
Mayoral Listening Session: Council Priorities for the 2024-2025 Term and FY2025 Budget

**Allen House
City of Newton**

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller
07 March 2024

Setting Goals and Developing Budgets: The Process

- Inclusive and Collaborative
- Transparent and Accountable
- Flexible and Responsive
- Strategic and Reflective of Needs/Values
- Responsive to Immediate and Long-Term Goals
- Data-Driven and Sustainable
- Episodic (April and October) and Continuous

Key Financial Principles and Guidelines

- Spend every dollar thoughtfully and effectively
- Keep both short-term needs and long-term goals top of mind
- Make sure the budget balances “now” and in the “future”
- Understand constraints of Prop 2 ½
- Be fair to our employees; keep them safe; give them the tools they need to be productive; make Newton a positive place to work
- Pay attention to “revenue growers” and “budget busters”
- Forecast revenues responsibly and stay committed to fully funding expenses
- Match recurring revenue with recurring expenses, and one-time revenues with one-time expenses
- Stay financially strong
- Prioritize, Prioritize, Prioritize

Overarching Goals

Improving streets, sidewalks, mobility and public buildings & infrastructure

Ensuring academic excellence and educational equity

Making Newton more “All Age” friendly

Addressing climate change & sustaining our environment

Preserving neighborhoods, increasing affordable housing & diversifying housing options

Protecting woods & open spaces and caring for our parks & recreation spaces



Promoting vibrant, walkable, financially robust village centers and commercial corridors

Providing excellent city services efficiently and taking care of what we have

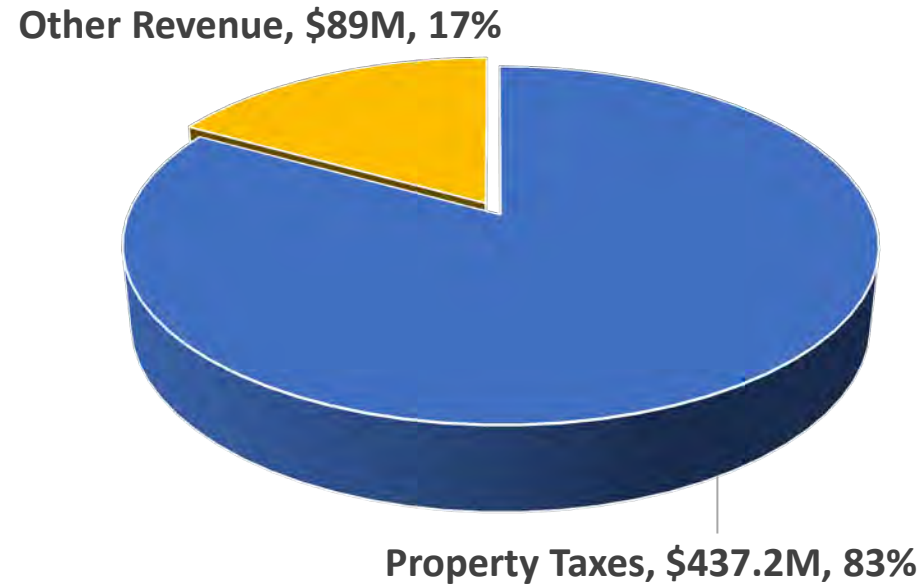
Fostering arts, culture & community life

Assuring the City’s financial health and spending wisely

Facilitating a healthy, accessible & supportive Newton

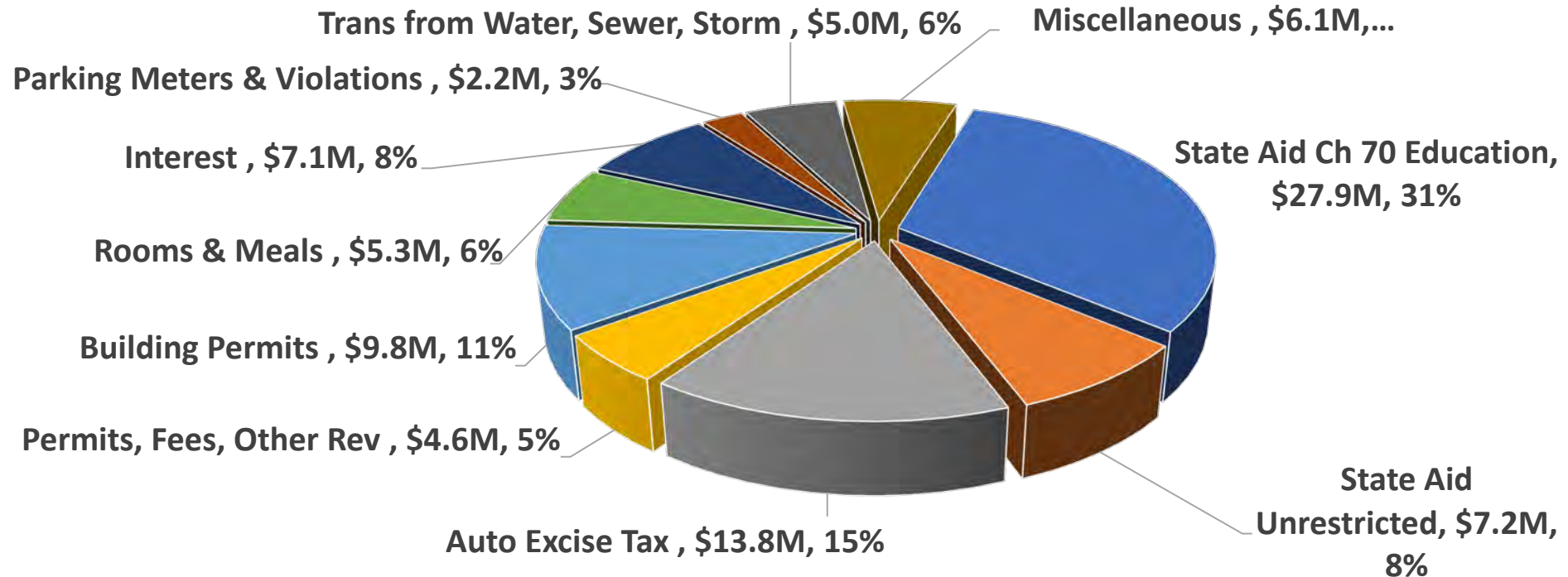
Keeping Newton Safe

FY2025 – Total Revenue ≈ \$526 M



- Most revenues stable, predictable, growing at 2.5%

FY2025 – Other Revenue ≈ \$89 M

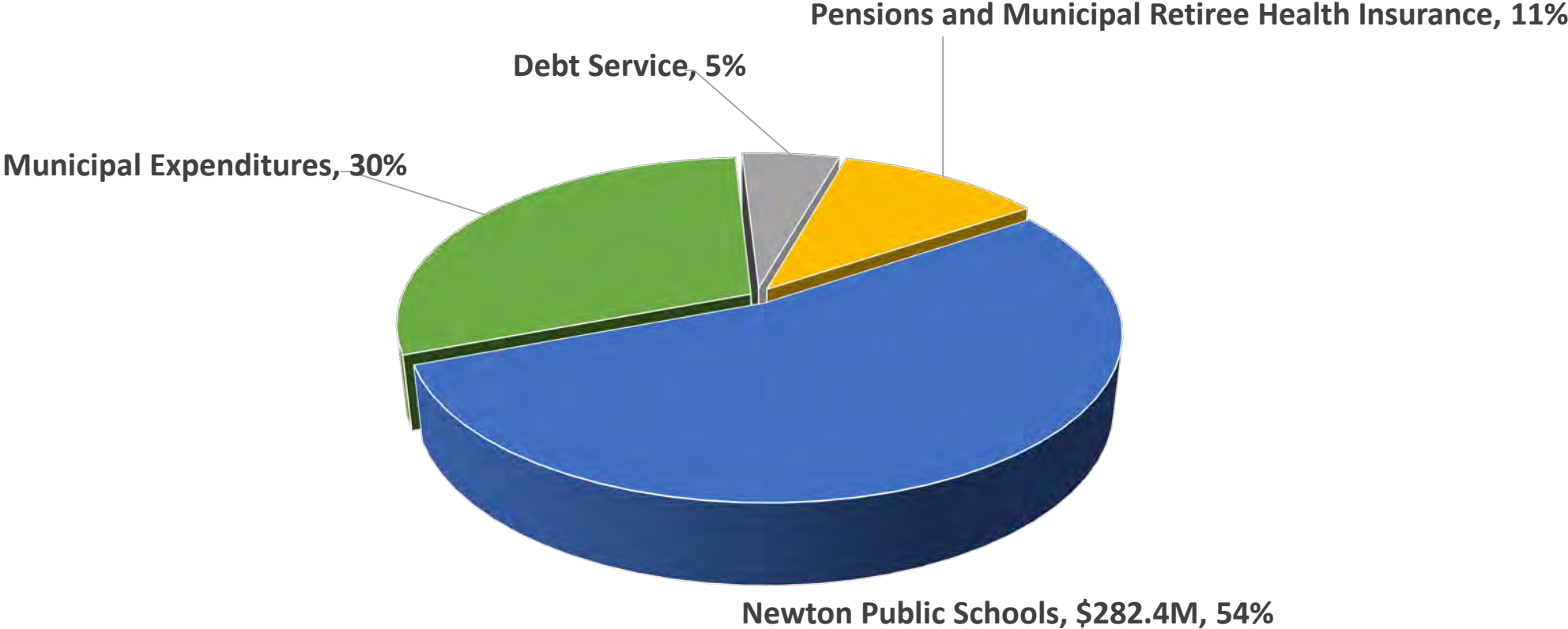


- No/Low Growth : Excise, Ch 70, Parking Meters & Violations
- Variable Growth: Building Permits, Interest
- Building Permits critically important as a predictor of “New Growth”

Unusual Revenues

- ARPA: \$63.6M
- Free Cash
- Interest Income

FY2025 – Total Expenses ≈ \$526 M



Expenses: Pressure Points

- NPS
- Capital Investments and Maintenance
- Roads
- Trash and Recycling
- Fully Funding Expenses
- Inflation
- Stormwater
- Union Contracts
- Retiree Liabilities
- ?

Summary

Stable, strong and sustainable
FY2025 City of Newton Budget
with few opportunities
to
add funding or FTEs



Let's listen to YOUR priorities