

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 27, 2025

Special Meeting

The special Finance Committee meeting of Council was called to order by Chair Holt at 6:03 p.m. in City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Jodi Burroughs, Melissa Anderson, Anthony Wilson, Christine Houk, Randy Holt, Ted Berry

1. Mr. Holt explained that the Appropriation Ordinance is due to Council by 11/15, but there are some things that are known now and he wanted Council to be able to discuss items before the Mayor finalizes to budget. He said this is the first of four (4) opportunities for the public to ask questions. He then recognized Mayor Stage for a summary overview of the 2026 Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

Mayor Stage commented that this is the only ordinance that the Mayor cannot veto. He shared a letter with Council that had many charts that he reviewed. He commented that even with all the construction happening, it is projected that revenues will be flat for 2026. He noted that 80% of the City's revenue comes from income tax. He stated that there are \$60 million in expense requests; operating expenses are \$36 million more than 2025, but health insurance premiums are up over \$70,000.00. He said they have benchmarks of: not wanting to exceed the Income Tax revenue for expenses, keeping three (3) months of operating costs in reserve. He noted that last year they started with \$20 million and project that next year they will start with \$18,900,000.00. Finally, he noted that there are four (4) items in the hopper that total \$166,700,000.00 and they estimate a small increase in the hotel/motel tax for 2026.

Mr. Holt asked if there was anything budgeted for Broadway Live. Mr. Boso, City Admin., said they have \$1.3 million for land purchase. Mr. Holt asked about the Overpass and Mr. Hamons, Dir. of Service, said that is in the Capital Improvement Plan. The total CIP is \$40 million with some paid from grant monies and TIF funds – leaving \$11 million in new dollars for 2026.

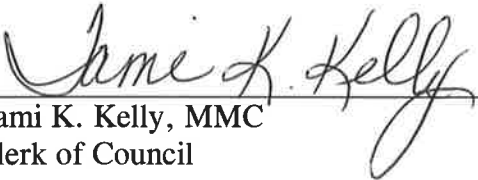
2. Mr. Holt recognized Mr. Hamons, Dir. of Service, and Mr. Castle, Dir. of Parks & Rec., who went over the completed 2025 Capital Improvement Projects; the active projects; and the new 2026 projects.

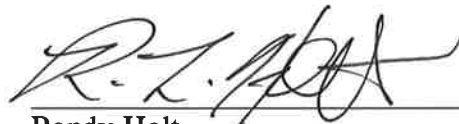
Mr. Holt noted that this is an overview and more details will be shared in coming meetings.

3. Council reviewed the items that they had submitted to the Mayor for consideration in the 2026 budget.
4. Mayor Stage asked if Council wanted the Administration to take a stab at allocating the hotel/motel tax funds or if Council wanted to do it. Council decided that they would discuss that at a later time. Ms. Houk said she would like to see this allocated by a formula and would also like to see this become a grant reimbursement program in the future.
5. Mr. Holt confirmed that there is no money budgeted for Brookpark, other than general maintenance, and that there are no additional employees to staff Brookpark.

6. Ms. Burroughs asked about COTA Plus and adding weekends. Mr. Boso said the contract expires in April and the expense for the program has been \$600,000.00. With the LINK-Us funds, COTA has said the cost will go down to \$300,000.00. He said they will leave \$600,000.00 in the budget in order to negotiate some weekend hours in the new contract.
7. There being no further questions or comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 7:13 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Randy Holt
Finance Committee Chairman



The City of Grove City, Ohio

4035 Broadway Grove City, Ohio 43123

(614) 277-3000

Richard L. "Ike" Stage, Mayor

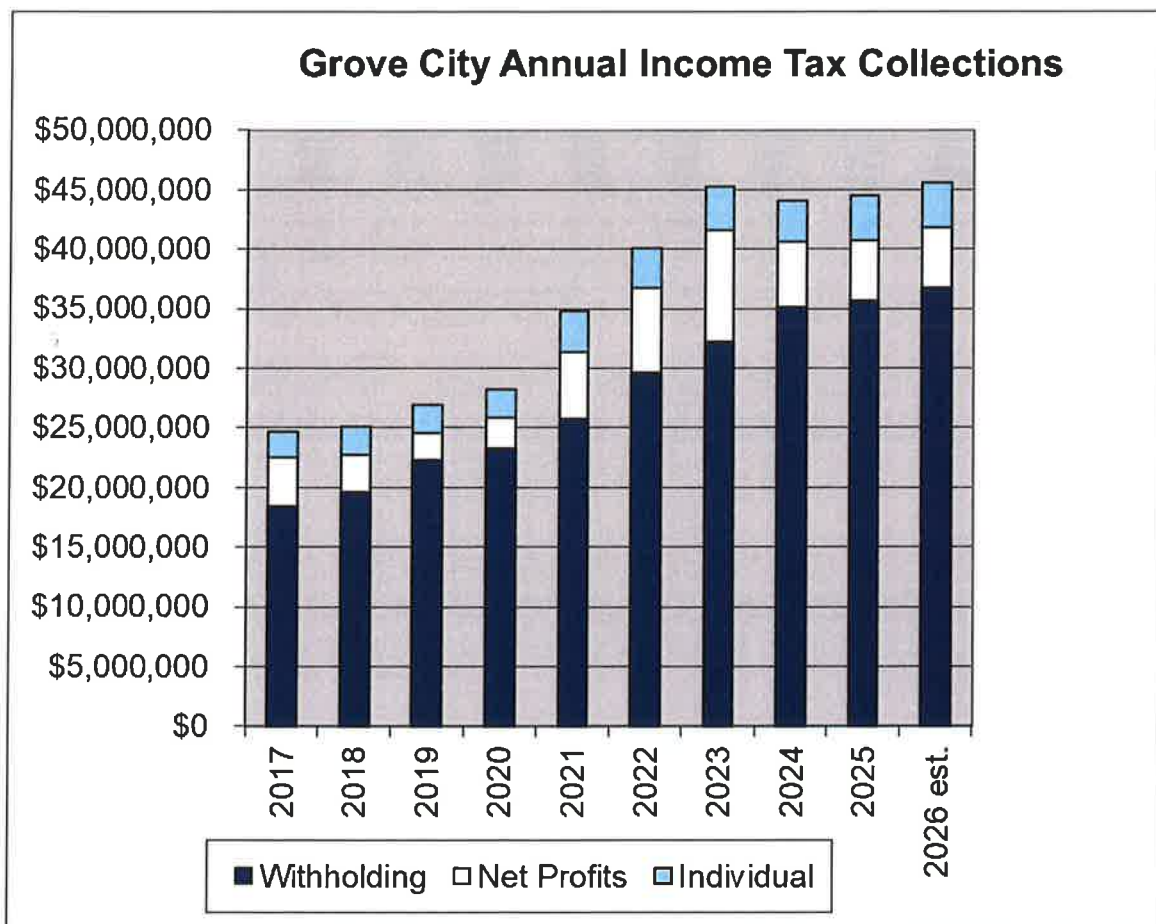
November xx, 2025

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Honorable Members of City Council:

In accordance with Section 5.05 of the City Charter, I respectfully submit the proposed 2026 Appropriation Ordinance with comments and explanations.

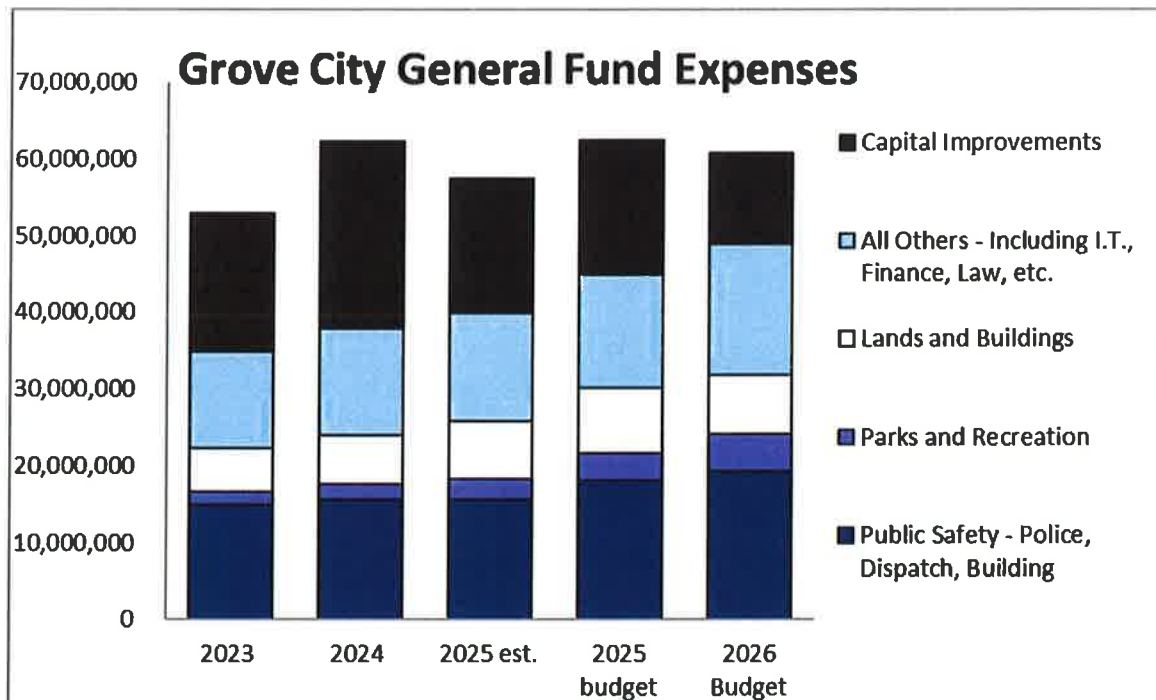
2025 income tax receipts are anticipated to be 0.9% greater than 2024. Grove City continues to possess a strong and diverse tax base, but large income tax gains have subsided. Based on 2025 performance, anticipated increases due to new businesses, and continued economic uncertainties, 2026 income tax receipts are estimated to increase 2.4% compared to anticipated 2025 collections.



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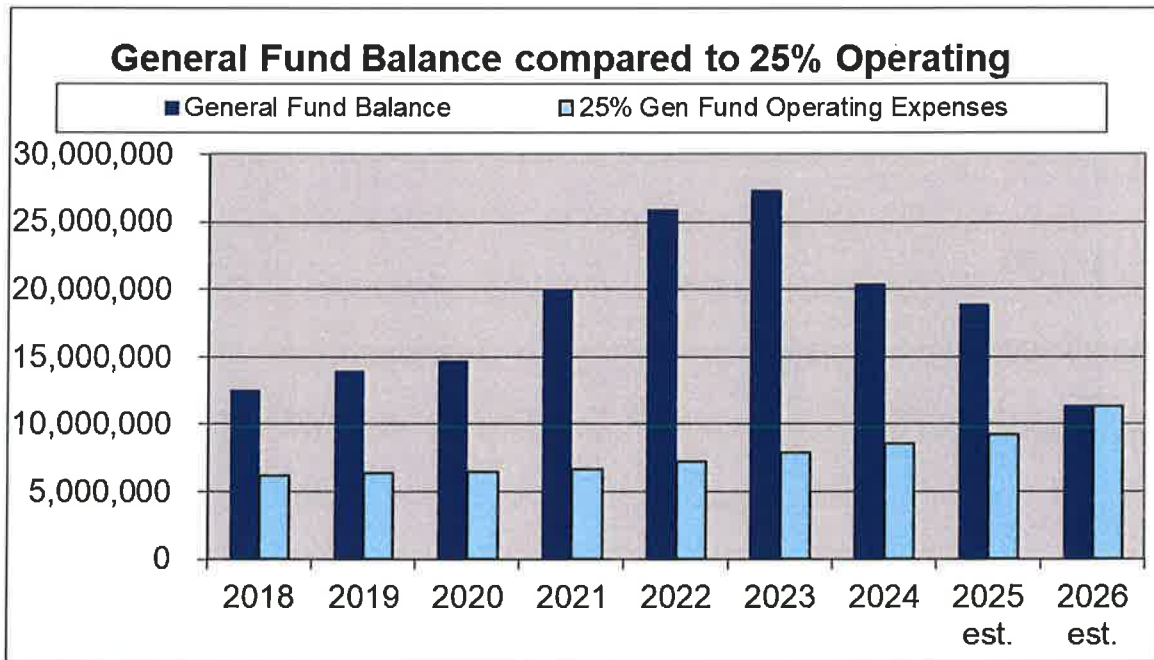
The General Fund appropriation request of \$60,793,761, is \$1,768,846 less than the 2025 approved appropriation. Included in the appropriation request is \$45,210,707 for operating expenses. This is \$3,661,208 more than the 2025 appropriated operating expenses of \$41,549,499. These increases include approximately \$2,000,000 for salaries and benefits and an additional \$1,700,000 for contractual increases. Capital projects totaling \$10,995,000 are included in this proposed budget while the 2025 budget included \$17,710,500 for capital improvement projects.

The chart below illustrates the type of services funded by the General Fund as well as a comparison from year to year. The chart also shows consistent and manageable levels of increases in basic City services such as Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, and maintenance of our grounds and facilities. The expense category with the widest range of fluctuation is the funding levels of capital improvements. Capital spending is more discretionary than other expenses and is affected by the levels of grant and debt funding.



DRAFT

Another key benchmark is the level of General Fund reserves. Since 2017, our target has been to maintain a General Fund balance of at least 3 months of operating expenditures, more conservative than the Government Finance Officers Association recommendation of at least two months. The 2026 General Fund ending balance projection is 25% of annual General Fund operating expenditures, or 3 months of operating expenditures.



¹ GFOA Best Practice – Determining the Appropriate Level of Unrestricted Fund Balance in the General Fund (CAAFR, Budgt) (2015)

DRAFT

While this proposal enables the City to provide high levels of service for our community, there are other initiatives that have major financial challenges. These include the following:

1. According to a 2023 survey conducted by ETC Institute, most respondents (83%) feel either very supportive (66%) or somewhat supportive (17%) of the City developing a new indoor multigenerational community center. According to Pizzuti's updated building program in conjunction with the site selection committee efforts, the budget range for a community center is estimated to be **\$93,900,000 to \$102,200,000** excluding land acquisition.
2. City Council and the Administration recognized the merit for a Southwest Area Overpass Project with unanimous passage of Resolution CR-52-22 and CR-44-24. This connector will enable the development of approximately 800-900 acres for mixed-use purposes with the emphasis on medical and technology. The estimated cost for this project is **\$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000**.
3. The Administration continues to entertain development ideas for the former Schoedinger Funeral site and surrounding area. Initial estimates for necessary infrastructure improvements for site development are **\$6,500,000 to \$9,500,000**.
4. Town Center Park conceptual plan was presented to City Council on September 15, 2025. The estimated cost for park improvements is **\$8,000,000 to \$15,000,000**.

Total identified initiatives total **\$138,400,000 to \$166,700,000**.

Hotel taxes are estimated to generate approximately \$650,000 to be distributed in an amount to be determined to our four previously funded visitor and convention bureaus.

We are fortunate to be working together for the general good of our community during a time in which we have the resources to improve our quality of life.

I thank our devoted, talented, and professional associates of the City who have collaborated to prepare this budget. I look forward to working with you on the implementation of our 2026 financial plan. We continue to monitor the Ohio legislature regarding actions which may affect municipal income finances.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. "Ike" Stage
Mayor



GROVE CITY 1852 OHIO

2025/2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

10/27/2025

Summary

2025 Completed Projects

Roadway

- 2025 Street Maintenance Program (\$4.2 M)
- 2025 Sidewalk Maintenance Program
- Holton Road Reconstruction (\$9.8 M)
- US 62 & Demorest Drive Traffic Signal (\$1.8M)
- Hawthorne Parkway Connection



Holton Road
Reconstruction

Trails

- 2025 Trail Maintenance Program
- Haughn Road Shared-Use Path
- Quail Creek Boulevard Shared-Use Path
- Beulah Park Section 2 Shared-Use Path
- Gantz Road Bridge over I-270 with ODOT/City of Columbus



Quail Creek Boulevard Shared-Use Path

2025 Completed Projects

Sanitary

- Columbus Street 18-in Relief Sewer (\$4.3 M)

Stormwater

- Pond Stabilization at Hoover Park and Concord Lakes
- Buckeye Parkway Headwall Undermining
- Town Center/Broadway Live Flood Study

Water

- Orders Road Water Main Extension
(Fryer Park to Hickory Creek) Cost Sharing
- London Groveport Road (SR 665) Booster Station Improvements



Columbus
Street 18-inch
Relief Sewer



Concord Lakes Pond Stabilization

2025 Completed Projects

Facilities

- Joint Safety Service Complex Parking Lot
- Evans Center Roof Replacement

Parks

- Gantz RecSchool & Parking Lot Improvements (\$2.6 M)
- Fryer Park Ballfield Improvements (\$2 M)
- Big Splash Renovations (\$900,000)

Big Splash
Renovations



Fryer Park Ballfields



Gantz RecSchool

2025 Active Projects

Facilities

- City Hall and Safety Complex Heat Pump Replacement & Building Automation
- Fryer Park Maintenance Building

Parks

- Gardens at Gantz Sensory Garden
- Town Center Park Concept & Schematic Design
- Pinnacle Quarry Park Improvements
- Scioto Meadows Park Upgrade

Water

- Water Distribution Model Update
- Manheim Water Flushing Station

Traffic

- SR 104/Hawthorne Parkway Traffic Signal

Roadway

- North Meadows Drive Realignment (\$9.8 M)
- Columbus Street Improvements (\$6.9 M)
- Southwest Regional Medical & Innovation Gateway (SRMIG) Land Acquisition, Traffic & Environmental Studies
- McDowell Road Improvements (\$5.16 M)
- Hawthorne Parkway Extension – Borror Road to SR 665 (3.2M)

Sanitary

- 2025 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation
- Harris Development Sewer Oversizing

Trails

- Hoover Road Bridge SUP Over I-71
- Camp Chase Trail Connection
- SR 104 Shared-Use Path

Connectivity

- Arcadia Cell Tower Coordination

2026 Project Forecast

Annual Maintenance

(Citywide)

Street Maintenance Program

\$4,500,000

- Trail Maintenance Program
- Sidewalk Maintenance Program

2025 Budget

\$4,200,000

2026 Budget

\$400,000

\$600,000

\$320,000

\$600,000



Annual Sidewalk Maintenance Program

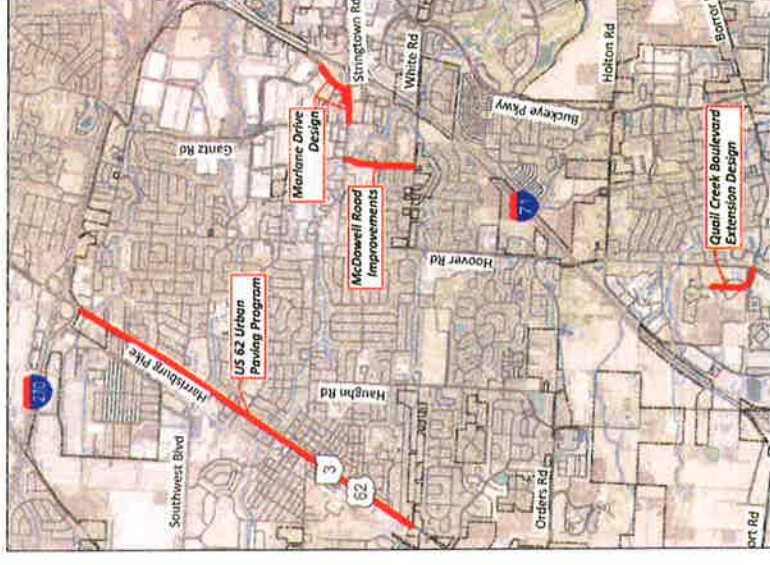


Annual Street Maintenance Program

2026 Project Forecast

Roadway Improvements

- Marlane Drive Design
\$350,000
(Stringtown Road to Brookham Drive,
Including Stringtown Road Median)
- Quail Creek Boulevard Extension Design
\$800,000
- McDowell Road Improvements
\$5,160,600
(Hoover Road to Buckeye Ranch)
- US 62 Urban Paving Program
\$500,000



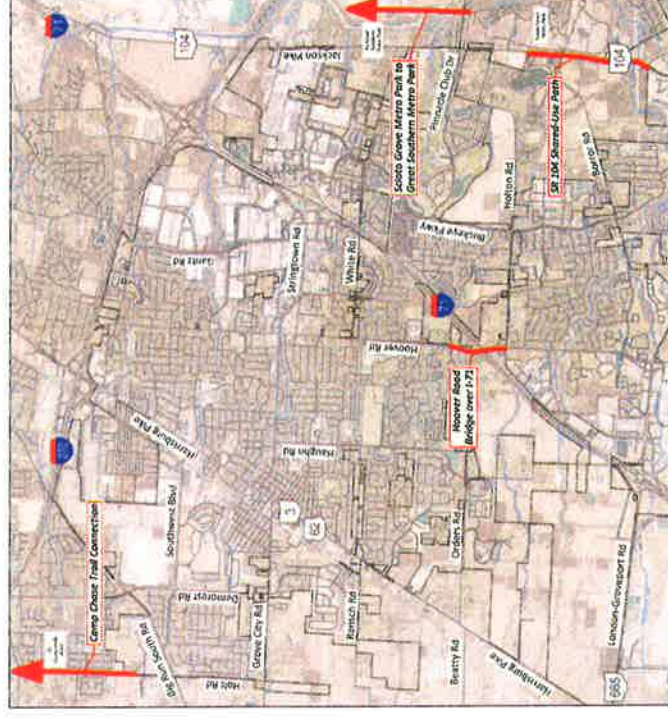
Shared-Use Path

LinkUS TSI Grant Funded
Scribble Grove Metro Park

improvement

to Great Southern Metro Park

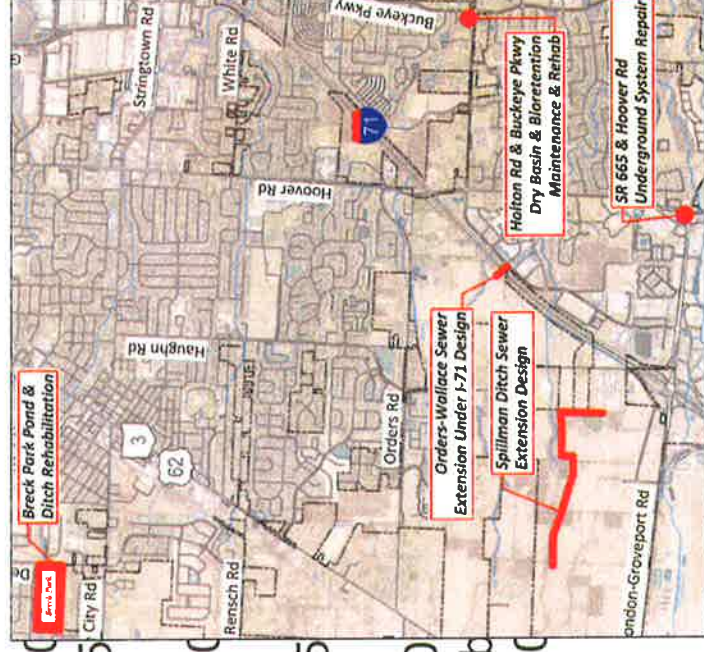
- **SR 104 Shared-Use Path**
\$90,000
(Holton Road to Farmstead)
- **Camp Chase Trail Connection**
\$2,200,000
- **Hoover Road Bridge Over I-71**
\$2,200,000



2026 Project Forecast

Utility Improvements

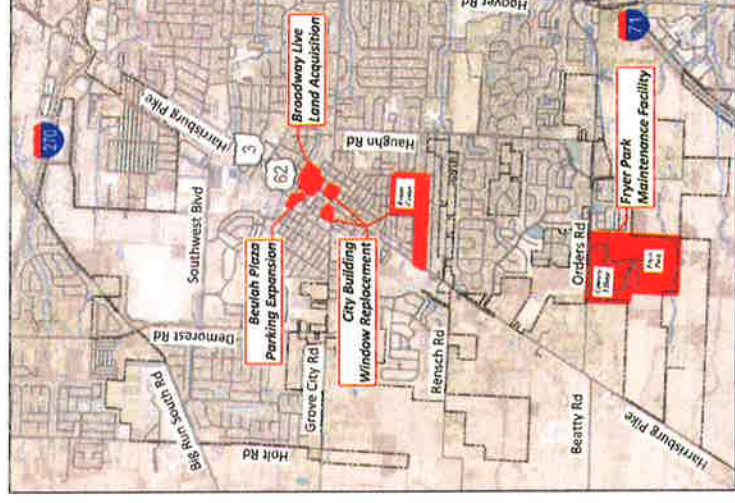
- Kennedy Hydrant Replacement \$100,000
- Orders-Wallace Sewer Extension \$150,000
- Under I-71 Design
- Spillman Ditch Sewer Extension \$325,000
- Design (SWACO to Sidner Parcel)
- Breck Park Pond & Ditch Rehabilitation \$250,000
- Holton Road & Buckeye Parkway Dry Basin & Bioretention Maintenance & Rehab \$560,000
- SR 665 & Hoover Road Underground System Repair \$500,000



2026 Project Forecast

Facility Improvements

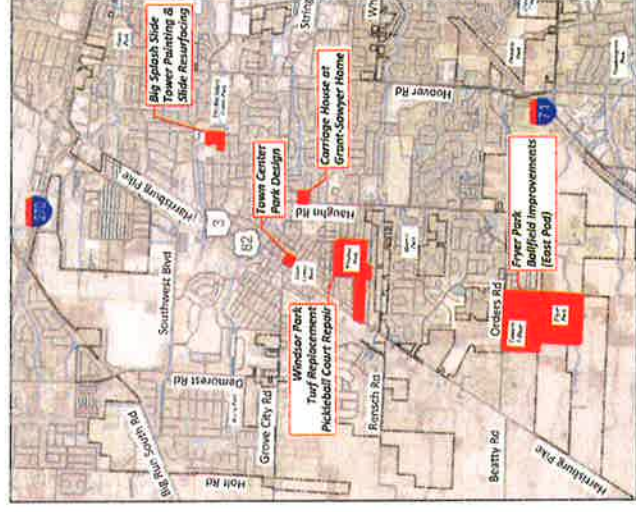
- Community Center Design \$8,000,000
- Fryer Park Maintenance Facility \$1,750,000
- Broadway Live Land Acquisition \$1,300,000
- Beulah Plaza Parking Expansion \$900,000
- City Buildings Window Replacement \$310,000



2026 Project Forecast

Park Improvements

- Windsor Park
 - Turf Replacement (Fields 2,3,4 & 5) \$950,000
 - Pickleball Court \$700,000
- Repair/Resurface/Drainage
- Fryer Park Ballfield Improvements (East Pod Improvements) \$1,700,000
- Historical Buildings – Carriage House at Grant-Sawyer Home \$200,000
- Town Center Park Design \$1,500,000
- Big Splash Slide Tower Painting \$200,000
- Slide Resurfacing



THANK YOU!

