

SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-27 Budget Study Session #1



Saturday, February 7, 2026 / 8:00am / Vergils Community Center
Sweet Home Board of Education

EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.

Timeline

Budget Process & School Board Elections Important Dates

Detail	Deadline
Final Tax Cap Calculations Due to the State	March 1, 2026
School Board Candidate Nominating Petitions Due*	April 20, 2026
Last Day for BOE Adoption of Proposed Budget	April 24, 2026
Property Tax Report Cards Due	April 27, 2026
Required Public Hearing on Proposed Budget	May 5 - 12, 2026
Annual Budget Vote & School Board Election	May 19, 2026

**Term of Peter Bellanti expires on June 30, 2026*



Budget Development

2026-27 Budget Development Process Sweet Home Dates

Detail	Deadline
Budget Development: Update State Aid & Property Tax Cap Calculation, Meet with Administrators & Department Heads to review Budgetary Needs, Initial BOCES participation meeting, Meet with Financial Advisor to review aid projections & debt service	January / February 2026
Budget Study Session #1: Program Maintenance Budget based on Executive Proposal / Budget Development Objectives & Priorities	February 7, 2026
Budget Study Session #2: Preliminary Budget / Estimated Revenues & Updates / Staffing Recommendations	March 10, 2026
Budget Study Session #3: Budget Update Discussion / NYS Budget Completion & Final State Aid runs	April 14, 2026
Budget Hearing / BOE 2026-27 Budget Adoption	April 21, 2026
Annual Budget Vote & School Board Election	May 19, 2026



Building a Budget

★ Establish Boundaries

- *Programmatic: Sweet Home Core (class sizes, art, music, athletics, AIS, etc)*
- *Fiscal – Create budget that falls **BELOW OR AT** tax cap.*
- *Fiscal - Discuss use of available tax cap, potential tax cap override & potential use of reserves (if any)*

★ Project Revenue

- *State Aid*
- *Tax Receipts*
- *Other Income*

★ Project Expenses

- *Enrollment / Staffing*
- *Salaries, Benefits & Assumptions*
- *Other Expenses with major budgetary impact*

★ Project the Bottom line & Consider Alternatives / Set priorities

- *What are some potential reductions or additions to the budget based on needs and goals of the Board and District*



Goals for Today's Session

★ Program Maintenance Budget:

- *Present a program maintenance budget with best estimates to date*
- *Pinpoint revenue projections & year over year comparisons / Tax Cap discussion / Use of reserves*
- *Isolate major expenditure increases from present school year*
- *Discuss impact of retirements and potential impact to 2026-27 staffing*
- *Review administrative team and department head priorities*
- *Discuss Board priorities and next steps in budget process*
- *Questions and answers at any time*



A Closer Look: Revenue

★ Four Major Areas that impact revenue side of budget:

- *State Aid*
- *Real Property Taxes (Tax Cap) / PILOTs*
- *Sales Tax*
- *Use of reserves to close potential budget gaps*

★ Impact of Federal Funds & Grants

- *Title Grants - Title I, II, III and IV*
- *IDEA / 611/619 Grants*
- *Universal Pre-K Grant*
- *Universal Pre-K Expansion Grant*
- **2026-27 Executive Proposal UPK Funding**



A Closer Look: State Aid

Aid Category	2024-25	2025-26	Increase	2026-27 Projection*	Increase
Basic Foundation Aid	\$23,530,000	\$26,787,000	\$3,257,000	\$27,200,000	\$413,000
Excess Costs / Transportation	\$5,700,000	\$6,300,000	\$600,000	\$6,550,000	\$250,000
Building Aid	\$3,400,000	\$3,600,000	\$200,000	\$3,600,000	\$0
BOCES Aid	\$1,650,000	\$1,725,000	\$75,000	\$2,000,000	\$275,000
Textbook Aid	\$222,000	\$225,000	\$3,000	\$227,000	\$2,000
Computer Hardware Aid	\$53,000	\$54,000	\$1,000	\$52,000	-\$2,000
Computer Software Aid	\$62,000	\$65,000	\$3,000	\$67,000	\$2,000
Library Aid	\$25,000	\$28,000	\$3,000	\$30,000	\$2,000
TOTAL AID IN BUDGET	\$34,692,000	\$38,247,000	\$4,142,000	\$39,726,000	\$942,000

Year to Year Increase in Total Aid: \$942,000

Year to Year Increase in Foundation Aid: \$413,000

****2026-27 Executive Proposal includes and additional \$690,000 in UPK Aid.***

UPK Aid with flow through special fund and is not recognized here. Potential savings would come on expense side of the budget.

Year to Year Increase in Total Aid with UPK additional funding: \$1,632,000



A Closer Look: Tax Cap Legislation

New York’s property tax cap law establishes a tax levy limit for each school district. The tax levy limit allows school districts to increase their property tax levy from one year to the next by 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, based on a multi-step formula. School districts are then allowed to take certain exemptions that may boost their tax levy limits to more than 2 percent or the inflation rate.

Inflation Factors and Allowable Levy Growth Factors by Fiscal Year										
Fiscal Year	Fiscal Years Beginning									
	2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Inflation Factor	Allowable Levy Growth Factor	Inflation Factor	Allowable Levy Growth Factor	Inflation Factor	Allowable Levy Growth Factor	Inflation Factor	Allowable Levy Growth Factor	Inflation Factor	Allowable Levy Growth Factor
Jan 1 - Dec 31	2.30%	1.0200	7.17%	1.0200	6.26%	1.0200	3.30%	1.0200	2.64%	1.0200
Mar 1 - Feb 28	3.00%	1.0200	7.69%	1.0200	5.43%	1.0200	3.18%	1.0200	2.65%	1.0200
Apr 1 - Mar 31	3.33%	1.0200	7.92%	1.0200	5.06%	1.0200	3.07%	1.0200	2.70%	1.0200
Jun 1 - May 31	4.23%	1.0200	8.06%	1.0200	4.37%	1.0200	2.99%	1.0200	2.63% ¹	1.0200
Jul 1 - Jun 30	4.70%	1.0200	8.00%	1.0200	4.12%	1.0200	2.95%	1.0200	2.63% ¹	1.0200
Aug 1 - Jul 31	5.21%	1.0200	7.91%	1.0200	3.85%	1.0200	2.94%	1.0200	Coming February 2026	
Sep 1 - Aug 31	5.72%	1.0200	7.75%	1.0200	3.61%	1.0200	2.91%	1.0200		
Oct 1 - Sep 30	6.22%	1.0200	7.45%	1.0200	3.49%	1.0200	2.82%	1.0200		

¹ The calculation excludes October 2025 since there was no CPI data available from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

As defined in law, the allowable levy growth factor is the lesser of one plus the inflation factor or one and two-one-hundredths. For periods where the inflation factor is less than 2 percent, the allowable levy growth factor is equal to one plus the inflation factor.

New York State Comptroller
THOMAS P. DINAPOLI

Property Tax Cap

Inflation and Allowable Levy Growth Factors





A Closer Look: Tax Base Growth Factor

The allowable levy growth factor is the amount by which a school district's property tax levy may increase from one year to the next.

Sweet Home 2025: 1.0000
Sweet Home 2026: 1.0025

This **INCREASE of 0.25%** essentially means that our tax base, absent from permissible tax cap exclusions, must remain close to the same this year.

2025-26 Tax Levy: \$54,486,662

2025-26 Tax Levy with a 1.0000 Growth Factor:
\$54,486,662

2025-26 Tax Levy with a 1.0025 Growth Factor:
\$54,622,879

**Financial Impact / Difference:
\$136,217**



A Closer Look: Tax Cap

Increase from 25-26:

→ \$799,068 // 1.47%

Key Factors / Notes:

→ Growth factor 1.0025 for this year / 1.0000 last year

→ *** Discussion Point: Impact of bus purchases on the tax cap**

Tax Levy Threshold Calculation-Draft #1		
2/7/2026		
A.	Total Real Property Tax Levy for Base Year	\$54,486,662
B.	Tax Base Growth Factor (minimum of 1.0)	1.0025
C.	Product of A * B	\$54,622,879
D.	Base Year PILOTS	\$490,000
E.	Sum of C + D	\$55,112,879
F.	Base Year Capital Tax Levy	\$4,432,736
G.	Difference of E - F	\$50,680,143
H.	Allowable Levy Growth Factor based on CPI	1.0200
I.	Product of G * H	\$51,693,746
J.	Budget Year PILOTS	\$500,000
K.	Difference of I - J	\$51,193,746
L.	Equals Tax Levy Limit	\$51,193,746
M.	Budget Year Torts and Judgements above 5% of Levy	\$0
N.	Budget Year Capital Tax Levy	\$4,091,984
O.	Budget Year Pension Expense above 2% increase in rate	\$0
	Eligible Prior Year Carryover	\$0
P.	Tax Levy Limit Adjusted for Transfers + Exclusions (Sum L-O)	\$55,285,730
W.	Total Tax Levy Percentage Increase	1.47%



A Closer Look: Sales Tax Revenue

Sales Tax by Quarter	2025-26	2026-27
Quarter 1 (September)	\$1,019,438	\$1,093,648
Quarter 2 (December)	\$1,477,871	\$1,495,536
Quarter 3 (March)	\$1,423,573	??
Quarter 4 (June)	\$1,968,199	??
TOTAL	\$5,889,081	??

***Sales Tax Through 2 Quarters:**

- 2024-2025: \$2,497,309
- 2025-2026: \$2,589,184
- Difference: \$91,875

2026-27: Sales Tax Projection: \$5,700,000



A Closer Look: Other Revenue Streams

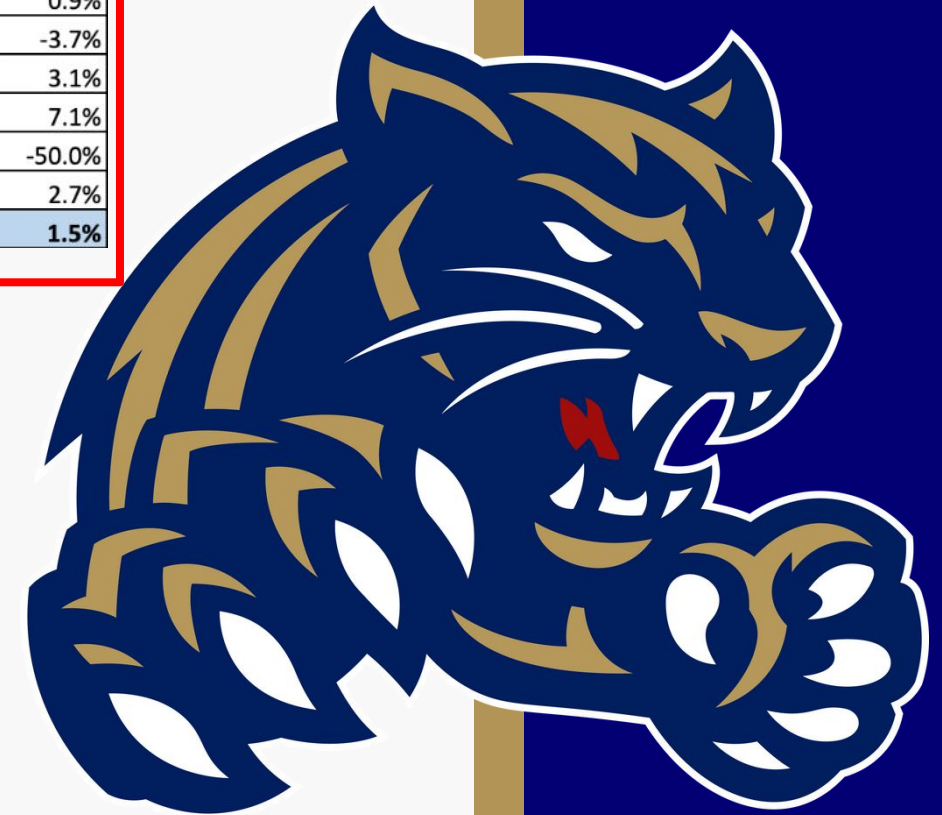
Category	2025-26	2026-27	Increase/Decrease
Overall Reserve Usage	\$645,350	\$125,000	\$520,350
PILOTS (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)	\$557,000	\$750,000	\$193,000
Interest Earnings	\$505,000	\$650,000	\$145,000
UPK Integrated Funding	\$1,200,000	\$600,000	\$600,000
TOTAL	\$2,907,350	\$2,125,000	\$782,350



A Closer Look: Total Revenue

ACCOUNT CODE	ACCOUNT NAME	2022-23 BUDGET	2023-24 BUDGET	AMOUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE	2024-25 BUDGET	AMOUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE	2025-26 BUDGET	2026-27 BUDGET	AMOUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
1001.0	REAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$53,321,588	\$53,321,588	\$0	0.0%	\$54,268,072	\$946,484	1.8%	\$54,486,667	\$55,285,730	\$799,068	1.5%
1040.0	APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	\$2,420,000	\$2,420,000	\$0	0.0%	\$2,420,000	\$0	0.0%	\$2,420,000	\$2,420,000	\$0	0.0%
1040.1	USE OF RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RESERVE	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%
1040.2	USE OF UNEMPLOYMENT RESERVE	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
1040.3	USE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS LIAB. RESERVE	\$0	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	0.0%	\$220,350	(\$879,650)	0.0%	\$220,350	\$0	(\$220,350)	-100.0%
1040.4	USE OF WORKERS COMP. RESERVE	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%
1040.5	USE OF TAX CERTIORARI RESERVE	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
1040.6	USE OF DEBT SERVICE RESERVE	\$705,000	\$800,000	\$95,000	13.5%	\$515,000	(\$285,000)	-35.6%	\$300,000	\$0	(\$300,000)	-100.0%
1081.0	PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$558,000	\$558,000	\$0	0.0%	\$505,000	(\$53,000)	-9.5%	\$557,000	\$750,000	\$193,000	34.6%
1120.0	NON-PROP TAXES-SALES TAX	\$3,900,000	\$4,500,000	\$600,000	15.4%	\$5,100,000	\$600,000	13.3%	\$5,450,000	\$5,700,000	\$250,000	4.6%
1315.0	COMM ED TUITION & FEES	\$115,000	\$95,000	(\$20,000)	-17.4%	\$95,000	\$0	0.0%	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%
2230.0	TUITION-OTH DIST-FOSTER	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$25,000	33.3%	\$100,000	\$0	0.0%	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%
2230.2	TUITION-OTHER DISTRICTS	\$575,000	\$300,000	(\$275,000)	-47.8%	\$300,000	\$0	0.0%	\$300,000	\$200,000	(\$100,000)	-33.3%
2401.0	INTEREST	\$150,000	\$140,000	(\$10,000)	-6.7%	\$165,000	\$25,000	17.9%	\$505,000	\$650,000	\$145,000	28.7%
2413.0	RENT REAL PROPERTY-BOCES	\$440,000	\$455,000	\$15,000	3.4%	\$490,000	\$35,000	7.7%	\$520,000	\$530,000	\$10,000	1.9%
3101.0	STATE AID-BASIC FORMULA	\$17,500,000	\$21,675,000	\$4,175,000	23.9%	\$23,530,000	\$1,855,000	8.6%	\$26,250,000	\$27,200,000	\$950,000	3.6%
3101.0	STATE AID-BUILDING AID	\$2,050,000	\$3,300,000	\$1,250,000	61.0%	\$3,400,000	\$100,000	3.0%	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	\$0	0.0%
3101.1	ST AID-EXCESS COST	\$4,555,000	\$5,150,000	\$595,000	13.1%	\$5,700,000	\$550,000	10.7%	\$6,450,000	\$6,550,000	\$100,000	1.6%
3103.0	BOCES AID	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	\$0	0.0%	\$1,650,000	\$50,000	3.1%	\$1,720,000	\$2,000,000	\$280,000	16.3%
3104.0	STATE AID-CHAPTER STUDENTS	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%
3260.0	TEXTBOOK AID	\$210,000	\$219,000	\$9,000	4.3%	\$222,000	\$3,000	1.4%	\$225,000	\$227,000	\$2,000	0.9%
3261.0	COMPUTER HARDWARE AID	\$49,000	\$51,000	\$2,000	4.1%	\$53,000	\$2,000	3.8%	\$54,000	\$52,000	(\$2,000)	-3.7%
3262.0	COMPUTER SOFTWARE AID	\$57,500	\$59,000	\$1,500	2.6%	\$62,000	\$3,000	5.1%	\$65,000	\$67,000	\$2,000	3.1%
3263.0	LIBRARY AID	\$20,500	\$22,000	\$1,500	7.3%	\$25,000	\$3,000	13.6%	\$28,000	\$30,000	\$2,000	7.1%
3289.0	STATE AID-OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$540,000	\$540,000	0.0%	\$1,200,000	\$600,000	(\$600,000)	-50.0%
-----	Other Receipts	\$875,000	\$846,000	(\$29,000)	-3.3%	\$875,000	\$29,000	3.4%	\$925,000	\$950,000	\$25,000	2.7%
	DISTRICT TOTALS	\$89,351,588	\$96,886,588	\$7,535,000	8.43%	\$100,410,422	\$3,523,834	3.6%	\$105,576,017	\$107,111,730	\$1,535,718	1.5%

2026-27 Revenue: \$107,111,730 / Increase: \$1,535,718 / 1.5%



A Closer Look: Expenses

2026-27 Known Budgetary Impacts

Category	2025-26	2026-27	Increase/Decrease
District Liability Insurance	\$355,000	\$405,000	\$50,000
BOCES Administrative Costs	\$428,834	\$621,006	\$192,172
Charter School Tuition	\$1,400,000	\$1,450,000	\$50,000
Special Education Tuition	\$3,075,000	\$4,200,000	\$1,125,000
BOCES Occupational Education	\$1,162,740	\$1,336,688	\$173,948
Computer Hardware Equipment	\$275,000	\$365,000	\$90,000
Contracted Transportation	\$3,100,000	\$3,600,000	\$500,000
Legal Settlements	-	\$243,795	\$243,795
TOTAL	\$9,796,574	\$12,221,489	\$2,424,915



A Closer Look: Expenses

2026-27 Known Budgetary Impacts

■ **Known Budgetary Impacts :**

- *Collective Bargaining Agreements*
 - SHEA (Teachers) - 2.0% Annual Step Increase (step & increment) – Total increase 3.5-4%
 - SHASA (Administrators & Supervisors) - 3.5% Annual Increase
- *Bus Purchases -*
 - **\$700,000 in budget** (4 electric buses)
 - Last opportunity to purchase diesel busses
 - Large passenger diesel bus - \$184,000 ea. (Qty - 3)
 - Small passenger Wheelchair bus - \$163,000 ea. (Qty - 2)
 - Small passenger bus - \$135,000 ea. (Qty - 1)
 - **TOTAL DIESEL = \$1,013,000 / Impact on Tax Cap**
- *Utilities Across the District*
 - Increase of \$200,000
- *Teacher Retirement Incentive*
 - Remains at \$745,000 / Salaries Flatten



A Closer Look: Expenses

2026-27 Unknown Budgetary Impacts

■ **Unknown Budgetary Impacts :**

- SHEA (Teachers) – 12 Retirements / Impact on Staffing / All positions currently in budget
- SHSEA Contract Negotiations ongoing
- *NY 44 Trust Health Insurance*
 - Increase yet to be determined
 - Increase close to 5.5% in 2025-26 / Estimate a 7% increase in 26-27 ~ \$732,000
 - Increase dependent upon staffing plan / removed retirees from estimate
- *BOCES Participation – still finalizing that*
 - Administrative Costs, Occupation Education included in budget
 - Remainder of 25-26 BOCES participation ~ \$4 million
 - Working with SH team through participation line by line to determine what is needed



A Closer Look: Cost Savings Measures

2026-27 Cost Savings Measures Added to Program Maintenance Budget

■ **Executive UPK Funding Expansion**

- Additional \$690,000 awarded to District in Executive Budget proposal
- Savings applied to salaries for aides, retirement system contributions and FICA

■ **Addition of 2 exceptional classrooms**

- Estimated net savings of \$450,000 applied to Special Education tuition line

■ **Hiring our own OT/PT staff**

- Estimated net savings of \$227,000 applied to Contracted OT/PT budget line



A Closer Look: Cost Savings Measures

2026-27 potential Cost Savings Measures / Federal Funds

Federal Grant	2025-26 Total Allocation	2025-26 Salaries	Variance
Title I	\$1,019,350	\$863,581	\$155,769
IDEA Part B 611 Grant	\$977,680	\$789,945	\$187,735
IDEA Part B 619 Grant	\$37,204	\$17,830	\$19,374
Title II	\$130,316	\$56,113	\$74,203
Title III Immigrant & ELL	\$27,181	\$0	\$27,181
Title IV	\$78,095	\$0	\$78,095
TOTAL	\$2,269,826	\$1,727,469	\$542,357



Program Maintenance: Snapshot

2026-27 Program Maintenance Budget Snapshot

Revenue Summary	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27 Percent Increase
Budgeted Revenues	\$105,576,012	\$107,111,730	1.5%
Local Tax Levy	\$54,486,662	\$55,285,730	1.5%

Expenditure Summary	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27 Percent Increase
Budgeted Expenditures	\$105,576,012	\$108,294,552	2.6%

Deficit: \$1,182,822



Program Maintenance: Snapshot

2026-27 Program Maintenance Budget Snapshot & Tax Rates

Assumptions:

- **Assessed Values remain at 2025 levels**
- Amherst Equalization Rate remains at 99%
- Tonawanda Equalization Rate remains at 21%
- Rates based on going to the tax cap limit of \$55,285,730

School Tax on an Average Assessed Value Home				
	Amherst		Tonawanda	
	2025-26	2026-27	2025-26	2026-27
Equalization Rate	99.0%	99.0%	21.0%	21.0%
Assessed Value	\$247,500	\$247,500	\$52,500	\$52,500
Tax Rate	\$9.69	\$9.83	\$45.79	\$46.46
Calculated Tax Bill	\$2,398	\$2,433	\$2,404	\$2,439
Estimated Increase		\$35		\$35



Program Maintenance: Snapshot

2026-27 Program Maintenance Budget Snapshot & Tax Rates w/Diesel Bus purchases

Assumptions:

- **Assessed Values remain at 2025 levels**
- Amherst Equalization Rate remains at 99%
- Tonawanda Equalization Rate remains at 21%
- Rates based on going to the tax cap limit of \$56,298,730 with buses - 3.33% Tax cap

School Tax on an Average Assessed Value Home

	Amherst		Tonawanda	
	2025-26	2026-27	2025-26	2026-27
Equalization Rate	99.0%	99.0%	21.0%	21.0%
Assessed Value	\$247,500	\$247,500	\$52,500	\$52,500
Tax Rate	\$9.69	\$10.01	\$45.79	\$47.31
Calculated Tax Bill	\$2,398	\$2,477	\$2,404	\$2,484
Estimated Increase		\$79		\$80



Other Administrative Considerations

2026-27 Priority List other than Staffing

Category	Priority Level	Approximate Cost
Classroom Libraries - 1st grade	High	\$16,000
Literacy intervention	High	\$40-\$50,000
UPK materials, curriculum & furniture	High	\$10,000
Tier 1 Literacy PILOT PD	High	-
Reading Intervention Materials (MS/HS)	High	-
Math Fact Lab software (Grades 3-5)	Medium	\$2,700
HS Fitness Center Upgrades	-	\$30,000
Transportation Tow Truck	-	\$75,000



2026-27 Budget Next Steps

- Determine where BOE is at with Tax Cap, bus purchase & use of reserves
- Work through retirements / impact on staffing & budget
- Prioritize any additional needs from admin team including staffing
- Monitor any updates on State Aid, Sales tax and interest income projections
- Examine / solidify salaries / work through budget line-by-line
- Review use of all federal funds and any potential impact on the budget
- Finalize BOCES participation numbers to realize any savings
- Information on NY 44 Trust Health contribution increase, if any
- Adjust budget and report back to BOE at March 10 Study Session



QUESTIONS?

