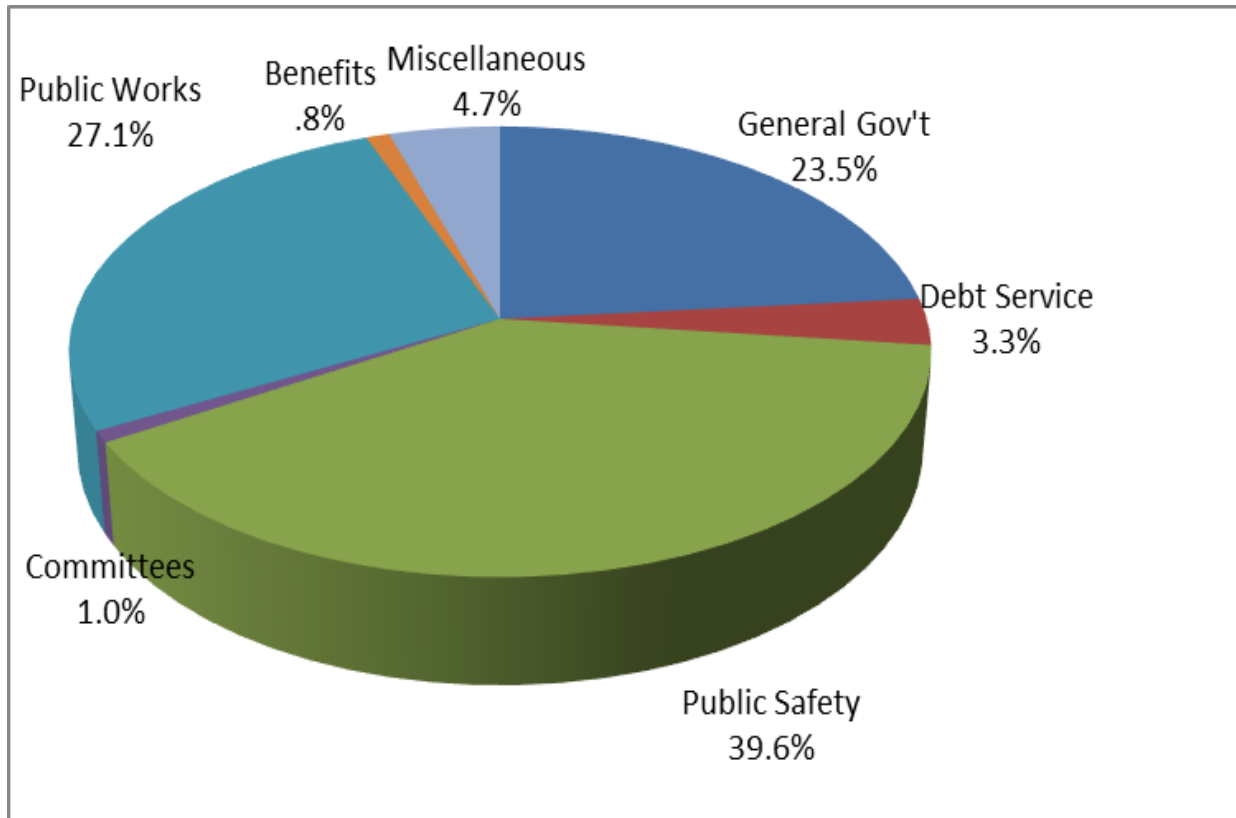


Town of Bel Air  
Budget Highlights  
General Fund  
Fiscal Year 2026



# Total General Fund Expenditures

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$18,803,284	\$18,622,946	\$180,338 or .1%



# Salaries/Benefits

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$12,703,488	\$11,903,857	\$799,631

- The FY26 budget includes funding for a merit increase and a 2.9% COLA (\$299,622).
- It includes \$313,338 to fund an overall adjustment/change to the civilian pay scale and a 1% increase to the sworn scale
- The budget proposes to add a second PT File Clerk in Human Resources/Administration.
- In the PD, the budget proposes to: 1. create a new FT PCO position from 2 PT PCOs; 2. fund the PT Records Info Coordinator position without grant funds; 3. fund the LEAD Executive Officer position without grant funds; and 4. add a new sworn officer position.



# Salaries/Benefits- Continued

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$12,703,488	\$11,903,857	\$799,631

- Salaries/Benefits represent 66.1% of total general fund expenditures compared to 70.2% in fiscal year 2025 (excluding ARPA).
- Worker's compensation
  - The Town's modification rate, based on the claims and experience for the last three completed fiscal years, decreased from a premium of 1.36 to 1.00.
  - Base rates are set by the National Council of Compensation Insurance (NCCI), and two of the Town's specific classes decreased (86% clerical and 2.86% other) and one increased (18.61% sworn officer).
- Social security – 7.65% of salaries, overtime, deferred compensation match, and resident rebate



# Salaries/Benefits-Continued

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$12,703,488	\$11,903,857	\$799,631

- Medical insurance
  - The Town will continue to offer only a high-deductible health plan with an HSA in FY26.
  - There was a 1% increase in the HDHP rate from FY25.
  - The Town is proposing to continue to pay 100% of the premiums.
  - The Town is proposing to continue to contribute 35% of the deductible to the employee's HSA account.
- Pension
  - The Town has two separate DB pension plans.
  - The Town contributes 8.7% and 9.4% of base pay to the civilian and sworn officer plans, respectively.



# Expenses

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$3,218,036	\$3,156,056	\$61,980

- Finance audits - \$31,869
- Building maintenance - \$136,500
- Utilities – \$137,000
- Gas/Diesel Fuel - \$154,360
- Legal Services - \$135,076
- Marketing - \$49,820
- Technology - \$382,061
- General Insurance - \$205,802
- Red Light Camera Program - \$201,414
- Police Department - \$457,385
- Public Works - \$965,130
- Stormwater Management (MS4 Program) - \$85,000



# Capital Improvements

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$1,863,964	\$2,548,100	\$(684,136)

- Town Building **\$164,000**
  - Replace P&R building roof (\$60,000)
  - Remove wallpaper/paint (\$25,000) and replace ceiling tiles (\$35,000) at DPW/Planning offices
  - Replace loading dock doors/operators at DPW (\$25,000)
  - Replace the Rockfield playground pavilion roof (\$12,000)
  - Install floor covering in DPW breakroom (\$7,000)



# Capital Improvements-Continued

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$1,863,964	\$2,548,100	\$(684,136)

- Planning & Zoning **\$140,000**
  - Replace Director's vehicle (\$50,000, cap res)
  - Improvements to Alice Anne Park, ie. senior focused exercise equipment cluster, paved connection to Lester Way, bike rack, tables/chairs (\$90,000)
- Technology **\$106,964**
  - Replace van (\$38,000, cap res)
  - 10 PD vehicle Toughbook replacements (\$38,000)
  - Server replacement (\$21,120)
  - Network replacement firewalls/wireless access points (\$9,844)



# Capital Improvements-Continued

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$1,863,964	\$2,548,100	\$(684,136)

- Miscellaneous **\$20,000**
  - Transfer to Capital Reserve
- Police Department **\$491,000**
  - Three vehicle replacements (expect sell \$9K) and one new vehicle (\$220,000, cap res)
  - Lease real-time remote surveillance camera trailer (\$35,000)
  - Two automated speed signs (\$10,000)
  - Verkada security camera system at 9 locations (\$226,000)



# Capital Improvements-Continued

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$1,863,964	\$2,548,100	(\$684,136)

- Shop **\$70,000 (cap res)**
  - Purchase/install new fuel pumps/pedestals at DPW equipment yard (\$35,000)
  - Industrial grade Snap On toolbox replacement (\$35,000)
  
- Streets & Highways **\$872,000**
  - 6 Street construction projects \$430,000 (p.177)
  - 4 Curb ramp construction projects \$ 50,000 (p.178)
  - Dump truck (expect sell \$10K) \$265,000 (cap res)
  - Mini dump truck (expect sell \$6K) \$ 80,000 (cap res)
  - Replacement trailer (expect sell \$3K) \$ 35,000 (cap res)
  - Replace Main St. clock \$ 12,000



# Debt Service

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$609,665	\$617,529	(\$7,864)

- \$134,180 represents P&I payments on vehicle/equipment purchases from FY20-FY21. Financings are made on a seven-year maturity with rates ranging from 1.08% - 1.89%. The proposed vehicles/equipment purchases in the budget will be funded with capital reserve.
- \$75,927 represents P&I payments on the debt to finance the various energy savings projects related to the JCI contract. The financing is a 15-year term at 2.79%. The debt is guaranteed to be paid for by energy savings.
- \$399,558 represents P&I payments on the PD/TH renovation/expansion project. The financing is a 30-year term at 2.673%.



# Community Support

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$408,131	\$397,404	\$10,727

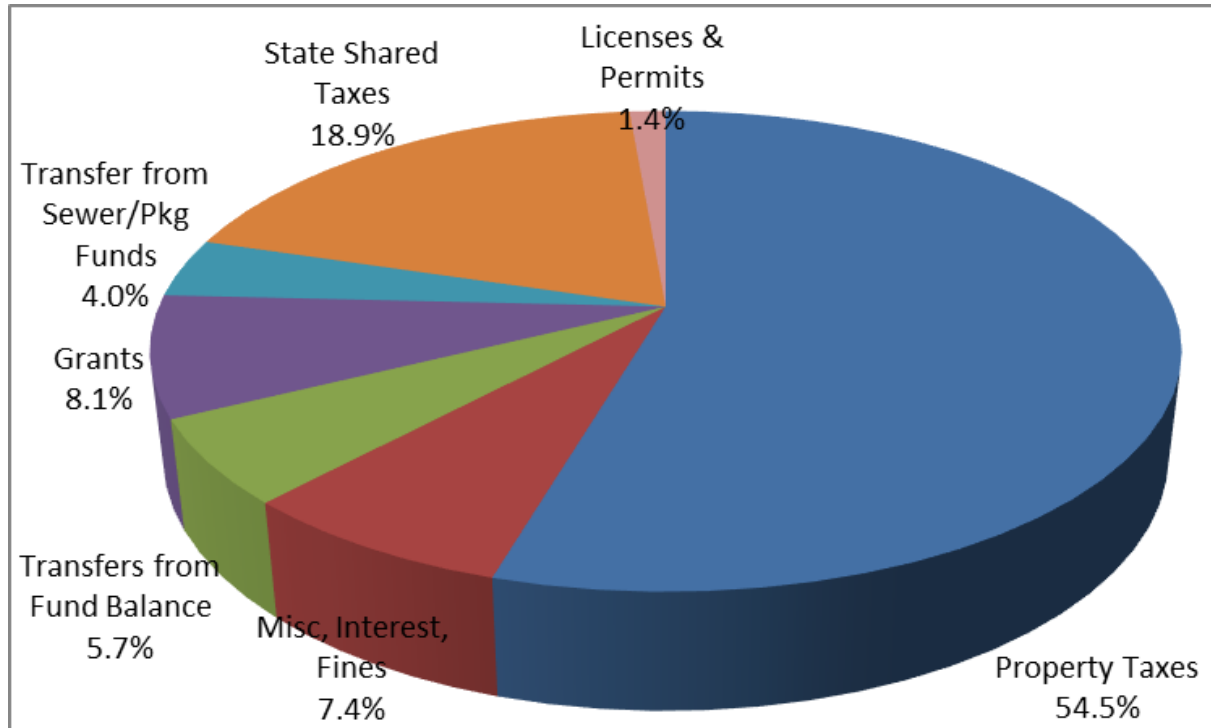
- Bel Air Alliance (Marketing) \$ 17,000
- Bel Air Alliance (Christmas Parade) \$ 5,500
- Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company \$180,136
- Parks & Recreation Committee \$105,060
- Appearance & Beautification Committee \$ 41,265
- Independence Day Committee \$ 15,200
- Cultural Arts Committee \$ 8,350
- Boys & Girls Club \$ 14,162
- Other \$ 21,458

- In addition, the Town provides a large amount of in-kind community support to the Alliance, Rockfield Foundation, Independence Day Committee, and other non-profits.



# Total General Fund Revenues

FY2026	FY2025	CHANGE
\$18,803,284	\$18,622,946	\$180,338 or .1%



# General Fund Revenues

- Property Taxes **\$10,254,388**
  - Real property tax rate proposed to remain the same at \$.54/\$100 (3% increase)
  - Final year of the triennial reassessment phase for real property
  - Personal property tax rate proposed to remain the same at \$1.20/\$100
  - Increase in public utilities corp due to increasing assessments
- State Shared **\$3,554,047**
  - Income taxes projected increase 2% (\$2,447,000) (Updated FY25 estimate is \$2,399,246)
  - Highway user (amount provided by SHA) (\$805,562)
  - Police Protection grant (no estimate from state) (\$261,485)
- Licenses and Permits **\$ 254,000**
  - Cable TV Franchise – 3% franchise fee from Verizon and Comcast (\$121,000) which continues to decline



# General Fund Revenues- Continued

- Grants **\$1,531,115**
  - Harford County Tax Rebate increased by \$40,036 based on Harford County formula (\$1,271,317)
  - Harford County Stormwater Management is based on an MOU to distribute county funds to assist in stormwater management obligations (\$130,000)
  - Miscellaneous Grants represents funding from various sources for the Alice Anne Park project (\$90,000)
- Miscellaneous/Interest/Fines **\$1,395,975**
  - Armory rental fees (\$125,000)
  - Red light camera fines (\$637,500)
  - Reimbursable police/dpw overtime (\$68,925)
  - Interest on investments (\$420,000) (LGIP rate 4.22% and average CD rates with 14-25 month terms is 4.5%-4.85%)



# General Fund Revenues-Continued

- Transfer from Unassigned **\$313,338**
  - Proposing to use unassigned fund balance for the one-time adjustment/change to the civilian and sworn pay scales
- Transfer from Capital Reserve **\$758,000**
  - Proposing to use capital reserve to fund capital assets in Technology (\$38,000), Planning (\$50,000), Police (\$220,000), Shop (\$70,000), Streets (\$380,000).
- Transfer from Parking and Sewer Funds **\$744,421**
  - Reimburse the General Fund for employee salaries, benefits, and overhead attributable to operating those enterprise funds.

