



2025 Budget Presentation

Borough of Fanwood

April 21, 2025

Mayor Colleen Mahr
Council President Patricia Walsh
Councilman Anthony Carter
Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell

Councilwoman Erin McElroy Barker
Councilman Jeffrey Banks
Councilwoman Gina Berry





Budget Process

- November - December 2024: Administration begins to review financials and develop preliminary 2025 budget; meetings with Department Heads
- January – March 2025: Meetings with Auditor, Financial Advisor, Mayor and Council in small groups.
- April 21: 2025 Budget Introduction
- May 19: Public Hearing and Adoption



Budget Philosophy & Objectives

Planning

- Model revenues, appropriations, fund balance and debt service to achieve sustainable budget practices and plan for the future
- Institute sustainable fund balance and reserve policies

Public Service

- Maintain a high level of service while utilizing tax dollars efficiently
- Advance public engagement, programs and customer service

Capital

- Make long-term, sound investments that protect the borough from emergencies and unforeseen events
- Monitor our debt service and debt capacity



Key Accomplishments in 2024

Location	Improvement
Road Improvement	Willoughby Rd, Oak Ct, Pandick Ct, Robin Rd, Second St (South Ave to LaGrande Ave)
Library	Construction of new Fanwood Memorial Library Completed
Fanwood Train Station	South Ave Train Station Parking Lot Reconstruction. Design & analysis of historic train station.
Infrastructure	Sewer lining on various streets. Sewer pump and lateral installation at North Side Train Station.





Key Accomplishments in 2024

Location	Improvement
Parks	Began construction of OEM Shelter at Forest Road Park (Estimated completion: 4/25)
Public Works	Wall Repair – DPW Facility
Police	Installation of transaction window at Headquarters





Plans for 2025

- Resurface tennis courts and basketball court at La Grande Park.
- Purchase new sweeper truck for DPW.
- Road Program: Waldon Rd, Kyte Place, Graybar Pl, Watson Rd.
- Issue construction bids for South Avenue TAP project.
- Continuation of sewer cleaning with PARSA.

Fanwood at Work



Farley Ave Fire (mutual aid Scotch Plains), Feb. 2025

School One Bike Rodeo



Public Works crew conducting clean-up in front of Recycling Center



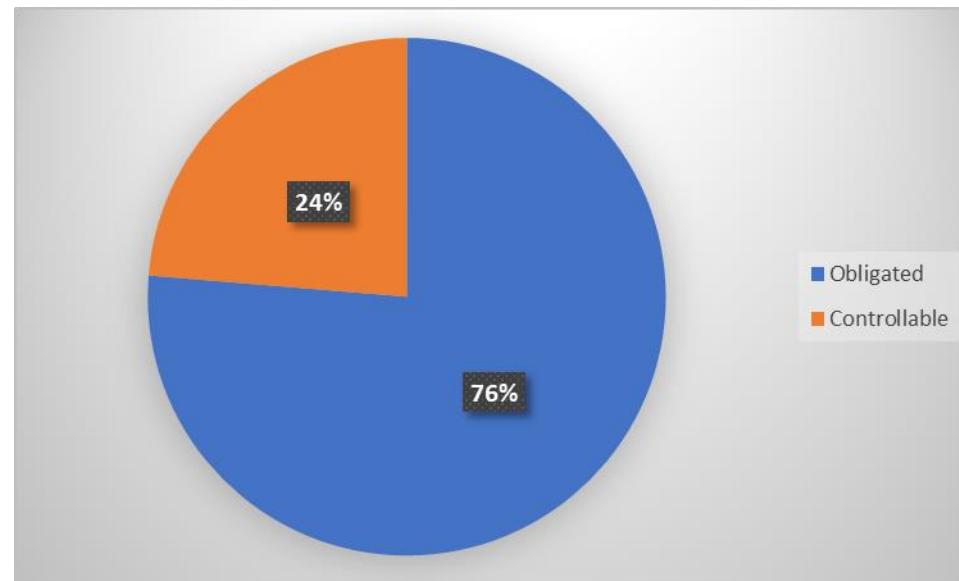
Wear Red Day At Borough Hall





Controllable & Obligated Costs

Obligated	Amount
Salaries, health benefits & social security	\$5,212,203.28
Debt Service	\$2,135,455.35
Pensions	\$896,704.82
Library	\$588,675.00
Insurance & Cyber	\$464,918.92
Total	\$9,297,957.37



Controllable	Amount
Other	\$2,886,485.04

*Includes all Operating and Expenses lines for each municipal department. Examples include: utilities, hydrants, IT expenses, and all other day-to-day operational costs.



2025 Revenue and Appropriations

Revenue	2025 Anticipated	2024 Realized
Municipal Receipts & Reserves	\$ 2,861,204.53	\$ 3,158,623.35
Grants	\$ 1,401,493.46	\$ 330,492.92
Fund Balance (utilized)	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 600,000.00
Library Tax	\$ 588,675.00	\$ 519,486.31
Municipal Tax	\$ 8,031,062.88	\$ 7,296,811.32
Total	\$ 13,582,435.87	\$ 11,905,413.90

Appropriations	2025 Budgeted	2024 Budgeted
Salary & Benefits	\$ 5,212,203.28	\$ 4,575,995.97
Operating Expenses	\$ 6,234,777.24	\$ 4,836,674.67
Debt Service	\$ 2,135,455.35	\$ 1,948,093.65
Total	\$ 13,582,435.87	\$ 11,360,764.29

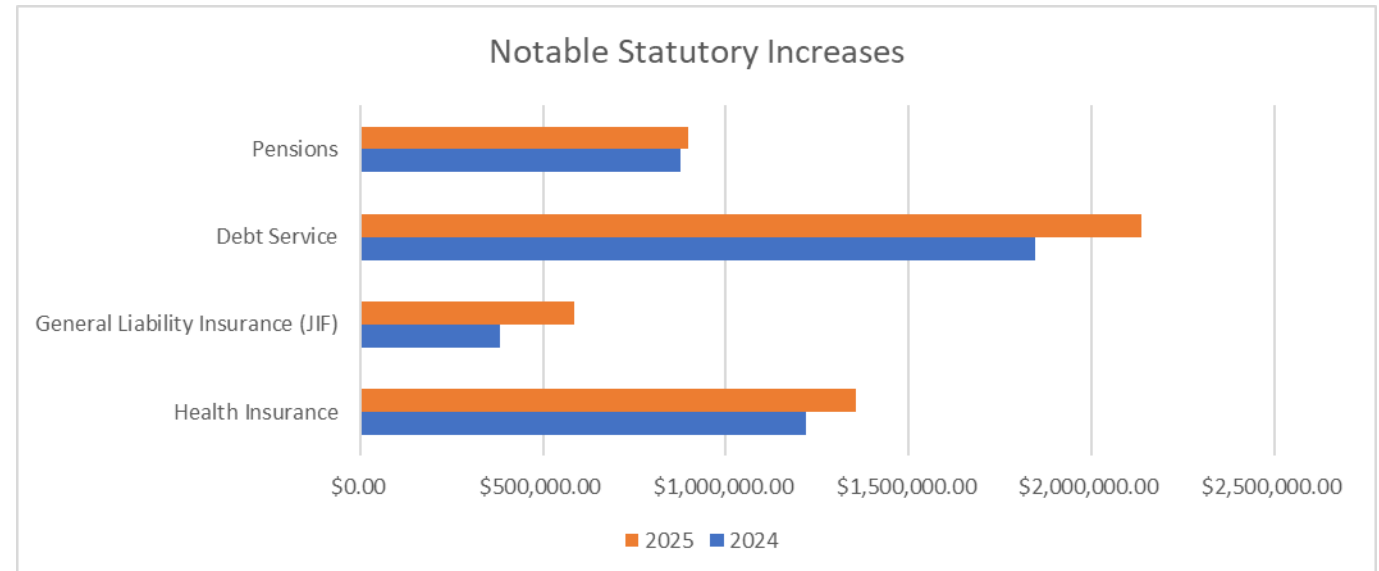


Notable Increases Year-to-Year

Budget Line	2024	2025	\$ Increase	% Increase	% of Budget
Health Insurance	\$ 1,219,930.39	\$ 1,356,154.00	\$ 136,223.61	11.17%	10.02%
Gen. Liability Insurance (JIF)	\$ 381,284.31	\$ 584,716.92	\$ 203,432.61	53.35%	4.32%
Debt Service	\$ 1,846,076.65	\$ 2,135,455.35	\$ 289,378.70	15.68%	15.78%
Pensions	\$ 874,378.89	\$ 896,704.82	\$ 53,922.89	2.55%	6.63%

Budget Drivers

- Employee Benefits and Pension Costs
- Garden State JIF increases
- Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Debt Service
- Inflation





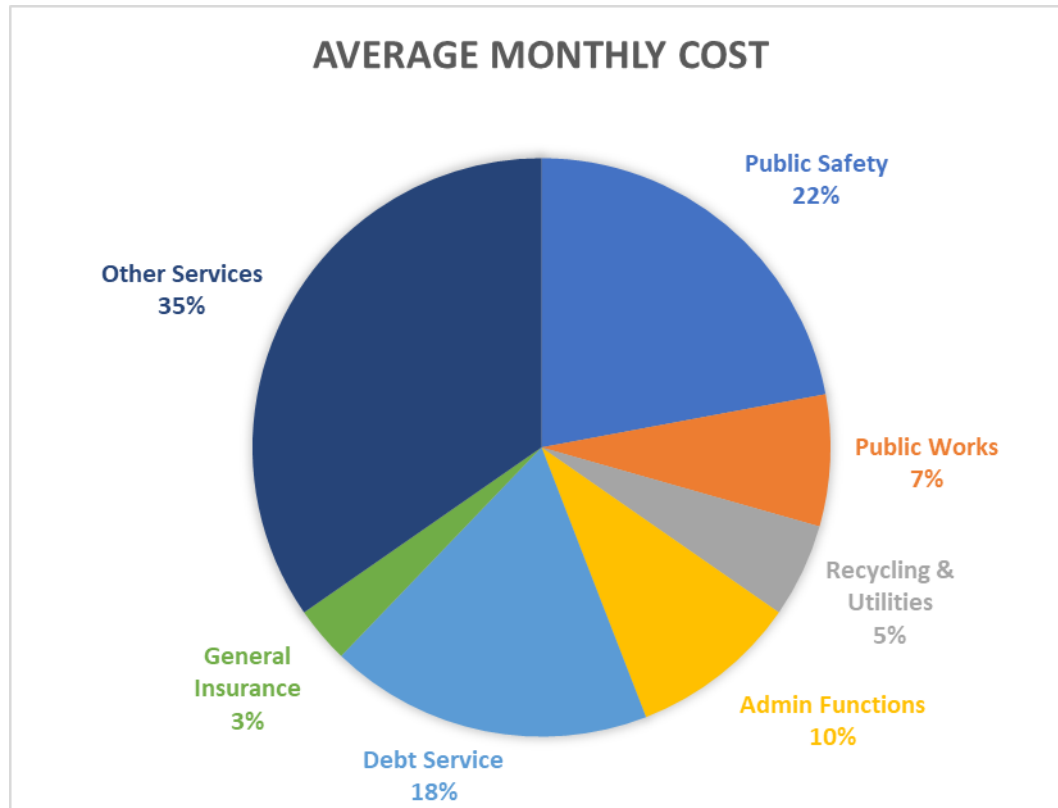
Budget Savings

- Grant Funding: \$ 1,353,500.00
- Shared Services
 - Westfield Regional Health Department
 - Westfield Fuel
 - DPW Director - Garwood
 - Court Administrator – Garwood
 - Construction Official - Rahway





Budget by Department - 2025



Category	Average Monthly Cost
Public Safety	\$ 50.64
Public Works	\$ 16.88
Recycling & Utilities	\$ 12.06
Admin Functions	\$ 21.70
Debt Service	\$ 41.50
General Insurance	\$ 7.24
Other Services	\$ 79.58
<u>Monthly Bill:</u>	\$ 229.60

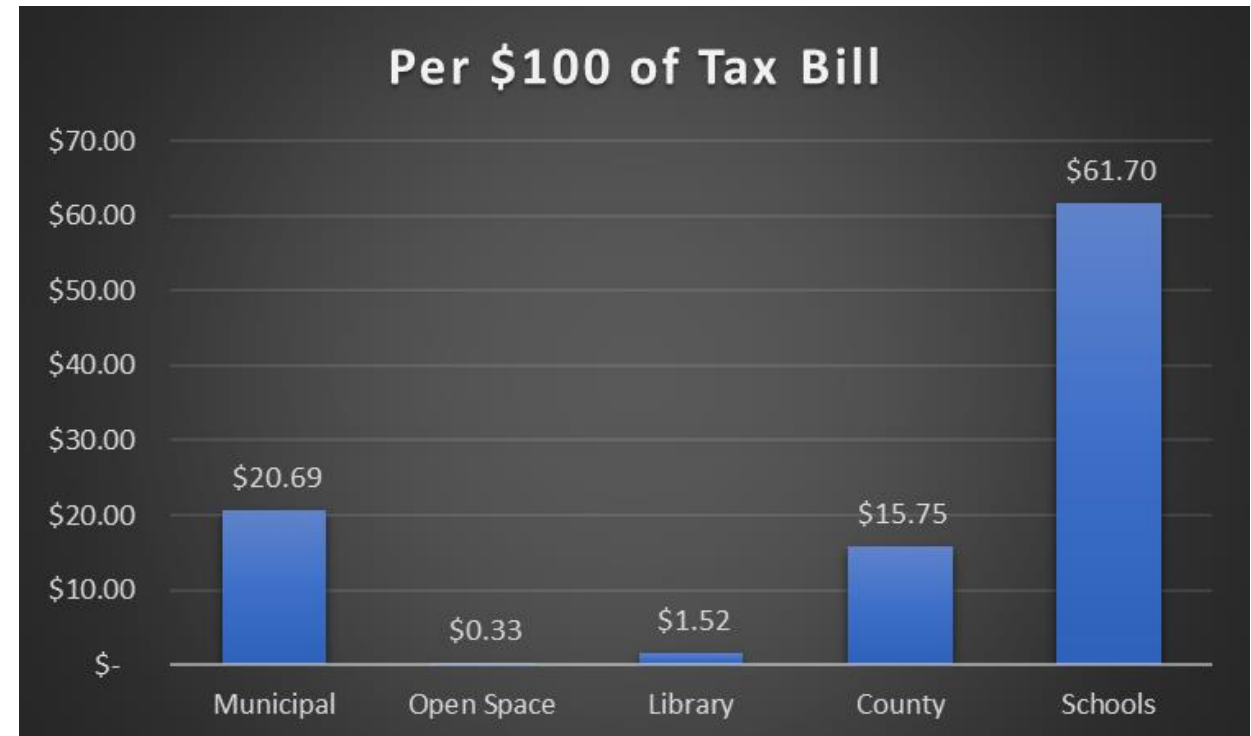
- Average Municipal Tax Bill: \$2,893.94



2025 Tax Rate

	Municipal Portion
Amount to Be Raised by Taxes	\$ 8,031,062.88
Percent of Total Tax Levy	20.7%*
Municipal Tax Rate	0.593
2025 Portion of Tax Bill	\$ 2,893.94
2024 Portion of Tax Bill	\$ 2,796.24
Difference	\$ 97.70
2024 Net Taxable Value	\$ 1,354,264,800.00

*County and Board of Ed. are estimates

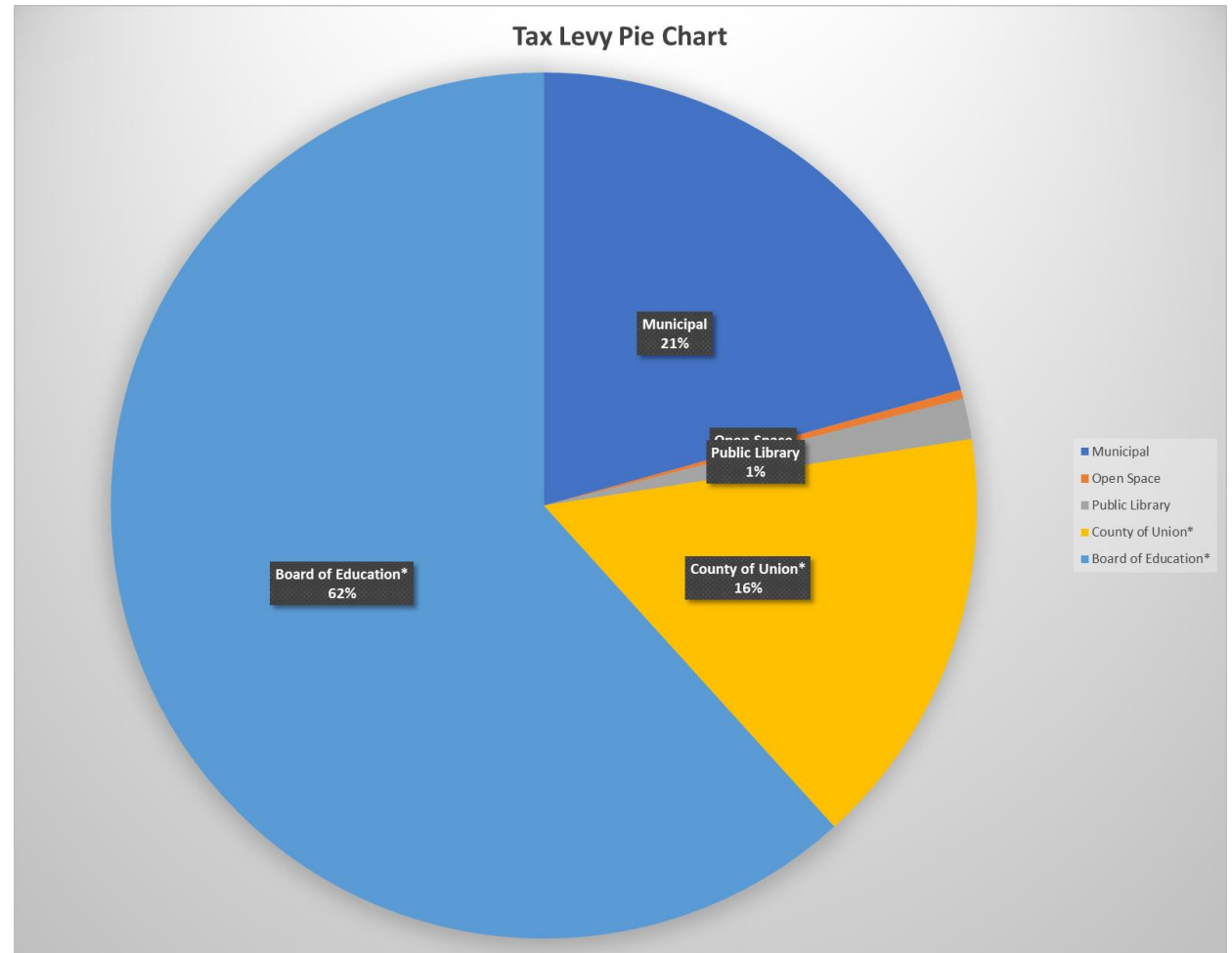




Total Tax Levy

Entity	Amount	%
Municipal	\$ 8,031,062.88	20.7%
Open Space	\$ 129,953.89	0.3%
Public Library	\$ 588,674.84	1.5%
County of Union*	\$ 6,115,077.65	15.8%
Board of Education*	\$ 23,951,449.26	61.7%
Total Tax Levy	\$ 38,816,218.52	100%

*County and Board of Ed. are estimates



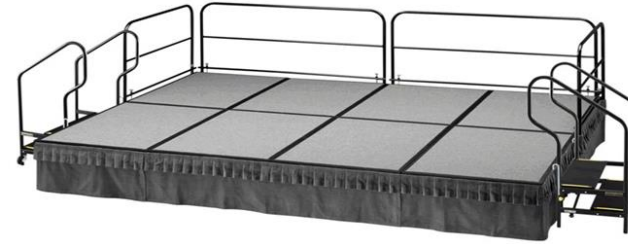
Looking Ahead





2025 Capital Projects

Department	Projects
Police	Handguns, Alcotest
Public Works	Diagnostic Scanner, Carriage House stage
Administration	IT upgrades, Courtroom audio upgrades, Electronic Sign Board
Recreation	Basketball Court Resurfacing
Engineering	Waldon Rd & Kyte Pl Graybar Pl & Watson Rd





Next Steps

- Public Hearing and Adoption: May 19
- Copy of proposed budget available to view at Borough Hall and Fanwood Memorial Library
- Questions: contact Borough Administrator Jesse Moehlman or CFO Patricia Celardo
- View proposed budget at <https://fanwoodnj.org/government/budgets-financial-statements/>