FY 2026-27 (FY27) Budget Public Comment

February 24, 2026

Lindsay Spangler
Finance and Management Services

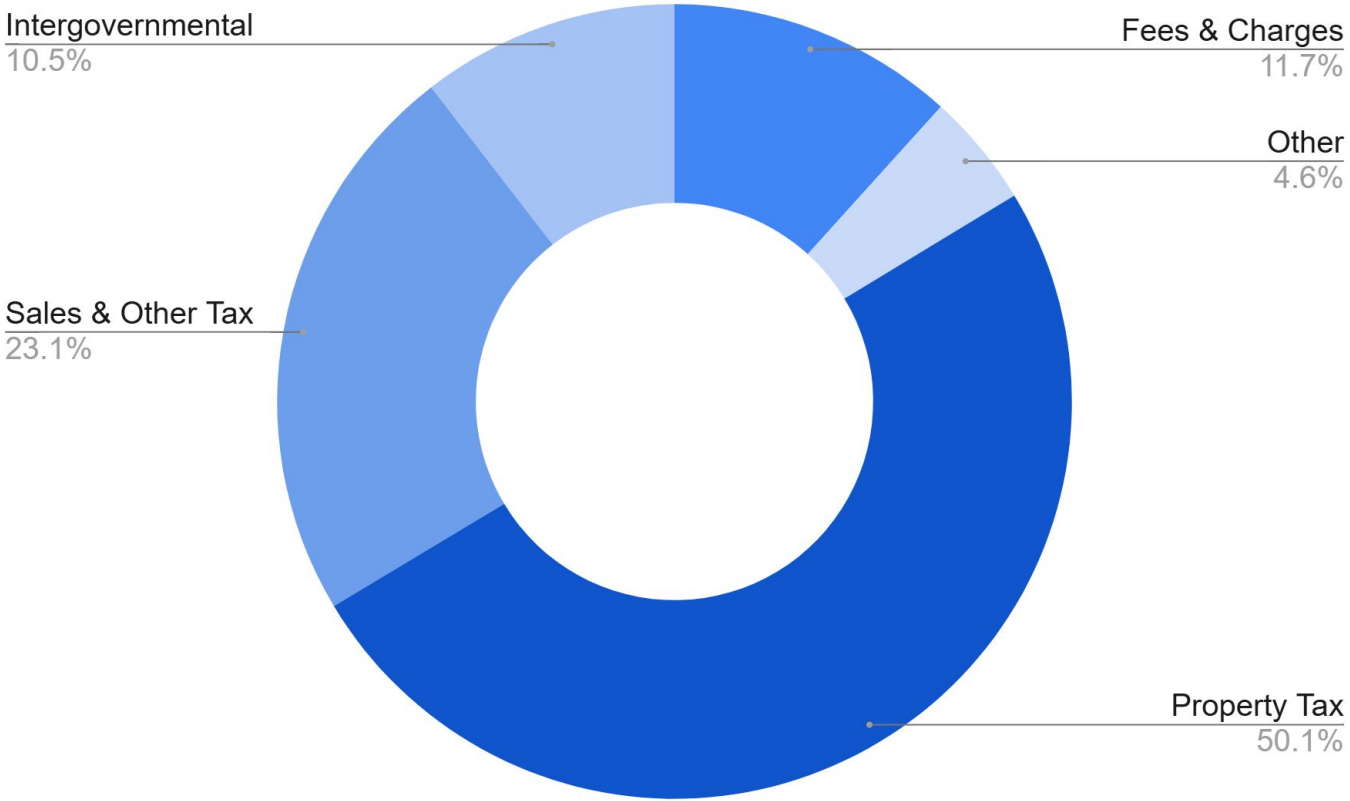


Key Takeaways

- This year we have a balanced budget, however looking forward, we must move towards long-term fiscal stability while providing core and quality of life services to the community.
- We are anticipating a large gap between revenues and expenses next year, which will require us to explore a mix of revenue increases and budget cuts.
- Tonight provides an opportunity to receive community input early in the budget development process.
- The City Manager's Proposed Budget will be informed by community input from this early public comment opportunity and direction received from City Council.

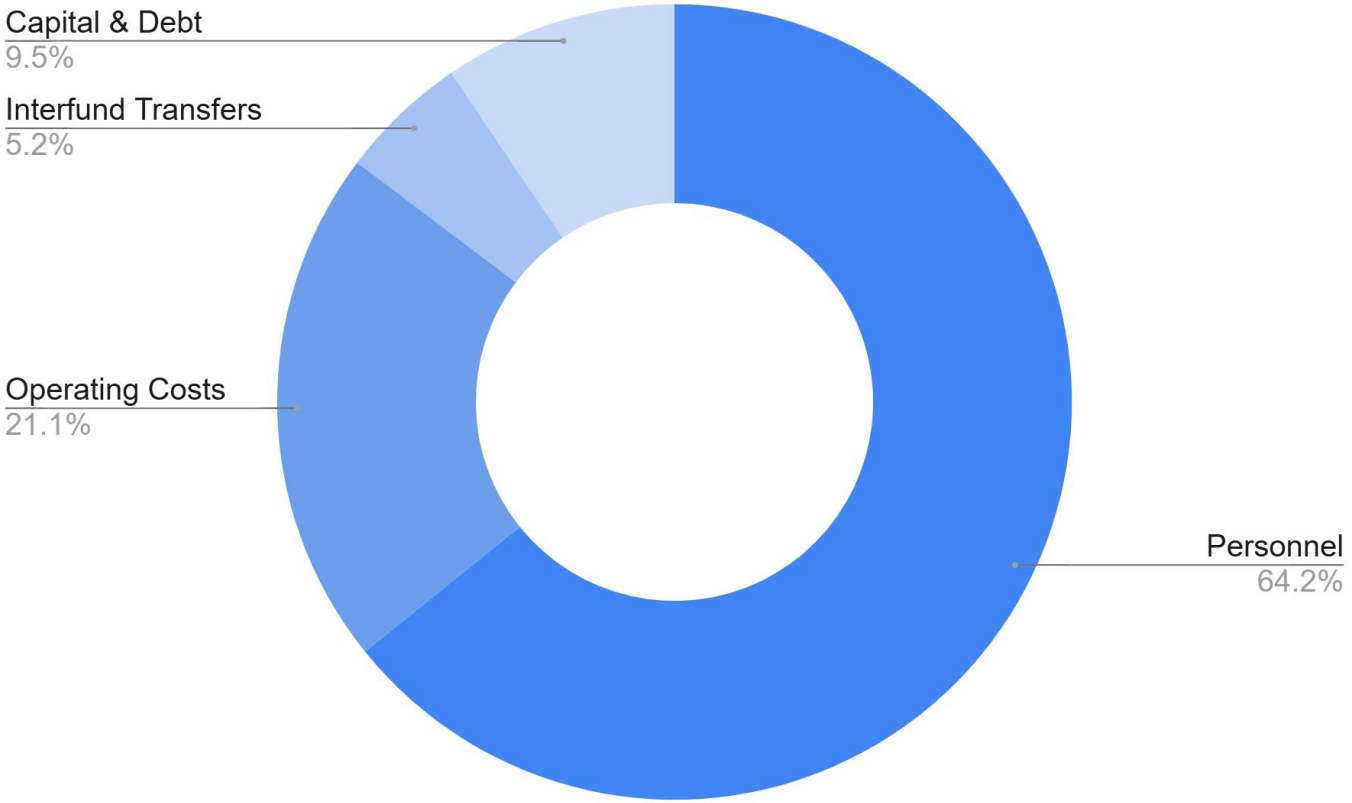
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General Fund Revenue Sources (FY26 Adopted)



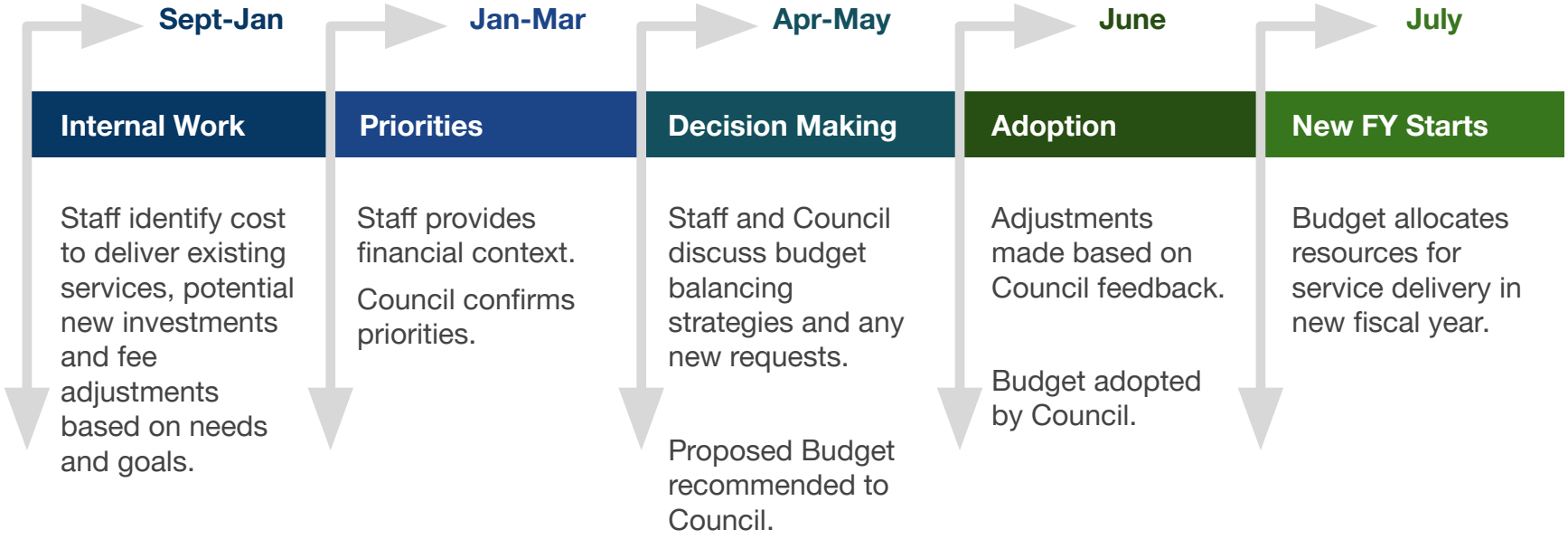
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General Fund Expenditure Categories (FY26 Adopted)



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Budget Process



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FY27 Budget Priorities

- Achieve a budget that is structurally balanced
- Aim for long-term fiscal stability instead of relying on short-term fixes
- Prioritize Helene recovery
- Focus on providing reliable service to the community, emphasizing both core services and quality of life

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Budget Communication Goals

- Inform the community about our current budgetary constraints and our plan of action to address them.
- Provide meaningful information on the budget process and how it relates to services the City of Asheville provides.
- Offer residents the opportunity to share their thoughts with decision makers.

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Communication Tools

- City newsletters
- City website & project page
- Print media
- Local talk radio
- City social media platforms
- City Council formal meetings, including May 26 public comment

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FY27 Budget Process

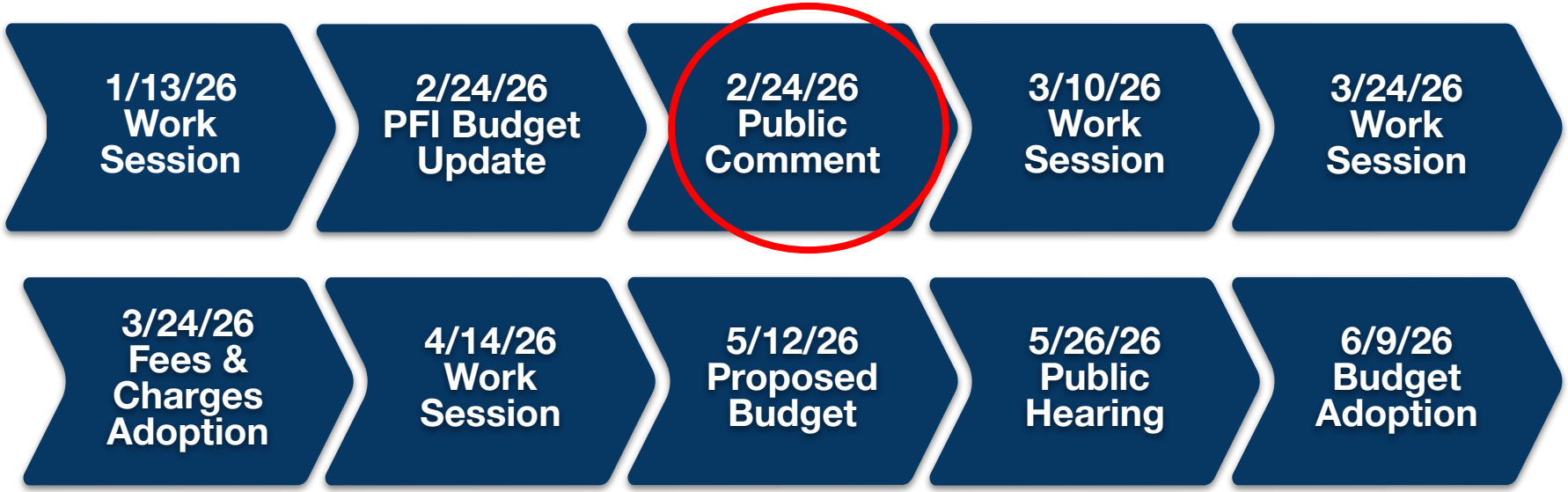
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FY27 Budget Outlook - Overview

- We are starting the process with a large gap between revenues and expenses, due to:
  - One-time strategies from this year that cannot be repeated
  - Lingering impacts of Helene
  - Inflationary increases in areas such as health care and transit provision
- We will need to consider a mix of revenue increases (property taxes and fees) and budget cuts (service reductions) to balance the budget.

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FY27 Budget Next Steps



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