

Town of Woodstock, New York

2027 Requested Budget

Maintaining services. Investing in infrastructure. Planning with discipline.



Message from the Town Supervisor

2027 Preliminary Budget Highlights

“This budget reflects our commitment to responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars while maintaining the services that residents rely upon every day. By keeping the proposed levy below the tax cap and making thoughtful investments in our infrastructure and operations, we are positioning Woodstock for a strong and sustainable future.”

Anula Courtis, Town Supervisor, Town of Woodstock

2027 Proposed Combined Levy

\$7,415,327

2027 Tax Cap Amount

\$7,590,450

Amount Under Tax Cap

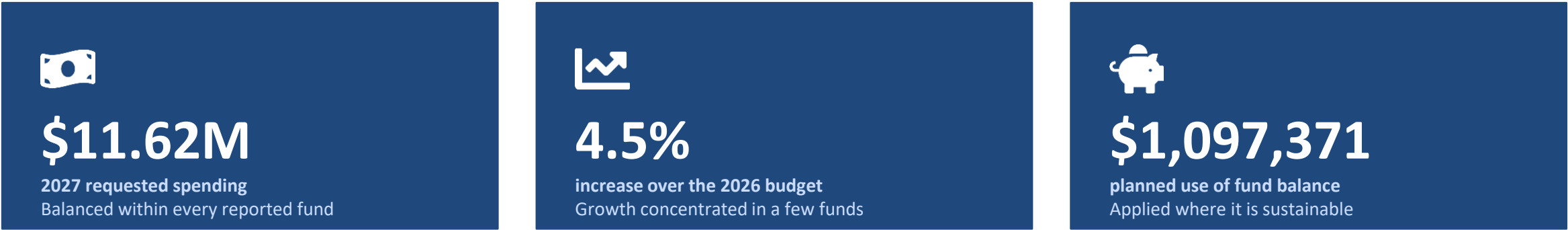
\$175,123 (2.31% below cap)

Overall levy increase: 1.849%

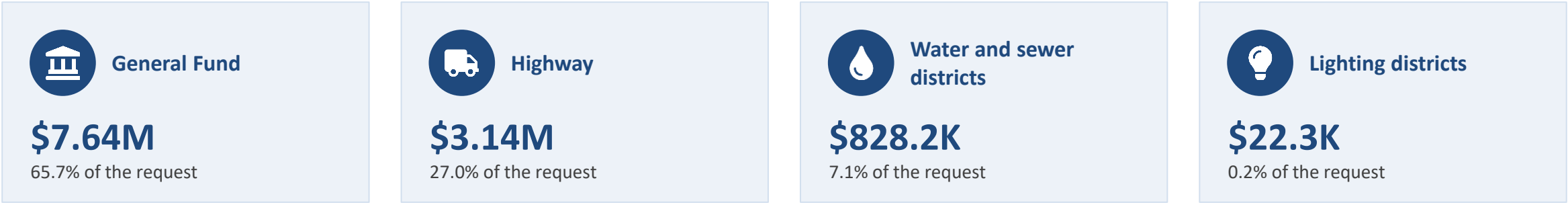
The 2027 combined levy of \$7,415,327 — covering the General Fund, Highway Fund, and all special districts — remains \$175,123 below the New York State tax cap, balancing taxpayer affordability with continued delivery of quality municipal services.

The story in one page

The 2027 request is balanced within each reported fund and totals \$11.62 million



Where the 2027 request goes



 Every reported fund is balanced, the levy stays within the New York State tax cap, and no cap override is proposed.

Financial overview and 2027 budget priorities

The 2027 Town Budget reflects Woodstock's commitment to fiscal responsibility while maintaining essential services, investing in infrastructure, and staying well below the maximum tax levy permitted under New York State's tax cap law.

\$1,438,523,601

Town taxable value

19,513

Onsite sewer benefit units

\$7,415,327

Combined tax levy

The 2027 combined levy — General Fund, Highway Fund, and all special districts — represents a 1.849% increase over the prior year.

Staying below the tax cap

- Allowable 2027 tax cap levy: \$7,590,450
- Proposed combined levy of \$7,415,327 is \$175,123 below the cap
- A 2.31% reduction below the maximum levy allowed
- Balances taxpayer affordability with quality municipal services

Utility rate adjustments

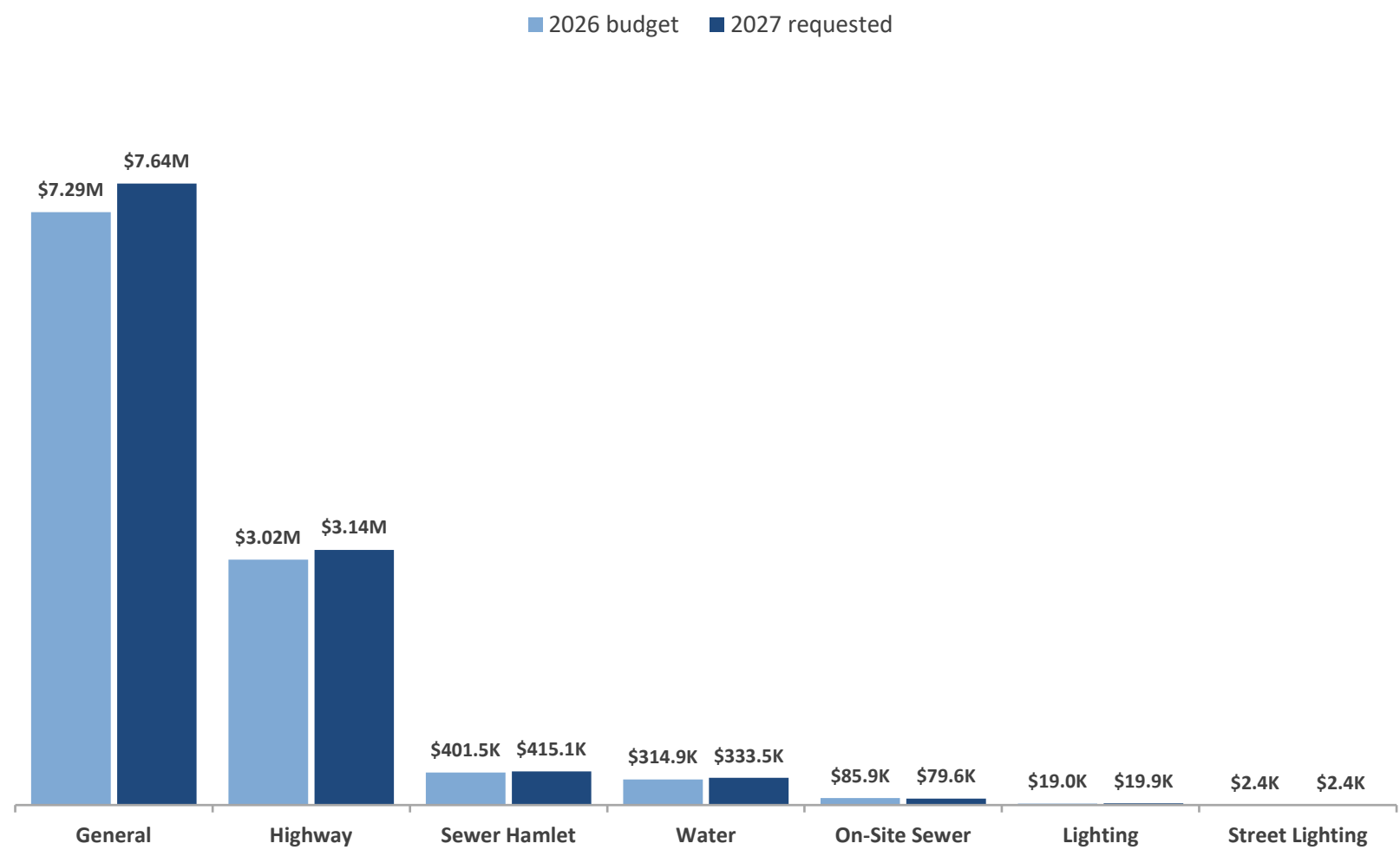
- Water: usage rate up \$0.03 per 100 gallons, \$0.57 to \$0.60
- Water: quarterly base charge unchanged at \$19.00
- Sewer: usage rate up \$0.03 per 100 gallons, \$1.12 to \$1.15
- Sewer: quarterly base charge up \$1.00, from \$18.00 to \$19.00 per unit

2027 budget priorities

- Maintains essential Town services
- Supports infrastructure and public works needs
- Preserves fiscal stability through expenditure management
- Remains below the State tax cap
- Delivers value today while planning for future needs

Most of the budget is concentrated in two core funds

General and Highway together represent approximately 92.7% of the 2027 request



General Fund

\$7.64M

Highway

\$3.14M

All other reported funds

\$0.85M

The challenges of continuing to draw down fund balance

Fund balance is a one-time resource. Using it to cover recurring costs delays decisions rather than resolving them.



Masks a structural gap

When recurring spending relies on one-time money, the budget looks balanced while the underlying gap between ongoing revenues and costs remains.



Reserves are finite

Each year of drawdown leaves less available for the next. Eventually the gap must be closed through cuts, new revenue, or both.



Less cushion for emergencies

Lower reserves reduce the ability to absorb storms, revenue shortfalls, unexpected repairs, or economic downturns without disrupting services.



Credit and borrowing costs

Rating agencies view declining reserves and repeated use of fund balance as signs of fiscal stress, which can raise the cost of future borrowing.



Cash flow pressure

Reserves help cover expenses between tax collection dates. Thinner balances can create timing strain or a need for short-term borrowing.



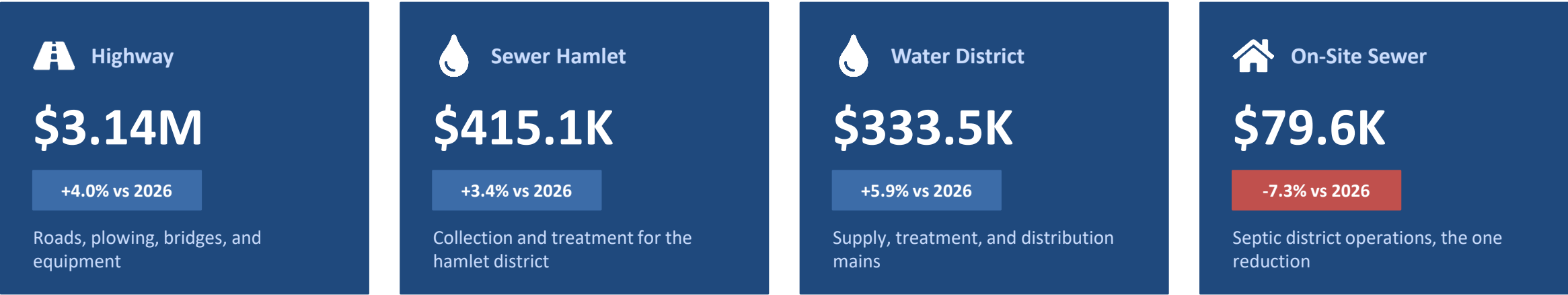
Future tax pressure

Replacing one-time funds with recurring revenue later can mean a sharper levy increase, made harder by the property tax cap.

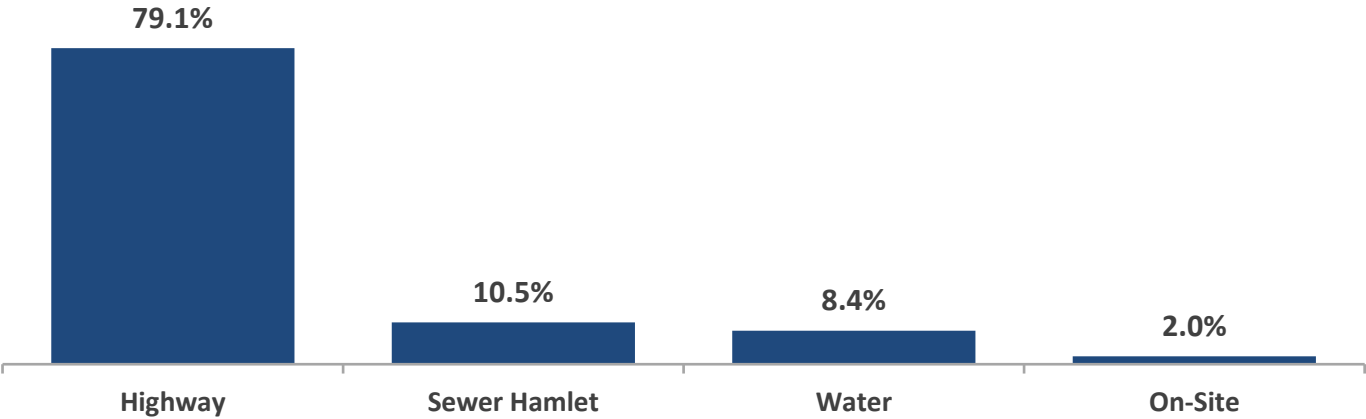
The path forward: Reserve fund balance for one-time needs, set a formal minimum balance policy, and align recurring revenues with recurring costs over a multi-year plan.

Infrastructure remains a visible part of the plan

Highway, water, sewer, and lighting funds carry the systems residents rely on every day



Share of the \$3.97M infrastructure request



Why it matters

Highway carries four of every five infrastructure dollars, and the district funds cover the water, sewer, and lighting systems residents use daily. Each district is funded by its own users, so these increases are targeted to the systems that need them rather than spread across the whole tax base.

Budget challenges and how they were managed

How the Town held the levy down, built the budget line by line, and protected reserves



Levy and tax cap

- Levy increase held under 2% despite last year's 5.67% cut that was expected to stay flat
- Budget remains within the New York State tax levy limit, subject to final calculations
- No tax cap override is proposed



Discipline in building the budget

- Department heads participated in budget workshops and provided input
- Careful review of staffing, contractual expenses, and operational costs
- Efficiencies and cost savings identified wherever possible, including software to increase efficiency
- Significant increases and decreases reviewed line by line



Reserves and long-term stability

- Limited reliance on fund balance and reserves for recurring expenses
- Use of available funds only where appropriate and sustainable
- Healthy fund balances maintained for emergencies and long-term stability
- Continued monitoring of expenditures throughout the year

A balanced plan with focused growth



Protect core services



Invest in roads, water, sewer, and lighting