

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

City of Big Lake, Minnesota

160 Lake Street North, 763-263-2107, www.biglakemn.org



Table of Contents

Vision.....	3
Community Slogan	3
Mission Statement	3
Message from the Finance Director.....	3
City of Big Lake Overview.....	3
City Governance.....	4
Fund Structure	5
General Fund.....	5
Special Revenue Funds.....	6
Debt Service Funds.....	6
Capital Improvement Funds.....	6
Net Position for Governmental Activities	7
Fund Balance.....	7
Unassigned Fund Balance	8
Governmental Activities.....	8
Financial Highlights	9
Statement of Net Position	9
City of Big Lake Property Taxes.....	10
City of Big Lake Property Tax compared to Other Cities.....	11
General Fund.....	11
Capital Improvement Funds.....	15
Enterprise Funds	16
Water and Sewer Rates in Big Lake: Why the increase?	18
Long Term Debt.....	19

Vision

Big Lake is vibrant, active, and safe community that focuses on excellence in service while promoting balanced growth through responsible leadership

Community Slogan

Live Big!

Mission Statement

Provide responsible governance through respect and trust while enhancing partnerships within the community and establish reasonable service expectations to meet the needs of the residents and business owners.

Message from the Finance Director



The City of Big Lake is proud to release its first Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. This report is designed to provide residents and stakeholders with a concise and accessible summary of the City's financial condition and operations.

The PAFR focuses on major city funds—General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, Enterprise Funds, and Debt Service Funds—highlighting where revenues come from and how those dollars are allocated. This simplified report complements the more detailed

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which is prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and audited by BerganKDV. The 2024 ACFR received an unmodified (clean) opinion.

Our goal with this PAFR is to increase transparency and make financial information understandable and useful to the public. The full ACFR is available at www.biglakemn.org under [Finance-Documents-Budgets-Financial-Statements](#). If you have any questions or feedback, please contact me directly at dwegeleben@biglakemn.org.

Respectfully Submitted,



Deb Wegeleben
City Finance Director



City of Big Lake Overview

The City of Big Lake, incorporated in 1898, is one of Minnesota's youngest and fastest-growing communities. Just a short drive northwest of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Big Lake has long served as a summer getaway, and now thrives as a commuter-friendly city with access to both the Twin Cities and St. Cloud via Interstate 94 and Highway 10. Spanning 8 square miles, Big Lake blends small-town charm with metropolitan convenience.



Home to nearly 13,000 residents, Big Lake is a community of primarily young families, with a median age of 31. The city emphasizes quality of life through strong community ties, cultural programming, natural preservation, technological innovation, and a commitment to financial transparency. Big Lake also maintains a close partnership with the Big Lake School District, supporting a highly educated and engaged workforce. Recreational opportunities abound, with 19 city parks, 20 miles of trails, and a scenic public swimming beach. Popular events such as the weekly Farmers Market and Music in the Park contribute to a vibrant year-round community calendar.

City Governance

Big Lake is a Plan A Statutory City governed under the City Council/City Administrator model. The elected body consists of a Mayor and four Council Members who establish policy, enact legislation, adopt the annual budget, and levy taxes. A City Administrator, appointed by the Council, oversees daily operations and policy implementation.

The City employs 54 full-time staff, 19 part-time, and 7 seasonal employees, providing essential services and maintaining a high standard of civic operations.

City Officials

Mayor Paul Knier	12/31/2028
Council Member Ken Geroux	12/31/2028
Council Member Ken Halverson	12/31/2026
Council Member Kim Noding	12/31/2026
Council Member Paul Seefeld	12/31/2028
Outgoing council member Council Member Sam Hanson	12/31/2024

City Management Team

Hanna Klimmek	City Administrator
Gina Wolbeck	City Clerk
Deb Wegeleben	Finance Director
Marie Pflipsen	Community Development Director
John Kaczmarek	Chief of Police
Seth Hansen	Fire Chief – Paid on Call
Layne Otteson	City Engineer
Dan Childs	Water/Wastewater Superintendent
Norm Michels	Street/Parks/Fleet Superintendent
Greg Zurbey	Liquor Store Manager



Lake Mitchell

Fund Structure

Like other local governments, the City uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. A fund is a group of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. All of the funds of the City of Big Lake are divided into two categories, (the city does not have any Fiduciary funds):

- Governmental
- Proprietary/Enterprise



GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS: These funds, also known as governmental activity funds, are used to account for all or most of the City’s general activities, including the collection and disbursement of earmarked monies, the acquisition or construction of general capital assets and the servicing of general long-term debt. Governmental funds include the General, Debt Service, Capital Projects, infrastructure improvements, and Special Revenue Funds.

General Fund

Includes the departments and services of:

- Mayor/Council
- Planning
- Elections
- Administration/Finance
- Big Lake Community Service Center
- Economic Development
- Building (Inspections)
- Engineering
- Streets
- Parks
- Fleet Maintenance
- Police
- Fire
- Recreation/Community
- IT – Computer/Software/Maintenance

The **primary source of funding** for the General Fund is **property tax**, which represents approximately **66% of total revenues**. Services such as **public safety**—the largest expenditure area in the General Fund—are highly dependent on property tax funding. In fact, **over half of the total property tax levy** collected by the City supports public safety.

The remaining **34% of General Fund revenues** come from **non-property tax sources**, including:

- **Charges for services**
- **Franchise fees**
- **Licenses and permits**

The City has historically set charges for services and license/permit fees at levels sufficient to **cover the full cost of services provided**. All fees and charges are reviewed annually to ensure they remain **reasonable and competitive**.





Special Revenue Funds

Includes the services of:

- Big Lake Economic Development Authority
- Farmers Market
- Music in the Park
- Statewide Affordable Housing Grant
- Park Dedication Fund

The special revenue funds account for and report proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purpose. The Big Lake Economic Development Authority is supported by property taxes, the Farmers Market is supported by vendor licenses as well as donations and sponsorships. Music in the Park is supported by donations, sponsorships, and a transfer from the general fund. The Park Dedication Fund is financed by park dedication fees from new housing and commercial development within the City.

Debt Service Funds

The debt service funds are used to manage the accumulation of resources for and the payment of general long-term debt principal, interest, and related costs. These funds are supported by property taxes, special assessments, and transfers from other funds, including the general fund and capital improvement funds. The transfers from other funds reduce the amount the City needs to levy for the yearly debt payments, helping to lower the property tax burden to our citizens.

Capital Improvement Funds

The capital improvement funds account for financial resources designated for acquiring or constructing major projects not financed by enterprise funds. The Council approves a list of projects on an annual basis that these funds will be used for.

Capital Improvement Funds are relatively new to the City of Big Lake. They were created in 2015 and beginning in 2016, they have been supported by the yearly Local Government Aid (LGA) received by the City and yearly transfers from the General Fund. Following are the capital improvement funds established by the City of Big Lake:

- CIP Fund 194 – Computer/Software Equipment
- CIP Fund 195 – Parks & Trail Maintenance/Improvements
- CIP Fund 196 – Streets Improvement/Maintenance
- CIP Fund 197 – Lake Maintenance
- CIP Fund 198 – Infrastructure Improvement projects
- CIP Fund 199 – Equipment & Building Replacements

Projects and purchases are funded from the General Fund Transfers, the Enterpriser Funds transfers, Park Dedication funds, LGA, as well as **CIP Fund balances**.

Proprietary Funds/Enterprise Fund

Enterprise funds account for business-type activities. These activities provide services where most of the cost are recovered through user fees and charges. The City has four Enterprise funds.

- **Water Funds** – receives its revenues from charges to all property owners to provide water utilities, fund operations and maintenance and capital improvements.
- **Sewer Funds** -receives its revenues from charges to all property owners to provide sanitary sewer utilities, fund operations and maintenance and capital improvements
- **Storm Water fund** – receives its revenues from charges to all property owners to fund water quality projects, operations and maintenance, and capital improvements.

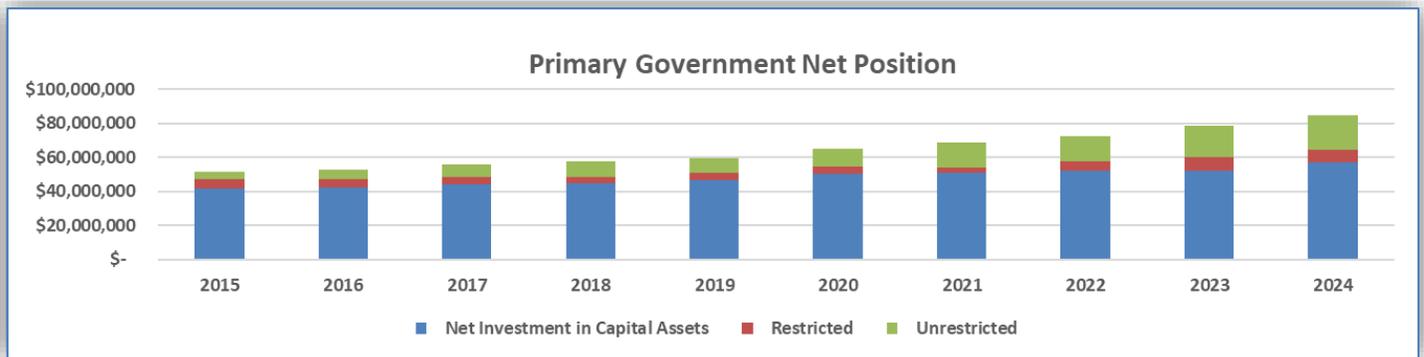




- **Liquor Store Fund** – receives its revenues from the sale of alcoholic beverages and covers the cost of the operations, maintenance, and capital improvements of the liquor store. Profits received from the liquor store are poured back into the community via a substantial transfer to the general fund each year.

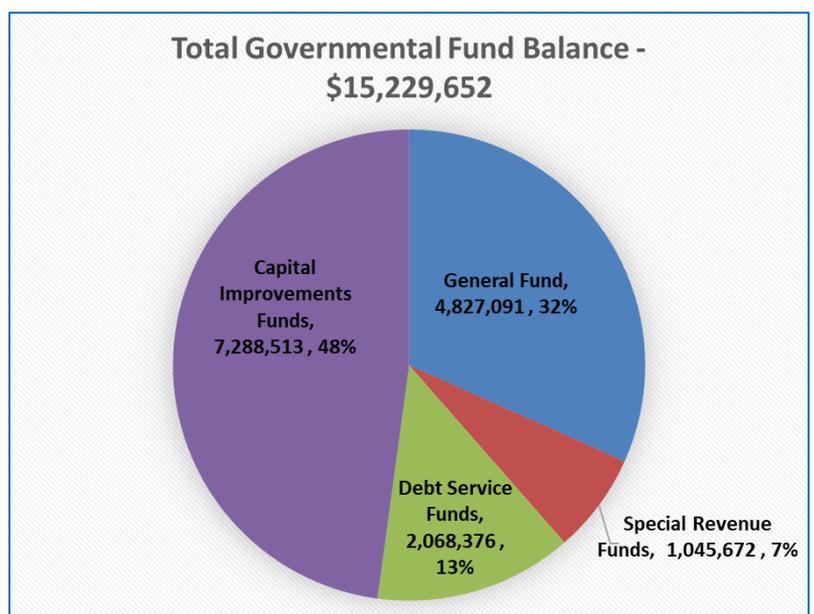
Net Position for Governmental Activities

When evaluating the City’s financial condition, the net position is a key indicator. It represents the difference between what the City owns (assets) and what it owes (liabilities). A positive net position means the City has more assets than liabilities. This is broken into three parts: **net investment in capital assets**, which shows how much the City has invested in buildings, streets, and equipment after accounting for depreciation and related debt; **restricted net position**, which includes funds that must be used for specific purposes due to legal or external restrictions; and **unrestricted net position**, which includes funds that can be used to provide services if no other resources are available. Tracking changes in net position over time helps assess the City’s financial health and ability to support future operations. In 2024, 59% of the net position reflected the City’s investment in capital assets, 17% was restricted and the remaining 24% was unrestricted and available to meet ongoing obligations to citizens.



Fund Balance

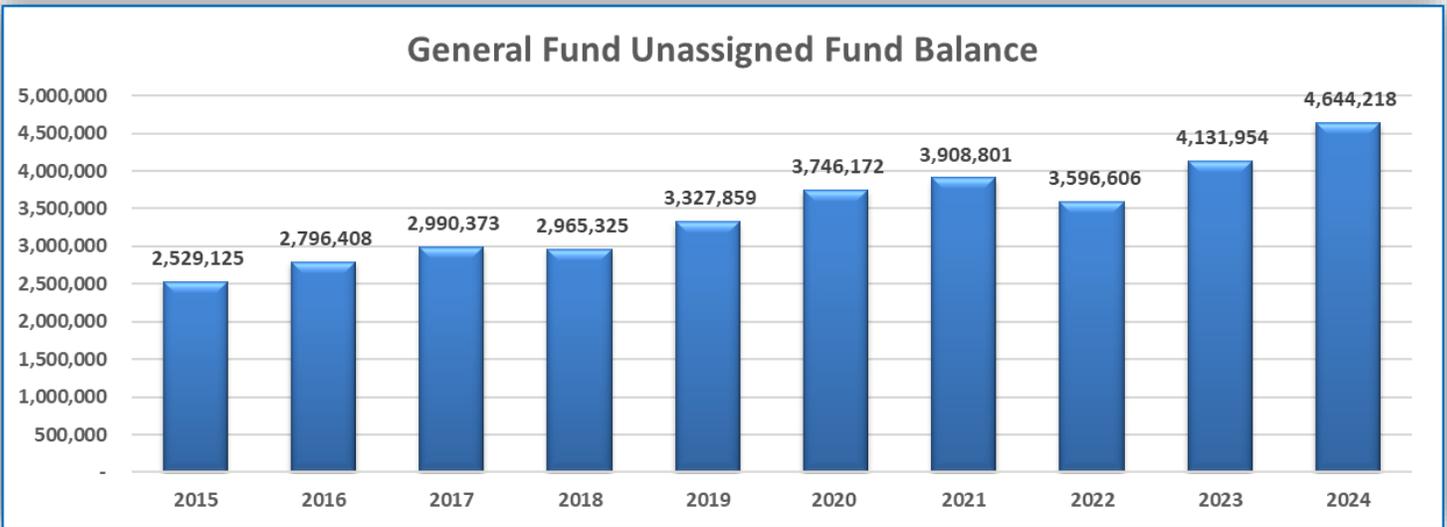
Governmental fund balance is the difference between a fund’s assets and liabilities, representing the resources available at year-end. This balance is categorized into four components based on the level of constraints placed on how the funds can be used: **nonspendable**, which includes items not in spendable form (such as inventories or prepaid expenses); **restricted**, which includes funds limited by external laws or grant requirements; **assigned**, which reflects amounts intended for specific purposes as determined by the City; and **unassigned**, which includes all other available resources that can be used for any purpose. These classifications help clarify the availability and flexibility of the City’s financial resources.



Unassigned Fund Balance

At the end of Fiscal Year 2024, the General Fund's unassigned fund balance totaled \$4.64 million. This amount remains above the City Council's adopted target range of 42% to 50% of the following year's General Fund expenditure budget—intended as a safeguard against unforeseen revenue shortfalls, delays in State funding, or major emergency costs. While the City may hold a higher balance, it must not fall below the 42% threshold.

Maintaining a strong fund balance is critical to sustaining core services during economic downturns and positions the City to ensure resources are available for both planned and unforeseen expenditures. It is impossible to predict economic security and these funds are designed to support city services during economic uncertainty. Think of the housing market crash or the recent pandemic.



The increase in the 2024 General Fund balance was primarily due to \$150,207 in higher-than-anticipated State aid for Police, Fire, and Street Maintenance, as well as stronger investment returns. Of the investment revenue, \$434,972 was due to a Fair Market Value (FMV) adjustment—a required accounting entry that affects reported revenue and fund balance, but not actual cash flow. In layman terms, this is similar to unrealized dividend income that individuals need to report on their tax returns, it is not true cash available for spending. Additional savings were realized in the Streets budget (\$81,097) and the Parks budget (\$124,511).

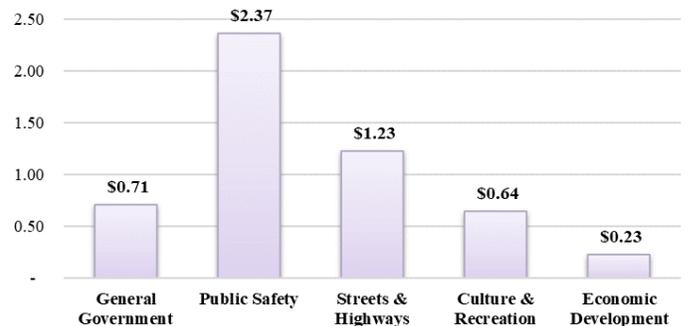
Governmental Activities

In 2024, the City of Big Lake was recognized as one of the 10 safest cities in Minnesota for populations between 10,000 and 20,000. That year, 45% of the total governmental activity's expenses were dedicated to public safety.

The cost to provide City services in 2024 was approximately \$5.17 per day for each household and business. This investment provides residents and businesses with exceptional public safety services, including the police, fire, and building departments, which contributed to Big Lake earning its **Safest City** recognition.



2024 Cost per day to provide City services for each household and business was \$5.17



Financial Highlights

The following tables summarize key components of the City’s audited financial statements. The **Statement of Net Position** (City’s Balance Sheet) and the **Statement of Activities** (City’s Income Statement) are presented in two categories: **Governmental Activities** and **Business-Type Activities**.

- **Governmental Activities** reflect functions primarily funded through taxes and intergovernmental revenues, such as public safety, parks, and general government.
- **Business-Type Activities** represent services designed to be self-sustaining through user fees, including water, sewer, stormwater, and the City-operated liquor store.

Statement of Net Position

	Governmental Activities			Business-Type Activities		
	2024	2023	Increase (Decrease)	2024	2023	Increase (Decrease)
Total Assets	\$ 57,802,860	\$ 58,075,283	\$ (272,423)	\$ 52,942,186	\$ 52,085,867	\$ 856,319
Total Deferred Outflows	2,174,654	2,775,209	(600,555)	144,602	302,168	(157,566)
Total Liabilities	15,947,554	20,052,878	(4,105,324)	8,554,647	10,568,616	(2,013,969)
Total Deferred Inflow	2,863,455	2,982,110	(118,655)	1,061,065	921,354	139,711
Total Net Position	\$ 41,166,505	\$ 37,815,504	\$ 3,351,001	\$ 43,471,076	\$ 40,898,065	\$ 2,573,011

Net Position is the difference between the City’s total assets and total liabilities.

- **67% – Investment in Capital Assets**
Represents the City’s investment in infrastructure, buildings, equipment, and other long-term assets used to provide public services.
- **8% – Restricted Net Position**
Funds that must be used for specific purposes as required by law, external agreements, or grant conditions.
- **24% – Unrestricted Net Position**
Available to support ongoing operations, services, and unforeseen financial needs.

Statement of Activities (Changes in Net Position)

	Governmental Activities			Business-Type Activities		
	2024	2023	Increase (Decrease)	2024	2023	Increase (Decrease)
Revenues	\$ 12,051,184	\$ 13,660,822	\$ (1,609,638)	\$ 12,533,040	\$ 12,485,078	\$ 47,962
Expenses	8,230,667	9,073,377	(842,710)	10,429,545	10,406,007	23,538
Transfers	(469,516)	312,762	(782,278)	469,516	(312,762)	782,278
Change In Net Position	3,351,001	4,900,207	(1,549,206)	2,573,011	1,766,309	806,702
Net Position Beginning	37,815,504	32,915,297	4,900,207	40,898,065	39,131,756	1,766,309
Net Position Ending	\$ 41,166,505	\$ 37,815,504	\$ 3,351,001	\$ 43,471,076	\$ 40,898,065	\$ 2,573,011

In 2024, governmental activities revenues decreased by \$1,609,638, resulting in a reduction to the City’s overall net position. This decline was primarily due to less street projects, which meant less special assessment. In addition, in 2023, the City received a one-time state aid payment of \$532,344 for Public Safety, designated for future capital equipment and personnel costs in police and fire—this aid was not repeated in 2024. Some items that offset the overall decline in revenues included a positive accounting adjustment on its investments, increased investment earnings and overall tax levy increase of 4.88% over 2023.

On the expense side, governmental activities reflected General Fund budget savings and a reduction in debt service payments due to a decline in the City’s overall outstanding debt. The change in transfer listed above reflects the governmental funds transfer to the Water Fund to support the water meter project.

In contrast, the Business-Type Activities net position increased, reflecting utility rate adjustments, stronger investment returns, and the transfer related to the water meter project.

City of Big Lake Property Taxes

The portion of the property taxes received from our citizens are the main source of funds to provide daily services to our community. Importantly, the City only receives the amount it levies. To remain conservative, the City budgets based on a 97–98% collection rate, which aligns with historical trends.

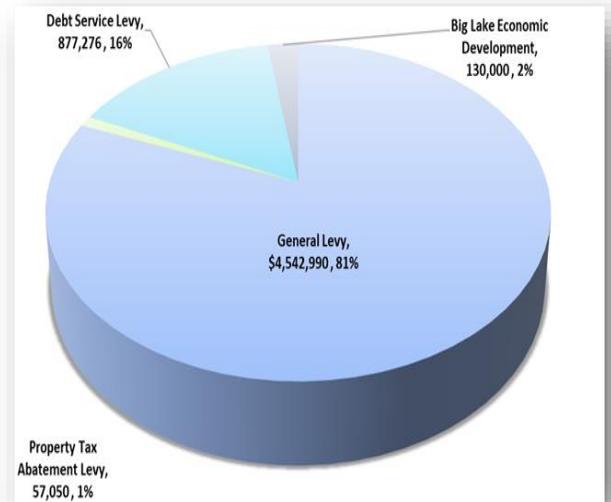
For 2024, the total property tax levy was \$5,607,316, allocated as follows:

- \$4,542,990 for the General Fund to balance the operational budget (city services)
- \$877,276 for Debt Service payments
- \$57,050 for Property Tax Abatement
- \$130,000 for BLEDA

When broken down by percentage:

- 81% supports the General Fund
- 16% is designated for Debt Service
- 2% supports BLEDA
- 1% funds the Property Tax Abatement

The general levy portion represents the core funding required to maintain essential city services.



How your tax dollar is allocated



Property tax dollars are divided among several local government entities to fund the services you rely on every day, such as schools, county programs, and other public services. The City retains approximately **30 cents of every dollar** to support essential operations, including **public safety, parks, streets, and general government services**.

City of Big Lake Property Tax compared to Other Cities

Using the proposed 2025 City tax rate and based on a \$400,000 home, the property taxes received in Big Lake are below the average. The average tax rate among comparable cities is **46.79**, resulting in a total property tax of **\$4,940**. In contrast, the City of Big Lake's tax rate is **38.718**, with a total property tax of **\$4,886**.

Of this amount, the City's portion is only **\$1,508**, which is well below the average. It is important to note that the City Council only has authority over the City's portion of property taxes, not the total tax amount, which includes county, school district, and other taxing jurisdictions.

City	City Tax Rate	Homestead Property Tax	City Portion Property Tax
Becker	48.928	\$ 5,174	\$ 1,906
Big Lake	38.718	\$ 4,886	\$ 1,508
Elk River	39.524	\$ 5,159	\$ 1,539
Princeton	56.535	\$ 4,918	\$ 2,202
Zimmerman	38.244	\$ 5,049	\$ 1,539
St Cloud	53.973	\$ 5,115	\$ 2,102
Buffalo	51.965	\$ 4,968	\$ 2,024
Monticello	37.701	\$ 4,124	\$ 1,468
Clearwater	55.526	\$ 5,067	\$ 2,162
Average	46.79044	\$ 4,940	\$ 1,828



General Fund

The General Fund is the primary operating fund for the City and accounts for resources used to support core municipal services including police and fire protection, public works, community services, parks and recreation and City administration.

**FY 2024
Total Revenues &
Transfers In
\$7,718,882**

**FY 2024
Total Expenses &
Transfers Out
\$7,235,074**

The **General Fund property tax** is the City’s primary revenue source and represents the largest tax collected for any fund. The City only receives the amount levied each year, along with any penalties and interest on late payments.

Franchise fees, collected by gas and electric utility companies, are remitted to the City to fund the maintenance of streets and public rights-of-way. These fees—\$4.00 per month for residential accounts and \$8.00 per month for commercial accounts—are transferred annually to the Capital Improvement Plan Fund (CIP Fund 196).

Licenses and permits, including building permits, liquor licenses, and other regulatory fees, are budgeted conservatively based on past trends and anticipated development.

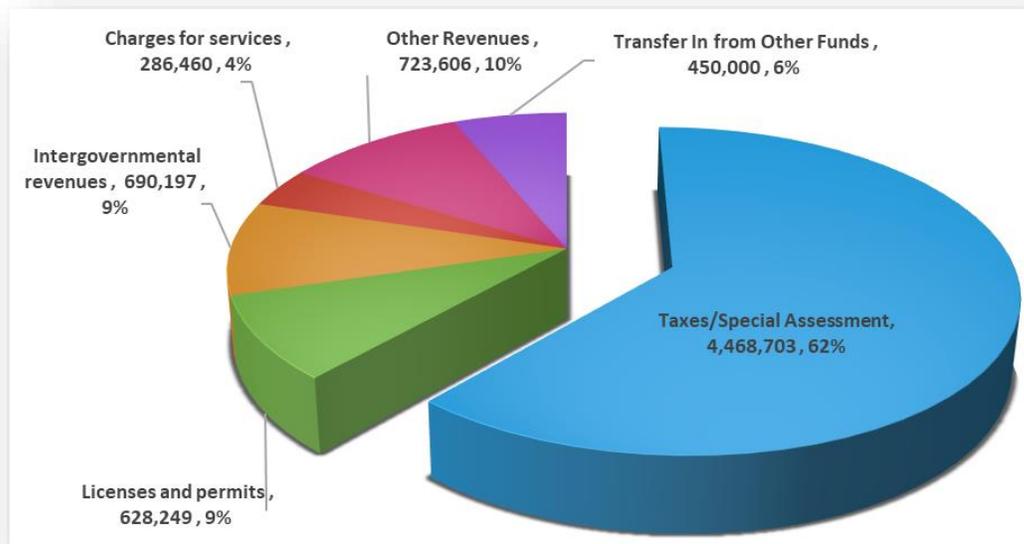
Intergovernmental revenues include grants, state aid, and program funding to support services such as roads and emergency response. These are also estimated conservatively using prior-year data.

Charges for services are user-based fees tied to specific facilities and services, including streetlight fees on water bills and internal fleet maintenance for the Fire Department. As with other revenue categories, conservative projections are used during budgeting.

Transfers from other funds represent the annual contribution from the City’s Liquor Store, reinvesting profits to support public services and initiatives.

Other revenues include investment earnings, which are adjusted to fair market value (FMV) at year-end. If market value exceeds book value, the adjustment increases total revenue. In recent years, these positive adjustments have allowed for significant transfers to capital funds, enabling critical infrastructure projects—such as road construction, trail development, and land acquisition—without requiring a general levy increase.

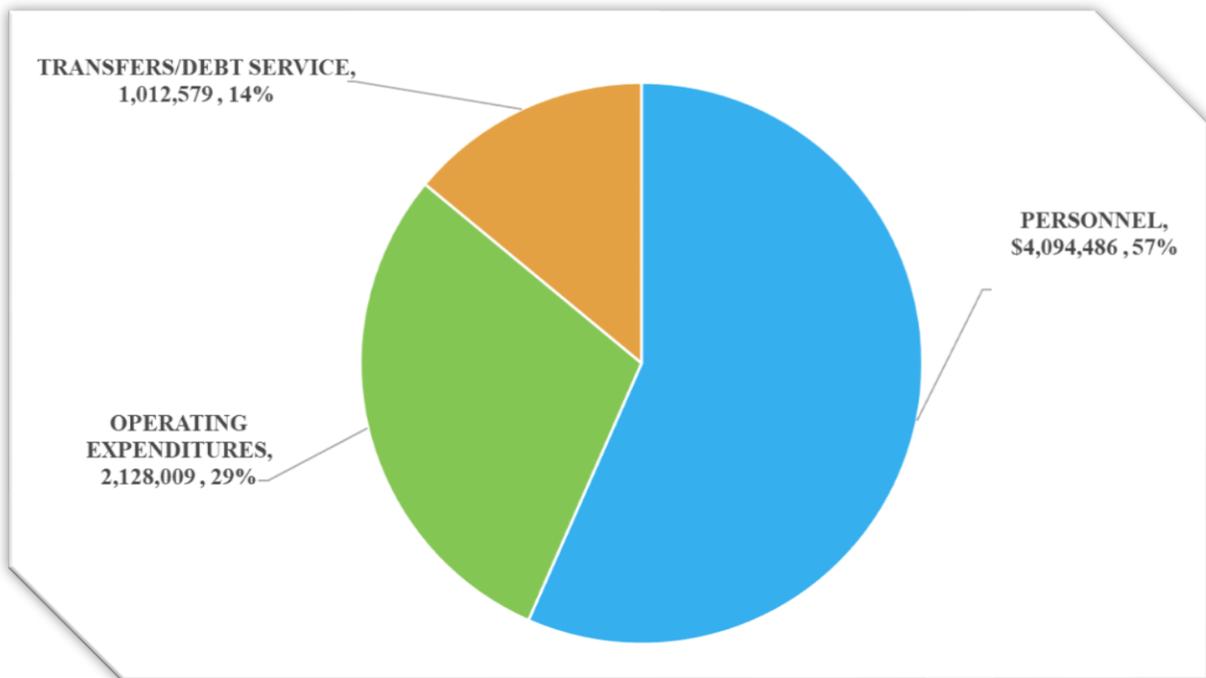
WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



The largest expense within the General Fund is salaries and benefits, which account for approximately 65% of the total General Fund budget. These costs support the staff responsible for operating and delivering City services, with the largest portion being public safety. The remaining expenditures fall into the following categories:

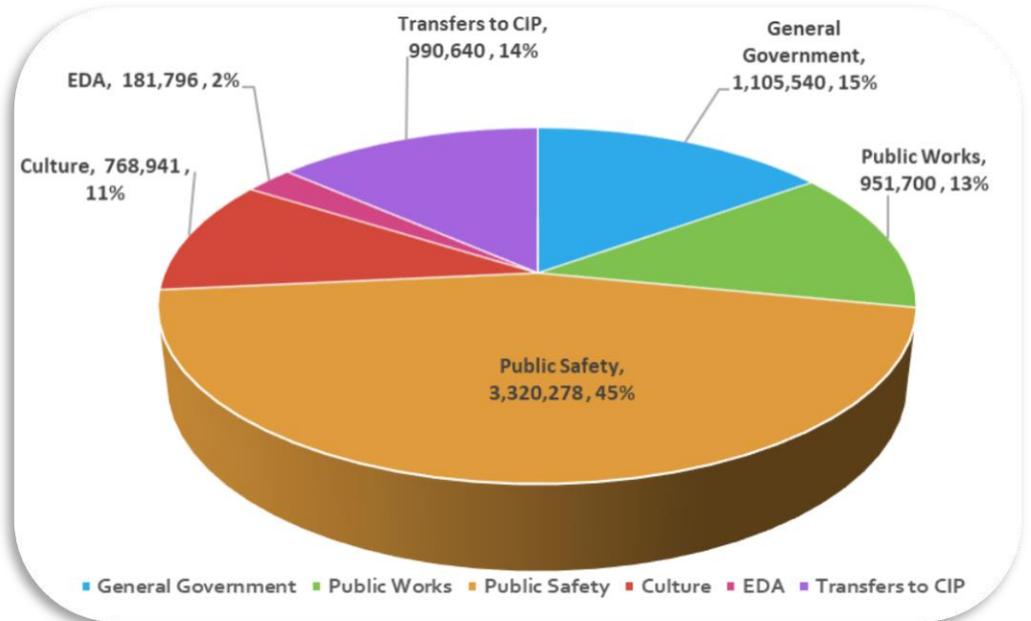
- **Professional Services:** Costs for services provided by external sources, including engineering, legal, audit, planning, and various contractors.
- **Operations:** Expenses necessary to maintain daily departmental functions, such as office supplies, computer support, utilities, fuel, advertising, cleaning services, and uniforms.
- **Capital Improvements:** Includes purchases over \$5,000 with a useful life of more than one year, along with all infrastructure and building construction projects that are capitalized.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



WHERE THE MONEY GOES BY DEPARTMENT

Public Safety (45%) includes police, fire and building divisions. General Government (15%) is administration costs. Transfers to CIP (14%) to fund future projects and/or equipment. Public Works (13%) maintains the infrastructure of the community. Culture (11%) includes parks, the library and community events which promotes the quality of life. EDA (2%) is used for economic development in the community and to promote Big Lake.



Capital Improvement Funds

The primary resources for the capital funds are the Local Government Aid and the yearly transfers from the General Fund. The main contributing factors for the yearly General Fund transfers include:

- **Increase in market value** of the city's investments at year-end.
- Higher-than-anticipated **permit revenue**.
- **Increase in state aid**.
- Staff's **fiscal responsibility** in evaluating every expenditure

As a result of this process, the **year-end budget** has historically been at **98% of the overall budget**, generating savings that allow for additional transfers to the Capital Improvement Funds for future projects. These transfers enable the city to **complete future projects without raising the tax levy**.

The allocation received from the general fund and the local government are used for:

- Funding **Capital Improvements** projects
- Pay **yearly debt service payments**.
- Support **Music in the Park**.



Strategic Capital Planning:

Key Points to remember:

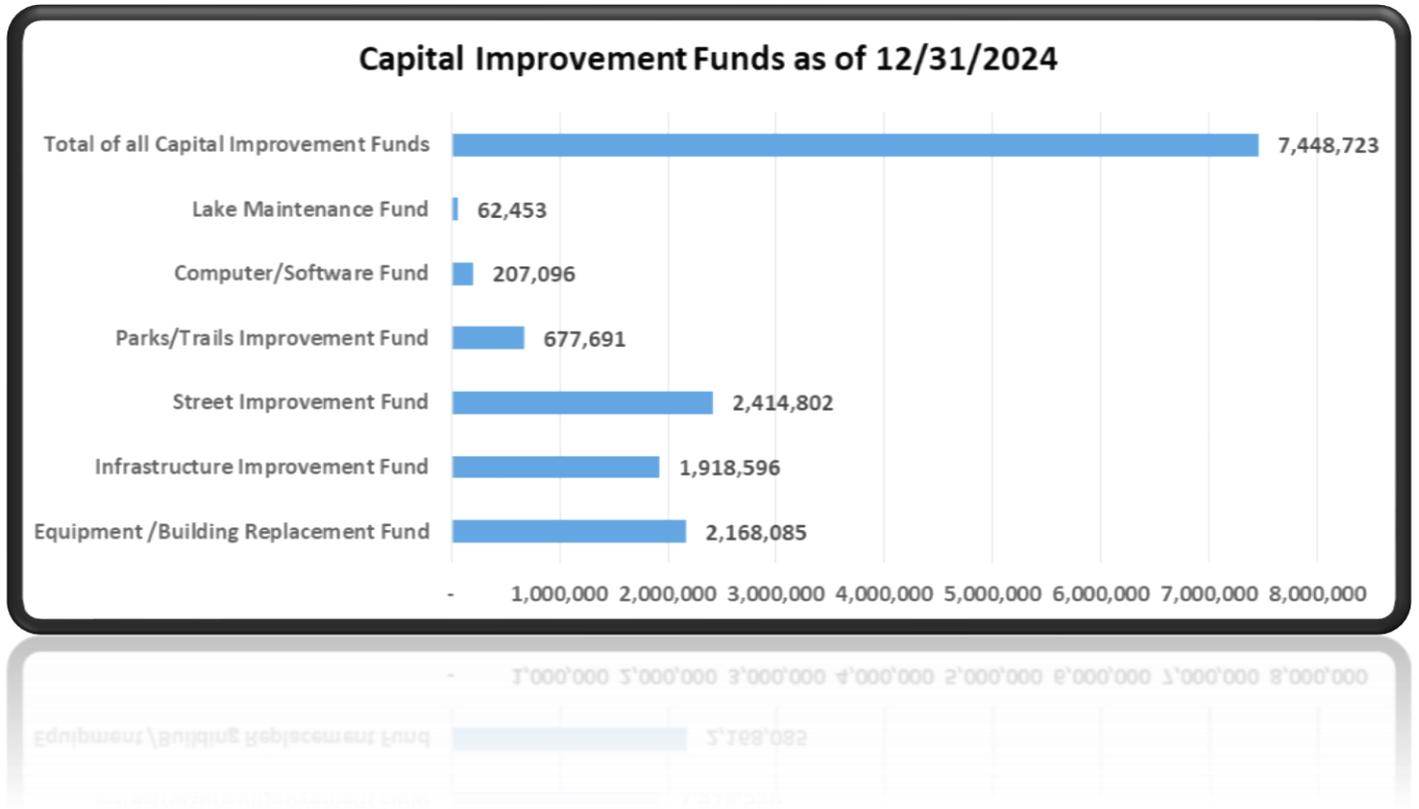
- **Capital Improvement Funds:** Dedicated funds earmarked for major infrastructure projects and equipment purchases. These ensure the City can invest in long-term assets without disrupting operational budgets.
- **Unreserved Fund Balances:** Flexible financial resources not committed to specific purposes. These allow the City to allocate funds where needed, including strategic transfers to capital funds for future projects.

By consistently transferring **unreserved fund balances** into **Capital Improvement Funds**, the City has strategically positioned itself to fund future street projects and equipment purchases **without raising taxes**. This approach:

- **Preserves Financial Flexibility:** Funds are available to address capital needs without the burden of new levies.
- **Stabilizes the Budget:** Planning ahead for capital expenses reduces reliance on debt and mitigates budget shocks.

- **Supports Community Growth:** Ongoing investment in infrastructure and public assets improves service delivery and fosters long-term community development.

This model of fiscal responsibility and forward-thinking investment is sustainable. It underscores the City's commitment to maximizing existing resources while maintaining service levels and avoiding unnecessary tax increases.



Enterprise Funds

Business-Type Activities

Business-type activities include investment income, water, sewer and storm water billing and liquor store sales.

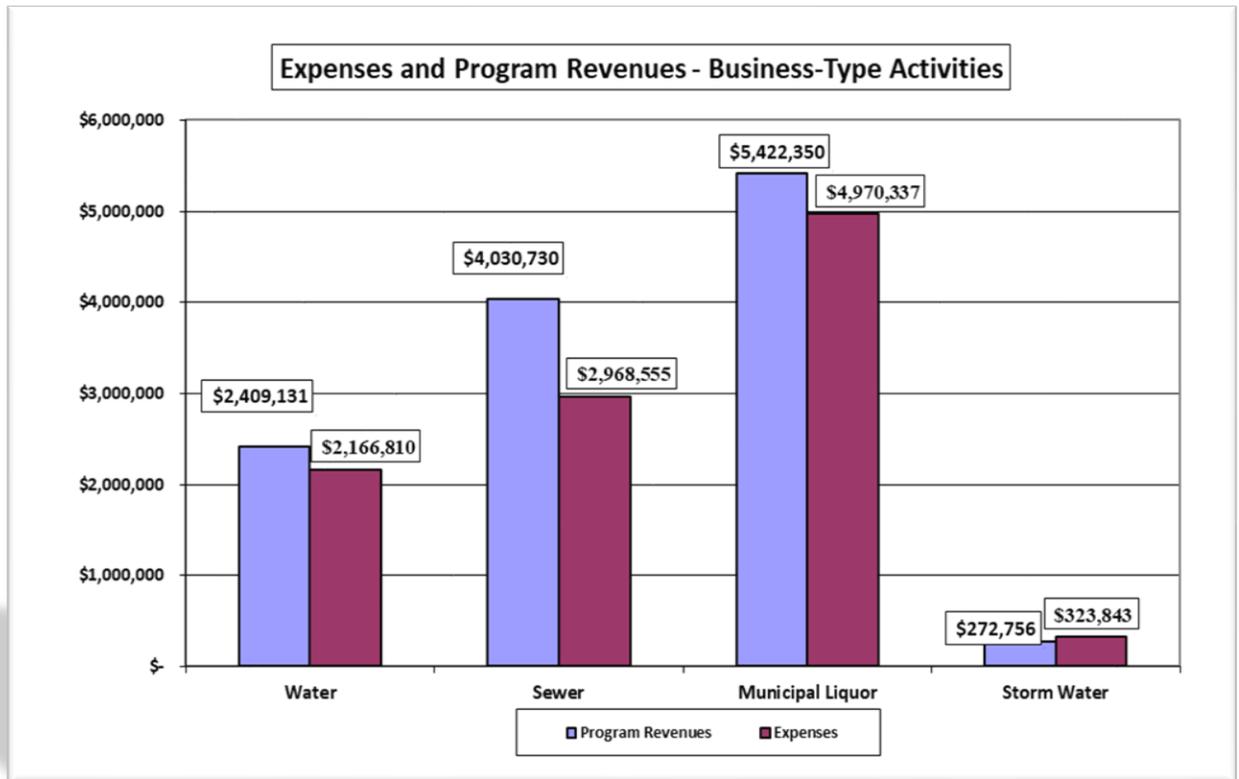
For the **Utility Funds**, Water usage declined by 13% due to a rainy season in Minnesota, while water rates remained unchanged from 2023. Slower development activity compared to 2023 resulted in a decrease of \$370,101 in overall revenues due to lower water access charges and trunk fees.



Conversely, Wastewater (Sewer) sales increased, driven by a one-time payment of \$590,388 for an additional sewer access charge from a Significant Industrial User. Sewer rates remained the same as in 2023. Development activity in 2024 was in line with the City's expectations for 2024 including multi-family, residential, and commercial projects, as well as long-term planning efforts.

The Storm Sewer Fund saw a slight increase in total revenues compared to 2023, largely due to higher investment earnings.

The **Liquor Store** contributed \$450,000 to the General Fund, helping offset the City's levy needs. Despite this contribution, the Liquor Store experienced a slight decrease of less than 1% in sales compared to 2023. The Liquor Store ended 2024 with a 1% net profit, covering both depreciation expenses and the **\$450,000** transfer to the General Fund. Without the continued support from **Big Lake residents**, the City would be unable to rely on Liquor Store transfers to help offset levy needs. This would result in either **raising the levy** or **cutting services**.



The total revenues collected from business-type activities for 2024 amounted to **\$12,533,040**, with **88%** (\$11,009,547) generated from services provided. This reflects a **decrease of \$326,584** from 2023, primarily due to reduced water usage, which impacted both the **Water Fund** and the **Wastewater Fund**.

Investment earnings for the year totaled **\$398,073** (3% of total revenues), marking an **increase from 2023**. **Operating Grants and Contributions** brought in **\$90,721**, up **\$53,800** from the prior year, driven by the **Well 2 improvement project** and funds from **Big Lake Spud Fest** for additional infrastructure needed to support the event's electricity demands.

Capital Grants and Contributions totaled **\$1,034,588** (8% of total revenues), reflecting an **increase over 2023**. This included **WAC/SAC fees** from new development within the City.

Overall, total revenues increased by **\$57,937** compared to 2023, and the **net position** for business-type activities grew by **\$2,573,011**.

Water and Sewer Rates in Big Lake: Why the increase?

City of Big Lake Facilities: The Foundation of Our Utilities

Big Lake's water and sewer services rely on two essential facilities:

- **Municipal Water Treatment Facility:**
 - Constructed in **2006** at a cost of **\$9 million**.
 - Treats all water used by residents and businesses.
 - Handles an average of **4.8 million gallons per day**, with a maximum capacity of **5.7 million gallons**.
- **Wastewater Treatment Facility:**
 - Built in **2011** at a cost of **\$15.5 million**.
 - Treats all sewage generated within the city.
 - Constructed to meet the **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)** standards, which our prior facility was no longer able to meet.

Rising Costs and Utility Billing

A key factor driving rate increases is the **stricter wastewater treatment standards** set by the MPCA. Each year, these standards become more stringent, creating **unfunded mandates** that place the financial burden directly on the City of Big Lake. This, in turn, impacts **utility billing**.

Additionally, the **bond payments** on the debt for constructing these facilities have come due in recent years. These substantial costs are paid from **water and sewer fund revenues**, contributing to the higher rates seen by residents and businesses.

Big Lake's Advantage: Prepared for the Future

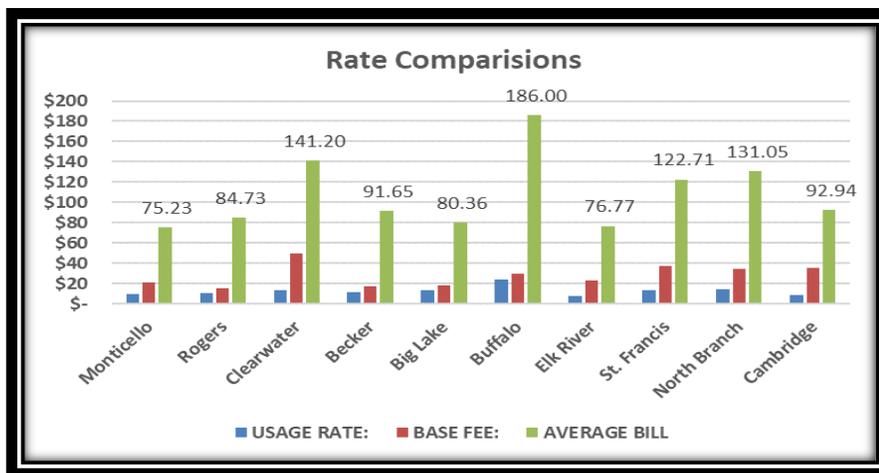
While the City is managing significant debt payments, it is in a **strong position for the future**. Our modern and compliant facilities have the capacity to:

- Support **continued residential growth**.
- Attract **new industries** with ample water and treatment capacity.
- Avoid the costly infrastructure struggles faced by neighboring communities that are still working to meet MPCA standards.
- **Future planning** must include the **expansion** of the wastewater treatment facility to allow for community growth. The city is already in the process of securing this expansion in a fiscally responsible way, including State and Federal funding.

Comparing Rates to Surrounding Communities

The chart illustrates Big Lake's **water and sewer rates** compared to several neighboring communities, based on an average monthly use of **6,500 gallons**. It's important to note that rate structures vary by community. Some cities apply:

- **Lower base charges** with higher per-gallon rates.
- Others use a **higher base charge** with lower per-gallon rates.
- Many may fall somewhere in between.



Long Term Debt

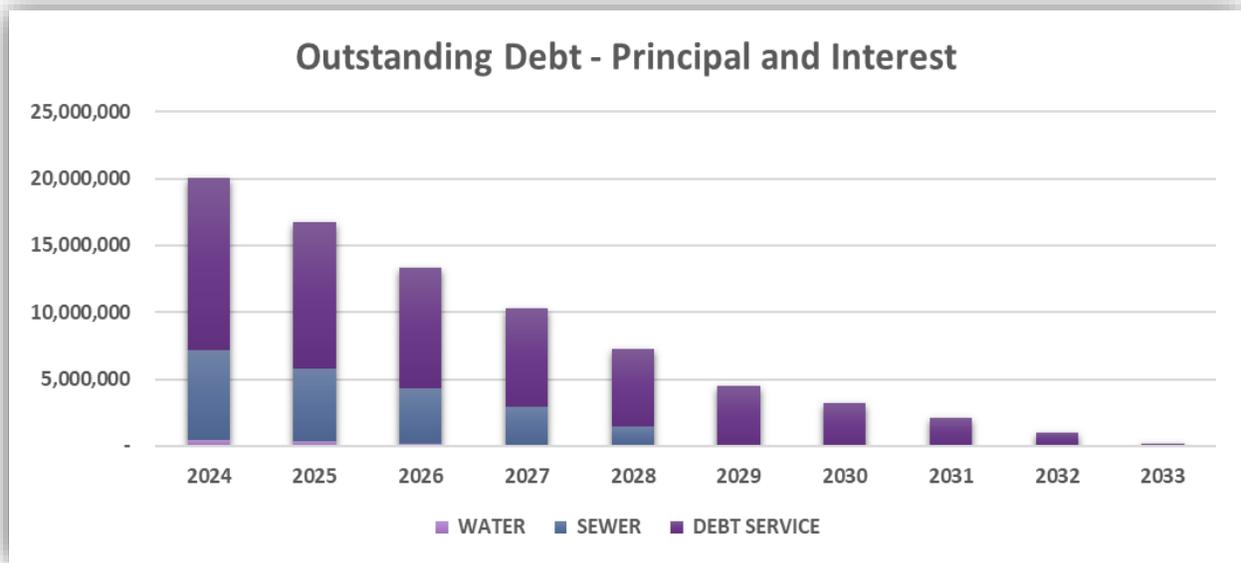
At the end of the current fiscal year, the City had a total bonded debt outstanding of \$18,691,545. Of this amount, \$936,000 comprises of debt backed by the full faith and credit of the government and \$9,840,000 is special assessment debt for which the government is liable in the event of default by the property owners subject to the assessment. The remainder of the City’s debt represents bonds secured by specific revenue sources (i.e., tax increment financing [TIF] bonds, revenue bonds, lease revenue bonds, lease liabilities or financed purchases).

City of Big Lake's Outstanding Bonded Debt

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
G.O. Bonds/Notes	\$ 936,000	\$ 1,124,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 936,000	\$ 1,124,000
G.O. Tax Increment Bonds	900,000	1,180,000	-	-	900,000	1,180,000
G.O. Special Assessment Bonds	9,840,000	11,400,000	-	-	9,840,000	11,400,000
PFA Drinking Water Revolving Loan	-	-	-	565,000	-	565,000
PFA Clean Water Revolving Loan	-	-	4,568,000	5,418,000	4,568,000	5,418,000
G.O. Taxable Tax Abatement Bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-
G.O. Revenue Bonds/Notes	-	-	2,140,000	2,525,000	2,140,000	2,525,000
Finance Purchase	36,730	48,611	-	-	36,730	48,611
Lease Liability	81,522	23,522	189,293	192,674	270,815	216,196
Total	\$ 11,794,252	\$ 13,776,133	\$ 6,897,293	\$ 8,700,674	\$ 18,691,545	\$ 22,476,807

The following graph shows the amount of existing outstanding principal debt for the City of Big Lake based on activities and how it will decrease over the future years. The total outstanding bonded debt decreased by \$3,785,262. The City did not issue any new debt for 2024. Shown below is the outstanding principal and interest debt for the City.

"The City maintains very strong liquidity and budgetary flexibility, supported by a high available fund balance, which contributes to its AA bond rating from Standard & Poor’s Rating Services. This rating reflects the City’s ongoing commitment to sound fiscal management and responsible stewardship of public funds." - Standard & Poor’s





CITY OF

Big Lake

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