City of Bellflower
Budget in Brief
FY 2025-2027

Introduction

We are pleased to present the City of Bellflower's Budget in Brief for fiscal years 2025-2027. Guided by the City's first-ever Council-adopted Strategic Plan, this budget reflects the City Council's priorities and incorporates valuable community input to allocate resources that support Bellflower's vision of a vibrant, safe and connected city.

The budget development process was transparent and included three special public budget meetings held on April 21, April 29 and May 12, 2025. During these meetings, the City Council reviewed the Management's Proposed Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), provided direction and made targeted changes to better align the budget with strategic priorities. The updated Proposed Budget, which incorporated the Council's revisions, was adopted at the regular City Council meeting on June 9, 2025.

The 2025-2027 Budget provides a comprehensive overview of the City's financial outlook, including personnel data, revenues, expenditures, appropriations, fund balances, existing indebtedness, departmental descriptions, major initiatives for the upcoming budget cycle and highlights of accomplishments from the previous budget cycle. This budget also includes significant changes designed to advance the Strategic Plan's five overarching goals. Through the outlined major initiatives and specific action items for the next two fiscal years, the budget ensures Bellflower remains proactive in addressing the evolving needs of the community while strategically directing resources toward the City's most critical priorities.

Strategic Goals

GOAL 1
ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY

GOAL 2
INCREASE PUBLIC OUTREACH, EDUCATION & CONNECTION

GOAL 3
CONTINUE INVESTING IN A HIGH-PERFORMING & EFFICIENT TEAM AT CITY HALL

GOAL 4
IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE & VISUAL APPEAL IN THE CITY

GOAL 5
STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal 1

Enhance Public Safety

Public safety continues to be a top priority for Bellflower residents, and the City Council has responded by allocating resources to strengthen the City's public safety efforts. A key public safety initiative is the formation of the Bellflower Enforcement and Safety Team (BEAST), a collaborative effort between the City's Public Safety and Public Works Departments along with support from Southwest Patrol. The BEAST Team will proactively inspect homeless encampments, offer resources, perform cleanups and issue citations as needed. Additional public safety improvements include funding to facilitate the re-establishment of a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Motor Deputy, the deployment of license plate readers to assist in criminal investigations, the implementation of gunshot detection technology, the replacement of outdated City radios and an update to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan — all to enhance emergency readiness and public safety response.

Goal 2

Increase Public Outreach, Education & Connection

Funding has been allocated to strengthen public engagement through video, digital and print media. One of the key investments in this budget is the creation of a Communications & Marketing Division that will bring a unified and consistent voice and visual presence to communications across City channels and platforms. This division will lead a comprehensive communications assessment to measure and explore communication methods that will reach multiple generations with a focus on modern tools. The Communications & Marketing Division will also build on the success of the Parks & Recreation brochure by expanding it into a new City News publication, which will include a fourth annual edition. Additional efforts include evaluating existing communication platforms and developing unified messaging to enhance outreach to schools, small businesses and the broader community.

Goal 3

Continue Investing in a High-Performing and Efficient Team at City Hall

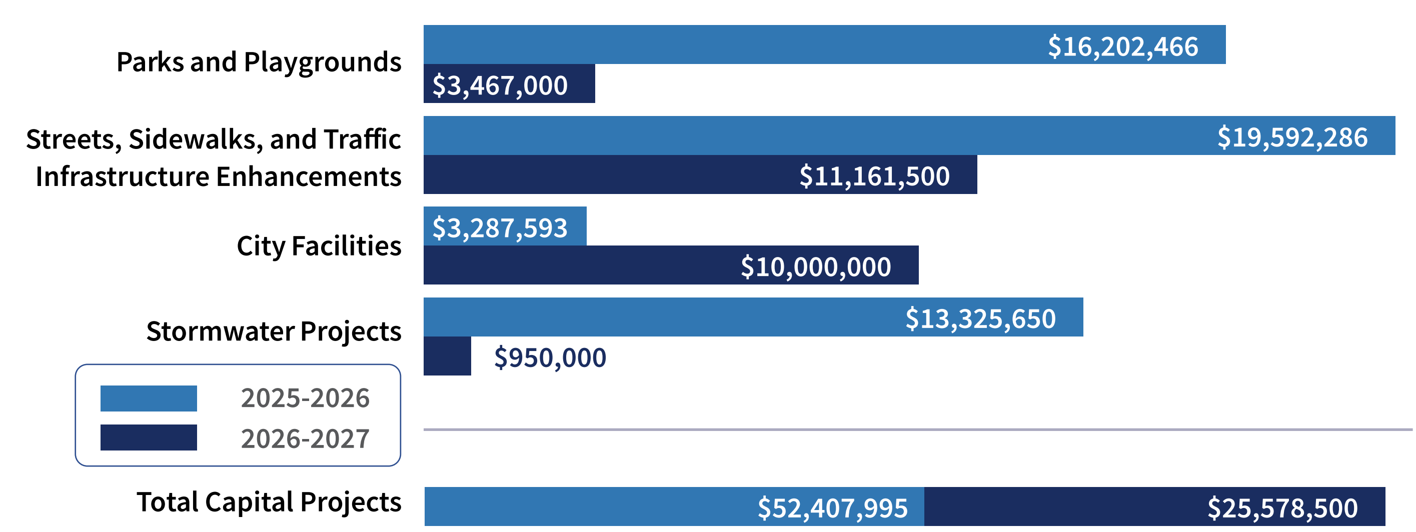
This budget focuses on strengthening the City's organizational capacity to better serve the Bellflower community. To support this goal, key investments include the addition of new full-time positions aimed at enhancing City operations. These include the formation of the BEAST Team, expansion of the public works maintenance crews, the launch of a new Communications and Marketing Division, and new staff to support advanced planning efforts. Additional administrative support roles are also being added to enhance overall efficiency and effectiveness at City Hall. Our efforts are aimed at increasing both the quality and responsiveness of service residents receive. Along with the staffing initiatives, the City is also investing in state-of-the-art technology to improve efficiency and service delivery. This includes a major upgrade to the City's core financial software and enhancements to existing technology systems to fully leverage their capabilities. Together, the City's investments in its staff and modern technology will help ensure that the City remains efficient, responsive and well-equipped to deliver high-quality services to the Bellflower community.

Goal 4

Improve Quality of Life and Visual Appeal

The City is dedicated to raising the standards for public and private property upkeep throughout Bellflower. To support our goal of improving the quality of life and visual appeal of our city, the City Council has approved the additional Public Works maintenance staff, which will improve the maintenance quality in parks and other public spaces – complemented by increased funding for expanded contractual maintenance services. The budget also begins to bring the Parks & Recreation Master Plan to life, with resources allocated for new community events to foster neighborhood connections and encourage civic engagement. In addition, targeted investments are being made to attract young families and support the City's long-term economic development goals. These priorities are backed by the City's Capital Improvement Plan, which outlines major infrastructure projects totaling approximately $52.4 million in FY 2025–26 and $25.6 million in FY 2026–27 —demonstrating a strong commitment to enhancing quality of life for all Bellflower residents. Through these efforts, Bellflower is positioning itself as a model for other communities.

Capital Projects



Notable Capital Projects

Included within the the Capital Project investments for 2025-2027.

Street improvements throughout the City
Totaling $22.6 million

Stormwater Capture Project at Simms Park
Estimated at $12.4 million

The Oak Center (youth and senior center)
Budgeted at $12 million

Public Safety Facility
Budget of $7.3 million this cycle ($10.3 million total)

Goal 5

Strengthen Economic Development

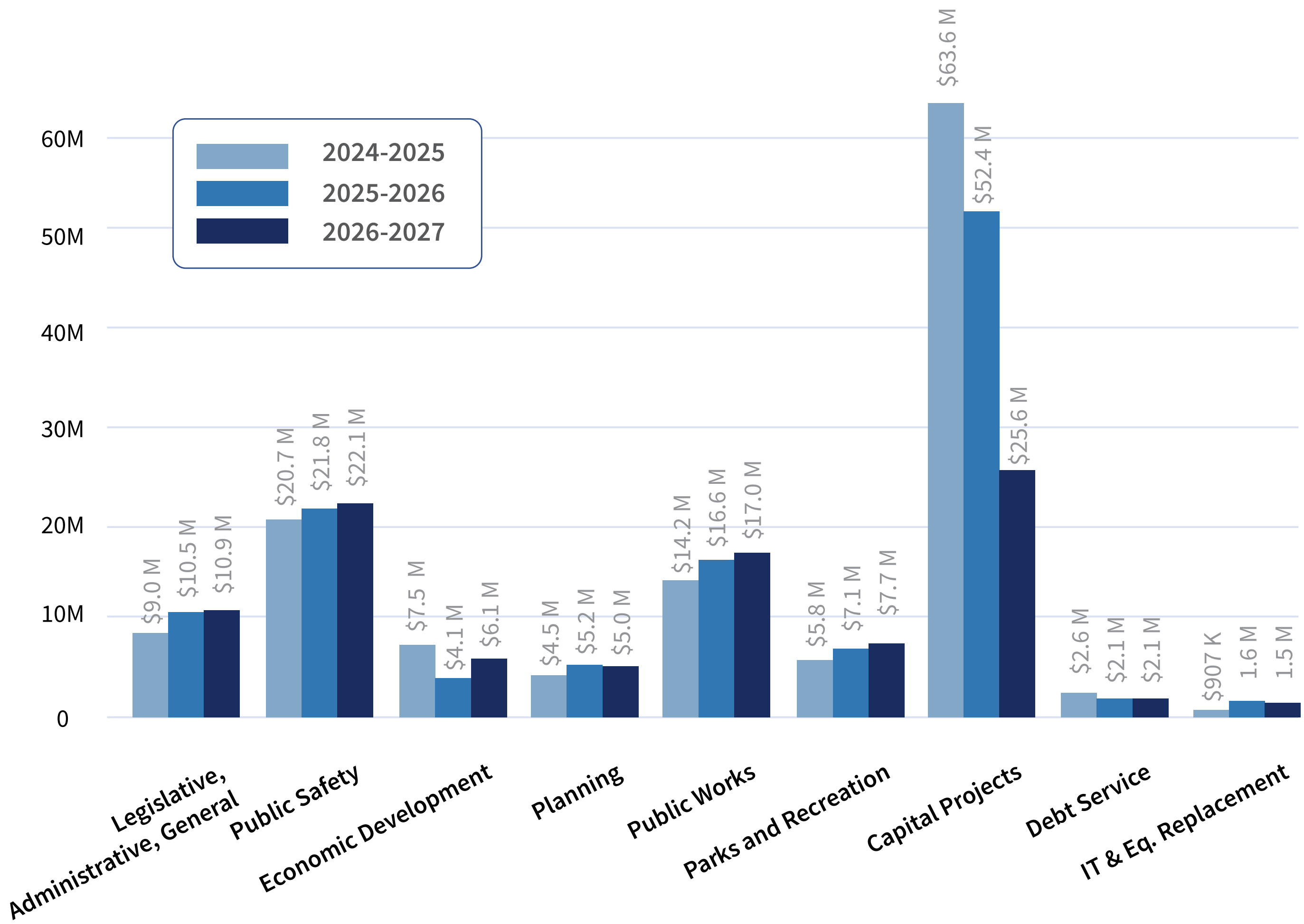
The City Council remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth and enhancing the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors alike. Looking ahead, the City is taking proactive steps to ensure a vibrant local economy through a variety of strategic initiatives. In the coming years, the City will undertake a comprehensive review of its cannabis policies and procedures to ensure alignment with evolving community standards, regulatory requirements, and economic opportunities. At the same time, work will begin to update the City's General Plan – a foundational document that will guide Bellflower's land use, housing, transportation and infrastructure decisions for decades to come. The City also plans to continue its focus on strategic and creative property acquisitions aimed at delivering long-term community benefits. These efforts play a vital role in shaping a dynamic future for Bellflower's neighborhoods, particularly in and around the downtown core. By leveraging the public-private partnerships and identifying viable sites for reinvestment, the City will support projects that enhance both the local economy and community identity. Ultimately, through sustained investments, thoughtful planning, and a clear long-term vision, the City Council is laying the groundwork for continued economic vitality. These investments reinforce Bellflower's position as a City that supports and attracts high-quality development and economic opportunities of the future.

Citywide Appropriations

These strategic initiatives demonstrate how the City is aligning its priorities with targeted investments to address current and future community needs. To support these efforts, the 2025-2027 Budget outlines a detailed financial plan that spans both operating and capital expenditures across multiple fund types, including the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Projects Funds, Debt Service Funds, and IT and Equipment Replacement Fund.

The City's total appropriations, excluding transfers, are $121.4 million and $98.0 million for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27, respectively. The agreements with the labor groups for fiscal years 2025-2027 are still pending; therefore, salaries and benefits are based on estimates and certain assumptions.

The following are the appropriations for the three fiscal years from 2024-25 to 2026-27.



Sub-Total Appropriations

$ 128,818,283 2024-2025

$ 121,440,662 2025-2026

$ 97,988,685 2026-2027

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
+ Transfers	$4,367,178	$3,442,867	$3,145,551
Total Appropriations	**$133,185,461**	**$124,883,529**	**$101,134,236**
Fiscal Year	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027

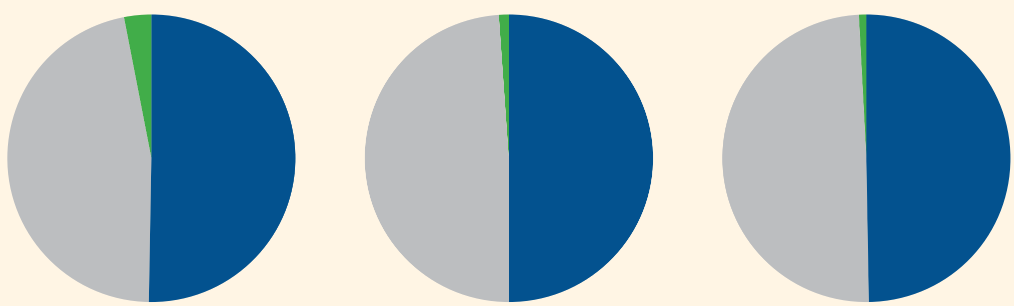
General Fund

Following the overview of citywide appropriations and capital investments, a closer look at the General Fund, the City's primary operating fund, provides a valuable indicator of the City's overall financial health.

The 2025-2027 Budget projects General Fund surpluses of $1.2 million and $744 thousand for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27, respectively, reflecting continuing fiscal stability. The budgeted surplus for fiscal year 2024-25 was $3.3 million. The preceding four fiscal years from 2020-21 to 2023-24 marked the best financially performing period in Bellflower's history with the actual surpluses of $6.4 million, $6.2 million, $13.5 million and $11.6 million, respectively. Actual surpluses are generally higher than the budgeted surpluses due to conservative budgeting practices.

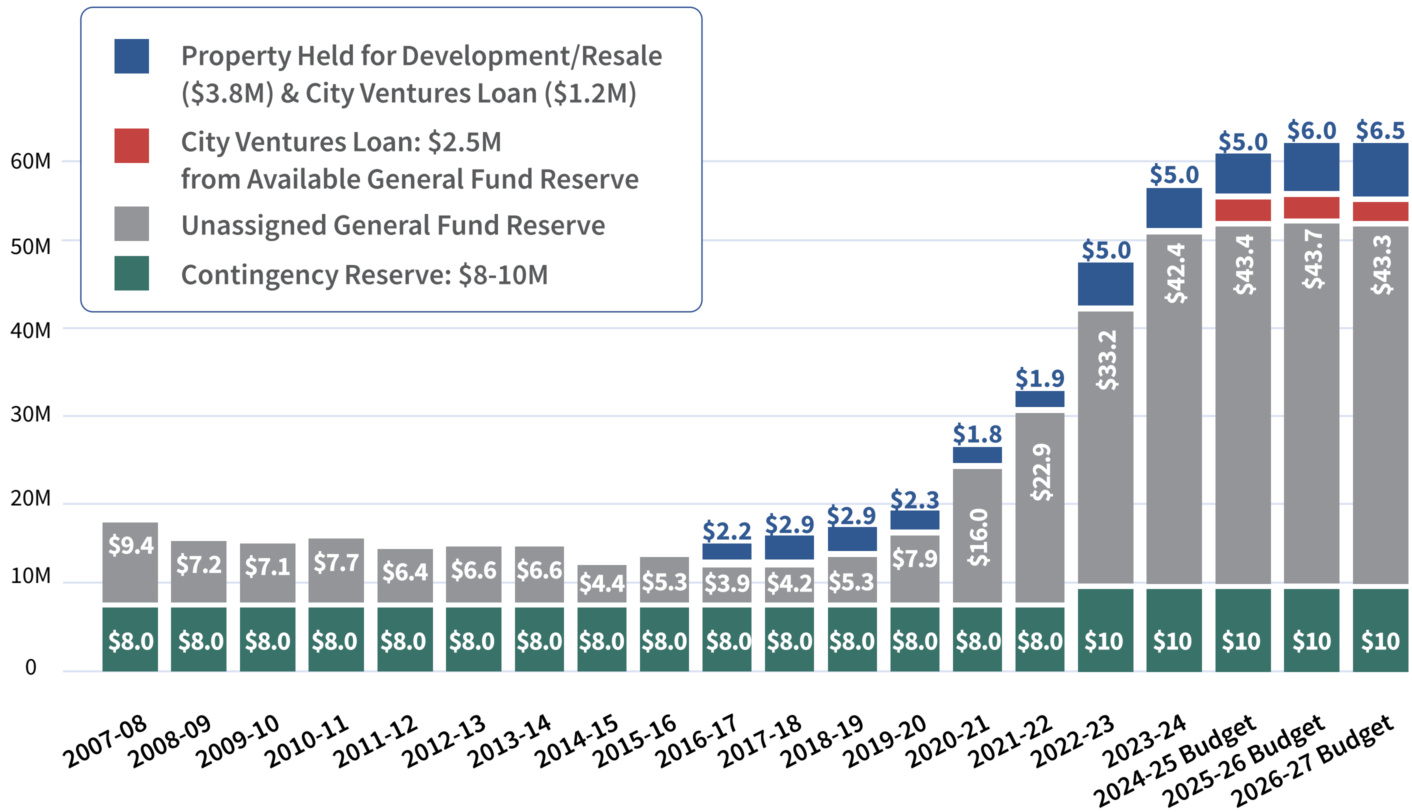
The total General Fund budgeted revenues and transfers in are $55.1 million and $56.3 million for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27, respectively, while total General Fund appropriations and transfers out are $53.9 million and $55.6 million for the same periods. Although revenues are projected to grow modestly over the next two fiscal years, the rate of expenditure budget growth outpaces these increases, resulting in lower surpluses.

General Fund:



General Fund:	2024-25 Adopted Budget	2025-26 Adopted Budget	2026-27 Adopted Budget
Revenues & Transfers In	$51,052,710	$55,108,800	$56,310,641
Appropriations & Transfers Out	$47,767,367	$53,939,711	$55,566,176
Budget Surplus	$3,285,343	$1,169,089	$744,465
Allocation to Property Acquisition Reserve (Minimum Allocation)	$0	$1,000,000	$500,000
Net Budget Surplus-Unassigned Reserve	$3,285,343	$169,089	$244,465

The following chart shows the General Fund's available fund balances and growth in investments in property acquisitions and a developer loan for development opportunities from fiscal year 2007-08 through the end of the 2026-2027 budget period (amounts below are expressed in millions).



Notes:

1) Property held for resale or development includes the former MPower property ($2.0 million), former BOW property ($1.7 million) and 9443 Artesia Blvd. property ($175,000). The City also provided a developer loan of $3.7 million to City Ventures, of which $1.2 million was funded from the $5.0 million Property Acquisition Reserve Fund and the remaining balance of $2.5 million was funded from other General Fund resources. As mentioned earlier, the budget resolution includes a General Fund Surplus Policy to replenish available cash for future property acquisitions, increasing the total Property Acquisition Reserve balance to a minimum of $6.0 million in FY 2025-26 and $6.5 million in FY 2026-27.

2) The available General Fund reserve excludes nonspendable General Fund balance (e.g., long-term advance receivable from Successor Agency, IRC Section 115 Trust Fund, and other long-term deposits).

Conclusion

The new budget proposes many exciting programs and projects that will enhance public safety, increase community engagement, improve City operations, elevate quality of life, and strengthen economic development. These efforts will help improve the lives of our residents, support local businesses and strengthen the City's financial stability. Through the budget process and ongoing collaboration with residents and businesses, we believe these initiatives will advance the City Council's vision for Bellflower, making it a better place to live, work and play.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the City Council for its exemplary leadership and transparent direction, both of which have been instrumental in the continued preparation and effective execution of the balanced budget and maintenance of a strong financial position. We also extend our gratitude to City staff at all levels for their dedication and due diligence throughout the budget process. Staff remain vigilant in managing expenditures in accordance with the established budgetary guidelines, demonstrating their commitment to providing high-quality services that meet the needs and expectations of Bellflower's residents and businesses. Lastly, we acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Finance staff for timely preparation and adoption of this essential strategic document for our City.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Council, residents and business community as we implement this financial plan to help deliver the priorities of the Strategic Plan for the vibrant, safe and connected City of Bellflower.