

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Introduction

JULY 1, 2024 | JUNE 30, 2025



### Successes

Committed to provide services that promote public safety

Over 10 years, EMS experienced a 65.5% increase in responses but encountered a 5% improvement in 8-minute response times

In May, have carried whole blood on each of the SCEMS supervisor units. Over 40 patients have benefited from this initiative.

Achieved accreditation through the Commission Accreditation of Ambulance Services (EMS)

Became the first EMS agency in the world to earn accreditation by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare

Improved intubation success numbers; the overall patient success rate improved 2.8%

Roxana began service as a year-round daytime unit

Earned reaccreditation as the world's 65<sup>th</sup> Medical Accredited Center of Excellence (EOC)

Accredited as the world's 30<sup>th</sup> Police Accredited Center of Excellence (EOC)

Accredited as the world's 24th Triple Accredited Center of Excellence (EOC)



### Successes

Committed to provide services that promote well-being and prosperity

Assisted more than 300 households with housing repairs

After the first full year of the new workforce housing zoning ordinance, the County has seen 3 new project applications that if approved will create 250 new units

Completed 13 sewer district boundary expansions including Red Fox Run and the South Greenwood Area

Took over O&M of the Gull Point and Warwick Cove on-site systems

Completed 2,771 sewer connections to our unified sewer district

ExciteSussex Loan fund – approved two loans totaling \$2.3 million to retain/create 70 jobs

Delaware Strategic Fund awarded \$1.7 million in Sussex to retain/create 88 jobs

Grand opening of the kitchen incubator was held in October 2023 – there are currently 19 members of the kitchen

Property complaints have decreased slightly due to the civil ticketing code implemented in 2020

### Successes

Committed to provide services that promote an enriched quality of life

Won the Conservation Stewardship Award for developing unique and innovative stormwater solutions at the Inland Bays Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant

26,911 people attended 1,999 programs offered by County libraries – a value of \$240,145

347,925 items were checked out at the County libraries – a value of over \$5 million

Participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Deaf Fest in promoting library services to the deaf community. Library staff took sign-language courses to assist 400 people at the event

Added two more stops to the mobile library – Slaughter Beach and Virginia Commons, Seaford

Delivered approximately 300 used books to a halfway house in Seaford, Code Purple, Little Free Libraries, Tidal Health, and several nursing homes and local hospitals

## Provided FEMA flood training to Building Code staff for cross-training purposes

Implemented Survey123 program to capture photos of building inspections into Munis system

Gathered 8,320 satellite-based GPS data collection points in our sewer areas to assist with maintaining four inches of accuracy of record drawings

Completed a full GIS rehost for upgrade and security of nearly 500 department applications

After two years, achieved 100% participation in the pensioner HR portal

Created a Spanish-only Marriage Bureau website

Expanded a publicly accessible large-scale document management system to access P&Z documents

Deeds dating back to 1940's are now available for online access

Improved turnaround on electronic deed fillings by now averaging 5 minutes and under

### Successes

Committed to provide services in a personal, professional manner



### Successes

Committed to provide services in a fiscally responsible manner

Added \$153 million to the Assessment roll in FY 2023 (\$145 million was added in FY 2022)

Generated over 490 invoices (up 13%) that brought in \$123,000 in fine revenue and abatement charges

Completed 22 Existing Wastewater Use Agreements totaling \$1.7 million (up 31%)

Gathered 1,561 satellite-based GPS data collection points in the Western Sussex sewer area to maintain four inches of accuracy of record drawings

Earned the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Performed 95% of building repairs in-house

To date, generated over \$4 million in written agreements for the Henlopen TID

Received a Congressional Direct Spending Grant of \$1,000,000 for environmental study for Runway 4 extension



### **Building Trends**





## Various One-Year Activity

Activity	2022's Activity	2023's Activity	2024's Projected Activity	Difference	% Change
Constable Complaints Tracked	1,127	1,104	989	(115)	(10%)
<b>Building Code Inspections</b>	30,347	29,198	26,975	(2,223)	(8%)
Bills Issued Annually	489,674	501,444	514,000	12,556	2.5%
Deed Documents Recorded	72,064	62,970	53,933	(9,037)	(14%)
Register of Wills Revenue	\$1,577,899	\$1,874,099	\$2,052,000	\$177,901	9.5%
Water and Sewer EDUs	87,488	92,030	93,655	1,625	2%
Miss Utility Tickets	51,294	52,957	49,811	(3,146)	(6%)
Utility Inspections	2,949	2,621	2,676	55	2%
Sewer Annexations Completed	16	13	8	(5)	(38%)

## **Budget Summary**

Fund	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	Difference	Percent
General Fund	\$89,715,170	\$99,057,382	\$9,342,212	10.4%
Capital Projects – GF	\$19,096,000	\$17,428,500	(\$1,667,500)	(8.7%)
Water Fund	\$1,801,420	\$2,029,843	\$228,423	12.7%
Sewer Fund	\$52,013,083	\$57,484,311	\$5,471,228	10.5%
Capital Projects – WS	\$66,050,000	\$52,520,000	(\$13,530,000)	(20.5%)
Pension	\$10,056,260	\$10,518,895	\$462,635	4.6%
American Rescue Plan	\$39,818,714	\$26,735,854	(\$13,082,860)	(32.9%)
Total	\$278,550,647	\$265,774,785	(\$12,775,862)	(4.6%)



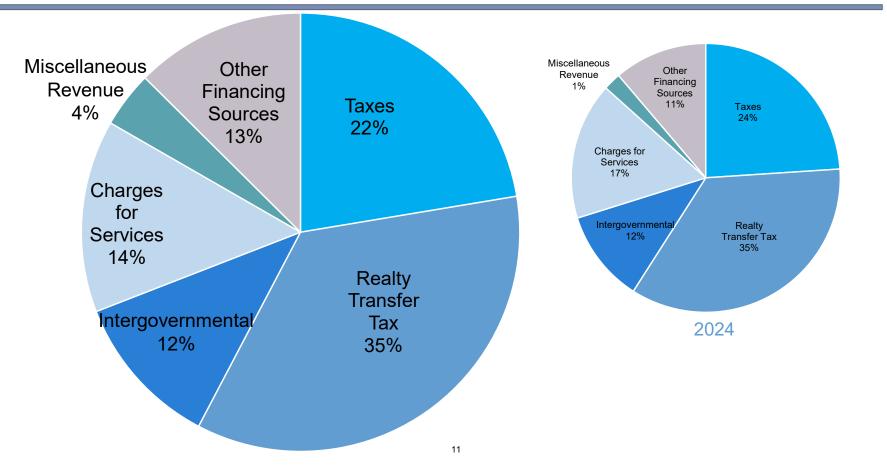
### Revenue Highlights

- No increase in taxes
- Use of Reserve: \$12.4 million in General Fund; \$11.9 million in Capital
- Tax revenue is UP \$683,000
- Realty Transfer Tax revenue is UP \$3.5 million
- Interest Revenue is UP \$2.1 million
- Grant revenue is UP \$1.3 million
- Wills revenue is UP \$350,000
- Use of savings is UP \$2.4 million
- Building related revenues are DOWN \$1.1 million



## Revenue Highlights

**General Fund** 





	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund
Open Space/SCLT w/Improvements	\$417,000	\$5,968,000
ExciteSussex Program	\$2,500,000	
Deferred Accommodations Tax	\$3,000,000	
Reassessment Project	\$3,400,000	
EMS equipment	\$973,000	
Trap Pond Project	\$1,500,000	
Fire Study	\$150,000	
Housing Trust Fund	\$500,000	
Airport - Stormwater Improvements		\$250,000
Airport – Land Acquisitions		\$298,500
Airport – Various Projects		\$115,000
Administrative Annex		\$250,000
Building Improvements		\$743,500
Bookmobile		\$400,000
Parking		\$2,000,000
Landfill Property		\$250,000
EMS Stations		\$1,630,000
Total	\$12,440,000	\$11,905,000

Blue denotes RTT reserves



### Change in Fees

- CHANGE: \$25 annual increase in un-metered water rates (6.4% increase)
- CHANGE: \$10 annual increase in sewer rates (3.0% increase)
- NEW: Plan resubmittal fee \$300 per occurrence
  - Engineering Plan Reviews due to rejection
  - P&Z Site Plan changes due to changes to building floor area, building footprint, building location, entrance location, or buffer/landscaped area
- NEW: Data center rack space rental fee \$500/mo (1/2 rack) & \$1,000/mo (full rack)
- NEW: Board of Adjustment ADU application fee \$500 regular BOA application is \$500
- NEW: Major subdivision/RPC application (where forested buffer plan is required) \$1,750 plus \$50 per dwelling unit (without forested buffer = \$1,000 plus \$50 per dwelling unit)
- NEW: Marriage Bureau Single Status forms \$20 (Kent charges \$10 and NCC charges \$20)
- CHANGE: Increase out-of-office ceremonies to cover mileage and additional time for travel;
   Delaware residents go to \$125 from \$100 and Out-of-State couples go to \$250 from \$200

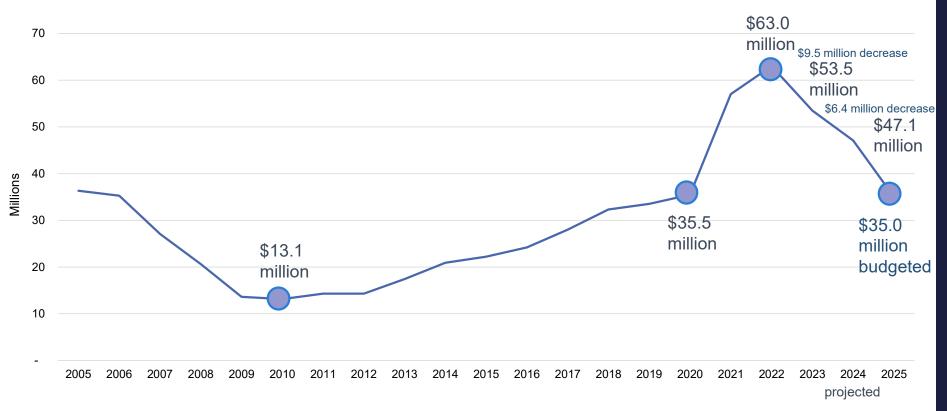


### **Building Related Revenues**





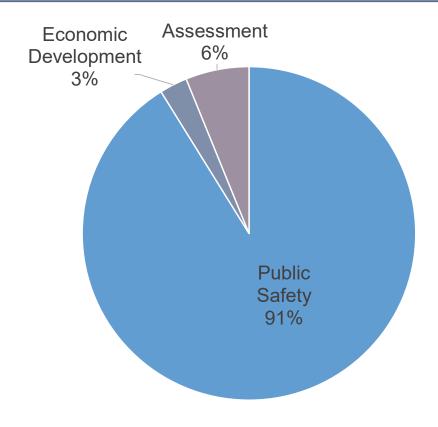
## Realty Transfer Tax





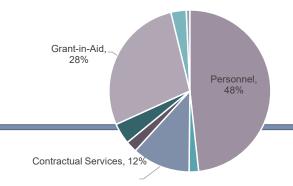
## RTT Expenses

Paid with current revenues





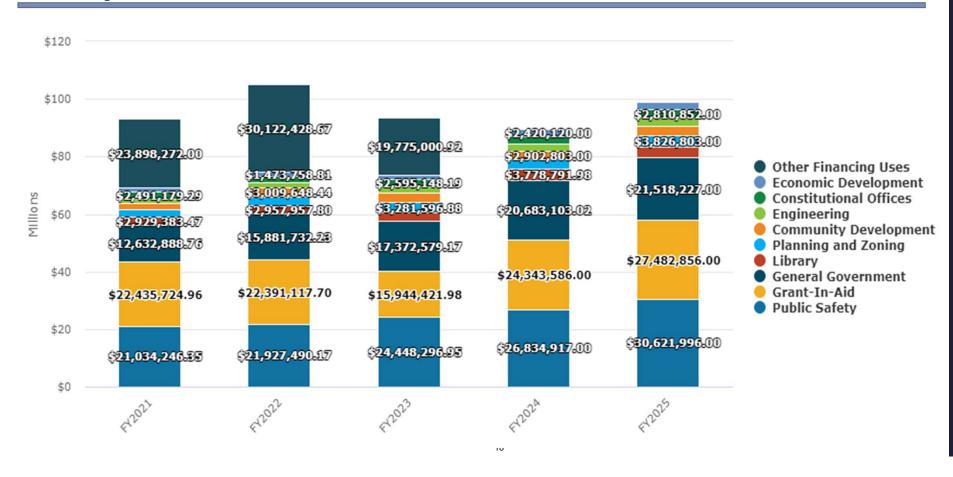
## General Fund Expense Comparison



	2024	2025	Difference	Percentage
Personnel	\$44,695,746	\$47,792,105	\$3,096,359	6.9%
Other Professional Services	\$1,684,139	\$1,878,531	194,392	11.5%
Contractual Services	\$10,172,539	\$11,366,788	1,194,249	11.7%
Supplies/Fuel/Tools	\$2,219,390	\$2,236,568	17,178	0.8%
Programs and Projects	\$3,969,070	\$4,123,541	154,471	3.9%
Training	\$494,890	\$456,053	(38,837)	(7.8%)
Grant-in-Aid	\$24,343,586	\$27,482,856	3,139,270	12.9%
Capital/Improvements	\$1,420,310	\$3,005,440	1,585,130	111.6%
Other Uses	\$715,500	\$715,500	-	-
Total	\$89,715,170	\$99,057,382	\$9,342,212	10.4%



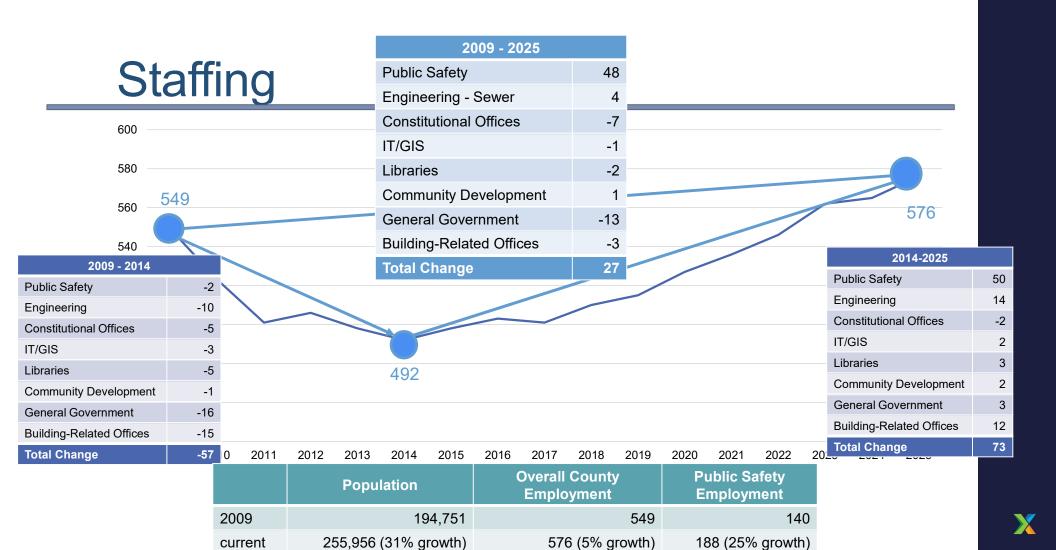
# General Fund Expense Comparison – by function



## Staffing –Positions

Department		Position	Increase(Decrease)	
	S	ewer - Engineering		
Engineering – Utility	Field Tech			1
Engineering – Utility	Asset Mar	nager		1
		Engineerin	g	2
	General F	und - General Government		
Planning & Zoning	Planning T	-ech		1
Human Resources	Human Re	esource Specialist (Public Safety)		1
		General Governme	nt	2
	Gener	al Fund - Public Safety		
EOC	Call Takers	S		4
EOC	Emergenc	y Manager		1
EOC	Quality As	surance Officer		1
EMS	Public Saf	ety Director		1
		Public Safe	ty	7
		Total New Full-Time Employee	es 11	





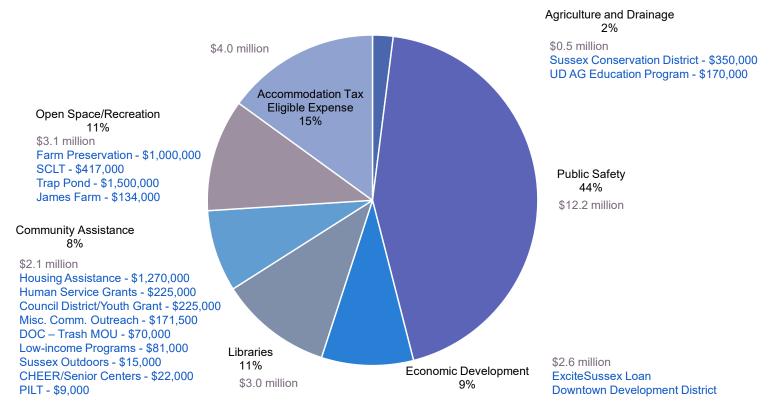
# **Employment Costs**Health Insurance

	2021	2022	2023	Projected 2024
County Paid Regular Insurance	\$8,638,677	\$8,808,335 – 2% increase	\$9,399,141 – 7% increase	\$10,337,000 – 10% increase
County Paid Pensioner Insurance	\$2,606,916	\$2,531,838 – 3% decrease	\$3,159,663 – 25% increase	\$3,276,000 – 4% increase
Total	\$11,245,593	\$11,340,173	\$12,558,804	\$13,613,000

Coverage	Monthly Employee Rate	New Proposed Rate Effective May 1	Change in Paycheck starting in May for employees
Employee	\$46.50	\$49.75	\$1.50
Employee + 1	\$147.14	\$157.44	\$4.75
Family (EE + 2 or more)	\$247.88	\$265.24	\$8.01
Individual + Medicare	\$109.99	\$117.69	\$3.55
County Employee Family 1	\$100.64	\$107.69	\$3.25
County Employee Family 2	\$46.5	\$49.75	\$1.50
Silver Employee	\$-	\$16.58	\$7.65
Employee + 1	\$87.43	\$93.55	\$2.82
Family (EE + 2 or more)	\$174.95	\$187.20	\$5.65
Individual + Medicare	\$69.86	\$74.75	\$2.26
Medicare + Individual	\$126.47	\$135.33	\$8.85 (monthly)
Medicare Only	\$-	\$2.50	\$2.50 (monthly)
Medicare + Medicare	\$69.86	\$77.25	\$7.39 (monthly)
Medicare + Family	\$164.53	\$176.04	\$11.52 (monthly)



### Grant-in-Aid - \$27.5 million





## Public Safety - \$12.2 million

	2021	2022	2023	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
Delaware State Police	\$3,547,130	\$3,587,492	\$3,770,393	\$4,137,787	\$4,601,557
Local Law Enforcement	\$800,000	\$690,000	\$690,000	\$805,000	\$920,000
Fire/BLS	\$10,890,782	\$5,176,565	\$5,933,471	\$5,728,950	\$5,678,950
Total	\$15,237,912	\$9,454,057	\$10,393,864	\$10,671,737	\$11,200,507

Funding for public safety comes from Realty Transfer Tax and the pass-through building permit fire service fee.

#### Other items included in the \$12.2 million

\$15,000 for lifeguards in Fenwick.

\$1,000,000 to Dewey Beach for medic station

County	Anticipated FY 2025 Budget	Population	Per Capita
New Castle*	\$7,209,166	575,494	\$12.53
Kent*	\$1,470,000	186,946	\$7.86
Sussex	\$5,678,950	255,956	\$22.19

<sup>\*</sup> Includes estimates for building permits fees and impact fees, if applicable



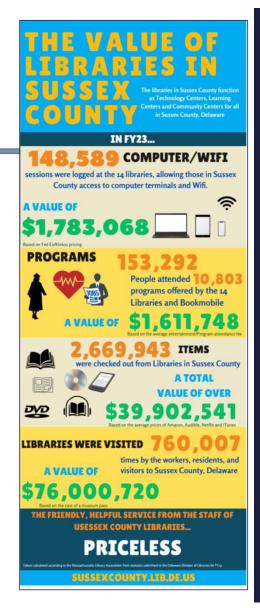
### Libraries - \$3.0 million

		2024	2025
Account Description	2023	Budget	Budget
Local Library Grants	\$2,674,600	\$2,747,600	\$2,806,600
Local Library Placement Fees	245,259	200,000	200,000
Total	\$2,919,859	\$2,947,600	\$3,006,600

Funding for the libraries come through:

- The library tax of \$2.0 million
- Mobile home placement tax of \$200,000
- General property tax of \$800,000

The funding increased by \$70,000 from the previous year due to growth in assessments.





### Open Space/Recreation - \$2.9 million

The County participates in multiple open space programs. There is \$1.4 million in the budget for possible open space partnerships. There is another \$6 million in open space purchases in Capital.

	Previous set-aside Contribution	Funds Spent since 2003	Acres Acquired	Remaining Funds in Reserves
Land Trust	\$6,787,005	\$6,369,776	992.10	\$417,229
Farmland Preservation	\$4,456,251	\$4,456,251	4,717.42	-
Out-right Purchases or Other Partnerships	-	\$11,155,110	521.88	-
Total	\$11,243,256	\$21,981,137	6,231.40	\$417,229

The County's commitment of \$1,500,000 to help the State of Delaware with a water area at Trap Pond is still in the budget; would be paid with RTT reserves





# General Fund Capital

FY 2025 Budget



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	TOTAL	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
PROJECT REVENUES						
Reserves/RTT (transfer)	\$45,353,000	\$11,905,000	\$4,724,500	\$14,073,500	\$12,856,000	\$1,794,000
FAA Grant	35,497,000	4,717,000	3,717,000	3,213,000	17,208,000	6,642,000
Investment Income	1,125,000	600,000	300,000	150,000	50,000	25,000
State of Delaware	1,916,500	206,500	206,500	178,500	956,000	369,000
	83,891,500	17,428,500	8,948,000	17,615,000	31,070,000	8,830,000
	" '	"				





	03,091,500	17,420,500	0,940,000	17,615,000	31,070,000	0,030,000
PROJECT EXPENDITURES						
AIRPORT - Extend Runway 4 (to 6,123')	24,650,000	1,500,000	1,610,000	540,000	15,750,000	5,250,000
AIRPORT - Rehabilitate Runway 4-22	1,280,000	-	-	-	-	1,280,000
AIRPORT - Land Acquisition/Improvements	700,000	600,000	100,000	-	-	-
AIRPORT - Construct Hangar Taxiways	2,000,000	300,000	1,300,000	400,000	-	-
AIPRORT - Construct Parallel TW B	10,400,000	2,330,000	1,220,000	2,630,000	3,370,000	850,000
AIRPORT - Pavement Improvements	500,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
AIRPORT - Building Improvements	100,000	100,000	-	-	-	-
AIRPORT - Utility Improvements	407,000	407,000	-	-	-	-
Business Park – Stormwater Management	3,750,000	250,000	1,500,000	2,000,000		
Administration/PS Building Improvements	681,000	281,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Administration Annex	21,000,000	250,000	750,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	-
Admin Parking	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-	-	-
EMS Stations	7,330,000	1,630,000	1,700,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,000,000
Landfill Property Acquisition	1,250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Land Improvements	981,000	568,000	318,000	95,000	-	-
Library Improvements	462,500	462,500	-	-	-	-
Mobile Library	400,000	400,000	-	-	-	-
Property Acquisition	6,000,000	6,000,000	-	-	-	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	83,891,500	17,428,500	8,948,000	17,615,000	31,070,000	8,830,000

# Sewer

FY 2025 Budget



### **Sewer Financial Facts**

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	Increase
Budget	\$45,777,826	\$51,313,948	\$52,013,083	\$57,484,311	\$5,471,228 -10.5%

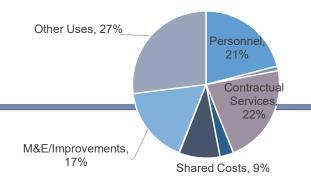
Fiscal Year	Use of Savings to Balance Budget
2025	\$644,528
2024	\$601,112
2023	\$537,596

Cash	Sewer Fund
Unrestricted	\$7,011,442
Percent of Operations	12%

Fiscal Year	Rate		Amount Generated
2022		\$296	-
2023		\$320	\$1,972,944
2024		\$330	\$853,800
2025		\$340	\$898,500



## Sewer Budget Summary



	2024	2025	Difference	Percentage
Personnel	11,834,926	12,393,136	558,210	4.7%
Other Professional Services	296,300	446,300	150,000	50.6%
Contractual Services	10,566,566	12,474,403	1,907,837	18.1%
Supplies/Fuel/Tools	1,662,310	1,995,885	333,575	20.1%
Shared Costs	4,223,613	5,041,248	817,635	19.4%
Training	57,170	61,530	4,360	7.6%
M&E/Improvements	9,695,779	9,656,894	(38,885)	-0.4%
Other Uses (Debt)	13,676,419	15,414,915	1,738,496	12.7%
Total	52,013,083	57,484,311	5,471,228	10.5%



## Assessment Rates

Area – Billed by Front Footage	2023 Rate	2024 Rate	2025 Rate
Angola	\$5.85	\$5.13	\$4.89
Angola North	\$9.00	\$8.30	\$7.80
Cedar Neck Expansion	\$2.99	\$2.99	\$2.67
Concord Road Area - Blades	\$4.24	\$4.24	\$4.24
Ocean Way Estates	\$1.82	\$1.82	\$1.82
Dagsboro/Frankford	\$0.60	\$0.60	\$0.60
Dagsboro/Frankford – Prince George's	\$3.63	\$3.63	\$3.63
Ellendale	\$1.60	\$1.22	\$0.73
Ellendale - New Market Village	\$4.69	\$2.58	\$0.36
Fenwick Island Sewer	\$0.26	\$0.26	\$0.26
Fenwick Island – Rt. 54	\$7.06	\$7.06	\$7.06
Golf Village	\$1.47	\$1.47	\$1.47
Herring Creek	\$8.24	\$8.24	\$8.24
Johnson's Corner	\$4.55	\$4.55	\$4.55
Miller Creek	\$6.40	\$6.40	\$5.48
Millville Expansion	\$4.01	\$4.01	\$3.72
Mulberry Knoll	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00
Oak Orchard	\$4.26	\$4.26	\$4.26

Area – Billed by Front Footage	2023 Rate	2024 Rate	2025 Rate
Oak Orchard Expansion	\$4.19	\$4.19	\$4.19
Ocean Way Estates	\$1.82	\$1.82	\$1.82
South Ocean View	\$5.47	\$5.47	\$5.47
West Rehoboth Sewer Expansion	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.30
Woodlands of Millsboro	\$0.42	\$0.42	\$0.42

Area – Billed by EDU	2023 Rate	2024 Rate	2025 Rate
Chapel Branch	\$680.00	\$680.00	\$680.00
Dewey/Henlopen Acres	\$318.54	\$318.54	\$318.54
Joy Beach	-	-	\$540.00
Lochwood	-	-	\$708.00
Long Neck Communities	-	-	\$633.00
Mallard Creek	-	\$540.00	\$540.00
Oak Acres/Tanglewood	-	-	\$644.00
Pintail Pointe	\$954.00	\$954.00	\$954.00
Warwick Cove/Gull Point	-	-	\$325.00
Western Sussex	\$285.00	\$285.00	\$285.00



# Water

FY 2025 Budget



### Water

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
Budget	\$1,750,817	\$2,006,649	\$1,801,420	\$2,029,843

Item	Increase in budget (\$228,000)
Water supply costs	\$100,000
Meters	\$100,000
Employment Costs	\$9,000
Shared Costs	\$19,000

Operating Income/(Losses)	Water Fund
2023	(\$352,727)
2022	(\$128,533)
2021	(\$84,108)
2020	\$84,630



# How are we closing the gap of the Water Fund?

Current Rate: \$392
Proposed Rate: \$417
Artesian: ~\$483
Rehoboth: ~\$422
Lewes: ~\$419



Increase the cost per EDU by \$25 annually (6.0% increase)

\$95,000

Year	End of 2023	2024	2025	2026
Reserves	\$2,325,177	\$2,194,143	\$1,637,143	\$1,550,378



# **Utility Capital**

FY 2025 Budget



ENTERPRISE FUNDS: REVENUES				
Assessment Fees (Loans/Grants)				
Connection Charges				
Federal Grant (ARPA)				
User Fees				
TOTAL: REVENUES				
ENTERPRISE FUNDS: EXPENSES				
IBRWF - Loop Project				
IBRWF - Disposal Expansion				
IBRWF - Treatment Expansion				
IBRWF – Drainage/Constructed Wetlands				
SCRWF - Capacity Expansion				
SCRWF - Compliance Upgrades				
Piney Neck-RWF Transmission Improvements				
Piney Neck-Lagoon Conversions				
WNRWF Conversion				
Concord Road/Route 13 Commercial				
LBPW Technical Evaluation (joint)				
Herring Creek				
Winding Creek Village Water District				
Joy Beach				
Long Neck Communities				
Blackwater Village				
Oak Acres/Tanglewood				
Pintail Pointe				
S Lochwood				
Slaughter Beach				
Countryside Hamlet				
Pintail Pointe Lochwood Slaughter Beach Countryside Hamlet North Ellendale Re-direct Warwick Park Phase 2 & Pumpstation				
Briarwood				
TOTAL ENTERPRISE EXPENDITURES				
- IOIAL LITTLIN MOL LAI LITOITORLO				

3-YEAR TOTAL	2025	2026	2027
0-TEAR TOTAL			
82,010,000	29,960,000	40,900,000	11,150,000
53,360,000	11,560,000	21,650,000	20,150,000
15,500,000	9,000,000	6,500,000	-
2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-
152,870,000	52,520,000	69,050,000	31,300,000
		, ,	, ,
8,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	-
5,000,000	3,000,000	2,000,000	-
25,000,000	3,000,000	12,000,000	10,000,000
2,500,000	2,500,000	-	-
2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-
2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-
12,720,000	2,120,000	5,300,000	5,300,000
2,500,000	-	-	2,500,000
6,000,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	1,000,000
250,000	250,000	-	-
2,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
3,000,000	3,000,000	-	-
2,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
6,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-
12,500,000	3,000,000	7,500,000	2,000,000
2,100,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	-
1,500,000	1,500,000	-	-
8,500,000	4,250,000	4,250,000	-
21,000,000	6,000,000	15,000,000	-
2,000,000	1,500,000	500,000	
9,250,000	1,250,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
11,850,000	2,500,000	4,850,000	4,500,000
4,200,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	
152,870,000	52,520,000	69,050,000	31,300,000











JULY 1, 2024 | JUNE 30, 2025

#### Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Budget book and presentation can be found at: www.sussexcountyde.gov
Budget comments can be sent to: <a href="mailto:budget@sussexcountyde.gov">budget@sussexcountyde.gov</a>
Public Hearing – June 18, 2024

Any questions can be sent to: gjennings@sussexcountyde.gov

