Citizens Academy: Finance & Budget

February 26, 2026

Alycia Ballone, Director of Finance

Elke Lonas, Deputy Director of Finance

Lory Johnson, Income Tax Administrator



Tonight's Schedule of Events

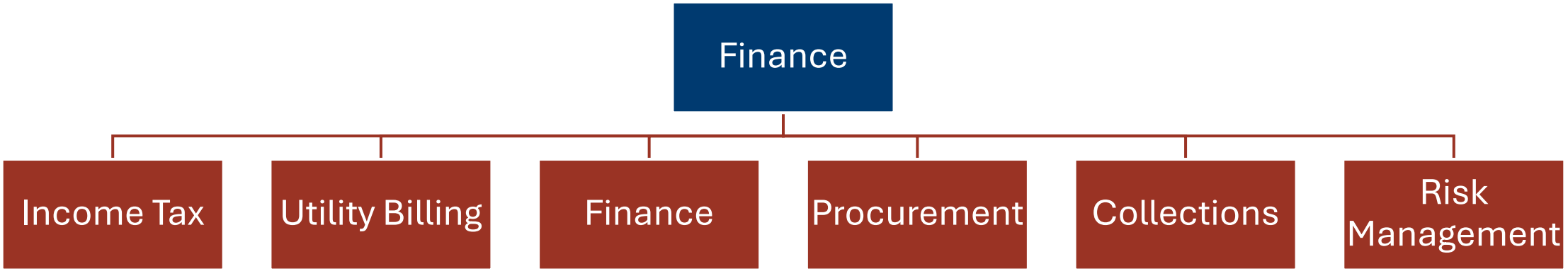
Presentation covering

- Who we are
- What we do
- Why we do it

Budget activity

- Background info
- Breakout activity

Who we are


Finance
Income Tax
Utility Billing
Finance
Procurement
Collections
Risk Management



Who we are

Leadership
Alycia Ballone, Elke Lonas

Income Tax
Lory Johnson, Michelle Koschalk, Kathy King, Sondra Strahm, Kari Brown, Vicki Brame

Finance & Budget
Sue Hannahs, Wendy Fisher, Maddy Linkous, Mike Day, Sarah Young, Diana Sanfillipo

Utility Billing
Beth Neimi

Procurement
Cindy Collins, Kaci Goebbel

Finance, Accounting & Payroll



Financial Accounting

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)

Debt Management

Treasury Management



Accounts Payable



Accounts Receivable



Payroll

350+ Full Time Employees

30+ Permanent Part Time Employees

100+ Seasonal Employees

7 Labor Contracts

Income Tax



Oversees administration of city income tax including filing & payment

1st city income tax was passed in 1966 at 0.75%

Mandatory filing implemented in 1982

18 years old**



Processes

24,822 individual returns

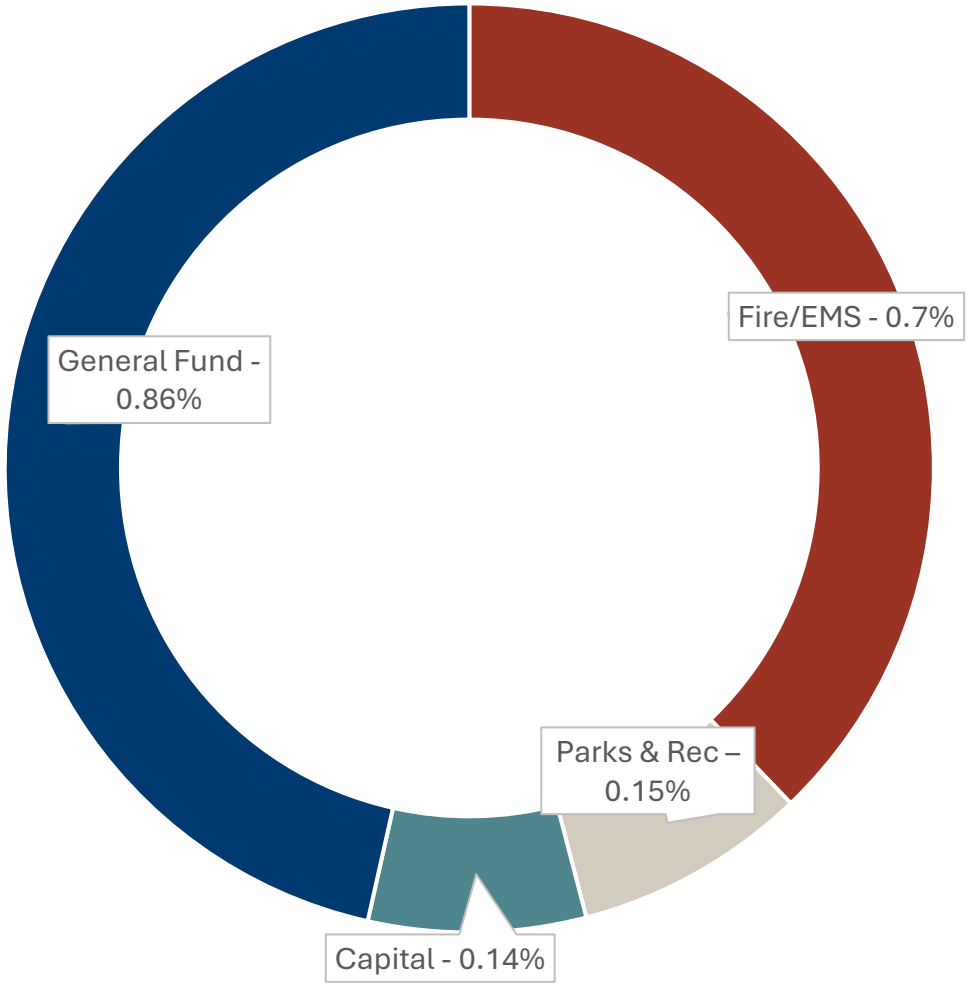
3,107 business returns

5,515 employer returns



Income tax brings in about $47,500,000 annually

Income Tax Rate



The City has a 1.85% income tax.

- 0.7% for Fire/EMS
- 0.15% for Parks & Recreation
- 1.0% to General Fund
  - 0.14% for Capital Plan
  - 0.86% General Fund Operations

*The 0.14% is not required, but established for budget purposes.

Utility Billing

- Includes Water, Wastewater, Stormwater & Refuse
  - 16,500+ utility accounts billed monthly
  - Average 200 move-ins & outs per month
  - Up to 300 shut-offs monthly for non-payment
- Automated reading system implemented in 2016
- New billing system implemented in 2024
- Brings in about $24,430,000 annually

Long-Term Financing

Annual Capital Improvement Plan

- Covers 5 years
- Due to Council by August 15th
- Only a plan – not a budget

Annual Operating Budget

- Due to Council by November 15th
- GFOA Distinguished Budget Award
- All appropriations for 2026: $222M

Cost-Benefit Analysis

Development

Multiple departments involved

- City Manager's Office, Planning & Community Development, Engineering, Parks, Utilities, Economic Development
- Financial Modeling of Impacts
- Tracking of Financial Deliverables

Multiple tools utilized

- JEDD (Joint Economic Development District)
- TIF (Tax Increment Financing)
- NCA (New Community Authority)

Procurement



Implementing formalized purchasing policy



Contracts



Cooperative purchasing

Why do we do it

- Provide transparent financials to the public
- Ensure fiscal sustainability
- Create a competitive, equitable purchasing process
- Deliver excellent customer service
  - Internally & externally
- We love making a difference in our community



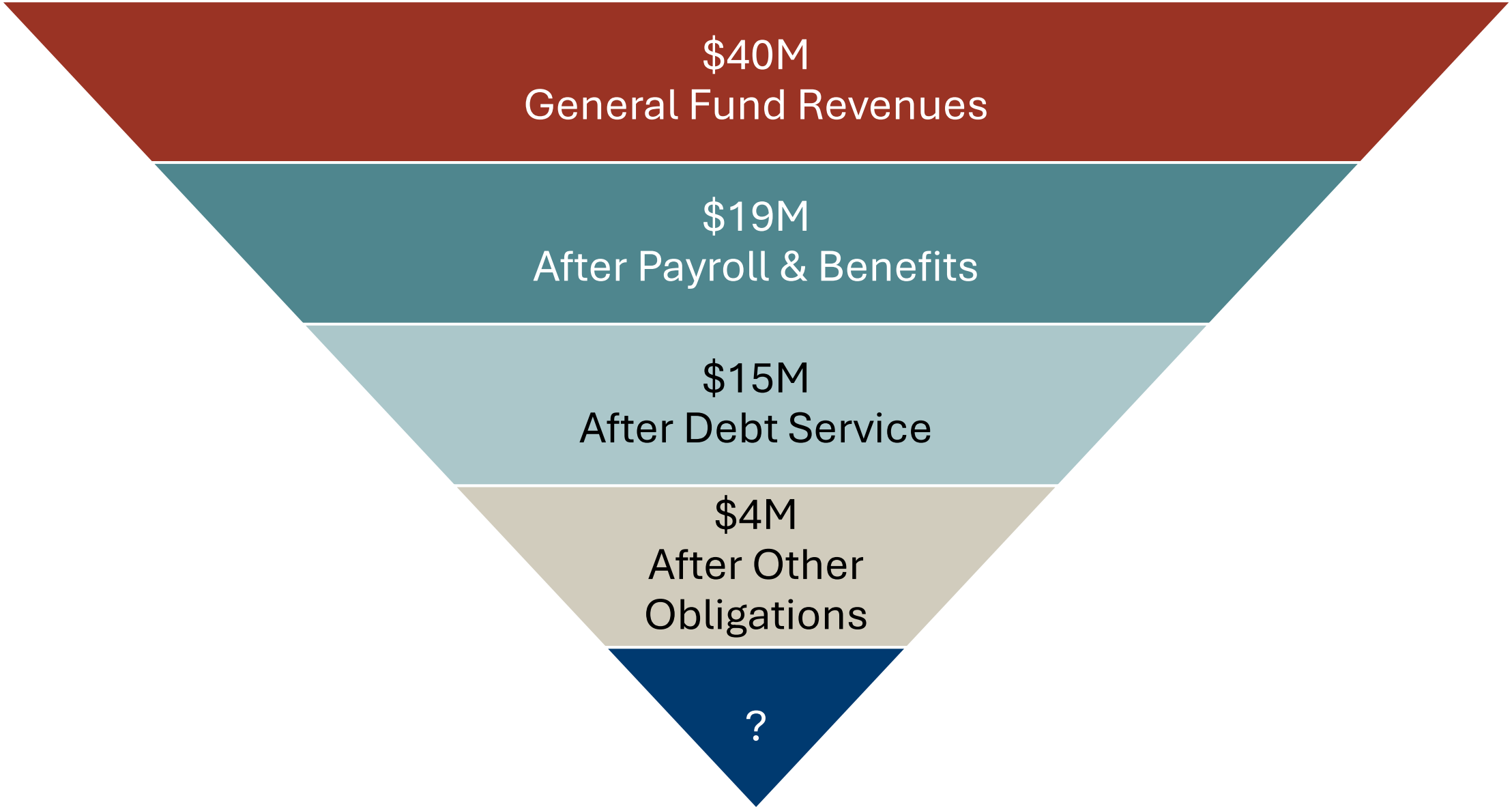




QUESTIONS?

Budget Activity – Background Info

- What is a fund?
- How many funds are there?
- What types of funds are there?
- What is the General Fund?
- What is an appropriation?


$40M
General Fund Revenues
$19M
After Payroll & Benefits
$15M
After Debt Service
$4M
After Other
Obligations
?

Thank you

We hope you enjoyed our presentation