

# Budget in Brief

**Proposed Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget**  
**Special Budget Meeting: Tuesday May 28, 2024**  
 6:00 P.M. Veterans Auditorium,  
 Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Road

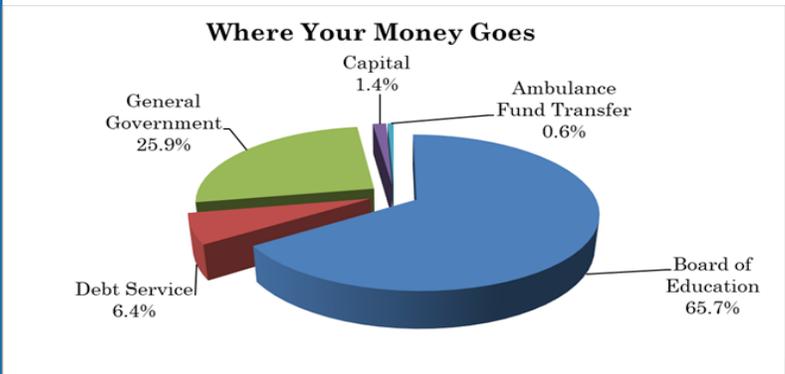
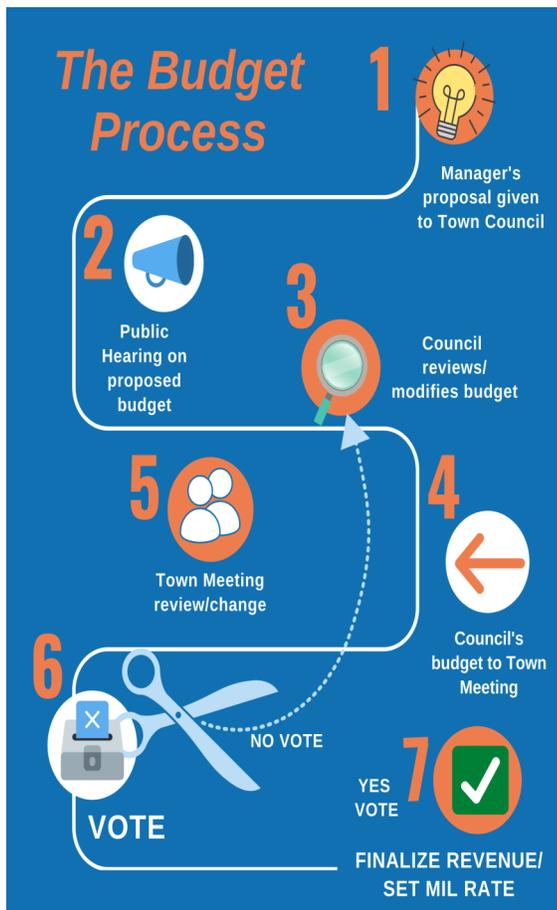


## Overview

Responding to the expectations of Coventry residents for better and more efficient services, Town and Board staff reviewed programs and services and prepared budget proposals that addressed the stated goals of the Town Council and Board of Education. Existing services were maintained and infrastructure repairs, services to students, seniors, and public safety were given a priority. The Town Council's submitted a proposed budget for consideration at the May 7th referendum. Voters rejected the budget and so the Town Council and the

“The Town Council’s budget proposals for the Town, Board, Capital and Debt Service call for a 3.35% spending increase.”

Board of Education made additional cuts to projects, programs and staff hours in order to reduce the impact of a tax increase which has been proposed to maintain vital Town and BOE services. The budget was reviewed and modified by the Town Council, resulting in a reduction from requests of \$1,385,317. The Town Council’s budget proposals for the Town, Board, Capital, Debt Service, and EMS(Ambulance)Fund transfer call for a \$1,508,044 spending increase from the prior year adopted budget. The proposed budget will require an increase to the current mil rate of 1.57 mils or 5.05%, resulting in a rate of 33.31 mils. The proposed budget has been sent to a Special Budget Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in the CHS Veterans Auditorium at 6:00 P.M. The adjourned Budget Meeting vote is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2024.



## Budget Summary

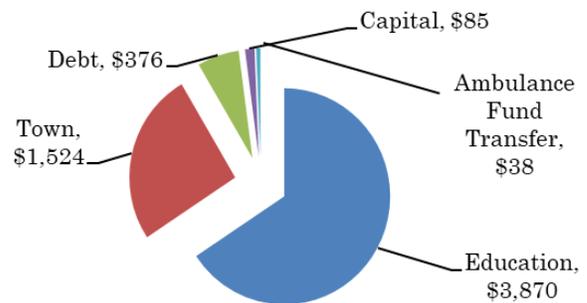
The expenditure part of the budget is broken down into the areas of General Government, Board of Education, Debt Service, Capital and the EMS(Ambulance)Fund Transfer totaling \$46,590,034, an increase of \$1,508,044 or 3.35% compared to the adopted FY23-24 budget. A breakdown of the budgets are illustrated below.

Budget Area	Adopted FY23/24	Requested FY24/25	\$ Change	% Change
General Government	\$ 11,491,730	\$ 12,050,160	\$ 558,430	4.86%
Board of Education	29,594,330	30,599,700	1,005,370	3.40%
Debt Service	2,909,930	2,972,506	62,576	2.15%
Capital	723,500	668,748	(54,752)	-7.57%
EMS(Ambulance)Fund Trns	362,500	298,920	(63,580)	-17.54%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 45,081,990</b>	<b>\$ 46,590,034</b>	<b>\$ 1,508,044</b>	<b>3.35%</b>

## Town Operating Budget Summary

The Town operating budget recommended for FY25 is \$12,050,160; an increase of \$558,430. This is a reduction of \$331,912 or 2.68% from the Town Manager requested budget. The largest driver to this increase is personnel services and funding of the \$298,920 transfer to the EMS (ambulance) fund which was previously funded by ARPA funds. Health insurance increased 9% due to increased claim trends. The Town's required pension contribution, as calculated by our actuary, increased by \$40,610 or 8%. This budget reduces staff hours. Other drivers behind the Operating Budget increase include general inflation increases, as well as increased technology needs, costs in gasoline and diesel fuel. This budget is a bare minimum budget in order to maintain the current services provided by the Town. Any additional reductions to the Town Operating Budget will likely result in staff layoffs and/or a reduction in services provided to Town residents.

### Tax Breakdown For Median House \$5,892



### Mil increase by budget area

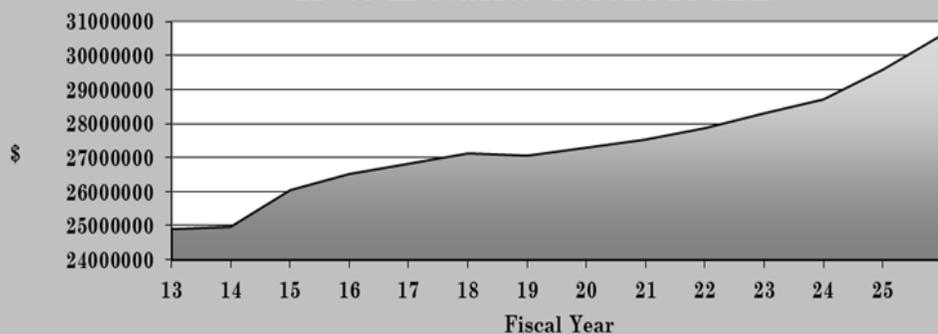
	Change from PY	% of increase	Mil increase
Board of Education	1,005,370	66.7%	1.05
General Govt	558,430	37.0%	0.58
Debt	62,576	4.1%	0.07
Capital	(54,752)	-3.6%	-0.06
Ambulance Fund Transfer	(63,580)	-4.2%	-0.07
	<u>1,508,044</u>		<u>1.57</u>

## Board of Education Summary

The Board of Education budget was reduced \$375,000 by the Town Council and is proposed at \$30,599,700; an increase of \$1,005,370 or 3.40% from their originally adopted FY24 budget.

Details are available on the web at [coventrypublicschools.org](http://coventrypublicschools.org)

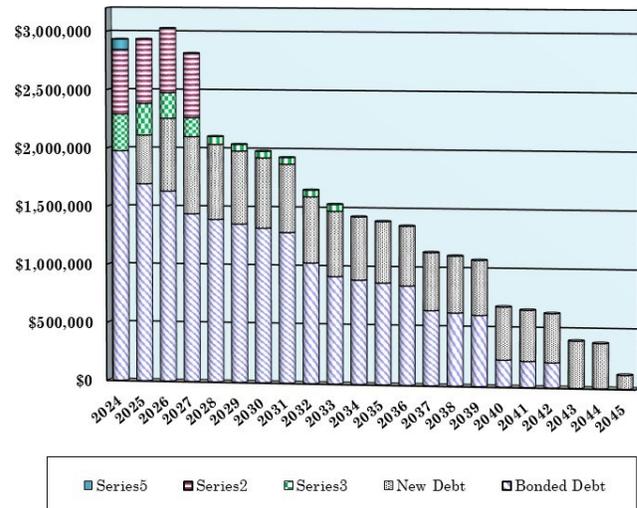
### BD. OF EDUCATION BUDGET BY YEAR



## Debt Service

Debt Service represents 6.4% of the Town budget. This is far below a common threshold of 10% for Towns. For FY25, there is a proposed increase of \$62,576 or 2.15% from the prior year. This increase is due to bonding for school HVAC. Also included in the FY25 budget is a capital lease for in-car police cameras. While this will lead to increased debt service budgets for FY25 and FY26, 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

1. Summer Road Program (1/2-see Town Aid)	\$290,000
2. Network Refresh	40,000
3. Education Computer Upgrades	40,000
4. Town Hall Computer Upgrades	45,000
5. Revaluation	35,000
6. Public Water Supply Design-Plains Rd.	19,000
7. SCBA (FD Air tanks)	24,000
8. Fire Personal Protective Turn Out Gear	25,000
9. Special Ops. FD gear	9,683
10. Fire Hose/Equipment	12,000
11. CNREF	61,565
12. Lake Management (water quality)	65,000
13. Sidewalk Extension/Repair	<u>2,500</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$668,748</b>

The proposed capital projects budget for the General Fund for FY25 totals \$668,748, a 7.57% decrease from the prior year. Of this budget, \$80,000 is related to capital projects for the Board of Education. This plan represents a reduction from the Town Manager's proposal by \$283,435, bringing it to the lowest capital budget since Fiscal Year 2021.

In addition to the capital project budget outlined in the General Fund, several capital projects are proposed through grants, including Town Aid Road, (\$290,000), Local Capital Improvement Program (\$154,500).

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

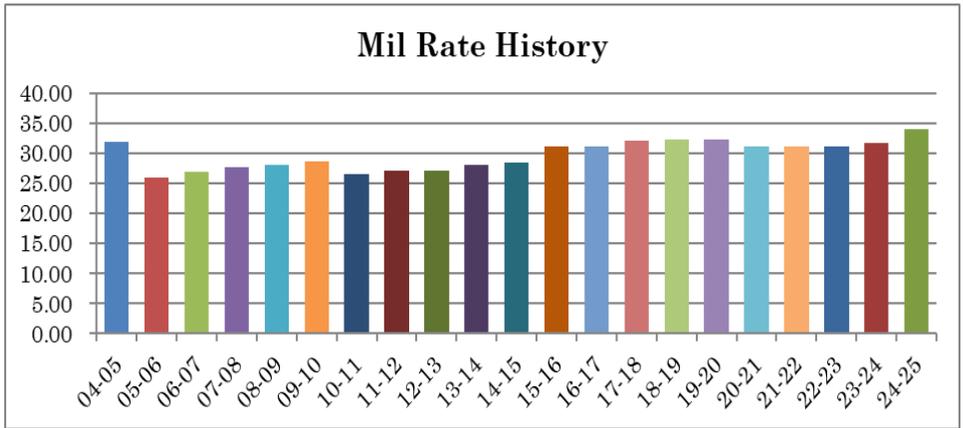
## Transfer to EMS(Ambulance) Fund

The FY25 budget separates out the transfer to the EMS(Ambulance) Fund as a separate budgetary line. It is proposed to transfer \$298,920 to the EMS(Ambulance) fund to fund the ambulance coverage currently provided to residents on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis using paid staff and volunteers.

Based on review of current operations at the continued 24 hour a day, 7 day a week coverage through our third-party contractor Vintech, the amount they are charging for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$630,720. Contracting out services to a third-party company is no longer feasible and more costly than implementing paid EMS/ Fire staff. Under the staffing model proposed by the Fire Chief, Coventry would hire 4 full-time staff members and some part-time staff members. Part-time employee count is dependent on hours needed to be covered. The approximate cost of staffing would be less than Vintech's contract going forward. It is in the best interest of the Town to hire paid Town staff to invest in the community and eliminate the unpredictability of Vintech contract increases. To achieve maximum cost savings, EMS will also rely on volunteer staffing to supplement this vital service.

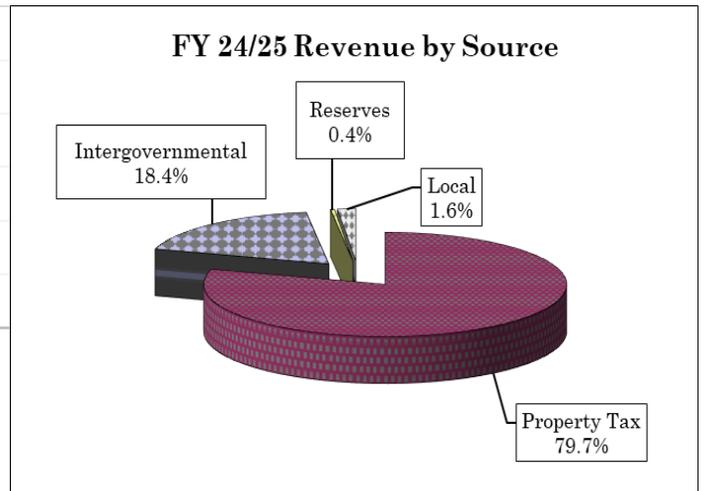
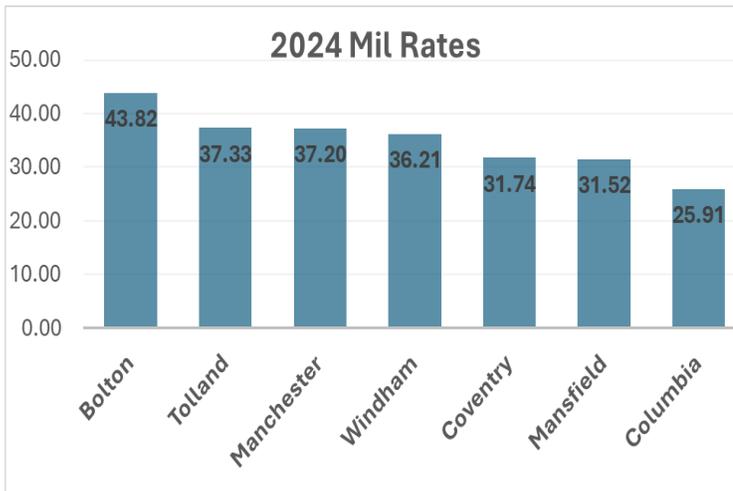
## Revenues

The property tax is the major revenue source (79.7%) for Coventry. The proposed budget is an increase of 3.35% from the prior year. The proposed mil rate is 33.31 for real estate and personal property, a 1.57 mil or 5.05% change from the prior year. The motor vehicle mil rate will be capped at 32.46 per current State Law, a .72 mil increase or 2.27% increase. Coventry currently has a much lower tax rate than most Towns in the area. This is especially true when you consider that we offer 24/7 Police and EMS(Ambulance) services. Even with the proposed tax rate increase, our Town will still have a tax mil rate lower than comparable Towns in our immediate area. See chart below for additional details.



Intergovernmental revenues, mostly State aid, are the second largest revenue source (18.4%) of revenues for Coventry. This is a decrease of 3.45% from the prior year adopted budget. These revenues are based on the assumed State budget. American Rescue Plan funds were removed from FY25 as the Town had to phase that grant out of the budget, this was a one time revenue source that is no longer available.

Other local revenues consist of a variety of fees for permits, services and interest earnings. This area, which represents 1.6% of the Town’s budget. Increases are caused from increased activity in the building department as well as increased interest revenue based on current market conditions.



To learn more about the fiscal year 2024/25 proposed budget, you can view the full Town budget document online at [www.coventry-ct.gov](http://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 24/25 proposed budget, please don't hesitate to call the Town Manager's Office at 860-742-6324 or email [budgetcomments@coventry-ct.gov](mailto:budgetcomments@coventry-ct.gov)

