2024-2025 Budget Proposal

Goals to be Served by the Budget

To support the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan by:

- Preserving and building upon the high standards of education in LOL while remaining fiscally responsible to our communities.
- Supporting the ongoing renewal of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and staff development activities in response to the expectations of state and national standards.
- Continuing to plan and provide technology infrastructure and applications that are consistent with highly effective and efficient programming and operational standards.
- Maintaining high facility standards for all district buildings and grounds.
- Maintaining a dynamic and responsive approach to programming needs and mandates in special education.
- Maintaining both compliance and reasonability in response to state and federal mandates.

What is a budget?

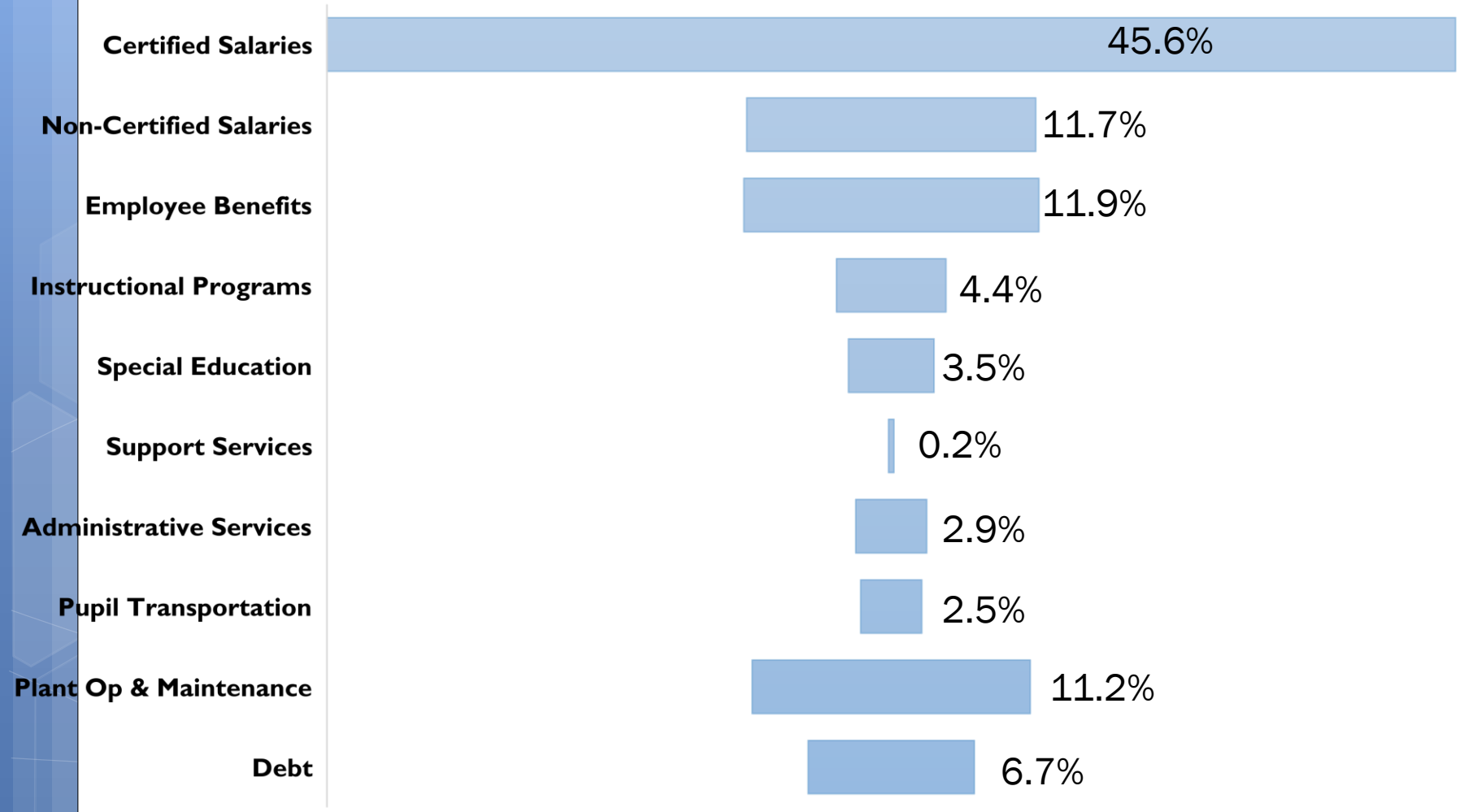
- **Sec. 10-222. Appropriations and budget.** Each local board of education shall prepare an itemized estimate of the cost of maintenance of public schools for the ensuing year and shall submit such estimate to the board of finance in each town or city having a board of finance, to the board of selectmen in each town having no board of finance or otherwise to the authority making appropriations for the school district, not later than two months preceding the annual meeting at which appropriations are to be made.
- A BUDGET IS NOT ONLY A PLAN, IT IS A STATEMENT OF VALUES AND PRIORITIES

Overall Budget Summary

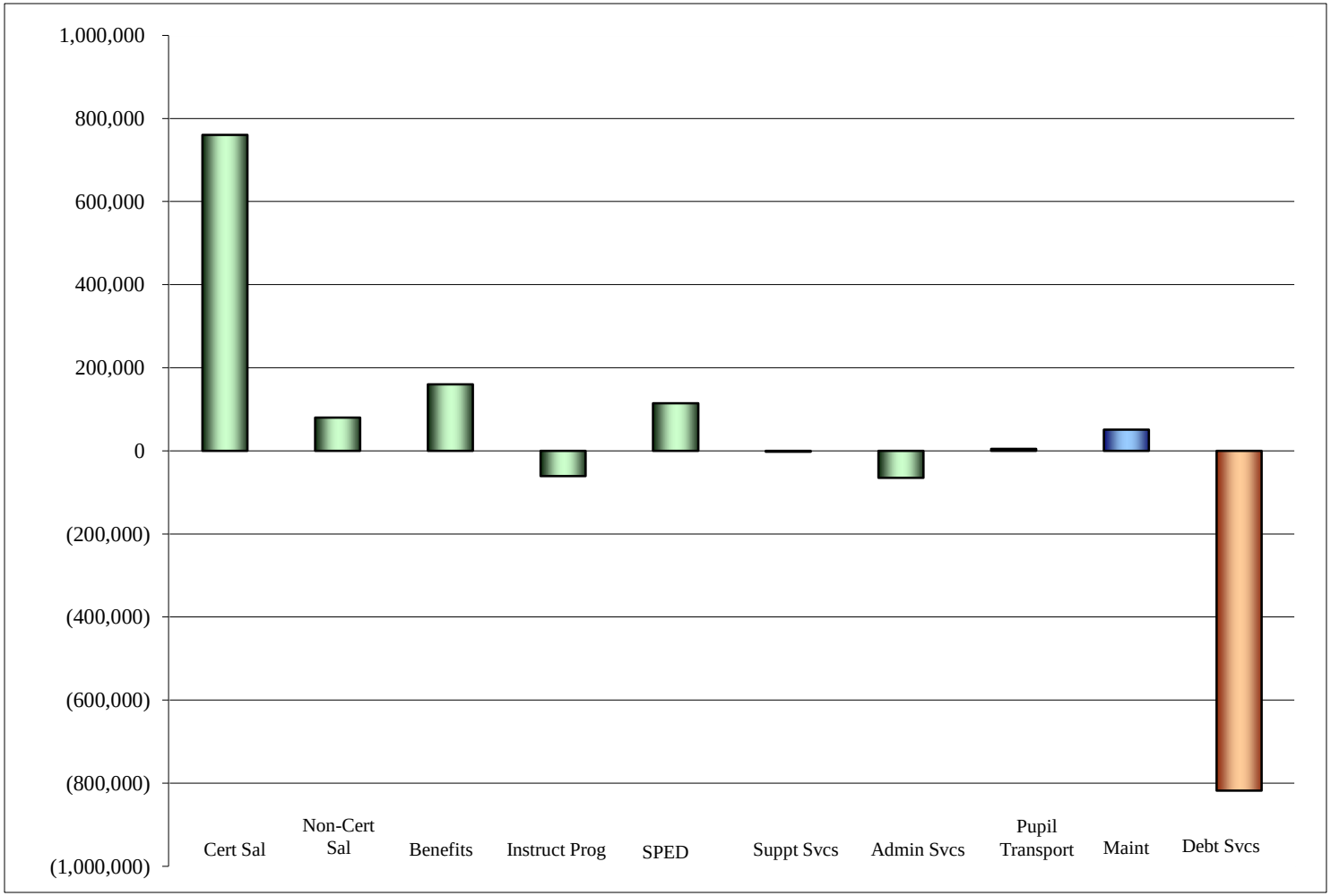
	22-23 Actuals	23-24 Budget	24-25 Budget	$ Increase or (Decrease)	% Inc or (Dec) by Line Item
Certified Salaries	15,384,794	15,588,415	16,349,160	760,745	4.88%
Non-certified Salaries	3,865,648	4,108,877	4,188,967	80,090	1.95%
Employee Benefits	3,854,810	4,114,462	4,274,244	159,782	3.88%
Instructional Programs	1,296,326	1,647,801	1,586,694	(61,107)	(3.71)%
Special Education	732,988	1,124,665	1,238,752	114,087	10.14%
Support Services	68,769	80,232	78,298	(1,934)	(2.41)%
Administrative Services	894,170	1,092,238	1,026,921	(65,317)	(5.98)%
Pupil Transportation	650,432	878,441	883,269	4,828	0.55%
Plant Op & Maintenance	4,067,515	3,979,901	4,030,574	50,673	1.27%
OPERATING BUDGET	30,815,452	32,615,032	33,656,879	1,041,847	3.19%
Debt Service	2,963,163	3,229,313	2,411,002	(818,311)	(25.34)%
TOTAL BUDGET	$33,778,615	$35,844,345	$36,067,881	$223,536	0.62%

2024-2025 Proposed Budget

$36,067,881 0.62% increase



2024-2025 Budget Drivers (Increase/Decrease)



Historical Perspective

2019-2020	$35,084,758	
2020-2021	$34,711,631	-1.06
2021-2022	$34,874,548	+0.47
2022-2023	**$34,830,464**	-0.13
2023-2024	$35,844,345	2.91
2024-2025	$36,067,881	0.62

2019-2020	$35,084,758
2024-2025	$36,067,881
	+$983,123

That is an average annual increase over five years of $196,624 or 0.5% per year

Comparisons

- Old Saybrook 3.38%
- Guilford 5.47%
- Madison 4.44%
- Waterford 5.99%
- Westbrook 5.32%
- East Lyme 6.08%

All others 4+… many 6, 7, 8

The operations/program budget reflects:

- Continued adherence to class size guidelines
- Addition/ reduction of staff to account for enrollment shifts
- Continuance of existing academic and extracurricular activities
- Adjustments for anticipated changes in the special education population
- Adequate funding for maintenance and repair of buildings and grounds
- Scheduled replacement of technology and equipment
- Program improvements that are consistent with high academic and operational standards

Facilities Proposed Projects

Capital Projects	2024 – 2025
Replace Main Campus Generator	$150,000
Increase Middle School Exterior Lighting	$40,000
High School Gym Sound System	$30,000
Middle School Auditorium Carpet	$23,500
Repaint Lyme School Exterior	$22,750
Middle School Stage Floor Refinish	$20,000
Repair Lyme School Rear Entry Ramp	$19,000
Project Totals	$305,250

Debt Service Reduction

Options 1 & 4

Considerations

- Reduces future budget increases by reducing total debt
- Reduces total debt service as it lowers the total amount borrowed by paying cash upfront
- Increases 2024-2025 budget
- Lowers year over year percentage increase
- Pay-off of the 2015 Bonds does not count against the authorization amount for the PK-8 project
- Cash amounts used to reduce borrowing amounts does count against the authorization amount for the PK-8 project
- One goal is to reduce possible double digit increase in the 2025-2026 budget (approx. $4.1 million increase in debt service)
- Rates are currently high so it is expected that refunding of future bonds will occur sometime over the next 20+ years.
- The callable bonds that are considered to be paid off in these scenarios both are at a 3% interest rate.

Option 4	Amount Added To 2024-2025 Budget	2024-2025 Budget Increase	Total Debt Service (23 years)	Total Savings Versus Option 4 With No Change	Savings on 2025-2026 budget
B (Cash)	$674,000	2.5%	$72,529,768	$321,175	$74,100
C (Cash)	$763,000	2.75%	$72,397,643	$364,300	$84,000
D (Cash)	$853,000	3.0%	$72,265,018	$406,925	$95,025
E (bond payoff)	$670,850	2.5%	$72,955,193	-$101,100	$265,000
F (bond payoff plus $95K cash)	$763,000	2.75%	$72,817,011	-$55,068	$268,457
G (bond payoff plus $185K cash)	$853,000	3.0%	$72,681,836	-$9,893	$279,407

Option 1	Amount Added To 2024-2025 Budget	2024-2025 Budget Increase	Total Debt Service (24 years)	Total Savings Versus Option 1 With No Change	Savings on 2025-2026 budget
B (Cash)	$674,000	2.5%	$72,041,260	$321,175	$74,100
C (Cash)	$763,000	2.75%	$71,909,135	$364,300	$84,000
D (Cash)	$853,000	3.0%	$71,776,510	$406,925	$95,025
E (bond payoff)	$670,850	2.5%	$72,466,685	-$101,100	$265,000
F (bond payoff plus $95K cash)	$763,000	2.75%	$72,328,502	-$55,068	$268,457
G (bond payoff plus $185K cash)	$853,000	3.0%	$72,193,327	-$9,893	$279,407



What's next?

- Opportunity for public comment
- Board action on the proposed budget