

City of Kingston 2020 Community Budget Forum Mayor Steven Noble



What Is the Purpose of the Budget Forum?

- To provide you with a brief overview of the major components of the City budget.
- This is an opportunity for the Community to ask questions and share ideas with City department leaders in a small group setting.
- We would like to hear your thoughts on what should be the priorities in the City budget!

2018 Participatory Budgeting Project

Uptown and Midtown:

- YMCA Farm Project's Youth Program– B.A.R.K. (Beautifying and Restoring Kingston)



2018 Participatory Budgeting Project

Downtown:

- ASK – Kingston Student Theatre Enrichment Program
- Center for Creative Education – Arts Outreach Program
- Poetry with Read and Write
- The Library at AJ Williams-Myers African Roots Center – Youth Programming
- Reher Center for Immigrant Culture/History – Rondout Rising
- YMCA of Ulster County – YMCA Bike Safety Program



2019 Participatory Budgeting Project Winners

Uptown

- Provide free breakfast/lunch program for youth when schools are closed: **\$4,500 to People's Place**
- Plant trees and follow up with regular maintenance and tree pruning: **\$15,500 to pool resources with the Tree Commission for planting street trees in Uptown**

2019 Participatory Budgeting Project Winners

Midtown

- Pine St. African Burial Ground youth development program for design/community engagement:
\$20,000 to be awarded to the Kingston Land Trust for program implementation

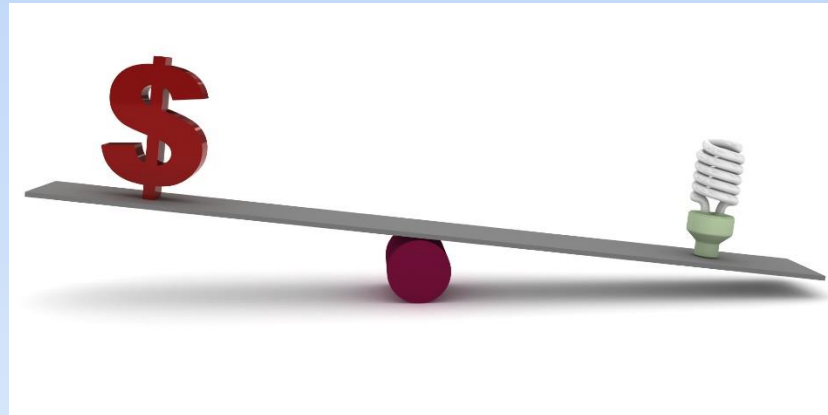
2019 Participatory Budgeting Project Winners

Downtown

- Fund youth programs, community events, education and wellness centers: **\$20,000 to be distributed through the Office of Community Development via application process**

How Do Budget Forums Help Our Budgeting Process?

- The overarching goal of the budget process is to develop a fiscally responsible document that meets the needs of the community. Your input can be **incredibly insightful** as the City works towards developing a budget that we hope will provide a balance of desired programs and services at a cost that is acceptable to our taxpayers.



Budgeting Is A Competitive Process

- The budget process focuses on the allocation of available resources to departments, activities, and programs. Since it is fiscally difficult to fund every activity and program to the desired level, there is considerable competition for available monies. The adopted budget represents the decision on which programs and activities will be funded and at what amount.





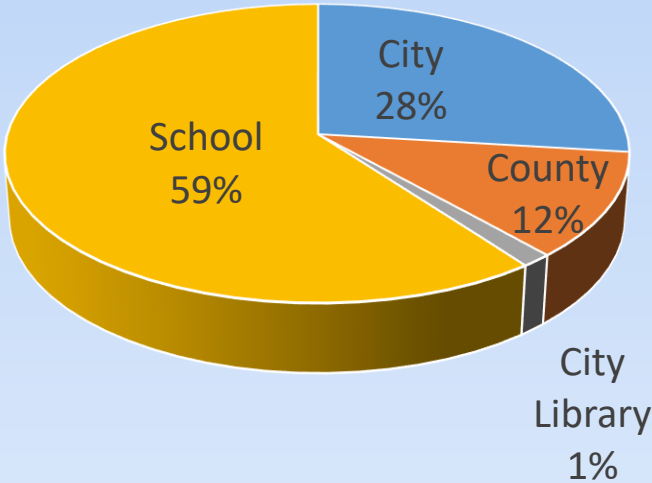
Property Taxes and the “Tax Cap”

- The “Tax Cap” was put in place in 2012 by New York State to protect taxpayers against unchecked increases in local property taxes.
- While the City’s Common Council could vote to override the “Tax Cap” in any year, the City of Kingston has yet to do so.
- The “Tax Cap” calculation uses multiple factors (rate of inflation, growth in tax base, pilot agreement revenues, carry forwards, etc.) that results in a dollar limit on the increase in property taxes.
- Under the NYS Tax Cap, municipalities face pressure to find innovative methods to reduce expenditures and find alternative revenue sources on an annual basis.

How Does The City Budget Affect My Tax Bills?

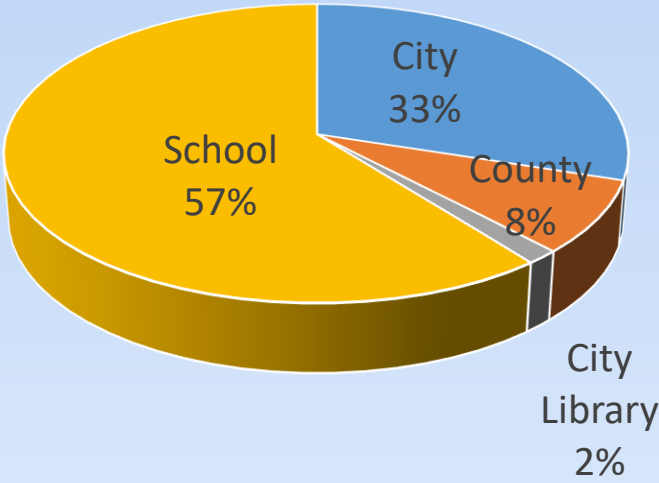
Distribution of Your Property Taxes Dollars By Jurisdiction (Average of Combined General and School Tax Bill Using Published Tax Rates)

Residential



■ City ■ County ■ City Library ■ School

Commercial



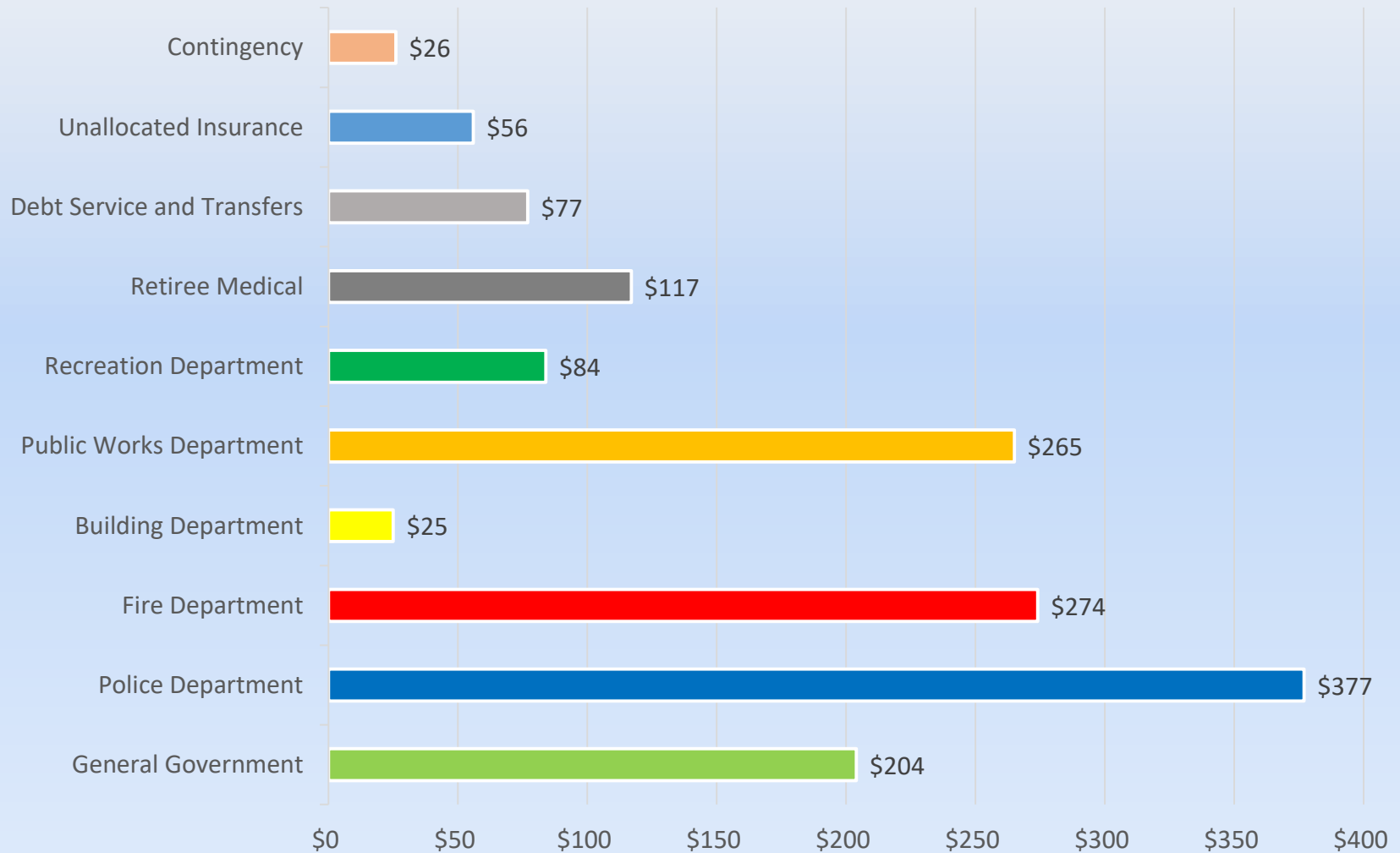
■ City ■ County ■ City Library ■ School

City Budget – Overview

- The City budget is actually comprised of two “funds”, each with their own budget.
- The “General Fund” budget includes the general operations of government such as Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works, Building and Safety, and City Hall. The City’s 2019 General Fund budget was approximately \$44 million. Property taxes (40%) and Sales tax (31%) provided approximately 71% of the budgeted funding for 2019 General Fund expenditures, with the balance coming from departmental revenues, state aid, and other sources.
- The “Sewer Fund” budget includes the City’s entire sanitary sewer system, including the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The City’s 2019 Sewer Fund budget was approximately \$5.3 million, of which 90% is funded through a “per unit” Sewer Usage Fee.

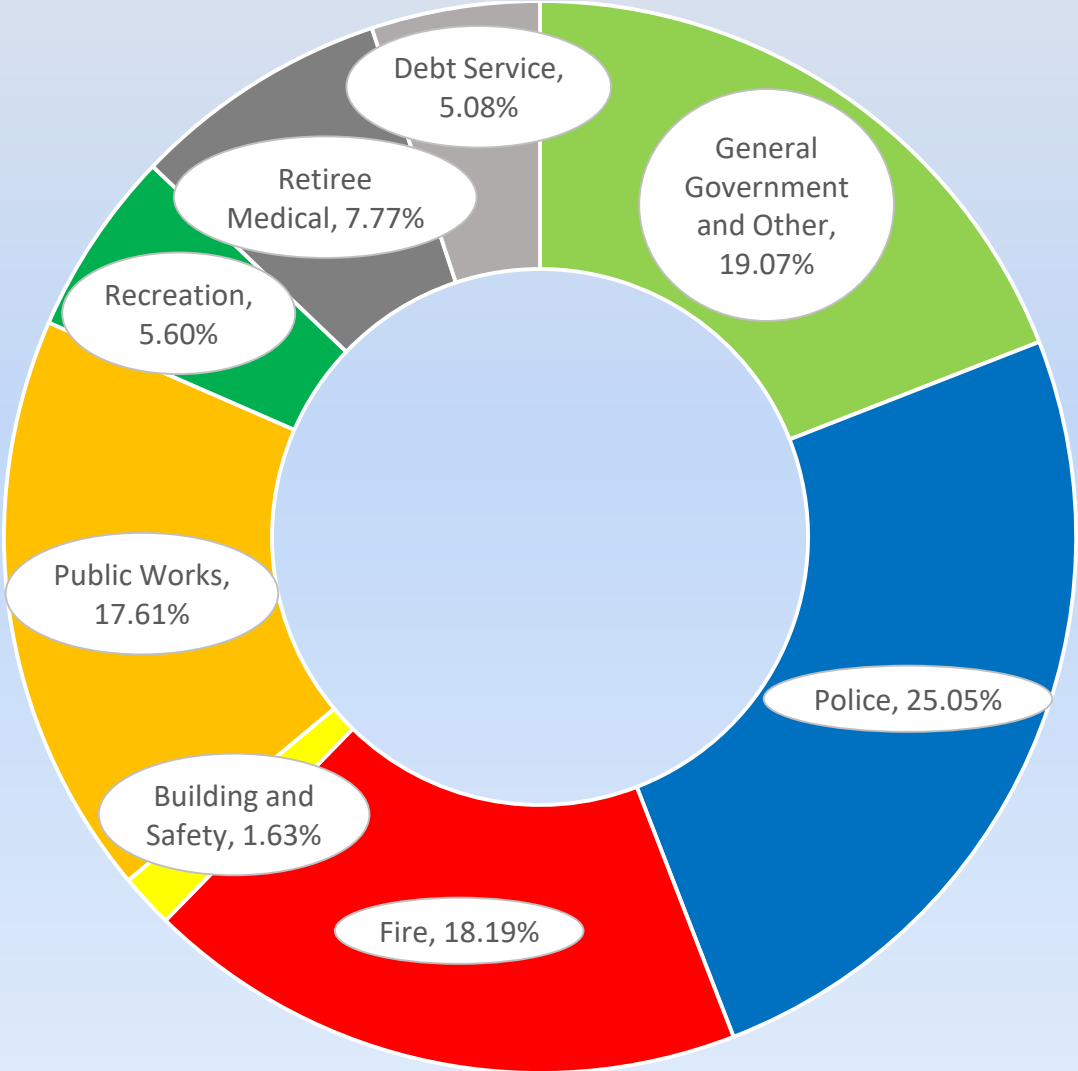
What does your City tax dollars fund?

Allocation of \$1,505 In 2019 City Tax Paid on \$150,000 Residence



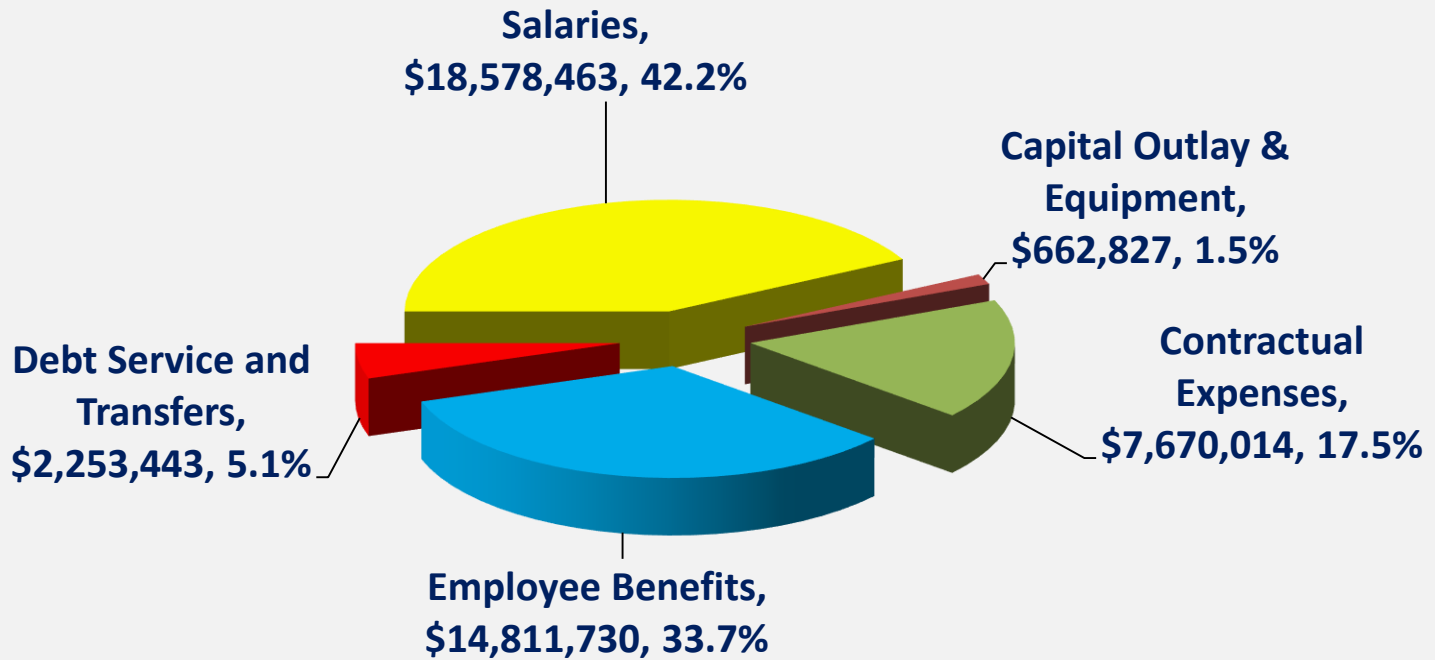
General Fund Expenditure Budget – By Purpose

(Source 2019 Adopted Budget)

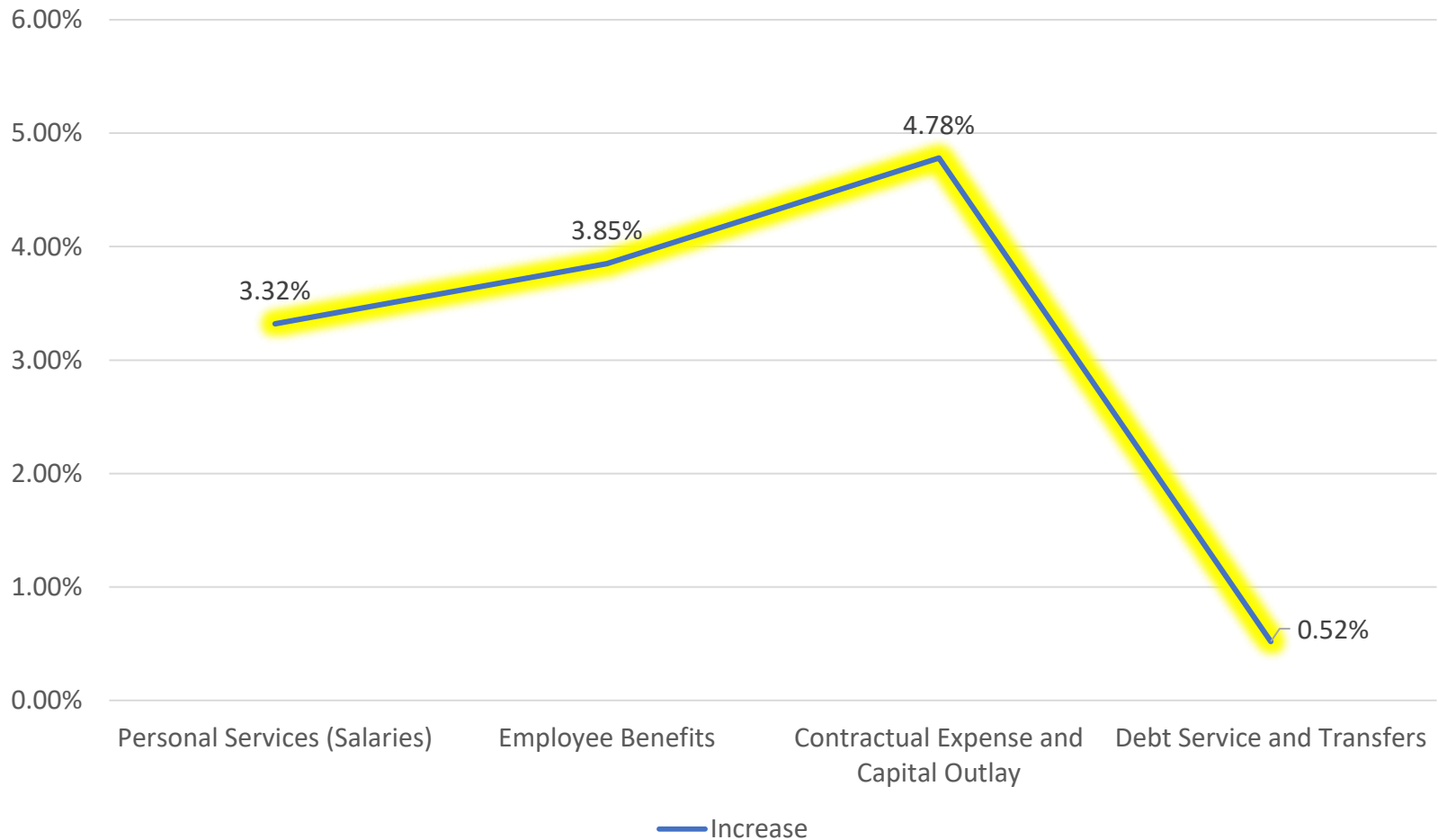


General Fund Expenditure Budget – By Category

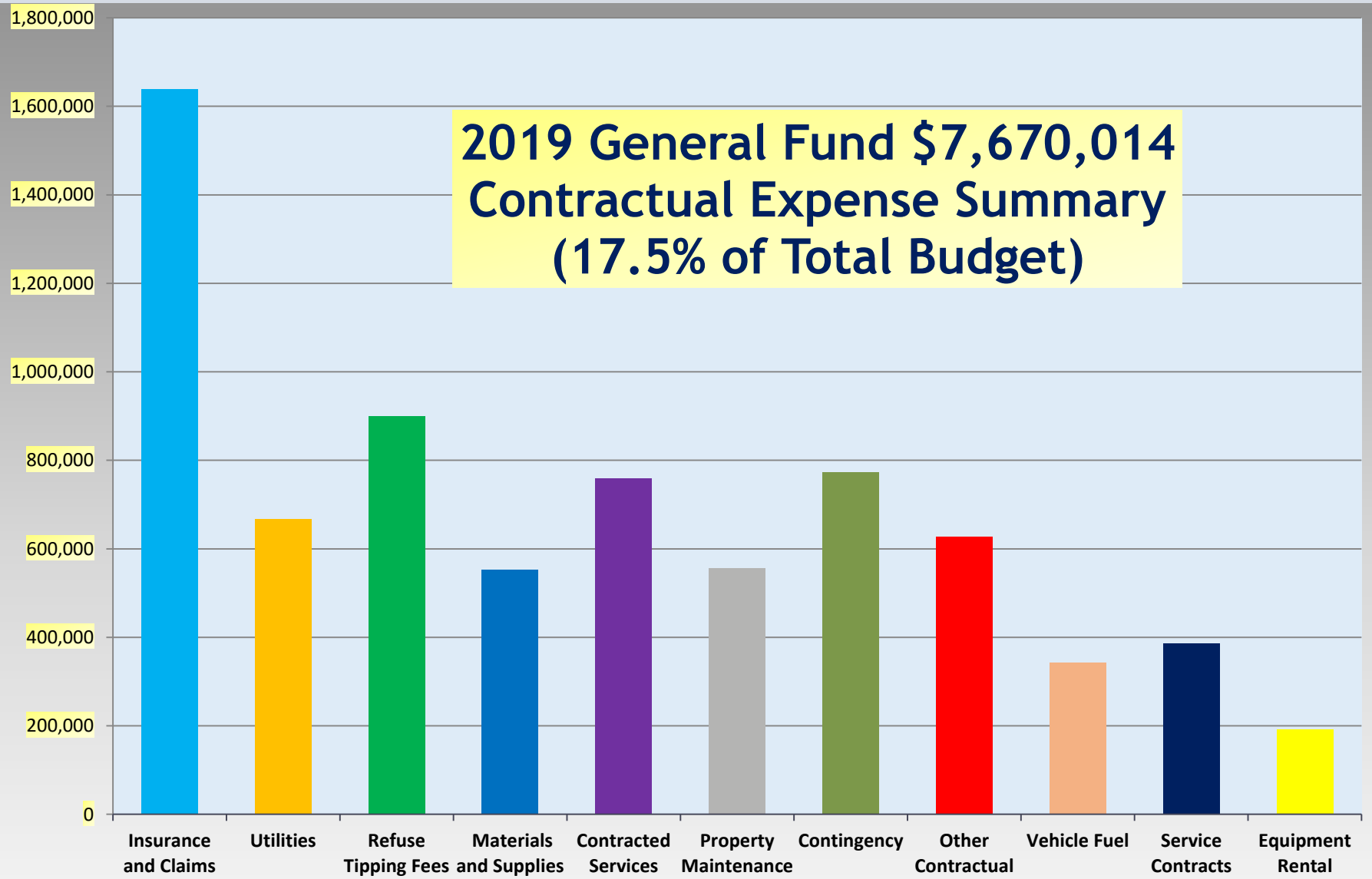
2019 General Fund Appropriations Summary Total Budget \$43,976,477



Trend In General Fund Expenditure Budget By Category (5 Year Average)



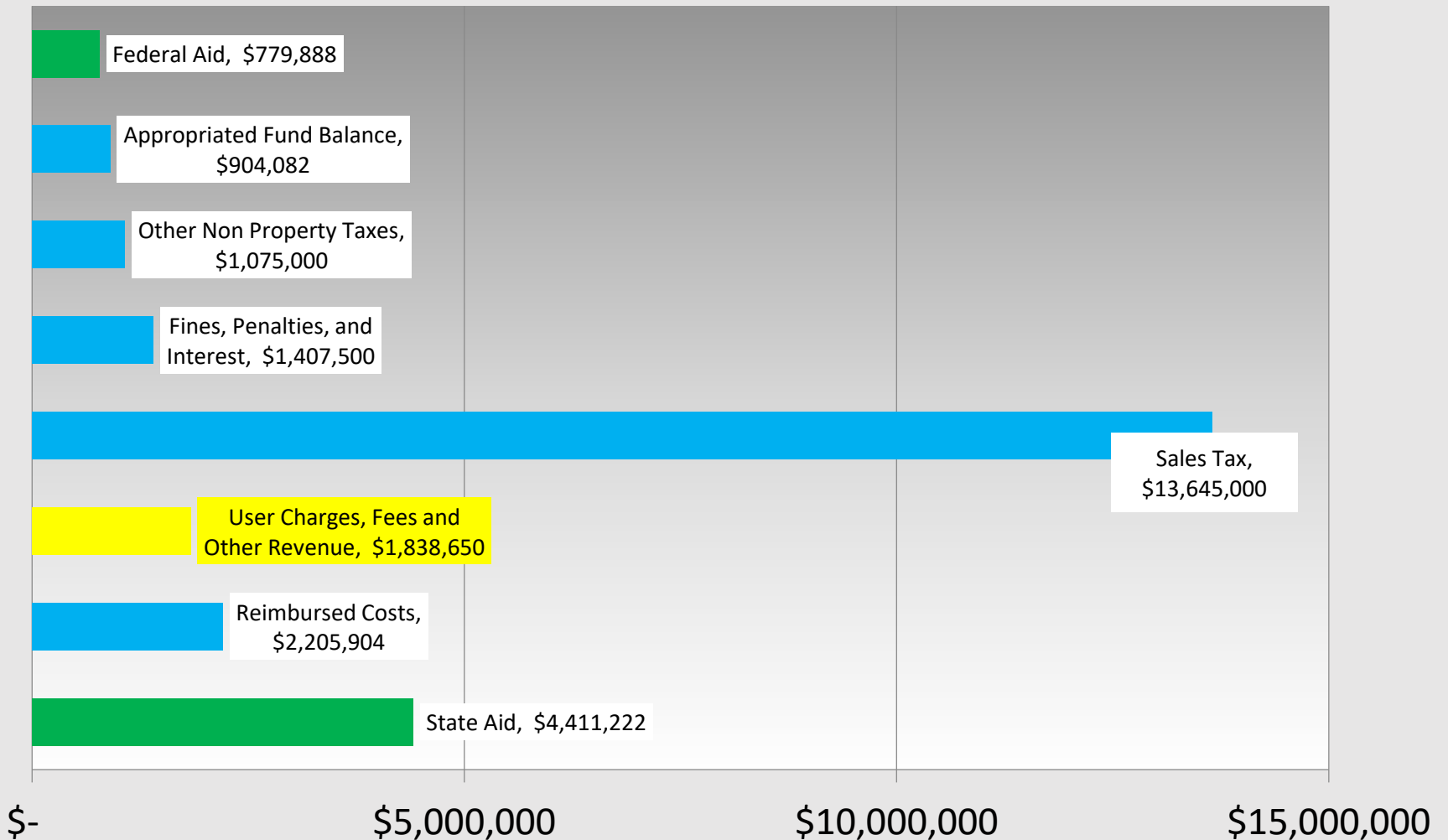
**2019 General Fund \$7,670,014
Contractual Expense Summary
(17.5% of Total Budget)**



What Are the Sources of City Revenue?



Besides Property Tax, Where Does General Fund Revenue Come From?



Questions for Consideration

- What changes should be made in the delivery of existing services (i.e. how can we make the service more cost effective or meet the needs of the public better?)
- What changes should be made to the funding of existing services (i.e. should a particular program be provided more or less resources)?
- What new services should be considered and to what extent should they be funded?
- What are your budget priorities for the City? (i.e. minimizing increases in property taxes, maintenance of existing services, improvement of existing services, offering of new services).