

The background of the slide features the official seal of the State of Connecticut. The seal is circular, with a blue rope-like border. Inside the border is a green laurel wreath. The central part of the seal depicts a landscape with a large tree on the right, a church with a steeple on the left, and a bridge in the distance. The words "TO CONN" and "CUTVY" are visible at the top of the seal.

Town of Bethany

Budget Hearing

April 22, 2026

Members of the Board of Finance

Martha
Asarisi

Janet
Brunwin

Catherine
Erickson

John
Grabowski

Sally
Huyser

Rachel
Medbery



Budget Process

Department requests	12/9/25
First Selectman review	1/12/26
Board of Finance review	1/28/26
Budget Hearing	4/22/26
Board of Finance final recommendation	4/27/26
Annual Town Meeting vote	5/18/26

Board of Finance Budget Priorities

Affordability	Keep taxes affordable for all residents
Infrastructure	Maintain the Town's physical infrastructure and essential services
Education	Continue to provide quality education for our children
Funding	Pursue grants and outside funding to reduce the burden on taxpayers for capital and physical infrastructure upgrades
Stability	Plan carefully for future fund balances to protect the Town from unexpected events while helping stabilize taxes

FY 2024-2025 Audited Results

- FY 2024–2025 closed with a \$400,339 net operating surplus
- Key Contributors to Reduced Expenditures
 - Parks and Recreation -\$162,000
 - Public Works - \$202,000
 - Insurance and Employee Benefits - \$130,000

	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Variance
Revenue	26,870,032	26,688,216	181,816 UNFAV
Expenditures	26,870,032	26,287,877	582,155 FAV
Net Operating Surplus	-	400,339	400,339 FAV

FY 2025–FY 2027 Budget Overview

	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ESTIMATE	2027 BUDGET
TAX COLLECTIONS	22,236,609	22,425,283	23,572,348
TOTAL REVENUE	26,688,216	26,985,996	*28,048,390
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	26,287,877	26,621,420	28,048,390
SURPLUS	400,339	364,576	0

* Revenue includes a \$400,000 subsidy from the General Fund

FY 2026- 2027 Budget Highlights

Total Budget

- Total Expenditures: \$28.0M (+3.02%)

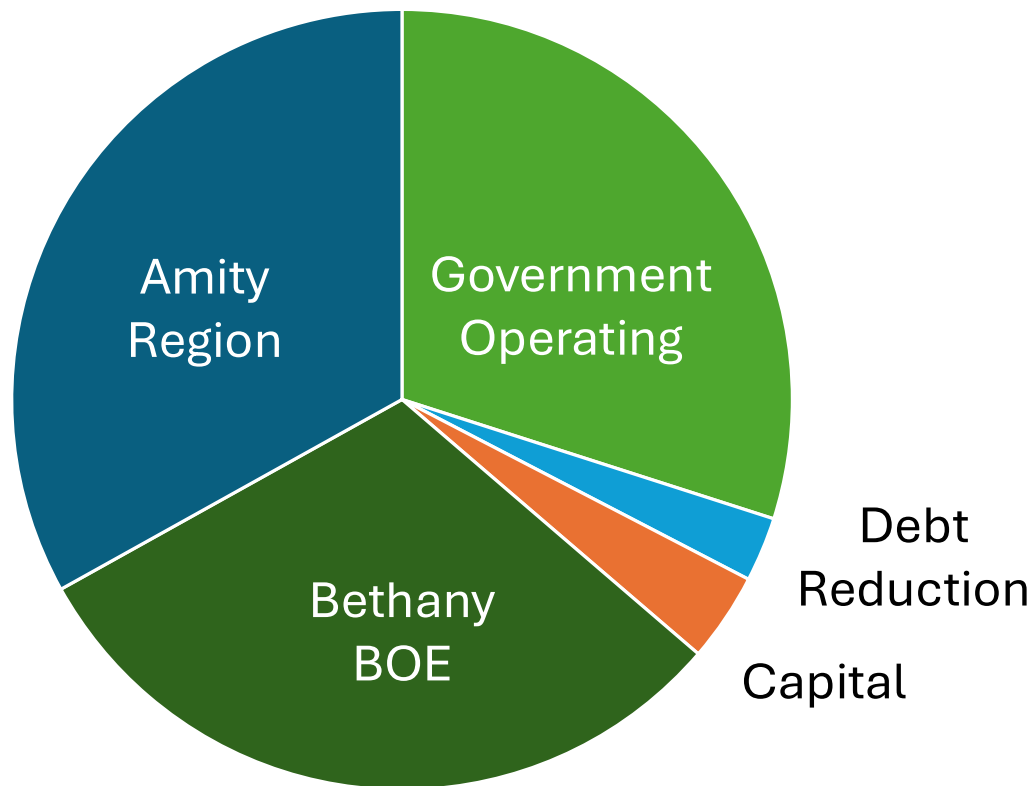
Where Spending Increased

- Education (BOE & Amity): \$17.9M (+3.98%)
- Capital Improvement: \$750K (+20.97%)
- Government Operations: \$8.4M (+1.64%)

How the budget is funded

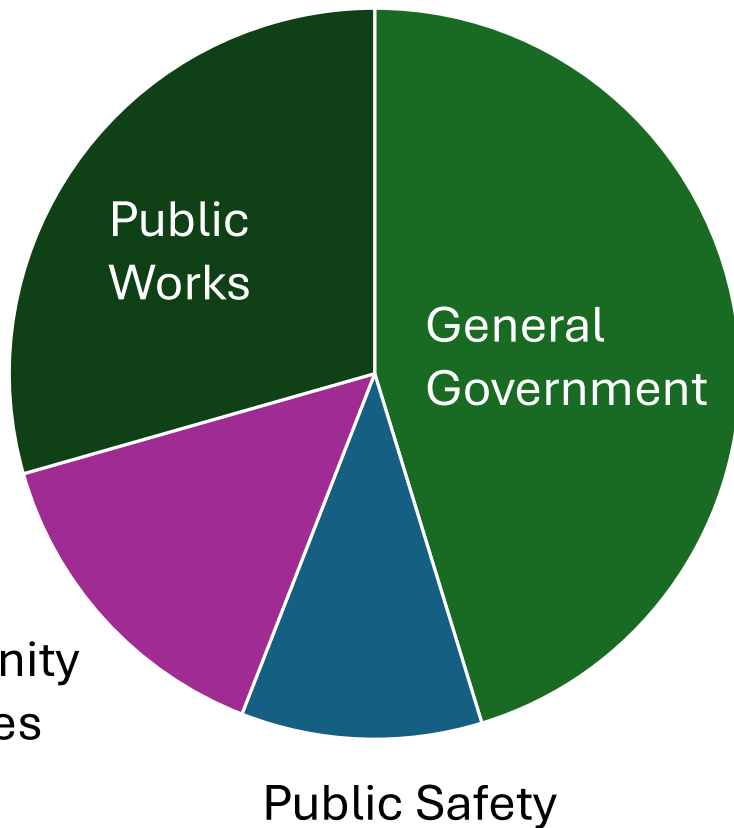
- Property Taxes: \$23.6M
- Other Revenue: \$4.5M

2026-2027 Expenditure Budget - breakdown



Category	Total	%
Government Operating	8,399,768	29.9%
Capital	750,000	2.7%
Debt Reduction	1,029,525	3.7%
Bethany BOE	8,592,990	30.6%
Amity Region	9,276,107	33.1%
Total	28,048,390	100.0%

2026-2027 Expenditure Budget - Government Operating



Government Operating	Total	%
Gen. Government	3,802,626	45.3%
Public Works	2,470,668	29.4%
Community Services	1,231,591	14.7%
Public Safety	894,883	10.7%
	8,399,768	100.0%

FY 2026 Budget vs FY 2027 Proposed Budget



2026-2027 Expenditure Budget – Government Operating

	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Budget	2025-2026 Projected	2026-2027 Proposed	Key drivers
Gen Govt	3,135,456	3,589,594	3,380,961	3,802,626	Vacancy Backfill, legal, employee benefits
Public Safety	891,030	904,576	889,670	894,883	
Comm Services	992,579	1,241,261	1,122,853	1,231,591	
Public works	2,509,959	2,528,511	2,473,005	2,470,668	Efficiencies & gas/diesel price reduction
Total operating	7,529,024	8,263,942	7,866,488	8,399,768	

2026-2027 Expenditure Budget – Capital, Debt, and Education

	2024-2025 Actual	2026-2026 Budget	2025-2026 Projected	2026-2027 Proposed	Key drivers
Capital	712,284	620,000	620,000	750,000	Fire Department Tanker Refurbishment \$350,000
Land Acquisition	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	Healthy balance in the Land Acquisition Account
Debt Services	1,088,181	1,058,772	1,058,772	1,029,525	
Bethany BOE	7,919,006	8,207,602	8,150,000	8,592,900	Insurance, Contracts, Special Education, Unfunded Mandates
Amity Region	8,828,987	8,977,109	8,977,109	9,276,107	Increase in proportional Bethany enrollment

Capital Projects Overview

Dept	Project	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	COMMENTS
Public Works	Road Paving	450,000	400,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	
	BAA Fencing	12,000						Grant Funded
	Targeted Road Guiderails	35,000						Grant Funded
	Horse Ring	5,000						Grant Funded
	Backhoe		-	175,000				Deferred to 2028
	Veteran's Park Improvements		210,000			250,000		Grant Funded 2027: Paving 2030: Upgrade / Rehab
	Trailer		7,500					Shared with Police Special Duty Fund
	12 Yard Dump Truck			330,000				

Capital Projects Overview

Dept	Project	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	COMMENTS
Fire Dept	2 Lima 7 Ambulance Replacement	125,000						Total \$375K split between Capital Reserve and 2025 & 2026 budget
	HVAC upgrades	15,000						Grant Funded
	Tanker 82 Refurbish		350,000					
	EMS Fly Car			100,000				
	Tanker 87 Refurbish				350,000			
	Incident Command Vehicle						100,000	
Public Safety	Police Cruiser	75,000						Special Duty Fund
	Trailer		7,500					Shared with DPW Special Duty Fund

Capital Projects Overview

Dept	Project	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	COMMENTS
IT	Land Use File Archival	45,000						
Capital Reserve (Sinking) Fund	Equipment & Vehicle Replacement		-	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	Deferred
	Infrastructure		-	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	Deferred
	Land Acquisition		-	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	Deferred
Totals	Grant Funded Projects	67,000	210,000	-	-	250,000	-	
	Police Special Duty Fund	75,000	7,500	-	-	-	-	
	Budgeted/ Proposed Appropriation	620,000	750,000	1,430,000	1,175,000	925,000	825,000	

Revenue Outlook for FY2027

What We're Seeing

- Overall revenue is relatively flat compared to prior years
- Property taxes remain the primary revenue source
- Non-tax revenues are stable, but not growing significantly
- The Grand List is largely flat, reflecting limited new development

Looking Ahead

- Continued focus on maintaining financial stability
- Exploring opportunities to expand grant funding


General Fund Balance Overview

- The General Fund is the Town's primary operating fund.
- Fund balance represents accumulated surplus from prior years and is not recurring revenue.
- It supports cash flow, emergencies, and financial stability.
- Fund balance is evaluated as a percentage of annual expenditures.
- Best practice recommends maintaining approximately 2–3 months of expenditures.

Fiscal Year End	Unassigned Fund Balance	% of Expenditures
FY 2022	\$5,960,288	23.2%
FY 2023	\$6,620,390	25.4%
FY 2024	\$7,413,237	27.6%
FY 2025	\$7,409,398	27.2%
FY 2026 (projected)	\$7,373,974	26.3%

What the Budget Means for a Typical Homeowner

Median property value in Bethany



	Mill Rate	Property #1	Property #2	Property #3	Property #4	Property #5
Appraised Property Value	-	\$250,000	\$350,000	\$470,000	\$600,000	\$900,000
Assessed Value (70% of Appraisal)	-	\$175,000	\$245,000	\$329,000	\$420,000	\$630,000
Annual Property Tax (Now)	29.14	\$5,099	\$7,138	\$9,586	\$12,237	\$18,355
Annual Property Tax (PROPOSED)	30.05	\$5,259	\$7,362	\$9,887	\$12,621	\$18,932
Additional Tax Burden per year	-	\$160	\$224	\$301	\$384	\$576

$$\text{Annual Property Tax} = (\text{Assessed Value} * \text{Mill Rate}) / 1000$$

Budget Options for Consideration

	Option	Description	Price of this option	Revised Mill Rate
1	BOE Full Requested Budget	Restores the original 7.49% BOE request and avoids elimination of two positions	\$393,736	30.55
2	Backhoe – Purchase	One-time capital purchase of a replacement backhoe in FY 2027	\$170,000	30.27
3	Backhoe – Lease	Four-year lease at approximately \$40K per year, creating a multi-year obligation	\$40,000	30.10
4	Land Acquisition Funding	Funds \$100K for the Land Acquisition account	\$100,000	30.18
5	Capital Reserve Contribution	Adds funding to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for future large purchases	\$225,000	30.34
6	All-In Budget	Combines all prior options and adds funding for Part Time Grant writer	\$1,219,443	31.60

Affordability

Infrastructure

Education

Funding

Stability

Upcoming expenditures on the horizon

Bonding for Amity
(6% anticipated
increase)

DPW bargaining
unit negotiations

BCS Teacher and
Para salary
negotiations

Bargaining unit
negotiations for
Amity

Bonding for BCS
in future years

Potential litigation
impacts not yet
determined

What happens after tonight

- Board of Finance deliberation
- Final budget meeting on 04/27/2026
- Final budget recommendation will be mailed to residences
- Annual Town Meeting 5/18/2026 – in Town Gym
- Reminder of rules on increases/decreases



Public Comment (and closing)



SPECIFIC FEEDBACK
TO THE BUDGET



3 MINUTES



NAME AND ADDRESS
