

# 2026



Legislative Reference Bureau

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# COMPTROLLER



## 2026 Proposed Plan and Executive Budget Review

Prepared by: Beka Bein, Legislative & Fiscal Services Specialist

Budget Hearing: 3:00 pm on Monday, October 6, 2025

# Comptroller

**\$5,877,969**

Proposed 2026 Budget

**+\$93,675**

Overall Change from 2025

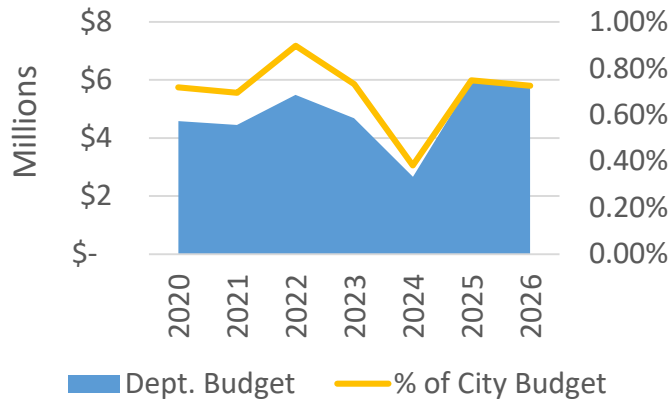
**-\$374,044**

Difference from Requested

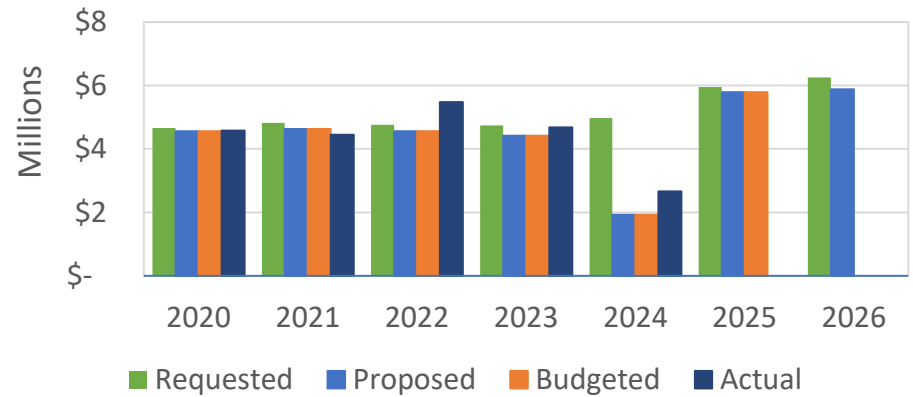
**\$6,252,013**

Requested 2026 Budget

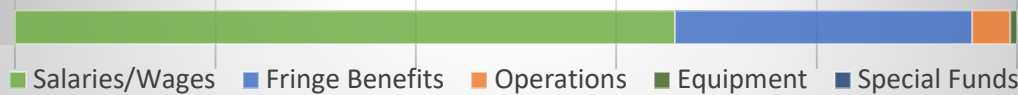
## Total Departmental Budget



## Comparative Funding



## Levy Departmental Budget Appropriation by Category



\$3,871,703

\$1,742,266

\$224,000

\$40,000

\$0

66%

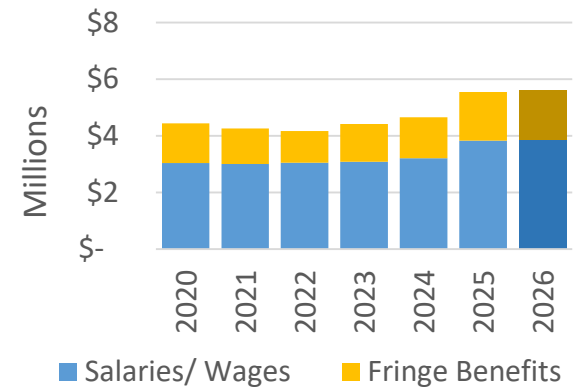
30%

3%

1%

0%

## Personnel Budget



Salaries/ Wages

Fringe Benefits

# Comptroller

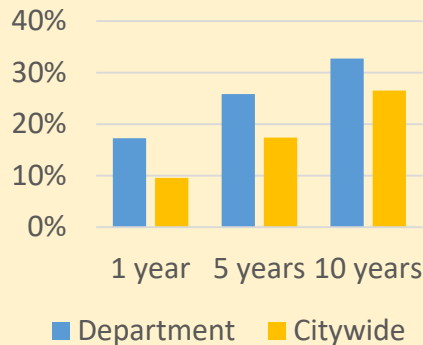
**+1.1%**

Change in Salaries and Wages  
from 2025 Budget.

**+\$40,466**

Change in Salaries and Wages  
from 2025 Budget.

## Retirement Eligible



**0**

Change in Positions

**0%**

% Change in Positions

**3**

Current Vacancies

**2**

Voluntary Separations  
In 2025

## Staffing Vacancies

- Accounting Program Assistant III
  - Currently posted
- Accounting Manager
  - Currently posted
- Senior Auditor
  - Not yet posted

A few positions moved areas within the department. For example, the Senior Financial Analyst position moved from reporting through Financial Advisory to reporting through Public Debt. The purpose of this change was to have a backup to the Capital Finance Manager position to reduce key person risk.

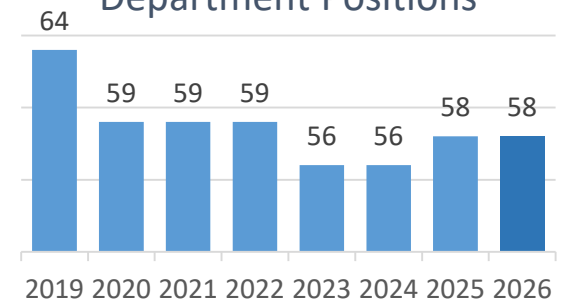
The total authorized positions remains the same as 2025 at 58 positions.

## Staffing Update

There are 2 temporary auxiliary positions that are related to and funded by the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Replacement Capital Project.

The ERP project is expected to be completed by June 2026. Both auxiliary positions will remain essential throughout 2026 as the Comptroller's Office focuses on implementation of the new system after it goes live.

## Department Positions



## A-/A3/A+

Planned investment grade bond rating for City of Milwaukee from Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch for 2026.

## 103.2%

Percentage of actual revenues to revenue estimates in 2024.

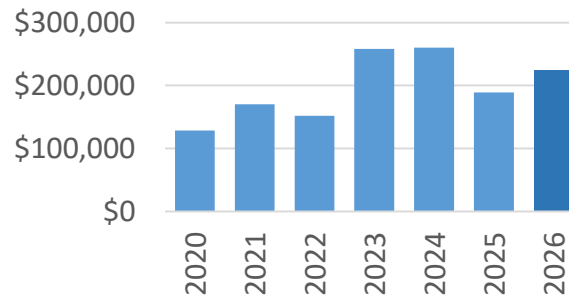
## \$200.6 million

Yielded in 2024 from the 2% local sales tax. This exceeded the Comptroller's budgeted projection by \$16.6 million, or 9%. The 2025 Budget forecast is \$192.9 million, and the 2026 Budget projects \$206.2 million.

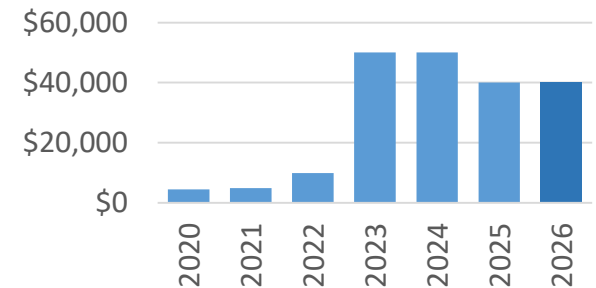
## \$23,536,193

2026 funding for the Wages Supplement Fund, used to cover employee wage increases, down by \$3,232,220 from 2025.

Operating Expenditures Budget



Equipment Budget



### Revenue

Comptroller's 2026 projected revenues:

Charges for Services \$480,000

Projected revenues of \$480,000 are the same as 2025 estimated revenues and \$17,342 lower than 2024 actual revenues.

### Grants & Aids

Total grants and aids for the department are \$598,142 for 2026:

CDBG – Accounting & Auditing	\$500,479
HOME – Accounting & Auditing	\$97,663

**Total** **\$598,142**

*\*Total grant funding is down by \$127,515 from 2025.*

### Special Purpose Accounts - 2026

MMSD Sewer Usage Charge (Pass Through)	\$64,898,945
Wages Supplement Fund	\$23,536,193
Contribution General Fund	\$3,100,000
Reserve for 27th Payroll	\$1,800,000
Firemen's Relief Fund	\$262,500
Boards & Comm. Reimburse.	\$16,000
Annual Payment to the DNR	\$7,100

**Total** **\$93,620,738\***

*\*SPAs are up by \$52,843 from 2025.*

### Capital Programs and Projects

There are no capital programs for this department.

### +\$77.5 million

Change in the Tax Stabilization Fund balance between 2024 and 2025. The total balance was \$142.1 million as of January, 2025.

### \$32.3 million

Planned Tax Stabilization Fund withdrawal in 2026, the same as 2025; there were no withdrawals in 2024.

### \$6 million

Planned Public Debt Amortization Fund withdrawal in 2026, the same as 2025; there were no withdrawals in 2024.

### \$272.1 million

Total City Debt Service payment for 2026 Proposed Budget, a \$4,226,451 (1.5%) decrease from the amount in the 2025 Adopted Budget.

#### Special Funds

There are no special funds for this department.

#### Withdrawals from Reserve Funds and Bond Ratings

Since 2021, the Tax Stabilization Fund (TSF), which accumulates unexpended appropriations to protect citizens from tax fluctuations, has increased by 867% to \$142.1 million. Over that same time period, the Public Debt Amortization Fund (PDAF), which receives one-third of earnings on City investments, has increased by 32% to \$58.8 million.

To establish a sustainable approach to reserve withdrawals, the Mayor is proposing to withdraw \$32,300,000 from the TSF and \$6,000,000 from the PDAF.

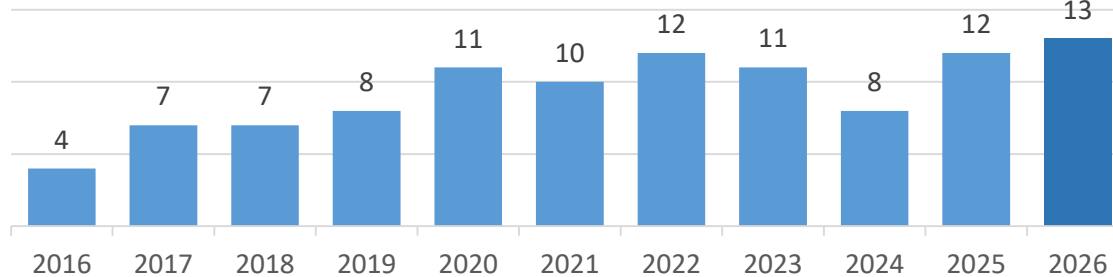
Currently, the City's bond ratings are projected to remain at A- (Standard & Poor Global), A3 (Moody's), and A+ (Fitch). However, bond rating agencies view large reserve withdrawals to fund ongoing expenses as a structurally imbalanced budget. Recent rating agency reports from Fitch, Moody's, and S&P Global all cite reductions in general fund reserves as factors that could lead to bond rating downgrades.

#### Tasks Related to 2% Local Sales Tax Revenue

In receiving revenue from the 2% local sales tax, the Comptroller's Office monitors sales tax reports and distributions and prepares revenue estimates for the following year. Specifically, the Financial Services Division tracks receipts as they are received from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Meanwhile, the Accounting Section performs disclosures of the financial statements through the Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports.

The Office also regularly informs the Common Council, Administration, and the public at large about the status of sales tax collections and any other key information related to the sales tax.

## Number of Completed and Anticipated Work Products



2025 Audit Work Products	Date of Completion
Annual Audit Plan	1/15/2025
Peer Review	7/1/2025
Annual Audit Finding Follow-Up	4/16/2025
Fraud Hotline Report	4/16/2025
Audit of Parking Structures and Lot Revenue Controls	2/26/2025
Audit of Library Financial Administration	7/9/2025
Audit of CDGA Award Process	9/17/2025
Audit of Residents Preference Program for Development Agreements	Planned 10/2025
Audit of Election Commission Payroll	Planned 12/2025
City-Wide IT Risk Assessment (Consultant-Led)	2/5/2025
Audit of Fleet Asset Procurement to Disposal (Consultant-Led)	7/9/2025
MWW Location Safety & Health Assessments (Consultant-Led)	6/18/2025
*The 2026 audit plan is currently being formulated and will be presented to the Finance and Personnel committee in January 2026.	