Bethlehem Chamber
GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2027

BUDGET ADDRESS

We Build BETHLEHEM pennsylvania

MAYOR J. WILLIAM REYNOLDS

NOVEMBER 6, 2026

TAMMY WENDLING

SVP OF BETHLEHEM INITIATIVES
GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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ELECTED OFFICIALS & DIGNITARIES



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THANK YOU



DIGITAL PROGRAM

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BETHLEHEM, PA

CHRISTMAS CITY VILLAGE

November 20 - December 20

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays
11AM - 7PM



LIVE ADVENT CALENDAR

December 1 - 23

Nightly @ 5:30PM

CITY OF BETHLEHEM

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

2026

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 | 4:30 PM

BETHLEHEM'S PAYROW PLAZA

Citizens' Christmas City Committee Presents

58TH

Community Advent Breakfast

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026

MORAVIAN VILLAGE | 8AM



FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER

REV. JANEL RICE

Senior Pastor
Central Moravian Church

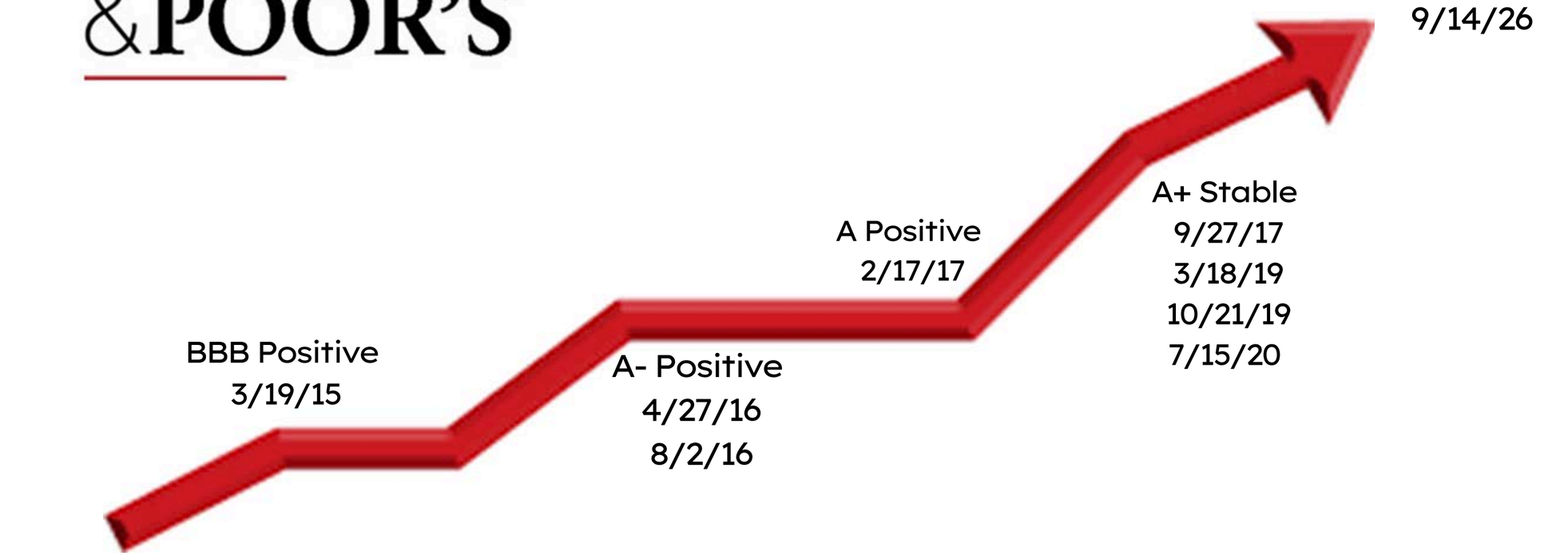
MAYOR J. WILLIAM REYNOLDS

CITY OF BETHLEHEM

Our Financial Rules

1. Sustainable revenues pay sustainable expenses (sustainable and one-time aren't synonyms).
2. Be honest (and don't fear the explanation).
3. Math is not an opinion or a feeling.
4. Short term heroes are the long term villains.

STANDARD &POOR'S



Our Promise To Our Employees

The City will always keep our salary, pension, and healthcare obligations.

Our 4 Recurring Budget Expenditures To Watch

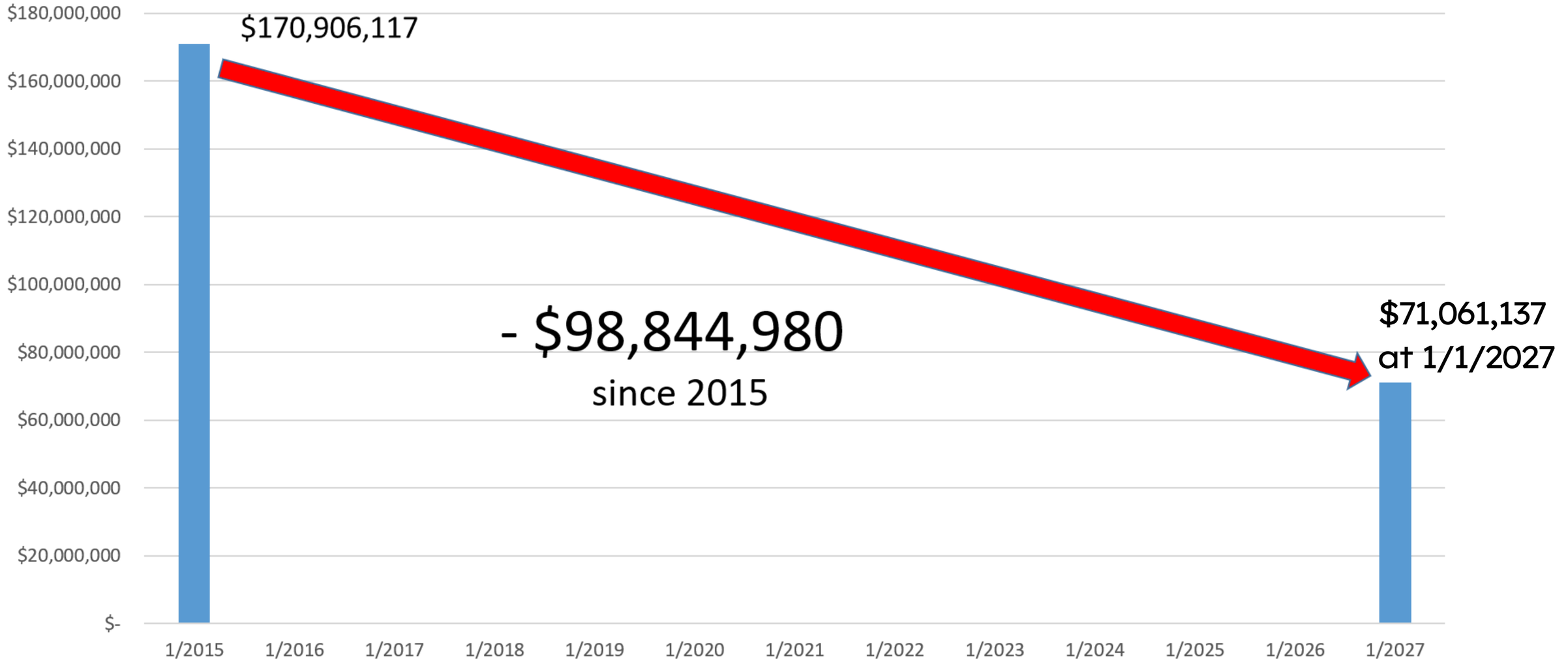
#1 Debt Service

#2 Pensions

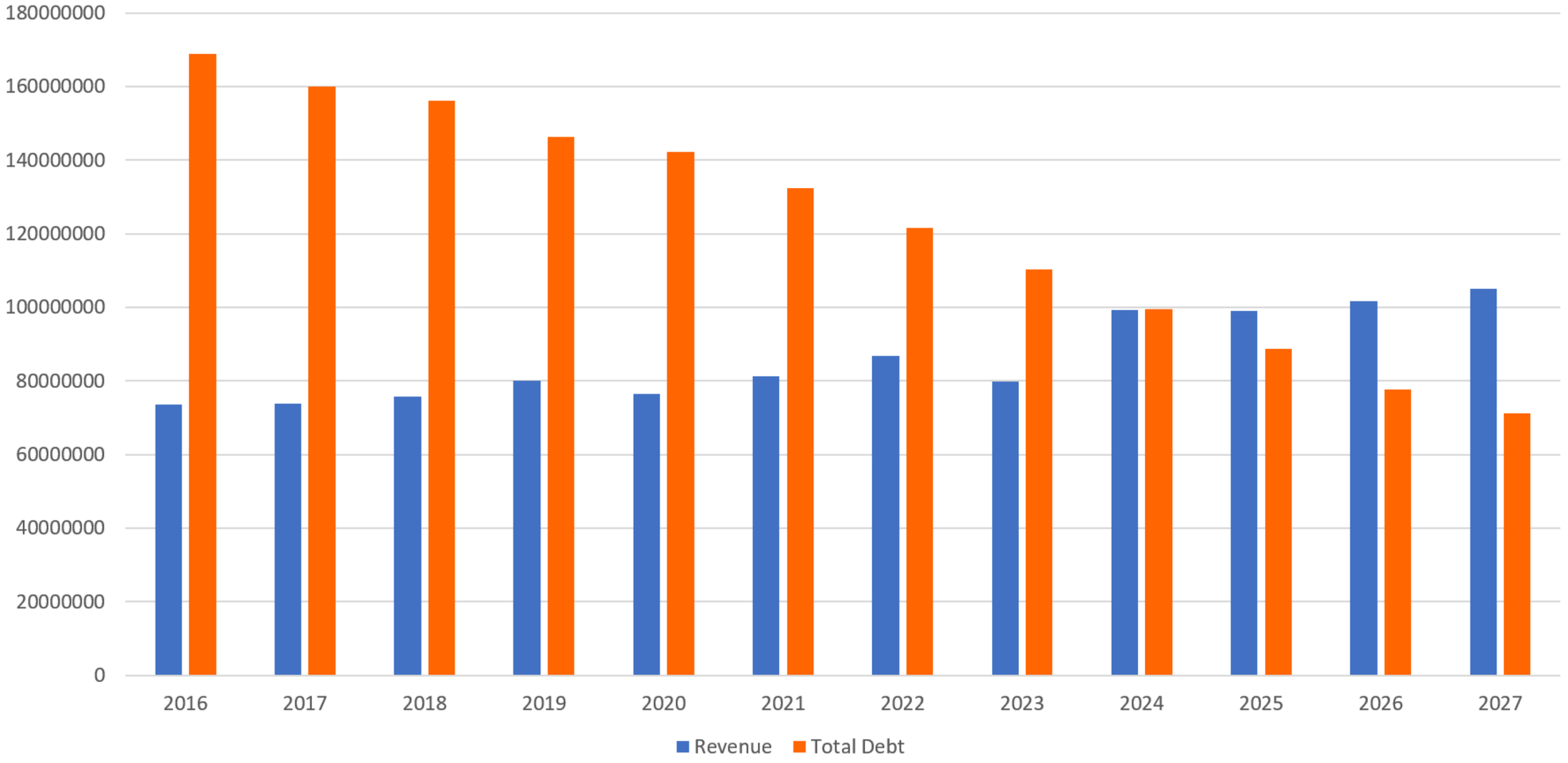
#3 Medical

#4 Salary

#1 - Paying Debt Off Aggressively 2015-2027



The Tide Turned



#2 Pension Payments

	Police (348)	Fire (234)	PMRS (744)	Total
2027 Total	$7,994,989	$3,772,710	$4,226,919	$15,994,618
2026 Total:	$7,864,610	$3,586,957	$4,938,278	$16,389,845
2025 Total:	$7,869,539	$3,662,763	$4,801,629	$16,333,931
2024 Total:	$6,780,557	$3,371,777	$4,136,388	$14,288,722

#2 - Pension Fund

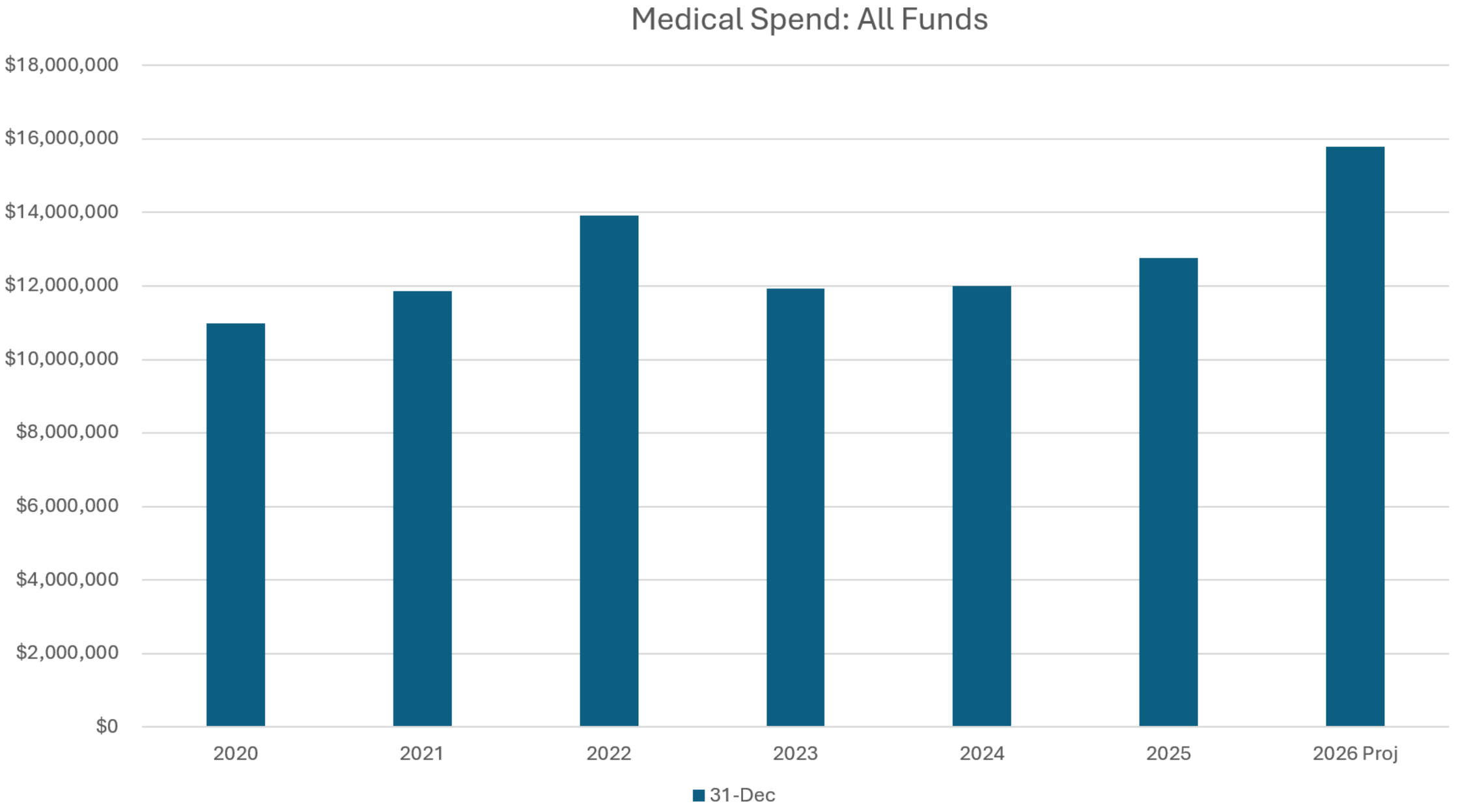
- Three pension funds are 95.6% funded (this is good and unusual for cities).

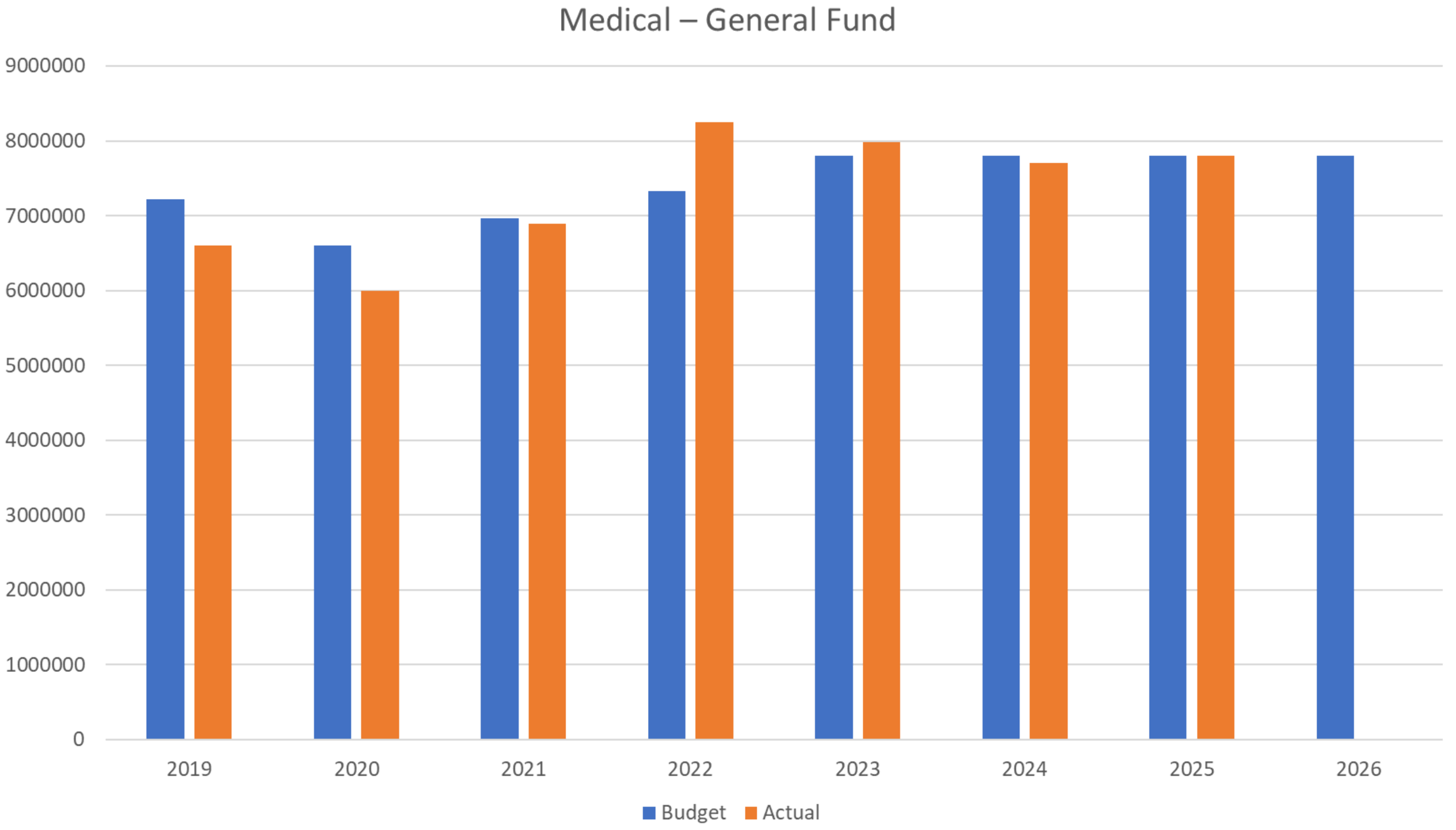
- 2027 changes for each of the three funds
  - Police + $130,379
  - Fire + $185,753
  - PMRS - $711,359

2027 Sustainable Expense Changes

- #4 Salary Increases +$3.1 million
- #3 Medical +$2 million
- #2 Pension -$332,000
- #1 Debt -$1,000,000
- Electric +$200,000

Significant New Sustainable Expenses: $3.968 million


Medical Spend: All Funds
$18,000,000
$16,000,000
$14,000,000
$12,000,000
$10,000,000
$8,000,000
$6,000,000
$4,000,000
$2,000,000
$0
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026 Proj
31-Dec

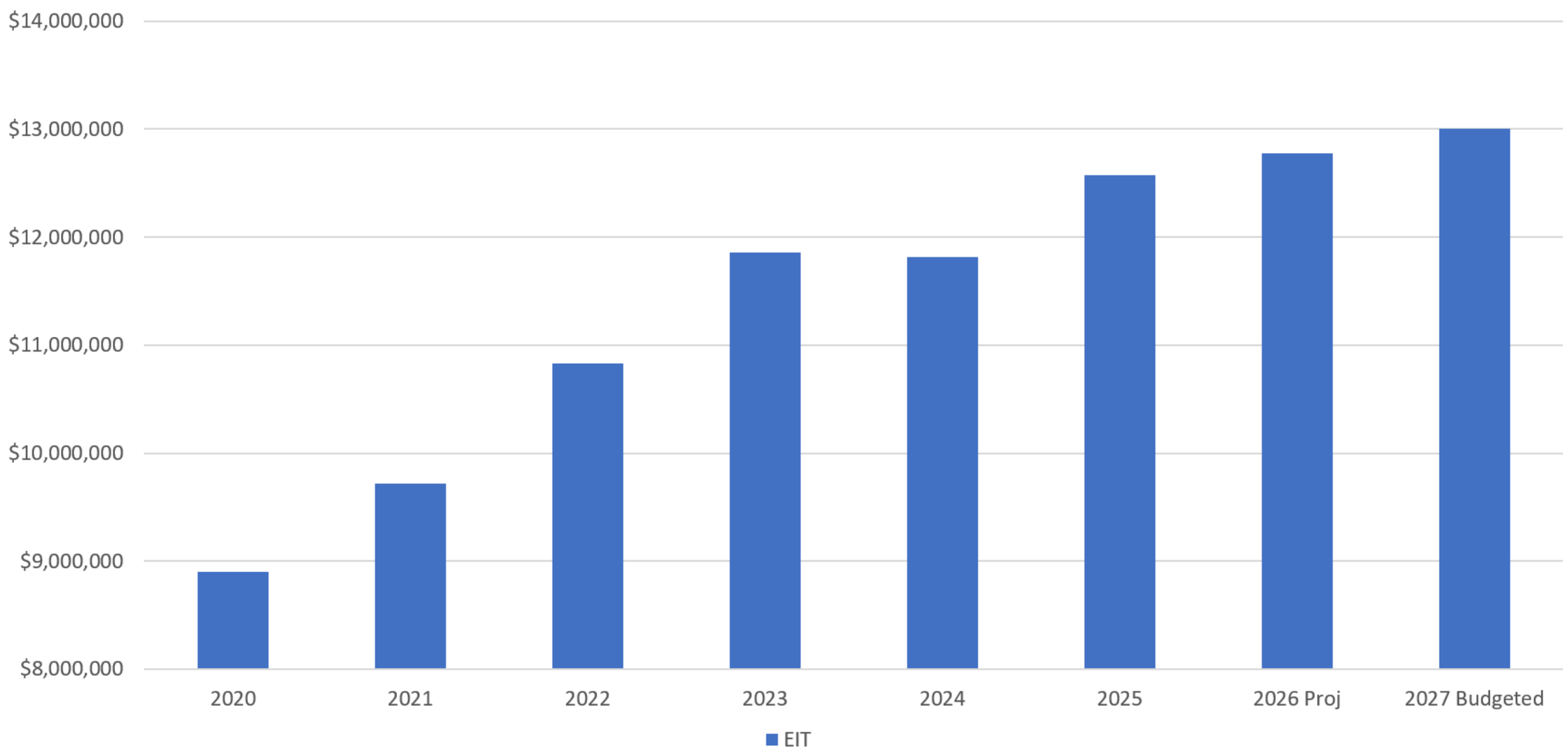

Medical – General Fund
9000000
8000000
7000000
6000000
5000000
4000000
3000000
2000000
1000000
0
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
Budget
Actual

2027 Sustainable Revenue Picture

- Property Tax Revenue = $1,689,107 (2.9% increase plus natural growth)
- Earned Income Tax= $500,000 (natural growth)
- Mercantile and Business Privilege License= $480,000 (natural growth)
- Ambulance Fees= $344,000
- Recycling= $684,610 ($1.67 per month increase)
- Investment Interest= $500,000

Significant New Sustainable Revenues: $4,197,717

Earned Income Tax (1.0%)



Tax Rate History

Year	Millage Rate (percentage)
2017	0.0%
2018	2.3%
2019	3.8%
2020	0.0%
2021	5.0%
2022	0.0%
2023	0.0
2024	2.6%
2025	0.0%
2026	0.0%
2027	2.9%

2017-2027:
Average is 1.5%

2022- 2027:
Average is 0.9%

Recycling

<u>The Bethlehem Recycling Bureau:</u>

- Operates the Theis/Cornfeld Recycling Center
- Operates the Yard Waste Facility
- Manages the curbside pick up program
- Provides leaf collection across all city streets
- Provides Christmas tree pick up
- Provides yard waste pick up 2x/year
- Investigates trash complaints

Recycling

	2023	2027
Recycling Bureau Expenditures	4.5 million	4.8 million
Recycling Fee Revenue (last adjusted in 2023)	2.7 million	3.4 million
Recycling Contracts	2.2 million	2.5 million

- Sale of Recycling Materials declined from $855,834 in 2011 to $60,070 in 2025
- 2011 Revenues = 30% of Expenditures, in 2025 it was 1.2%.

2027 Proposed Fee increase: $1.67 per month

2027 Budget = Investing in Public Safety

- Police
  - New labor contract for 2027-2029
  - Raises starting salary and restructures salary scale
  - Continued investment in new vehicles
    - $350,000 in 2027
    - $3 million since 2022 (56 vehicles)

2027 Budget = Investing in Public Safety

- Fire
  - 2 new firefighter positions for 2027
  - Funding for 15 cadets for the fire academies
  - 2 new fire apparatuses purchased for $3.4 million
  - 2 new fire command units purchased for $168,102

- EMS
  - 2 new paramedic positions for 2027
  - 3 new EMS vehicles budgeted for 2027-2029

2027 Park Improvements

- Memorial Pool - 2021
- Rose Garden Phase I - 2021
- Greenway Phase 5 - 2022
- Monocacy Way Phase I - 2022
- Fairview Park - 2023
- Saucon Park Improvements - 2025
- Rose Garden Phase II - 2025
- Friendship Park - 2026
- Dutko Park - 2026
- Monocacy Way Phase II – 2027
- Greenway Completion - 2027
- Clearview Park - 2027
- Bernie Fritz Park - 2027
- Madison Park - 2027



THANK YOU

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