



2026 Budget Presentation

Borough of Fanwood

April 20, 2026

Mayor Colleen Mahr
Council President Gina Berry
Councilman Anthony Carter
Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell

Councilwoman Erin McElroy Barker
Councilman Jeffrey Banks
Councilwoman Patricia Walsh





Budget Process

- November - December 2025: Administration begins to review financials and develop preliminary 2026 budget; meetings with Department Heads
- January – March 2025: Meetings with Auditor, Financial Advisor, Mayor and Administration & Finance Committee.
- April 20: 2026 Budget Introduction
- May 18: 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 2025

Location	Improvement
La Grande Park	Tennis and basketball courts resurfaced.
Forest Road Park	New playground equipment installed. Waiting on contractor to remove debris. Generator installed at Recreation Building for OEM shelter.
Public Works Garage	New roof and doors installed. Street sweeper ordered.
Carriage House	New stage installed.





Plans for 2026

- Historic preservation project at Community House (North Side Train Station)
- Resurface tennis courts at Forest Road Park.
- Road Program: Issue bids for resurfacing of Waldon Rd, Kyte Place, Graybar Pl, and Watson Rd. Begin design work for Sun Valley Way and Timberline Dr.
- Issue construction bids for South Avenue TAP project.
- Continuation of sewer cleaning with PARSA.



Fanwood at Work



Car fire, South Ave,
Feb. 15, 2026.



Public Works crews
performing spring leaf
pickup on Hunter Ave.

Wear Red Day
At Borough Hall

Officer Green answering
questions during a school
tour of HQ.

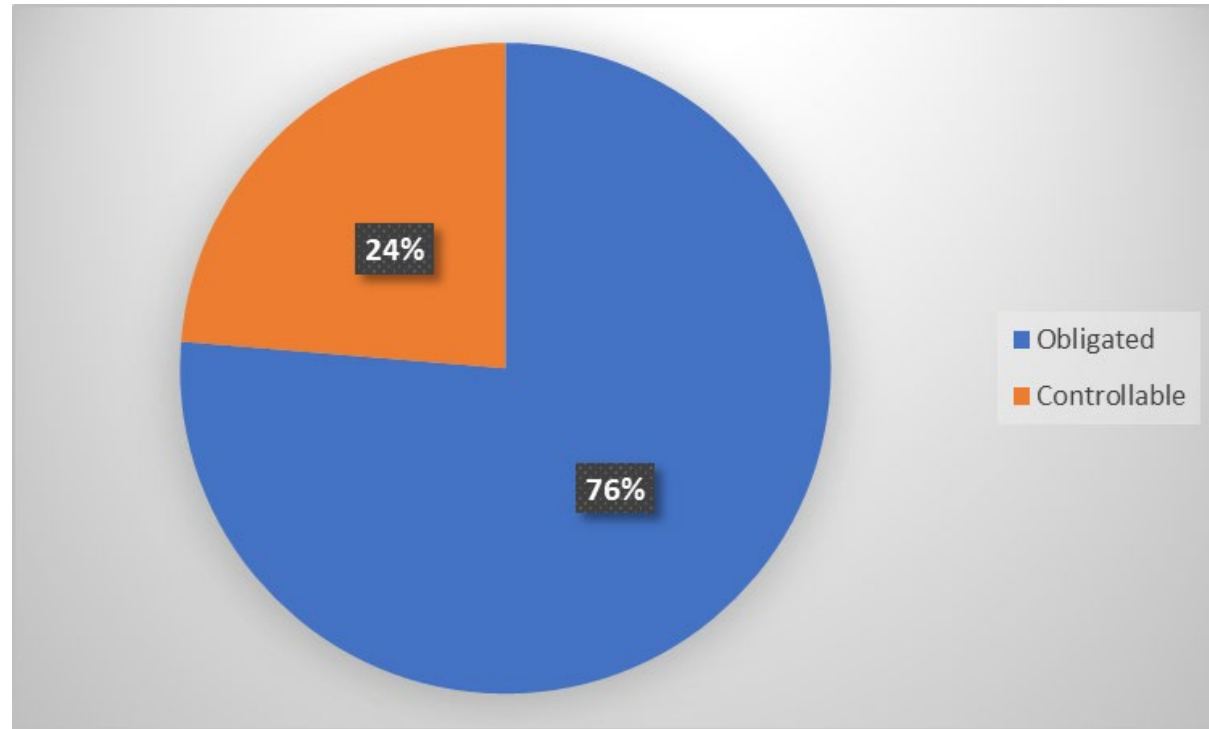




Controllable & Obligated Costs

Obligated	Amount
Salaries, health benefits & social security	\$5,522,844.00
Debt Service	\$2,019,548.48
Pensions	\$938,680.00
Library	\$647,332.14
Insurance & Cyber	\$570,000.00
Total	\$9,698,404.62

Controllable	Amount
Other	\$3,620,942.56



*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	2026 Anticipated	2025 Realized
Municipal Receipts & Reserves	\$ 2,393,201.78	\$ 2,391,050.01
Grants	\$ 530,942.54	\$ 1,457,104.98
Fund Balance (utilized)	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 740,000.00
Library Tax	\$ 647,332.14	\$ 588,675.00
Municipal Tax	\$ 9,047,870.72	\$ 8,517,594.62
Total	\$ 13,319,347.17	\$ 13,694,424.61

Appropriations	2026 Budgeted	2025 Budgeted
Salary & Benefits	\$ 5,552,844.00	\$ 5,212,203.28
Operating Expenses	\$ 5,746,914.70	\$ 6,290,388.76
Debt Service	\$ 2,019,588.48	\$ 1,960,455.35
Total	\$ 13,319,347.18	\$ 13,463,047.39

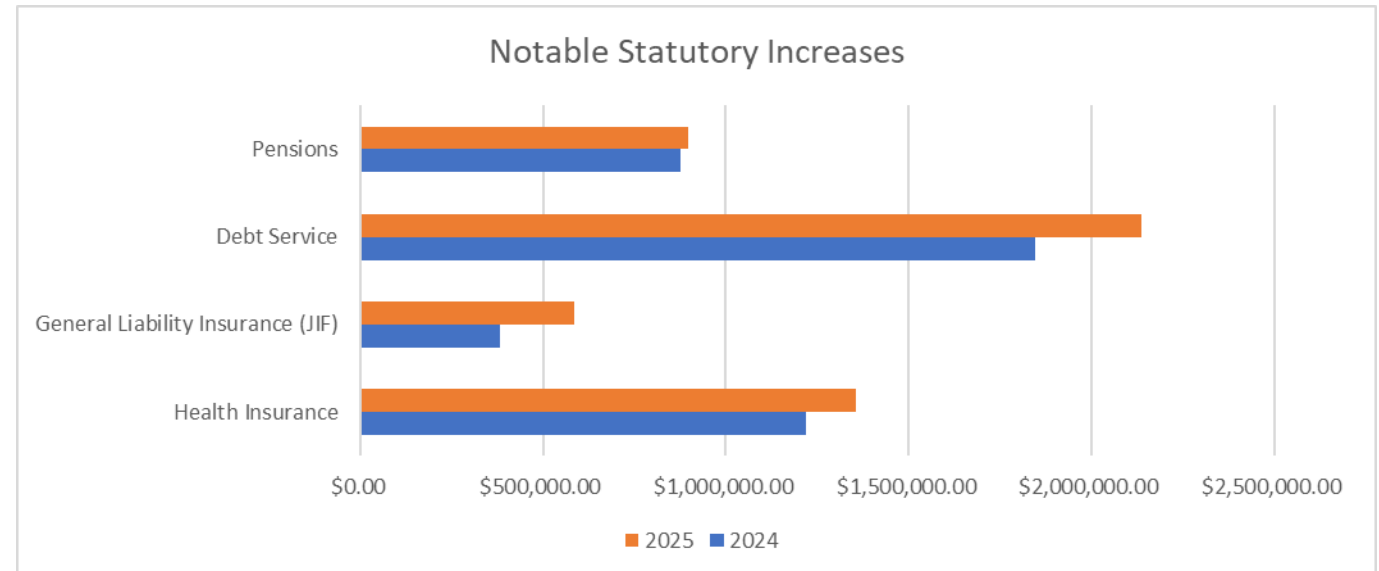


Notable Increases Year-to-Year

Budget Line	2025	2026	\$ Increase	% Increase
Group (Health) Insurance	\$ 1,356,159.00	\$ 1,721,019.60	\$ 364,856.60	26%
Gen. Liability Insurance (JIF)	\$ 520,419.58	\$ 570,000.00	\$ 49,580.42	9.5%
Debt Service	\$ 1,960,455.35	\$ 2,019,558.48	\$ 59,103.13	3%
Pensions	\$ 896,704.82	\$ 938,680.00	\$ 41,975.18	4.7%

Budget Drivers

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





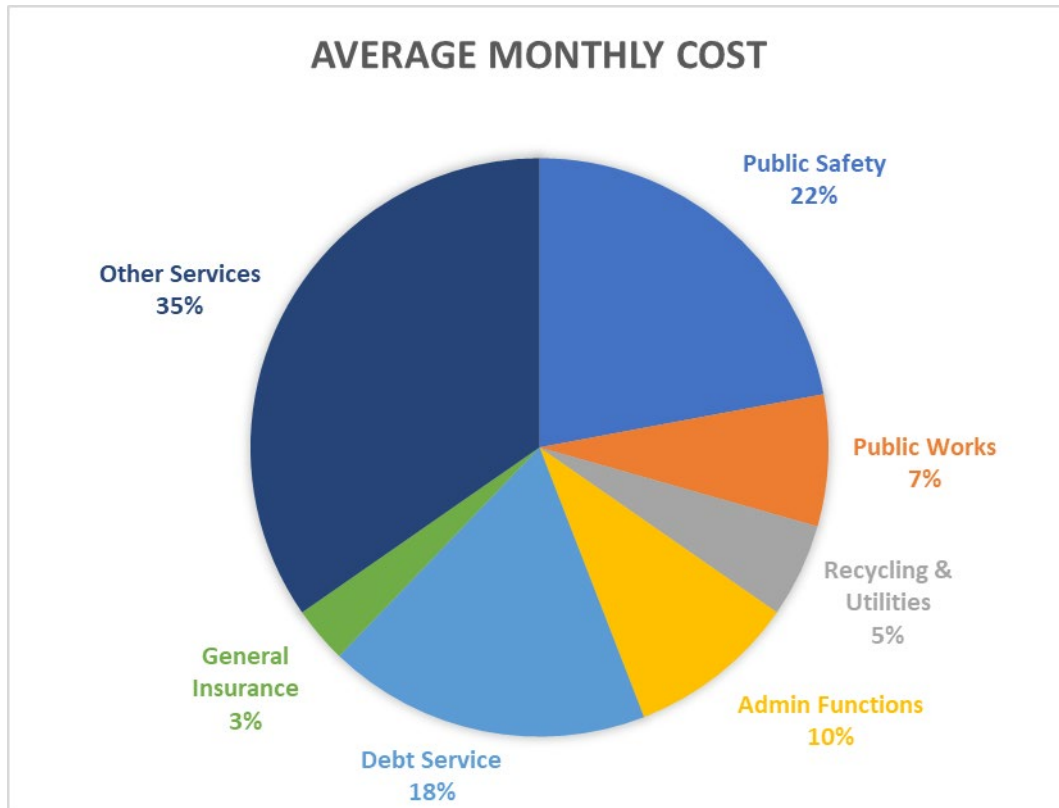
Budget Savings

- Grant Funding: \$ 514,342.26
- Shared Services
 - Westfield Regional Health Department
 - Westfield Fuel
 - DPW Director - Garwood
 - Court – Garwood
 - Tax Collection – Scotch Plains
 - Construction Official - Rahway





Budget by Department - 2026



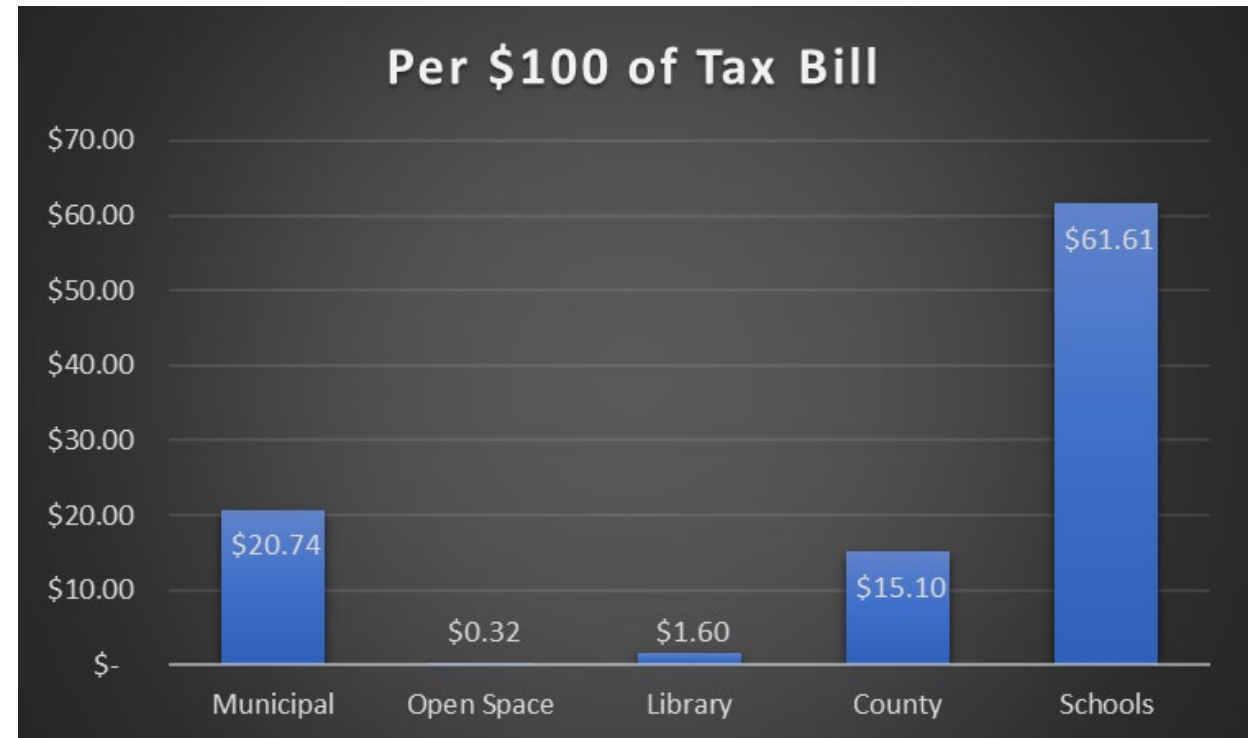
Category	Average Monthly Cost
Public Safety	\$ 68.73
Public Works	\$ 21.87
Recycling & Utilities	\$ 15.62
Admin Functions	\$ 31.24
Debt Service	\$ 56.23
General Insurance	\$ 9.37
Other Services	\$ 109.34
<u>Monthly Bill:</u>	\$ 312.40

- Average Municipal Tax Bill: \$3,124.07



2026 Tax Rate

	Municipal Portion
Amount to Be Raised by Taxes	\$ 8,400,539.00
Percent of Total Tax Levy	20.7%*
Municipal Tax Rate	0.658
2026 Portion of Tax Bill	\$ 3,128.13
2025 Portion of Tax Bill	\$ 2,901.26
Difference	\$ 226.86
2026 Net Taxable Value	\$ 1,277,262,800.00

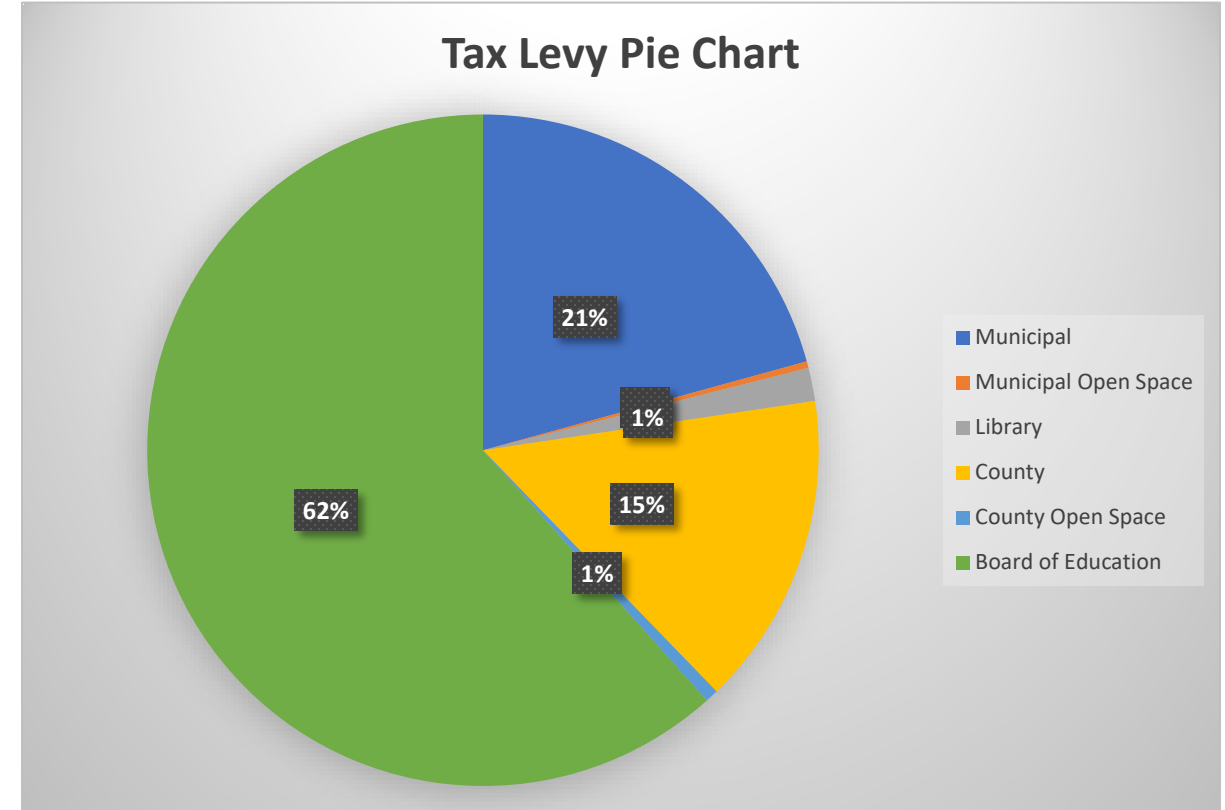


*County and Board of Ed. are 2025 figures.



Total Tax Levy

Entity	Amount	%
Municipal	\$ 8,400,539.00	20.74%
Municipal Open Space	\$ 127,726.28	0.32%
Library	\$ 647,332.00	1.60%
County*	\$ 6,103,930.23	15.10%
County Open Space*	\$265,195.83	0.63%
Board of Education*	\$ 24,904,232.00	61.61%
Total Tax Levy	\$ 40,448,855.34	100%



*County and Board of Ed. are 2025 figures.



Looking Ahead





2026 Capital Projects

Department	Projects
Police	Two police vehicles, pedestrian safety improvements (Trenton/Martine).
Public Works	Dump truck body replacement, 40-yard storage containers, recycling center gate replacement.
Administration	Server replacement, FD roof replacement.
Fire	Vehicle, radios.
Engineering	Sun Valley Way and Timberline Dr., Hetfield PI bridge (SP).





Next Steps

- Public Hearing and Adoption: May 18
- 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/>