

City of Bartow, Florida

FY 25-26



Citizen's Guide to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

2025 City Commission

Tanya Tucker
Mayor

Laura Simpson
Vice Mayor

Gary Ball
Commissioner

Leo Longworth
Commissioner

Trish Pfeiffer
Commissioner

Charter Officers

Mike Herr
City Manager

Sean Parker
City Attorney

Jacki Poole
City Clerk

Vision

Bartow is an attractive, livable city that has historic charm. The city has an active downtown, thriving neighborhoods, and a strong local economy. Residents are safe and we deliver exciting leisure opportunities.

Mission

The Mission of the Bartow City Government is to promote a high quality of life providing effective municipal services in a customer-friendly and financially responsible manner.

2025-2026 Goals

- Become an Employer of Choice to Create a High Performing Team
- Improve the Quality of Life for Bartow Residents and Visitors
- Maintain and Enhance City Infrastructure and Facilities
- Redevelop and Grow our City Responsibly
- Create Cleaner, Safer Neighborhoods
- Maximize the use of Technology and Innovation
- Foster a Customer-Centric Culture that is Adaptive and Collaborative
- Ensure the City Maintains Strong Financial Health

Enterprise Funds

- Electric
- Fiber Optic
- Public Works
 - Solid Waste
 - Stormwater
 - Underground Utilities TCS
- Utilities
 - Wastewater
 - Water

Internal Service Funds

- Fleet Management
- Capital Replacement Fund

Special Revenue Funds

- Building
- CRA
- Fire Services
- Public Works
 - Transportation

Stay Connected With Us:



@ City of Bartow, a Florida Municipality

@ City of Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts

@ Bartow Police Department



cityofbartow.net

Contact Us:



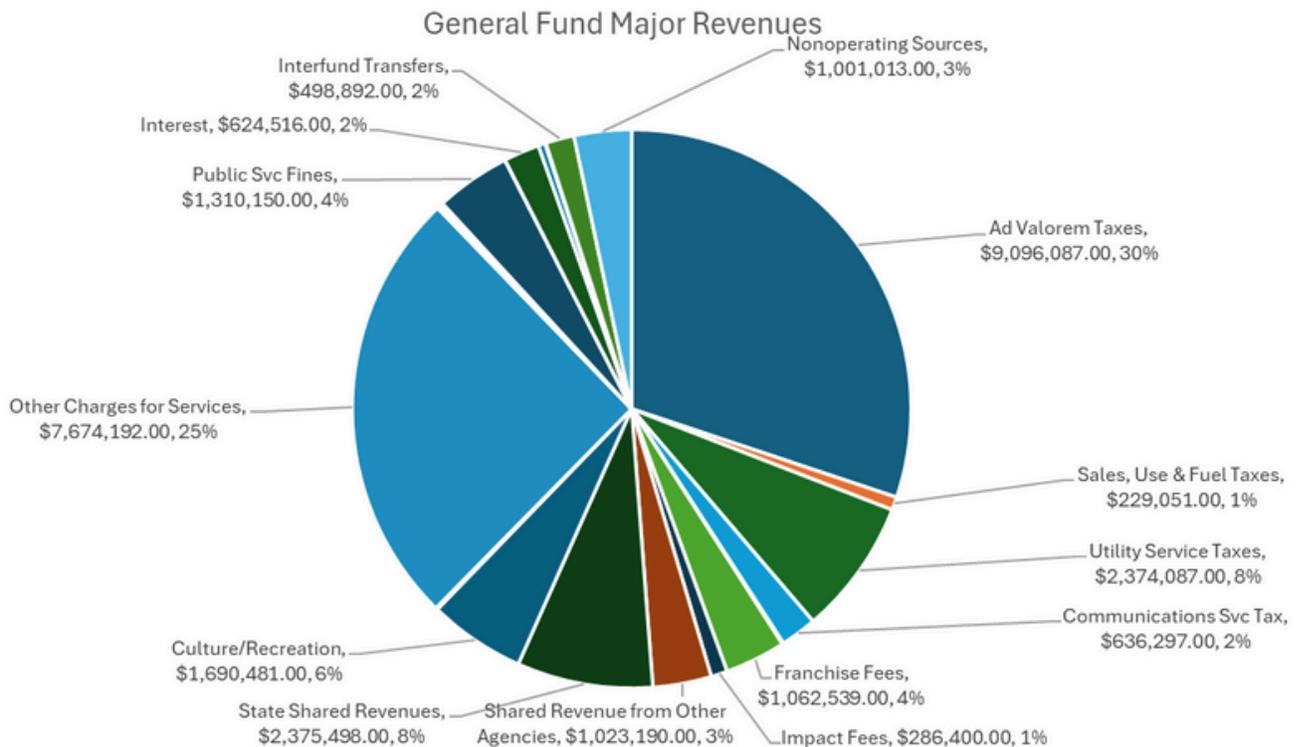
(863) - 534 - 0100



City Hall
450 N. Wilson Ave,
Bartow, FL 33830

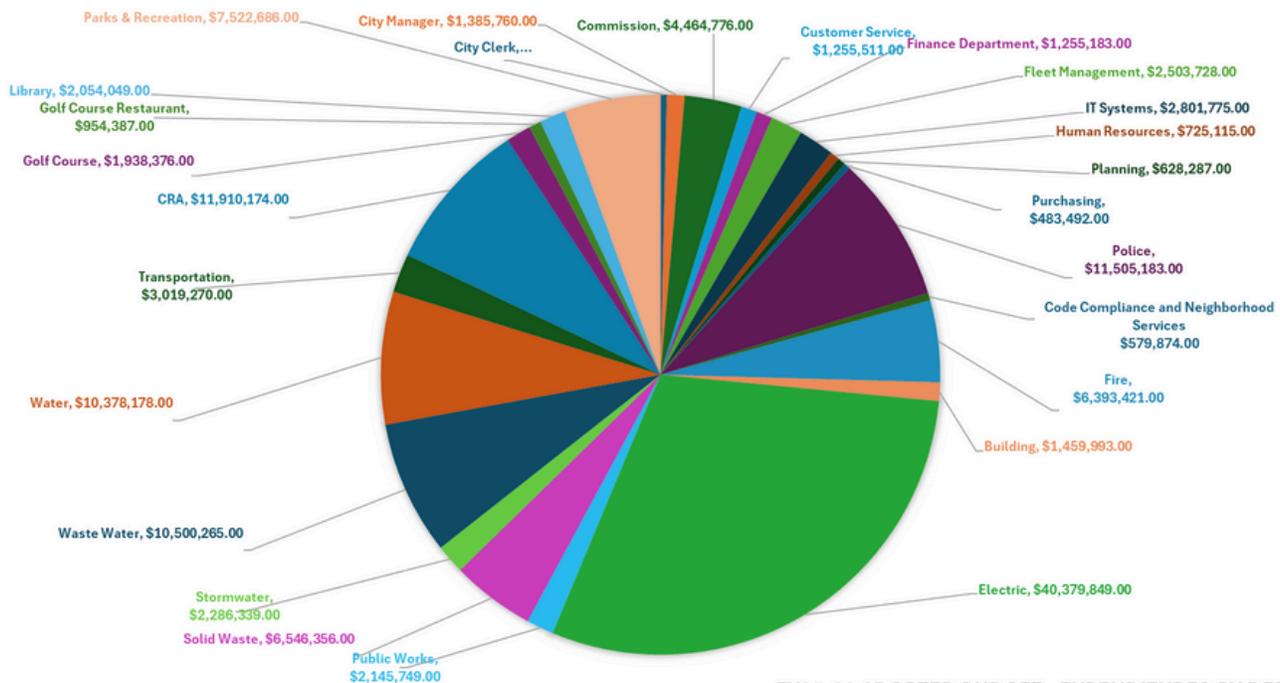
The Major Revenues Identified within the Budget Include:

Revenue	FY2024-2025 Adopted Budget	FY2025-2026 Proposed Budget	Difference
General Fund			
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$7,835,484	\$9,096,087	\$1,260,603
Utility Service Tax	\$2,138,979	\$2,374,087	\$235,108
Communications Services Tax	\$636,297	\$636,297	\$0
Local Business Tax	\$23,773	\$21,848	(\$1,925)
Charges for Service	\$1,677,440	\$9,496,559	\$7,819,119
Intergovernmental	\$2,089,381	\$3,627,739	\$1,538,358
Fines and Forfeitures	\$612,698	\$1,377,231	\$764,533
Franchise Fees	\$239,205	\$1,062,539	\$823,334
Parks Recoupment	\$698,010	\$286,400	(\$411,610)
Interfund Transfers	\$10,560,166	\$9,655,392	(\$904,774)
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$615,611	\$764,559	\$148,948
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$28,967,426	\$38,398,738	\$9,431,312
ENTERPRISE FUNDS			
Electric Department	\$38,752,486	\$39,450,691	\$698,205
Fiber Optic	\$136,643	\$566,333	\$429,690
Solid Waste	\$6,632,128	\$6,481,675	(\$150,453)
Stormwater Utility	\$3,411,891	\$3,502,267	\$90,376
Water	\$14,129,857	\$14,851,569	\$721,712
Wastewater	\$14,021,169	\$14,220,303	\$199,134
IMPACT FEE FUNDS			
General Government			
Fire	N/A	\$343,600	Established 2025
Police	N/A	\$379,600	Established 2025
Public Facilities	N/A	\$165,600	Established 2025
Transportation	N/A	\$422,400	Established 2025
Water	N/A	\$679,600	Established 2025
Wastewater	N/A	\$955,600	Established 2025
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
Building (Licenses and Permits)	\$775,836	\$943,955	\$168,119
Community Redevelopment Agency	\$4,062,083	\$8,830,108	\$4,768,025
Fire Services	\$5,128,169	\$7,046,201	\$1,918,032
Transportation	\$2,995,832	\$3,021,156	\$25,324



The City of Bartow's Expenditures by Department and Division

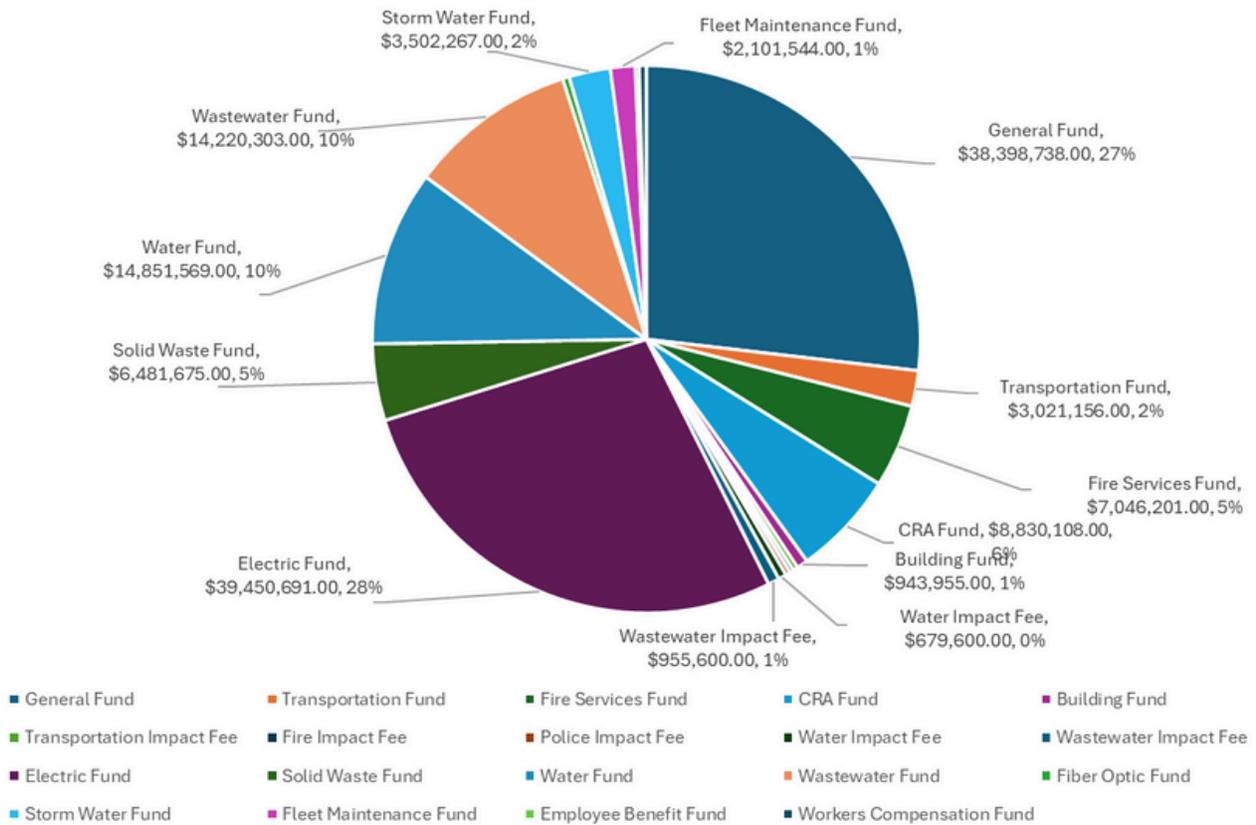
Department/Division	FY2024-2025 Adopted Budget	FY2025-2026 Proposed Budget	Difference
Building	\$601,802	\$1,459,993	\$858,191
Commission	\$9,517,793	\$4,464,776	(\$5,053,017)
City Clerk's Office	\$210,623	\$501,791	\$291,168
City Manager's Office	\$603,162	\$1,513,022	\$909,860
Code Compliance and Neighborhood Services	\$487,932	\$595,094	\$107,162
CRA	TBD	\$11,910,174	
Electric	\$47,520,158	\$40,379,849	(\$7,140,309)
Finance Administration	\$531,511	\$1,255,183	\$723,672
Purchasing	\$221,905	\$488,666	\$266,761
Customer Service	\$2,196,426	\$1,255,511	(\$940,915)
Fire Services	\$9,863,652	\$6,393,421	(\$3,470,231)
Human Resources	\$369,139	\$725,115	\$355,976
Information Technology	\$1,922,568	\$2,801,775	\$879,207
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts			
Golf Course	\$1,958,955	\$1,938,376	\$20,579
Golf Course - Mulligans	\$846,511	\$954,387	\$107,876
Library	\$842,240	\$2,054,049	\$1,211,809
Parks and Recreation	\$8,788,869	\$7,522,686	(\$1,266,183)
Planning	\$216,975	\$628,287	\$411,312
Police	\$9,407,442	\$11,505,183	\$2,097,741
Public Works			
Professional Services and Facilities	\$3,918,840	\$2,145,749	(\$1,773,091)
Fleet Services	\$2,274,532	\$2,503,728	\$229,196
Solid Waste	\$7,396,391	\$6,546,356	(\$850,035)
Stormwater	\$4,037,794	\$2,286,339	(\$1,751,455)
Transportation	\$2,593,157	\$3,019,270	\$426,113
Utilities			
Water	\$17,406,232	\$10,378,178	(\$7,028,054)
Wastewater	\$19,158,983	\$10,500,265	(\$8,658,718)



FY25-26 ADOPTED BUDGET - EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT

FY 25-26 Proposed Budget - Revenues by Fund

FY25-26 Proposed Budget - Revenues by Fund



City of Bartow Positions FY 25-26

Positions by Department	Active Full Time	Active Part Time	Vacancy Full Time	Vacancy Part Time	New Full Time	Total Position Count
City Commission	0	5	0	0	0	5
Building	1	0	3	0	0	4
City Clerk's Office	3	0	0	0	0	3
City Manager's Office	6	0	0	0	1	7
Code Compliance and Neighborhood Services	2	0	2	0	0	4
Community Redevelopment Agency	2	0	0	0	0	2
Electric	33	1	7	0	4	45
Finance	18	0	2	0	0	20
Finance – Administration	7	0	2	0	0	9
Customer Service	7	0	0	0	0	7
Purchasing	4	0	0	0	0	4
Fire Services	28	0	0	0	3	31
Human Resources	3	0	0	0	0	3
Information Technology	5	0	1	0	0	6
Parks Recreation and Cultural Arts	54	32	7	11	0	104
Golf Course	12	16	1	3	0	32
Library*	14	4	2	2	0	22
Parks and Recreation	28	12	4	6	0	50
Planning	1	0	0	0	0	1
Police	58	1	16	0	0	75
Public Works	61	0	1	0	1	63
Fleet Services	7	0	1	0	0	8
Professional Services and Facilities	9	0	0	0	0	9
Solid Waste	21	0	0	0	1	22
Stormwater	4	0	0	0	0	4
Transportation	4	0	0	0	0	4
Underground Utilities (TCS)	15	0	0	0	0	15
Utilities	22	0	3	0	4	29
Utilities Administration	1	0	1	0	0	2
Wastewater	11	0	0	0	4	15
Water	10	0	2	0	0	12
TOTALS	297	39	42	11	13	402

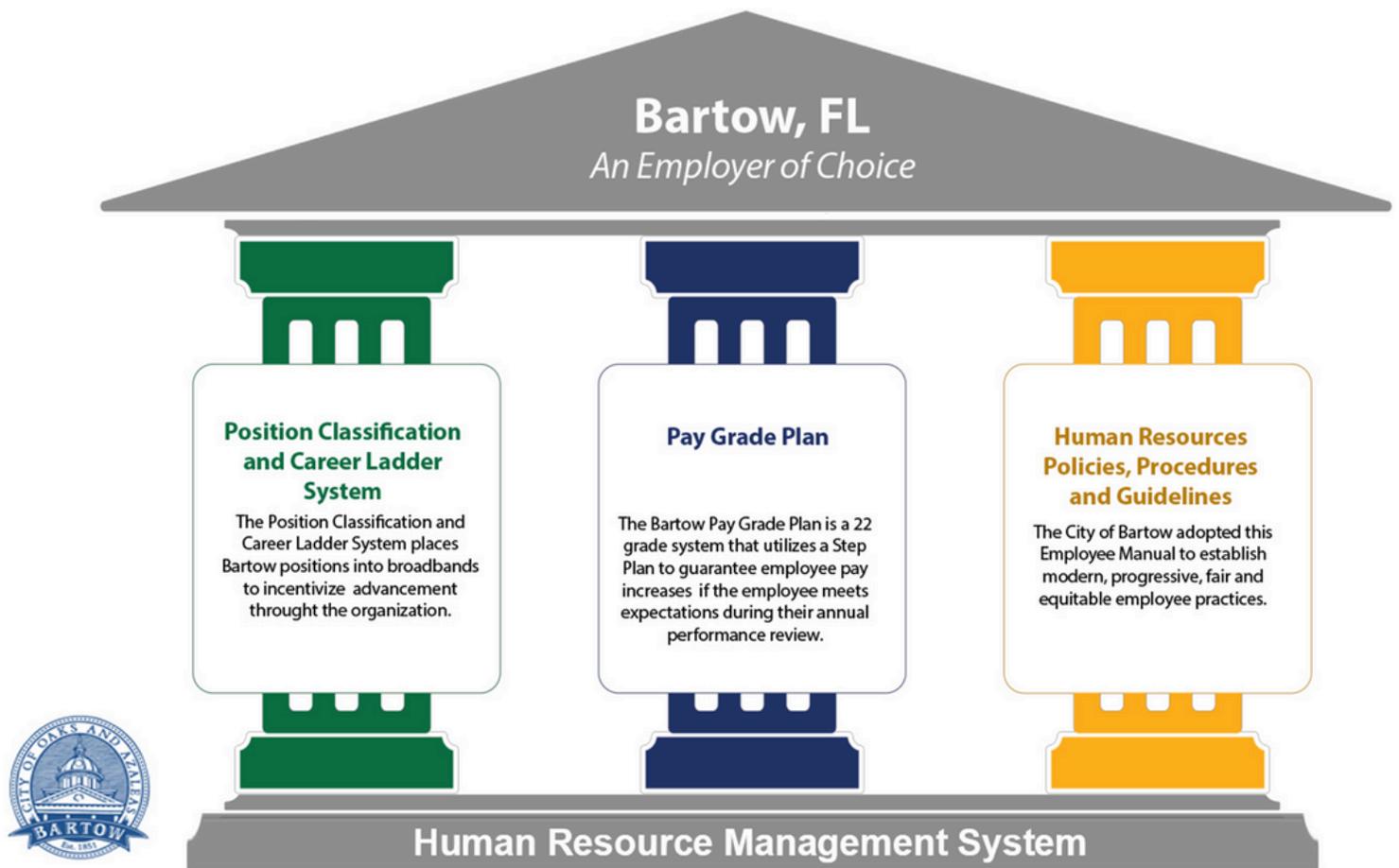
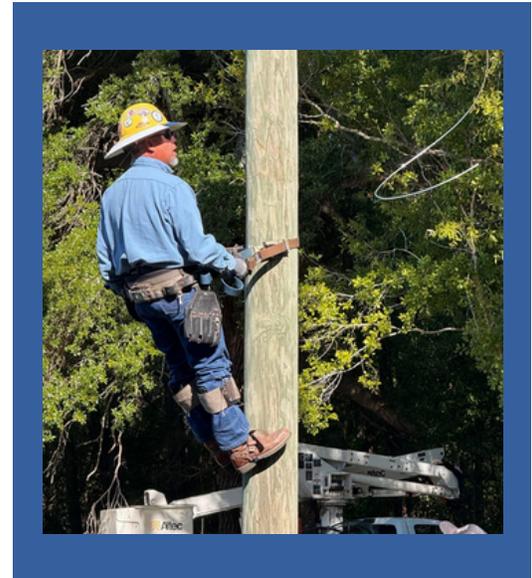
As of June 25, 2025, the City is operating at a 13.18% vacancy rate. There are 336 active employees and 53 vacancies. This year's budget aims to add only the most strategic positions in the enterprise funds while we fund the implementation of the new pay plan. The total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) count incorporated in the FY2025-2026 Proposed Budget is 377 which includes 352 full time staff members and 50 part time positions.

Of particular mention is the fact that 7 of the staff members in the library are Polk County Library Cooperative (PCLC) employees and are fully funded by Polk County.



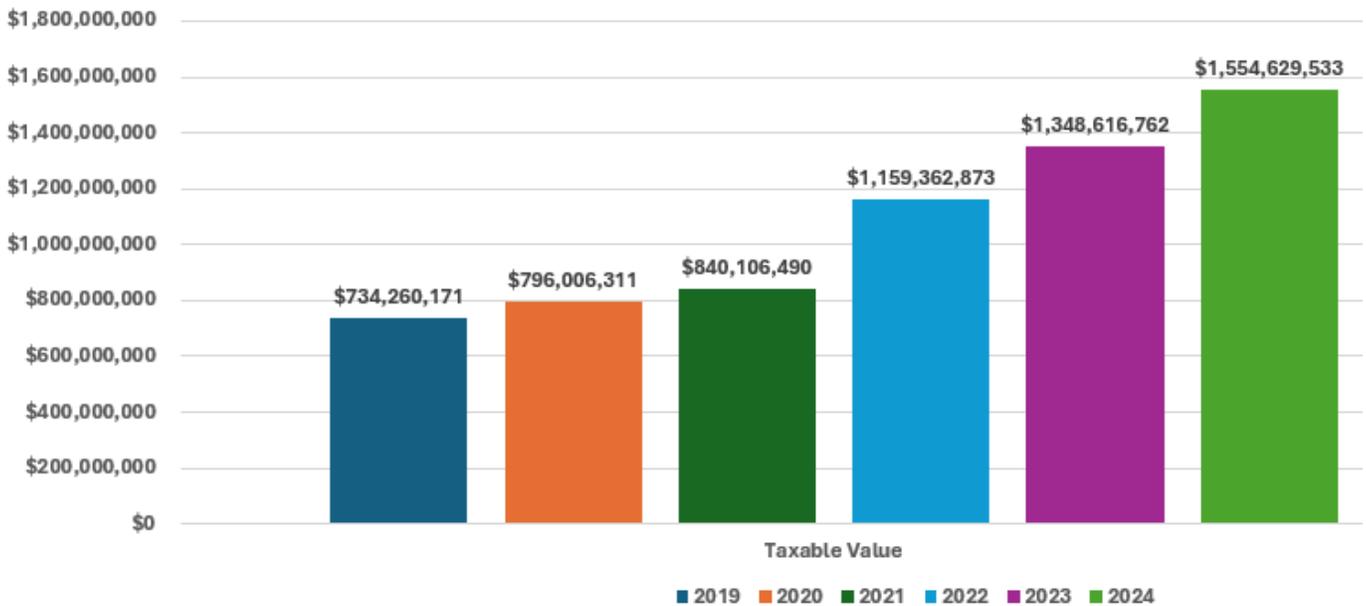
Implementation of the Three Pillars to Strategically Become the Employer of Choice

- Establish the minimum pay at \$15.00 per hour for all positions and provide competitive market pay throughout the system
- Place the right people in the right seats on the right bus and keep them on the journey.
- Develop and implement straightforward policy and practices that can be easily followed, monitored, and understood by our employees.
- Adopt a modern Human Resources philosophy that harnesses innovation and best practices.
- Create an efficient and effective holistic system that maximizes the use of technology for internal operations.



The City's Historic Taxable Value

The General Fund uses a variety of revenue sources. The largest direct General Fund source of revenue is property taxes at 23.6% which are assessed based on the taxable value of property in the City. Citywide taxable value has increased steadily over the last five years with a 15.28% projected for 2025. This represents a combination of property values and increase to the overall number of properties on the tax roll due to growth.

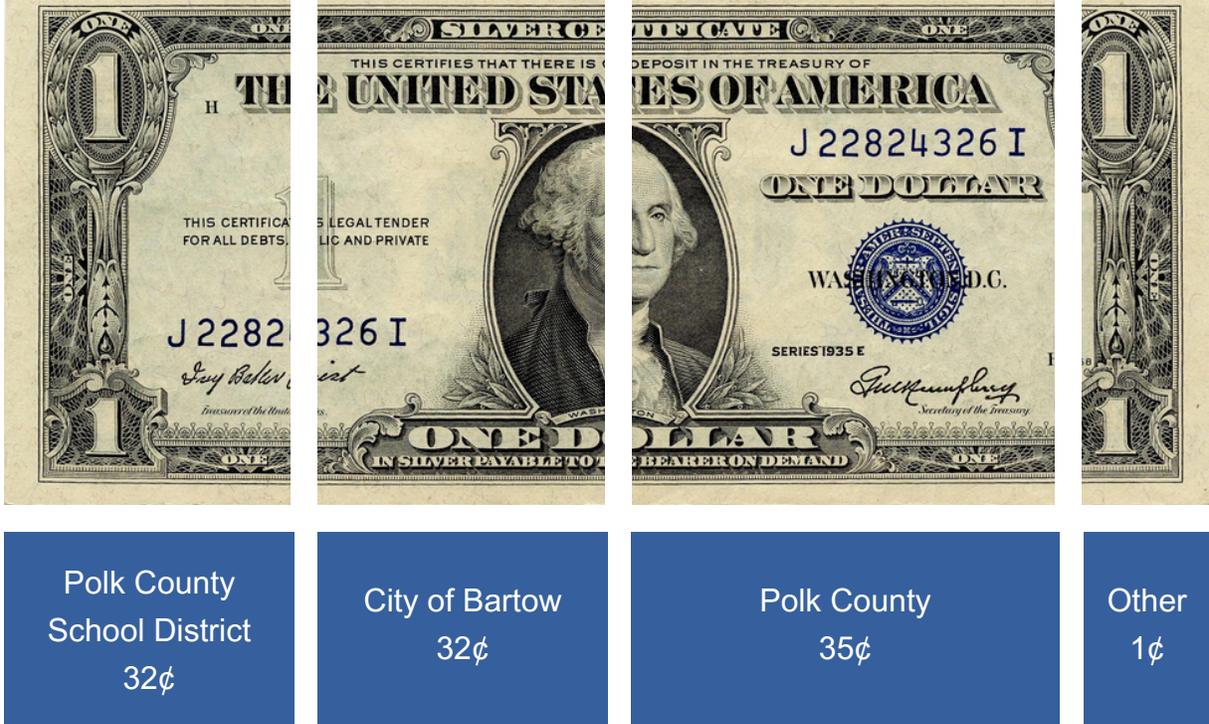


General fund revenue from property taxes for FY2025-2026 is budgeted at \$9,038,810 with a millage rate of 6.1080 mils. This is an increase of \$1,258,326 over last year. This includes the share of the Community Redevelopment Area Special Revenue Fund which is estimated at \$1,385,760. The millage rate has remained consistent from last year's value.

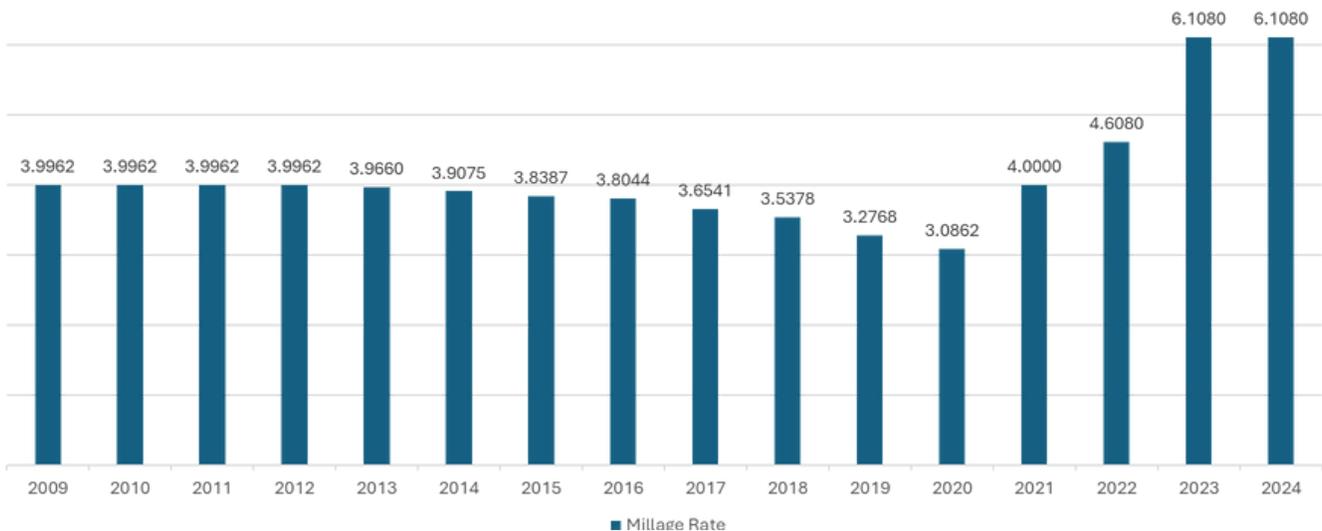


What You Need to Know About Truth in Millage Rates & Notices (TRIM)

The TRIM Act is a law that is designed to inform taxpayers which governmental entity is responsible for the taxes levied and the amount of tax liability taxpayers owe to each taxing authority. Each year, property owners are mailed a TRIM notice that includes the dates, times, and places of budget meetings where tax rates are set. The TRIM notice also housed the information about how these tax rates could affect your individual tax bill. These meetings are always public, and citizens are encouraged to participate in the local government decision making.



City of Bartow Millage Rate History



Major Accomplishments

- Preparation of the Employer of Choice Initiative and the Three Pillars
- Launch of Bright Ideas Program
- Establishing a Wellness Program
- Health Care Stipend
- Revamp the Budget
- Complete hiring of key roles within the organization
- Develop the City of Bartow Strategy and Performance Dashboard
- Red Light Camera Program Active
- Eliminated 4 drug houses
- Conducted 2 Capital City Clean-Up programs in Zone F and Zone E
- 6 Lift Station Improvements
- Installed Standby Generator at Wastewater Treatment Plant and 15 Lift Stations



Best Practices & Innovation

- Development of a modern employee manual
- Combine the use of a broadband system with a step plan to make a career ladder program
- EV Stations plan underway in 2025
- Use of Hot Box Trailer for road patching
- Update to Uniform Design Standards
- Improvements to Customer Service: new performance measures, phone tree, technology and after-hours call taking
- Smart Covers for Manholes | Part of Manhole R&R Program
- Accreditation in: Fleet, Dispatch, Police
- Purchasing Laptop computers on a lease program and implement a four-year replacement program which will make our workforce more mobile ready
- Purchase of Solid Waste and Fire vehicles on lease programs to ease large-scale capital expenditures
- Implementation of the speed analysis tool
- Maximizing outside funding opportunities using state appropriations, federal appropriations, and state/federal grants

Strategic Planning & Performance Dashboard

- Aligning City-wide vision, mission and goals to department goals, measures and initiatives
- Monthly key performance measures tracking
- Monthly strategic initiative tracking
- Public reporting on strategic activities
- Support for budget preparation