

Budget in Brief

Proposed Fiscal Year 2026/27 Budget
Budget Hearing: Thursday, March 5, 2026
 7:00 P.M. Lecture Hall,
 Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Road

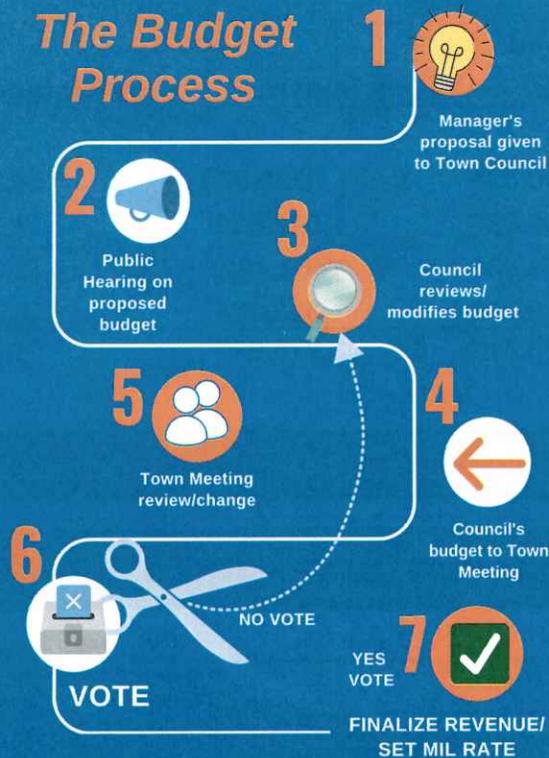


Overview

Due to the lingering impacts of COVID-19, including the significant increase in home values experienced in rural/suburban areas, the Town has had some challenging budgets the last few years. We have successfully dropped dependence on Federal grants for daily operations, we have ended the use of Reserve Funds for budgeting, we replaced a costly EMS service contract with the stability of town EMS staff, and we have begun to re-build our team of volunteers using an innovative "Live-in Program". The unexpected outcome of last year's Revaluation of property which led to a shift of the tax burden to residential property owners negatively impacted the budget as the Town searched for ways to soften the tax bill increases for residents. Our Capital Budget which was already lowered during COVID was impacted further in FY26, which brought it to a level of nearly half the amount the Town allocated in 2017. The Town Manager's FY27 proposed Budget does include an increased Capital Budget to address some of the Town's and the Board of Education's equipment and technology needs. There are several items in need of replacement. We are planning to budget a little more funds over time as we plan to catch-up. Capital equipment/projects budgeted for FY27 are mostly related to public safety, public works, Schools and the update of computers for the Board of Education and the Town.

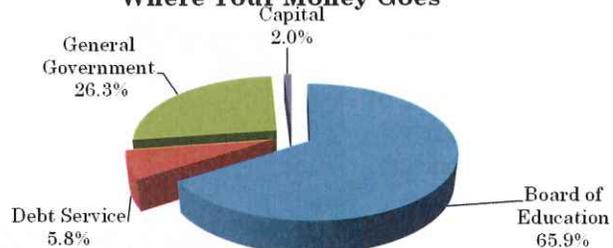
"The Town Manager's budget proposals for the Town, Board, Capital and Debt Service call for a 4.76% spending increase."

The Budget Process



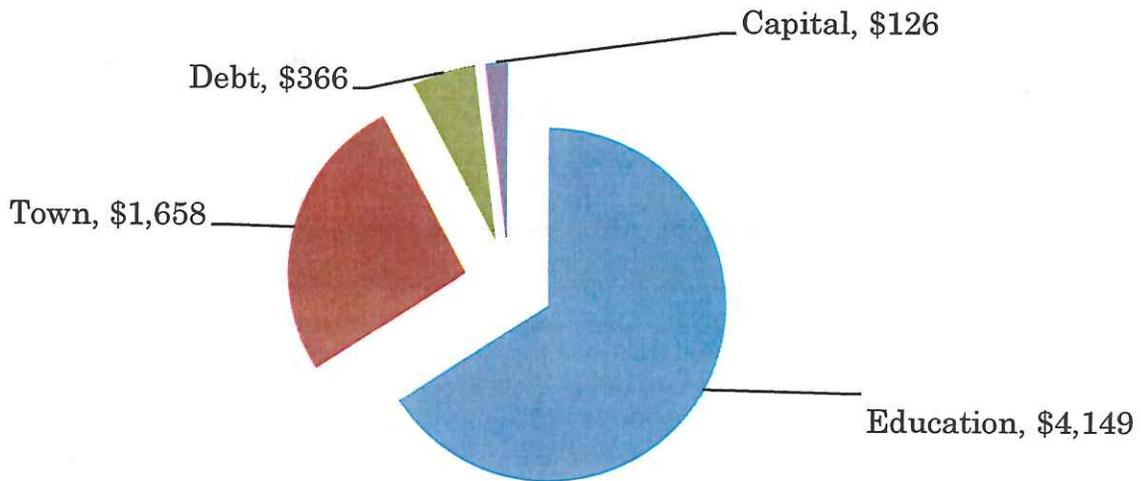
The Town Manager's budget proposals for the Town government (including Ambulance Transfer), Board of Education, Capital, and Debt Service, call for a \$2,275,047 spending increase from the prior year's adopted budget. The proposed budget will increase the current mill rate by 1.41 mills, resulting in a rate of 25.17 mills for real estate, personal property and motor vehicles. The proposed budget will be reviewed and adjusted by the Town Council then sent to the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2026, in the CHS Veterans Auditorium at 10:00 A.M. The adjourned Town Meeting vote is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

Where Your Money Goes



Budget Summary

Tax Breakdown For Median House \$6,299

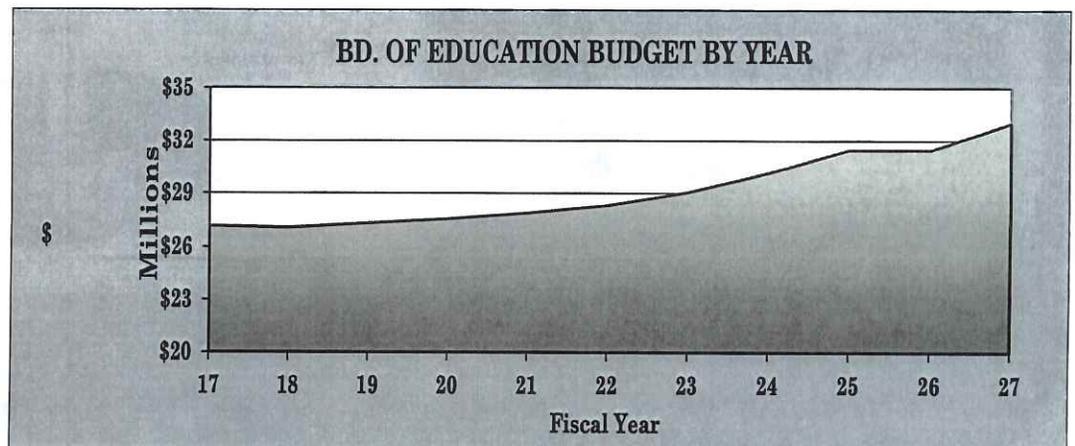


Budget expenditures are broken down into the areas of General Government, Board of Education, Debt Service, and Capital totaling \$50,103,318, an increase of \$2,275,047 or 4.76% compared to the adopted FY25-26 budget. A breakdown of these areas is illustrated below.

Budget Area:	Adopted FY25/26	Proposed FY26/27	\$ Inc/Dec	% Change
General Government	\$ 12,593,776	\$ 13,190,595	\$ 596,819	4.74%
Board of Education	31,457,874	33,000,696	1,542,822	4.90%
Debt Service	3,314,306	2,912,837	(401,469)	-12.11%
Capital	462,315	999,190	536,875	116.13%
Total Expenditures	\$ 47,828,271	\$ 50,103,318	\$ 2,275,047	4.76%

Board of Education Summary

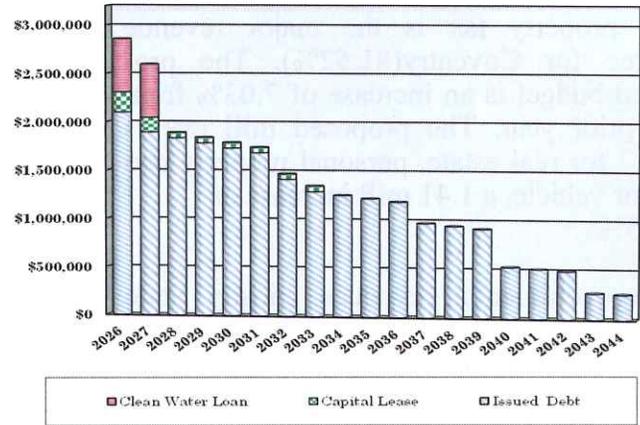
The Board of Education budget is proposed at \$33,000,696; an increase of \$1,542,822 or 4.90% from their adopted FY26 budget. You will note the chart shows the budget history for the Board of Education. Details are available on the web at: www.coventrypublicschools.org.



Debt Service

Debt Service represents 5.81% of the Town budget. This is far below a common threshold of 10% for U.S. Towns. For FY27, there is a proposed decrease of \$401,469 or 12.11% from the prior year. This decrease is due to final bond payments occurring in 2026. Also included in the FY27 budget is a capital lease for a small dump truck and a large dump truck. While this will lead to increased debt service budgets for FY27, it is important to know that our projected debt service is anticipated to decline each year going forward, which will allow for additional debt issuance or savings to taxpayers.

Projected Debt Service by Year



Capital Projects

Summer Road Program (added to Town Aid Road)	\$135,000
Crack Sealing of CHS Parking Lot	25,000
Network Refresh	30,000
Education Computer Upgrades	35,000
Classroom Furniture	10,000
School Maintenance Vehicle	70,000
Fire Pump (CHS/CNH) & Inspections of Fire Tanks	102,000
HVAC Inspection	90,000
Historic Library Portico Repairs (State grant match)	39,500
Town Hall Computer Upgrades	40,000
Revaluation	30,000
DPW Pickup Truck	50,000
PD Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System Upgrade	30,000
FD/EMS Service Vehicle	85,000
SCBA (FD Air Tanks)	20,000
Fire Personal Protective Turn Out Gear	25,000
Special Ops. FD gear	15,000
Fire Hose/Equipment	9,000
CNREF	34,000
Lake Management (water quality)	124,690

TOTAL

\$999,190

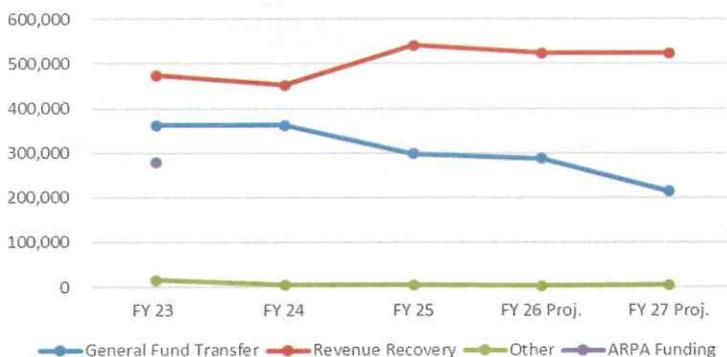
The proposed capital projects budget for the General Fund for FY27 totals \$999,190, an increase of \$536,875 or 116.13%. Of this budget, \$362,000 is related to capital projects for the Board of Education. In total 20 projects are proposed from the General Fund.

In addition to the capital project budget outlined in the General Fund, several capital projects are proposed through grants, including Town Aid Road, (\$378,000) and Local Capital Improvement Program (\$153,065). The Capital budget also includes a \$2,104,000 bond proposal which will be used for Bunker Hill and Parker Bridge Rd bridges, paging systems at GHR/CGS, CHS/CNH and fire alarm replacements at CHS, GHR, CHS.

Please refer to the Capital Budget section of the budget for additional details.

Transfer to EMS-Ambulance Service Fund

Ambulance Service Fund Revenues



It is proposed in the FY27 budget to transfer \$213,711 to the EMS Fund to fund the ambulance coverage currently provided to residents on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis. This is a reduction of \$74,435 from last year. Under current staffing Coventry has 5 full-time staff members and up to 9 part-time staff members. Part-time employee count is dependent on hours needed to be covered. Newly recruited certified volunteers (College Students) within our "Live-in Program" have allowed for reduced costs for less use of paid staffing.

Revenues

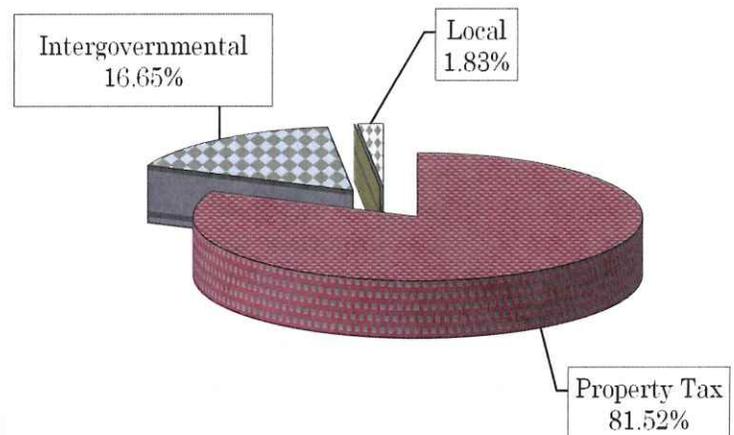
The property tax is the major revenue source for Coventry (81.52%). The proposed budget is an increase of 7.03% from the prior year. The proposed mill rate is 25.17 for real estate, personal property and motor vehicle, a 1.41 mill increase or 5.95% .

Intergovernmental revenues, mostly State aid, are the second largest revenue source (16.65%) of revenues for Coventry. This is a reduction of 2.42% from the prior year adopted budget. These revenues are based on the assumed State budget which is not yet final.

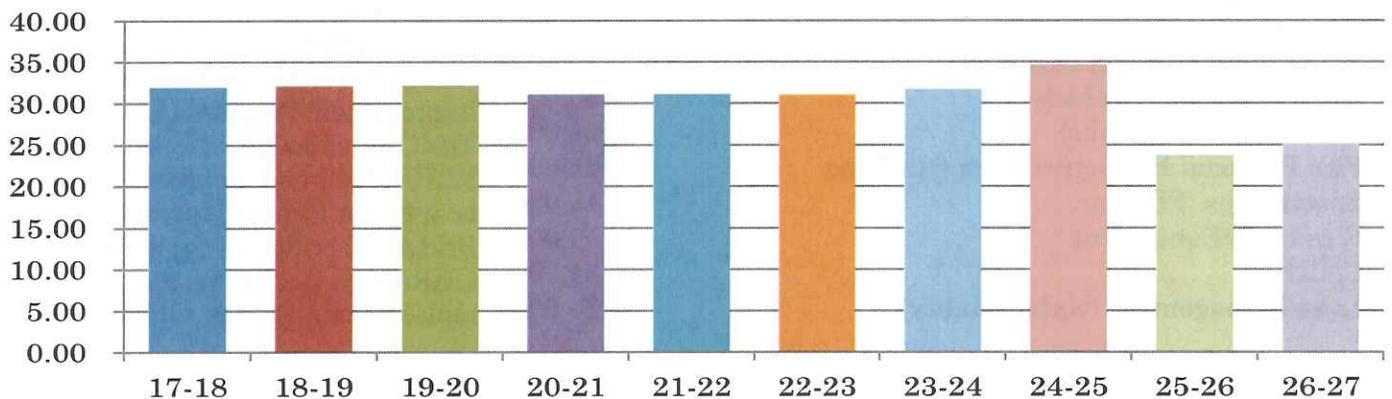
Other local revenues consist of a variety of fees for permits, services and interest earnings. This area which represents 1.83% of the Town's budget is expected to increase \$6,000 from the prior year. Increases are caused by the increase in the PILOT for the Housing Authority and an increase in police municipal surcharge receipts.

Lastly, our proposed revenue budget for FY27 does not include use of fund balance. The use of fund balance stems from the Town's COVID 19 financial impact plan that was previously adopted to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic and was anticipated to be phased out.

FY 26/27 Revenue by Source



Mill Rate History



To learn more about the fiscal year 2026/27 proposed budget, you can view the full Town budget document online at www.coventry-ct.gov under Finance. Copies of the Town and Board of Education budgets are also available for viewing in the Coventry Town Clerk's office during regular office hours.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

If you have questions or concerns about the FY 26/27 proposed budget, please don't hesitate to email: budgetcomments@coventry-ct.gov

or call the Town Manager's Office at 860-742-6324.



TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS

Guidelines for additional tax relief for qualified Coventry seniors and disabled persons are available in the Town Assessor's Office. This includes a local tax credit program. Call 860-742-4067.

Application Deadline: May 15, 2026.