and the strong potential return. City leaders thoughtfully evaluated multiple sites before recommending the Mall Drive location, made possible by the generous land donation from Pete Lien and Sons. No site is perfect, but this one offers strong accessibility, secured funding, and excellent potential for surrounding development.

To date, we have secured more than \$66 million through the Hotel BID fee, the Catalyst TIF district, the land donation, Vision Funds, and naming rights partnership.

After the City Council approved the call for requests for proposals, a dedicated review committee including city leadership, Sports Commission representatives, technical experts, and legal counsel spent many months thoroughly evaluating submissions. Their work prioritized the best long-term outcomes for Rapid City.

Like any major undertaking, this project has faced challenges, but we have addressed them head-on. Our children deserve great places to play and compete. Our businesses deserve new opportunities to grow. And our community deserves facilities that match our potential.

I am fired up about what this sports complex will mean for our families, our community, and the next generation. I am proud of the teamwork and determination that has brought us to this point. The future looks bright for Rapid City.

- Mayor Jason Salamun

A Day In The Life With City Services

Residents of Rapid City interact with City services one way or another every single day. Let's take a look at how each City department plays a role:



From yard waste, recycling, garbage pickup and more, the City's **Solid Waste** services keep Rapid City beautiful!

Annual Budget: \$17,184,519



The City's **Water and Water reclamation** services ensure you have clean water to drink and use around your home!

Water Budget: \$31,839,860

Water reclamation Budget: \$43,667,321



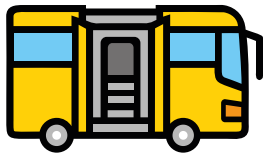
The City's **Public Works Department** designs, builds and maintains the infrastructure that keeps the city running!

Annual Budget: \$23,897,190



The Rapid City **Public Library** is a place for growth and exploration. 264,000 items available mean endless learning!

Annual Budget: \$3,830,499



For over 30 years, the **Rapid Transit System** has been helping riders of all ages explore Rapid City!

Annual Budget: \$4,091,104



1,700 acres of parkland and over 60 miles of trails anchor Rapid City's world class **Parks Department!**

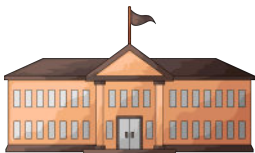
Annual Budget: \$15,190,417

A Day In The Life With City Services



Connecting Rapid City to the world, the **Airport** sees more than 350,000 passengers each year travel through their doors!

Annual Budget: \$22,619,601



City Hall is the downtown heartbeat of Rapid City's government, serving as a central hub for departments!

Annual Budget: \$12,490,184



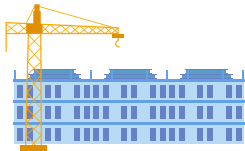
Our **Police Department** keep our community safe and welcoming for visitors and residents!

Annual Budget: \$30,618,679



The City strategically funds **Community Investments** through dozens of organizations, including the Dahl, the Journey Museum and the Community Arts Fund!

Annual Budget: \$5,962,118



Rapid City is growing with the **Community Development Department** issuing over 2,600 building permits per year!

Annual Budget: \$7,096,059



The **Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff** plays a key role in the public safety of our community. They responded to 22,119 calls last year!

Fire Budget: \$21,006,146
EMS Budget: \$8,175,752



The Monument is western South Dakota's premier entertainment venue, hosting hundreds of thousands of visitors each year!

Annual Budget: \$20,133,750

2027 Priorities

Largest Investment in Road Improvements in Rapid City's History

- ◆ \$450,000 annually for a proactive road crew to extend road life, improve travel conditions, and strengthen winter storm response.
- ◆ \$3,000,000 for mill and overlay projects to rehabilitate roads before full reconstruction is needed.
- ◆ \$27,855,000 in new road construction through TIF projects, including East Anamosa Street, Healing Way, and the Highway 79 / Old Folsom Road intersection.
- ◆ \$16,744,000 in road reconstruction through the CIP Program, including Wonderland Drive, Skyline Drive, and continued work in the Dakota and Robbinsdale subdivisions.
- ◆ \$17,000,000 in new road construction through the Strategic Growth fund.

Continued Enhancements to Community Safety

- ◆ \$3,200,000 to complete the new Northside Police Precinct using TIF, General, and CIP funds.
- ◆ \$9,000,000 to complete the Homestead Fire, Police, and Mini Library building through TIF funds.
- ◆ \$1,448,000 to hire and train 15 new firefighters to improve response times.
- ◆ \$164,000 to hire and train 6 new ambulance personnel in late 2027 to expand emergency medical coverage.

Continued Investment in Economic Growth

- ◆ Rapid City's general sales tax collections have increased **21.3%** since 2022, the fastest growth among South Dakota's six largest cities.
- ◆ This growth allows the City to avoid **both** the inflationary CPI increase and the growth increase in 2027, significantly **reducing** the City's mill levy.

Enhancing Quality of Life

- ◆ \$76 million indoor sports fieldhouse beginning construction on the north side. Built without additional sales tax funds or future commitments of City taxpayer resources for operations, it will provide year-round recreation and support new youth and recreational tournaments generating significant new sales tax for the community.
- ◆ \$6 million for four parks funded through TIF, CDBG, and CIP: Homestead, Knollwood, and the refurbishment of Main Street Square and Robbinsdale Park.

Stewardship of Public Resources

- ◆ Four new full-time positions split between Parks and The Monument to ensure full staffing during peak seasons and create meaningful jobs.
- ◆ Implementation of an internal review initiative to ensure tax and ratepayer dollars are invested wisely.

Mission, Vision, & Guiding Principles

Our Vision

Where kids thrive and families flourish.

Our Mission

Serve Rapid City with integrity and excellence.



Our Guiding Principles



Trust



Teamwork



Safety



Clarity



Respect



Excellence



Service

City Services & Recognition

Rapid City offers countless reasons to answer the question, “Why Rapid City?” But there’s something especially meaningful about seeing others recognize what we already know: this is a great community. Rapid City continues to earn national attention, standing out alongside South Dakota’s strong statewide rankings.

Top 100 Places to Live (2024, 2025, 2026)

- [Livability.com](#)

#30 Best-Performing Small City (2026)

- [Milken Institute](#)



#30 Best Run Cities (2026)

- [Wallet Hub](#)

#20 Best Small Cities to Start a Business (2026)

- [Wallet Hub](#)

#53 Safest Cities in America (2026)

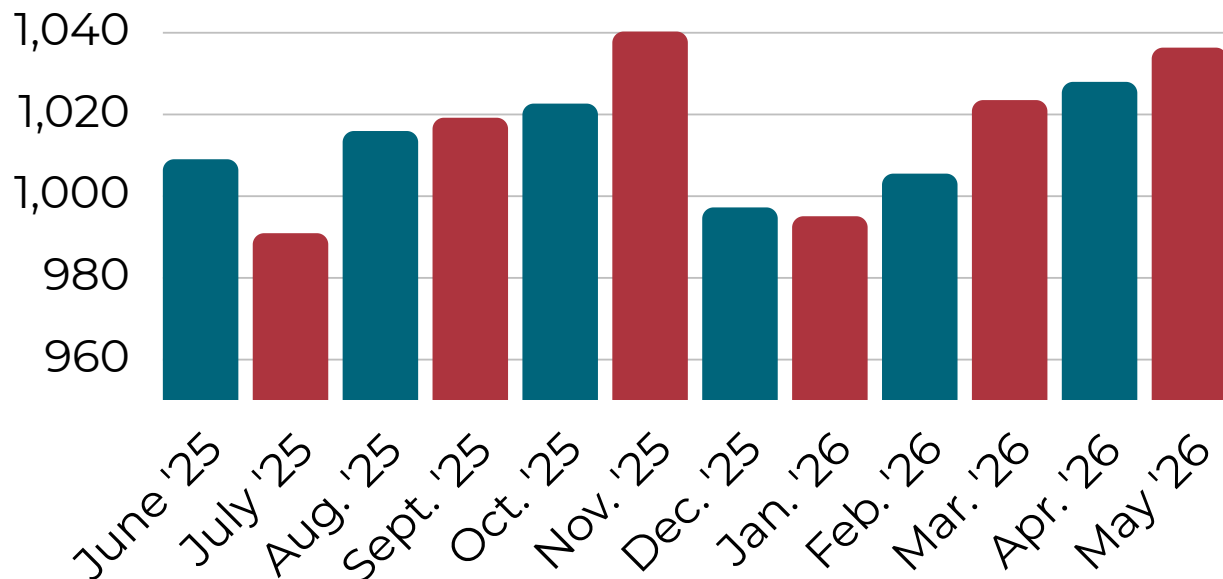
- [Wallet Hub](#)

#12 Leading Metro with Strongest Prime Workforce (2025)

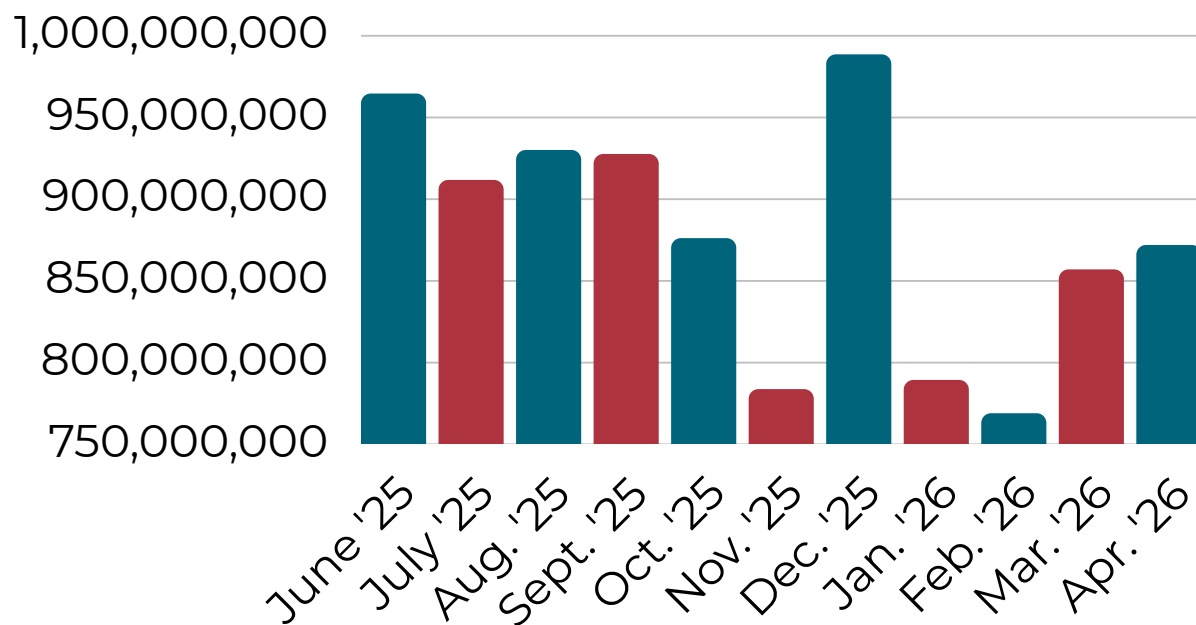
- [AreaDevelopment.com](#)

Economy Overview (June '25 - May '26)

Wages Per Week

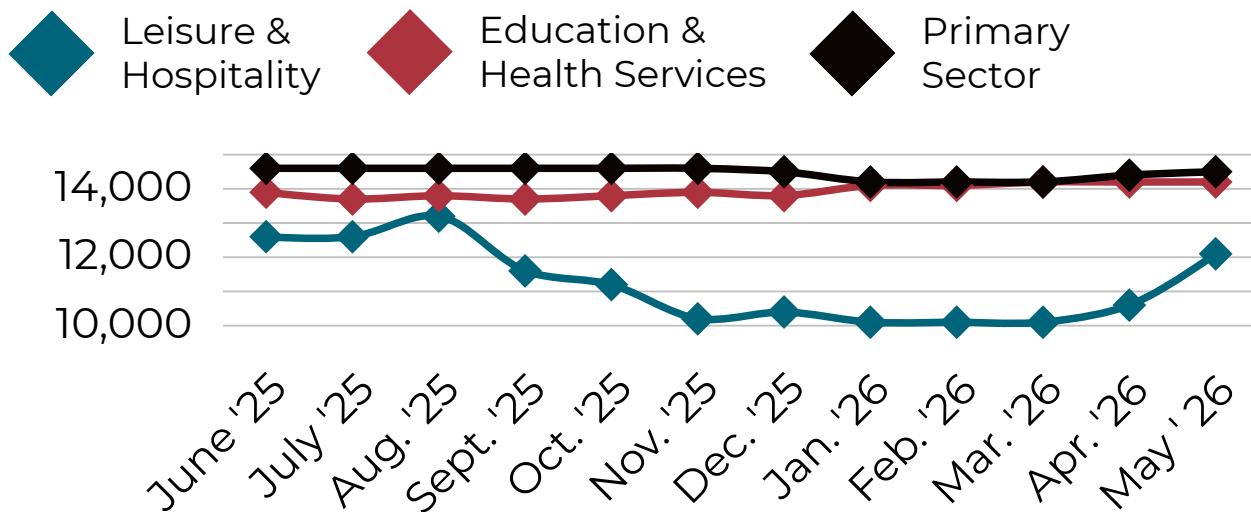


Rapid City Gross Sales

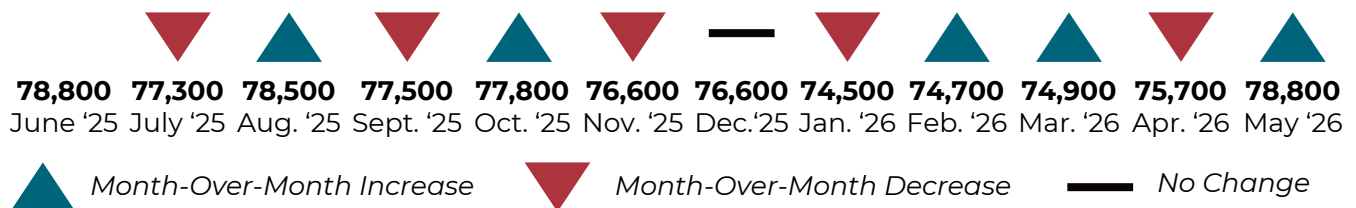


Economy Overview (June '25 - May '26)

Employment



Nonfarm Jobs



Elevate Rapid City

Elevate Rapid City works in partnership with the City of Rapid City to support business growth, attract investment and strengthen the local economy. Elevate provides economic data and insights that help track regional perform.

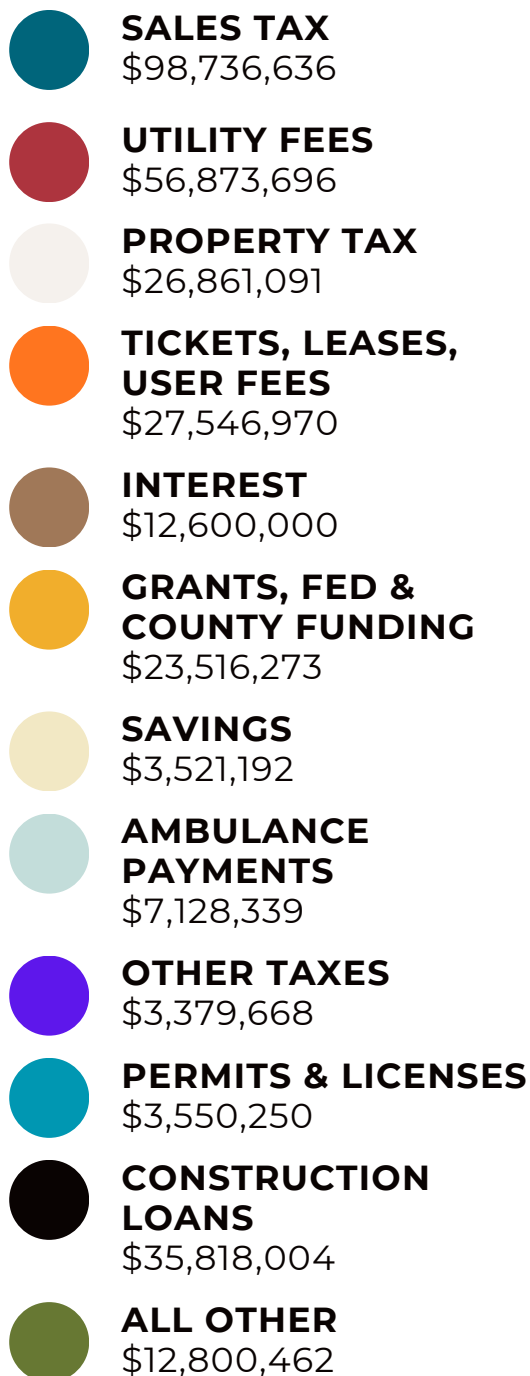
Building Permits

June '25	234	Dec. '25	192	▲
July '25	286	Jan. '26	182	▼
Aug. '25	217	Feb. '26	173	▼
Sept. '25	199	Mar. '26	225	▲
Oct. '25	223	Apr. '26	211	▼
Nov. '25	158	May '26	190	▼

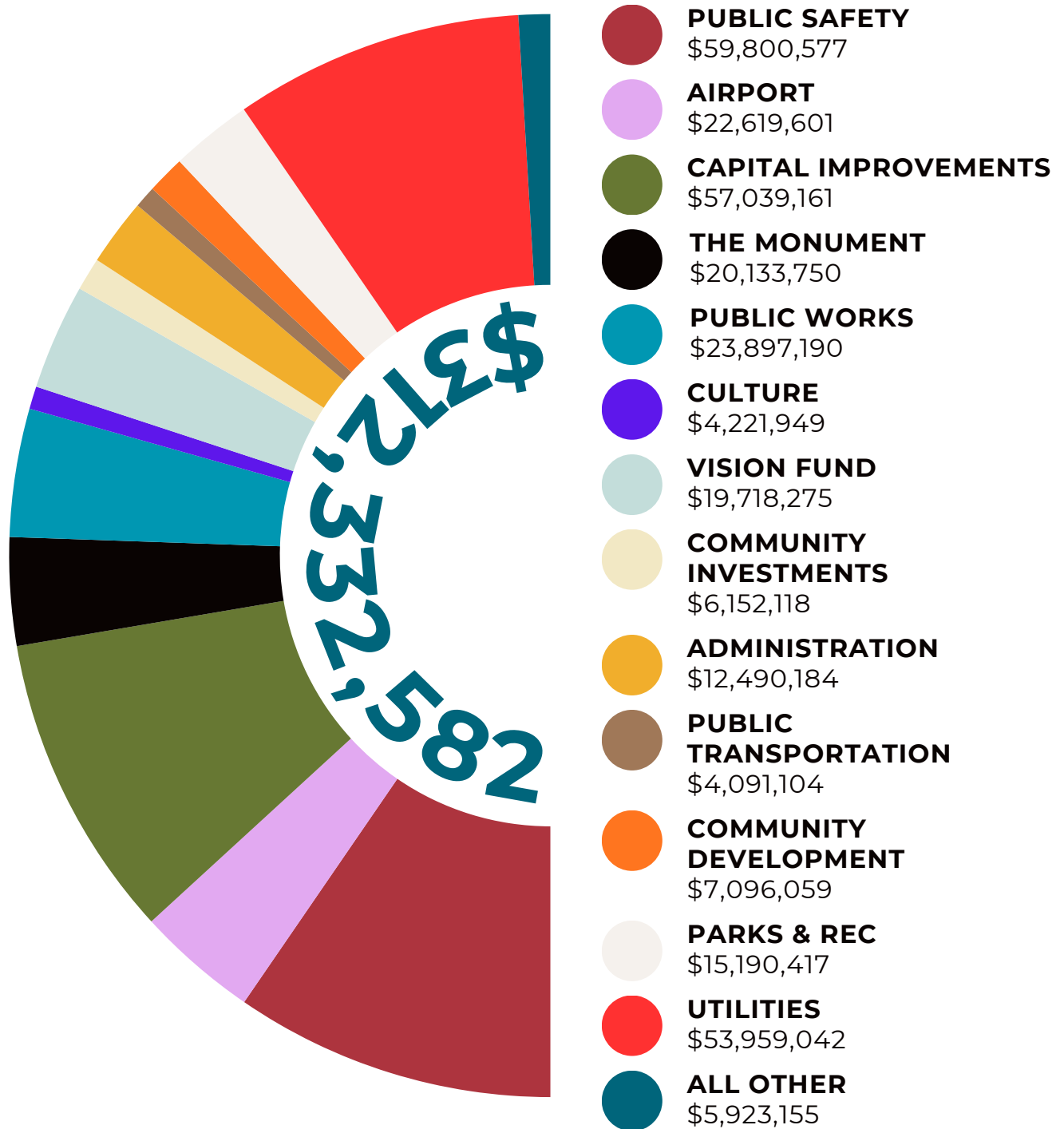
Information provided by



Total Budget Revenue



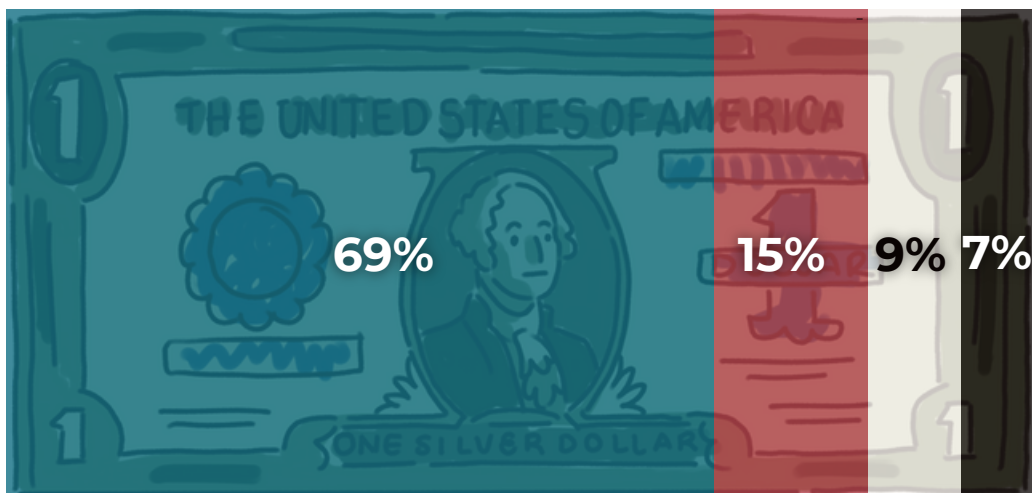
Total Budget Expenditures



Sales Tax Distribution

Where did my tax dollars go?

The general sales tax rate for nearly all goods and services is 6.2%. If a resident spends \$100, the following sales tax is collected:



State Sales Tax
\$4.20

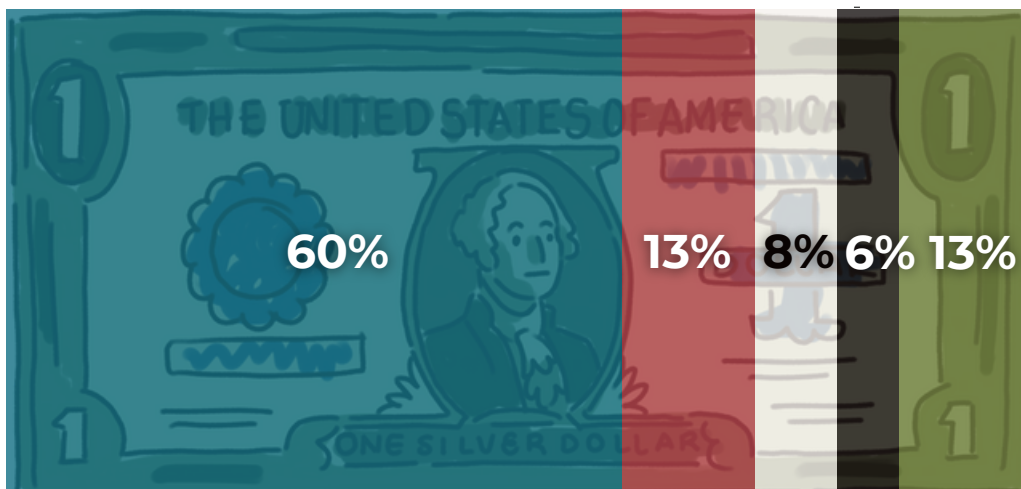
General Fund
\$1.00

Capital Improvement Fund
\$0.58

Vision Fund
\$0.42

Where did my tourism tax dollars go?

The general sales tax rate for hotels, rental cars, alcohol, and dining is 7.2%. If a resident spends \$100, the following sales tax is collected:



State Sales Tax
\$4.20

General Fund
\$1.00

Capital Improvement Fund
\$0.58

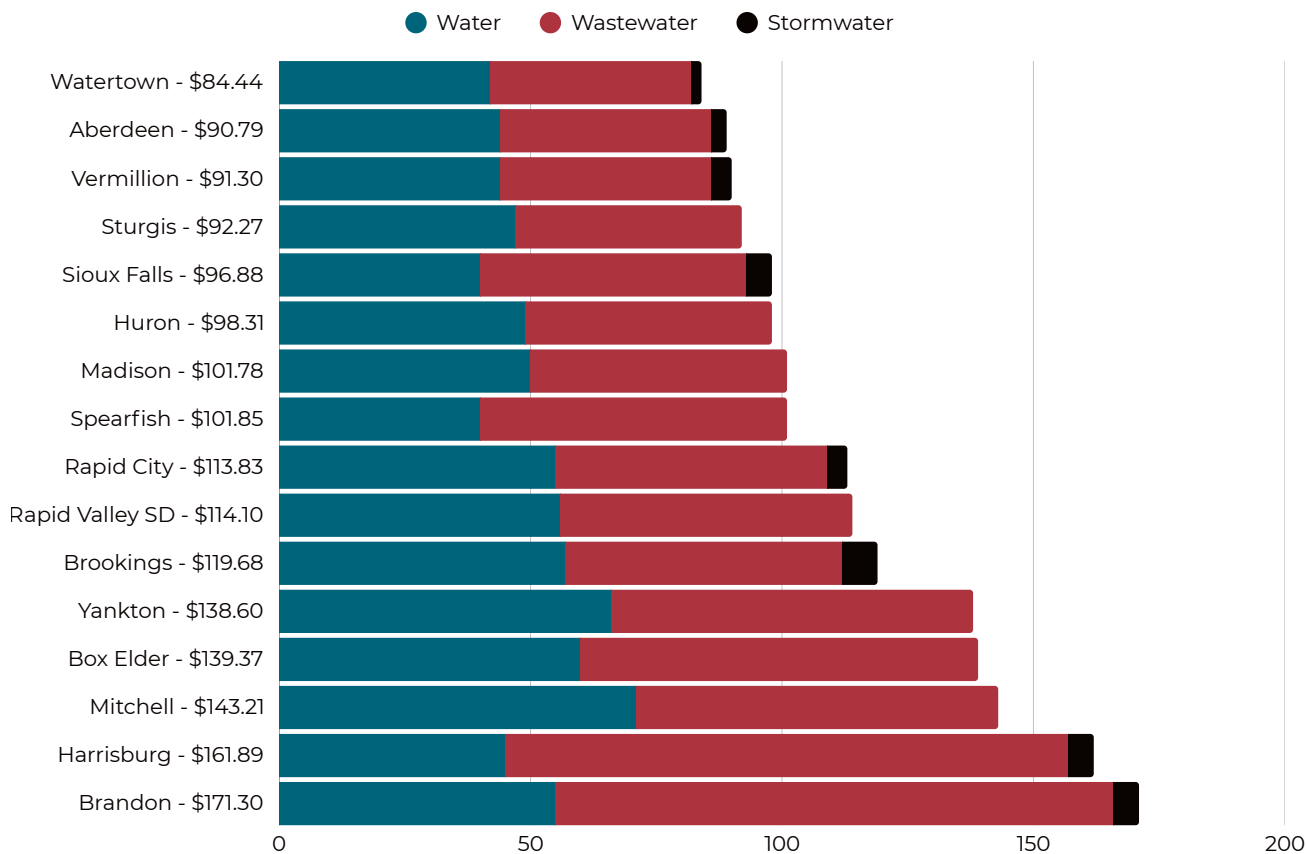
Vision Fund
\$0.42

Tourism Fund
\$1.00

Utility Rate Distribution

Utility rates are deposited into their corresponding Enterprise Funds and are the sole means of paying for ongoing operations and maintenance for these enterprises. Utility rate fees, combined with federal and state grants, developer-initiated projects, and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts, are the only means of financing new capital projects. Property tax and sales tax are not used to pay for O&M, expansion, or improvements for Water and Water reclamation Enterprise Funds.

Reported 2025 Total Utility Bill for 6,000 Gallons, Cities Servicing 5,000 Customers or Greater



Data from Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services Inc. (AE2S) Nexus 2025 Annual Rate Survey.
*Stormwater fees collected with Property Taxes.



In July of 2025, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services Inc. (AE2S) Nexus published its 2025 Annual Rate Survey for communities across the Midwest. Rapid City had the 9th lowest-priced utility rates out of 16 municipalities in South Dakota that serve 5,000 customers or greater.

Property Tax Distribution

Property taxes are the second largest revenue source of Rapid City's General Fund.

Rapid City property owners paid a tax rate of \$13.124 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2024 (for 2023 taxes). For example, a home assessed at \$300,000 would generate \$3,937.20 in property taxes. Of that amount, 19.5% goes to the City.

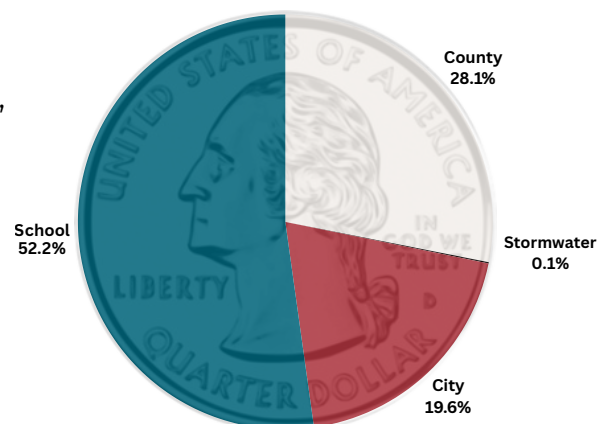
Property tax revenue supports essential public services, including public safety, street cleaning, snow removal, parks and recreation, library services, and other general operations. Over the years, the City has focused on increasing operational efficiency and diversifying revenue sources. As a result, Rapid City has reduced its reliance on property taxes and now maintains one of the lowest municipal tax rates in both the Black Hills and the state.

City	2023 City Tax Rate
Spearfish	2.063
Rapid City	2.556
Belle Fourche	3.411
Yankton	3.567
Sioux Falls	3.615
Custer	3.622
Box Elder	3.668

City	2023 City Tax Rate
Sturgis	3.993
Deadwood	4.221
Hot Springs	4.285
Hill City	4.415
Mitchell	4.533
Vermillion	5.167
Lead	6.341

When property owners pay their taxes twice a year, the total amount is distributed among several taxing agencies: County, City, School District, and Stormwater.

Note: the graphic is for owner-occupied homes; the school tax rate is higher for commercial, industrial, and non-owner-occupied housing properties.



Government Funding 101

Typical of most government entities, Rapid City maintains a large number of “funds.” Each fund has unique revenues and expenses which are independently tracked and budgeted. The majority of the City’s finances are included in the following funds:

General Fund

The General Fund is used to account for primary local governmental services. Most operating functions are supported by these funds including general administration, police, fire, engineering, planning, recreation, and library services. The City’s General Fund is financed largely through sales tax (38%), property taxes (22%), interest income (6%), and charges to other City funds to reimburse administrative services (such as payroll) (13%).

Special Revenue Funds

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted for specific purposes. Examples of this include Tax Increment Financing Districts, where property tax revenue generated by new development within the District is restricted to repay loans originating from the development.

Debt Service Funds

Debt Service Funds account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest. These include the Vision Fund Sales Tax Bonds, which were issued to pay for the Summit Arena.



Government Funding 101 Cont.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) FUNDS

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Funds help Rapid City build, fix, and upgrade major public facilities. The City's main CIP Fund gets 28% of local sales tax, giving it steady support for big projects. These dollars go toward major road, park, and building improvements, along with replacing fire trucks and other City vehicles so crews have the equipment they need to keep services running smoothly.



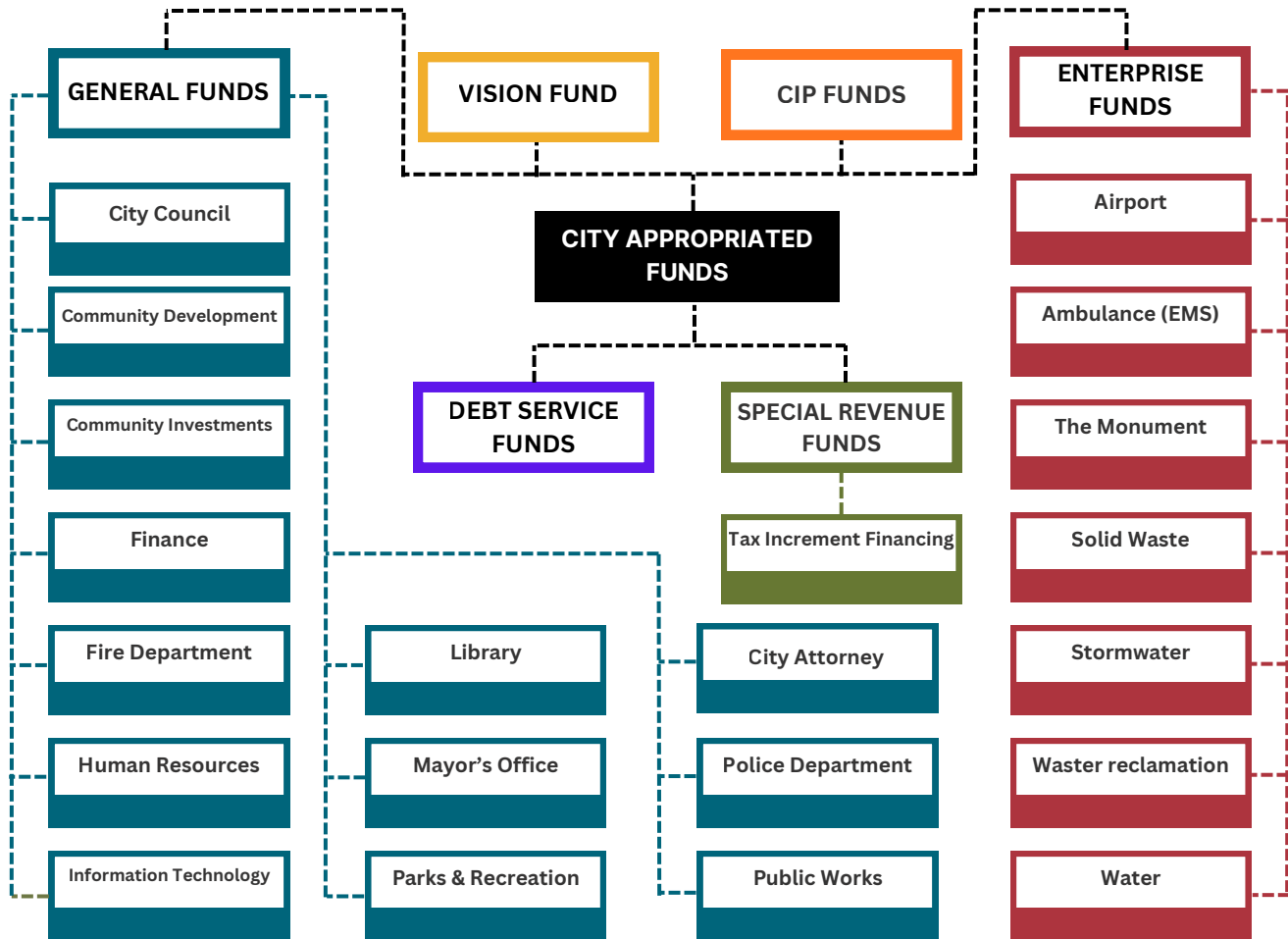
ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Enterprise Funds are used for City operations that function much like private businesses, where the goal is to cover the ongoing cost of services through user fees rather than general tax dollars. These funds support divisions that provide everyday essential services, including Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Solid Waste, as well as Ambulance (EMS), the Airport, the Monument, and the City's golf courses. The revenue for these funds comes directly from fees and charges paid by the people who use the services, and those dollars are reinvested into operating, maintaining, and improving each enterprise so they can continue meeting community needs.

VISION FUND

This is a unique fund in Rapid City, created specifically to support economic development and civic improvements across the community. It was established to give the City a dedicated source of revenue for projects that enhance public spaces, increase the quality of life and support citywide initiatives. The revenue comes from 21% of the City's General Sales Tax, providing a consistent funding stream for these efforts. Over time, this fund has helped the City invest in initiatives that improve quality of life, attract new opportunities, and support Rapid City's continued development.

Government Funding 101 Cont.



Government Interdepartmental Costs

The City of Rapid City's overhead costs account for 10.4% of the General Fund and just 4% of the total annual City budget. This places Rapid City below the national average, where administrative costs for cities of a similar size typically range from 5% to 10% of total spending.

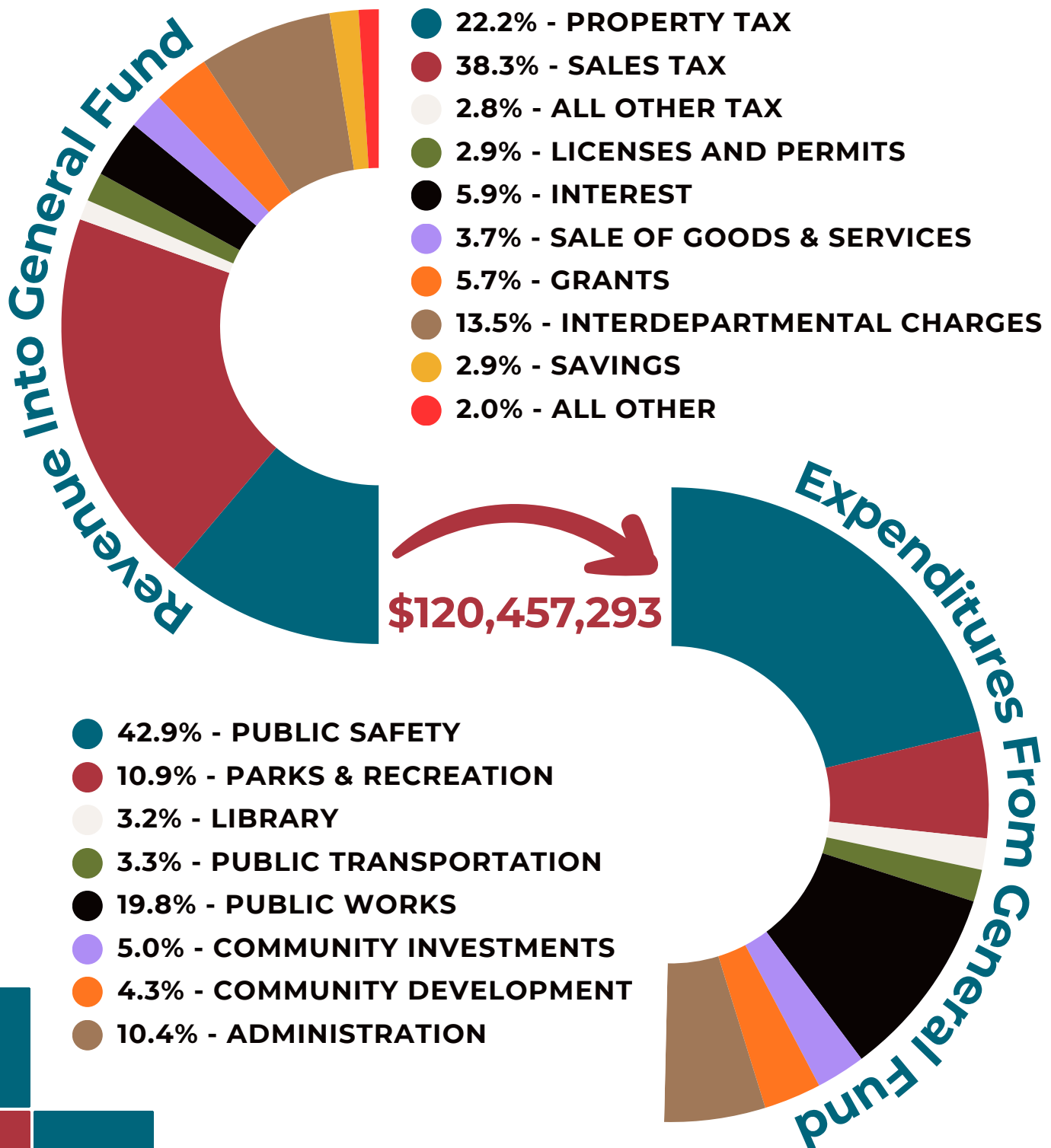
WHAT ARE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COSTS:

- These represent overhead costs that cover services provided across the organization and are not tied directly to one specific department or program. These include payroll, human resources, information technology, finance and others.
- Additionally, some services are tied directly to one or two departments, divisions or programs. In these cases the costs are distributed solely to the divisions or programs that receive benefits

HOW OVERHEAD IS CALCULATED:

- First, shared costs associated with central support departments are identified so the City can understand the full cost of providing internal services.
- Second, a reasonable allocation basis is determined for each function to ensure costs are distributed fairly. For example, personnel and payroll costs are allocated based on employee count, while Information Technology costs are allocated using the number of workstations and help desk tickets originating from each division or function.
- Next, the costs associated with each support department are allocated to the various divisions or departments according to the chosen allocation method. This step helps show the true cost of operating each function and ensures budget decisions are based on accurate information.
- Finally, all annual budgeted costs are applied to each function, giving departments a complete picture of their operational expenses and helping guide future planning.

General Fund Revenue & Expenses



Mayor's Office

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ❖ **A Safer Rapid City for Everyone:** Equip police, fire, and emergency medical services with modern resources to improve response times and enhance visibility. Focus on proactive community policing, mental health response frameworks, and neighbor-level trust to keep both our local neighborhoods and our vital tourism corridors secure.
- ❖ **Responsive and Transparent Local Government:** Modernize municipal services by breaking down bureaucratic silos and implementing better digital tools. This ensures that taxpayers can easily access services, track public projects, and experience an accountable, fiscally responsible city hall.
- ❖ **Strategic Advocacy and Partnerships:** Actively partner with county, state, and federal officials to secure regional infrastructure funding and development grants. This proactive outreach ensures Rapid City's voice is heard and respected at every level of government decision-making.
- ❖ **Smart Growth and Shared Prosperity:** Support local entrepreneurs, reduce red tape for small businesses, and expand workforce housing options. By diversifying our local economy, we can foster sustainable growth that creates family-sustaining wages for all residents.
- ❖ **Strong Families and Resilient Homes:** Partner with local non-profits and agencies to provide wrap-around support for foster families and at-risk parents, ensuring every child has a stable environment to thrive.

PURPOSE

Provide general oversight over the work and efforts of the City's 13 departments while serving Rapid City with integrity and excellence for all residents.



6 FTE
\$891K



Mayor's Office By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
General Fund	\$541	\$197,859	(\$197,318)	-99.7%
Department Service Charges	\$890,078	\$981,647	(\$91,569)	-9.3%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$890,619	\$1,179,506	(\$288,887)	-24.5%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$717,703	\$721,067	(\$3,364)	-0.5%
Professional Services	\$50,807	\$310,634	(\$259,827)	-83.6%
Supplies & Materials	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0%
Training & Education	\$8,000	\$9,000	(\$1,000)	-11.1%
Utilities	\$1,109	\$1,105	\$4	0.4%
Other Operating	\$98,000	\$122,700	(\$24,700)	-20.1%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$890,619	\$1,179,506	(\$288,887)	-24.5%

City Council

Consisting of 10 elected officials, two serving each of five wards within the City's boundaries, the City Council represents the citizens of their respective wards and the community at large.

The Council provides policy direction for the City staff to implement.

The Youth City Council creates an accessible channel for open communication between the City Council and youth in the community with opportunities to spark civic engagement and gain valuable experience.

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ◆ **Elevating Community Value:** The City Council will focus on enriching the quality of life within the community, enhancing communication with residents, and increasing the return on the taxpayers' investment within the City.
- ◆ **Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders:** The Youth City Council will continue to review and discuss City Council agendas to gain knowledge and insight on important community issues and learn about City issues from different departments. These young leaders will be empowered with a front-row seat to local governance.

PURPOSE

Provide responsive, transparent, and community-focused governance that reflects public priorities, strengthens civic trust, and upholds the highest standards of accountability and ethical leadership.



**10 Elected
Officials
\$1.2M**



City Council By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
General Fund	\$667,151	\$541,140	\$126,011	23.3%
Department Service Charges	\$558,980	\$423,841	\$135,139	31.9%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,226,131	\$964,981	\$261,150	27.1%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$387,531	\$426,381	(\$38,850)	-9.1%
Professional Services	\$600	\$600	\$0	0%
Supplies & Materials	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0%
Training & Education	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0%
Other Operating	\$820,500	\$520,500	\$300,000	57.6%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,226,131	\$964,981	\$261,150	27.1%

City Attorney's Office

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ◆ **Legal Counsel Excellence:** Provide timely, accurate, and high-quality legal counsel and risk mitigation strategies to support daily municipal operations, ensuring city initiatives align with regulatory frameworks. Act as a critical first responder to legal complications, contractual disputes, or operational crises, developing swift resolution paths that protect the City's assets, reputation, and public trust.
- ◆ **Departmental Partnership:** Collaborate cross-functionally with leadership, department heads, and key stakeholders to define long-term strategic objectives and evaluate new municipal initiatives. Translate complex legal parameters into actionable guidance, helping to design and execute robust implementation roadmaps that mitigate project risks while driving successful, community-focused outcomes.
- ◆ **Policy Standardization:** Design, implement, and institutionalize standardized policies, operational procedures, and governance frameworks that streamline city-wide decision-making.
- ◆ **Monitor and Respond to Shifts in Legal Landscape:** Proactively track and analyze changes in state and federal laws and regulations as well as judicial decisions relevant to municipal law. Provide legal advisories and proactive communication to City staff and officials to assist with operational adjustments, legal compliance, and integration of best practices.

PURPOSE

Provide timely and high-quality legal advice to Mayor, Council, and City staff while meeting the highest professional and ethical standards.



7 FTE
\$1.1M



City Attorney's Office By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
General Fund	\$62,001	\$101,253	(\$39,251)	-38.8%
Department Service Charges	\$1,071,596	\$1,039,375	\$32,221	3.1%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,133,597	\$1,140,628	(\$7,030)	-0.6%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$1,062,179	\$1,068,627	(\$6,448)	-0.6%
Professional Services	\$10,000	\$13,500	(\$3,500)	-25.9%
Supplies & Materials	\$7,500	\$4,500	\$3,000	66.7%
Training & Education	\$4,693	\$12,000	(\$7,307)	-60.9%
Utilities	\$100	\$500	(\$400)	-80%
Other Operating	\$49,125	\$41,501	\$7,625	18.4%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,133,597	\$1,140,628	(\$7,030)	-0.6%

Community Development

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ❖ **Current Planning:** Launching Tyler e-submittal software to accept electronic development applications which will be available for other departments to utilize as well.
- ❖ **Long Range Planning:** Begin implementation of the recommendations from the Railyard Relocation and Railway Alignment Study, and the Traffic Signal Optimization Study.
- ❖ **Planning Projects:** Future Land Use Plan Adoption, ADA Transition Plan Update, and Historic Preservation Design Guidelines.
- ❖ **Building Services:** Complete substandard structural inventory list and implement corrective measures.
- ❖ **Code Enforcement:** Work with all city entities (Police, Fire, Building Code, and Public Works) to solve problems of both substandard properties and code violation issues throughout Rapid City.
- ❖ **Parking Operations:** Educate the public on the City's parking ordinances, enforce parking regulations, and serve as an advocate for continued development in downtown Rapid City.
- ❖ **RTS:** Implement recommendations from the Microtransit Feasibility Study.
Procure two additional RapidRide buses to replace existing fleet that has reached the end of their useful life.
- ❖ **GIS:** Process and administer the new aerial photography and building footprint data.

PURPOSE

Planning, developing and building a better community by providing a broad mix of development services that enhance the lives of citizens and visitors.



73 FTE
\$11.2M



Community Development By The Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
General Fund	\$1,738,255	\$3,106,214	(\$1,367,959)	-44.0%
Downtown Parking	\$2,032,407	\$1,341,464	\$690,943	51.5%
Permits	\$3,323,500	\$3,323,500	\$0	0%
Grants, Other	\$4,093,001	\$2,991,070	\$1,101,931	36.8%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$11,187,163	\$10,762,248	\$424,915	3.9%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$5,937,743	\$5,966,381	(\$28,638)	-0.5%
Professional Services	\$2,956,044	\$2,545,000	\$411,044	16.2%
Rentals	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	0%
Supplies & Materials	\$1,333,500	\$1,452,150	(\$118,650)	-8.2%
Training & Education	\$32,256	\$56,200	(\$23,944)	-42.6%
Utilities	\$75,487	\$70,817	\$4,670	6.6%
Other Operating	\$1,846,133	\$665,700	\$180,433	27.1%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$11,187,163	\$10,762,248	\$424,915	3.9%

Finance Department

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ❖ **Develop Internal Interdepartmental and Fee Services:** Develop and implement a standardized program for routinely accounting for internal service charges. Build internal capacity to independently develop and update all utility, recreation, and development-related fees, increasing responsiveness to community needs and eliminating the reliance on costly external consultants.
- ❖ **Enhance Funding Opportunities for Infrastructure and Programmatic Development:** Expand and strengthen alternative funding strategies, including treasury management, debt tools, tax increment financing, and grant acquisition, to increase available capital for infrastructure and programmatic development across the community.
- ❖ **Continue to Develop and Foster an Environment of Financial Stewardship:** Partner with departments to cultivate a culture of financial stewardship by reducing waste through shared staffing models, development of internal review initiative, centralized purchasing, and unified travel and training management.
- ❖ **Operational Optimization:** Systematically evaluate internal processes and workflows to improve customer and vendor experiences, eliminate administrative redundancies, and implement long-term resource efficiencies that support sustainable departmental operations.

PURPOSE

Proudly and professionally provide service and support to the Rapid City community with accuracy, integrity, ingenuity and transparency.



23.6 FTE
\$4.8M



Finance Department By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
Department Service Charges	\$2,233,440	\$2,212,775	\$20,665	0.9%
Interest	\$10,800,000	\$8,200,000	\$2,600,000	31.7%
Permits & Fees	\$501,750	\$501,750	\$0	0%
General & Enterprise Funds	(\$10,422,260)	(\$7,986,738)	(\$2,435,522)	30.5%
Grants	\$1,710,071	\$1,926,980	(\$216,909)	-11.3%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$4,823,001	\$4,854,766	(\$31,765)	-0.7%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$2,672,720	\$2,392,390	\$280,329	11.7%
Professional Services	\$350,646	\$1,002,929	(\$652,283)	-65.0%
Rentals	\$214,235	\$235,432	(\$21,197)	-9.0%
Supplies & Materials	\$57,850	\$60,265	(\$2,415)	-4.0%
Training & Education	\$43,900	\$44,500	(\$600)	-1.3%
Utilities	\$2,100	\$2,200	(\$100)	-4.5%
Other Operating	\$1,481,550	\$1,117,050	\$364,500	32.6%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$4,823,001	\$4,854,766	(\$31,765)	-0.7%

Fire Department

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ❖ **Workforce Wellness & Professional Growth:** Invest in the long-term health and well-being of the department's personnel by expanding specialized professional development tracks and launching comprehensive physical and mental wellness initiatives to maintain high operational readiness.
- ❖ **Infrastructure Capital & Facility Expansion:** Continue targeted capital investments in public safety infrastructure through multi-site facility remodel projects, alongside the successful completion and operational rollout of the City's newest joint-use facility that integrates a community park, police precinct, automated library kiosk, and fire substation.
- ❖ **Collaborative Risk & Call Volume Mitigation:** Coordinate directly with regional stakeholders and community partners to aggressively reduce public risks and call volumes by prioritizing proactive wildfire mitigation campaigns, expanding the Mobile Integrated Health framework, accelerating regional training capabilities, and encouraging private property owners to achieve official Firewise certifications.
- ❖ **Operational Optimization & Resource Efficiency:** Systematically review internal processes, scheduling models, and department workflows to identify administrative redundancies, minimize response downtime, and implement long-term resource efficiencies across all frontline emergency operations.

PURPOSE

Focus on public education, fire prevention initiatives, preparedness, and overall community risk reduction to ensure the safety of all citizens.



159 FTE
\$21M



Fire Department By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
General Fund	\$19,792,589	\$20,077,455	(\$284,866)	-1.4%
Fire Insurance				
Reversion	\$363,558	\$363,558	\$0	0%
Airport Funding	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$0	0%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$21,006,146	\$21,291,013	(\$284,866)	-1.3%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$18,292,746	\$18,536,449	(\$243,702)	-1.3%
Professional Services	\$1,277,326	\$1,369,189	(\$91,863)	-6.7%
Rentals	\$78,000	\$60,000	\$18,000	30.0%
Supplies & Materials	\$775,225	\$781,725	(\$6,500)	-0.8%
Training & Education	\$133,450	\$165,450	(\$32,000)	-19.3%
Utilities	\$227,904	\$156,455	\$71,449	45.7%
Other Operating	\$221,495	\$221,745	(\$250)	-0.1%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$21,006,146	\$21,291,013	(\$284,866)	-1.3%

Human Resources

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ◆ **Succession Planning & Continuity Framework:** Establish a succession planning framework that identifies critical roles, cultivates internal talent pipelines, and strengthens organizational continuity.
- ◆ **Targeted Employee Development:** Design and deploy employee training programs that advance skill building and leadership development, providing employees with clear pathways for growth.
- ◆ **Tyler Technologies Optimization:** Expand and refine the utilization of Tyler Technologies to maximize accuracy and efficiency across recruitment, onboarding, performance management, and benefits administration, building upon last year's system improvements.
- ◆ **Employee Health & Wellness:** Elevate overall employee health and wellness through targeted, data-informed enhancements to benefit offerings that deliver meaningful support for both the physical and mental well-being of our workforce.
- ◆ **Organizational Culture & Workplace Excellence:** Advance our vision of exceptional service and a thriving workplace by strengthening initiatives that promote a positive, productive work environment and reinforce the City's position as an employer of choice.

PURPOSE

Drive operational excellence, enrich the employee experience, and strive to make the City of Rapid City an employer of choice.



11 FTE
\$1.7M



Human Resources By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
General Fund	\$372,262	\$427,851	(\$55,589)	-13.0%
Department Service Charges	\$1,312,359	\$1,272,899	\$39,460	3.1%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,684,621	\$1,700,750	(\$16,129)	-0.9%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$1,467,660	\$1,473,960	(\$6,300)	-0.4%
Professional Services	\$23,938	\$42,890	(\$18,952)	-44.2%
Rentals	\$19,510	\$19,000	\$510	2.7%
Supplies & Materials	\$37,600	\$23,500	\$14,100	60.0%
Training & Education	\$10,000	\$28,500	(\$18,500)	-64.9%
Utilities	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0%
Other Operating	\$124,913	\$111,900	\$13,013	11.6%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,684,621	\$1,700,750	(\$16,129)	-0.9%

Information Technology

2027 Strategic Priorities

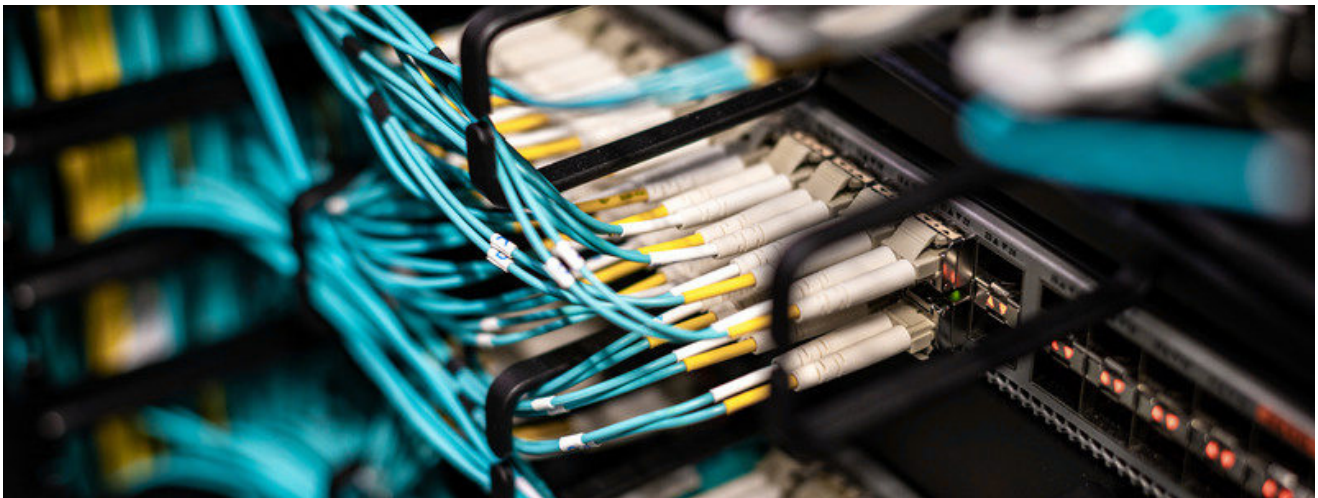
- ❖ **Fiber Infrastructure & City Camera Integration:** Upgrade city-owned fiber networks and advance the City Camera project. Investing in modern camera connectivity and network monitoring measures ensures a resilient, secure communication backbone that enhances visibility and public safety.
- ❖ **Cybersecurity Fortification & Resilience:** Safeguard digital systems, networks, and sensitive data against evolving cyber threats. Implementing advanced authentication, Zero Trust security principles, and network stability minimizes downtime and delivers long-term cost savings and operational protection.
- ❖ **Strategic Security Partnerships:** Maintain active collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the State of South Dakota to support and implement required regulatory security controls and standards.
- ❖ **Cloud & AI Technology Initiatives:** Partner across departments to securely and responsibly deploy cloud-based and AI-driven solutions. These initiatives improve public service delivery, support operational continuity, and enhance data-driven decisions while strictly protecting data privacy and accuracy.
- ❖ **Software & System Cost Efficiency:** Collaborate with municipal departments to maximize economies of scale across internal software and administrative systems, successfully reducing redundancies and realizing long-term cost savings for the City of Rapid City.

PURPOSE

Provide efficient, timely support and secure, innovative technology solutions to support the City's operations and enhance the lives of its residents.



13 FTE
\$2.6M



Information Technology By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
General Fund	\$808,900	\$246,166	\$562,734	228.6%
Department Service Charges	\$1,784,482	\$1,730,826	\$53,656	3.1%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,593,382	\$1,976,992	\$616,390	31.2%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$1,496,577	\$1,508,575	(\$11,998)	-0.8%
Professional Services	\$23,805	\$23,770	\$35	0.1%
Supplies & Materials	\$5,600	\$6,996	(\$1,396)	-20.0%
Training & Education	\$19,000	\$50,000	(\$31,000)	-62.0%
Utilities	\$97,000	\$74,000	\$23,000	31.1%
Other Operating	\$951,400	\$313,651	\$616,390	203.3%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$2,593,382	\$1,976,992	\$616,390	31.2%

Parks & Recreation

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ◆◆ **New Park Infrastructure Development:** Completing primary park development projects at Johnson Ranch Park, Knollwood Park, and Homestead Park to provide immediate leisure and recreational opportunities.
- ◆◆ **Municipal Policy & Ordinance Updates:** Revising and updating city food truck policies, designated operation locations, and overarching special event policies and procedural workflows.
- ◆◆ **Master Plan Capital Prioritization:** Utilizing the guidelines of the adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan to develop and rank prioritized park improvement and infrastructure projects.
- ◆◆ **Expanded Wellness Programming:** Growing comprehensive recreation programming that actively focuses on public wellness, physical fitness, and cultivating healthy lifestyle habits.
- ◆◆ **Year-Round Community Activities:** Increasing the availability of year-round recreational activities and public events tailored for youth, adults, and seniors across the entire community.
- ◆◆ **Accessibility & Inclusive Engagement:** Improving accessibility, structural inclusion, and direct community engagement efforts across all public recreation spaces and services.

PURPOSE

Enhance community health and environmental stewardship through innovative programming and safe, beautiful, sustainable spaces.



73.5 FTE
\$15.2M



Parks & Recreation By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
General Fund	\$12,896,476	\$11,321,032	\$1,575,444	13.9%
Ice, Swim, Recreation Fees	\$2,293,941	\$3,849,969	(\$1,556,028)	-40.4%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$15,190,417	\$15,171,001	\$19,416	0.1%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$8,751,799	\$8,569,964	\$181,835	2.1%
Professional Services	\$1,917,074	\$2,069,877	(\$152,804)	-7.4%
Rentals	\$12,700	\$12,700	\$0	0%
Supplies & Materials	\$2,640,741	\$2,718,009	(\$77,268)	-2.8%
Training & Education	\$65,500	\$68,500	(\$3,000)	-4.4%
Utilities	\$924,374	\$814,300	\$110,074	13.5%
Other Operating	\$878,229	\$917,650	(\$39,421)	-4.3%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$15,190,417	\$15,171,001	\$19,416	0.1%

Police Department

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ❖ **North Precinct Operationalization & Accessibility:** Successfully open, staff, and fully operationalize the new North Precinct facility to expand the department's physical footprint, enhance localized public safety services, optimize administrative efficiency, and improve direct community accessibility.
- ❖ **Data-Driven Policing & Resource Optimization:** Leverage advanced data-driven policing strategies and established law enforcement best practices to strengthen multi-agency collaboration, streamline patrol and investigative resource allocation, and consistently deliver highly effective public safety services.
- ❖ **Personnel Growth, Leadership & Wellness:** Ensure public safety personnel provide exceptional, responsive service to the community by actively promoting continuous personal and professional growth, robust leadership development pathways, and comprehensive employee health and wellness initiatives.

PURPOSE

Provide law enforcement patrol and investigative services to residents and visitors, striving for a safe and crime-free Rapid City, with a focus on integrity.



214 FTE
\$30.6M



Police Department By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
General Fund	\$28,670,679	\$27,702,025	\$968,655	3.5%
Grants	\$1,246,000	\$2,400,171	(\$1,154,171)	-48.1%
Crime Lab Income	\$295,000	\$199,500	\$95,500	47.9%
Government Reimbursement	\$407,000	\$305,000	\$102,000	33.4%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$30,618,679	\$30,606,696	\$11,984	0%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$25,089,851	\$24,966,948	\$122,903	0.5%
Professional Services	\$2,514,626	\$2,519,642	(\$5,016)	-0.2%
Rentals	\$49,000	\$59,000	(\$10,000)	-16.9%
Supplies & Materials	\$1,683,481	\$1,788,941	(\$105,460)	-5.9%
Training & Education	\$180,549	\$180,560	(\$11)	0%
Utilities	\$317,348	\$278,281	\$39,067	14.0%
Other Operating	\$783,824	\$813,324	(\$29,500)	-3.6%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$30,618,679	\$30,606,696	\$11,984	0%

Public Library

2027 Strategic Priorities

The Rapid City Public Library offers accessible tools, resources, and opportunities for skill building which helps support those seeking jobs, small business growth, and lifelong learning. The diverse services offered by the Library, from early literacy to local events and preserving local history, support our community's every day needs and contribute to our citizens' and visitors' wellbeing in a valuable and meaningful way.

- ❖ **Self-Service Library Kiosk:** Research, purchase, and implement a library lending kiosk to be placed at the new Homestead Fire and Police station. This will help expand Library services into neighborhoods.
- ❖ **Library Space Utilization Study:** Research and determine how to make the best use of the Library space to meet the community's needs for collaborative meeting and individual study spaces, events, and library collections and services.
- ❖ **Quality of Life Enhancements:**
 - Community Health Hub: Install a blood pressure monitor and a 211 information kiosk. Dedicate library meeting spaces for health and social service agencies to meet with clients privately, and expand library outreach.
 - Technology Conversion Tools: Provide specialized equipment to help community members convert and preserve their family memories.
 - Digital Literacy Assistance: Offer dedicated community guidance covering online safety, AI, and hands-on assistance with personal tablet and phone devices.

PURPOSE

Serve as a community hub connecting people of all ages to literacy, education, and access to technology, which contributes to the City's wellbeing.



35.15 FTE
\$4.2M



Public Library By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
General Fund	\$3,830,499	\$4,063,964	(\$233,465)	-5.7%
County	\$360,500	\$489,237	(\$128,737)	-26.3%
Private Donations	\$30,950	\$24,400	\$6,550	26.8%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$4,221,949	\$4,577,601	(\$355,652)	-7.8%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$2,857,558	\$3,138,577	(\$281,018)	-9.0%
Professional Services	\$352,130	\$423,366	(\$71,236)	-16.8%
Rentals	\$500	\$1,100	(\$600)	-54.5%
Supplies & Materials	\$78,500	\$59,441	\$19,059	32.1%
Training & Education	\$11,000	\$15,682	(\$4,682)	-29.9%
Utilities	\$121,111	\$135,002	(\$13,891)	-10.3%
Other Operating	\$801,150	\$804,433	(\$3,284)	-0.4%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$4,221,949	\$4,577,601	(\$355,652)	-7.8%

Public Works

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ◆ **Street & Sidewalk Infrastructure:** Increasing focus on city streets and sidewalks by prioritizing targeted street repairs and ensuring widespread ADA compliance.
- ◆ **Centralized Service & Efficiency:** Continuing to centralize municipal services to lower overall costs to taxpayers while maximizing operational efficiencies between departments.
- ◆ **Strategic Self-Performance:** Emphasizing a strategic focus on the self-performance of municipal projects and tasks wherever it proves financially and technically feasible.
- ◆ **Safety Standards & Oversight:** Setting industry-leading safety guidelines and operational standards for all city staff members, external contractors, and consultants.
- ◆ **Asset Management Systems:** Advancing the full implementation of a unified asset management system to track city assets and drive data-backed infrastructure repair decisions.
- ◆ **Facility & Traffic Modernization:** Launching construction on a new operations and maintenance facility to replace aging structures while installing energy-efficient traffic lighting fixtures.

PURPOSE

Provide critical infrastructure for Rapid City citizens and visitors, while ensuring services that support existing needs are reliable and accommodate future growth.



158.5 FTE
\$23.9M



Public Works By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
General Fund	\$13,400,210	\$16,343,406	(\$2,943,197)	-18.0%
Department Service Charges	\$8,284,419	\$6,528,817	\$1,755,602	26.9%
Grants, Government Reimbursement	\$2,212,561	\$2,123,918	\$88,643	21.3%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$23,897,190	\$24,996,141	(\$1,098,952)	-4.4%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$16,823,656	\$16,426,575	\$397,080	2.4%
Professional Services	\$1,696,587	\$2,531,999	(\$835,412)	-33.0%
Rentals	\$41,525	\$41,522	\$3	0%
Supplies & Materials	\$3,103,324	\$3,914,461	(\$811,137)	-20.7%
Training & Education	\$85,500	\$110,900	(\$25,400)	-22.9%
Utilities	\$1,604,866	\$1,295,215	\$309,651	23.9%
Other Operating	\$541,732	\$675,469	(\$133,737)	-19.8%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$23,897,190	\$24,996,141	(\$1,098,952)	-4.4%

Community Investments

The city recognizes the importance of supporting key community organizations that help improve the quality of life for our residents. These investments are broken out by public safety, crisis services, and community enrichment.

TOTAL INVESTMENT: \$6,152,118

Public Safety - \$2,842,077

Public safety is a key priority for the city. While our police, firefighters, and paramedics provide this service, we recognize that there are community services that complement and enhance our ability to keep our citizens and visitors safe.

- ◆ Emergency Planning - \$248,577
- ◆ Dispatch - \$1,750,000
- ◆ Ignite PennCounty - \$150,000
- ◆ Search & Rescue - \$6,000
- ◆ Humane Society - \$687,500

Crisis Services - \$2,035,000

Some in our community are struggling and need additional support. By investing in these agencies, we are saving tax-payer dollars by reducing the number of calls for service that our police and firefighters have to respond to, thus running a more efficient government.

- ◆ Working Against Violence - \$250,000
- ◆ Lifeways - \$60,000
- ◆ Journey On - \$475,000
- ◆ Care Campus - \$900,000
- ◆ Cornerstone Rescue - \$200,000
- ◆ Co-Response - \$150,000
 - \$75,000 Volunteers of America
 - \$75,000 Great Plains Tribal Health Board



Community Investments Cont.

Community Enrichment - \$1,275,041

A community that supports the arts, culture, museums, and community centers will continue to thrive and spur economic development. Not only do these organizations attract tourists, but they also improve the quality of life for our residents.

- ◆ RC Municipal Band - \$26,000
- ◆ Ranger Band - \$10,500
- ◆ Choral Society - \$14,000
- ◆ Symphony Society - \$26,500
- ◆ Performing Arts Center - \$40,000
- ◆ Arts Contingency Fund - \$100,000
- ◆ Minnilusa Historical Association - \$9,000
- ◆ Black Hills Council of Local Governments - \$43,235
- ◆ Canyon Lake Senior Center - \$20,250
- ◆ Minneluzahan Senior Center - \$20,250
- ◆ RC Sports Commission - \$25,000
- ◆ Early Childhood Connections - \$50,000
- ◆ Downtown BID - \$80,000
- ◆ Dahl Arts Center - \$409,977
- ◆ Journey Museum - \$400,328



Airport Enterprise Funds

2027 Strategic Priorities

- » **Terminal Expansion Project:** Completion of the Terminal Expansion & Renovation Project 1 and begin Project 2 Concourse Expansion. The Concourse Expansion will add five new gates that will accommodate mainline jets and potentially new air carriers. The project is anticipated to take between two to three years to complete.
- » **Expand Rapid City Air Service:** Strengthen and expand air service by sustaining market capacity, increasing departure seats, supporting shoulder seasonal growth, and promoting our community as a desirable destination for inbound air travelers.



PURPOSE

Provide safe, efficient, environmentally sensitive, and economically self-sustaining air transportation facilities responsive to the community's needs.



35 FTE
\$22.6M



Airport Enterprise By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
Fees, Leases, Other	\$10,549,601	\$10,200,919	\$348,682	3.4%
Grants, Loans	\$12,070,000	\$10,374,965	\$1,695,035	16.3%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$22,619,601	\$20,575,884	(\$2,043,717)	9.9%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$3,204,126	\$3,157,684	\$46,442	1.5%
Professional Services	\$3,564,449	\$4,840,843	(\$1,276,394)	-26.4%
Rentals	\$145,398	\$147,986	(\$2,588)	-1.7%
Supplies & Materials	\$1,007,090	\$1,327,836	(\$320,746)	-24.2%
Training & Education	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$0	0%
Utilities	\$744,038	\$630,629	\$113,409	18.0%
Other Operating	\$564,693	\$582,094	(\$17,400)	-3.0%
Principal & Interest	\$1,974,807	\$1,444,300	\$530,507	36.7%
Capital Improvements	\$11,345,000	\$8,374,513	\$2,970,487	35.5%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$22,619,601	\$20,575,884	(\$2,043,717)	9.9%

Ambulance Enterprise Funds

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ❖ **Employee & Citizen Welfare Investment:** Maintain a dedicated commitment to public health and institutional stability by continuously investing in comprehensive health, wellness, and safety initiatives for both our dedicated frontline personnel and the diverse community members we serve.
- ❖ **Stakeholder Partnerships & Call Volume Mitigation:** Coordinate closely with regional healthcare stakeholders and public safety partners to mitigate systemic emergency risks and manage overall call volumes through sustained funding for our Mobile Integrated Health Programs, including the deployment of Mobile Medics and dedicated Community Healthcare workers.
- ❖ **Frontline Staffing & Response Capacity Expansion:** Allocate strategic resources toward increasing operational staffing levels to ensure the department is adequately equipped to handle an ever-increasing public call volume while protecting employee well-being and maintaining rapid response times.
- ❖ **Operational Streamlining & Resource Optimization:** Systematically analyze internal department workflows, scheduling, and administrative processes to uncover critical efficiencies within general operations, ensuring maximum utilization of municipal assets and taxpayer resources.

PURPOSE

Responsible for the provision and oversight of emergency and nonemergency Advanced and Basic Life Support ambulance services in the three county service area.



46 FTE
\$8.2M



Ambulance Enterprise By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
Ambulance Billing	\$7,128,339	\$6,849,911	\$278,428	4.1%
Grants, Local				
Government Support	\$1,047,413	\$333,810	\$713,603	213.8%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$8,175,752	\$7,183,721	\$992,031	13.8%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$6,454,254	\$5,440,779	\$1,013,475	18.6%
Professional Services	\$507,280	\$836,276	(\$328,996)	-39.3%
Rentals	\$23,000	\$6,500	\$16,500	253.8%
Supplies & Materials	\$400,592	\$282,575	\$118,017	41.8%
Training & Education	\$36,750	\$37,870	\$1,120	-3.0%
Utilities	\$104,869	\$87,225	\$17,644	20.2%
Other Operating	\$649,007	\$492,496	\$156,511	31.8%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$8,175,752	\$7,183,721	\$992,031	13.8%

The Monument/ Energy Plant Enterprise Funds

2027 Strategic Priorities

As The Monument enters its 50th year of operation in 2027, the organization will continue focusing on responsible stewardship of one of Rapid City's most important public assets. Through events, entertainment, and hospitality, The Monument aims to strengthen its role as a regional gathering place while increasing economic impact by filling hotel rooms, supporting local restaurants and retailers, and driving tourism activity throughout the region.

- ❖ **50-Year Infrastructure Reinvestment:** Actively implementing the Long-Term Capital Maintenance Plan to protect, preserve, and strengthen the competitiveness of the aging facility.
- ❖ **Annual Capital Commitment:** Dedicating a consistent \$1 million annual capital investment to address structural improvements, equipment needs, and critical facility fixtures.
- ❖ **Operational Cost Management:** Streamlining staffing, event operations, energy usage, and building systems to responsibly counteract rising operational expenses.
- ❖ **Technology & Systems Efficiency:** Upgrading and optimizing internal facility systems and technology to ensure efficient delivery of entertainment and hospitality services.
- ❖ **Long-Term Asset Sustainability:** Balancing growing demand for major entertainment, tournaments, and community events with strong operational fundamentals.

PURPOSE

The Monument Enterprise Funds serve the community by bringing people together through events, entertainment, and hospitality, while being an economic engine for Rapid City.



65 FTE
\$20.1M



The Monument/ Energy Plant By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
Corporate Sales, Sponsors	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0	0%
Rentals, Box Office, Reimbursement	\$5,336,752	\$4,987,067	\$349,685	7.0%
Tourism Sales Tax	\$6,735,953	\$6,555,417	\$180,536	2.8%
Food & Beverage Sales	\$6,281,000	\$6,760,500	(\$479,500)	-7.1%
Energy Plant	\$580,045	\$198,523	\$381,522	192.2%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$20,133,750	\$19,701,507	\$432,242	2.2%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$9,156,191	\$9,125,182	\$31,009	0.3%
Professional Services	\$1,982,118	\$1,973,945	\$8,173	0.4%
Department Service Charges	\$664,551	\$680,500	(\$15,949)	-2.3%
Rentals, Supplies & Materials	\$86,613	\$104,373	(\$17,760)	-17.0%
Training & Education	\$81,500	\$94,000	(\$12,500)	-13.3%
Utilities	\$1,287,079	\$1,106,503	\$180,576	16.3%
Other Operating	\$1,047,976	\$428,650	\$619,326	144.5%
Principal & Interest	\$464,438	\$680,500	(\$216,062)	-31.8%
Merchandise for Resale	\$2,650,000	\$2,869,000	(\$219,000)	-7.6%
Capital Improvements	\$1,050,000	\$1,000,000	\$50,000	5.0%
Visit Rapid City Support	\$1,663,285	\$1,638,854	\$24,431	1.5%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$20,133,750	\$19,701,507	\$432,242	2.2%

Solid Waste Enterprise Funds

2027 Strategic Priorities

The Solid Waste Division continues to focus on maintaining safe, reliable, and financially sustainable operations while planning for long-term infrastructure, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency. As an enterprise fund, the Division must continue balancing increasing operational demands, aging infrastructure, regulatory requirements, and service expectations while maintaining financial stability.

- ❖ **Landfill Development & Long-Term Planning:** Beginning design for Cell 19 construction to ensure regional capacity; evaluating yard waste area relocation.
- ❖ **Permit Renewal & Regulatory Compliance:** Progressing through the Solid Waste Permit renewal process to maintain full environmental and operational compliance.
- ❖ **Technology & Operational Efficiency:** Upgrading landfill scale software to streamline tracking and optimizing collection routes via newly implemented Routeware.
- ❖ **Fleet & Equipment Management:** Continuing Samsara software rollout to improve preventative maintenance tracking, reduce downtime, and extend equipment life.
- ❖ **Revenue Sustainability & Enterprise Fund Stability:** Reviewing cost recovery, recycling/diversion programs, and exploring landfill gas (LFG) monetization opportunities.
- ❖ **Operational Sustainability:** Balancing essential public service delivery, regulatory compliance, and infrastructure investment for long-term reliability.

PURPOSE

Solid Waste Enterprise Funds enable the Rapid City Solid Waste Division to provide safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly waste services for the community.



61 FTE
\$17.2M



Solid Waste Enterprise By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
Grants	\$3,500,000		\$3,500,000	N/A
Utility Fees	\$13,684,519	\$15,978,485	(\$2,293,966)	-14.4%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$17,184,519	\$15,978,485	\$1,206,034	7.5%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$5,445,467	\$6,509,570	(\$1,064,103)	-16.3%
Professional Services	\$3,066,573	\$2,271,889	\$794,684	35.0%
Rentals	\$8,600	\$9,600	(\$1,000)	-10.4%
Supplies & Materials	\$2,845,100	\$2,827,500	\$17,600	0.6%
Training & Education	\$15,500	\$15,500	\$0	0%
Utilities	\$463,415	\$454,249	\$9,166	2.0%
Other Operating	\$1,151,564	\$1,412,300	(\$260,736)	-18.5%
Principal & Interest	\$673,299	\$799,877	(\$126,578)	-15.8%
Capital Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Machinery	\$3,515,000	\$1,678,000	\$1,837,000	109.5%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$17,184,519	\$15,978,485	\$1,206,034	7.5%

Water Reclamation Enterprise Funds

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ❖ **Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Upgrades:** Progressing smoothly with the major Water Reclamation Facility Phase II infrastructure upgrades while maintaining a strict focus on staying within budget parameters and project timelines.
- ❖ **Surface Water Discharge Compliance:** Meeting all strict regulatory surface water discharge permits and environmental standards to ensure the complete protection of local and regional water resources.
- ❖ **Effective Utility Management Process:** Continuing the formal WEF/AWWA (Water Environment Federation/American Water Works Association) analysis framework initiated in 2026 to systematically identify, evaluate, and eliminate operational service gaps across the water and wastewater sectors to improve efficiency.
- ❖ **Sanitary Sewer Overflow Mitigation:** Implementing proactive collection system strategies and rapid response protocols to aggressively strive for a target of no more than 12 total sanitary sewer overflows.
- ❖ **Sewer Line Collection Maintenance:** Achieving an intensive preventative maintenance milestone by completing 400,000 linear feet of targeted high-pressure jet cleaning across the city's subterranean sewer line network.

PURPOSE

Wastewater Enterprise Funds allow for the protection of public health by providing efficient and economical collection and treatment of wastewater across the City.



44 FTE
\$43.7M



Water Reclamation Enterprise By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
Utility Fees	\$10,342,867	\$14,479,026	(\$4,136,158)	-28.6%
Grants/Loans	\$28,968,004	\$66,155,851	(\$37,187,847)	-56.2%
Stormwater Fees	\$4,356,450	\$5,287,563	(931,114)	-17.6%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$43,667,321	\$85,922,440	(\$42,255,119)	-49.2%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$3,908,027	\$5,662,045	(\$1,754,019)	-31.0%
Professional Services	\$3,748,836	\$4,014,937	(\$266,101)	-6.6%
Rentals	\$11,348	\$10,723	\$625	5.8%
Supplies & Materials	\$1,557,883	\$1,457,540	\$100,343	6.9%
Training & Education	\$26,230	\$25,883	\$347	1.3%
Utilities	\$961,716	\$791,130	\$170,586	21.6%
Other Operating	\$450,410	\$1,129,731	(\$679,321)	-60.1%
Principal & Interest	\$1,069,263	\$1,069,259	\$4	0%
Capital Improvements	\$31,461,608	\$71,052,192	(\$39,590,584)	-55.7%
Machinery	\$472,000	\$709,000	(\$237,000)	-33.4%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$43,667,321	\$85,922,440	(\$42,255,119)	-49.2%

Water Enterprise Funds

2027 Strategic Priorities

- ❖ **Lead & Copper Rule Compliance:** Preparing for federal rule implementation by resolving unknown service line materials, finalizing public educational materials, and establishing sampling processes for schools and daycares.
- ❖ **Service Line Replacement Process:** Finalizing a comprehensive, structured replacement process to be utilized for lead and galvanized service lines requiring mandatory infrastructure upgrades.
- ❖ **Water Treatment Optimization:** Progressing through technical treatment optimization processes at both the Jackson Springs Water Treatment Plant and the Mountain View Water Treatment Plant.
- ❖ **Groundwater Supply Improvements:** Advancing groundwater supply projects to secure future water capacity, including the final construction and activation phases of Wells 4, 13, and 14.
- ❖ **Utility Billing Modernization:** Reformatting utility statements to modernize their appearance and expand text capabilities to include additional consumer messaging and operational updates.
- ❖ **Effective Utility Management:** Continuing the execution of group-specific work plans created directly from the Effective Utility Management assessments performed across the Division.

PURPOSE

Water Enterprise Funds allow the Water Division to deliver clean, potable water that meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water regulations.



60 FTE
\$31.8M



Water Enterprise By the Numbers



	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
Utility Fees	\$24,989,860	\$27,717,395	(\$2,727,535)	-9.8%
Grants/Loans	\$6,850,000	\$5,108,031	\$1,741,969	34.1%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$31,839,860	\$32,825,426	(\$985,566)	-3.0%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$5,289,318	\$5,721,112	(\$431,794)	-7.5%
Professional Services	\$5,268,186	\$3,660,096	\$1,608,090	43.9%
Rentals	\$4,070	\$2,902	\$1,168	40.2%
Supplies & Materials	\$3,921,758	\$3,773,538	\$148,220	3.9%
Training & Education	\$71,955	\$68,865	\$3,090	4.5%
Utilities	\$1,382,434	\$1,130,659	\$251,775	22.3%
Other Operating	\$751,811	\$818,139	\$66,328	-8.1%
Principal & Interest	\$3,522,828	\$3,916,022	(\$393,194)	-10.0%
Capital Improvements	\$11,627,500	\$13,734,093	(\$2,106,593)	-15.3%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$31,839,860	\$32,825,426	(\$985,566)	-3.0%

Capital Improvement Project Allocation

CIP funding is allocated as follows:

62% Public Works Infrastructure

6% Parks & Recreation

7% Government Buildings

1% Information Technology

3% Fire Vehicles

7% Construction Design and Administration

14% Debt Service



To View Total Budget Investments, Please See 2027 Budget Addendum

Major CIP Projects By Year (2027 - 2031)

2027

RANK	PROJECT NAME	2027 AMOUNT
1	WRF Operations Facility Improvements	\$66,000,000
2	Tax Increment Funding District Projects	\$36,425,000
3	WRF South Plant Phase 2 Upgrades	\$28,967,503
4	Jolly Lane to Reservoir Road Trunk Sewer Extension	\$21,000,000
5	Chapel Lane Bridge Replacement	\$9,392,000

2028

RANK	PROJECT NAME	2028 AMOUNT
1	Rapid City Mt View Water Treatment and Maintenance Facility	\$158,500,000
2	Rapid City East Side Surface Water Treatment Facility	\$103,475,000
3	WRF South Plant Phase 2 Upgrades	\$16,326,432
4	Pinelawn Reservoir Construction	\$8,250,000
5	Annual - Street Rehabilitation	\$4,000,000

2029

RANK	PROJECT NAME	2029 AMOUNT
1	Mountain View Sub Phase 1-Cruz Dr, Monte Pl, Buena Vista, W St Anne St	\$5,410,000
2	Lacrosse Street Sanitary Sewer Reconstruction - E. St. Joseph St. to E. Van Buren St.	\$4,470,000
3 (tie)	Annual - Street Rehabilitation	\$4,000,000
3 (tie)	West Street Pump Station Replacement	\$4,000,000
5	Robbinsdale Area Reconstruction	\$3,492,500

Major CIP Projects By Year (2027 - 2031)

2030

RANK	PROJECT NAME	2030 AMOUNT
1	South Boulevard Area Utility Project-Cleveland St, Indiana St and Prairie Ave	\$4,290,000
2	Palo Verde Zone Connectivity Improvements	\$4,100,000
3	Annual - Street Rehabilitation	\$4,000,000
4	Mountain View Sub Phase 2-Arroyo Dr, Arroyo Ct, Buena Vista Dr	\$3,960,000
5	Robbinsdale Area Reconstruction	\$3,070,000

2031

RANK	PROJECT NAME	2031 AMOUNT
1	Annual - Street Rehabilitation	\$4,500,000
2	Mountain View Sub Phase 3-Alamo Dr, Buena Vista Dr, Cerro Ct, W Flormann St	\$4,470,000
3	Sheridan Lake Road Reconstruction - Canyon Lake Dr to West Main St.	\$4,400,000
4	Skyline Drive Rehabilitation Phase 3 Construction	\$3,855,000
5	Boulevard Addition Subdivision 9th and Clark Street Reconstruction - Fulton St. to Fairview St.	\$3,704,000

Remaining Project Totals Per Year

YEAR	TOTAL FOR ALL OTHER PROJECTS NOT INCLUDED ABOVE
2027	\$120,096,346
2028	\$53,166,831
2029	\$32,592,086
2030	\$34,045,891
2031	\$11,667,138

Tax Increment Financing & Districts

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is the primary locally-controlled economic development tool authorized by the South Dakota Legislature. A TIF allows the community to dedicate the new property tax revenue generated by a development to help pay for the infrastructure and other costs required to make that development possible. In practical terms, this ensures that new growth pays for new growth rather than relying on existing taxpayers.

Because Rapid City faces unique challenges, steep topography, significant utility extension needs, and geographic isolation, the cost of construction often exceeds the economic value of a project. TIFs bridge that gap, enabling projects that would not otherwise be financially feasible to move forward. Over the past two decades, this tool has helped bring:

- 12,460 permanent jobs to the community
- New amenities that improve quality of life
- Millions in new annual sales tax revenue
- 588 units of new affordable housing (owner-occupied and rental) since 2023

Rapid City uses TIFs conservatively. The City has fewer active TIF districts per capita than the statewide average, and less than 3% of Rapid City's total property valuation lies within a TIF district, less than half of what state law allows.

Even with this limited use, TIFs have been a significant catalyst for growth. Over the last 20 years, Rapid City's TIF projects have supported \$3.9 billion in new construction, representing 38% of all property tax dollars currently paid within the community.

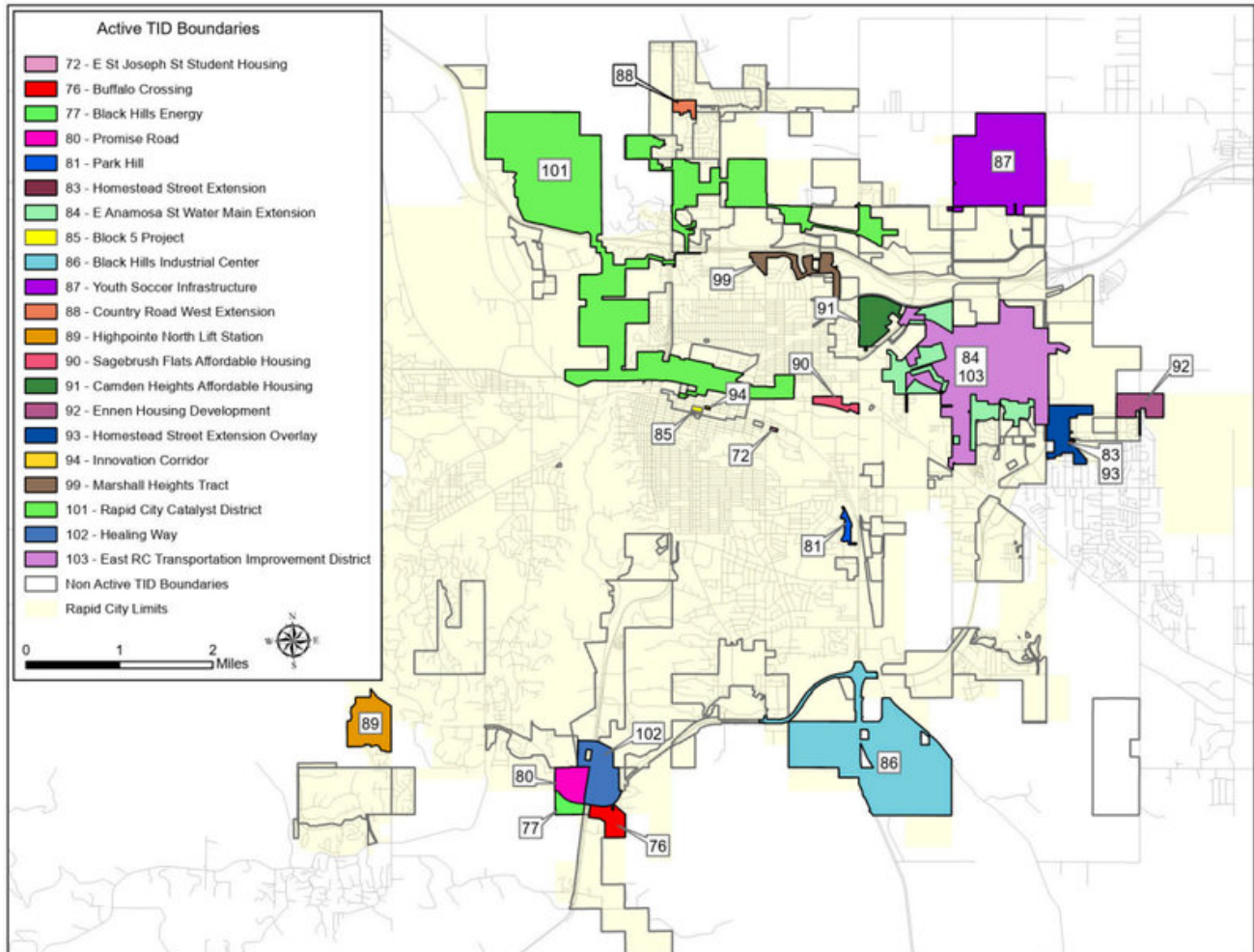
A New Approach to Infrastructure Funding

Rapid City is now strategically using TIFs to fund essential infrastructure in rapidly growing areas. This approach frees the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund to focus on rebuilding and maintaining existing infrastructure in established neighborhoods.

Over the next two years, this strategy will enable more than \$66 million in new infrastructure investment with no additional cost to taxpayers. These improvements include:

- A new Homestead Fire Station, Police Precinct, and library outreach building
- A new North Police Precinct
- Homestead Park
- Partial funding for the Indoor Sports Complex
- Completion of multiple roadway connections, including the final segment of E. Anamosa Street

Active Tax Incremental Districts



What is the Vision Fund?

In Rapid City, 21% of your City's general sales tax dollars are used to support significant projects that will benefit the city as a whole and improve the quality of life for our residents. These Vision Funds can be used for buildings, facilities, infrastructure, or other capital projects. They can't be used to finance ongoing maintenance and operational expenses. Examples of projects funded through the Vision Fund in the past include the Summit Arena, Sioux Park Recreation Complex, Canyon Lake Restoration, and Main Street Square. Every five years, there is a new application process to allocate the next five years of funding.

Vision Fund - Round VIII (2025-2029)

The City is focusing on three strategic categories for this round, a total of \$90,999,036 over five years.

- Community Projects
 - Summit Arena Bonds (half of the cost) - **\$16,414,323**
 - Citizen-recommended projects that improve the quality of life for our residents and visitors - **\$12,000,000**
 - See the next few pages for the list of approved projects
 - Rapid City Impact Fund Endowment to support non-profit capital projects - **\$3,000,000**
 - Black Hills Area Community Foundation has been selected to lead this initiative
- Economic Development
 - Summit Arena Bonds (half of the cost) - **\$416,414,323**
 - Economic development efforts that support the growth and future of the city - **\$5,000,000**
 - Funding has been given to Elevate Rapid City to implement
- Civic Improvements
 - This category has yet to be rolled out but will focus on the following once implemented:
 - Airport Terminal Expansion - A bond issuance has been approved with annual payments of approximately \$2,900,000. The total cost during this Vision Fund Round is **\$8,818,098**
 - Maintenance Facility construction - The City is pursuing a request for proposals for a purpose built leased to own centralized maintenance facility. The total cost during this Vision Fund Round is **\$7,675,923**
 - Comprehensive Plan improvements that have been identified as high priority - **\$2,237,705**
 - Strategic Growth Revolving Fund to address community issues like sprawl, infrastructure, and affordable housing - **\$17,000,000**

Vision Fund Allocation

On June 9, 2025, the Rapid City Council approved the recommendations of the Vision Fund Citizen Committee to allocate \$12 million in Vision Fund, Round VIII (2025-2029) resources to 14 public projects (listed on next page).

ORGANIZATION	TOTAL PROJECT COST	VISION FUND REQUEST	VISION FUND ALLOCATION
Bocce Ball	\$2,040,000	\$1,540,000	\$950,000
Canyon Lake Little League	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,021,416
City Video System	\$1,577,546	\$1,577,546	\$613,898
Ignite Soccer Club	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
Journey Museum	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
McKeague Field	\$1,075,000	\$500,000	\$225,000
Parks & Rec (Canyon Lake)	\$7,057,000	\$7,057,000	\$3,559,000
Parks & Rec (Playgrounds Upgrades)	\$2,405,000	\$2,405,000	\$1,046,000
Parks & Rec (Restroom Upgrades)	\$1,242,850	\$1,242,850	\$514,925
Parks & Rec (Streetscape Upgrade)	\$1,143,000	\$1,143,000	\$166,000
Parks & Rec (Vickie Powers Park)	\$2,041,455	\$2,041,455	\$1,000,530
Rapid City Fire Department	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$350,000
RC Skatepark Association	\$2,140,000	\$2,140,000	\$2,140,000
Rapid Creek Recreation Corridor	\$172,420	\$172,420	\$172,420

Vision Fund Project Benefits



Bocce Ball

- Restroom
- Lighting
- Landscaping



City Video System

- Phase 1



Journey Museum

- Archive Expansion



Parks & Rec - Canyon Lake

- Pond Walls Reconstruction



Parks & Rec - Playgrounds Upgrades

- Johnson Ranch
- Thomson Park
- College Park



Parks & Rec - Vickie Powers Park

- Park Upgrades



Rapid Creek Recreation Corridor

- In-stream Recreation Park Design



Canyon Lake Little League

- ADA Compliance



Ignite Soccer Club

- Cambell Field Lights



McKeague Field

- Backstop Upgrade
- Dugouts Upgrade



Parks & Rec - Restroom Upgrades

- Thomson Park
- College Park



Parks & Rec - Streetscape Upgrade

- Fifth Street



Rapid City Fire Department

- Station 4 Renovations



RC Skateboard Association - Push Forward

- Phase 1 Design
- Construction

Real America Birthday Bash

The City of Rapid City, in partnership with Visit Rapid City, hosted a resounding five-day celebration from July 1–5, 2026, to commemorate the historic 250th anniversary of the United States. Centered from Main Street Square to Memorial Park, the “Real America Birthday Bash” transformed downtown into a vibrant, high-energy festival filled with music, food, family activities, and patriotic programming. Tens of thousands of local residents and visiting travelers joined in, creating one of the largest and most memorable community gatherings in the city’s history.

Supported by months of multi-agency public safety planning and hundreds of dedicated community volunteers, the event was a resounding success. Local tourism and finance officials reported exceptional economic returns, including a city-wide hotel occupancy rate of 77% and millions in earned media value. The celebration not only boosted local businesses but also strengthened Rapid City’s reputation as a premier national destination for Independence Day festivities.





**PRESENTED TO
CITY COUNCIL,
JULY 20, 2026**