



# Recommended Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

March 25, 2024

# ***Five-Year Goals: 2023-2025***

- ***Vibrant Community***
- ***Financially Responsible, High-Performance City Organization***
- ***Robust Local Economy***
- ***Livable Neighborhoods & Housing***
- ***Sustainable Environment***
- ***Connected Community***
- ***Diverse Arts, Culture, Parks, and Recreation Experiences & Activities***
- ***Partnerships for a Better Dubuque***

## **2023-2025 Top Priorities** *(in alphabetical order)*

- **Air Service: Future Strategy & Action Plan**
- **City Workforce Retention & Attraction**
- **Comprehensive Study of Fire Station Locations and Staffing**
- **Police Department Full Staffing**
- **Street Maintenance & Rehabilitation Program**

## **2023-2025 High Priorities** *(in alphabetical order)*

- **Bee Branch Detention Basin Pump Replacement**
- **Catfish Creek Sanitary Sewer Project Pump Station**
- **Central Avenue Corridor Revitalization Plan**
- **Leveraging Federal & State Infrastructure Grant Programs**
- **RAISE Grant & Matching Funds for Construction (14th St. Railroad Overpass and Elm St. and 16th St. Corridor Complete Streets)**

# Creating an Equitable Community (and Organization) of Choice

A High-Performance Organization (and Community) with  
Engaged Employees and Residents that is Data-Driven and  
Outcome-Focused built on the five pillars of:

Resiliency

Sustainability

Equity

Transparency

Compassion

## Through Partnerships, Planning, & People

[www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org)

Adopted by City Council on January 16, 2024

CM024-013024



# Budget Recommendation Built On:

1. City Council Goals & Priorities
2. Major CIP Projects
3. Leveraging Federal & State Grants
4. Public Safety
5. Streets

# Outperforming Most of Our Peers

## DUBUQUE COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES



# Outperforming Most of Our Peers

## Percent Change in Population: 2010-2020

Micropolitan Statistical Area	% Change
Keokuk	-7.00%
Fort Dodge	-5.50%
Clinton	-5.50%
Burlington	-5.10%
Mason City	-4.40%
Spencer	-4.10%
Marshalltown	-2.80%
Storm Lake	-2.40%
Ottumwa	-1.80%
Boone	-1.60%
Muscatine	-0.08%
Oskaloosa	0%
Newton	3.30%
Spirit Lake	5.30%
Fairfield	8.90%

# Outperforming Most of Our Peers

## Percent Change in Population: 2010-2020

Metropolitan Statistical Area	% Change
Des Moines-West Des Moines Metro Area	16.7%
Iowa City Metro Area	15.2%
Ames Metro Area	7.3%
Cedar Rapids Metro Area	6.2%
<b>Dubuque Metro Area</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
Janesville-Beloit, WI Metro Area	2.1%
Sioux City, IA-NE-SD Metro Area	1.0%
Waterloo-Cedar Falls Metro Area	0.3%
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island Metro Area	-0.5%
Rockford, IL Metro Area	-3.0%
Peoria, IL Metro Area	-3.3%
Decatur, IL Metro Area	-6.1%

# Outperforming Most of Our Peers

## Percent Change in Population: 1970-2020

City	1970 Population	2020 Population	% Change
Gary, IN	175,415	69,093	-60.6%
South Bend, IN	125,580	103,453	-17.6%
Flint, MI	193,317	81,252	-58.0%
Detroit, MI	1,511,482	639,111	-57.7%
Akron, OH	275,425	190,469	-30.8%
Cincinnati, OH	452,524	309,317	-31.6%
Cleveland, OH	750,903	372,624	-50.4%
Dayton, OH	243,601	137,644	-43.4%
Toledo, OH	383,818	270,871	-29.4%
Youngstown, OH	139,788	60,068	-57.0%

# Budget Context

- **GDDC 5-Year Campaign Goals**
- **Poverty Prevention & Reduction**
- **Cost Increases**
- **Community Safety**
- **Roads & Infrastructure**
- **Economic Development & Housing**
- **Improved Customer Service**
- **Identifying and Funding Important Initiatives to Support Employees**
- **Opportunities for Grants and Forgivable Loans**
- **ARPA, BIL, and Other Funding**

# Proposed City Property Tax Levy

	FY2024	Proposed FY2025	% Change
Total Tax Levy	\$26,623,300	\$28,223,480	6.01%
Tax Rate	\$9.90135	\$9.92638	0.25%



# Proposed Property Tax Levy

	% Change from FY24	\$ Change from FY24
<b>Property Tax Rate</b>	<b>0.25%</b>	<b>\$0.03</b>
<b>Property Tax Asking</b>	<b>6.01%</b>	<b>\$1,600,180</b>
<b>Avg. Residential Property</b>	<b>5.00%</b>	<b>\$40.75</b>
<b>Avg. Commercial Property</b>	<b>25.55%</b>	<b>\$850.63</b>
<b>Avg. Industrial Property</b>	<b>3.89%</b>	<b>\$187.33</b>

**CITY NAME:** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF DUBUQUE - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY  
**DUBUQUE** Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 **CITY #:** 31-288

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows:  
**Meeting Date:** 3/25/2024 **Meeting Time:** 06:30 PM **Meeting Location:** City Council Chambers, 350 W 6th St.  
**At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.**

City Website (if available)  
<https://www.cityofdubuque.org/85/Budget>

City Telephone Number  
 (563) 589-4398

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2023 - 2024	Budget Year Effective Property Tax 2024 - 2025	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax 2024 - 2025
Taxable Valuations for Non-Debt Service	2,613,397,595	2,768,051,830	2,768,051,830
Consolidated General Fund	21,168,521	21,168,521	21,981,598
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit	1,507,120	1,507,120	1,913,222
Aviation Authority	0	0	0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance	558,274	558,274	1,405,063
Support of Local Emergency Mgmt. Comm.	0	0	0
Unified Law Enforcement	0	0	0
Police & Fire Retirement	0	0	0
FICA & IPERS (If at General Fund Limit)	2,387,496	2,387,496	1,946,134
Other Employee Benefits	0	0	0
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)	0	0	0
Taxable Value for Debt Service	3,055,076,501	3,410,562,613	3,410,562,613
Debt Service	297,809	297,809	284,236
<b>CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX</b>	<b>25,919,220</b>	<b>25,919,220</b>	<b>27,530,253</b>
<b>CITY REGULAR TAX RATE</b>	<b>9.90135</b>	<b>9.34344</b>	<b>9.92637</b>
Taxable Value for City Ag Land	3,392,501	3,420,763	3,420,763
Ag Land	10,190	10,190	10,275
<b>CITY AG LAND TAX RATE</b>	<b>3.00368</b>	<b>2.97887</b>	<b>3.00375</b>
<b>Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed</b>			
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000	<b>Current Year Certified 2023/2024</b>	<b>Budget Year Proposed 2024/2025</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
City Regular Resident	541	460	-14.97
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000	<b>Current Year Certified 2023/2024</b>	<b>Budget Year Proposed 2024/2025</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
City Regular Commercial	541	460	-14.97

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$100,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation.

**Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:**

The City of Dubuque has experienced increased cost in insurance including workers compensation, general liability, and property insurance. In addition, increase cost in equipment replacements, employee expense, utility expense, and overall supplies and services have been projected.

THE CITY OF  
**DUBUQUE**  
*Masterpiece on the Mississippi*

## 14

# School, County and City Budget Year Statement to Owners and Tax Payers - As Required by Iowa Code 24.2A

## DUBUQUE: City Public Hearing on Proposed Property Taxation for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Date: 3/25/24

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: City Council Chambers, 350 W 6th St.

Telephone: 563-589-4398

Website: <https://www.cityofdubuque.org/85/Budget>

	Current Property Tax	Current Tax Rate	Effective Tax Rate	Proposed Prop Tax	Proposed Prop Rate
General Non-Ag	\$25,919,220	9.90135	9.34344	\$27,530,253	9.92637
Ag only	\$10,190	3.00368	2.97887	\$10,275	3.00375

Reasons Proposed Property Tax exceeds the Current Property Tax:

The City of Dubuque has experienced increased cost in insurance including workers compensation, general liability, and property insurance. In addition, increased cost in equipment replacements, employee expense, utility expense, and overall supplies and services have been projected.

# School, County and City Budget Year Statement to Owners and Tax Payers - As Required by Iowa Code 24.2A

The examples below show how taxes on a property with a value of 100,000 would be distributed in both the Current and Proposed Budget years:

## Residential Property:

Taxing Authority	Tax Using Current Tax Rate	Tax Using Proposed Tax Rate	% Change
DUBUQUE CO	\$793.00	\$616.00	-22.32
DUBUQUE COUNTY	\$303.00	\$261.00	-13.86
DUBUQUE	\$541.00	\$460.00	-14.97

**Commercial Property** - Note the first 150,000 of Commercial property has the same taxation basis as Residential:

Taxing Authority	Tax Using Current Tax Rate	Tax Using Proposed Tax Rate	% Change
DUBUQUE CO	\$793.00	\$616.00	-22.32
DUBUQUE COUNTY	\$303.00	\$261.00	-13.86
DUBUQUE	\$541.00	\$460.00	-14.97

# Measuring Impact of Tax Rate Changes

- City of Dubuque measures the impact of a change in the property tax rate by creating **an average value for properties** in different classifications that gets increased each year
- State of Iowa wants cities to look at the impact on **a fixed value of a \$100,000 property**



# Measuring Impact of Tax Rate Changes

- The State of Iowa calculation shows the impact on small businesses and smaller residential properties.
- The impact is different because the first \$150,000 of a commercial property gets the much greater residential rollback.
- *In other words, less of the value of the property is subject to property tax.*



# Measuring Impact of Tax Rate Changes

**Dubuque example:**

**Commercial or residential property with an assessed value of \$100,000 would have paid \$541 in FY2024 and will pay \$460 in FY2025, a decrease of \$81, or 14.97%.**

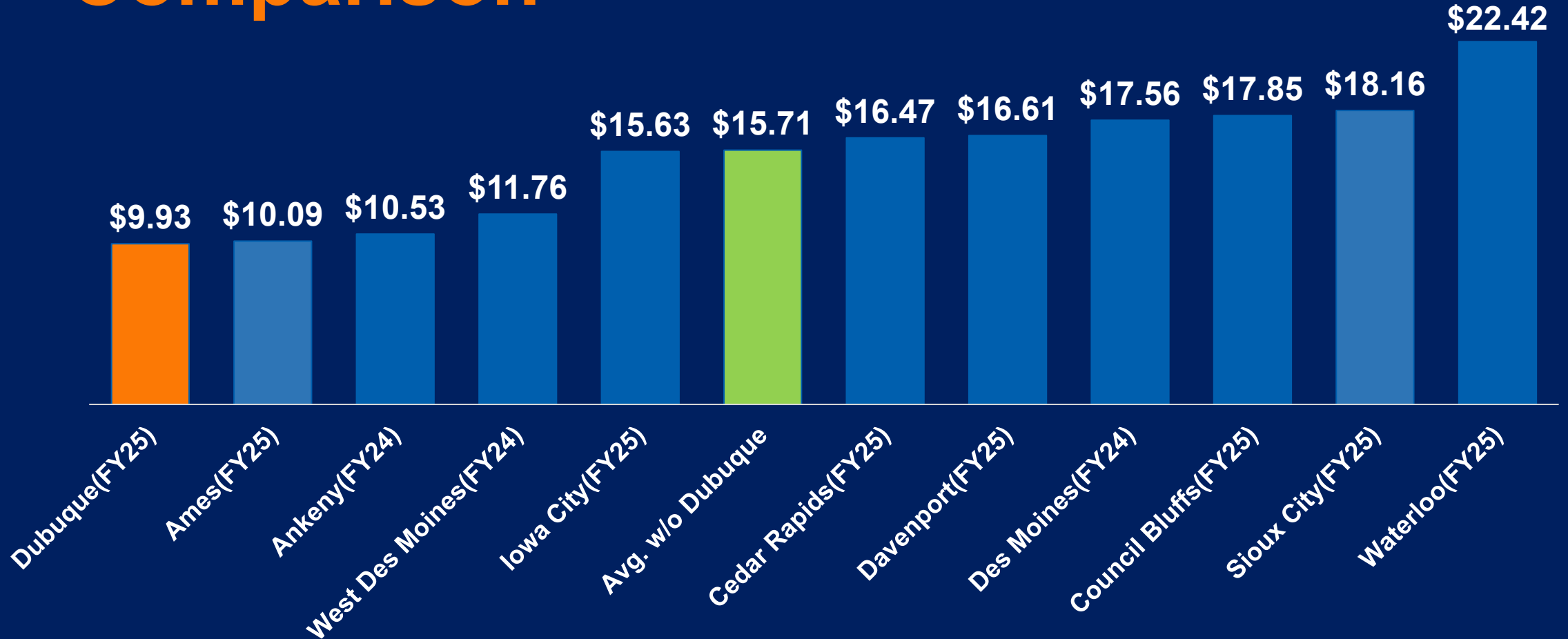
# Measuring Impact of Tax Rate Changes

- Since 1989, the average Dubuque homeowner has averaged an annual increase in costs in the City portion of their property taxes of 1.36%, or about \$8.41 a year.
- If the State had been fully funding the Homestead Tax Credit, the increase would have averaged approximately \$5.67 a year.

# State's Residential Rollback

- The State's residential rollback factor will decrease from 54.6501% in 2024 to 46.3428%, or **a 15.20% decrease in FY 2025.**
- The decrease in the residential rollback factor decreases the value upon which that each residence is taxed.
- This decreased taxable value for the average homeowner (\$87,169 taxable value in FY 2024 and \$91,067 taxable value in 2025) results in less taxes to be paid per \$1,000 of assessed value.

# City Property Tax Rate Comparison

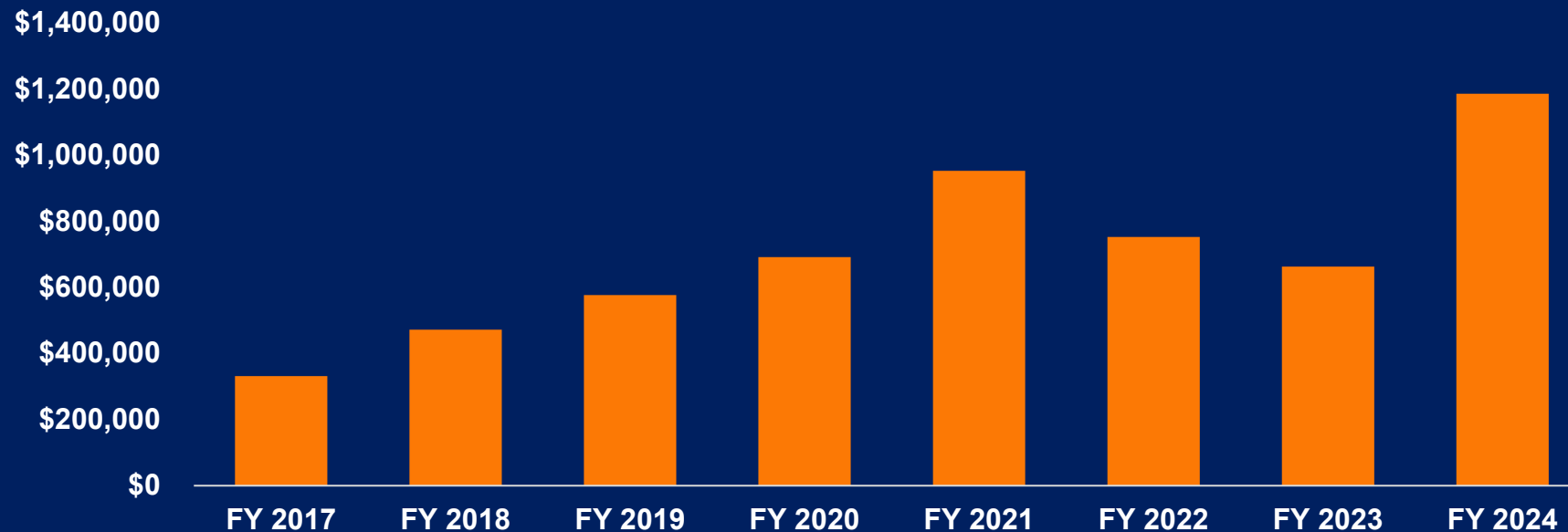


**Waterloo = 125.8% higher than Dubuque**

**Average = 58.3% higher than Dubuque**

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Annual Loss of Tax Revenue from Multi-Residential Property Rollback



**The State of Iowa will not backfill property tax loss from the rollback on multi-residential property. The City will annually lose \$1.2 million as a result.**

**Dubuque's total revenue loss for FY17-FY24 = \$5.63 million**

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

- Homestead Exemption for 65+
- Military Exemption
- Revaluation of Residential & Commercial
- Residential Rollback
- Riverfront Property Lease Revenue
- Local Option Sales Tax
- Hotel/Motel Tax

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

- **Moody's Upgrade of City Bond Rating (July 2023)**
- **5% for Dubuque Police Protective Association and Non-Represented Employees**
- **3% for Already-Approved Collective Bargaining Agreements for Teamsters**
- **Dubuque Professional Fire Fighters Association and International Union of Operating Engineers in contract negotiations**
- **Estimated cost to General Fund = \$1,942,693**



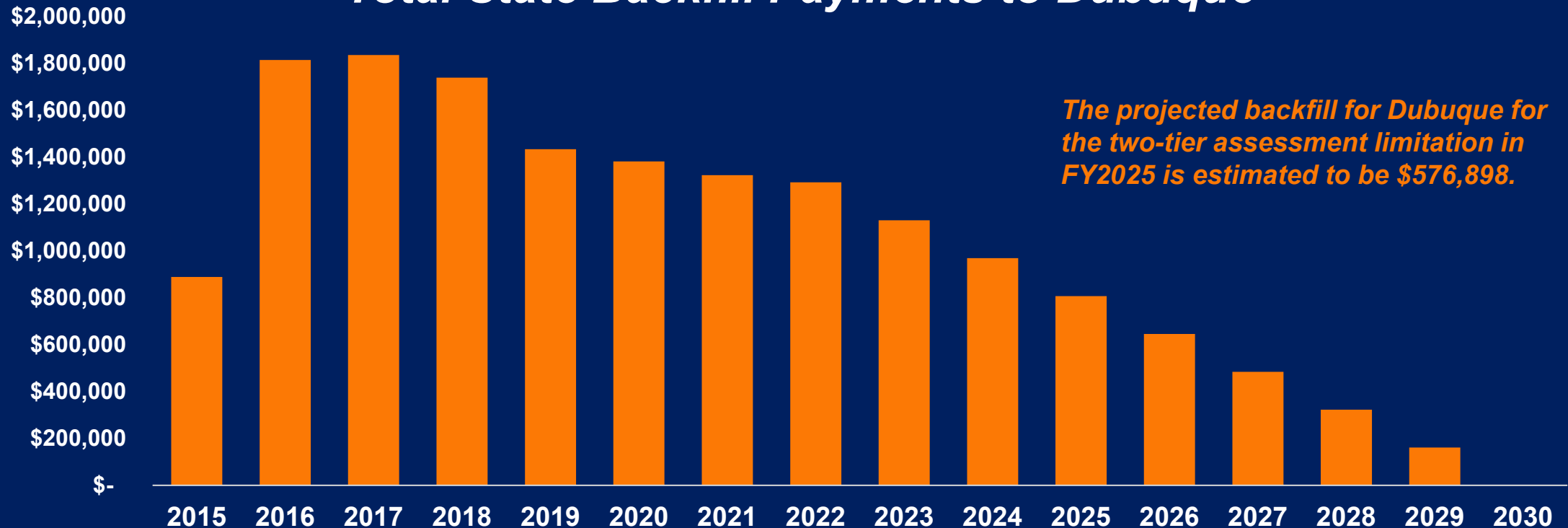
# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

- **Fire Department: Additional Captain (Field Officer/Safety Officer) starting Aug. 1, 2024**
- **Fire Department: Bureau Chief (EMS Division) starting July 1, 2024**
- **Public Safety Software (\$3 million)**

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## State-Funded Backfill on Commercial & Industrial Property Tax

### *Total State Backfill Payments to Dubuque*



# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

- Gaming Revenue
- Interest Revenue
- Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue
- Franchise Fee Revenue
- Moody's Investors Service Change in Methodology

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Fiscal Year 2024 Debt:

- Expenses to make projects grant-eligible and provide matching funds to compete for grants

## FY2025 CIP Budget Recommendation:

- \$88,753,825
- 15.94% increase from the FY2024 CIP budget of \$76,554,143

# Recommended 5-Year CIP

- **City will issue \$145,955,901 in new debt in the recommended 5-year CIP.**
- **City will retire \$130,165,376 of existing debt**
- **Increase of City debt by \$15,790,525**

# Recommended 5-Year CIP

- For FY2025, the use of the statutory debt limit would be 34.85%, and by the end of the recommended 5-Year CIP budget in FY2029, the City would be at 35.65% of the statutory debt limit.

# Recommended 5-Year CIP

## Strategic Use of Debt for Infrastructure Projects:

1. The older a piece of infrastructure gets and the more it is allowed to deteriorate, the more costs increase
2. The longer the wait to invest in infrastructure, the more costs are increased by inflation
3. If the investment in infrastructure is not made in this interest rate environment, it will eventually need to be made when interest rates could be potentially higher, thereby increasing costs
4. The massive amount of federal grant money that is being made available



# Strategic Use of City Debt

Debt Obligation	6/30/2024 Principle Outstanding
General Obligation Essential Corporate Purpose	\$95,787,606
Less General Obligation Debt Subject to Annual Appropriation	(\$15,902,592)
Tax Increment Notes and Bonds	\$16,350,000
Economic Development TIF Rebate Agreements	\$6,104,789
Other Revenue-Backed Loans	\$2,940,485
Total Indebtedness Subject to Statutory Debt Limit of \$262,722,395	\$105,280,288
Percent of Statutory Debt Limit Used as of June 30, 2024	40.07 %
Revenue Bonds	\$135,817,825
Less Revenue Bonds Subject to Annual Appropriation	(\$13,956,032)
Add Debt Subject to Annual Appropriation	\$29,858,624
<b>Total City Indebtedness as of June 30, 2024</b>	<b>\$257,000,705</b>

# Strategic Use of City Debt

Project	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	Total
Fire Equipment Replacement (LOST)	\$ 969,342	\$ 1,248,060	\$ 804,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3,021,402
Fire Station Expansion/Relocation (LOST)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 976,700	\$ 3,797,000	\$ 4,773,700
Fire Station Improvements (LOST)	\$ 1,320,900	\$ 225,000	\$ 370,000	\$ 250,000	\$ —	\$ 2,165,900
Fire Training Burn Tower Improvements (LOST)	\$ 466,676	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 466,676
Airport Improvements (LOST)	\$ 500,386	\$ 1,093,148	\$ 754,835	\$ 739,438	\$ 364,560	\$ 3,452,367
ABC Supply Building Deconstruction (GDTIF)	\$ 457,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 457,000
Reimagine Comiskey (GDTIF)	\$ —	\$ 1,697,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 733,000	\$ 2,430,000
Five Flags (GDTIF)	\$ —	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 6,400,000	\$ 8,972,000	\$ 19,472,000
Smart Parking System (GDTIF)	\$ 1,957,000	\$ 780,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,737,000
Parking Ramp Major Maintenance Repairs (GDTIF)	\$ 6,053,000	\$ 1,240,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 7,293,000
Federal Building Renovation (GDTIF)	\$ 533,000	\$ 383,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 4,695,000	\$ 5,611,000
Iowa Amphitheater on Schmitt Island (GDTIF)	\$ 285,000	\$ 5,499,961	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 5,784,961
McFadden Farm - South Heacock Road (DICW)	\$ 2,274,963	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,274,963
Development of Graf Properties (DICW)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 536,822	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 536,822
Development of McFadden Property -(DICW)	\$ —	\$ 4,214,772	\$ 2,163,178	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 6,377,950
Solid Waste Collection Vehicles - Refuse	\$ 873,700	\$ 585,840	\$ 400,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,859,540
Sanitary Sewer Projects	\$17,683,900	\$15,531,900	\$ 8,212,105	\$10,448,695	\$ 4,881,286	\$ 56,757,886
Stormwater Projects	\$ —	\$ 3,947,357	\$ 2,600,000			\$ 6,547,357
Water Projects	\$ 4,686,377	\$ 750,000	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 13,936,377
Water Forgivable SRF Debt	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
<b>Total New Debt</b>	<b>\$38,061,244</b>	<b>\$39,996,038</b>	<b>\$20,890,940</b>	<b>\$20,564,833</b>	<b>\$ 26,442,84</b>	<b>\$145,955,90</b>

# Recommended 5-Year CIP

## Majority of new debt will fund:

- Fire equipment replacement
- Fire station improvements
- Fire station expansion
- Airport improvements
- Chaplain Schmitt Island Iowa Amphitheater
- Reimagine Comiskey Park
- Federal Building renovations
- Solid waste collection vehicles
- Sanitary sewer improvements
- Water improvements
- Stormwater improvements
- Parking improvements
- Renovation of Five Flags

# Strategic Use of City Debt

**The City will retire \$124,211,508 of existing debt over the next five-years (FY25-FY29).**

Project	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	Total
New Debt	\$38,061,244	\$39,996,038	\$20,890,940	\$20,564,833	\$26,442,846	\$145,955,901
Retired Debt	-\$21,955,845	-\$23,328,969	-\$24,809,782	-\$25,965,305	-\$28,151,607	-\$124,211,508
Net Debt Increase (Reduction)	\$16,105,399	\$16,667,069	(\$3,918,842)	(\$5,400,472)	(\$1,708,761)	\$21,744,393

# Strategic Use of City Debt

**The City will be at 34.85% of statutory debt limit by June 30, 2025.**  
In FY2016 the City was at 86.13% of statutory debt limit, so **34.85% in FY2025 is a 52% decrease in use of the statutory debt limit.**

10-year history of the City's use of the statutory debt limit:

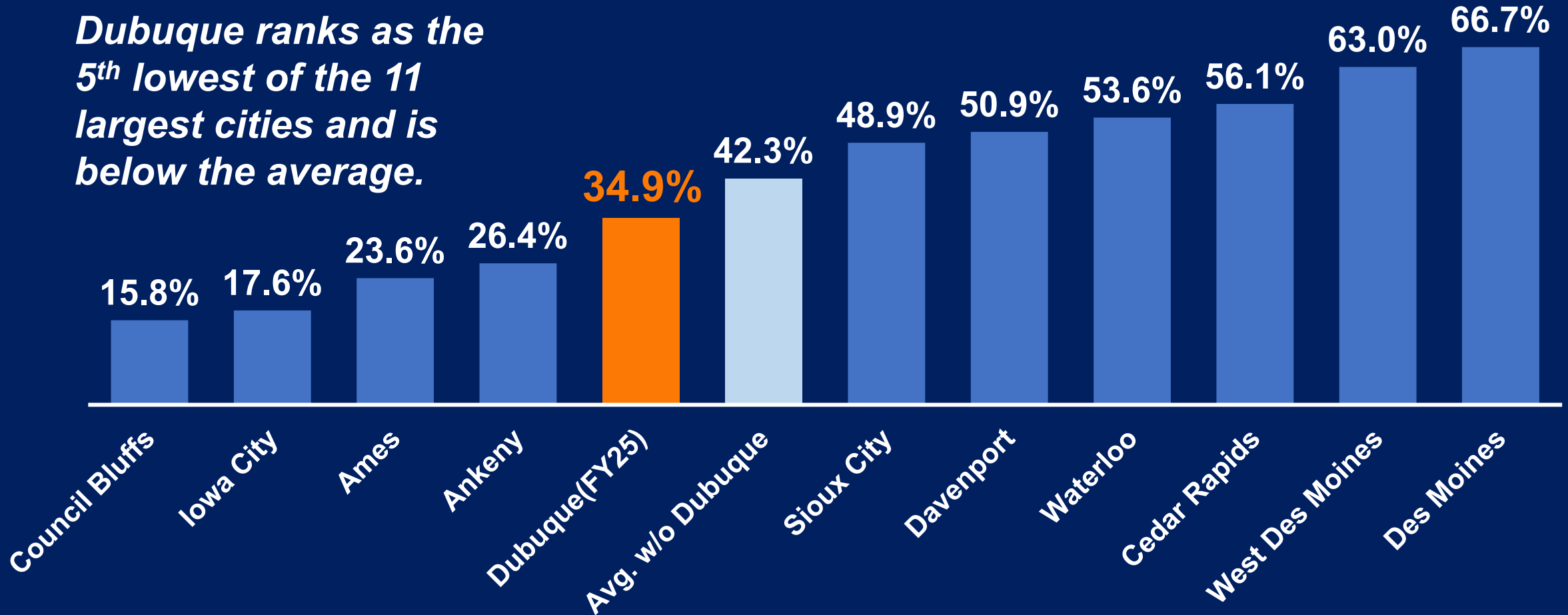
FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
83.87%	86.54%	66.06%	59.79%	52.90%	46.91%	43.51%	43.33%	39.36%	40.07%

5-year projection of the City's use of the statutory debt limit from FY2025–2029 including all planned debt issuances subject to the statutory limit and assuming a 2% growth in the City's assessed valuation:

FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
34.85%	37.22%	35.31%	34.03%	35.65%

# Percentage of Legal Debt Limit Utilized

*Dubuque ranks as the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest of the 11 largest cities and is below the average.*



**Des Moines is 91% higher and the average is 21% higher than Dubuque**

# Retired Debt vs. New Debt

The total City indebtedness as of June 30, 2025, is projected to be \$274,937,509 (34.85% of statutory debt limit).

The total City indebtedness as of June 30, 2015, was \$295,561,181 (69.45% of statutory debt limit).

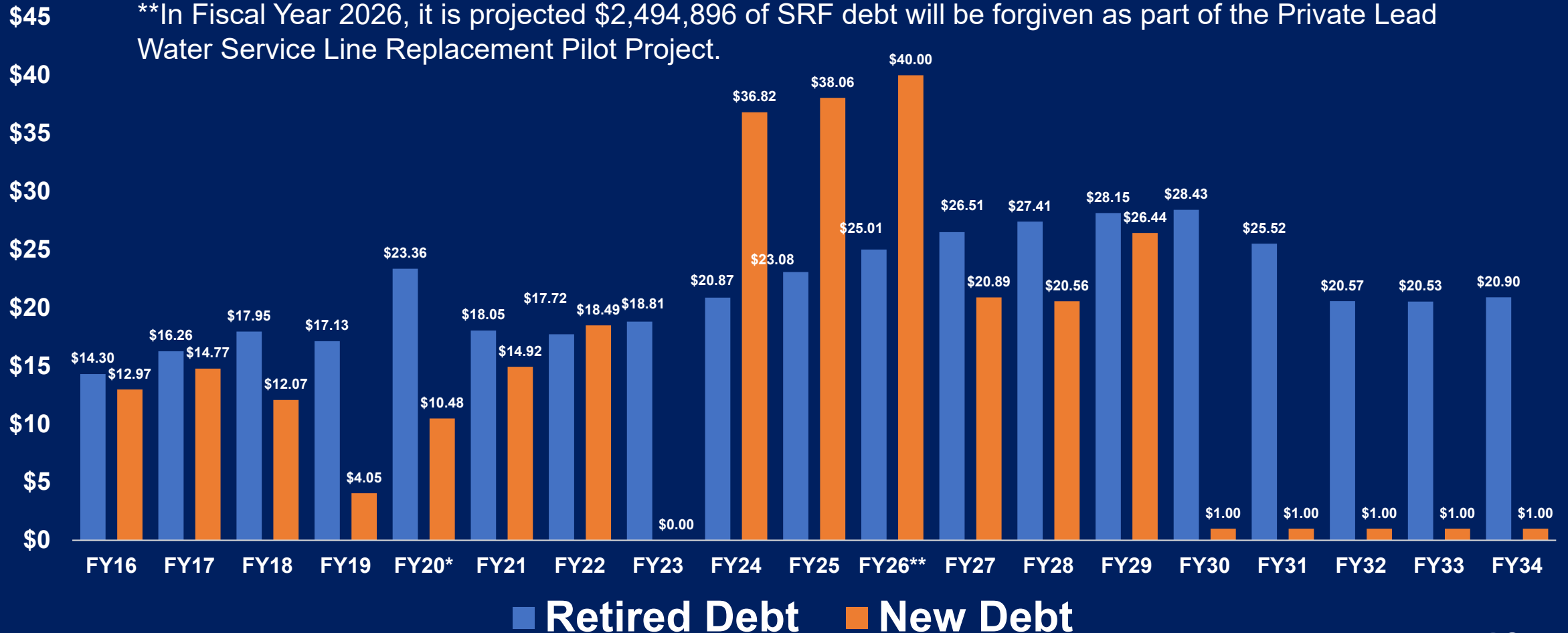
**The City is projected to have \$22,808,589 more in debt as of June 30, 2025. This includes \$3.285 million issued for the Chaplain Schmitt Island - Iowa Amphitheater project, which will be paid by the DRA.**

*The combination of increased debt and increased utility rates partially reflects the movement to a more critical infrastructure funding strategy.*

# Retired Debt vs. New Debt *(in millions)*

\*In Fiscal Year 2020, the City had \$5,908,200 forgiven of the Bee Branch Upper Bee Branch Loan on June 30, 2020 which increased principal payments reflected.

\*\*In Fiscal Year 2026, it is projected \$2,494,896 of SRF debt will be forgiven as part of the Private Lead Water Service Line Replacement Pilot Project.





# Statutory Debt & Total Debt

**FY2015: Dubuque used 90% of statutory debt limit**

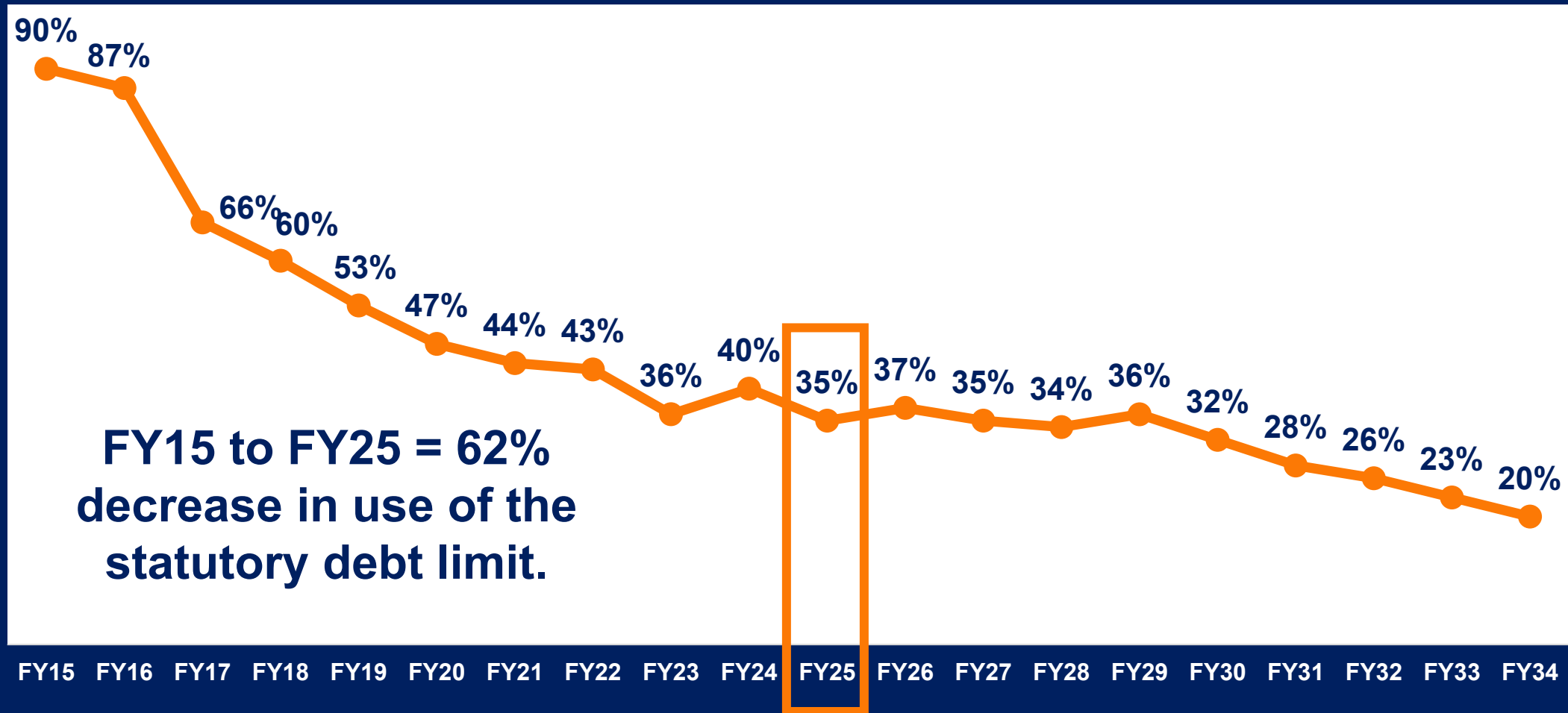
**FY2025 Budget Recommendation: use of statutory debt limit is 34.85%**

**By the end of the recommended 5-Year CIP budget in FY2029, the Dubuque would be at 35.65% of statutory debt limit.**

**5-Year CIP includes \$3.285M in FY2025 and \$5.5M in FY2026 for the Chaplain Schmitt Island - Iowa Amphitheater, which will be paid by the DRA.**

***Projections out 10 years to FY2034 show Dubuque at 20.47% of statutory debt limit***

# FY2025 Recommended Reduction of Statutory Debt Limit Used



# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## General Fund Reserves

- Moody's Investor Service recommends a 30% General Fund Operating Reserve for "AA" rated cities.
- In July 2023, Moody's Investor Service **upgraded** the City's outstanding general obligation bonds from **Aa3 to Aa2**, as well as the outstanding Sales Tax Increment Revenue bonds from **A2 to A1**.

***"Notable credit factors include strong financial operations and ample revenue-raising flexibility, which has resulted in steadily improved available fund balance and cash. The City serves as a regional economic center and its regional economic growth rate has outpaced the nation over the past five years."***

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## General Fund Reserves

In FY2017, the City had projected reaching this consistent and sustainable 20% reserve level in FY2022.

In fact, **the City met the 20% reserve requirement in FY2017, five years ahead of schedule and has sustained a greater than 20% reserve.**

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

**General Fund Accrual Reserve Goal = 25%**

	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
City's Spendable General Fund Cash Reserve Fund Balance	\$29,659,518	\$23,859,518	\$18,059,518	\$18,059,518	\$18,059,518	\$18,059,518
% of Projected Revenue	41.97%	33.76%	25.56%	25.56%	25.56%	25.56%

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

**General Fund + Enterprise Accrual Funds  
Reserve Goal = 25%**

	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
City's Spendable Moody's Reserve Fund Balance	\$46,304,790	\$40,504,790	\$34,704,790	\$34,704,790	\$34,704,790	\$34,704,790
% of Projected Revenue	40.21%	35.17%	30.14%	30.14%	30.14%	30.14%

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

- **City portion of health insurance expense is projected to remain unchanged**
- **Increase in property tax support for Transit**
- **Electrical energy expense is estimated to increase 9.8%**

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## State-Funded Backfill on Commercial & Industrial Property Tax

- Beginning in FY2023, the backfill will be eliminated over an 8-year period.
- Projected backfill for Dubuque for the two-tier assessment limitation in FY2025 is estimated to be \$576,898.



# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Revaluation of Residential and Commercial

- Average residential property value increased 23.2%
- Average commercial property value increased 25%

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Residential Rollback

- Residential Rollback factor decreases from 54.65% in FY2024 to 46.34% in FY2025
- Impacts taxable value of residential and commercial/industrial impacted due to two-tier assessment limitation on first \$150,000

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Riverfront Property Lease Revenue

- Riverfront Property Lease revenue increased \$212,448 due to consumer price index increase

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Local Option Sales Tax

- increased from \$12,528,806 in FY 2024 to \$12,927,517 in FY 2025. The FY 2025 budget is based on FY 2024 actual plus 3%.

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Hotel Motel Tax

- increased from \$2,925,996 in FY 2024 to \$3,376,383 in FY 2025. The FY 2025 budget is based on FY 2024 actual plus 3%.

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Moody's Investors Service Methodology Change

- Cities now assigned issuer rating to convey creditworthiness without regard to a specific borrowing, and
- Enterprise funds considered together with general fund revenues and balances.

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Homestead Exemption 65+

- HF718 created new exemption
- 3,398 Homeowners filed for exemption
- FY25 \$3,250 in taxable value
- FY26 \$6,500 in taxable value

***FY2025 revenue reduction  
to City of \$113,017***

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Military Exemption

- HF718 changed Military Credit to Exemption
- Increased from \$1,852 to \$4,000
- 1,937 Homeowners receive Military Exemption

***FY2025 revenue reduction  
to City of \$76,918***



# Recommended 5-Year (FY2025-2029) Capital Improvement Program

# Recommended 5-Year CIP

## Redevelopment of Chaplain Schmitt Island

- DRA making over \$80 million in improvements to the Q Casino, including building a new Hilton hotel and adding a family entertainment zone.
- City building an over \$15 million outdoor amphitheater on Chaplain Schmitt Island, millions of dollars of trails, and investing over \$2.5 million in replacement of sanitary sewer and an addition of a new sanitary sewer lift station.

# Recommended 5-Year CIP

## Redevelopment of Chaplain Schmitt Island

- Complimentary to the Chaplain Schmitt Island project the City is planning an over \$40 million project to build a railroad overpass on 14th Street, which would include a complete street design on Elm Street and 16th Street, an added hike bike lane to the 16th Street bridge over Peosta Channel and roundabout on 16th Street at Sycamore Street and Admiral Sheehy Drive

# Capital Improvement Program

**Catfish Creek Sewershed  
Interceptor Sanitary Sewer  
Improvements  
\$47 million total**

# Capital Improvement Program

**W&RRC High Strength Waste**  
**\$6.2 million total**

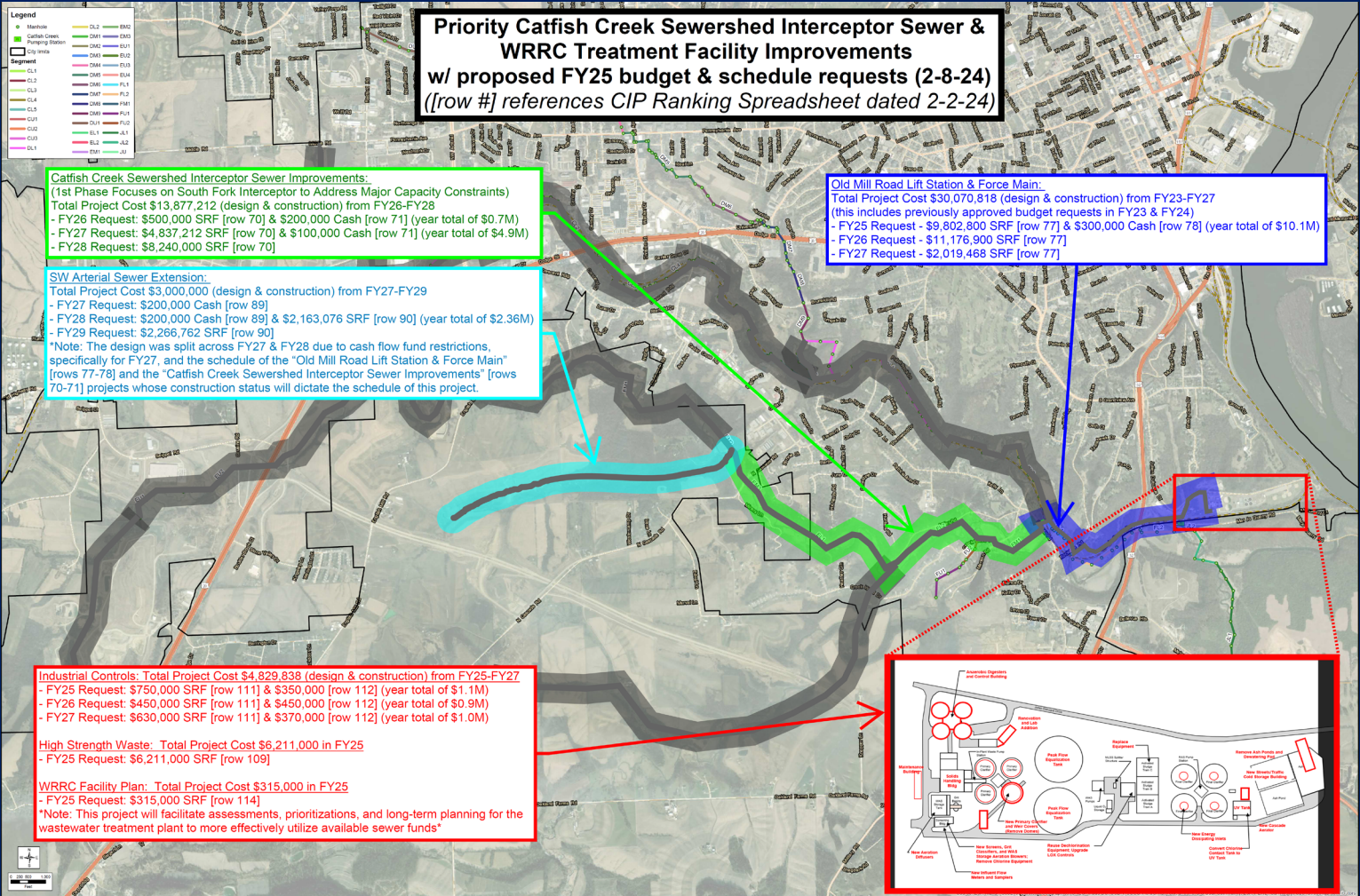
# Capital Improvement Program

**W&RRC Industrial Controls Update**  
**\$3 million total**

# Capital Improvement Program

**W&RRC BOD Capacity Upgrades**  
**\$1.1 million total**

# Capital Improvement Program



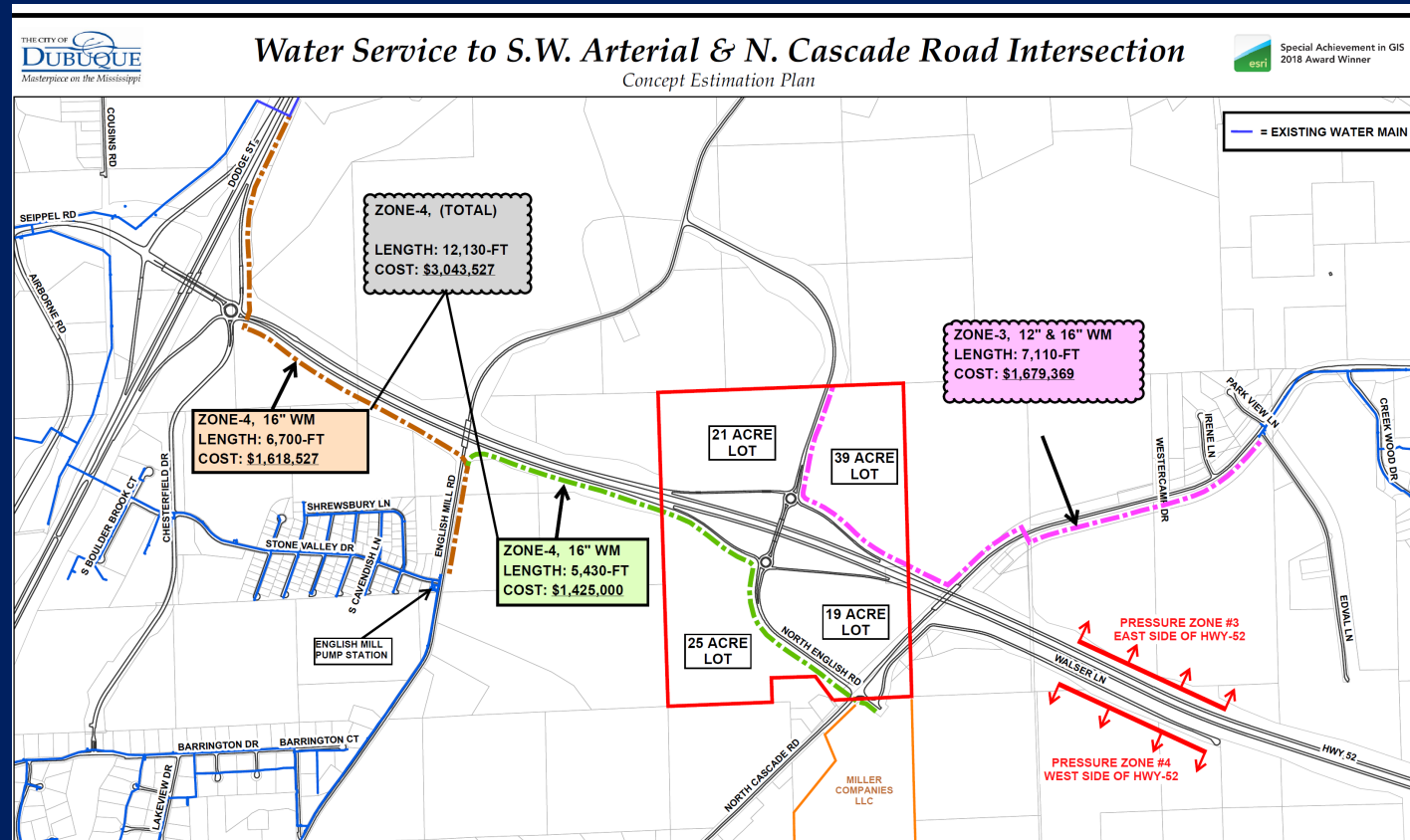


# Capital Improvement Program

## Southwest Arterial Water Main Extension

**\$1.7 million total**

# Capital Improvement Program



**\$1.7 million waterline to Southwest Arterial**

# Capital Improvement Program

## Private Lead Water Service Line Replacement Project \$5.7 million total

*Construction costs are 49% forgivable, whereas non-construction costs such as engineering services are non-forgivable per BIL Funds.*

# Capital Improvement Program

**Source Water PFAS Reduction  
Project  
\$9.5 million total**

# Capital Improvement Program

**Water Third Pressure Zone  
Connection (from Tanzanite Drive  
to Olympic Heights)  
\$2.0 million total**

# Capital Improvement Program

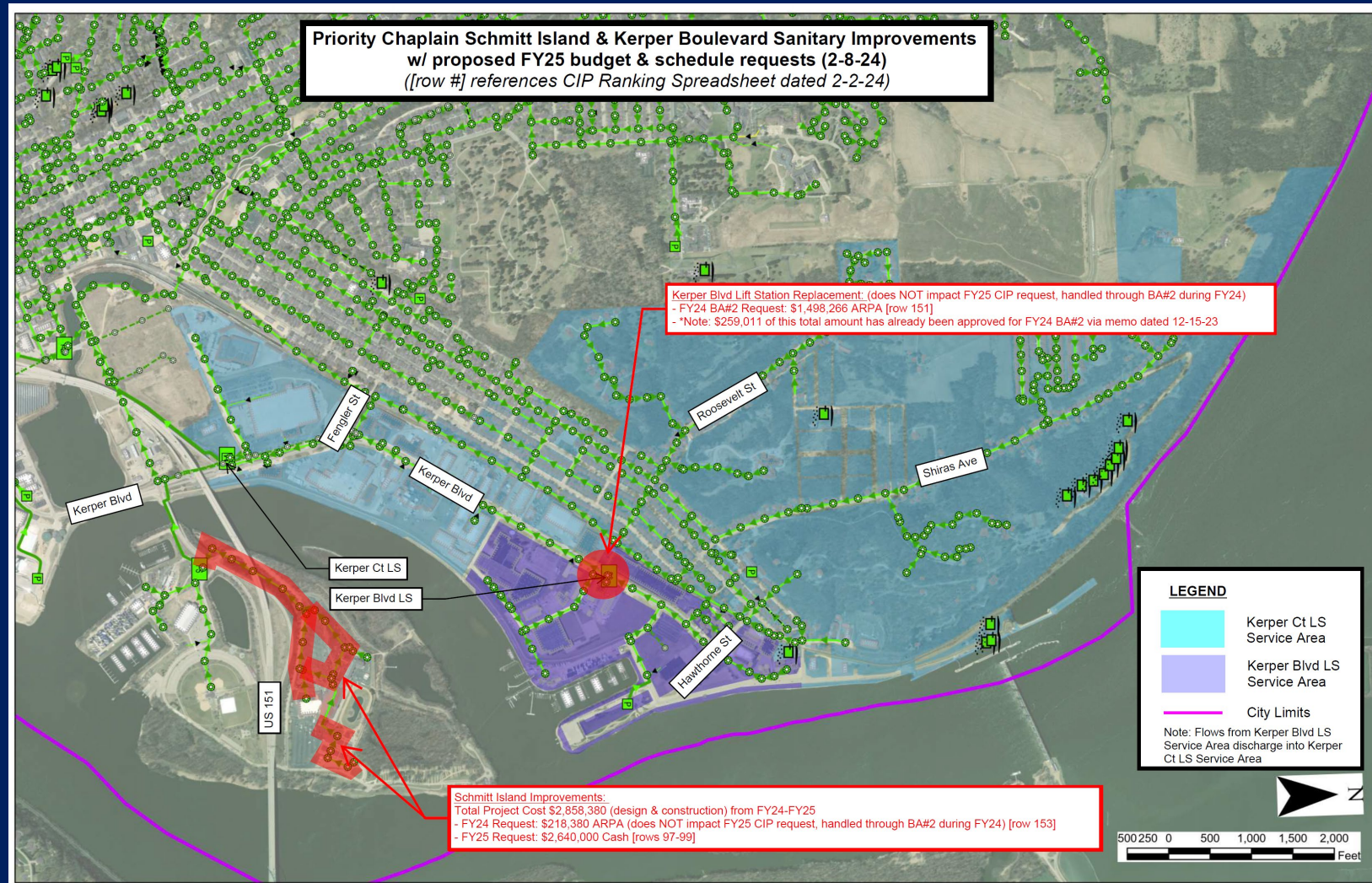
## Kerper Blvd. Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Replacement

**\$1.5 million ARPA Grant**

***(Total project cost = \$1.5 million)***



# Capital Improvement Program



# Capital Improvement Program

**Schmitt Island Sanitary  
Improvements  
\$2.6 million total**



# Capital Improvement Program

## Chaplain Schmitt Island Sanitary Sewer Improvements

**\$218,000 ARPA Grant**

***(Total project cost = \$2.9 million)***

# Leveraging Grants

## Bee Branch Gate & Pump Replacement

**\$28.2 million total**

***(\$8 million US EDA Grant)***

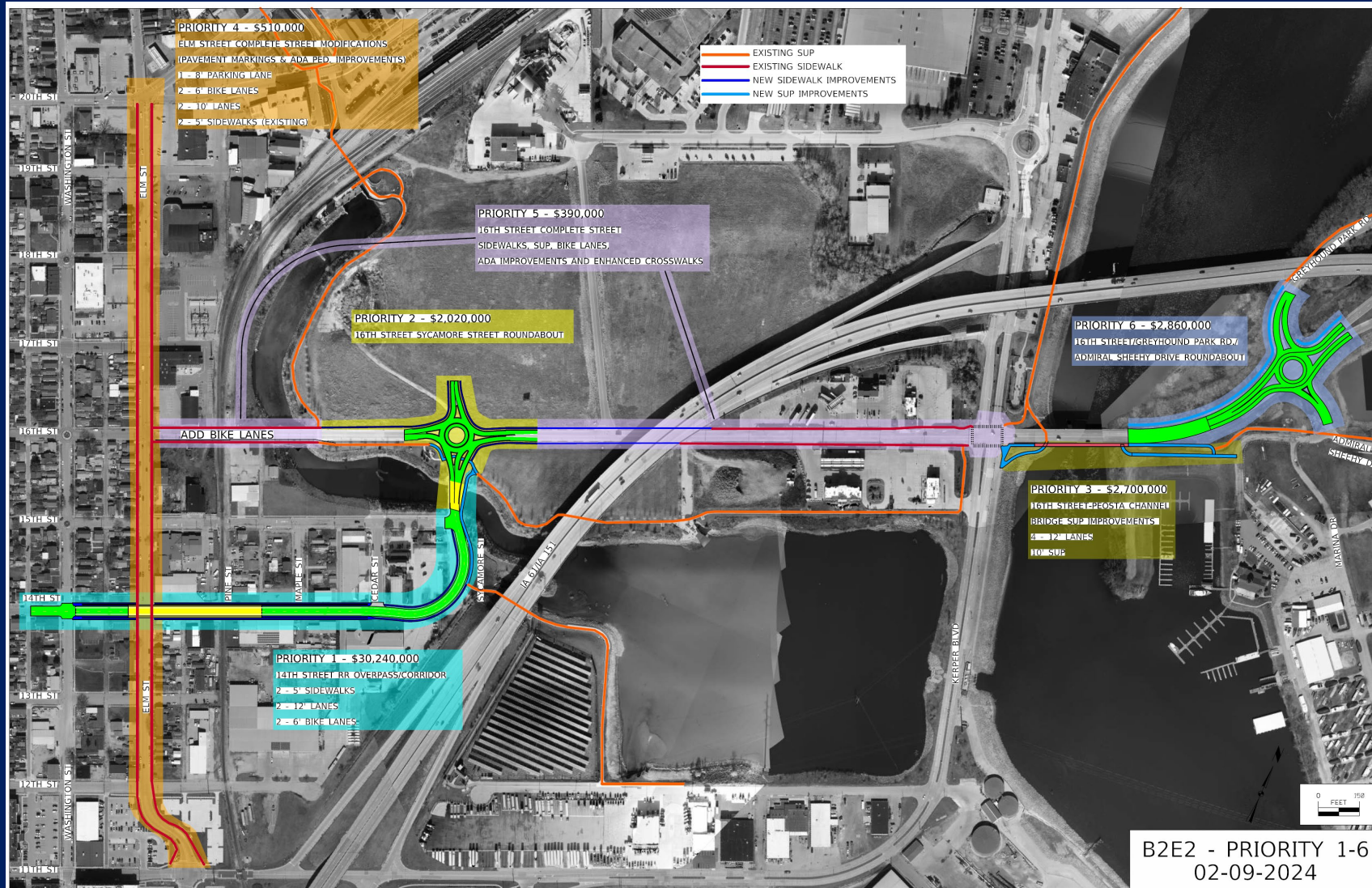
# Leveraging Grants

## 14th Street Overpass

- \$25 million RAISE Grant
- \$9.2 million DMATS
- Support from Dubuque Racing Association

***(Total project cost = \$43 million)***

# Leveraging Grants





# Leveraging Grants

## **BUILDING BRIDGES TO EMPLOYMENT AND EQUITY**





# Leveraging Grants

## BUILDING BRIDGES TO EMPLOYMENT AND EQUITY



### ELM STREET CORRIDOR - COMPLETE STREETS

Reconstruct Elm Street from 20th Street to 11th Street as a Complete Street to improve safety and access for pedestrians and bicyclists and connect to Intermodal Transportation Center.

### LEGEND

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Bike Lanes             | 4. Vehicular Parking                     |
| 2. Improved Sidewalks     | 5. Street Trees and Green Infrastructure |
| 3. Vehicular Travel Lanes |  |

# Leveraging Grants

## Schmitt Island Iowa Amphitheater

- **\$3 million Iowa Economic Development Authority Grant**
- **Support from Dubuque Racing Association**

***(Total project cost = \$15.8 million)***

# Leveraging Partnerships

## Northwest Arterial & US20/Dodge Street Intersection Improvements

**\$17.5 million total cost**

***\$12 Iowa DOT allocation***

***\$5.5 million City contribution***



THE CITY OF  
**DUBUQUE**  
*Masterpiece on the Mississippi*



# Capital Improvement Program

**Five Flags Center  
Renovation & Improvements  
\$24 million total**

# Public Safety

## Public Safety Software: \$3 million

- Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Communications, Dubuque County Sheriff's Department, volunteer fire departments, and other law enforcement agencies in Dubuque County.
- Dubuque County contributing \$1.5 million

# Public Safety

## Fire Capital Budget - \$8.8 million

- Fire Engines (2): \$1,450,000
- Ambulance: \$400,000
- Fire Rescue Boat: \$340,000
- Fire Burn Tower Improvements: \$466,676
- Fire Station Expansion: \$4,773,700
- Fire Bunk Room Remodel (All Stations): \$1,395,000



# Increased Revenue

**Ambulance revenues are  
projected to increase by  
\$234,497 in FY2025**

# Streets

- **5 miles of asphalt overlay projects by Public Works Department**
- **14<sup>th</sup> Street Overpass, Roundabouts, & Related Improvements**
- **Northwest Arterial & US20/Dodge Street Intersection Improvements**
- **Central Avenue Corridor Streetscape Improvements**

# Recommended Rates & Fees

	FY2024 Rate	Recommended FY2025 Rate	% Change
<b>Water</b>	<b>\$35.82</b>	<b>\$40.14</b>	<b>12.0%</b>
<b>Sanitary Sewer</b>	<b>\$50.28</b>	<b>\$54.78</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>Curbside Collection</b>	<b>\$15.83</b>	<b>\$17.25</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>Stormwater</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$11.50</b>	<b>15.0%</b>

**Average monthly cost for City utilities would increase by \$10.23.**  
*The City offers income-qualified residential customers a base fee reduction  
for all four utilities of up to 50%.*

# Recommended Improvement Packages

- The FY2025 budget recommendation funds \$440,323 for annually recurring improvement packages funded by property taxes in the General Fund and \$514,408 for non-recurring improvement packages funded by FY2025 DRA Distribution and sanitary sewer administrative overhead.
- For FY2025 there are \$3,239,438 in general fund improvement package requests with a net property tax impact of \$2,443,122, with \$888,840 recommended for funding.



## Creating an Equitable Community (and Organization) of Choice

A High-Performance Organization (and Community) with  
Engaged Employees and Residents that is Data-Driven and  
Outcome-Focused built on the five pillars of:

Resiliency

Sustainability

Equity

Transparency

Compassion

Through Partnerships, Planning, & People

[www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org)

Adopted by City Council on January 16, 2024

CM024-013024

***The recommended budget will support continued investment in people, businesses, and organizations that are making a difference in our community, and continued investment in the infrastructure that must exist for Dubuque to continue to thrive.***

# Budget Public Input Opportunities

- **Public Hearing on FY2025 Proposed Property Tax**
- **Public Meetings: March 26, 27, and 28, April 2, 4, 8, and 9**
- **Public Hearing to Adopt: April 11**
- **Budget Comment Form at**  
[www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2025budget](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2025budget)
- **Contact City Council:**  
[www.cityofdubuque.org/councilcontacts](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/councilcontacts)

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Iowa House File 718

- Limits General Fund levy by constraining growth by 2% or 3% each year
- The City of Dubuque Non-TIF taxable growth for FY2025 is 5.71%, the General Fund levy is constrained by a growth reduction factor of 2%. The General Fund levy for FY2025 is \$7.94118 instead of the maximum levy of \$8.10.

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Iowa House File 718

- March 15: Cities must file a report with Iowa Department of Management containing information specified by new law to be contained in mailings.
- March 20: County Auditor must send each property owner or taxpayer with the county by regular mail an individual statement with the specified information broken out by political subdivision comprising the taxpayer's district.

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Iowa House File 718

- March 25: Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Amounts for FY2025 and taxpayer statements
- Must be separate from any other meeting
- City Council can decrease, but not increase, proposed property tax amount for FY2025

# Significant Issues Impacting Budget

## Iowa House File 718

- Budget certification deadline to Iowa Department of Management is April 30th instead of March 31st
- If City has debt levy, budget must be adopted by April 15th