

PLAN von CASTROVILLE.

2024

# POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT

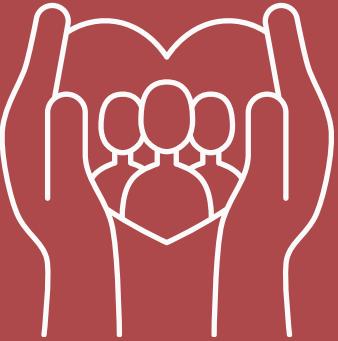


# MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES



## MISSION

Preserve Castroville's rich culture, historic architecture, local resources, and natural environment through carefully guided growth so friends and family, at all stages of life, can enjoy our community, steeped in a pioneering spirit and camaraderie.



## VISION

A charming town steeped in a rich history of brave and innovative pioneers and blessed with an architecture inspired by European roots but unique to Castroville. It is the jewel of the San Antonio area, the gateway to Medina County, and the best place to live, work, and play.



## VALUES

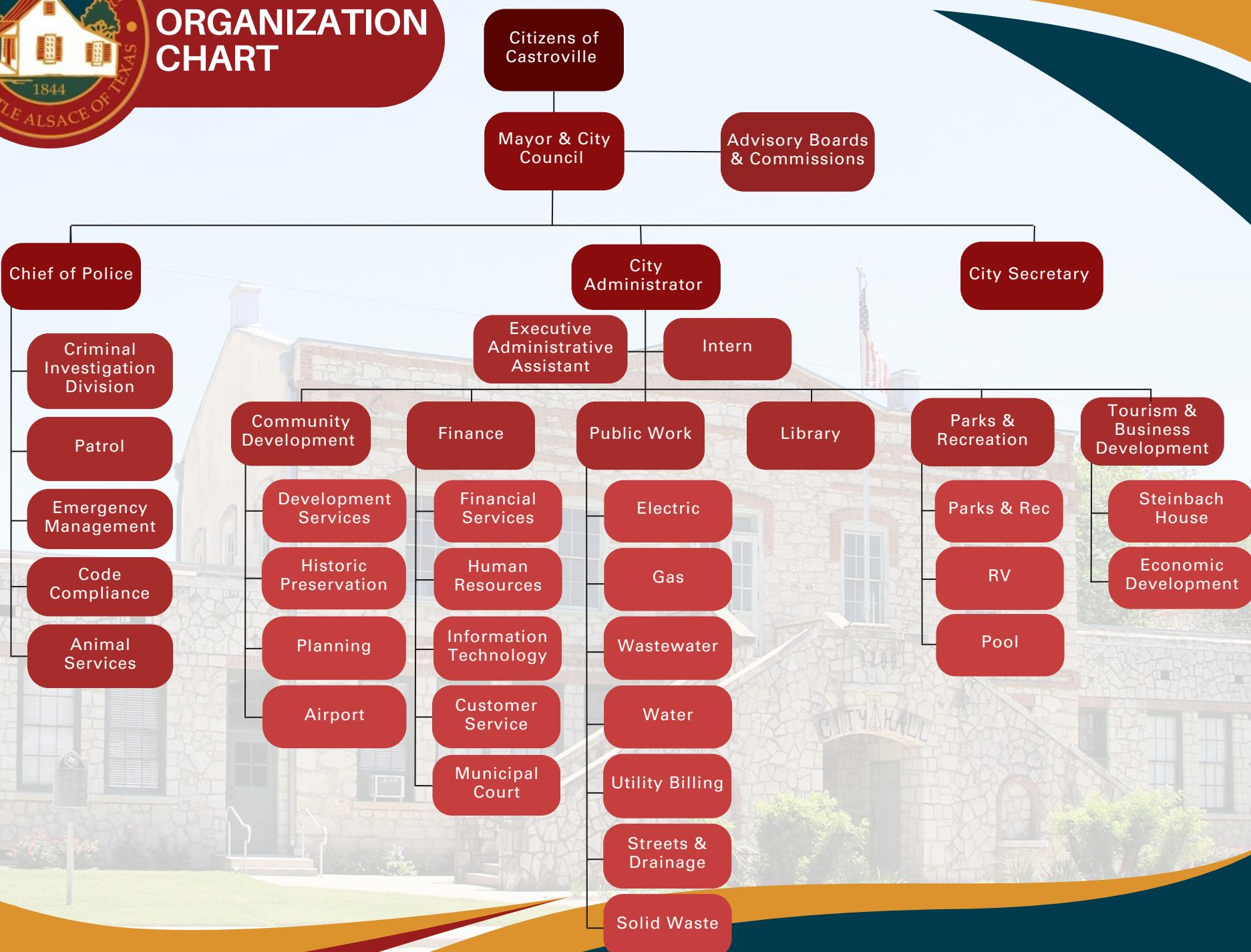
People: Citizenship, Collaboration, Community, Connection, Family, Friends, Cooperation, Camaraderie, Feeling of Safety, Diverse (at all stages of life)

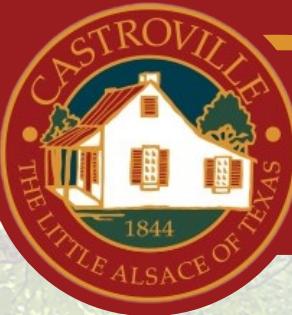
Legacy: Rich Culture, Historic Architecture, Traditions and Identity of "The Little Alsace of Texas," Alsace - "The Crossroad of Europe"

Stewardship: Quality, Safety, Reliability, Empowerment, Engagement, Resources, Citizenship



# ORGANIZATION CHART





FROM THE MAYOR

## WELCOME MESSAGE



To My Fellow Castroville Residents,

As your mayor, it is my privilege to share with you the highlights from our 2024 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). This document is more than just numbers; it is a reflection of our city's ongoing commitment to transparency, growth, and the values that make Castroville so special. Here's what you can expect to learn in this year's report.

This year, we have focused heavily on ensuring Castroville remains a safe, welcoming, and vibrant community. Public safety continues to be our top priority and is our largest investment of tax dollars. This year, you will see this reflected in increased funding to support additional police officers, upgraded equipment, and enhanced emergency services.

We realized the cost to quality of life over the past few years as we had some fairly major utility outages, so we have prioritized fixing and upgrading our utility systems. Infrastructure improvements remain a cornerstone of our agenda, with substantial investments in drainage systems and utilities to support both current and future generations. The feedback we received was that people would prefer to have slightly higher costs than unreliable water and power services. So, even though this required a slight increase in utility costs, these projects are vital to maintaining the quality of life we all cherish.

We have also invested in improvements to our recreational spaces and areas to support scouting, youth sports, and family recreational activities. We worked very closely with different organizations to help fund and implement improvements. These include: lighting for the new soccer fields at Lion's Park, supported by United FC; a new Scout Bridge and Scout Pavilion, supported by Eagle Scout projects; and upgrades to the Regional Park swimming pool to make it more accessible and more enjoyable.

On the financial front, we have worked hard to ensure we operate a balanced budget with transparency in how your tax dollars are allocated. From public safety to cultural preservation, every dollar is spent with the goal of enhancing our community. In fact, FY 2025 brings an increase in funding for parks, recreation, and other initiatives that improve our quality of life while maintaining a careful balance with fiscal responsibility.

In the pages of this report, You will see a balanced budget, and you will find a clear overview of where we've been and where we're headed. I encourage you to review it and share your thoughts—your feedback helps guide our decisions and ensures we are meeting the needs of our community. Together, we can continue to make Castroville a place where everyone feels at home.

With warm regards,

Darrin Schroeder  
Mayor of Castroville

## GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION



### ABOUT THIS REPORT

We are excited to share the 2024 Popular Annual Finance Report (PAFR) with you. This report provides a concise overview of our city's revenue sources and how we allocate funds, emphasizing transparency in our financial operations. It covers Fiscal Year 2024, which runs from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024, and Fiscal Year 2025, spanning from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.

In this report, you will find details on projects that have been completed during FY 2024, as well as a comparison of expenditures and revenues between FY 2024 and FY 2025. Our aim is to enhance your understanding of the diverse services our City provides, all geared toward making Castroville a safer and more enjoyable place to live, work, and play.

We believe that an informed community is vital for our collective growth, and we hope this report sheds light on how your tax dollars are utilized for local improvements. We are honored to serve you and truly hope you find the PAFR both informative and engaging. Your feedback is important to us, and we welcome any questions or comments you may have. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the finance department at (830) 931-4070. For additional financial documents and resources, visit our website at [castrovilletx.gov](http://castrovilletx.gov).

Thank you for your active participation in our community!

### ABOUT THE CITY OF CASTROVILLE

Castroville is a small city that embraces its rich history, long-lasting traditions, deep heritage, and the importance of community interaction. Originally settled in 1844 by a group of colonists—primarily farmers from the Alsace Region in France—Castroville proudly showcases its Alsatian roots while also celebrating strong Belgian, German, Mexican, and Lipan Apache influences. We believe that worth is not defined by heritage alone, but by a pioneering spirit and a shared passion for making this a welcoming place where everyone belongs.

Despite our diverse cultural backgrounds, Castroville remains vibrant with Alsatian history, as many of our residents are descendants of the original settlers who journeyed here in 1844. Today, our city, home to over 3,000 residents, continues to be a melting pot of cultures and businesses.

In Castroville, our citizens take great pride in their community. You'll find traditions that span years, decades, and even centuries, reflecting our commitment to preserving our heritage. Castroville is a place where life, family, and community are cherished. Here, volunteering and civic engagement are highly valued, as residents work together to create a better, more vibrant community for everyone.



## CASTROVILLE BY THE NUMBERS

4  
Area in  
Square Miles

Population  
**3,199**

Two or  
More Races  
**19.1%**

Black or  
African American  
**0.8%**

American Indian  
or Alaska Native  
**0.8%**

Asian  
**0.7%**

**RACE  
BREAKDOWN**  
(2020 CENSUS)

Race	Percentage
White	69.6%
Other	8.9%
Two or More Races	19.1%
Black or African American	0.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.8%
Asian	0.7%

**30.95%**  
Bachelor  
Degree or  
Higher

Median Age  
**43**

Median  
Family  
Income  
**\$67,006**

### Building Permits & Utilities

233 Residential  
Building Permits

25 Planning /  
Development Cases  
Processed

41 Commercial  
Building Permits

1,463 Water Customers

827 Gas Customers

1,296 Sewer Customers

1,607 Electric Customers

5,400,000  
Gallons of Effluent  
Wastewater Collected  
Monthly

### Library

11,397 Books

8 Summer  
Camps  
Hosted

1 Library  
792  
New Books

19,848 Library Visits

### Parks and Recreation

128 Acres of Parks

5 Parks  
1 Regional  
Park

9 Athletic  
Fields  
1 Pool

1 Splash Pad

5 Miles of  
Trails  
40 RV  
Spots

### Public Safety & Streets

26.64 Miles of Streets

3/4 Mile of Streets  
Repatched

1 Police  
Station

11 Police  
Officers

3 Traffic  
Signals

11  
Patrol /  
Traffic  
Vehicles

1,634 New Court Cases Filed  
(Traffic and Non-Traffic Misdemeanors)



## PERSONNEL ALLOCATION

	FY 2024	FY 2025	Budget Change
City Administrator	1	1.5	0.5
City Secretary	1	1	0
Finance	3.5	3.5	0
Library	3.5	4	0.5
Police	11	13	2
Emergency Management	0	0	0
Municipal Court	1	1.5	0.5
Community Development	1	2	1
Streets	4	3	-1
Parks and Recreation	4	5	1
Animal Control / Code Compliance	2	2	0
Tourism and Business Development	1.5	1.5	0
Information Technology	0	0	0
Non-Departmental	0	0	0
Public Works Administration	8	7	-1
Wastewater	3	3	0
Electric	5	5	0
Water	5	6	1
Airport Fund	2	2.5	0.5
Total	56.5	61.5	5

A City Government Personnel Allocation involves distributing resources, including budgetary funds and staff positions, across various departments. This process is crucial for effective local government operations, ensuring that resources meet the community's diverse needs and deliver essential services.

In FY 2025, there was an increase of five full-time employees, enhancing operational capacity and service delivery. This expansion allows better support across departments, addressing critical functions like public safety and community services.

Effective personnel allocation enables city governments to optimize workforce productivity while responding to community demands. Careful planning and analysis are critical for aligning staffing and budgetary needs with the city's goals, ensuring a responsive and effective government.

# GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY



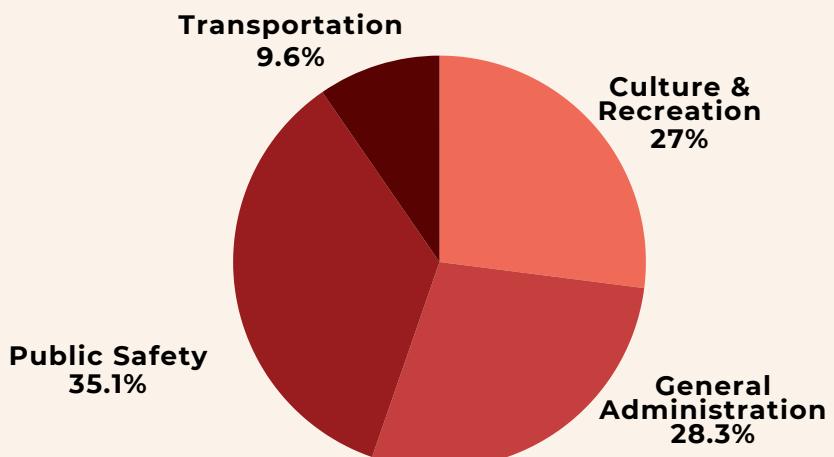
In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, the City's expenditures heavily focused on public safety, with approximately \$1,478,299 allocated to the police department and emergency services. This reflects a strong commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of residents. The second largest expenditure category was general administration, which utilized \$1,048,761 across various departments, including Finance, the

City Secretary, and the City Administrator.

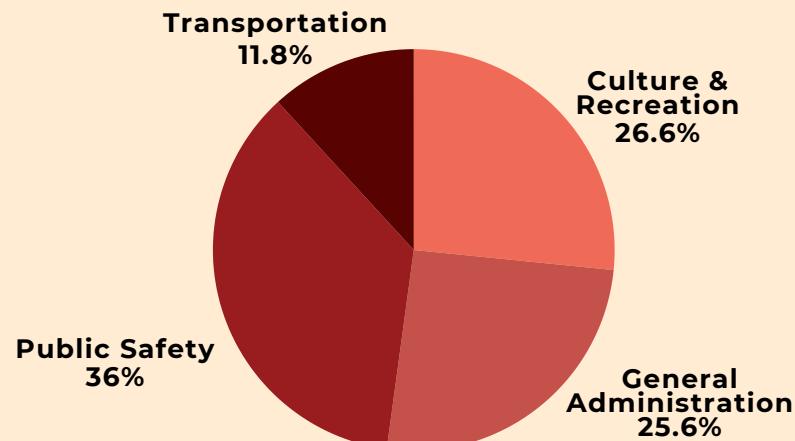
In FY 2025, public safety remains the primary expenditure, with an increased allocation of \$1,667,633—an increase of \$189,334 from the previous year. This continued investment underscores the city's priority on maintaining robust safety services. Notably, the second largest expenditure category shifted to Culture and Recreation, with a budget

of \$1,284,266. This funding supports community development initiatives, parks, and recreational facilities, highlighting the city's focus on enhancing quality of life through accessible cultural and recreational opportunities for residents. Overall, these trends reflect the city's dedication to balancing public safety with community enrichment.

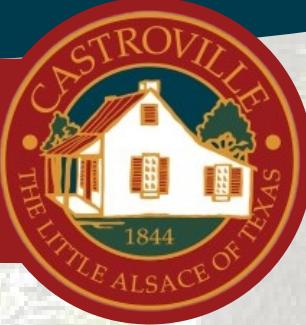
## FY 2024 Expenditure Categories



## FY 2025 Expenditure Categories



## GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES



Revenue	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024*	Proposed FY 2025
Sales Tax	\$1,777,872	\$1,875,560	\$1,733,299
Property Taxes	\$1,245,708	\$1,388,158	\$1,297,088
Municipal Court Fees	\$151,984	\$171,5353	\$187,230
Parks & Recreation Fees	\$341,263	\$300,978	\$393,800
Other Revenue (w/ Transfers)	\$603,364	\$911,378	\$1,159,623
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,120,191</b>	<b>\$4,647,609</b>	<b>\$4,771,040</b>
	*not audited*		

Expenditures	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024*	Proposed FY 2025
City Council	\$113,319	\$65,503	\$76,606
City Administrator	\$386,622	\$261,296	\$232,418
City Secretary	\$93,224	\$101,720	\$111,998
Finance	\$227,001	\$229,320	\$213,385
Library	\$282,918	\$306,788	\$289,897
Police	\$1,342,321	\$1,331,233	\$1,341,322
Emergency Management	\$6,207	\$18,843	\$14,700
Municipal Court	\$116,786	\$132,270	\$133,979
Community Development	\$352,995	\$379,917	\$320,767
Streets	\$639,503	\$438,623	\$456,851
Parks & Recreation	\$455,403	\$1,211,978	\$459,654
RV Park	\$110,409	\$33,886	\$40,900
Swimming Pool	\$186,839	\$278,425	\$173,008
Animal Services & Code Compliance	\$68,870	\$181,340	\$177,632
Tourism	\$1,234	\$218,563	\$256,285
Economic Development	-	\$1,679	\$12,100
Information Technology	\$177,178	\$281,581	\$246,000
Non-Departmental	\$161,765	\$219,865	\$195,200
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,722,595</b>	<b>\$5,692,830</b>	<b>\$4,752,702</b>
	*not audited*		

The general fund is indeed a crucial component of a city's financial framework. It serves as the main account for managing the city's day-to-day operations and funding essential services such as public safety, education, infrastructure maintenance, and parks and recreation. This fund is typically supported by revenues from property taxes, sales taxes, and other general sources, allowing for a degree of flexibility in how resources are allocated.

Unlike earmarked funds that are restricted for specific uses, the general fund can adapt to changing needs and priorities within the community. This adaptability is essential for responding to emergencies or shifts in population demands. Overall, the general fund plays a vital role in ensuring that cities can maintain a high quality of life for their residents through effective financial management.



## UTILITY FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Utility Fund is a critical financial account for the city, primarily designed to manage the operations and maintenance of essential utility services, including water, wastewater, and sanitation. The primary contributor to this fund is utility sales, which generate the revenue needed to support ongoing service delivery and infrastructure improvements.

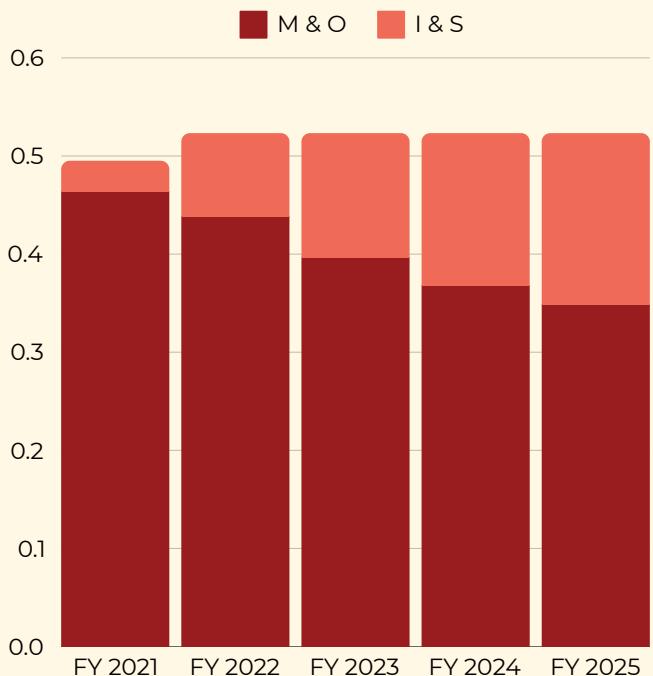
This fund ensures that the city can effectively provide reliable utilities to residents and businesses while maintaining the quality and safety of these services. It covers various expenses, including operational costs, capital improvements, and routine maintenance of utility infrastructure. By managing the Utility Fund responsibly, the city aims to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency in its utility services, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for the community.

Revenue	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024*	Proposed FY 2025
Utility Sales	\$7,482,198	\$7,573,309	\$8,211,064
Utility Services	\$116,934	\$127,645	\$90,470
Other Revenue	\$146,769	\$180,304	\$25,070
Use of Fund Balance	-	-	\$376,188
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$7,745,901</b>	<b>\$7,881,258</b>	<b>\$8,702,792</b>

Expenditures	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024*	Proposed FY 2025
Utility Administration	\$1,457,544	\$1,378,340	\$1,389,163
Gas Department	\$476,432	\$528,814	\$539,852
Wastewater/Sewer Department	\$1,021,113	\$1,638,509	\$1,665,405
Electric Department	\$2,825,898	\$3,055,746	\$3,246,083
Water	\$928,884	\$1,316,852	\$1,485,136
Refuse Department	\$322,714	\$401,089	\$377,152
Non Departmental	\$2,931	-	-
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$7,035,516</b>	<b>\$8,552,352</b>	<b>\$8,702,791</b>

\*not audited\*

# TAX RATE INFORMATION



Tax Year	Fiscal Year	M & O Rate	I & S Rate	Total Rate
2020	FY 2021	0.463333	0.031845	0.495178
2021	FY 2022	0.4385	0.0848	0.5233
2022	FY 2023	0.397	0.1263	0.5233
2023	FY 2024	0.3680	0.1553	0.5233
2024	FY 2025	0.3487	0.1746	0.5233

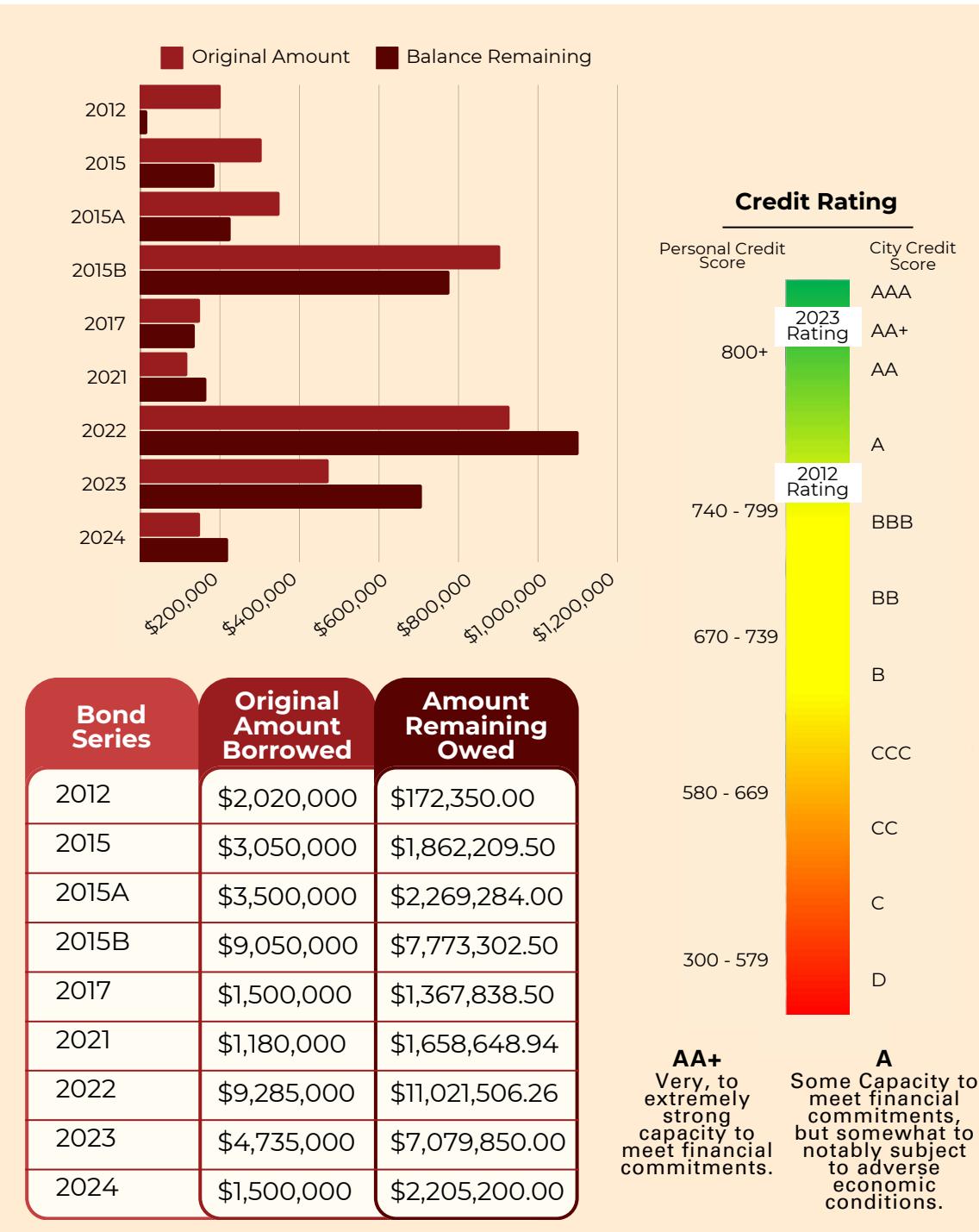
The Interest and Sinking (I&S) rate is crucial for funding long-term infrastructure improvements, while the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) rate addresses day-to-day operational expenses. Although the city is prioritizing much-needed infrastructure upgrades, it is also making cuts to the maintenance of its aging facilities, which poses challenges for long-term sustainability.

To support these infrastructure investments, a modest property tax increase of 5.4% was implemented in FY2022. This increase primarily affected businesses, which absorbed about two-thirds of the burden, with residents covering the remaining third. This strategic adjustment significantly enhanced funding for essential services such as street repairs, park improvements, and additional police services.

Moving forward, the City Council aims to maintain the current tax rate, contrasting with the previous approach of lowering rates as property values increased. This shift focuses on investing in quality of life improvements and ensuring that new developments are self-sustaining and beneficial to the community. By taking this approach, Castroville seeks to honor its heritage while enhancing and maintaining existing infrastructure, and fostering a thriving environment for all residents.



## DEBT INFORMATION



The City issues a variety of long-term debt instruments to acquire and construct major capital facilities and equipment for both governmental and business-type activities. These instruments include general obligation bonds, certificates of obligation, tax notes, and capital leases.

These debt obligations are secured by future revenue streams, which may come from property taxes or charges for services. Notably, the bond series issued in 2024 is specifically designated for drainage improvements, reflecting the City's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and addressing community needs.

This financing approach enables the City to invest in essential services while distributing costs over time, ensuring that both current and future residents benefit from these improvements. Through careful management of these debt instruments, the City strives to enhance its facilities and overall quality of the community.



## 2024 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



### Police Department Grant and Upgrades

We are pleased to highlight a significant achievement by our Police Department, which recently received a grant that enabled the hiring of two new officers. This funding supports their salaries for the next couple of years, supplementing our law enforcement team. Additionally, the department has upgraded its equipment with a new patrol car and armored shields, further improving our capabilities.



### Replacing the Scout Pavilion in Regional Park

Citizen, Emma Basinger noticed the original Scout Pavilion, built in 2008, was rotting and in disrepair, so she rallied a group of volunteers, family members, and Scout Troop 471 to take action. Together, they carefully dismantled the old structure and worked tirelessly to construct a brand new pavilion, fostering teamwork and community spirit. The pavilion will continue to serve park constituents for many more years to come.



### First Annual City Employee Conference

The first annual employee conference for the City of Castroville was a resounding success, bringing together all staff for two and a half days of engaging training sessions focused on customer service, leadership skills, local government, and employee benefits. This landmark event marked a significant milestone for the city, fostering collaboration and professional development among employees for the very first time.



### Riverbluff Electrical

We're thrilled to announce the completion of the River Bluff Electric Project—a total system upgrade with our partner, Greenstone. This project included replacing primary cables, transformers, and service mains, while also introducing primary cable sectionizing cabinets. The new loop feed design enhances reliability by isolating faults, reducing outages, and enabling faster power restoration.

## STAYING CONNECTED

