

Fiscal Year 2024 - Budget in Brief

The Village of Wilmette

The annual budget is the Village's most important document as it directs spending and investments in alignment with the Village Board's established priorities and policies. Creating the budget is an all-encompassing process that incorporates feedback from residents, business owners, elected officials, staff, and other key stakeholders. To that extent, the Village is pleased to present this 2024 Fiscal Year Budget, which continues to maintain the Village's strong financial position.

The Village is in a strong financial position heading into 2024. The Village continues to improve and expand services to our residents while minimizing tax and fee increases. A strong financial position enables the Village to mitigate the impact of its operations on taxpayers. For 2024, the Village will have one of the lowest property tax increases in 25 years. The Village's operating budgets are balanced and reserves are being drawn down for facility and technology upgrades, infrastructure improvements, capital equipment, and to reduce pension liabilities.

Top Budget Takeaways:

1. Wilmette has a **balanced 2024 budget** of \$100.96 million.
2. One of the **lowest property tax increases** in 25 years.
3. **No increase** to water, sewer, or stormwater rates.
4. The Village practices **fiscal responsibility** by leveraging technology and practicing good governance.
5. The Village receives **revenue from many sources**, including property taxes, sewer and water fees, grants, and the state.
6. The Village maintains a **Aaa bond rating** (the highest rating possible), which allows us to invest in the future and bond for capital investments with lower interest rates.
7. The Village continues to **maintain or enhance** all Village services and continues to invest wisely in infrastructure improvements.

Strategic Budget Priorities

The Village's 2024 Budget fulfills the community's needs by focusing on these key priorities to ensure that Wilmette retains its hometown identity, high quality of life, and natural beauty.



Public Safety

Nationally accredited police and fire departments provide 24/7 ambulance, fire, police, and 9-1-1 services through community-oriented policies that garner the community's trust and support.



Economic Development

Create a thriving business environment and economy by way of supporting existing businesses and recruiting new and innovative companies.



Infrastructure

Forward-thinking investment into the Village's vast infrastructure, including stormwater management, water plant, roads, and facilities.



Service Delivery

Maintain excellent services, such as leaf collection, composting, garbage and recycling services, snow and ice control, and drinking water.



Technology

Continued improvements in customer service through the use of technology like Smart-911, Community Portal, and e-billing.



Good Governance

Meet the highest standards of accountability, stability and fiscal responsibility, including a Aaa bond rating—the highest possible rating—and awards for achievement in financial reporting and budgeting.

2024 Capital Improvement Projects

Total Planned Investment: \$24.15 million

The Village of Wilmette is strategically investing in capital improvements with a significant focus on improving our road and water systems. This budget allocates \$8.03 million towards roads, sidewalks and alleys. This budget allocates \$10.42 million towards sewer and water improvements.

\$490,000

- Cashiering Software and GIS Upgrades
- Streetlight Upgrades
- Holiday Decor

Equipment & Technology

\$1.96 million

- Hybrid Squads (4)
- Ambulance
- Large Dump Truck
- Fire Boat
- Light Pole Trailer
- Combination Sewer Cleaner

Vehicles

\$3.24 million

- New Police Station Design
- Edens Pollinator Corridor
- Parkway Tree Maintenance Program
- Parking Lot Paving
- Facility Improvements
- Historic Resources Survey

Facilities and Professional Services

\$8.03 Million

- Roads
- Alleys
- Brick Streets
- Sidewalks and Curbs
- Traffic Calming
- Active Transportation Plan Implementation
- Engineering Studies & Designs
- Pavement Maintenance Programs

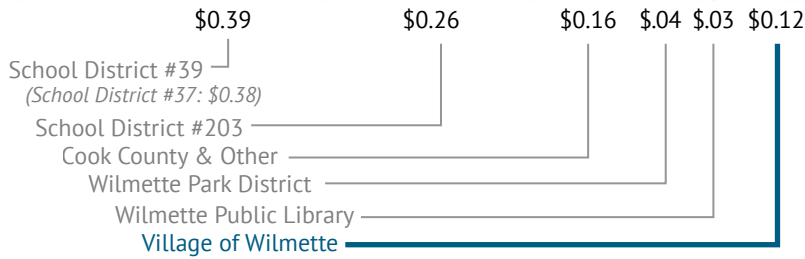
Road System Improvements

\$10.42 Million

- Sewer Lining
- Sewer Main Repairs
- SWPS Electrical improvements
- Distribution System Improvements
- Lead Service Line Replacement
- Water Main Replacement Program
- Automatic Meter Reading Program
- Treatment Process Improvements

Water & Sewer Infrastructure

Your Property Tax Dollar



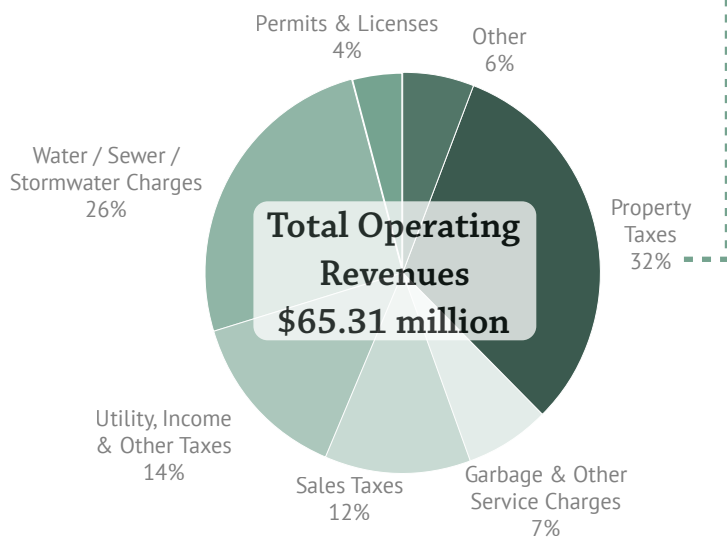
- **12%** of your property tax payment goes directly to the Village of Wilmette.
- **\$16,650** annual property tax payment (average)

The Property Tax Levy

The largest source of General Fund revenue is the real estate property tax. While other revenue sources are subject to the condition of the national and regional economies, property taxes are a stable revenue source for the Village. In 2024, the Village share will increase by 2.94%, which is one of the lowest increases in the last 25 years.

Each year, the Village Board aims to limit the rate of growth in the general operating portion of the tax levy as much as possible. Other portions of the levy, such as required pension contributions and pre-existing debt service, cannot be reduced.

Where does the Village's revenue come from?



2024 Tax Levy Growth Breakdown

General Operations and Road Infrastructure	1.66%
Debt Service	(0.27%)
Pension Funding Obligations	1.54%
Total	2.94%

Non-Property Tax Revenue

The Village collects revenue from a variety of sources to deliver a wide range of services and invest in infrastructure improvements.



Water/Sewer/Stormwater/Garbage Charges:

Revenue generated from utility bills pays directly for water, sewer, and stormwater system investment. The 2024 refuse fee is increasing to \$29.35/month and is a pass-through of new contract fees for garbage, recycling, and organics collection.



Income Taxes & Other Revenue:

State income tax is allocated on a per capita basis (based upon population). The Village seeks to leverage federal, state, and county resources to advance initiatives and infrastructure investment.



Sales Tax:

Revenue generated from purchases made within Village limits, including online sales shipped to a Village address.



Permits & Licenses:

Revenue generated from property improvements and vehicle stickers. 100% of vehicle sticker revenue is used toward road infrastructure.

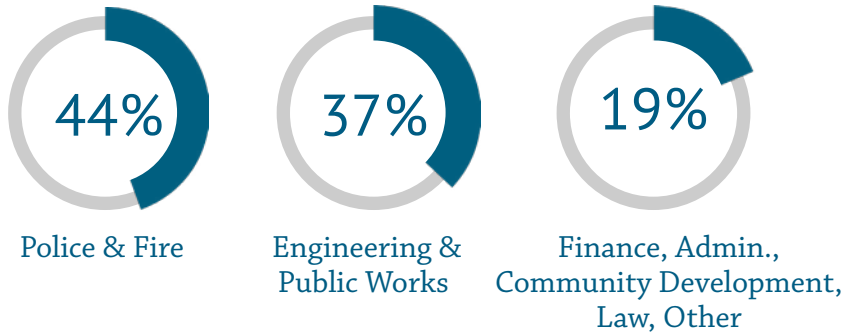
The Village receives other miscellaneous revenue from fines, service charges, franchise fees, parking, and cell tower rental.

Where Your Taxes and Fees Go - Expenditures

The Village's General Fund supports the daily operations and maintenance that make Wilmette a safe, clean, and vibrant place to live.

Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of these expenditures support police and fire services, followed by just over $\frac{1}{3}$ toward engineering and public works, which provide roads, sewers, drinking water, and garbage collection services.

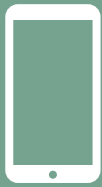
General Fund Expenditure Takeaways



The Village's **strong financial position** has been built over time through the following actions. These actions have demonstrated sound financial administration and planning:

- Fortifying reserve levels by reducing recurring expenses through structural efficiencies and maintaining appropriate staffing levels.
- Maintaining a Aaa bond rating while committing to investment in critical infrastructure.
- Mitigating future pension requirements by meeting or exceeding required contributions and update of pension methodology.

2023 SERVICE STATS



Responded to nearly 24,000 public safety calls for service



3.1 miles of street improvements including road program



Over 202,000 unique website visits



Neighborhood Storage Project stored 9.28 million gallons of water

Financial Outlook

New Police Station

The current police station, opened in 1968, is 21,000 square feet. The 55-year old station does not meet modern policing needs. In an effort to limit the impact on property taxes, the station has been anticipated to be replaced when current debt service is retired, no later than 2027. A space needs analysis conducted in 2023 shows the anticipated needs of the station to be 60,000 square feet at a potential cost of \$50 million. The Public Safety Committee of the Village Board will meet in 2024 to review and refine the project.

Lead Service Line Replacements

The State of Illinois passed a law in 2021 requiring the inventory and replacement of all lead service lines starting in 2025. This project has an estimated cost between \$45 and \$50 million over 15 to 20 years. The Municipal Services Committee of the Village Board will meet in 2024 to determine an appropriate implementation strategy including a review of funding options, including grants, to assist in the full replacement of lead service lines.

Aging Infrastructure

The Village's aging infrastructure, including water treatment facilities and water mains, requires more resources over time. While the Village is committed to additional funding for infrastructure investment, there are few solutions that do not require increased contributions from our residents. To that end, the Village Board is mindful of the impact that decisions have on taxpayers and seeks to address infrastructure needs strategically.



Services Remain a High Priority

As a service organization, nearly 60% of the Village's General Fund expenses are allocated to personnel. The Village strives to maintain appropriate staffing levels to allow the Village to fulfill the Village Board's commitment to provide a high-level of service to residents, businesses, and visitors.

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