

Town of Ellington

BOF Budget Public Hearing

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

APRIL 8, 2025

DOUG HARDING, BOF CHAIRMAN



Board of Finance Members

Doug Harding, Chairman

Dan Keune, Vice Chairman

Barry Pinto

Maurice Blanchette

Logan Johnson

Liz Nord

Matthew Reed, Town Administrator

Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer

Disclosure

This is not the final budget. The Board of Finance will be meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2025 at the Town Hall to make Budget Adjustments. Deliberations begin at 6pm.

If needed, the BoF is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 for additional deliberations. This meeting is also at 6pm at the Town Hall.

Both meetings are open to the public.

Budget Process

- Town Department Heads and the BOE Administration were asked to submit a fiscally responsible budget
- Capital Improvements due in December, 2024
- BOS held hearings and voted on Capital Improvements in January 2025, presented to BOF in February
- Budget requests were due Feb 15 to the Finance Office
- BOF held hearings on BOE and Town Budgets on March 12 and 13
- Public Budget Hearing – April 8, 2025 at EHS
- BOF meeting to make adjustments – April 10, 2025 at 6pm at Town Hall (April 15 if needed)
- Town Budget Meeting is Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 7pm at EHS
- Referendum is Tuesday, May 27, 2025 from 6am -8pm at the Senior Center

Budget Overview

- **Expenditures - \$73,387,725**
 - General Government - \$23,379,684
 - Capital Outlay - \$1,942,668
 - Board of Education - \$48,065,373
- **Revenue - \$72,998,237**
 - Property Taxes - \$58,597,871
 - Other Revenue - \$14,400,366
- **Fund Balance usage - \$389,488**
- **Proposed Increase of 2.5 to Mill Rate FY2025-26***
 - Proposed Mill Rate (RE & PP) – **FY2025-26 – 38.5 Mills**
 - Proposed Mill Rate (MV) – **FY2025-26 – 32.46 Mills**

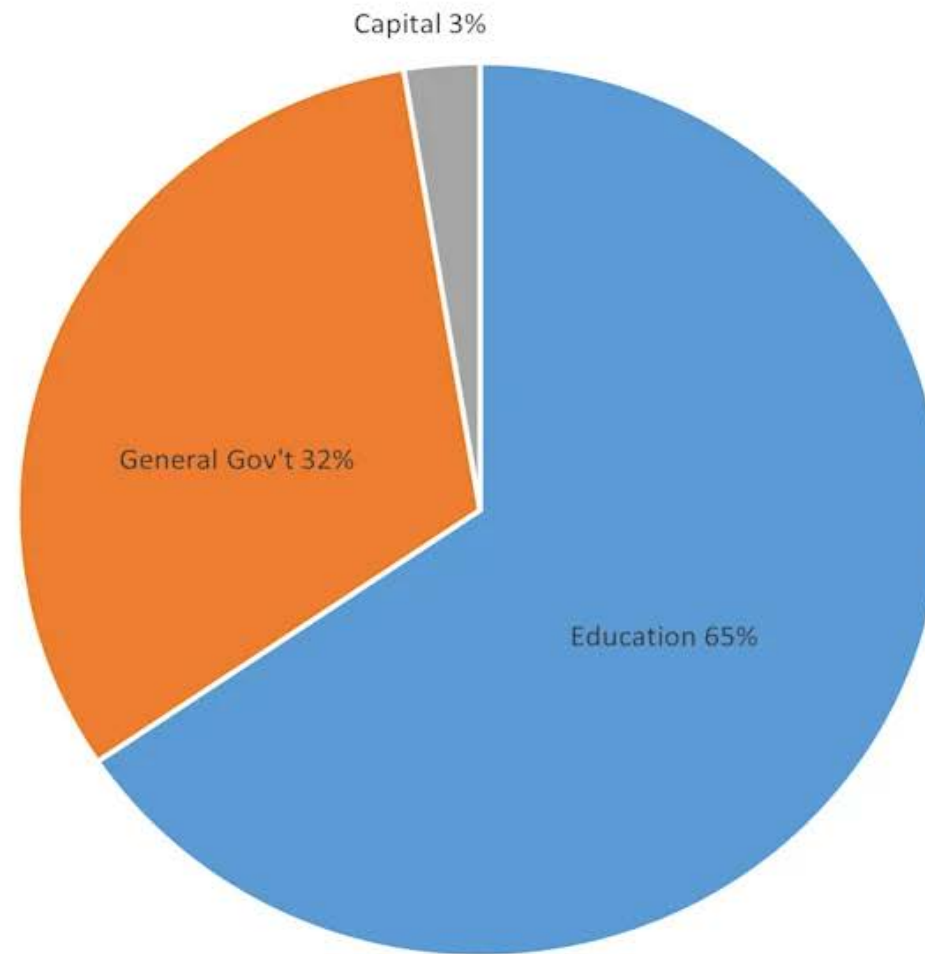
Major Drivers/Issues impacting the budget

- Grand List Decrease
- Revenue Decreases
- 3 New positions in Ellington Ambulance
- Increased cost of goods and services
- Uncertainty at the Federal and State Level
- Minimum Wage increase

Expenditures

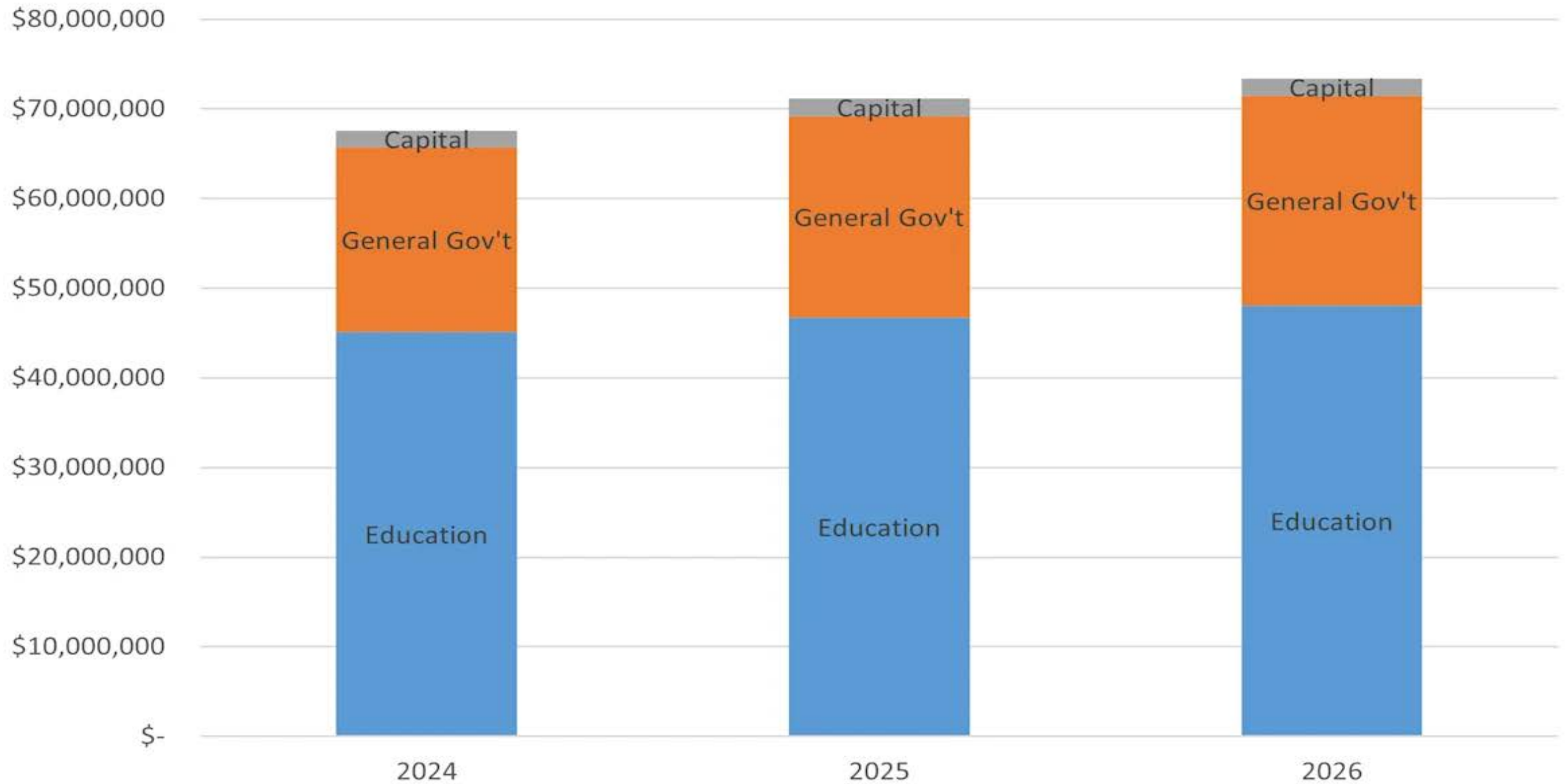
- Total Expenditures-\$73,387,725
 - General Government - \$23,379,684
 - Capital Outlay - \$1,942,668
 - Board of Education - \$48,065,373
- Total Increase - \$2,126,970 or 2.98%
 - General Government - \$789,656 or 3.54%
 - Capital Outlay - \$-21,899 or -1.11%
 - Board of Education - \$1,350,213 or 2.89%

General Distribution of Expenditures



■ Education ■ General Gov't ■ Capital

General Distribution of Expenditures



Revenues

- **Total Revenue - \$72,998,237**
 - Property Taxes - \$58,597,871
 - Other Revenue - \$14,400,366
- **Use of Fund Balance - \$389,488**
- **Total - \$73,387,725**

Grand List

	Gross Assessments	Exemptions	Net Assessments	% Change from 2023
Real Estate	\$1,314,576,170	\$24,036,360	\$1,290,539,810	0.22%
Personal Property	\$121,485,300	\$42,693,530	\$78,791,770	2.87%
Motor Vehicle	\$170,844,810	\$2,314,080	\$168,530,730	-14.21%
TOTAL	\$1,606,906,280	\$69,043,970	\$1,537,862,310	-1.46%

Updated Grand List

- Town has taken advantage of recent legislation to re-calculate the motor vehicle portion of the grand list based on an updated depreciation schedule.
- The revised net assessment for motor vehicles went from \$168,530,730 to \$185,935,200 resulting in approximately \$560,000 of additional motor vehicle revenue
- This should allow the mill rate to be reduced by approximately .5 mill
- The Board of Finance will be making this change as part of our deliberations

Property Taxes

- Proposed budget would raise \$58,597,871 in property taxes
 - Current year - \$ 58,437,871
 - Prior years - \$80,000
 - Interest and Lien fees - \$80,000
- Mill Rate would be 38.5 for Real Estate and Personal Property
 - Increase of 2.5 Mills* (this will be adjusted in deliberations)
- Mill Rate would be 32.46 for Motor Vehicles (State Max)

Other Revenues

- Total of \$14,400,366
- Includes State/Federal Grants, Department Revenues, Investment Earnings, etc.
- ECS (\$10,206,354) is cut by \$135,292 in Governor's proposed budget
- Motor Vehicle Reimbursement increased by \$350,914
- Department Revenues have been reduced \$19,531 due to decreases in Town Clerk, Recreation and Senior Center, offset by increases the Building Department

Other Revenues Continued

- Ambulance Fee revenue decreased by \$391,800 due to purchase of ambulance in previous year and reduction in the 3-year historical billing revenue
- Capital Reserve reduction of \$200,000 (last year an allocation of \$200,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund was used to help lower mill rate during deliberations)

CCM Projections



Governor's Proposed FY 26 State Budget Municipal Aid for: Ellington

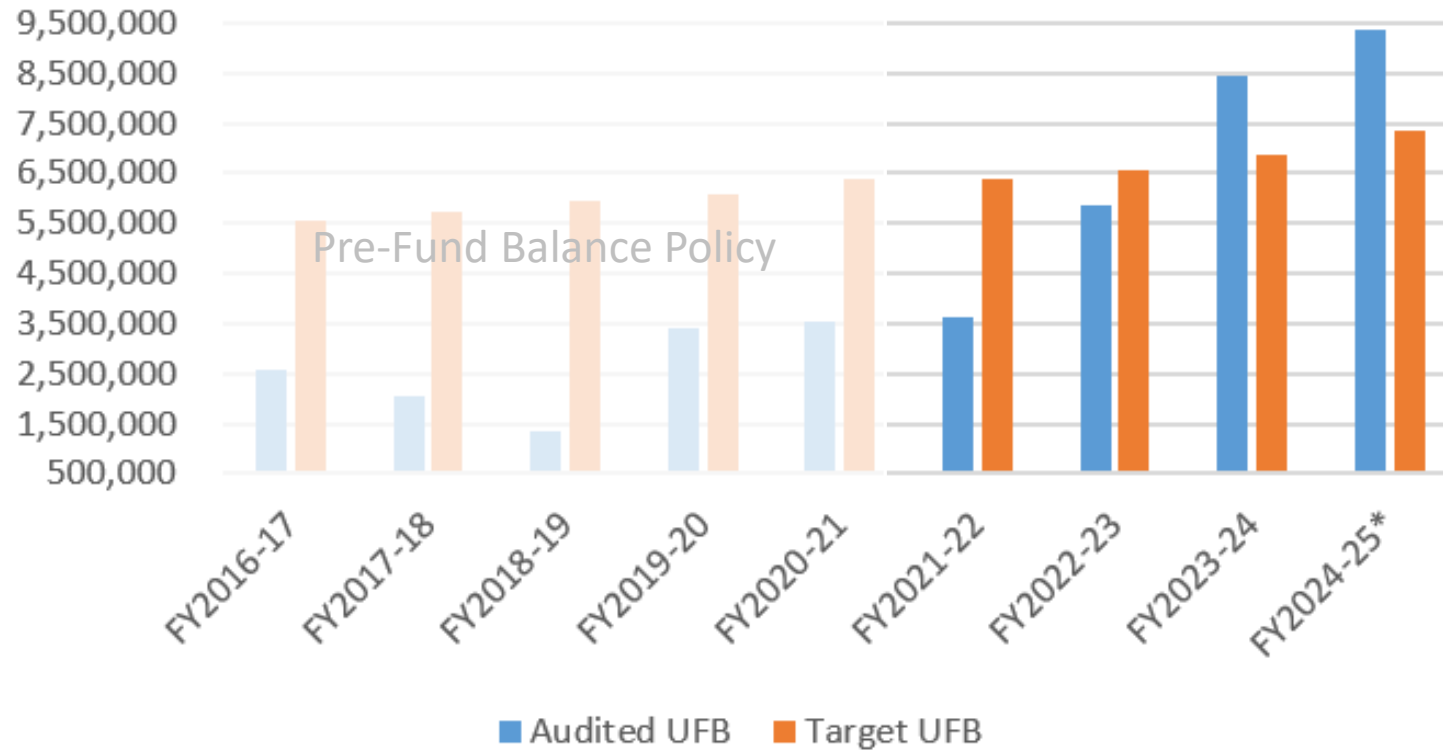
	Est. FY 25	Gov. Prop. FY 26	\$ Change	% Change
Adult Education	26,151	22,481	(3,670)	-14.0%
ECS	10,341,646	10,206,354	(135,292)	-1.3%
LoCIP	165,756	165,756	0	0.0%
Pequot-Mohegan	4,081	4,081	0	0.0%
PILOT	9,851	10,339	488	5.0%
Town Aid Road	340,984	340,984	0	0.0%
Municipal Grants-in-Aid	223,527	223,527	0	0.0%
Motor Vehicle Reimbursement	418,233	769,146	350,914	83.9%
Supplemental Revenue Sharing	0	0	0	
TOTAL	11,530,229	11,742,668	212,439	1.8%

Fund Balance

- Fund Balance
 - Projected June 30, 2025 - \$9,742,596
 - To balance FY2025-26 budget - \$(389,488)
 - Projected June 30, 2026 - \$9,353,108
 - Town's Unassigned fund balance policy target – 10% of budgeted expenditures, or \$7,338,773

Fund Balance Road Map

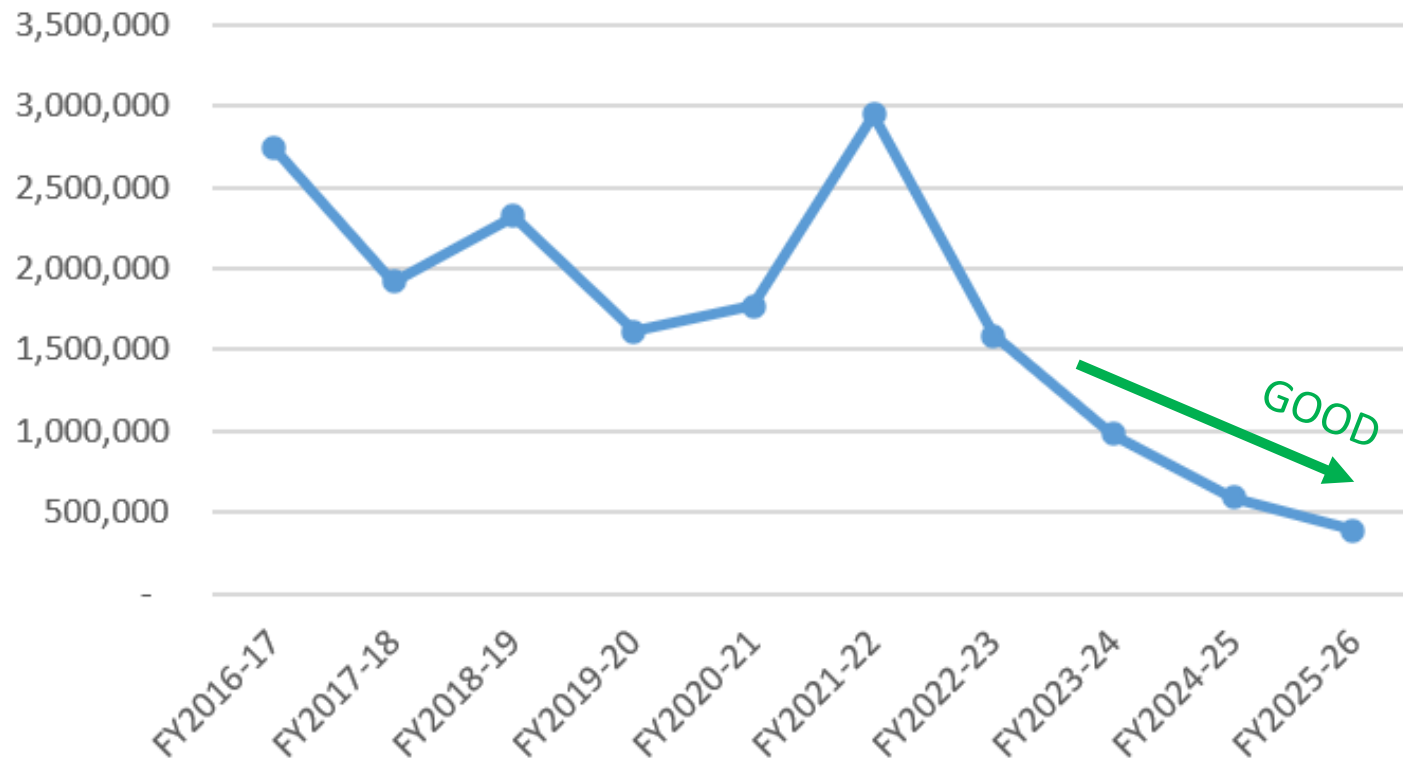
UFB Growth Trends



* Unaudited

Target is based on 10% of budgeted annual expenditures per Town's Fund Balance Policy

Budgeted FB Appropriation

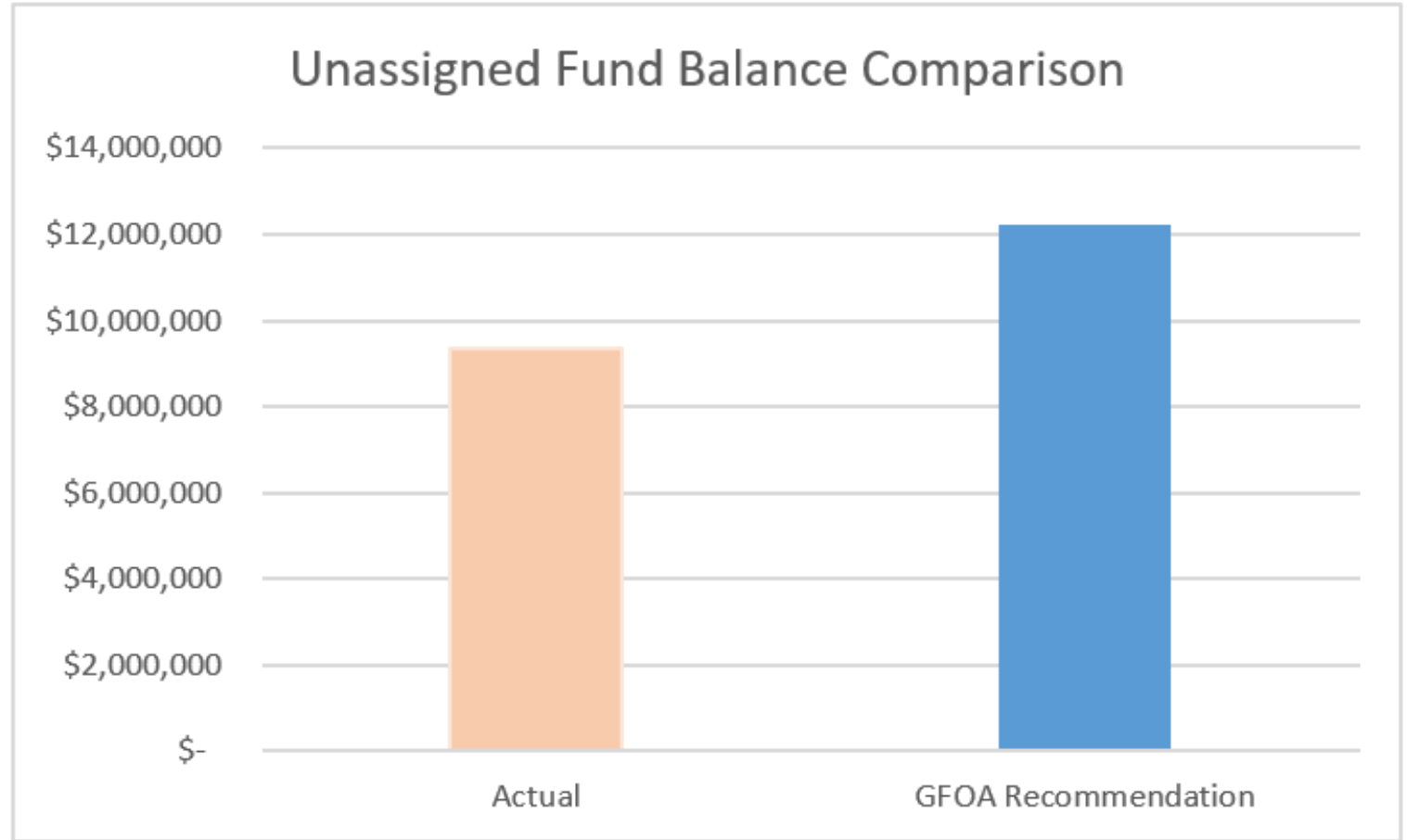


Fund Balance Road Map

GFOA Target-Fund Balance

GFOA recommends, at a minimum, that general-purpose governments, regardless of size, maintain **unrestricted** budgetary fund balance in their general fund of no less than **two months** of regular general fund operating revenues or regular general fund operating expenditures.

GFOA Target is
\$12,231,288



What happens next?

- Board of Finance will hold deliberations on Thursday April 10 and Tuesday April 15 (if needed)
- Town will be holding the annual Town Budget Meeting on Tuesday, May 13 at 7pm at EHS.
- Meeting will be adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 27 at the Senior Center from 6am-8pm

Budget Information Sessions

- The Town is 2 holding Budget Information Presentations:
 - Thursday, May 1 at 12:30pm at the Senior Center
 - Saturday, May 3 at 10am at the Library
- Full budget information is available on Town Website



Questions or
Comments?
