



Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County

FINAL BUDGET



FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025

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CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Chair Ronco and Members of the Board:

I am pleased to present to you the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Final Budget for Central Fire of Santa Cruz County. The District's primary objective is to provide the highest possible level of service to our communities, which consist of Aptos, Capitola, La Selva Beach, Live Oak, Rio Del Mar, and Soquel, while demonstrating fiscal responsibility and providing adequate reserves.

The District's goal is to present and maintain a balanced budget while addressing changes to our operational needs. During the past fiscal year, the District undertook a significant redevelopment of our aging Fleet Facility. Facility upgrades were identified in our 20-year Master Plan, and the District began the process of updating our facilities. Further, the District is now in year two of our five-year Strategic Plan. We have made considerable progress in our Strategic Plan; however, a lot of work remains. The District continues to work diligently to replace aging apparatus and search for properties for future fire station locations. Finally, in July 2024, the Board of Directors voted to put a \$221 million general obligation bond on the November 2024 ballot. If Measure R is successful, Central Fire will have sufficient funds available through bond proceeds to accomplish all the major infrastructure and equipment needs identified in the Master Plan.

This budget has been prepared to provide a realistic financial plan, ensuring the District will continue to deliver exceptional yet cost-effective fire protection, emergency medical services, and community risk reduction services, while remaining receptive to our community and the current economy. As insurance, pension, healthcare, and workers' compensation costs continue to rise over time, the District is committed to good financial stewardship through efficient operational and budgetary management processes, including cutting costs whenever feasible. Due to the District's strong housing market, we will continue to see growth in revenue. Property Tax Revenues for FY 2024-25 have been forecasted to increase by approximately 4.58%. This projection represents 92.95% of total revenues. Highlights of the budget include projected revenues of \$46.8 million and projected expenditures of \$50.6 million. This includes \$3.3 million in transfers to our Capital Replacement Funds. Our projected ending fund balance is \$33.4 million.

In conclusion, I am proud of the collaborative method in which we develop our budget. I thank the District Program Leads, Program Managers, and supporting staff for their continued efforts in improving the budget process and preparing the annual budget document. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Board of Directors and Management Staff for their leadership, direction, and initiative, as well as their dedication and commitment to serving the community. I encourage you to review this budget to learn more about the District and our commitment to providing exemplary service to the communities we serve.

Sincerely,



Jason Nee
Fire Chief



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



George Lucchesi
Term of Office
2020 - 2024



Michael Hushaw
Term of Office
2022 - 2026



John Lucchesi
Term of Office
2022 - 2026



Ken Radliff
Term of Office
2020 - 2024



Dave Ronco
Term of Office
2020 - 2024

EXECUTIVE STAFF



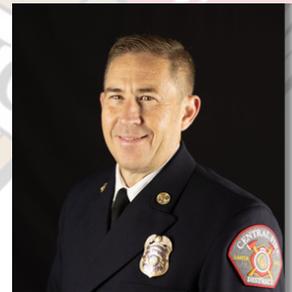
Jason Nee
Fire Chief



Anthony Cefaloni
Assistant Fire Chief



Nigel Miller
Operations Division Chief



Patrick Winters
Logistics Division Chief



Nancy Dannhauser
Finance Director



Gena Finch
Human Resources Director



Mike DeMars
Fire Marshal



Scott Vahradian
EMS Chief EMSIA



Richard MacDonald
Temp. Battalion Chief
Training & Safety



Derek Staley
Battalion Chief
A Shift



Ernst Bauen
Battalion Chief
B Shift



Ryan Peters
Battalion Chief
C Shift



OUR MISSION

The Mission of Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County is to preserve quality of life for the citizens and visitors of the communities we serve by protecting lives, property, and the environment through emergency response, community risk reduction, and education.

OUR VALUES

Safety

We value safety as a priority in all our actions and take appropriate steps to maintain and improve the well-being of the community and our personnel.

Service

We value service by being prepared to serve with respect and compassion at any moment, with knowledgeable and committed personnel.

Professionalism

We value professionalism through our readiness, leadership and work ethic to provide the highest standards of service with dedication, teamwork and respect.



DISTRICT OVERVIEW

In 1987, Central Fire Protection District was created from the consolidation of the Capitola, Live Oak and Soquel Fire Districts.

In 1986, Aptos Fire District and La Selva Beach Fire District also consolidated, to become the Aptos/La Selva Fire Protection District. By 2018, Aptos/La Selva FPD and Central FPD entered into a Shared Services Agreement, combining services with their Administrative and Prevention/ Community Risk Reduction divisions.

In February of 2021, Central Fire Protection District and Aptos/La Selva Fire Protection District consolidated into Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County.

Central Fire District serves the communities of Aptos, Capitola, La Selva Beach, Live Oak, Rio Del Mar, and Soquel.

The resident population is approximately 90,500, with a seasonal influx during the summer, and covers an area of 55 square miles. The District responds to requests for service for fire, water rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous materials calls, and assorted alarms.

The District operates seven fire stations, an Administrative Office & Community Risk Reduction Division, Training Division, and Fleet Services Facility. The District has several robust program areas including Community Risk Reduction, Community Education, Emergency Medical Services, Water Rescue, Fire Investigation, Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue and Training.

Central Fire District has a publicly elected Board of Directors consisting of five members who are elected to four year, staggered terms.

CENTRAL

FIRE DISTRICT FACILITIES



Live Oak Station 1
930 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062



Thurber Station 2
3445 Thurber Lane
Santa Cruz, CA 95065



Soquel Station 3
4747 Soquel Drive
Soquel, CA 95073



Capitola Station 4
405 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010



Aptos Station 5
6934 Soquel Drive
Aptos, CA 95003



Rio Del Mar Station 6
300 Bonita Drive
Aptos, CA 95003



La Selva Beach Station 7
312 Estrella Avenue
La Selva Beach, CA 95076



Administration Office
930 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062



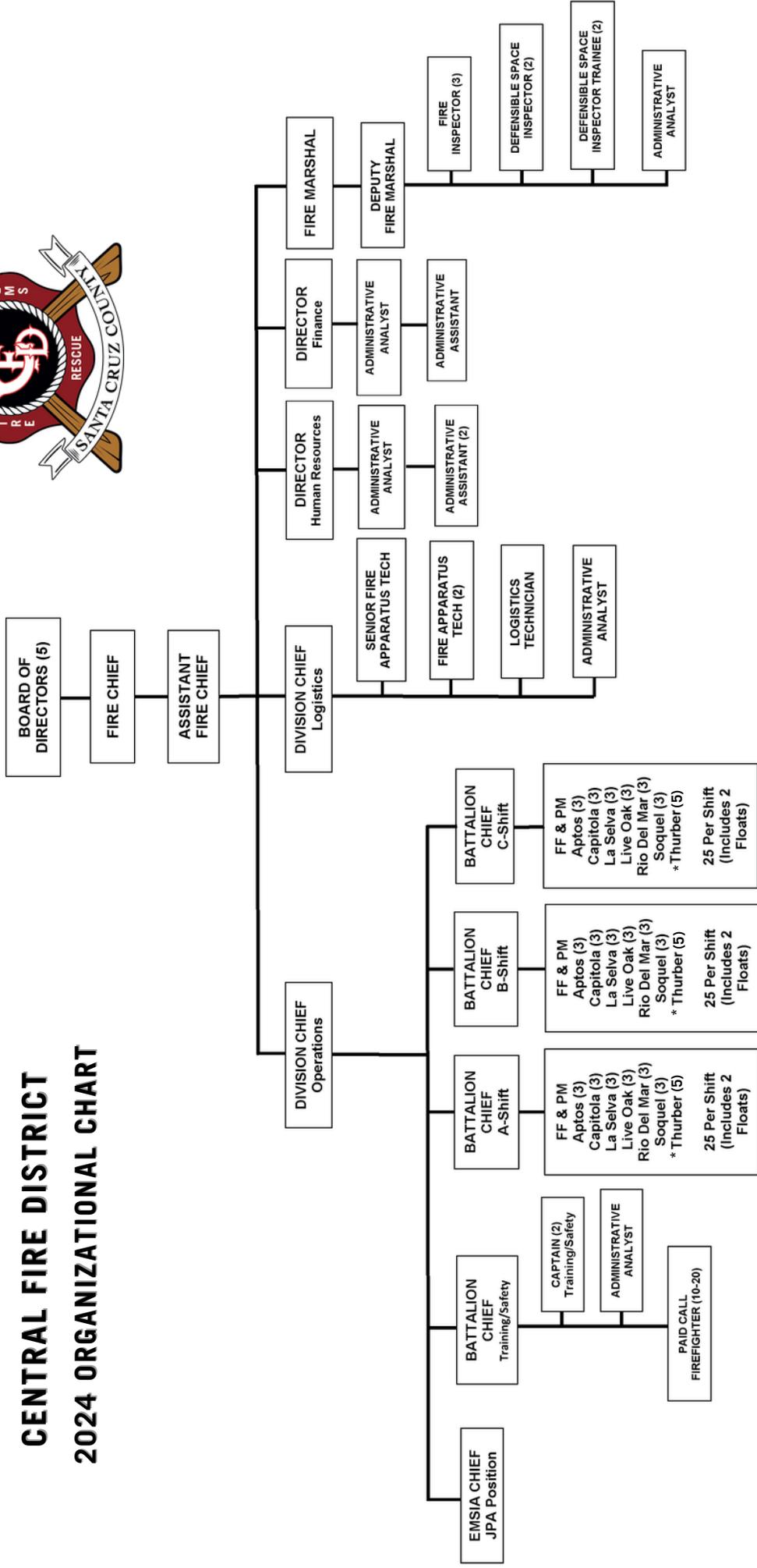
Training Division
6934 Soquel Drive
Aptos, CA 95003



Fleet Services
410 Kennedy Drive
Capitola, CA 95010

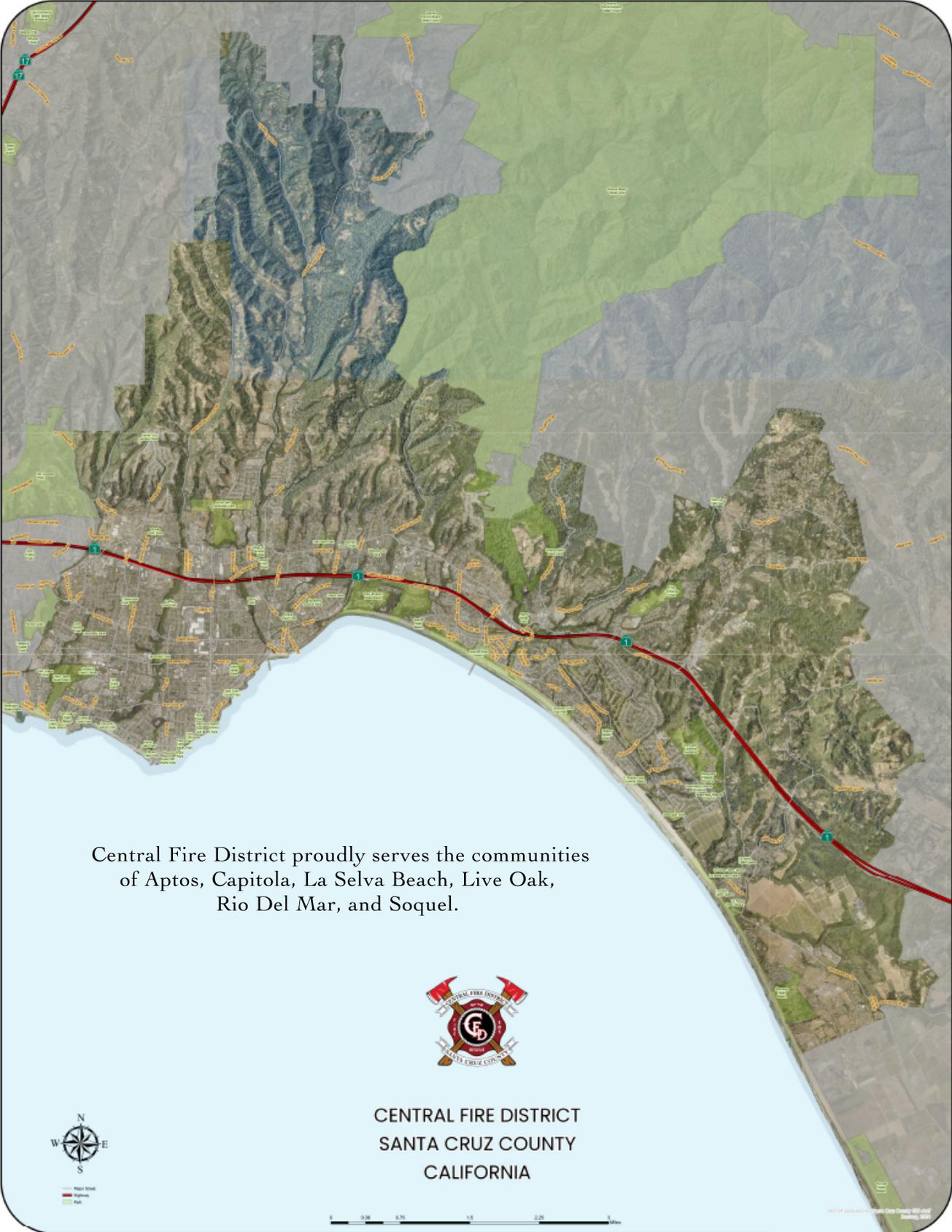


CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



* JANUARY 2024-2025
TRIAL PERIOD

CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



BUDGET SUMMARY

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the District. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The primary revenue sources of the General Fund are Property Taxes, Intergovernmental Revenue, and Other Revenue relating to permit and inspection fees, interest revenue, and other miscellaneous revenue. General operating expenditures are primarily related to salary & benefits, services & supplies and operating fund transfers to the District's reserve funds to cover expenses for capital improvement, equipment, mobile vehicle replacement, and Fleet Maintenance services.

The FY 2024-25 Final Budget includes projected operating revenues of \$46.8 million and expenditures of \$50.6 million resulting in a deficit of \$(3.9 million) with an estimated ending fund balance of \$33.4 million.

FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 BUDGET SUMMARY	OPERATIONS	FLEET SERVICES	CAPITAL OUTLAY	TOTAL
REVENUE				
Property taxes	\$ 43,471,623	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,471,623
Inter-Gov Revenues	\$ 667,347	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 667,347
Other Revenue	\$ 1,493,390	\$ 984,073	\$ 150,000	\$ 2,627,463
Total Revenues	\$ 45,632,360	\$ 984,073	\$ 150,000	\$ 46,766,432
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries and employee benefits	\$ 36,951,304	\$ 856,366	\$ -	\$ 37,807,670
Services and supplies	\$ 6,293,854	\$ 737,123	\$ -	\$ 7,030,977
Fixed Assets	\$ 545,400	\$ 13,638	\$ 5,867,326	\$ 6,426,364
Operating Transfers - OUT / (IN)	\$ 3,300,000	\$ (623,054)	\$ (3,300,000)	\$ (623,054)
Total Expenditures	\$ 47,090,558	\$ 984,073	\$ 2,567,326	\$ 50,641,956
TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ (1,458,198)	\$ -	\$ (2,417,326)	\$ (3,875,524)
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE				
July 1, 2024	\$ 32,411,822	\$ 311,924	\$ 4,598,111	\$ 37,321,857
PROJECTED ENDING FUND BALANCE				
June 30, 2025	\$ 30,953,624	\$ 311,924	\$ 2,180,785	\$ 33,446,333

BUDGET SUMMARY

The following table reflects the proposed 2024-25 Final budget, prior year 2023-24 and 2022-23 actual results.

FY 2023-24 resulted in a deficit of \$(608K) mainly driven by capital spending. The prior fiscal year 2022-23 resulted in a favorable surplus of \$2.8 million due to higher than anticipated property tax revenue related to RDA residual income.

				FY 2023-24 vs FY 2024-25	
	Actual FY 2022-23	Actual FY 2023-24	Final Budget FY 2024-25	Favorable / (Unfavorable) \$	Percentage Change %
REVENUES					
Property taxes	\$ 40,277,993	\$ 41,568,555	\$ 43,471,623	\$ 1,903,068	4.58%
Inter-Gov Revenues	\$ 1,341,284	\$ 687,819	\$ 667,347	\$ (20,472)	-2.98%
Other Revenue	\$ 3,172,253	\$ 3,895,718	\$ 2,627,463	\$ (1,268,256)	-32.56%
Total Revenues	\$ 44,791,530	\$ 46,152,092	\$ 46,766,432	\$ 614,341	1.33%
EXPENDITURES					
Salaries and employee benefits	\$ 33,962,350	\$ 35,727,918	\$ 37,807,670	\$ 2,079,752	5.82%
Services and supplies	\$ 5,785,107	\$ 6,133,242	\$ 7,030,977	\$ 897,735	14.64%
Fixed Assets	\$ 2,819,161	\$ 5,344,387	\$ 6,426,364	\$ 1,081,977	20.25%
Operating Transfers - OUT / (IN)	\$ (537,390)	\$ (445,879)	\$ (623,054)	\$ (177,175)	39.74%
Total Expenditures	\$ 42,029,228	\$ 46,759,668	\$ 50,641,956	\$ 3,882,289	8.30%
TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 2,762,302	\$ (607,576)	\$ (3,875,524)	\$ (3,267,948)	537.87%

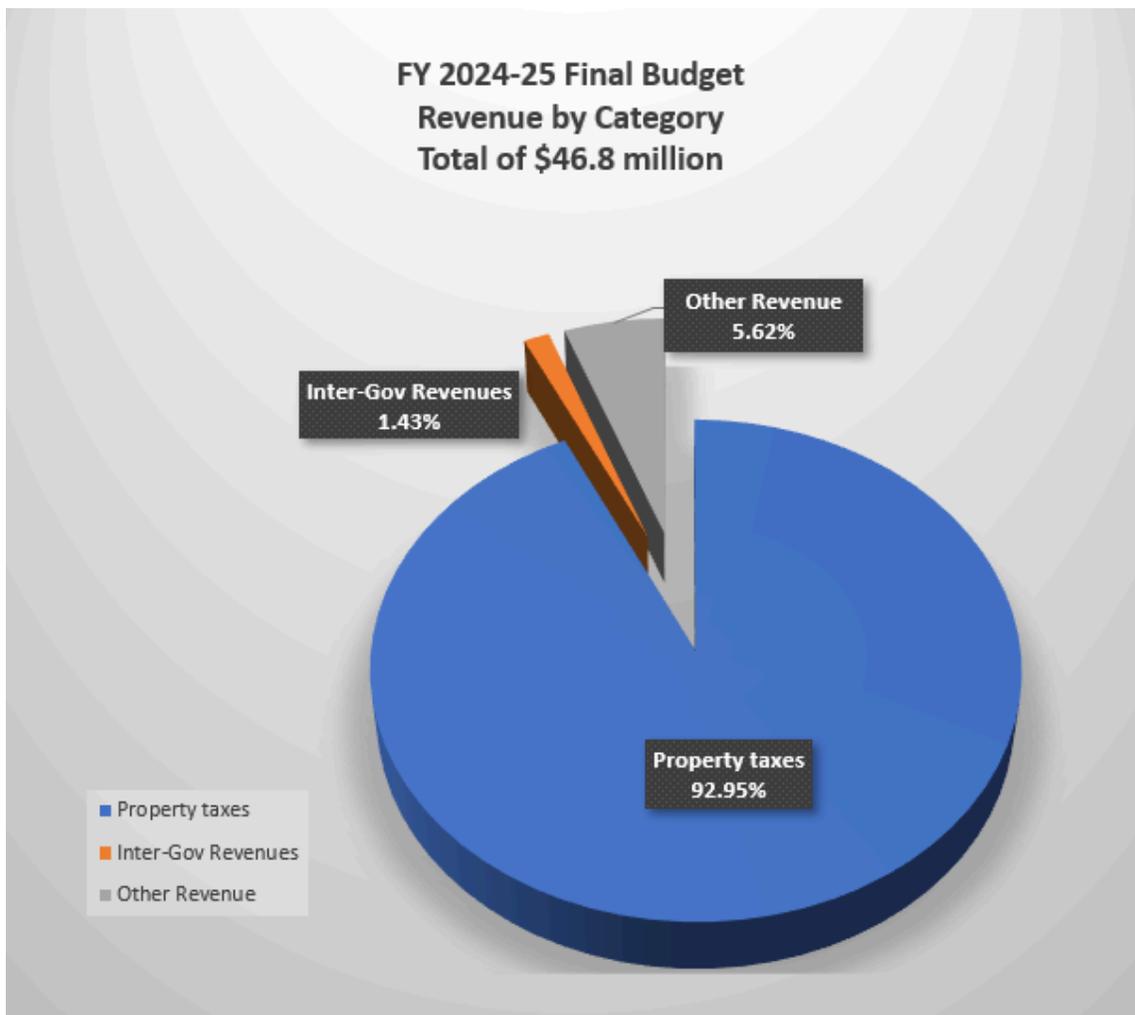


BUDGET SUMMARY

Revenues

The District’s primary revenue source is property taxes. Intergovernmental revenue, which comprises the District’s second largest revenue source, results from homeowner’s property tax relief, RDA pass through, mutual aid recoveries and grants. While other revenue represents the third largest revenue source relating to plan checks, inspection fees and other fees for service and miscellaneous revenue.

The chart below illustrates the District’s dependency on property tax revenue. Property taxes are the most significant source of the District’s revenues, representing over 92.95 percent of total revenues. Inter-Governmental revenues and all other non-tax related sources comprise of less than 8 percent of total revenue.

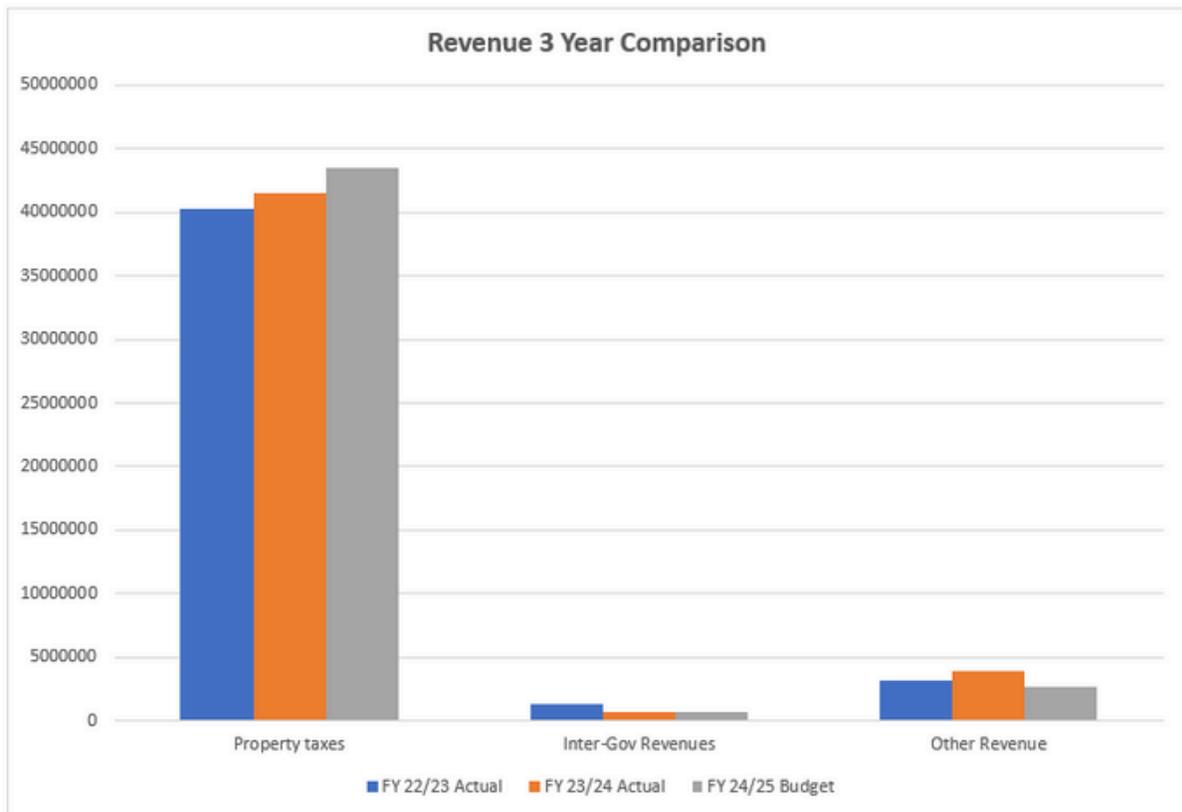




Revenues

Significant Highlights:

- Property tax related revenue is projected at a 4.58% projected growth rate.
- Exclusion of \$288,000 of Strike Team OES reimbursements from prior year due to unpredictability of mutual aid activity.
- Total Revenue growth is forecasted to increase versus the prior year with a net change of \$614,341 or 1.33%.



BUDGET SUMMARY

Property Taxes

The District’s tax revenue is levied through the County of Santa Cruz and is distributed on the teeter plan, 50% is distributed in December; 45% in April; and the remaining 5% in June. During the past few years property tax revenue has increased modestly due to annual valuation changes, projected additions of new development to the tax rolls, and other property tax adjustments. Property tax revenue has grown in 2023 at a rate of 8.24%, with a growth rate of 3.2% in 2024 and 4.58% in 2025 respectively. The significant increase in 2023 was related to the District’s residual distribution from RDA Successor Agencies due to the court decision “City of Chula Vista vs Sandoval” which changed the calculation that benefited the District.

GENERAL FUND	Actual FY 2022-23	Actual FY 2023-24	Final Budget FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24 vs FY 2024-25	
				Increase / (Decrease) \$	Percentage Change %
Property Tax Revenue					
Property Tax - Secured	\$ 34,609,593	\$ 36,412,439	\$ 37,868,936	\$ 1,456,498	4.00%
Residual Distribution	\$ 3,944,595	\$ 3,766,695	\$ 3,766,695	\$ -	0.00%
Property Tax - Unsecured	\$ 638,927	\$ 723,814	\$ 752,766	\$ 28,953	4.00%
Property Tax - Prior Unsecured	\$ 63,808	\$ 85,671	\$ 85,671	\$ -	0.00%
Supplemental Property Tax	\$ 880,645	\$ 436,621	\$ 855,000	\$ 418,379	95.82%
Fire Protection Tax	\$ 130,927	\$ 130,823	\$ 130,000	\$ (823)	-0.63%
Delinquent Taxes / Other	\$ 9,497	\$ 12,494	\$ 12,555	\$ 61	0.49%
Total	\$ 40,277,993	\$ 41,568,555	\$ 43,471,623	\$ 1,903,068	4.58%
\$ Net Change Year over Year	\$ 3,064,987	\$ 1,290,562	\$ 1,903,068		
% Net Change Year over Year	8.24%	3.20%	4.58%		



BUDGET SUMMARY

Intergovernmental Funds

Intergovernmental funds are projected to remain flat at \$(20,472) primarily due to the omission of strike team reimbursements. Homeowner Property Tax Relief which provides a \$7,000 exemption on the value of owner-occupied homes is projected to also remain flat versus prior year. As previously discussed, mutual aid recoveries are related to Strike Team reimbursements from the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) which vary each year. Revenue is typically not projected due to the unreliability of this revenue source. RDA pass thru is projected based on an average of the past three years, with the exception of the prior year which resulted in lower than anticipated revenue.

	Actual FY 2022-23	Actual FY 2023-24	Final Budget FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24 vs FY 2024-25	
				Increase / (Decrease) \$	Percentage Change %
Intergovernmental Revenues					
Homeowners Property Tax Relief	\$ 166,547	\$ 173,664	\$ 182,347	\$ 8,683	5.00%
Mututal Aid Recoveries & Grants	\$ 763,875	\$ 288,075	\$ -	\$ (288,075)	-100.00%
RDA Pass Throughs	\$ 410,862	\$ 226,079	\$ 485,000	\$ 258,921	114.53%
Total	\$ 1,341,284	\$ 687,819	\$ 667,347	\$ (20,472)	-2.98%
\$ Net Change Year over Year	\$ (1,401,634)	\$ (653,466)	\$ (20,472)		
% Net Change Year over Year	-51.10%	-48.72%	-2.98%		

Other Revenue



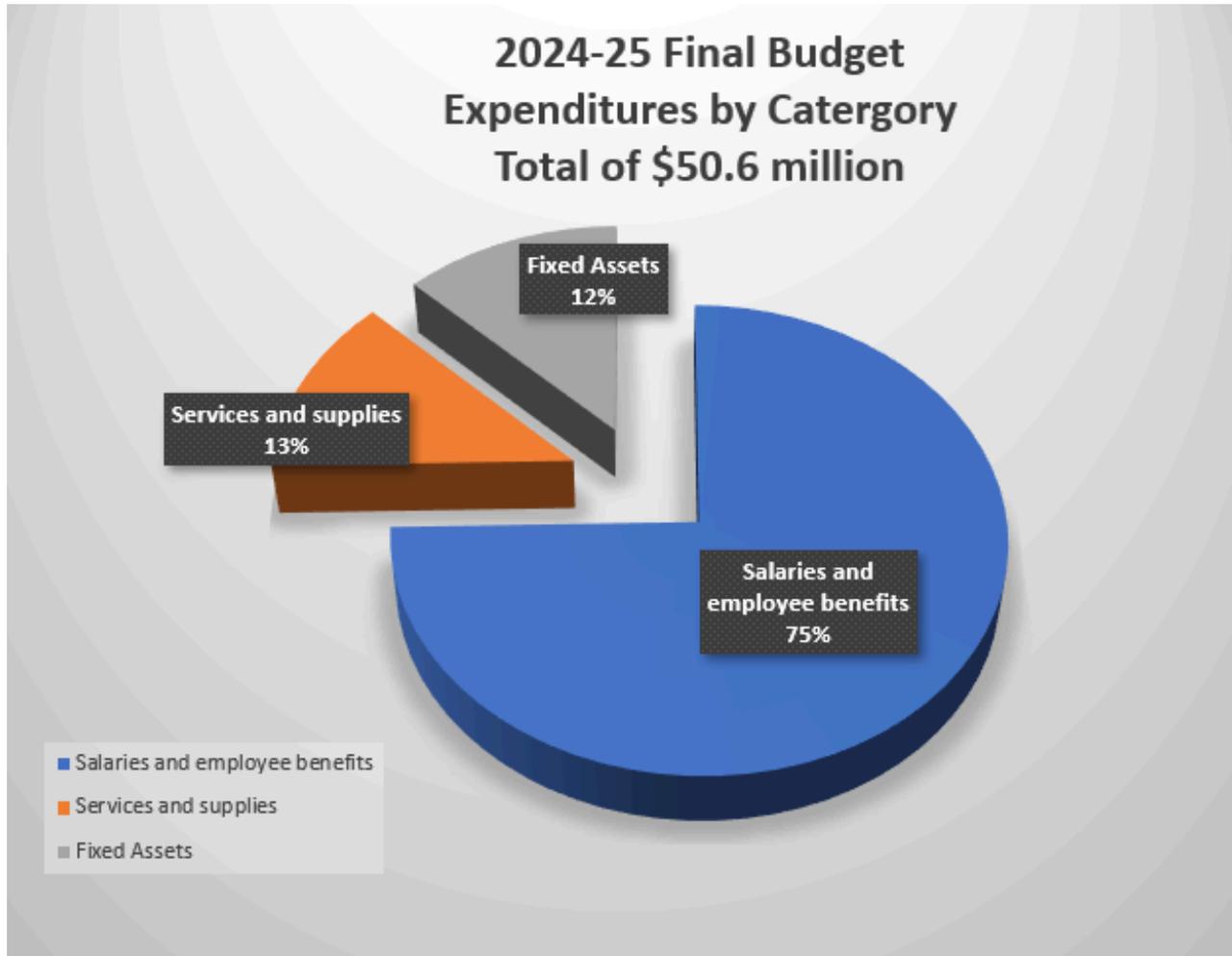
Other revenue is primarily driven by revenue earned from our Fleet Services Division and charges for services related to inspections and plans checks. Other revenue decreased this year mainly due to the exclusion of insurance proceeds related to workers' compensation claims of \$594,721 which is typically non-recurring. And \$833,165 due to one-time insurance payouts and favorable interest income which is anticipated to level off this fiscal year.

	Actual FY 2022-23	Actual FY 2023-24	Final Budget FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24 vs FY 2024-25	
				Increase / (Decrease) \$	Percentage Change %
Other Revenue					
Charges for Services	\$ 1,550,221	\$ 1,440,805	\$ 1,600,436	\$ 159,631	11.08%
Insurance Proceeds	\$ 452,652	\$ 594,721	\$ -	\$ (594,721)	-100.00%
Misc Revenue	\$ 1,169,380	\$ 1,860,192	\$ 1,027,027	\$ (833,165)	-44.79%
Total	\$ 3,172,253	\$ 3,895,718	\$ 2,627,463	\$ (1,268,256)	-32.56%
\$ Net Change Year over Year	\$ 1,763,964	\$ 723,466	\$ (1,268,256)		
% Net Change Year over Year	125.26%	22.81%	-32.56%		

BUDGET SUMMARY

Expenditures

Total general fund expenditures are projected to increase from \$46.8 million in FY 2023-24 to \$50.6 million for the 2024-25 Final Budget – an overall increase of \$3.8 million or 8.30% mainly due to an increase in capital purchases this fiscal year and carryover projects from the prior fiscal year. Salary & benefits increased by \$2 million due to an increase in salary and benefit cost for recently approved memorandums of understating (MOUs) for all bargaining units. Below is an illustration of expenditures by category with salaries and benefits representing 75% of total expenditures, services & supplies representing 13% and operating transfers to other reserves and designations representing 12% of total expenditures.

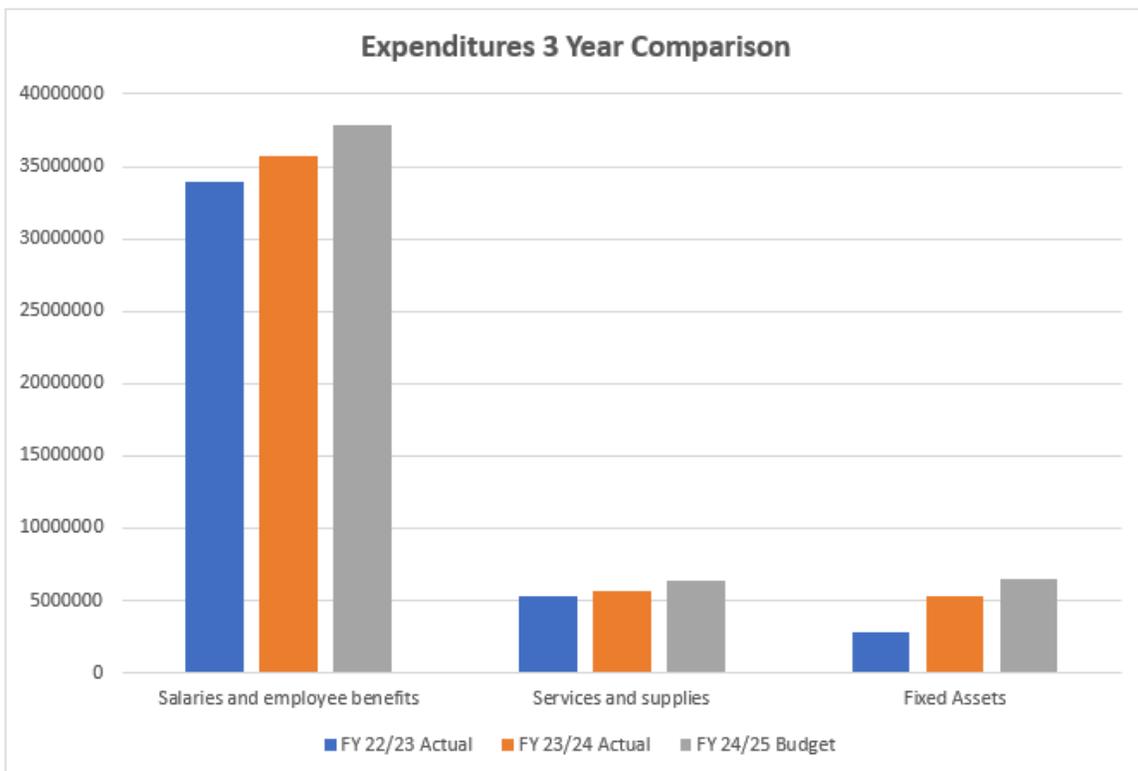




Expenditures

Significant Highlights:

- Total expenditures are forecasted to increase versus the prior year, increasing by \$3.9 million or 8.30% due to capital expenditures and carryover projects, specifically the Fleet Improvement Project.
- Expenditures include salary and benefit adjustments attributed to recently approved Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with all bargaining units.
- Total Salary & Benefits as a percentage of Recurring Revenue is projected at 84.04%. The District's goal is 85% of total recurring revenue.





BUDGET SUMMARY

Salary & Benefits

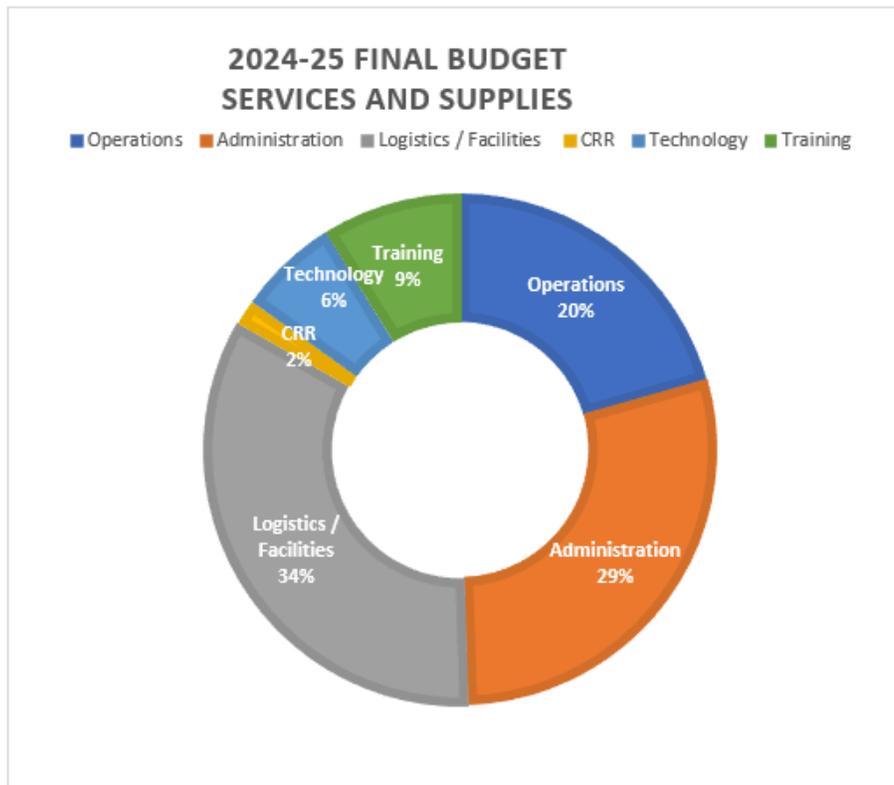
For the 2024-25 Final Budget, salary costs increased as a result of anticipated wage increases, rise in pension costs and workers comp.

				<i>FY 2023-24 vs FY 2024-25</i>	
	Actual FY 2022-23	Actual FY 2023-24	Final Budget FY 2024-25	Increase / (Decrease) \$	Percentage Change %
SALARY & BENEFITS					
Regular Salary	\$ 14,653,640	\$ 15,605,986	\$ 16,148,717	\$ 542,731	3.48%
Holiday, Taxes, Extra Help, Etc	\$ 2,453,724	\$ 2,549,914	\$ 2,407,675	\$ (142,240)	-5.58%
Overtime	\$ 3,216,728	\$ 3,363,233	\$ 3,195,692	\$ (167,541)	-4.98%
PERS	\$ 7,289,787	\$ 7,584,890	\$ 8,587,952	\$ 1,003,062	13.22%
Health Benefit	\$ 4,640,939	\$ 4,871,608	\$ 5,455,580	\$ 583,973	11.99%
Workers Compensation	\$ 1,707,532	\$ 1,752,287	\$ 2,012,055	\$ 259,768	14.82%
Total	\$ 33,962,350	\$ 35,727,918	\$ 37,807,670	\$ 2,079,752	5.82%
\$ Net Change Year over Year	\$ 405,913	\$ 1,765,568	\$ 2,079,752		
% Net Change Year over Year	1.21%	5.20%	5.82%		

BUDGET SUMMARY

Services & Supplies

The District’s Services & Supplies budget is developed largely due to its Program Management approach which focuses on outcomes to better control costs and lead to attainment of District goals. Services and supplies are budgeted by Divisions which serve a function within the District. Below is an illustration of the services and supplies expenditures as a percentage budgeted by Division.



The 2024-25 Final Budget expenditures for services and supplies increased \$1.8 million over the prior year due to project carryovers from the prior year. A majority of the \$720,560 increase in services and supplies was related to a significant increase in the District’s liability insurance.

	Actual	Actual	Final Budget	FY 2023-24 vs FY 2024-25	
				Increase / (Decrease)	Percentage Change
	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	\$	%
SERVICES & SUPPLIES					
Services and supplies	\$ 5,247,717	\$ 5,687,363	\$ 6,407,923	\$ 720,560	12.67%
Fixed Assets	\$ 2,819,161	\$ 5,344,387	\$ 6,426,364	\$ 1,081,977	20.25%
Total	\$ 8,066,878	\$11,031,750	\$12,834,287	\$ 1,802,537	16.34%
\$ Net Change Year over Year	\$ 3,412,209	\$ 2,964,872	\$ 1,802,537		
% Net Change Year over Year	73.31%	36.75%	16.34%		

BUDGET SUMMARY

Capital Outlay

The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays including the acquisition of equipment, machinery, apparatus, vehicles, building construction, building improvements, and land acquisition. A capital outlay is defined as a tangible or intangible fixed asset with a value of over \$5,000 that is used in operations of the District and that has an initial useful life extending beyond one year. Primary revenue sources are transfers from the General Fund, however the fund will also receive loans or grant proceeds.

The Capital Replacement Schedule dictates the annual budgeted expenditures. This schedule is reviewed annually and revised if needed during the budget. Transfers from the General Fund provide funding for the budgeted requirements. The Capital Replacement Schedule identifies a committed minimum transfer amount each fiscal year in order to meet targeted expenditures. Capital expenditures considered routine in nature are those that are identified in the Capital Replacement Schedule and planned out ten years for replacement based on their expected life span and rotation schedule.

Under the Capital Equipment Fund, total expenditures of \$4 million are primarily due to the purchase of new apparatus and vehicles. Under the Capital Improvement Fund total expenditures of \$1.9 million is the remaining cost to complete the Fleet Building Floor and Mezzanine project. Below is a 5-year forecast of upcoming replacement purchases by category.

CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND

Fiscal Year	2024-25				
Beginning Fund Balance	\$	3,465,150			
Annual Contribution	\$	2,800,000			
	Year 1 2025	Year 2 2026	Year 3 2027	Year 4 2028	Year 5 2029
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 3,465,150	\$ 2,436,892	\$ 1,298,892	\$ 83,672	\$ 544,193
Transfers in from General Fund	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 2,800,000
Other Revenue*	\$ 150,000	\$ 5,100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Expenditures	\$ 3,978,258	\$ 9,038,000	\$ 4,065,220	\$ 2,389,479	\$ 1,291,297
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 2,436,892	\$ 1,298,892	\$ 83,672	\$ 544,193	\$ 2,102,896

*surplus, loans, grants, strike team

Capital Expenditures by Category	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Apparatus & Vehicles	\$ 3,978,258	\$ 8,983,363	\$ 4,041,220	\$ 2,389,479	\$ 1,291,297
Equipment	\$ -	\$ 54,636	\$ 24,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,978,258	\$ 9,038,000	\$ 4,065,220	\$ 2,389,479	\$ 1,291,297

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Fiscal Year	2024-25				
Beginning Fund Balance	\$	1,132,961	(Balance of Fleet Project)		
Annual Contribution	\$	500,000			
	Year 1 2024	Year 2 2025	Year 3 2026	Year 4 2027	Year 5 2028
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 1,132,961	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers in from General Fund	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Revenue*	\$ 256,107	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Expenditures	\$ 1,889,068	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

*surplus, loans, grants, strike team

BUDGET SUMMARY

Fund Balance

The District's Fund Balance Reporting Policy was developed in conjunction with the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54 to clearly articulate the use of the District's existing fund balances and provide a structured approach to funding levels. The Fund Balance Policy is designed to strengthen the District's oversight of its reserve funds to ensure adequate financial resources and its long-term financial health in economic downturns. Classifications of fund balance maintained by the District per policy are set forth as follows:

NON-SPENDABLE FUND BALANCE – amounts that are not in a spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact (e.g., prepaid items and deposits on file with other agencies).

1. **Deposit & Prepaid Items** – Imprest Cash Amount to be used as either a Change Drawer (make change for customers); or a Petty Cash Drawer (make small purchases and later replenish the cash through A/P).

RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE – amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by external parties either constitutionally or through enabling legislation (e.g., grants or donations).

COMMITTED FUND BALANCE – amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the Board of Directors, either through ordinance or resolution.

ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE – amounts intended to be used by the government for specific purposes. Intent is expressed by the Board of Directors or by a designee to whom the governing body delegates the authority.

1. **Capital Fund** - for the purpose of providing funds for the replacement of apparatus and support vehicles, funding capital improvement projects and acquisitions and improvement of capital equipment utilized in the delivery of emergency services. Fund balance requirements shall be based on the Replacement Schedules and reviewed biennially by the Fire Chief and Finance Committee to determine the proper level of funding. For 2024-25, a total of \$5.9 million will be expensed.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Fund Balance

UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE – includes all amounts not contained in other classifications and is the residual classification of the general fund.

1. **Minimum Fund Balance** - It is the goal of the District to achieve and maintain an unassigned fund balance in the general fund at a maximum of five (5) months of the General Fund Operating Expenditures at the end of each fiscal year to ensure the District has adequate cash flow and avoid short-term borrowing during the “Dry Tax Period” which typically occurs from July to December. For 2024-25, the minimum fund balance is projected at 6.07 months, this does not include the \$10 million in California CLASS, which is surplus funds above and beyond the District’s operational needs.

2. **California CLASS** - In July 2023, the Board approved an amendment to Board Policy 1205 which granted the Fire Chief the authority to invest surplus funds in a manner which will provide the highest investment return while meeting the daily cash flow demands of the District. The District has invested a total of \$10 million of its surplus funds with California CLASS which is a California public agency investment pool with the intent to diversify its investment returns.

FUND BALANCES	Estimated Fund Balance				Transfers In	Estimated Fund Balance
	7-1-2024	Revenues	Expenditures	Transfer Out		
NONSPENDABLE:						
Deposits & Prepaid items	\$ 300					\$ 300
ASSIGNED:						
Capital Fund	\$ 3,465,150	\$ 150,000	\$ (3,978,258)		\$ 2,800,000	\$ 2,436,892
Capital Improvement	\$ 1,132,961	\$ -	\$ (1,889,068)		\$ 500,000	\$ (256,107)
UNASSIGNED:						
Minimum Fund Balance	\$ 18,392,034					\$ 18,392,034
General Fund	\$ 3,768,815	\$ 45,632,360	\$ (43,790,558)	\$ (3,300,000)	\$ -	\$ 2,310,617
California CLASS	\$ 10,250,673					\$ 10,250,673
Fleet Services	\$ 311,924	\$ 984,073	\$ (1,607,127)		\$ 623,054	\$ 311,924
Total	\$ 37,321,857	\$ 46,766,432	\$ (51,265,011)	\$ (3,300,000)	\$ 3,923,054	\$ 33,446,333

Minimum Fund Balance	Total Months
Per Fiscal Policy	5.00
Projected Balance	6.07 * does not include CA Class



BUDGET SUMMARY

Division Program Budgets

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Administration Division includes the functions of the Fire Chief, Administrative Services, Human Resources, and Finance. The Fire Chief serves as the Chief Executive Officer and provides direction, supervision, and general support to the District's overall operations and its Board of Directors.

Budget Highlights:

- Budget of \$500,000 in professional and specialized services towards long range master plan and customer - centered strategic plan.
- Total of \$33,000 in financial reports and software to provide District with tools to assist with strategies to manage its unfunded liabilities.
- Budget of \$65,000 for recruiting based program, Lexipol for managing the district policies, performance review software and implementation of a new payroll system.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

The Fire Prevention Division is responsible for life safety inspections, community outreach, public information, and plan reviews. Community fire and life safety education is the first line of defense in risk management.

Budget Highlights:

- Approximately \$30,000 budget for community events and education.



BUDGET SUMMARY

Division Program Budgets

LOGISTICS

The Logistics Division is responsible for the District's facilities, ground support and supplies as well as the District's Fleet Services Division. The Fleet Services Division is responsible for maintaining the operational readiness of the District's apparatus fleet and support vehicles. The Division also provides contract services for fleet maintenance to other fire agencies located within Santa Cruz County.

Budget Highlights:

- Total of \$1 million for the repairs and maintenance for the upkeep of all facilities.
- Budget of \$1.1 million for the maintenance of the District's fleet which includes internal repairs conducted by the District's fleet services.

OPERATIONS

Operations Division consists of EMS, special operations, and suppression. Its mission is to protect life and property through effective emergency response services. Much of this is achieved through preparation, accomplished by training, and ensuring that our apparatus, equipment, and facilities are properly maintained and in a ready state.

Budget Highlights:

- Total budget of \$170,000 for EMS related cost and supplies.
- Total budget of \$320,000 for Special operations includes cost for programs such as aquatic rescue, disaster preparedness, hazardous materials, marine safety division (junior lifeguards) and rescue techs.
- Suppression costs consist of apparel, communication, required suppression equipment and health & wellness. Total budget is \$1.6 million.



BUDGET SUMMARY

Division Program Budgets

TECHNOLOGY

The Technology Division consists of information technology and mobile technology. The Division is responsible for supporting the District’s computing infrastructure. IT manages the District’s computer workstations, servers and file systems, email system, network equipment, cloud storage, phone systems, internet access, audio/visual equipment, and all software and database programs. In addition, IT manages the District’s communications equipment including mobile display computers.

Budget Highlights:

- Total technology budget \$409,000, approximately \$114,000 for PC Software and applications for the District and \$205,000 in professional and specialized services for an IT contractor.

TRAINING

The Training Division is a critical element of the District, tasked with providing high quality training, instruction, career development, and evaluation to all District personnel. These training activities prepare our personnel to serve our community in the most efficient and effective means possible, and to ensure the safety of all our responders.

Budget Highlights:

- Total budget of \$710,000 with \$368,000 dedicated to employee education and training.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Central Fire District Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Summary

682500- OPERATIONS		6/30/2023	6/30/2024	6/30/2025	Vs. 2024
OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Actual	Preliminary Budget	Prior Year Change
Revenues					
40100	PROPERTY TAX-CURRENT SEC-GEN	34,609,593	36,412,439	37,868,936	1,456,498
40106	RESIDUAL DISTRIBUTION	3,944,595	3,766,695	3,766,695	-
40110	PROPERTY TAX-CURRENT UNSEC-GEN	638,927	723,814	752,766	28,953
40130	PROPERTY TAX-PRIOR UNSEC-GEN	63,808	85,671	85,671	-
40150	SUPP PROP TAX-CURRENT SEC	792,680	341,532	800,000	458,468
40151	SUPP PROP TAX-CURRENT UNSEC	33,877	25,021	20,000	(5,021)
40160	SUPP PROP TAX-PRIOR SEC	45,187	54,302	30,000	(24,302)
40161	SUPP PROP TAX-PRIOR UNSEC	8,902	15,766	5,000	(10,766)
40196	FIRE PROTECTION TAX	130,927	130,823	130,000	(823)
40197	IN-LIEU TAXES OTHER	470	439	500	61
44142	PENALTIES FOR DELINQUENT TAXES	4,896	5,839	5,839	-
44143	REDMPTN PNLTIES FOR DELINQ TXS	4,130	6,216	6,216	-
40430	INTEREST	438,142	1,005,980	850,000	(155,980)
40830	ST-HOMEOWNERS' PROP TAX RELIEF	166,547	173,664	182,347	8,683
40894	ST-OTHER	763,875	288,075	-	(288,075)
41095	FED-MISC GRANTS	-	-	-	-
41162	RDA PASS-THROUGHS	410,862	226,079	485,000	258,921
41617	EMERGENCY RESPONSE RECOVERY	298,883	297,954	310,000	12,046
42020	COPY CHARGES	411	589	-	(589)
42022	COST RECOVERY-OTHER	1,747	-	-	-
42033	HOMELAND SECURITY REVENUE	-	-	-	-
42047	OTHER CHARGES CURRENT SERVICES	372,181	135,079	271,363	136,284
42055	SCHMIT REVENUE	35,000	24,000	35,000	11,000
42072	WEEDS/LOT CLEARING	-	-	-	-
42117	PERSONNEL SERVICES	-	-	-	-
42375	INSURANCE PROCEEDS	452,652	594,721	-	(594,721)
42380	NSF CHECKS	-	-	-	-
42384	OTHER REVENUE	62,683	83,606	27,027	(56,579)
42462	OPERATING TRANSFER IN	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues		43,280,977	44,398,302	45,632,360	1,234,058
Expenditures					
SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS					
51000	REGULAR PAY-PERMANENT	14,216,467	15,135,328	15,660,326	524,999
51005	OVERTIME PAY-PERMANENT	3,204,543	3,354,570	3,195,692	(158,879)
51010	REGULAR PAY-EXTRA HELP	203,165	161,167	200,000	38,833
51015	REGULAR PAY-SICK LEAVE	-	-	-	-
51025	REGULAR PAY-CALL BACK	345,446	101,987	10,000	(91,987)
51035	HOLIDAY PAY	1,133,996	1,212,421	1,218,785	6,364
51040	DIFFERENTIAL PAY	84,107	64,196	60,000	(4,196)
52010	OASDI-SOCIAL SECURITY	293,386	306,413	292,260	(14,153)
52015	PERS	7,246,116	7,533,027	8,448,760	915,733
53010	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE & BENEFITS	4,537,078	4,755,865	5,334,928	579,064
53015	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	10,347	13,269	13,104	(165)
54010	WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE	1,622,155	1,664,673	1,911,452	246,779
55020	SICK LEAVE RESERVE	355,857	676,269	605,997	(70,273)
55021	OTHER BENEFITS MISC	11,596	6,185	-	(6,185)
Total		33,264,260	34,985,370	36,951,304	1,965,934
SERVICES AND SUPPLIES					
61110	CLOTHING & PERSONAL SUPPLIES	493,871	352,422	520,490	168,068
61125	UNIFORM REPLACEMENT	-	-	-	-
61215	RADIO	6,948	7,371	9,500	2,129
61221	TELEPHONE-NON TELECOM 1099	97,278	98,547	116,600	18,053
61310	FOOD	10,772	10,104	17,800	7,696
61312	INVENTORIALBLE ITEMS	190,858	262,093	175,526	(86,567)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Central Fire District Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Summary

682500- OPERATIONS

61425	OTHER HOUSEHOLD EXP-SERVICES	73,946	78,762	93,598	14,836
61535	OTHER INSURANCE	119,212	111,720	470,003	358,283
61720	MAINT-MOBILE EQUIPMENT-SERV	9,323	5,301	16,400	11,099
61725	MAINT-OFFICE EQUIPMNT-SERVICES	6,622	7,278	7,600	322
61730	MAINT-OTH EQUIP-SERVICES	110,963	114,170	257,727	143,557
61845	MAINT-STRUCT/IMPS/GRDS-OTH-SRV	432,256	399,743	313,936	(85,807)
61920	MEDICAL, DENTAL & LAB SUPPLIES	42,462	35,023	52,350	17,327
62010	Empl Certificates & Licenses	6,727	34,478	13,371	(21,107)
62020	MEMBERSHIPS	12,457	11,925	15,109	3,184
62219	PC SOFTWARE PURCHASES	209,192	209,526	235,139	25,613
62221	POSTAGE	1,944	6,107	2,000	
62223	SUPPLIES	126,640	137,634	146,527	8,893
62301	ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING FEES	211,557	216,692	206,650	(10,042)
62327	DIRECTORS' FEES	19,758	24,282	24,896	614
62328	911 Dispatch Services	234,557	255,183	321,583	66,400
62358	LAUNDRY SERVICES	-	-	-	-
62360	Legal Services	183,034	128,221	200,000	71,779
62367	MEDICAL SERVICES-OTHER	65,214	98,573	75,000	(23,573)
62378	PERSONNEL SERVICES	-	-	-	-
62381	PROF & SPECIAL SERV-OTHER	652,545	718,396	843,629	125,233
62420	LEGAL NOTICES	1,601	460	1,300	840
62500	EQUIPMENT LEASE & RENT	18,572	18,387	20,750	2,363
62715	SMALL TOOLS & INSTRUMENTS	58,801	29,230	38,879	9,649
62826	EDUCATION AND/OR TRAINING	303,961	351,478	376,629	25,151
62888	SPEC DIST EXP-SERVICES	37,142	14,286	14,520	234
62890	SUBSCRIPTIONS BOOKS & ED MATER	36,859	32,951	33,700	749
62914	EDUCATION & TRAINING(REPT)	-	-	101,508	101,508
62920	GAS, OIL, FUEL	161,478	155,866	180,600	24,734
62928	TRAVEL-OTHER(NON-REPT)	7,025	4,063	7,550	3,487
62935	SERVICE CENTER CHARGES	993,788	1,012,562	1,069,406	56,845
63070	UTILITIES	125,744	136,229	172,300	36,071
Total		5,063,107	5,079,063	6,152,577	1,073,514
OTHER CHARGES					
75000	UNCOLLECTIBLE ACCOUNTS-EXPENSE	-	3,971	-	(3,971)
95226	INTRA-FUND TRF OUT-OTHER	-	342,131	-	(342,131)
75231	CONTRIB TO OTHER AGENCIES-OTH	40,702	21,563	41,277	19,714
Total		40,702	367,664	41,277	(326,387)
FIXED ASSETS					
86110	BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS	190,939	235,375	60,400	(174,975)
86203	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	-	-	485,000	485,000
86204	EQUIPMENT	73,957	15,121	-	(15,121)
86209	MOBILE EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-
Total		264,896	250,496	545,400	294,904
OTHER FINANCING USES					
90000	OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT	2,100,000	2,100,000	3,300,000	1,200,000
Total		2,100,000	2,100,000	3,300,000	1,200,000
APPROP FOR CONTINGENCIES					
98700	APPROP FOR CONTINGENCIES	-	-	100,000	100,000
Total		-	-	100,000	100,000
Total Expenditures		40,732,965	42,782,593	47,090,558	4,307,965
Total GL Key 682500		2,548,012	1,615,709	(1,458,198)	(3,073,907)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Central Fire District Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Summary

682510- FLEET		6/30/2023	6/30/2024	6/30/2025	Vs. 2024
OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Actual	Final Budget	Prior Year Change
Revenues					
40430	INTEREST	(1,696)	(890)	-	890
40894	ST-OTHER	-	-	-	-
42122	SERVICE CENTER CHGS	843,694	984,073	984,073	-
Total Revenues		841,998	983,183	984,073	890
Expenditures					
SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS					
51000	REGULAR PAY-PERMANENT	437,173	470,658	488,390	17,732
51005	OVERTIME PAY-PERMANENT	12,185	8,663	-	(8,663)
51015	REGULAR PAY-SICK LEAVE	-	-	-	-
51040	DIFFERENTIAL PAY	209	690	-	(690)
52010	OASDI-SOCIAL SECURITY	6,587	6,869	7,082	212
52015	PERS	43,671	51,863	139,192	87,329
53010	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE & BENEFITS	103,860	115,743	120,652	4,909
53015	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	448	448	448	-
54010	WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE	85,377	87,614	100,603	12,989
55020	SICK LEAVE RESERVE	8,580	-	-	-
Total		698,090	742,547	856,366	113,818
SERVICES AND SUPPLIES					
61110	CLOTHING & PERSONAL SUPPLIES	927	562	850	-
61221	TELEPHONE-NON TELECOM 1099	11,448	10,611	13,400	2,789
61425	OTHER HOUSEHOLD EXP-SERVICES	15,713	11,784	18,600	6,816
61312	Inventoriable Items	5,168	2,847	600	-
61535	OTHER INSURANCE	33,457	36,970	106,001	69,031
61720	MAINT-MOBILE EQUIPMENT-SERV	494,525	507,777	428,500	(79,277)
61730	MAINT-OTH EQUIP-SERVICES	8,670	11,537	17,115	5,578
61845	MAINT-STRUCT/IMPS/GRDS-OTH-SRV	15,991	18,728	30,045	11,317
62020	MEMBERSHIPS	571	1,261	1,175	(86)
62219	PC SOFTWARE PURCHASES	15,894	9,875	10,737	862
62221	Postage	235	1,183	500	-
62223	SUPPLIES	13,560	8,430	27,300	18,870
62367	MEDICAL SERVICES-OTHER	-	-	-	-
62381	PROF & SPECIAL SERV-OTHER	2,981	2,607	2,800	193
62500	EQUIPMENT LEASE & RENT	11,290	12,792	12,915	123
62715	SMALL TOOLS & INSTRUMENTS	3,613	1,846	3,500	1,654
62826	EDUCATION AND/OR TRAINING	20,461	14,508	20,000	5,492
62888	SPEC DIST EXP-SERVICES	1,495	1,850	8,285	6,435
62890	SUBSCRIPTIONS BOOKS & ED MATER	265	-	-	-
62914	EDUCATION & TRAINING(REPT)	(518)	-	-	-
62920	GAS, OIL, FUEL	121	520	2,400	1,880
63070	UTILITIES	25,431	30,827	32,400	1,573
Total		680,371	685,953	736,273	50,320
FIXED ASSETS					
86203	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-
86204	EQUIPMENT	-	-	13,638	13,638
Total		-	-	13,638	13,638
INTRAFUND TRANSFERS					
95225	INTRA-FUND TRF-OTHER	(537,390)	(445,879)	(623,054)	(177,175)
Total Character 95		(537,390)	(445,879)	(623,054)	(177,175)
Total Expenditures		841,998	983,183	984,073	890
Total GL Key 682510		-	-	-	-



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Central Fire District Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Summary

682550- CAPITAL OUTLAY

OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	6/30/2023 Year-To-Date Actual	6/30/2024 Year-To-Date Actual	6/30/2025 Final Budget	Vs. 2024
					Prior Year Change
Revenues					-
40430	INTEREST	113,466	222,920	150,000	(72,920)
40894	ST-OTHER	-	-	-	-
42384	OTHER REVENUE	537,984	547,687	-	(547,687)
42450	SLS OF FIXED ASSETS-NONTAXABLE	17,105	-	-	-
42462	OPERATING TRANSFER IN	2,100,000	2,100,000	3,300,000	1,200,000
Total Revenues					579,393
Expenditures					-
OTHER CHARGES					-
74230	PRINCIPAL ON LEASE PURCHASES	320,420	329,971	284,899	(45,072)
74420	INTEREST ON LEASE PURCHASES	29,518	19,966	65,039	45,073
Total					0
FIXED ASSETS					-
86110	BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS	123,703	3,188,541	1,889,068	(1,299,473)
86204	EQUIPMENT	-	294,222	-	-
86209	MOBILE EQUIPMENT	2,080,625	1,261,191	3,628,320	-
Total					(1,299,473)
Total Expenditures					773,434
Total GL Key 682550					(194,041)



GENERAL
135721

5.5
SCOTT
5.5

HOPPER

CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



**PHOTOS: STEVE KUEHL
DESIGN BY: CHARLOTTE CAMBRIDGE WEBB
CENTRALFIRES.CORG**



DISTRICT BUDGET 2024/2025