Lowell
North Carolina
LIVE · LOVE · LOWELL

Fiscal Year 2023-2024
Proposed Budget
July 1, 2023 – Jun 30, 2024

CITY OF LOWELL ORGANIZATION CHART

CITY OF LOWELL CITIZENS

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

JOHN RUSSELL
City Attorney

CHERYL RAMSEY
City Clerk

SCOTT ATTAWAY
City Manager

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

LOWELL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

STORMWATER COMMISSION

Departments

- Administration
- Parks & Recreation
- Police Department
- Public Works
- Stormwater
- Customer Service

CARL MOORE
Police Chief

- Assistant Chief
- Captain
- 2 Sergeants
- K-9 Officer
- 5 Patrol Officers
- Administrative Assistant

Communications Director

CHERYL RAMSEY
Human Resources Director

- Payroll/Account Payable Technician

LISA NOLEN
Finance Director

CRISTY CUMMINGS
Parks & Rec Dir./ Events Coordinator

- Athletic Supervisor
- Maintenance Technician

JOE GATES
Planning Director

- Planner

TODD STROUPE
GIS Analyst

Stormwater Administrator

SUE LOWE
Customer Service/ Billing Manager

- PAM CHURCH
Utility Customer Service

THOMAS SHREWSBURY
Public Works Director

- Water/Sewer Department
- Sanitation Department
- Stormwater Department
- Streets Department

Lowell
North Carolina
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MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

Mayor
Sandy Railey

Mayor Pro Tempore
Travis Smith

Councilmember
Phil Bonham

Councilmember
JoAnna Fulbright

Councilmember
Candy Funderburk

Councilmember
Thomas Gillespie

City Manager's Budget Message FY 2023-2024

May 9, 2023

Lowell Mayor Sandy Railey

Members of Lowell City Council

City of Lowell

North Carolina

Dear Mayor and Council,

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Chapter 159, Article 3 of the NC General Statutes, the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, I am pleased to submit the proposed City of Lowell annual budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for your review and consideration. The annual budget is our financial plan that will guide Lowell through the upcoming fiscal year. Under the direction of the Mayor and City Council, staff will implement and manage the new budget in a way that takes advantages of opportunities and prepares the City for future challenges, while maintaining the character of the Lowell that we all appreciate. I would like to thank all of our employees for their hard work in preparing this budget.

Throughout the budget message, I will focus on the major characteristics of this proposed budget as they relate to the Council's FY 22-24 Strategic Vision and Goals. Also, highlighting significant changes between this and the prior year's budget such as the Gaston County property reappraisal, the development of a General Fund Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and the development of a Community Investment Fund (CIF). In the current year of budget planning, the City Council have emphasized the importance of recognizing the value of our human resources (our staff), addressing deficiencies in staff levels in order to maintain high levels of service, and positioning Lowell to address new infrastructure needs in order to keep up with the demands of a growing city.

City Council members have intentionally prepared the City of Lowell to diversify our tax base to sustain government operations into the future through our provision of local streets, police, water, sewer, stormwater, sanitation, and general administration. Additional support has been devoted to customer service and communications, greenways/trails, parks, recreation programming and facilities, investing in downtown, and bicycle/pedestrian amenities.
This budget was prepared with input from city staff, citizen advisory boards, and the City Council. Two budget retreats were completed in January and February, as well as a budget work session Council meeting in March.

REVENUE NEUTRAL CALCULATION

The general reappraisal of real property for the City of Lowell occurs normally every four years as decided by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners. State law requires that units of local government, including public authorities, publish a revenue-neutral rate in the budget immediately following the completion of the general appraisal of real property. The purpose of the revenue-neutral tax rate is to provide citizens with comparative information.

The revenue-neutral tax rate, as defined by G.S. 159-119(e), is the rate that is estimated to produce revenue for the next fiscal year equal to the revenue for the current fiscal year if no reappraisal had occurred. The rate is then adjusted by a growth factor equal to the average percentage increase in the tax base due to improvements since the last general appraisal.

Following Gaston County's recent tax revaluation, the city's tax base (property valuation) grew by approximately 59.34%, to $575,551,625.00, from 361,210,816. This resulted in the total Ad Valorem Tax levy of $ 2,820,203 as of May 9, 2023 with a resulting ad valorem revenue neutral tax rate of .282 cents per hundred dollars of value. The revenue neutral average annual growth factor since the last general reappraisal is 1.52%.

It is important to note that the City of Lowell experienced a large increase in the growth of the tax base due to the Gateway 85 Development. Specifically, Newell Companies 1.5 million square feet facility that resulted in a tax base increase of approximately $125 million, or $618,004.90 in additional revenue from that building alone. The City Council agreed to participate in a 10-year Economic Development Agreement Grant in order to recruit this project, the repayment of 85% of the paid property taxes to be repaid to Newell, or an estimated $525,305.00 (for years 1-5) will begin just after the end of FY 24. Therefore, the City is only capturing approximately $92,700 of revenue for this property even though the revenue neutral calculation assumes the City will receive 100%. If the Newell property were removed from the revenue neutral calculation, this resulting revenue neutral tax rate would be .313 cents instead of .282 cents per hundred dollars of value, but for purposes of the FY24 Budget, the .282 cents per hundred dollars of value is the resulting Revenue Neutral Tax Rate calculation.

One cent of ad valorem property tax per $100 of assessed value provides the City with $58,297 of tax revenue to support City operations. These figures are subject to change with the final

results of appeals to the County Tax Office still pending and is the rationale for my estimation of a 90% collection rate of FY24 ad valorem taxes.

The proposed budget contains a recommended tax rate of .49 cents, and provides 6.96 cents of the .49 cents, or $406,403, to the newly established Community Investment Fund (CIF), in order to begin some of the following projects:

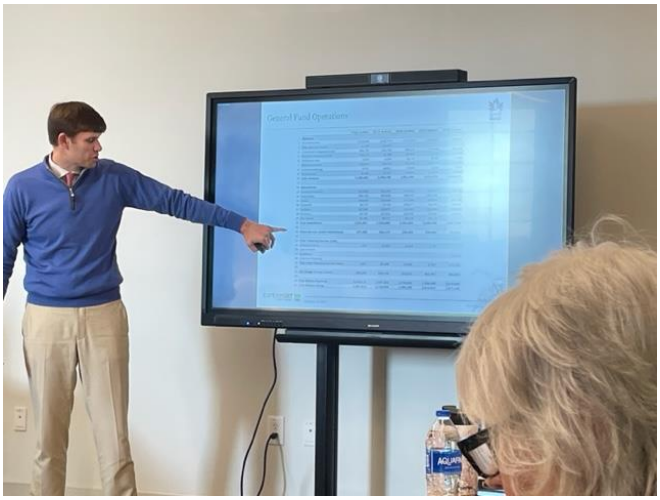
	Uses of Funds
2	**City Administration/Facilities**
3	Public Works Facility
4	City Hall and Police Land Acquisition
5	City Hall and Police Department
6	**Parks and Recreation**
7	P&R Land/Property Acquistion
8	Riverfront Park
9	Harold Rankin Park
10	Carolina Thread Trail
11	Bob Bolick Park
12	**Transportation**
13	Wayfinding Signage
14	Welcome Signage
15	I-85 Betterments

COUNCIL GOALS

The City Council performed an update to their FY 22-24 Goals during the budget retreats in early 2022 and plan to complete a new strategic vision during the 23-24 fiscal year. The strategic vision is the policy document that staff use to integrate the Council's Vision into the relevant departments and service deliveries Below are the updated goals from the 2022 budget retreats.

Current Goals – FY22-FY24	Proposed Refined Goals – FY22-FY24
Continuously Improve and Expand Water and Sewer Infrastructure	Continuously Improve and Expand Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Infrastructure
Continuously Improve and Expand City Streets and Sidewalks	No changes
Develop and Update Public Facilities	No changes
Enhance Multi-Generational Parks and Recreational Activities	No changes
Develop Land Use Master Plans for Undeveloped Areas	Develop Land Use Master Plans for Targeted Areas

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND (CIF)



During the January 26, 2023 City Council Budget Planning Retreat, the Lowell City Council received a Presentation from Mitch Brigulio with Davenport Public Finance and the City Manager regarding establishment of a fund for existing and future capital expenditures which laid out a best practice approach to capital planning and debt modeling which has been in use in cities for many years, and offers Lowell an opportunity to leverage a proven tool to help ensure future success. This presentation focused on:

- The importance of financial planning in growing urban and metro regions of North Carolina
- Best practices for allocating resources to capital investment in new and existing City facilities
- City's progress in capital investment methods and steps for moving to the next level
- Establishing a Community Investment Fund for allocating resources for capital investment
- Illustrating this method with emphasis on the potential for results
- Innovative use of future debt techniques

The purpose of the fund is for all future capital needs of the City, including, but not limited to, city infrastructure projects, capital equipment, property acquisition, grant matches, etc. Funds that were traditionally spent out of the various general fund departments and shown in the capital budget will reside in this separate fund structure. This fund will specifically be funded by the current fund balance that exceeds 50% of General Fund Expenditures Goal. The establishment of this fund will authorize staff to make that transfer to the CIF and provide a continuous flow of funds to the CIF when there are funds available above the [future] fund balance % to GF expenditures goal.

The City has worked to plan and fund capital improvements using sound financial management and responsible stewardship. Strong debt policies and debt modeling have served the City well,

as reflected in Lowell's Financial Statements. The City is well positioned to step up to the next level of capital planning and pursue this innovative and best practice approach. The model will provide the City with a solid plan while fostering an environment of continuous improvement and learning in order to consistently perform better than the plan. This proven tool will enable the City to begin funding the General Fund CIP. The proposed budget includes $406,402 (or 6.97 cents) being allocated to the CIF Fund for capital projects and infrastructure.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLANT ACT (ARPA)

The American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) has provided a once in a generation opportunity for the City of Lowell to make improvements that would otherwise only be attainable with a tax increase or other substantial fee increases. This $1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill was passed by the U.S. Congress in March of 2021. Lowell received $1,184,279.70 in total. The City Council has opted to select the revenue replacement option and the standard allowance provision of the legislation, which allows a little more flexibility in federal reporting and spending. The Council has adopted a preliminary ARPA Grant Project Ordinance that allocated approximately half of the funds to the salaries for the following departments: Police ($809,279.70), General Administration ($315,000), Parks and Recreation ($20,000), and Public Works-Streets ($40,000).

Projects that are being made possible by this funding being used for department salaries, which include, the Harold Rankin Park and Bob Bolick Park master plan, the development of the McCord Park property, city wayfinding/welcome signage, Downtown Master Plan, city hall renovations for additional staff positions, Carolina Thread Trail grant match, water and sewer engineering, and pedestrian safety measures for the construction of the first Lowell Greenway project.

STATE BUDGET GRANT (SCIF GRANT) OTHER DIRECT FUNDING

During the adoption of the State of North Carolina's annual budget in November 2021, the City of Lowell received a $2 million direct appropriation for the Riverfront Park and Public Works Facility at the former Crompton and Knowles Dye Plant located at 1602 N. Main Street. These funds will assist the City to demolish the buildings on the site and allow for preliminary construction services to be administered. This project will clean up an eyesore to the community and address environmental issues while simultaneously providing recreation amenities and a new location for the new Lowell Public Works facility.

FISCAL SUMMARY

General Fund

The City of Lowell's fiscal position is positive due to conservative fiscal management and strict adherence to the Fiscal Policy. With the approved residential and commercial developments that have occurred during FY's 21, 22, and 23, there is much promise of resiliency in future revenues.

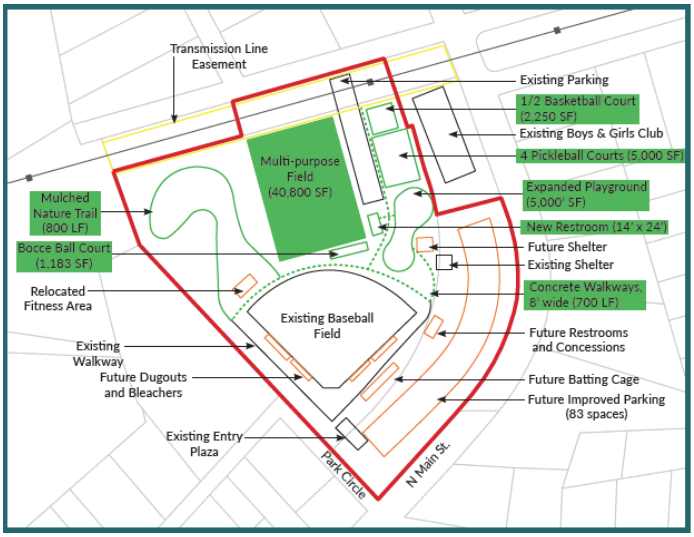
Over the last three years the City has accomplished a number of strategic goals, all while increasing the City's General Fund Unobligated Fund balance to a healthy level. The current unobligated fund balance increased from $1,774,444 to $2,107,230 (up 18.75% since year prior) which equates to 70.8% of General Fund expenditures. Overall, maintaining a strong fund balance allows for fiscal resiliency that is needed to withstand uncertainty. This is an indicator that the City is in much better position to deal with unexpected needs that may arise such as the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, inflation, and infrastructure needs.

In accordance with the Council's Strategic Vision to ***Develop and Update Public Facilities*** for the citizens, the Council established the Community Investment Fund (CIF) during the February 14, 2023 Council meeting for revenues beyond the 50% goal of the General Fund Unobligated Balance. This placed approximately $560,00 into the CIF fund from the General Fund and it is anticipated to transfer approximately $769,280 of ARPA funds to the CIF for a grand total of $1,329,280 as capital infrastructure seed money. This will begin to allow the City to build necessary reserves in order to fund necessary debt for the construction of a new public works facility, future city hall and police department building, I-85 widening betterments, downtown infrastructure as well as other capital infrastructure needs.

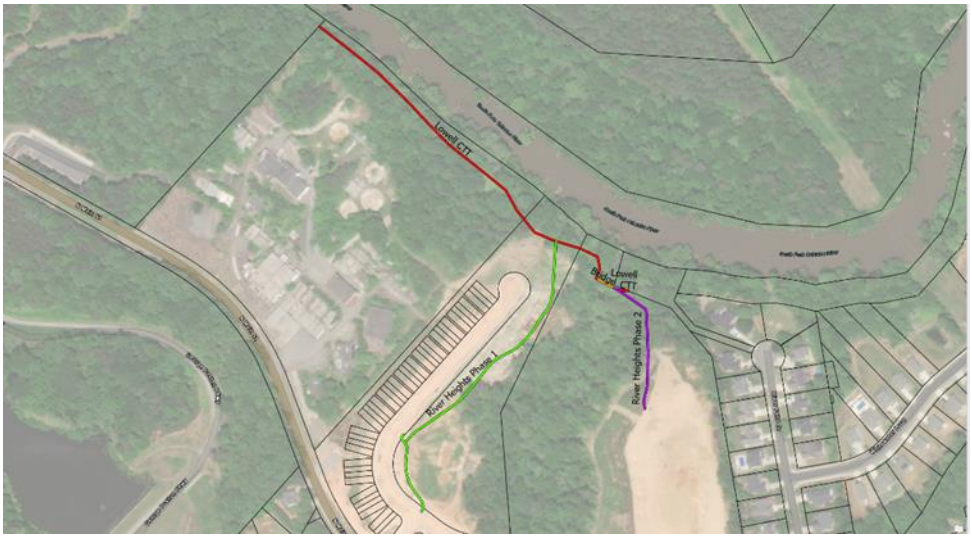
GRANTS

The City continues to be aggressive in seeking grant funding and will continue to do so. In this upcoming fiscal year, the City will finalize two Community Development Block Grants – Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) awarded to the City in the first quarter of 2019. One grant for $750,000 has funded home repairs for low/moderate income qualified applicants while $124,000 has been appropriated to fund repairs of our Community Center with a city match from the remaining Gaston County Township Grant of $43,156.90.

In accordance with the Council's Strategic Vision to ***Enhance Multi-Generational Parks and Recreational Activities***, $1 million in funding for Harold Rankin Park has been applied for during FY 23 through the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PART-F) in the amount of $500,000 and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in the amount of $500,000. Both grants require a match of $500,000, but if both are received, the grants can offset the match for the city by matching each other. The awardees of these grants will be announced in FY 24.
See the map on the following page of the Harold Rankin Park improvements that $1 million in grant funds have been applied for:



The City was awarded a $127,080 grant from the Carolina Thread Trail (CTT) during FY 23 and the City is expected to implement construction of the Carolina Thread Trail with the CTT grant and matching ARPA funds of $50,000 during FY 24. This trail will be approximately 50% of the entire Lowell Thread Trail segment.



This project includes constructing a natural surface trail estimated to be 2,752 linear feet long and 6 feet wide

Water/Sewer Fund

The sustainability of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund has been a major focus of the City Council. This self-sufficient fund may not be supported by tax dollars but by user fees. The current unobligated fund balance is $732,000 (or 41.69%) of the proposed annual operating expenses. This fund balance will need to continue to grow to handle emergency repairs. It was imperative to develop a plan to address the maintenance and capital improvements necessary to ensure the City can continue to provide water and sewer service to its customers well into the

future. In 2022, the City Manager commissioned an update to the 2017 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This 10-year plan provides the blueprint to meet our current and future needs while the rate recommendations provide the recommended means to fund the CIP. A System Development Fee (SDF) study was also performed to update our fees as it relates to new development. This is an equitable way to distribute expenses to the water and sewer infrastructure and ensure that new development pays their fair share of system improvements and maintenance.

The other CDBG grant for $2,000,000 has funded much needed sewer line replacement projects in the City. The sewer line replacements will also reduce Inflow/Infiltration (I&I) that will reduce the burden on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. To date, the City has spent $582,407.33 of the CDBG-I Grant. The CDBG-I project will be concluding during FY 24. Additionally, the City will implement a $150,000 Asset Inventory Assessment (AIA) Water Line Mapping Grant during FY24 and a NCDEQ Pre-Construction Planning Grant to engineer plans to send all of Lowell's wastewater to a Two Rivers pump station in McAdenville.

Stormwater Fund

In January 2020, the State of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality issued the City of Lowell a Notice of Violation regarding our MS4 Stormwater Permit. To avoid costly fines from NCDEQ and the EPA, Lowell was required to submit a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) that NCDEQ had a guiding hand in developing, in order to sufficiently address stormwater quality within our city limits.

Now, the Stormwater Department requires a dedicated Stormwater Administrator to carry out the requirements of the MS4 Stormwater Permit. The FY24 budget contains a full time Stormwater Administrator to meet this need. This department is funded entirely by user fees. Capital equipment is included in this budget to enable city crews to do stormwater repairs throughout the City. The stormwater fee is proposed to remain at $6.75 per equivalent residential unit (ERU).

LONG-TERM DEBT

The City's total long-term debt across both major funds increased by $1,061,549 last fiscal year to $1,166,823. This remains an extremely low debt service number and equates to about $315 per person in the City. The City will utilize some of this debt capacity this fiscal year for needed capital items with long useful lives. The city's great fiscal standing permit low interest rates. The use of debt financing for capital equipment or infrastructure projects is justified and an equitable approach for the City due to the benefits received over many years that will benefit future users as well as current taxpayers. Therefore, the cost of the public investment should be borne by both. Using a portion of a taxpayer's dollars to pay off the debt for the capital expense is one way to ensure that future taxpayers bear their fair share of the cost. A list of capital projects is included in the budget document.

REVENUE-GENERAL FUND

The General Fund consists of most of the traditional governmental functions of the City of Lowell, such as police, administration, sanitation, public works, and parks and recreation. The proposed General Fund Revenue for FY23-24 totals $ 5,000,734.13 which is approximately a 53.66% increase from the current fiscal year. This is due in part to the reappraisal, increase in sales tax revenue, and newly proposed fee schedule (development and review fees).

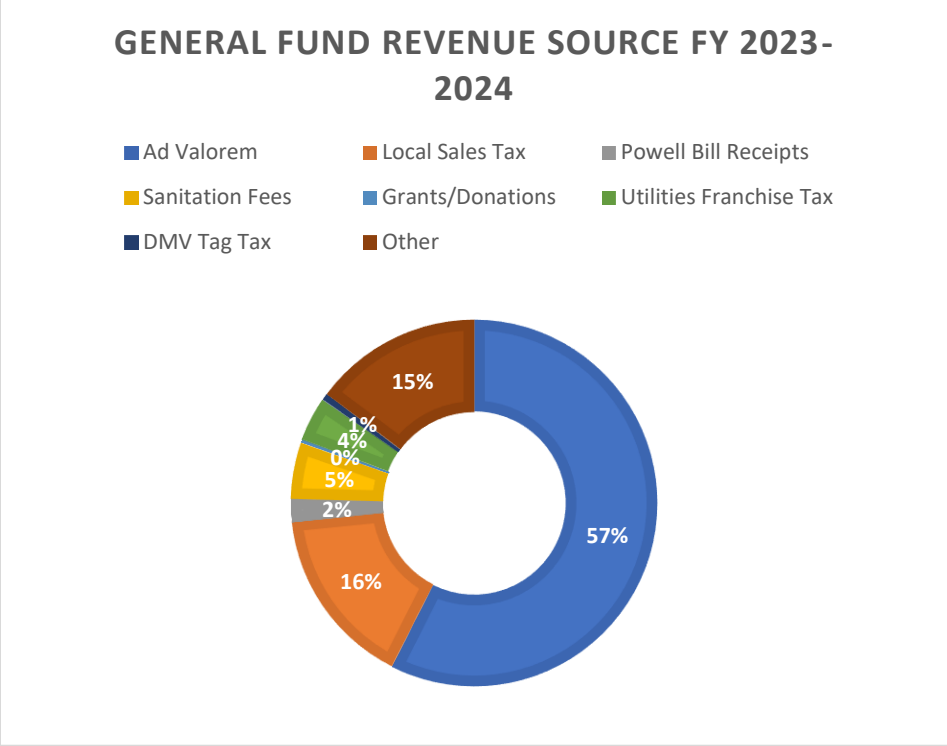
The largest revenue source within the General Fund is Ad Valorem Taxes. The assessed value of all personal property values totals $575,551,625.00 (a 59.34% increase from current FY due to the reappraisal of all property) equating the total Ad Valorem Tax levy to $2,856,534.13 based on our proposed tax rate of .49 cents per $100 of evaluation. This assumes a collection rate of 90%; (normally 99%, but a more conservative collection percentage is prudent considering the appeals that are still undetermined relative to the recent reappraisal. This is the revenue source that you (the Council) have complete control over. Other revenues are controlled by the NC General Assembly or the Gaston County Board of Commissioners. Ad Valorem revenues account for 57% of total revenue.

Local sales tax continues to grow at rates that have not been observed before in Lowell. This revenue accounts for $800,000 (or 16%) of general fund revenues and is expected to increase by 23.07% from the current fiscal year.

During the current fiscal year, the Council has implemented a Pay-As-You-Throw bulk program in effort to clean up the City and offer a service to our residents to dispose of items weekly, instead of waiting for the free quarterly bulk pickup, which still remains as an option. The current garbage collection fee of $12.00 will remain unchanged for residential customers. Secondary containers will remain at $8.00 for residential customers. Commercial customers will remain at $22.00 for both primary and secondary containers. These fees result in 71.67%, of the expenses for the sanitation department, which includes the staffed recycling center. During FY22, this revenue accounted for 57.45% of sanitation expenses. Per guidance from UNC School of Government, these user fees should sustain the total expenditures of the department and the City is making progress of reaching a 100% sustainable department and transitioning this department to an enterprise fund.

The vehicle license tax of $10 per vehicle also remains the same in this budget. This revenue is dedicated to repairing and resurfacing our city streets and general government use. $5.00 will be used for General purpose and $5.00 of the tax levied will be used for maintaining, repairing, constructing, reconstructing, widening, or improving public streets in the city that do not form a part of the State highway system. This revenue supplements the estimated $100,000 that the City will receive in Powell Bill funding from the State of North Carolina. Powell Bill funding is the City's portion of the state gasoline tax, and it is dedicated to transportation improvements such as street resurfacing and sidewalk repair.

Please see the graph below for sources of revenue within the General Fund:



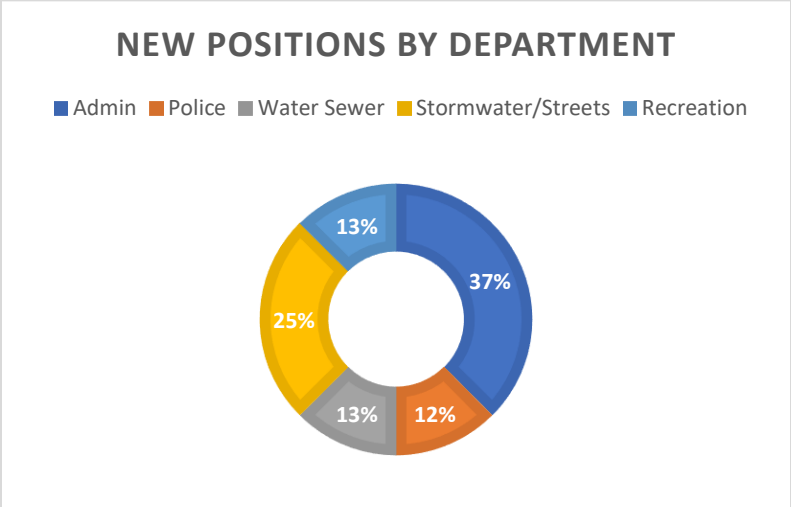
EXPENDITURES–DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

In accordance with the mission statement: ***The City of Lowell delivers excellent public services through transparent leadership and community engagement***, it has been paramount to provide professional personnel to meet the challenges of service delivery. In order to retain great employees, the City Council has enabled the City Manager to update the pay scale during FY 23, implement a discounted wellness program for employees through a partnership with the YMCA, and provide funds for invaluable travel and training for staff. I believe, because of these provisions and an excellent work culture, the City is fully staffed in all departments as of May 9, 2023.

Formerly, a salary study was conducted in May of 2021 and implemented in the FY 21-22 budget, but afterwards many other neighboring municipalities conducted studies which raised the rates of pay much above Lowell. The current analysis found that Lowell was deficient in compensating their employees across all departments. This has resulted in an expensive turnover from staff leaving for increased pay elsewhere and department heads have been faced with vacancies and costly training for new hires. The turnover rate for FY 22 was approximately 56%. The Council has emphasized the need to study nearby salaries to ensure that we were paying competitively. It is important for the City of Lowell to invest in their staff who work tirelessly to deliver excellent public services to Lowell residents. As we are nearly at the end of FY 23, our turnover rate has decreased to 9% for the fiscal year.

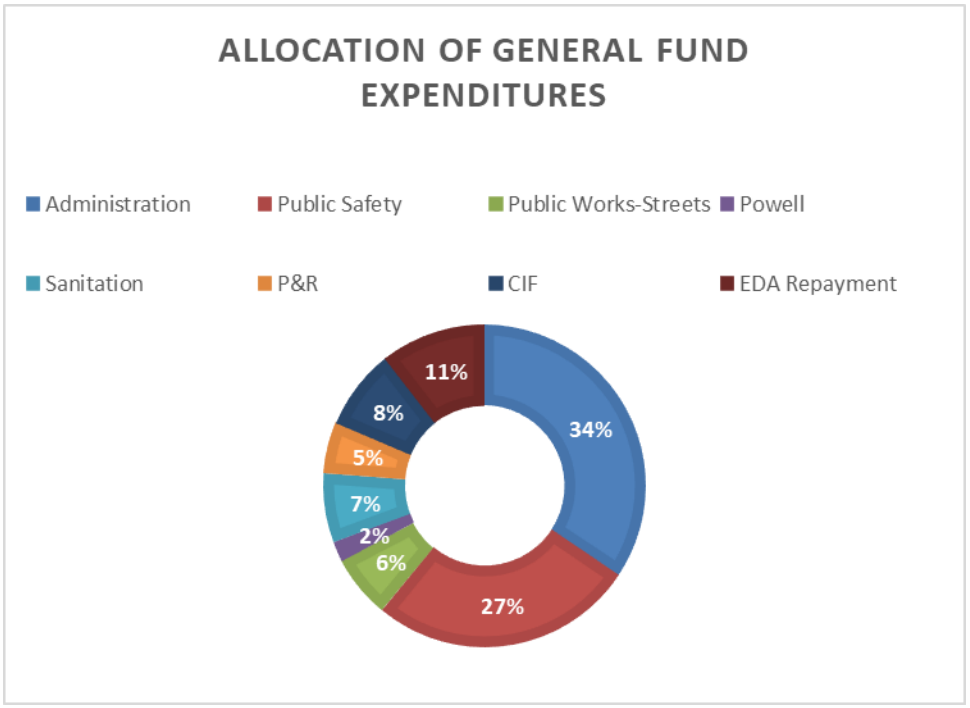
The proposed budget also 1) resolves a pay scale deficiency with the finance director position by moving the position to Grade 24 and adjusting to the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) 2022 salary survey average, 2) move one of the existing customer service/billing representatives into a customer service/utility billing manager to Grade 14, 3) move the Police Chief to Grade 25 (no FY 24 fiscal impact), 4) create an Assistant Chief Position at Grade 22 (between Chief and Captain; remove the Admin Sergeant position), 5) move the Planning Director position to Grade 23, 6) create a new position of Planner to Grade 20, 7) create a part-time Communications Director at Grade 17, 8) Changes the part time Parks and Recreation Director to a full-time position with Grade 22, 9) create a part-time maintenance technician in Parks and Recreation, 10) create a 3rd Public Works Technician (streets 50% / stormwater 50%), 11) create a payroll technician/accounts payable position at Grade 18, and 12) create a 5th Water and Sewer Utility Technician at Grade 12. Below is a table and graph that summarize the positions:

Added Positions FY23-24:
General Fund
FT Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk
FT Planner/Inspector
FT Admin Asst (PD)
FT Streets/Swater Tech **Split**
PT Parks and Rec Maint Tech
PT Comm Director GF
Making PT P&R Director FT
Stormwater Fund
FT Stormwater Administrator - SW
FT Streets/Swater Tech **Split**
Water Sewer Fund
FT Utility Technician



The proposed budget contains a 5% COLA, or, across the board, salary increase of employee salaries to keep Lowell's salaries competitive. The cost to implement this recommended increase of 5% COLA to existing employees and adjust the positions named above is $86,503, continue the merit increases of up to 3% is approximately $52,000. The cost of the new positions/reorganizing current positions in the General Fund is $303,519.50, two new positions in Stormwater total $115,040, and the new position in Water/Sewer is $51,873. In the proposed budget, the before mentioned wellness and training programs are scheduled to continue and vision insurance and a health assessment is included.

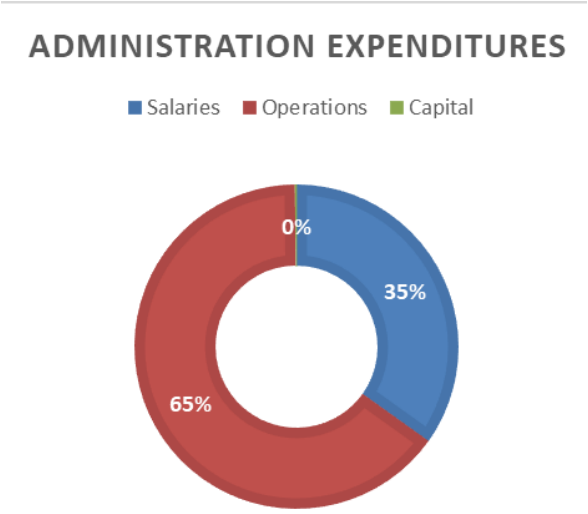
Additionally, the NC State Retirement System increased the City's contribution percentage. The City will see an increase of .75% in retirement expenses for the non-police salaries and 1.06% for police salaries. This increase will cost the city an additional $18,495 this fiscal year. The increases are as follows across the three funds: $14,349 in General Fund, $2,574 in Water/Sewer Fund, and $1,572 in the Stormwater Fund. These increases include the new proposed positions. Below is a graph that depicts the operating expenditures across the FY24 Proposed Budget



Administration

Administration encompasses a wide range of activities including Council expenses, Manager, Finance, Human Resources, Planning, Beautification and other general expenses.

Personnel	$784,650
Operations	$1,461,258
Capital	$3,832
Total	**$2,245,908**



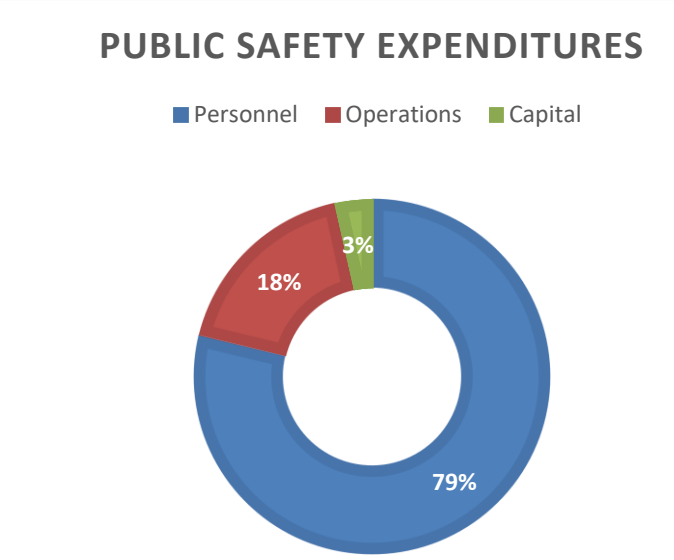
Administration accounts for approximately 49% of General Fund expenditures in the proposed budget. Administration expenses are projected to increase by 47.94% from the current fiscal year due to several factors. The above percentage of increase controls for the expected use of ARPA funds within this department. Increased professional services for legal services, increased employee training, architectural services, permitting software and land use software, and additional computer equipment/utilities/supplies for additional employees are responsible for the increase. The Planning Board requires training to prepare them for additional development hearings and that training is budgeted for in the proposed FY 23-24 budget.

At the end of 2022, NCLM performed a salary study of all elected officials in the state and staff found that Lowell is deficient by approximately 33% in Council salaries for our respective population bracket (2,500-4,999 population). The proposed budget includes $315/month for Councilmember positions, $345 for the Mayor Pro Temp, and $515/month for the Mayor position.

Public Safety

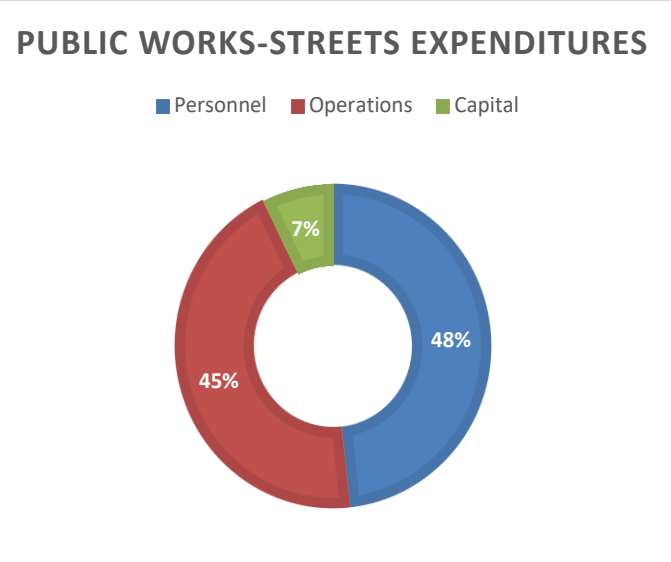
Public safety makes up over one-fourth of the Lowell fiscal year budget at 27%. The Police Department is in need of an Administrative Secretary position to do many clerical and administrative duties during office hours Monday through Friday and this position is included. The launch of an updated RMS system for the department is incorporated with the relevant IT needs to implement, 2 police cruisers, and the implementation of a K-9 program.

Personnel	$1,045,734
Operations	$236,615
Capital	$45,067
Total	**$1,327,415.46**



Public Works-Streets

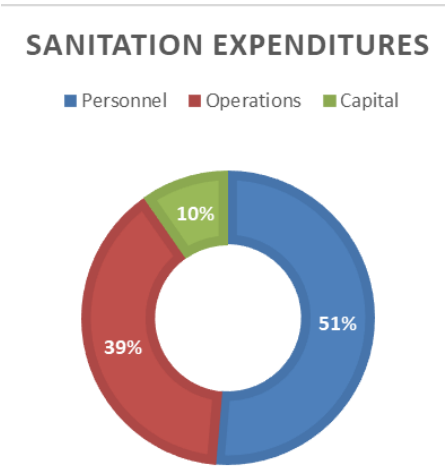
Personnel	$153,556
Operations	$141,301
Capital	$23,329
Total	**$318,186**



Public Works-Streets Department accounts for approximately 6% of the General Fund expenditures in the proposed budget. After controlling for the current year's ARPA revenues in the Public Works-Streets Department, the proposed budget contains an 8.5% increase in expenditures. This increase is resultant from an increase in staffing, specifically 50% of a new position that is shared with the Stormwater Department. Public Works provides a variety of services that meet the needs of our citizens every day from streets to grass maintenance. Certain incidental stormwater compliance/maintenance activities were previously conducted in this department. With the addition of the Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund, allocations of certain supplies/materials, some percentages of capital outlay, and a percentage of salaries have been appropriately attributed to the SW Enterprise Fund. This has reduced the impact to GF revenues from stormwater matters.

Sanitation

Personnel	$177,580
Operations	$134,371
Capital	$33,683
Total	$ 335,634

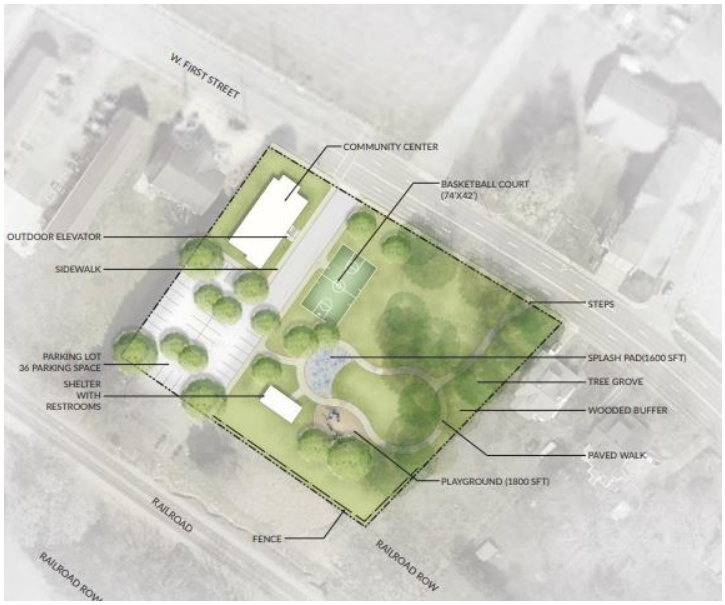


The Sanitation Department accounts for 7% of General Fund expenditures, (10% in FY 23). The proposed FY 23-24 budget for Sanitation is partially supported by fees (71.5%) with the remainder supported by tax dollars. Increases in sanitation expenses result from increased costs

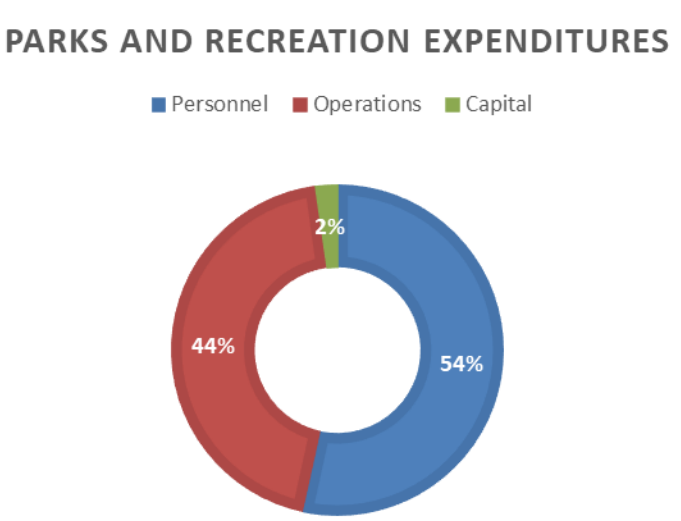
from the Gaston County landfill, personnel, materials, and fuel. As stated above, there is not a proposed increase in sanitation rates in the proposed budget. A 3.4% increase in expenditures are represented in the proposed FY 23-24 Sanitation Budget. The staffed recycling center continues to be a huge success and has become a model to neighboring municipalities as curbside recycling programs have become too costly due to excessive contamination. The Pay-As-You-Throw Bulk Program began in FY 23 as an effort to clean up the City and offer a service to our residents to dispose of items weekly, instead of waiting for the free quarterly bulk pickup, which still remains as an option

Parks and Recreation

Personnel	$137,390
Operations	$114,221
Capital	$5,577
Total	$257,188



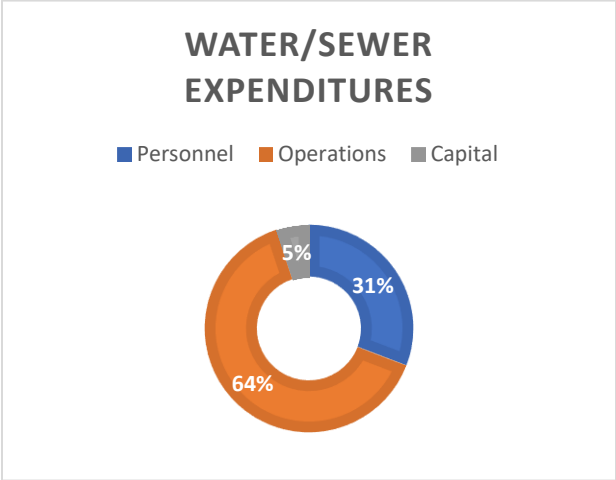
Parks and Recreation is much more than athletics and the department has grown to provide a broad range of offerings to increase the quality of life for our residents. Parks and recreation is essential to create a sense of place and community people so commonly desire. The proposed FY 23-24 budget includes 5% of all General Fund expenditures for the Parks and Recreation Department. During FY 23, staff have master planned both of our City parks, finalized a downtown pocket park (McCord Park), and increased programming for all generations. Covid-19 caused Lowell to pivot from one large event, to offering numerous events throughout the year for our residents to enjoy. The City Council agrees with continuing this approach of program provision. Funds have been allocated to this department for remodeling work at the Lowell Community Center in FY23. This funding was in addition to the CDBG-NR funding as stated above, which is underway at the time of this budget message. $1 million in grant funding has been applied for to renovate Harold Rankin Park in accordance with citizen and Council input. The FY 24 opportunities will focus on two (2) important goals of the City Council; ***(1) Develop and Update Public Facilities (2) Enhance Multi-Generational Parks and Recreational Activities***



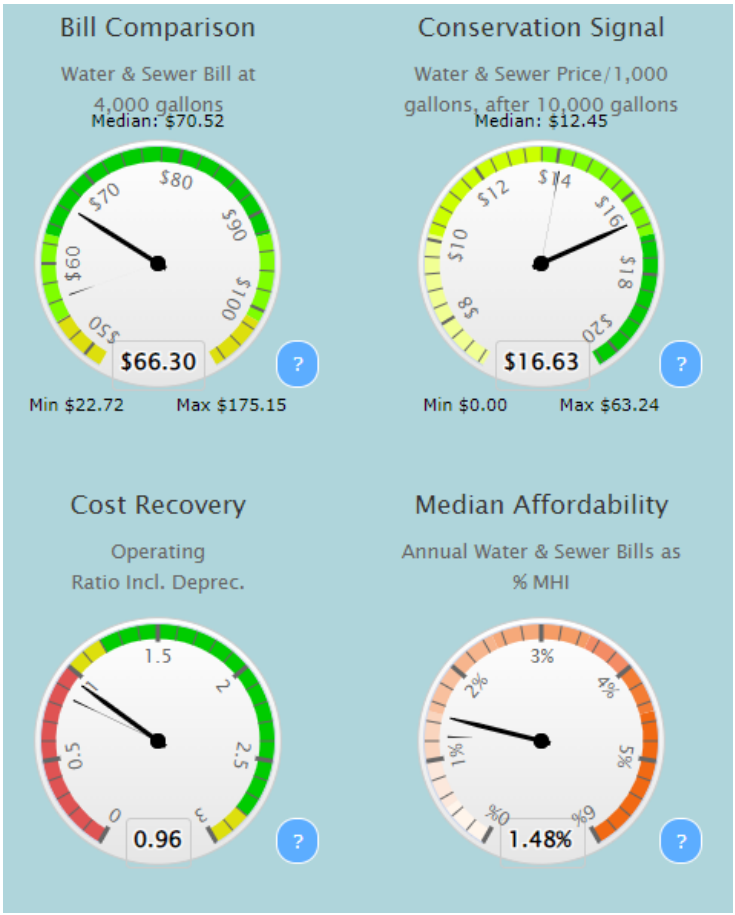
Water and Sewer Fund

Continuously Improve and Expand Water, Sewer and Stormwater Infrastructure The proposed FY 23-24 budget contains a 4% increase from the last fiscal year. An additional utility technician has been budgeted for in the proposed budget. An update to the 2017 CIP was completed in 2022 which lays out 10 years of maintenance and projects needed to keep the Water and Sewer Fund functioning appropriately. To cover rising costs and to meet the demands of the Capital Improvement Plan an 18% increase in water and 18% increase was planned for FY24, but staff are recommending that we delay a utility increase until FY25. Therefore, no utility increase in the proposed budget.

Water and Sewer	
Personnel	$485,705
Operations	$815,756
Capital	$79,259
Sub-Total	**$1,380,721**
Wastewater Treatment	
Personnel	$55,180
Operations	$310,392
Capital	$9,416
Sub-Total	**$374,988**
Total	**$1,755,709**



The City of Lowell's current rates, are below the median rate in the State of North Carolina. On the following page is a diagram that compares Lowell's average water and sewer bill against all other cities within North Carolina. There is no utility increase recommended.



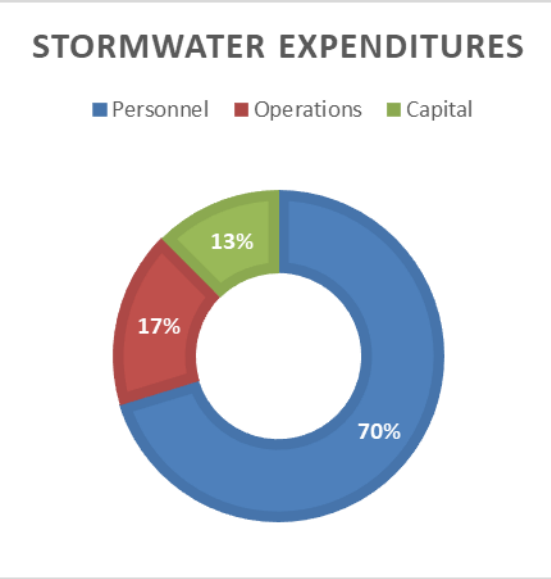
Stormwater Fund

Continuously Improve and Expand Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Infrastructure

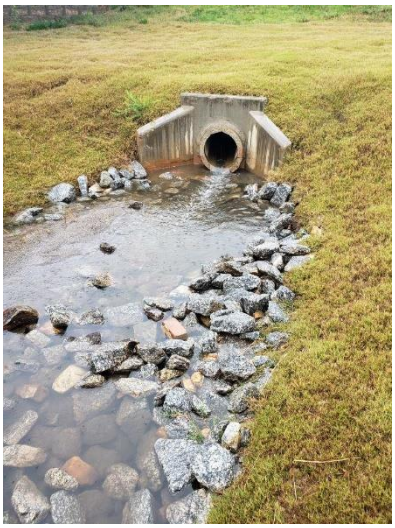
A Stormwater Utility was adopted in the FY 21-22 budget in order to create a sustainable revenue stream for the requirements of Lowell's MS4 Stormwater Permit. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program is mandated under the federal Clean Water Act. An NPDES MS4 permit is required for every MS4 owner or operator that has jurisdiction in a U.S. Census Bureau designated Urbanized Area. The City of Lowell is one of those areas. The Stormwater Department was formerly housed in the General Fund where it was minimally funded. It was not until the FY 20/21 Budget that stormwater expenses were shown in the budget as a separate department. This was prefaced by an audit of the City of Lowell's stormwater program in October of 2019 that resulted in a Notice of Violation from NCDEQ. Staff worked tirelessly on a way to resolve the violation and NCDEQ has accepted the City of Lowell's Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) as of April 7, 2021. This is a 5-year plan that coincides with the 5-year MS4 permit. It provides a roadmap of how the City intends to address stormwater as it relates to public education, public

involvement, illicit discharge and detection, construction site runoff control program, post construction site runoff controls, and good housekeeping and pollution prevention. The resulting SWMP lists 259 Best Management Practices (BMP's) that we are mandated to carry out for controlling flooding, reducing erosion and sedimentation, and improving water quality. The adopted fee is $6.75/month for all residential customers and $6.75/month per 2,827 square feet of impervious surface for all non-residential customers. This methodology is the most widely used fee structure in the state of North Carolina. There is no recommended fee increase in the proposed budget.

Personnel	$297,908
Operations	$72,957
Capital	$52,909
Total	**$ 423,774**



The proposed FY 23-24 budget contains a 7.8% increase from the last fiscal year. To provide the necessary administration of the MS4 Permit, a dedicated Stormwater Administrator position is included in the proposed budget as well as a shared Stormwater Technician position that will be shared with the Public Works-Streets Department. The GIS Technician continues to map the entire City's stormwater infrastructure to comply with NCDEQ's requirement, as well as ready to City to make repairs and improvements to the City's stormwater system in an orderly manner. The unrestricted net position of Stormwater is $157,227 and $27,703.35 will be appropriated to the Stormwater Department for repairs and materials.



CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

New or expanded expenditures are carefully evaluated and need to be viewed as an investment to the City of Lowell. We must ask ourselves, is this the best use of scarce resources? Can we do it another way? Are we willing to decrease service delivery to offset the lack of equipment? Staff will continue to provide an excellent level of service with the addition of needed capital investments.

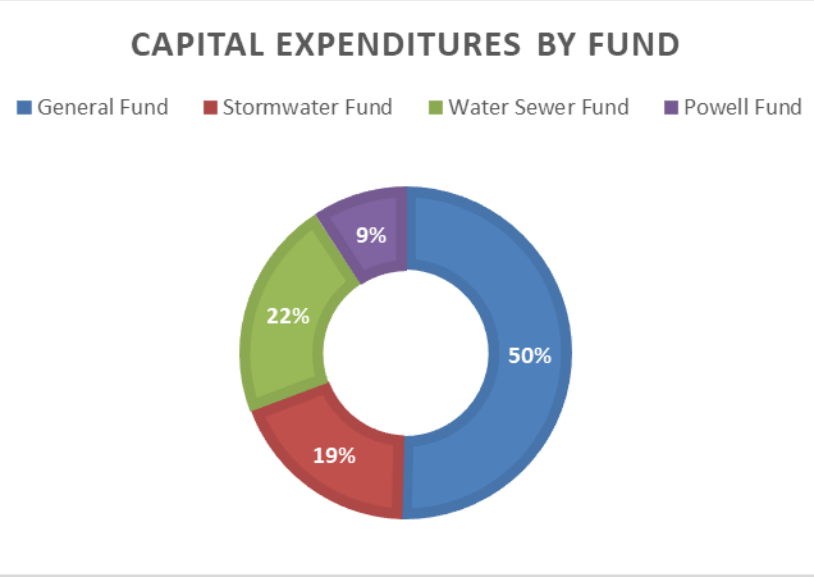
The total of all capital needs is $286,350 in the proposed FY 2023-2024 Budget. The General Fund Accounts for $144,350 (50%), the Powell Bill Fund accounts for $26,500 (9%) the Stormwater Fund accounts for $54,000 (19%), and the Water/Sewer Fund accounts for $61,500 (22%) of the proposed capital expenditures.

Within the General Fund, there are needs of 2 police cruisers, a K-9 dog for Police Department (using pay-go, not financing), implementation of the New World Public Safety RMS platform and relevant IT hardware, and a portion of a mini excavator with hauling trailer.

Stormwater capital expenditures include portions of the above mini excavator, equipment hauler, and hydraulic excavator. These tools will be used for stormwater infrastructure maintenance and repair.

The Water and Sewer Fund contains the same equipment as the Stormwater fund that is being split between the departments.

Powell Bill splits the mini excavator and equipment hauler with Stormwater and Water/Sewer to make repairs to sidewalk and minor road improvements.



CONCLUSION

This year, staff looked five years into the future in each department to anticipate the growth that we know is already here and the growth and development that is in the pipeline. This 5-year outlook has been an asset to the proposed FY23-24 Budget preparation by investigating trends in future revenues so that the City remains ready with sufficient personnel to maintain superior service delivery and customer service. Retention of our valuable employees is emphasized in this budget document.

Staff's efforts will continue to meet the challenges that lie ahead and do so in a way that supports the Mayor and City Council's approved Strategic Vision and Goals. I want to personally thank you for your dedication to improving the lives of the citizens of Lowell by making these difficult decisions.

In closing, I believe the recommendations contained in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Proposed Budget reflects the FY 22-24 Strategic Vision and Goals of the Lowell City Council by continuing to invest in our human capital, meet the needs of a growing municipality, meeting the City's growing infrastructure needs, and improve the quality of life of the citizens of Lowell.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Attaway

City Manager

Budget Ordinance-Fiscal Year 2023-2024
City of Lowell

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Lowell, North Carolina:

Section 1: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the operation of the city government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this City:

Purpose	Amount
Administration	$2,245,908
Public Safety	$1,327,415
Public Works	$318,186
Sanitation	$345,634
Parks and Recreation	$257,188
Powell Bill	$100,000
Community Investment Fund (CIF) Capital Projects	$406,402
Total Appropriations	$5,000,734

Section 2: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024:

Revenue Source	Amount
Current year Property Tax & Vehicle Motor Tax	$2,856,534
Local Sales Tax	$800,000
Fees for Services	$792,650
Powell Bill for Streets	$100,000
All other revenues	$451,550
Total Revenues	$5,000,734

Section 3: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Water and Sewer Fund for the operation of the water and sewer utilities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore approved for the City:

Purpose	Amount
Water & Sewer Collection & Distribution	$1,380,721
Wastewater Treatment	$374,988
Total Appropriations	$1,755,709

Section 4: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water and Sewer Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024:

Revenue Source	Amount
Water User Charges	$850,104

Wastewater User Charges	$665,380
All Other	$240,225
Total Revenues	$1,755,709

Section 5: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Stormwater Utility Fund for the operation of the stormwater department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore approved for the City:

Purpose	Amount
Stormwater Personnel	$297,908
Operation and Maintenance	$72,957
Debt Service	$52,909
Total Appropriations	$423,774

Section 6: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Stormwater Utility Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024:

Revenue Source	Amount
Stormwater User Fees	$395,571
Stormwater Fund Balance Appropriated	$27,703
Stormwater Merchandise	$500
Total Revenues	$423,774

Section 7: There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of forty-nine cents ($0.49) per one hundred dollars ($100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2023, for the purpose of raising the revenue listed "Current Year's Property Taxes" in the General Fund in Section 2 of this ordinance.

This rate is based on estimated total valuation of taxable real property within the city limits totaling $575,551,625 based on a 90% rate of collection, and the estimated taxable value of Public Service Companies of $16,028,903.00 with a 100% collection rate, and the estimated total taxable value of personal property listed in the corporate limits of $18,940,784.00 at an estimated collection rate of 99.0%

Section 8: A registration tag fee of $10.00 per vehicle will be collected.

Section 9: The City Manager or a designee is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations as contained herein under the following conditions:

a. Transfers between line-item expenditures within a department without limitation and without a report being required. These changes must not result in increases in recurring obligations such as salaries.
b. Transfers between departments within the same fund, including contingency appropriations, not to exceed 10% of the appropriated monies for the department

whose allocation is reduced. Notice of all such transfers shall be made to the Council at the next regular meeting of the Council.

c. The budget officer is hereby authorized to carry over appropriations in the fiscal year any previously approved purchase orders and accompanying budget
d. Grant funding not depleted during the prior fiscal year may be carried over with the City Manager's approval. Special Revenue funding not depleted during the prior fiscal year may be carried over with the City Manager's approval.
e. Transfer $406,402 to the Community Investment Fund (CIF) upon completion of the fund creation.
f. Excess revenues above the 50% General Fund Balance goal shall be transferred to the Community Investment Fund (CIF).

Section 10: The City Manager or a designee may make cash advances between funds for periods not to exceed 60 days without reporting to the Governing Board. Any advances that extend beyond 60 days must be approved by the Board. All advances that will be outstanding at the end of the fiscal year must be approved by the Board.

Section 11: Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Board and to the Budget Officer and Finance Officer to be kept on file by them for their direction in the disbursement of funds.

Section 12: The attached document entitled, "Rates, Fees and Charges FY 2023-2024" is hereby incorporated and adopted as part of this ordinance.

Section 13: The attached document entitled, "Salary Adjustments for the FY 2023-2024 Budget" is hereby incorporated and adopted as part of this ordinance.

Adopted this __th day of June, 2023.

_____
Mayor Sandy Railey

_____
Mayor Pro Temp Travis Smith

_____
Councilmember Thomas S. Gillespie

Attest:

_____
Cheryl Ramsey, City Clerk

_____
Councilmember Candace Funderburk

_____
Councilmember Joanna Fulbright

_____
Councilmember Phil Bonham

General Fund Revenue							
	FY 21	FY 21	FY 22	FY 22	FY 23	FY 2023-2024	
Line Item Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Prop. Budget	Explanations/Comments
Ad Valorem Taxes-Prior Years	27,000	36,392	27,000	14,760	27,000.00	15,000.00	Prior year delinquent tax payments
Gross Receipts Rev Tax	116,000	152,933	100,000	178,919	150,000.00	165,000.00	Rental Car Tax - added Enterprise in FY 18
Ad Valorem Taxes	1,308,966	1,349,435	1,522,825	1,562,001	1,559,845.00	2,856,534.13	Real & Personnal
Tax Penalties & Interest	2,300	59	2,000	237	2,000.00	250.00	Assessed from Delinquent Taxes
Interest Income	10,600	2,176	16,000	2,906	12,000.00	5,000.00	Interest Earnings From Cash and Investments
Ballfield Rent				1,881.00	0.00	2,500.00	
Shelter Rentals					0.00	150.00	
Beer & Wine Tax	16,300	16,080	17,500	14,546	17,500.00	15,000.00	
DMV Tag Tax	31,000		31,000	26,560	31,000.00	31,000.00	3153 Registered Tags ($10.00)
Asset Forfeiture				47	500.00	500.00	
Miscellaneous Revenue	4,800	425,612	2,000	48,317	2,000.00	2,000.00	Unclassified Revenue i.e. Insurance Claims
Insurance Proceeds	10,000	2,757	2,000	5,450	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Donations Received		6,050		0	10,000.00	10,500.00	Northpoint for McCord Park; ; K-9 Donations
Utilities Franchise Tax	201,000	197,719	195,000	196,246	195,000.00	195,000.00	% of the revenues derived from sales of utilities
Solid Waste Disposal	2,600	2,854	2,900	2,838	2,900.00	2,800.00	From State on Per Capita Basis
Powell Bill Receipts	93,306	89,913	85,450	102,320	88,000.00	100,000.00	Per Gen Assembly calculation
Local Sales Tax	450,000	564,906	535,000	672,917	650,000.00	800,000.00	Local portion of Sales Tax
Zoning Permits	5,000	8,620	15,000	27,849	20,000.00	15,000.00	Zoning Permit Fees
Plan Review and Inspections						500,000.00	Groves Street Townhomes, Lowell Woods
Development Agreements						15,000.00	5k per agreement
Sanitation Fees	149,000	151,207	152,000	157,842	239,000.00	240,000.00	Sanitation Service Revenue
Bulk/Pay as You Throw Fees						1,500.00	Pay as You Throw fees billed to customer
Other Landfill Fees	1,500	2089	2,000	1,823	2,000.00	2,000.00	Rental truck landfill fee reimbursement
Athletics Revenue	7,500	2,185	9,675	3,522	3,941.00	8,000.00	Athletic Registration & Other Misc Recreation Revenue
Community Center	6,000	2,358	1,000	1,160	2,500.00	2,500.00	Decrease rent time during renovations
Festivals & Events	23,000	568	4,500	6,184	7,200.00	6,000.00	Offer Smaller Events (BBQ Cookoff, Senior Lunches, etc)
Merchandise				824	2,000.00	500.00	
Concessions				0	0.00	0.00	
Grants	43,156	43,156	48,156	0	5,000.00	5,000.00	Caromont for P&R $5,500
Lease Proceeds				0			
Sales of Fixed Assets	24,000	38,500		0	8,000.00	2,000.00	
Fund Balance Appropriated	50,500			0			
Special Revenue Transfer In			145,000	0	215,000.00		Salary Reimbursements GF
FB Powell Bill							
Totals	**$2,583,528**	**3,095,569**	**$2,916,007**	**$3,029,148**	**3,254,386.00**	**5,000,734.13**	

Administration							
	FY 21	FY 21	FY 22	FY 22	FY 23	FY 2023-2024	
Line Item Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Prop. Budget	Explanations/Comments
Council	16,000	15,600	16,000	17,527	$22,100	$31,940	Salaries for Six Elected Officials / Travel and Training for Council; Performed NCLM survey using 2022 data and Lowell was 36.5% lower than the rest of the state with population of 2,500 - 4,999
Administrative Salaries	211,601	230,485	325,116	216,441	$323,000	$559,729	Admin Salaries-Manager, Planning/Zoning Dir (now 100% was 70%), **new Planning Technician/Inspections**, Finance Dir (now 75% was 55%) moving to avg, Clerk, CSR to Utility Billing Manager new grade (now 15% was 10%), CSR/Account Tech (now 15% was 10%), **new Payroll/Payables tech**, 30%, GIS (now 50% was 30%), **new PT Communications Director**
FICA Expenses	17,411	18,460	15,309	17,554	$24,710	$42,819	7.65% of salaries is FICA expense
Health Insurance	0	33,307	43,023	35,001	$45,000	$56,000	Health, Dental, Vision, Life, AD
Retirement Expenses	21,478	22,512	22,713	23,001	$39,083	$71,925	12.85% of salaries is retirement. Increased from 12.10% per NC
401(K) Retirement	10,580	11,090	10,006	9,984	$16,150	$27,986	5.0% 401K match
Unemployment Benefits	750	0	750	215	$750	$750	No change from FY22
Professional Services	73,000	46,045	94,663	145,953	$120,000	$120,000	Legal ($35,000), Audit ($42,700), NCLM ($4,900), Southern Software Support ($3,614), Misc. Engineering, Cavanaugh MacDonald ($4,000)(OPEB), Misc.
Engineering Review and Inspections						$425,000	
Telephone & Postage	10,500	9,591	13,900	13,873	$17,500	$18,000	VOIP Phones, Cell Phones, Postage, tablet service
Electric Utilities	5,600	6,567	5,750	5,560	$13,500	$13,600	Utilities for City Hall
Travel & Training	7,000	2,193	7,500	14,032	$29,000	$31,500	Professional Development:CZO; City Vision ; Clerk; NCLM; NCCCMA ; ICMA Annual ; Planning ; GIS; Southern Software ; Finance ; Tuition Reimbursement Program; Clerk Academy; UNCSOG; Leadership Gaston
Main. & Repairs - Bldg	8,620	7,057	9,000	83,228	$16,000	$16,200	Facility Use, Downstairs Additional, Council Chambers
Main. & Repairs - Equip	4,000	761	4,000	3,232	$4,000	$4,000	General maintenance (HVAC, etc.)
Election Expenses	0		4,175	4,317	$4,500	$4,750	Per Gaston County Board of Elections
Checking Acct	5,000	5,552	5,000	6,525	$5,250	$6,550	Bank Fees
Advertising	4,000	9,659	4,000	4,681	$6,000	$6,500	Gaston Gazette Legal Fees
Supplies	14,500	22,031	15,000	17,599	$31,231	$32,000	Office supplies, new copier lease ($2,484), 2 computers, 2 monitors ($7,500), 2nd copier lease ($2,500), etc
Auto Fuel						$2,750	
Lowell Boys and Girls Club					$75,000	$0	
Beautification	5,000	3,073	5,000	2,744	$14,700	$4,000	banners, flowers, downtown improvements
Christams Decorations						$5,000	X-mas trees, hristmas décor and repair
Zoning Board	200	2,039	1,800	1,900	$5,100	$5,100	Payment to Board Members for Attendance; Training Planning Board $3,000
Code Enforcement	1,000		9,000	0	$9,000	$9,000	Inspection Fees / Title Searches / Minimum Housing
LCC/Master Planning Committee				125		$12,500	Façade Grant(s) and other Projects
Rental Expense	3,000	3,000	9,000	8,700	$9,000	$9,000	To Richard Trado for Lease on Parking Area Downtown and McCord Park
Contracted Services	74,000	36,187	80,000	98,556	$115,000	$141,578	Master Planning, Architecture, Civil/Plans/Environmental, IT ($20,021.40),
Tax Collection Fees	8,000	9,936	9,900	14,577	$15,000	$15,000	Cost for Gaston County to Collect Taxes *Increase per Gaston County
Christams Decorations						$3,500	Christmas lights, banners, signs
Dues & Subscriptions	10,500	20,114	10,500	11,660	$13,500	$14,000	UNCSOG ($550), Centralina, MPO, Montcross, GBA, Civic Orgs, ICMA, NCCCMA,CZO, etc.
Insurance & Bonds	7,325	8,087	7,325	10,182	$8,000	$13,671	Estimated workers comp & prop/liability (bronco insurance)
Miscellaneous Expenses	6,000	-1,946	6,500	2,510	$9,000	$9,000	Volunteer dinner, Employee Appreciation, Other Misc
Capital Outlay - Equip	9,000	8,684		0	$4,000		Vehicle for Code Enforcement, stormwater, planning (70%)
Capital Outlay-Building				0			
Bike/Ped Master Plan							
Principal Maturities						$3,422	Vehicle for Code Enforcement, stormwater, planning (70%)
Interest on Debt				0		$410	
	4,633		13,040		$1,576		Contingency
EDA Repayment						525,305.00	Newell/Npoint Economic Development Agreement Grant
Totals	**$538,698**	**$530,084**	**$747,970**	**$769,675**	**$996,649**	**$2,245,908**	

Public Safety							
	FY 21	FY 21	FY 22	FY 22	FY 23	FY 2023-2024	
Line Item Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Prop. Budget	Explanations/Comments
Police Salaries	443,238	433,806	560,856	507,258	$625,473	$728,047	Salaries added 2.75% for average performance evaluation. Added 1 Admin Asst FY24 and Deputy Chief to be promoted within, 2 officers FY26 and 2 officers FY28
FICA Expenses	33,908	32,025	42,905	37,368	$47,849	$55,696	7.65% of salaries is FICA expense
Health Insurance	-	87,914	131,164	96,947	$135,000	$122,934	Health, Dental, Vision, Life, AD
Retirement Expenses	48,313	44,315	67,527	59,246	$81,562	$102,655	14.10% of salaries is retirement for LEO; increase from 13.04% per NC
401(K) Retirement Expense	22,162	20,323	28,043	24,070	$31,274	$36,402	5.0% 401K match
Telephone & Postage	10,000	7,768	8,500	7,683	$11,000	$11,000	3 phones, aircards
Electric Utilities Expense	5,900	5,097	6,000	5,608	$6,000	$6,000	Utilities for Office
Travel & Training	1,500	1,444	2,500	3,060	$5,500	$12,500	Training and meal reimbursement / Most training is local $7000 K-9 training annually.
Main & Repairs - Bldg	3,000	447	1,000	1,282	$1,000	$1,000	Maintenance for Building
Main & Repairs - Equip	800	300	1,000	1,762	$2,279	$2,500	Copier Contract, Hand Held & In Car Radios, Radars +5% anticipated increase from Motorola maintenance. +5% anticipated increase.
Main & Repairs - Autos	12,500	6,969	15,300	16,867	$15,300	$14,650	Vehicle Maintenance
Automotive Supplies / Fuel	25,000	25,093	30,000	40,239	$37,000	$44,334	Wex contract for 11 officers 5% increase fy 23/24
Departmental Supplies	22,800	29,069	23,000	37,415	$26,839	$26,500	Office Supplies / Ammunition Admin assistant office renovation $6,000.
K-9 Feed & Vet Expenses						$2,200	K-9 feed ($1,200), Vet needs ($1000)
Police Uniforms	10,400	4,354	7,051	6,384	$9,085	$8,575	Replace 4 vests due to expire, Uniforms, Boots, Duty Gear, K-9 gear
Contracted Services	6,200	8,049	6,200	8,111	$11,200	$35,630	Cleaning Contract, Southern Software RMS Annual Support, Verizon Connect (GPS for vehicles)
Dues & Subscriptions	332	375	332	340	$850	$850	DCI Fee, Gaston County Law Enforcement Assoc %5 increase
Insurance & Bonds	17,071	25,203	20,865	8,837	$26,000	$13,671	Estimated workers comp & prop/liability
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,100	7,076	2,100	2,251	$4,500	$3,500	National Night Out and Miscellaneous expenses, Recruitment Program
Asset Forfeiture				-	$500		
Capital Outlay	43,792		34,209	15,833	$5,374	$45,067	$5373.92 for body cams through fy25-26; 2 new police suv total cost $105,500-annual cost $23,528.65; $7,500 purchase of K-9; New World Computers and Infrastructure $8,664.34
Principal Maturities	20,351	68,508	54,276	47,021	$77,964	$51,919	Generator ($2,431), Police Radios ($12,826), Police Vehicles ($12,066), Police Computers ($6,646.96) Enterprise ($20,351) 3 police vehicles for 2 new positions ($23,643)
Interest on Debt	4,233	2,475	2,299	2,333	$3,515	$1,786	Generator ($165), Police Radios ($512), Police Vehicles ($623), Police Computers ($426.51), 3 police vehicles for 2 new positions ($1,788)
Fire Protection	237,572	242,718	292,059	-			* County Fire District began FY 23
Totals	**$971,172**	**$1,053,328**	**$1,337,185**	**$929,913**	**$1,165,063**	**$1,327,415**	

Streets							
	FY 21	FY 21	FY 22	FY 22	FY 23	FY 2023-2024	
Line Item Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Prop. Budget	Explanation/Comments
Salaries and wages	71,652	73,816	71,017	61,336	81,050	$106,540	Salaries & Wages **(add new position that is 50/50 split with Stormwater)**
FICA Expenses	5,481	5,323	5,433	4,324	6,200	8,150	Employer FICA (7.65% of wages)
Health Insurance	17,529	16,394	17,473	16,037	21,000	$19,849	Health, Dental, Vision, Life, AD
Retirement Expenses	7,273	7,418	8,060	7,445	9,807	$13,690	12.85% of salaries is retirement. Increase from 12.10% per NC
401(K) Retirement	3,583	3,641	3,551	2,938	4,053	$5,327	5% of salaries is 401(K) expense
Professional Services				0			
Utilities	61,000	35,524	61,000	48,185	57,258	54,600	Utilities, Streetlights
Travel & Training	500	95	500	92	500	$500	Training
Maint & Repairs-Building	7,500		1,500	1,306	8,500	$1,500	Repair, Misc.
Maint & Repairs-Equipment	11,000	6,284	11,000	5,775	11,000	$11,550	Mower maintenance, misc. equipment maintenance
Maint & Repairs-Trucks	7,000	514	7,000	4,588	15,000	$8,000	Reg repairs
Automotive Supplies/Fuel	9,900	8,371	10,000	16,994	15,000	$15,500	Fuel increase and auto supplies
Departmental Supplies	19,000	8,244	15,000	11,346	18,000	$16,000	Signage, Materials, etc
Uniforms	3,300	2,266	3,600	3,971	3,600	$3,980	Uniform contract
Contracted Services	35,400	20,338	37,000	14,954	77,000	$15,000	Includes Verizon Connect tablets, tablet service, crosswalks, striping/marking
Insurance & Bonds	10,000	18,676	10,000	4,835	10,000	$13,671	
Miscellaneous	1,000	4,761	1,000	916	1,000	$1,000	
Capital Outlay-Improvemen				0			
Capital Outlay-Equipment	17,934	2,000		0	3,300		
Principal Maturities		4,958	11,990	15,309	12,193	$22,033	2019 Chevy 1500 truck 100% ($5,653) F-750 Dump Truck 60% ($6,540)
Interest	473	921	954	1,437	752	$1,295	Dump Truck 60% ($526), 2019 Chevy 1500 Truck 100% ($226)
Totals	**$289,525**	**$219,544**	**$276,078**	**$221,788**	**355,212**	**318,186**	

Sanitation							
	FY 21	FY 21	FY 22	FY 22	FY 23	FY 2023-2024	
Line Item Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Prop. Budget	Explanations/Comments
Sanitation Salaries	65,876	84,167	95,745	89,721	$115,630	$123,000	Salaries & Wages
FICA Expenses	4,993	6,356	7,324	6,697	$8,846	$9,410	Employer FICA (7.65% of wages)
Health Insurance	15,586	17,497	19,642	21,169	$18,000	$23,215	Health, Dental, Vision, Life, AD
Retirement	4,761	7,390	10,867	9,009	$13,991	$15,806	12.85% of salaries retirement. Increased from 12.10% per NC
401K	2,254	3,640	4,787	3,969	$5,782	$6,150	5.0% 401K match (recycling not included here - PT)
Main. & Repairs	12,000	26,991	12,000	15,692	$16,500	$18,000	Maintenance to Trash Truck, Tires twice per year
Automotive/Fuel	9,100	12,049	9,500	13,533	$10,500	$12,000	Fuel for Trash Truck
Departmental Supplies	6,500	5,757	6,500	7,498	$10,770	$7,700	General Supplies
Recycling/Contract Svcs	14,500	26,777	14,500	29,855	$45,000	$30,000	Recycling Costs are 28-30k
Landfill Tipping Fees	44,253	52,589	45,000	46,173	$50,000	$52,500	Cost of Landfill Disposal; 5% Increase Proposed by GC
Insurance & Bonds	5,000	7,476	5,000	3,117	$5,000	$13,671	Estimated workers comp & prop/liability
Miscellaneous	500	536		243	$500	$500	Small Miscellaneous Uncatagorized Expenses
Capital Outlay	35,850	125,287		$300.00			
Principal Maturities		7,656	30,929	30,929	$31,424	$31,926	New Trash Truck Payment
Interest on Debt		765	2,753	2,753	$2,259	$1,756	Interest paid on trash truck
Totals	**$221,173**	**$384,933**	**$264,548**	**280,658**	**$334,201**	**$345,634**	

Powell Bill							
	FY 2021	FY 21	FY 22	FY 22	FY 23	FY 2023-2024	
Line Item Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Prop. Budget	Explanations/Comments
Professional Services			2,000	936	2,000	2,000	Engineering and Surveying
Departmental Supplies		928		1,175	3,000	3,000	Signs, cones, lights, caution tape
Sidewalks	20,000	18,200	20,000	150	46,000	44,090	Sidewalk Repair
Contracted Maintenance	67,306	41,728	65,000	177,704	35,000	45,000	Street Repairs not water and sewer related
Miscellaneous				-			
Cap. Outlay - Other Imp.				-			Downtown Improvements
Cap. Outlay - Equipment						$5,910	debt service; New Mini Excavator 37.5% cost $5,017.96; Trailer/Hauler 33% cost $892.08
City Signs	2,000	1,619	2,000	2,000	2,000		Signs
Totals	**$89,306**	**$62,475**	**$89,000**	**$181,965**	**88,000**	**100,000**	

Parks & Recreation							
	FY 21	FY 21	FY 22	FY 22	FY 23	FY 2023-2024	
Line Item Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Prop. Budget	Explanations/Comments
Salaries	37,309	50,195	75,716	52,517	60,000.00	102,730.00	1 full-time position and 1 PT Athletics, 1 New PT 10 hour Maintainence Tech position
FICA	2,778	3,840	4,262	4,018	4,590.00	7,858.85	7.65% of salaries is FICA expense
Health Insurance	5,117			-		8,463.60	Health, Dental, Vision, Life, AD
Retirement	1,485	3,522	3,991	4,377	7,260.00	13,200.81	12.85% of salaries is retirement- added .75% each FY -CR
401(K)	1,018			-	-	5,136.50	5.0% 401K match
Telephone & Postage	1,950	3,271	2,800	1,501	2,800.00	3,400.00	Cell Phone / VOIP Line and postage
Utilities Rec Facillities	5,000	3,555	5,000	5,111	5,000.00	5,000.00	Utilities at Recreation Facilities
Utilities Community Center	4,500	2,788	4,500	4,013	5,000.00	5,000.00	Utilities at Community Center
Travel & Training	1,500	97	1,500	315	1,500.00	5,000.00	Conferences, Training, Memberships
Main.& Repairs	55,156	14,191	51,906	7,463	11,000.00	16,600.00	Field Surfacing (4k), Fire Ant Treatment (1600), Mulch (3K,) Misc, Repairs (5K)
Main.& Repairs CC				(385)	100,000.00	5,000.00	misc
Automotive Fuel	750	-	750	-	750.00	750.00	Fuel for Truck and Reimbursement money to Staff in the event truck is in use
Supplies	4,500	2,070	4,500	1,897	4,500.00	5,000.00	Field Chalk, staff shirts, Basic Office Supplies, Cleaners, 2 New Computers
Athletics	7,000	1,337	7,000	3,845	7,000.00	9,000.00	Stack Sports Fees, Uniforms for 3 seasons, League Fees, Umpire Fees, Softball Equipment
Special Events	41,000	4,632	16,400	18,668	30,350.00	40,000.00	Community Events
Contracted Services	7,000	1,922	22,000	17,750	67,060.00	5,800.00	Terminix ($600), Cleaning CC ($5,200)
Insurance & Bonds	2,706	3,471	2,900	2,727	2,900.00	$13,671	Estimated workers comp & prop/liability
Capital Outlay				-	5,550.00		Parks and Recreation Vehicle debt service
Principal Maturities				-		4,981.40	Ford Ranger Principal
Interest on Debt				0		596.06	Ford Ranger Interest
Totals	**$178,769**	**$94,891**	**$203,225**	**123,818**	**$315,260**	**257,188.22**	

Water/Sewer Utility Fund Revenues

Line Item Description	FY 21 Budget	FY 21 Actual	FY 22 Budget	FY 22 Actual	FY 23 Budget	FY 2023-2024 Budget	Explanations/Comments
Interest-Investments	5	5	5	8	5	$5	
Loan Proceeds				0		$0	
Miscellaneous Income	2,215	1,702	2,500	4,814	18,000	$21,000	Debt Setoff; Meter Set Fee ($350*50=$17,500)
Water Revenue	698,664	669,047	728,228	640,623	852,026	$850,104	
Sewer Revenue	562,770	522,499	550,868	557,300	662,676	$665,380	
Water Tap Fees	3,000	3,200	4,000	6,000	5,000	$5,500	Based on 5 taps ($1000 per tap):
Sewer Tap Fees	4,000	4,200	5,000	5,200	6,875	$6,720	Based on 5 taps ($1375 per tap)
System Development Fee-Water	5,000	2,500	10,000	8,100	27,000	$32,400	($540 per home)
System Development Fee-Sewer	12,000	4,800	24,000	15,600	95,500	$114,600	($1910 per home)
Reconnects & Late Fee	10,000		15,000	46,695	15,000	$42,000	Reconnects and Late Fees
Activation Fee	10,000	10,028	10,000	11,732	10,000	$18,000	New Customer Activation Fee
Fund Balance Appropriated				0			
Sale of Fixed Assets				0	4000		Surplus vehicle
Proceeds from reimbursed Engineering			35,000				
Totals	**$1,307,654**	**$1,217,981**	**$1,384,601**	**$1,296,071**	**1,696,082**	**1,755,709**	

Water and Sewer							
Line Item Description	FY 21 Budget	FY 21 Actual	FY 22 Budget	FY 22 Actual	FY 23 Budget	FY 2023-2024 Budget	Explanation/Comments
Salaries	-	215,225	224,906	226,788	$301,900	$343,204	4 FT Employees @85% **(+1 new)**
FICA	-	16,894	17,205	16,662	$23,095	$26,255	7.65% of salaries is FICA expense
Health Insurance	-	38,920	50,163	40,508	$66,000	$54,984	Health, Dental, Vision, Life, AD
Retirement	-	31,955	25,527		$36,530	$44,102	12.85% of salaries is retirement. Increase from 12.10%
401(K)	-	9,110	11,245	10,852	$15,095	$17,160	5.0% 401K match
Professional Services	35,000	35,055	35,000	47,646	$40,000	$40,000	Inspections Engineering
Telephone & Postage	12,450	10,382	12,450	10,901	$7,000	$11,000	Postage Water Bills & Cell Phones and Desk Phones (50% of postage due to SW, add tablets and service)
Electric Utilities	18,219	13,548	18,500	13,432	$20,000		For all facillities i.e. lift stations
Travel & Training	-		1,000	382	$2,000	$3,000	Water and Sewer Certification classes and testing
Main. & Repairs	23,077	25,430	24,000	29,322	$30,000	$30,000	In-House and outsource repairs / Lift Stations
				65			
Checking Acct Expense	1,500	1,817	1,500	115	$1,500	$1,500	Bank Fees
Automotive Suplies (Fuel)	10,500	3,957	10,000	11,216	$18,500	$18,500	Wex fuel Contract
Supplies	34,000	54,902	34,058	56,455	$40,000	$50,000	Repair parts, supplies and tools; Water meters parts increase offset by SW materials being expensed to that fund
Uniforms	3,000	990	3,000	199	$3,000	$3,000	Uniform Contract
Contracted Services	33,976	41,339	34,000	52,194	$82,224	$75,000	Outsourced repairs, Lift Station Pump and Haul; Mueller $17,124; Manhole Rehab/I&I
Water Purchase	413,000	440,947	434,000	411,564	$460,000	$475,000	Water purchased from TRU
Sewer Treatment	76,200	80,801	80,010	71,781	$85,000	$85,000	Fair Street Lift Station - TRU
Dues & Subscriptions	2,500	3,600	2,500	3,696	$2,800	$3,250	
Insurance & Bonds	12,895	6,748	12,895	8,961	$12,895	$20,506	Estimated workers comp & prop/liability
Capital Outlay-Equipment	53,920	13,764	39,644	19,006	$8,400	$13,716	33% of Trailer $892.08, 37.5% Mini Excavator $5,017.96, Hydraulic Excavator 50% cost $7,805.71
Prin. Maturities		3,148			$39,494	$47,261	Payment for Water Meters ($19,736) / 2019 3500 Service Truck 50% ($5029) / Backhoe 50% ($7,224)/ Camera System for Lines 50% ($1,233), Jet Vac 60% ($6272)
Interest on Debt	16,180		21,916	38,229	$17,789	$18,283	Meters ($16,519), 2019 Chevy 3500 50% ($201), Backhoe 50% ($550), JetVac 60% ($451), Camera 50% ($68)
Contingency							
Totals	**$746,417**	**$1,048,532**	**1,093,520**	**1,069,973**	**$1,313,222**	**$1,380,721**	

Wastewater
Treatment Plant

Line Item Description	FY 21 Budget	FY 21 Actual	FY 22 Budget	FY 22 Actual	FY 23 Budget	FY 2023-2024 Budget	Explanation/Comments
Professional Services	4,000	$7,625.00	4,000	11,989	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	Engineering
Telephone and Internet	780	$759.00	780	277	$ 800	$ 800	Land Line, Fax, Internet
Electric Utilities	31,796	$27,657.00	37,000	29,229	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	Looked at Current Year Duke Billing
Maint-Buildings & Grounds	2,000		13,000	208	$ 69,967	$ 62,092	Sandblast and Paint Building/CIP Related 52,092
Maint & Repair-Equipment	10,000	$4,424.00	10,000	15,789	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	WWTP Repairs
Chemical Supplies	35,000	$32,587.00	35,000	33,612	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	Atco, Jones Chemical, Univar, Maryland Biochemical, Bio Chem Resources
Departmental Supplies	4,500	$6,089.00	4,500	8,266	$ 9,000	$ 9,000	Bluebook Purchases
Contract Services	48,000	$44,390.00	48,000	42,730	$ 55,180	$ 55,180	Plant Operator Increase
Sampling and Analysis	32,000	$56,462.00	45,000	48,931	$ 48,000	$ 48,000	K&W Labs Increased sampling
Sludge Disposal	39,500	$48,896.00	45,000	15,296	$ 45,000	$ 45,000	EMA Pump and Haul plus Republic Services Dumpsters
Contract Maintenance	32,000	$23,998.00	35,000	3,775	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	Kemp Inc, Snyder Tech, Piedmont Chlorinator, Fortech, LB Electric, Kemp Inc (dry-bed maintenance)
Dues and Subscriptions	1,470	$1,010.00	1,470	1,820	$ 1,500	$ 1,500	Required Dues to State
Miscellaneous	500		500	378	$ 1,000	$ 1,000	Misc
Insurance & Bonds	2,415	$9,171.00	2,415	2,727	$ 3,000	$ 3,000	Estimated workers comp & prop/liability
Capital Outlay	8,562						
Principal on Debt	-	$9,024.00	8,658	8,658	$ 8,851	$9,054	($8,851) WWTP Pump
Interest on Debt	854	$451.00	$ 758	$ 758	$ 562	$361	WWTP Pump ($562)
Totals	**$253,377**	**$272,543.00**	**291,081**	**224,442**	**$ 382,860**	**$ 374,988**	

Stormwater Utility Fund Revenues

Line Item Description	FY 2020-21 Budget	FY 2021-22 Budget	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2022-2023 Budget	FY 2023-2024 Budget	Explanations/Comments
Fees	0.00	337,919.00	312,116.99	392,919.00	395,571.09	Stormwater Fees
Fund Balance Appropriated					27,703.35	for Stormwater Repairs
Stormwater Merchandise					500.00	
Totals	**0.00**	**$337,919**	**$312,117**	**$392,919**	**$423,774**	

Stormwater						
Acct Description	FY 21 Budget	FY 22 Budget	FY 22 Actual	FY 23 Budget	FY 2023-2024 Budget	Explanations/Comments
Salaries	$ 54,917	$ 88,173	$ 72,448	$ 170,630	$ 209,573	Salaries & Wages; Recalssify existing staff percentages away from SW fund; **hire FT Stormwater Admin**
FICA	$ 4,201	$ 6,745	$ 5,448	$ 13,053	$ 16,032	Employer FICA (7.65% of wages)
Health Insurance	$ 16,076	$ 21,060	$ 16,195	$ 40,000	$ 34,894	Health, Dental, Vision, Life, AD
Retirement	$ 5,574	$ 10,008	$ 8,006	$ 20,646	$ 26,930	12.85% of salaries is retirement. Increase from 12.10%
401(K)	$ 2,746	$ 4,409	$ 2,996	$ 8,532	$ 10,479	5% of salaries is 401(K) expense
Professional Services		$ 50,000	$ 7,861	$ 32,302	$ 5,000	Engineering, Mapping of infrastructure/outfalls, SWMP/CIP
Postage	$ 150	$ 500	$ 3,514	$ 5,000	$ 7,000	BMP #'s 5 Utility Mailers, No. 6 Target Audiences, No. 8, etc., Utility bills
Travel & Training	$ 1,000	$ 1,750	$ -	$ 3,100	$ 1,000	SCM Inspection Certification Training ($350x3=1,050), Other training and travel
Main. & Repairs	$ 5,000	$ 15,000	$ 618	$ 15,774	$ 24,122	Grates, Pipes, Boxes, Repairs
Checking Acct Expense		$ 1,500	$ 76	$ 1,500	$ 250	BB&T Fees for Utility Fund
Automotive Supplies (Fuel)		$ 3,500	$ -	$ 4,000	$ 2,000	Auto fuel; (Using 35% of PW Fuel*)
Supplies	$ 1,900	$ 8,500	$ 1,952	$ 10,501	$ 10,500	Spill Kits, Educational Materials, Promo materials for events
Contracted Services			$ -	$ 25,000	$ 14,000	Repairs to Infrastructure, Intern for mapping $15/hour*320 hours = $4,800
Dues & Subscriptions	$ 1,350	$ 1,350	$ 1,610	$ 2,169	$ 2,250	Permit Fee and Regional SW Partnership Dues
Insurance & Bonds			$ 1,948		$ 6,835	WC and Prop Liability
Capital Outlay	$ 16,133		$ 1,181	$ 2,220	$ 12,043	33% of Trailer $892.08, 25% Mini Excavator $3,345.31, Hydraulic Excavator 50% cost $7,805.71
Prin. Maturities		$ 31,547	$ 28,936	$ 36,081	$ 38,721	Leaf Vac 100% ($14,054), Backhoe 50% ($7224), F-750 Dump Truck 40% ($4,360), Jet Vac 40% ($4,181), Push Cam 50% ($1,233), Chevy 3500 50% ($5029)
Interest on Debt		$ 2,730	$ 2,450	$ 2,481	$ 2,145	Leaf Vac ($1,010), Backhoe 50% ($550), F-750 Dump Truck 40% ($351), Jet Vac 40% ($301), Push Cam 50% ($68), Chevy 3500 50% (201)
Anticipated Fund Balance Transfer			$ 157,731			
Totals	**$109,047**	**$246,771**	**$312,971**	**$ 392,989**	**$ 423,774**	

New Capital Expenses								
GENERAL FUND	**Cost**	**Priority**	**FY**	**Useful Life**	**Explanation**		**Annual Payment**	**Terms**
2 Police Cruiser	$105,500.00	High	23/24	5 years	2 Vehicles	36.84%	23,528.65	5 years
Police K-9 officer (animal)	$7,500.00	High	23/24	8 years	Puppy to be trained as K-9 officer		Pay Go	Pay Go
Computer (14), switch, firewall, token, etc, IT for PD (New World)	$38,850.00	High	23/24	5 years	Police computer/IT/RMS needs	13.57%	8,664.34	5 years
TOTAL	**$144,350.00**							
Powell								
Mini Excavator	$22,500.00	High	23/24	8 years	Street/Sidewalk Repairs	7.86%	5,017.96	5 years
Equipment Hauler/Trailer	$4,000.00	High	23/24	5 years	Move Equipment	1.40%	892.08	5 years
TOTAL	**$26,500.00**						**38,103.03**	
STORMWATER FUND	**Cost**	**Priority**	**FY**	**Useful Life**	**Explanation**		**Annual Payment**	**Terms**
Hydraulic Excavator (split with WS 50%)	$35,000.00	High	23/24	8 years	Stormwater Maintenance	12.22%	7,805.71	5 years
Mini Excavator	$15,000.00	High	23/24	8 years	Stormwater Repair Equipment	5.24%	$3,345.31	5 years
Equipment Hauler/Trailer	$4,000.00	High	23/24	5 years	Move Equipment	1.40%	892.08	5 years
TOTAL	**$54,000.00**						**12,043.10**	
WATER SEWER FUND	**Cost**	**Priority**	**FY**	**Useful Life**	**Explanation**		**Annual Payment**	**Terms**
Hydraulic Excavator (split with SW 50%)	$35,000.00	High	23/24	8 years	Potholing for Lead Copper Inventory, valve cleaning	12.22%	7,805.71	5 years
Mini Excavator	$22,500.00	High	23/24	8 years	WS Repair Equipment; Lead Copper Inventory	7.86%	5,017.96	5 years
Equipment Hauler/Trailer	$4,000.00	High	23/24	5 years	Move Equipment	1.40%	892.08	5 years
TOTAL	**$61,500.00**						**13,715.75**	
Grand Total	**$286,350.00**					100.00%	**$63,861.88**	

Capital Improvement Plan Summary

Sources & Uses of Funds

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Fiscal Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
1	**Uses of Funds**						
2	**City Administration/Facilities**						
3	Public Works Facility	6,000,000	-	-	-	-	6,000,000
3	City Hall and Police Land Acquisition	250,000	-	-	-	-	250,000
4	City Hall and Police Department	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	**Parks and Recreation**						
5	P&R Land/Property Acquistion	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Riverfront Park	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Harold Rankin Park	1,350,000	-	-	-	500,000	1,850,000
8	Carolina Thread Trail	185,000	-	-	-	-	185,000
9	Bob Bolick Park	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	**Transportation**						
11	Wayfinding Signage	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Welcome Signage	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000
13	I-85 Betterments	-	-	-	-	2,200,000	2,200,000
14	**Total Uses**	**7,835,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2,700,000**	**10,535,000**
15	**Sources of Funds**						
16	Pay Go	700,000	-	-	-	-	700,000
17	Other Funding - Outside Sources	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Other Funding - County Funding[1]	-	-	-	-	1,100,000	1,100,000
19	Other Funding - Grant Funding[2]	3,135,000	-	-	-	-	3,135,000
20	**Subtotal: Other Funding**	**3,135,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,100,000**	**4,235,000**
21	Debt Funding - Capital Markets Short Term	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Debt Funding - Capital Markets Long Term	4,000,000	-	-	-	1,600,000	5,600,000
23	Debt Funding - USDA	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	**Subtotal: Debt Funding**	**4,000,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,600,000**	**5,600,000**
25							-
26	**Total Sources**	**7,835,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2,700,000**	**10,535,000**

[1] County Funding assumes a 50% cost share with Gaston County for the I-85 Betterments Project (not yet finalized).

[2] Grant Funding assumes that both LWCF and PART-F grants totaling $1,000,000 will be awarded and dedicated to Harold Rankin Park (not yet finalized).

Approved This Day:

Attest:

_____ Date

_____ City Clerk, Cheryl Ramsey

_____ Mayor, Sandy Railey

Municipal Advisor Disclosure

The enclosed information relates to an existing or potential municipal advisor engagement.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has clarified that a broker, dealer or municipal securities dealer engaging in municipal advisory activities outside the scope of underwriting a particular issuance of municipal securities should be subject to municipal advisor registration. Davenport & Company LLC ("Davenport") has registered as a municipal advisor with the SEC. As a registered municipal advisor Davenport may provide advice to a municipal entity or obligated person. An obligated person is an entity other than a municipal entity, such as a not for profit corporation, that has commenced an application or negotiation with an entity to issue municipal securities on its behalf and for which it will provide support. If and when an issuer engages Davenport to provide financial advisory or consultant services with respect to the issuance of municipal securities, Davenport is obligated to evidence such a financial advisory relationship with a written agreement.

When acting as a registered municipal advisor Davenport is a fiduciary required by federal law to act in the best interest of a municipal entity without regard to its own financial or other interests. Davenport is not a fiduciary when it acts as a registered investment advisor, when advising an obligated person, or when acting as an underwriter, though it is required to deal fairly with such persons.

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CITY OF LOWELL, NORTH CAROLINA

FY 2023-2024 Proposed Rates, Fees, and Charges

(Proposed changes shown in red)

WATER RATES		
RESIDENTIAL	Inside City Limits	Outside City Limits
Minimum 1,500 Gallons	$11.67	$23.34
Per 1,000 Gallons after Minimum	$8.96	$17.92
COMMERCIAL		
Minimum 1,500 Gallons	$16.32	$32.63
Per 1,000 Gallons after Minimum	$11.86	$23.73
IRRIGATION		
Per 1,000 Gallons	$7.37	$7.37
SEWER RATES		
RESIDENTIAL	Inside City Limits	Outside City Limits
Minimum 1,500 Gallons	$13.03	$26.04
Per 1,000 Gallons after Minimum	$7.68	$15.38
COMMERCIAL		
Minimum 1,500 Gallons	$18.22	$28.34
Per 1,000 Gallons after Minimum	$9.80	$15.99
SEWER CUSTOMER ONLY		
Per 1,000 Gallons	$13.29	$13.29
SEPTIC SEWER - Minimum Charge - $4.84		
Per 1,000 Gallons	$2.86	$2.86
SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEE (SDF)	*****No System Development Fees for Fire Protection Meters*****	
Water Tap Size	**Water Fee**	**Sewer Fee**
¾ in	$540	$1,910
1 in	$1,350	$4,775
1.5 in	$2,700	$9,550
2 in	$4,320	$15,280
3 in	$8,640	$30,560
4 in	$13,500	$47,750

CITY OF LOWELL, NORTH CAROLINA

FY 2023-2024 Proposed Rates, Fees, and Charges

(Proposed changes shown in red)

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEE (SDF) continued	***No System Development Fees for Fire Protection Meters***	
Water Tap Size	**Water Fee**	**Sewer Fee**
6 in	$27,000	$95,500
8 in	$43,200	$152,800
10 in	$62,100	$219,650
12 in	$121,500	$429,750

WATER TAP FEES / SEWER TAP FEES / METER SET FEE / IRRIGATION METER / BACKFLOW		
WATER TAP FEES		
WATER TAP SIZE	Inside City Limits	Outside City Limits
¾ in	$1,000	$1,375
1 in	$1,750	$2,250
1.5 in	$2,500	$3,000
2in	$3,250	$3,750
SEWER TAP FEES		
SEWER TAP SIZE	Inside City Limits	Outside City Limits
4 in	$1,250	$1,680
6 in	$1,800	$2,280
8 in	$3,600	$4,200
METER SET FEE		
$350.00		
IRRIGATION METER		
$500.00		
BACKFLOW TESTING ADMIN FEE		
$75.00		

CITY OF LOWELL, NORTH CAROLINA

FY 2023-2024 Proposed Rates, Fees, and Charges

(Proposed changes shown in red)

GARBAGE COLLECTION CHARGES	
RESIDENTIAL	
Roll Cart (1)	$12.00
Each Additional Roll Cart	$8.00
COMMERCIAL	
Roll Cart (1)	$22.00
Each Additional Roll Cart	$22.00
BULK ITEMS CHARGES	
Electronic s Curbside Collection (per Item)	$25.00
White Goods/Appliances Collection (per item)	$25.00
Tires ON RIM (per tire)	$8.00
Tires OFF RIM (per tire)	$5.00
Excess Household Trash, Less Than or Equal to 100lbs	$15.00
Excess Household Trash, Greater than 100 lbs.	$25.00
Excess Household Trash, Greater than 300 lbs.	Work will require heavy equipment removal and will be billed according to equipment costs.

STORMWATER CHARGES (BILLED MONTHLY)	
Residential Stormwater Charge	$6.75
Non-Residential Stormwater Charge	$6.75 PER 2,827 square feet of impervious surface

MISCELLANEOUS UTILITY SERVICE CHARGES	
New Account Activation Fee	$50.00
Deposit (*Waived for homeowners - but must show proof of ownership)*	$150.00
Penalty / Late Fee - If not paid by due date on bill	$5.00
Returned Item Fee	$30.00
Delinquent Service Charge *(Scheduled for Cut-Off)*	$50.00
Water Meter Calibration Request *(Defective meter replaced free of charge)*	$10.00

CITY OF LOWELL, NORTH CAROLINA

FY 2023-2024 Proposed Rates, Fees, and Charges

(Proposed changes shown in red)

MISCELLANEOUS UTILITY SERVICE CHARGES (continued)	
Replacement Meter *(Found to be damaged by customer)*	$350.00
Copies *(per sheet)*	$0.25

PLANNING AND ZONING FEES ***Where construction begins without the appropriate permits in place, permit cost shall be doubled.***	
RESIDENTIAL ZONING PERMITS	
New Home Construction (Single, Two-Family structures and mobile homes)	$125.00
Single Family Attached / Multi-Family (condo, apartments, townhomes, etc.)	$100+~~$50 per unit~~ Per Dwelling Unit Fee
Per Dwelling Unit Fee	$50
Home Additions/Expansions and Accessory Structures (including solar panels)	$50
Internal Up-Fit/Remodel (no expansion)	$25.00
Demolition (residence and/or accessory structures)	$25.00
~~Accessory Structures (350 sq feet or less)~~	~~$25.00~~
~~Accessory Structures (350 sq feet or less)~~	~~$50.00~~
As-Built Foundation Survey Review	$45
NON-RESIDENTIAL ZONING PERMITS	
Change of Use	$100.00
Internal Up-Fit/Remodel (no expansion, re-roof)	$100.00
Accessory Structures (including solar panels)	$200.00
Demolition (building and/or accessory structures)	$100.00
As-Built Foundation Survey Review	$45
New Construction (including additions to existing buildings) - Up to 5,000 sq ft	$250.00
New Construction (including additions to existing buildings) - 5,001 sq ft - 10,000 sq ft	$350.00
New Construction (including additions to existing buildings) - Over 10,000 sq ft	$450.00
~~*(Plus $100.00 for each additional 10,00 sq. ft + City Engineering Cost Billed Monthly During Project)*~~	
Sign Permits	~~$100~~
Permanent Sign	$100
Outdoor Advertising Sign (Billboard)	$200

CITY OF LOWELL, NORTH CAROLINA

FY 2023-2024 Proposed Rates, Fees, and Charges

(Proposed changes shown in red)

Temporary Sign	$25
Zoning Verification Letter	$50.00/ $100
Home Occupation Permit	$25.00 / $75
Temporary Use Permit (see section xyz for uses)	$50.00 / $75
Telecommunication Tower Permit	
New	$5,500.00
Co-Location	$300.00
PUBLIC HEARING APPLICATIONS	
~~Zoning Map Amendment~~	~~$400.00~~
Zoning Map Amendment - General	$800 + Per Acre Charge + Advertising Cost
Per Acre Charge	$35
Advertising Cost	$250
Zoning Map Amendment -Conditional	$2,000 + Per Acre Charge + Advertising Cost
Per Acre Charge	$35
Advertising Cost	$250
Text Amendment ~~Change Application~~	~~$350.00~~ $550 + Advertising Cost
Advertising Cost	$250
Master Sign Plan Application	$500 + Advertising Cost
Advertising Cost	$250
Development Agreement	$5,000 + Advertising Cost
Advertising Cost	$250
Permanent Closing of Public Streets and Alleys	~~$1,000~~ /$2,000
Annexation - voluntary	$500 + Per Acre Charge + Advertising Cost
Per Acre Charge	$40
Advertising Cost	$250
Special Use Permit / Conditional Use Permit	$600.00 + Per Acre Charge + Advertising Cost
Per Acre Charge	$40
Advertising Cost	$250
PUBLIC HEARING APPLICATIONS (continued)	

CITY OF LOWELL, NORTH CAROLINA

FY 2023-2024 Proposed Rates, Fees, and Charges

(Proposed changes shown in red)

Variance	$450.00 + Per Acre Charge + Advertising Cost
Per Acre Charge	$40
Advertising Cost	$250
Appeals	$350.00
SUBDIVISION REVIEW & INSPECTIONS *~~(Plus City Engineering And Construction Inspection Cost Billed Monthly During Project)~~*	
Pre-Submittal Meeting - Payment required prior to meeting.	
Pre-Submittal Meeting - Sketch plat review (1 acre or less)	$100.00
Pre-Submittal Meeting - Sketch plat review (greater than 1 acre)	$200.00 + Per Dwelling Unit Charge
Per Dwelling Unit Charge	$5.00
PRELIMINARY PLAT REVIEW	
(0-50 lots) / Proposed - Less than 24 Lots	~~$300.00 + $10.00 per lot*~~ / $760.00
(51+ lots) / Proposed - 24 or More lots	~~$500.00 + $12.50 per lot*~~ / $3,000
Per lot charge over 100 lots	$60
Preliminary Plat Resubmission	
Proposed: Initial fee covers 3 reviews. 4th Resubmittal	75% of initial review fee
~~(0-50 lots)~~	~~$2.50 per lot*~~
~~(51+ lots)~~	~~$5.00 per lot*~~
FINAL PLAT REVIEW ~~SUBMISSION~~ ~~$350.00*~~	
Major Subdivision	$500 + Per Lot Charge
Minor Subdivision	$250 + Per Lot Charge
Per Lot Charge	$25
Letter of Credit/Bond/Performance Guarantee Review	$500
Time Extension for Plat Approval	$500

CITY OF LOWELL, NORTH CAROLINA

FY 2023-2024 Proposed Rates, Fees, and Charges

(Proposed changes shown in red)

PLAN REVIEW AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FEES Fees apply to Subdivisions and Site Plans. *** If a fourth (4th) review is required, 75% of the initial Plan Review will be charged. ***	
PLAN REVIEW **Payment due prior to plan review.**	
Roadway Plan (public and/or private)	$2.70 per linear foot of street centerline
Parking/Loading Areas (including access/driveways)	$0.15 per square foot
Storm Drainage	$3.00 per linear of street centerline
Water Lines	$1.80 per linear foot pipe
Sewer Lines	$2.40 per linear foot pipe
Stormwater Quality and/or Stormwater Detention Facilities	$10,500 per plan or per subdivision
Revisions To Approved Plan (RTAP)	$75 per page
CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION & INSPECTIONS **Payment due Prior to the issuance of stamped/approved plans to the applicant.**	
Roadway Plan (public and/or private)	$10.00 per linear foot of street centerline
Storm Drainage	$10.00 per linear of street centerline
Water Lines	$6.00 per linear foot pipe
Sewer Lines	$7.00 per linear foot pipe
Stormwater Quality and/or Stormwater Detention Facilities	$31,000.00 per plan or per subdivision
~~Construction Plan Submission~~	~~$750.00* (Plus City Engineering and Construction Inspection Cost Billed Monthly During Project~~
ZONING SITE PLAN & CONTRUCTION REVIEW **Payment due prior to plan review.**	
Pre-Submittal Meeting Sketch Plan Review and Consultation	$200.00 + Per Dwelling Unit Fee (if applicable)
Per Dwelling Unit Fee	$5.00
~~Commercial / Industrial~~ Site Plan Review	$500.00~~* (Plus applicable City Engineering Fees)~~ + Per Acre Fee
Per Acre Fee	$25.00
Recombination/Exempt/Easement Plats	$100.00
Driveway Cut Permit	
Residential	$25.00
All other	$50.00
New Development Street Signage	The City of Lowell will provide street signage for new development at cost PLUS twenty-five percent (25%).

CITY OF LOWELL, NORTH CAROLINA

FY 2023-2024 Proposed Rates, Fees, and Charges

(Proposed changes shown in red)

RENTAL FEES	
Community Center	
Residents	$30/hour (minimum 4 hours) User Fee + $100 Deposit (Cash)
Non-residents	$45/hour (minimum 4 hours) + $100 Deposit (Cash)
Harold Rankin Park Picnic Shelter	
Residents	$20.00 (4 Hour increments)
Non-residents	$30.00 (4 Hour increments)
Harold Rankin Park Field Rental	
Residents	$10.00
Non-residents	$15.00
Truck Rental	
Must have an active water account. Charge subject to weight and specifications.	$67.47 - Minimum charge

PARKS & RECREATION	
Youth Athletics Registration	
Residents	$50.00
Non-residents	$75.00
~~Basketball Registration~~	
~~Residents~~	~~$50.00~~
~~Non-residents~~	~~$75.00~~
~~Soccer (Fall & Spring)~~	
~~Residents~~	~~$50.00~~
~~Non-residents~~	~~$75.00~~
~~Baseball Registration~~	
~~Residents~~	~~$50.00~~
~~Non-residents~~	~~$75.00~~

Amended Grant Project Ordinance for the City of Lowell American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

BE IT ORDAINED by the town council of the City of Lowell, North Carolina that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1: This ordinance is to establish a budget for a project to be funded by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP/CSLFRF). The City of Lowell (Town)has received the first tranche in the amount of $592,139.85 of CSLFRF funds. The total allocation is $1,184,279.70, with the remainder to be distributed to the Town within 12 months. These funds may be used for the following categories of expenditures, to the extent authorized by state law.

1. Support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff;
2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector;
3. Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;
4. Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,
5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

Section 2: The Town has elected to take the standard allowance, as authorized by 31 CFR Part 35.6(d)(1) and expend all its ARP/CSLFRF funds for the provision of government services.

Section 3: The following amounts are appropriate for the project and authorized for expenditure:

Internal Project Code	Project Description	Expenditure Category (EC)	Cost Object	Appropriation of ARP/CSLFRF Funds
001	Public Safety services for period of March 3, 2021 through December 31, 2024	6.1	Salaries	$609,279.70
			Benefits	$200,000
002	Parks and recreation services for period of March 3, 2021 through December 31, 2024	6.1	Salaries	$20,000

003	General administration services for period of March 3, 2021 through December 31, 2024	6.1	Salaries	$315,000
004	Streets services for period of March 3, 2021 through December 31, 2024	6.1	Salaries	$40,000
	TOTAL			$1,184,279.70

Section 4: The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete the project:

ARP/CSLFRF Funds:	$1,184,279.70
General Fund Transfer:	$ 415,000.00
Total:	**$ 769,279.70**

Section 5: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grantor agency and the grant agreements, including payroll documentation and effort certifications, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.430 & 2 CFR 200.431 and the Town's Uniform Guidance Allowable Costs and Cost Principles Policy.

Section 6: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to report the financial status of the project to the governing board on a quarterly basis.

Section 7: Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the Budget Officer, the Finance Officer and to the Clerk to Town Council.

Section 8: This grant project ordinance expires on December 31, 2026, or when all the ARP/CSLFRF funds have been obligated and expended by the Town, whichever occurs sooner.

Adopted this 13th day of December, 2022.

Sandy Railey, Mayor

Attest:

Cheryl Ramsey, City Clerk

Attest As To Form:

John Russell, City Attorney

Grant Project Ordinance for the City of Lowell SCIF Grant

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Lowell, North Carolina that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1: This ordinance is to establish a budget for a project to be funded by the SCIF Grant. The City of Lowell (City) has received the funds in the amount of $2,000,000.00.

Section 2: The following amounts are appropriated for the expenses of the project:

Administration expenses for demo bid preparation and solicitation:	$ 20,000.00
Contracted demolition expenses:	$1,980,000.00
TOTAL	**$2,000,000.00**

Section 3: The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete the project:

SCIF Funds:	$2,000,000.00
General Fund Transfer:	$ 0.00
TOTAL	**$2,000,000.00**

Section 4: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grantor agency and the grant agreements, including payroll documentation and effort certifications, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.430 & 2 CFR 200.431 and the City's Uniform Guidance Allowable Costs and Cost Principles Policy.

Section 5: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to report the financial status of the project to the governing board on a quarterly basis.

Section 6: Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the Budget Officer, the Finance Officer and to the Clerk to City Council.

Section 7: This grant project ordinance expires on August 1, 2023, or when all the SCIF funds have been obligated and expended by the Town, whichever occurs sooner.

Adopted this 10th day of May, 2022.

Sandy Railey

Sandy Railey, Mayor

Attest:

Cheryl Ramsey, City Clerk

Attest As To Form:

John Russell., City Attorney