Mid-Year Explainer: The City of Big Lake

A visual audit of municipal financial health and budget adherence as of June 30, 2026.

THE 50% MILESTONE

TIME PASSED: 50.00%

CITY OF Big Lake

LIVE BIG!

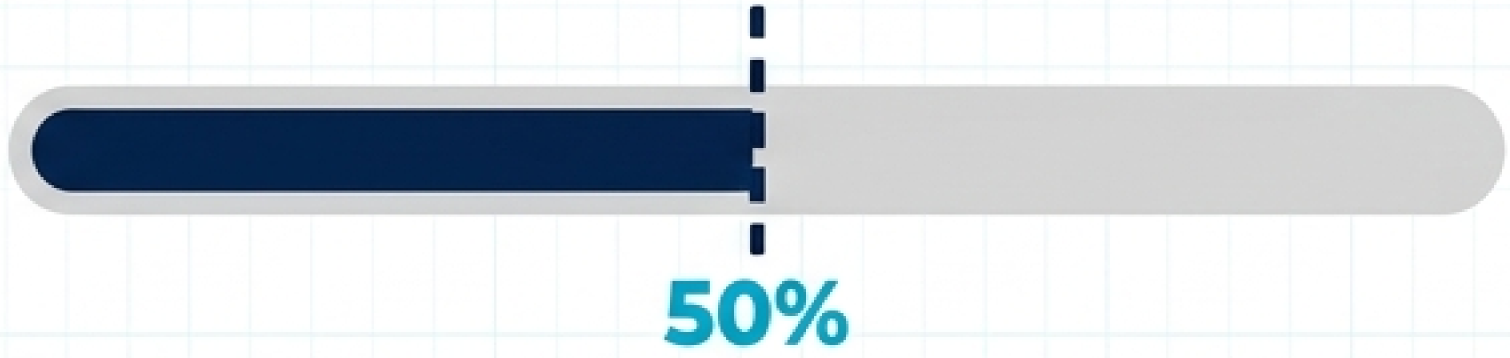
The City of Big Lake is financially stable, with predictable seasonal variances.

The Verdict

At the exact midpoint of 2026, operational expenditures are tracking tightly to the 50% mark (51.10% spent).

While revenues temporarily lag (38.00% collected), this is a **planned seasonal variance driven by property tax collection cycles.**

How to Read This Report

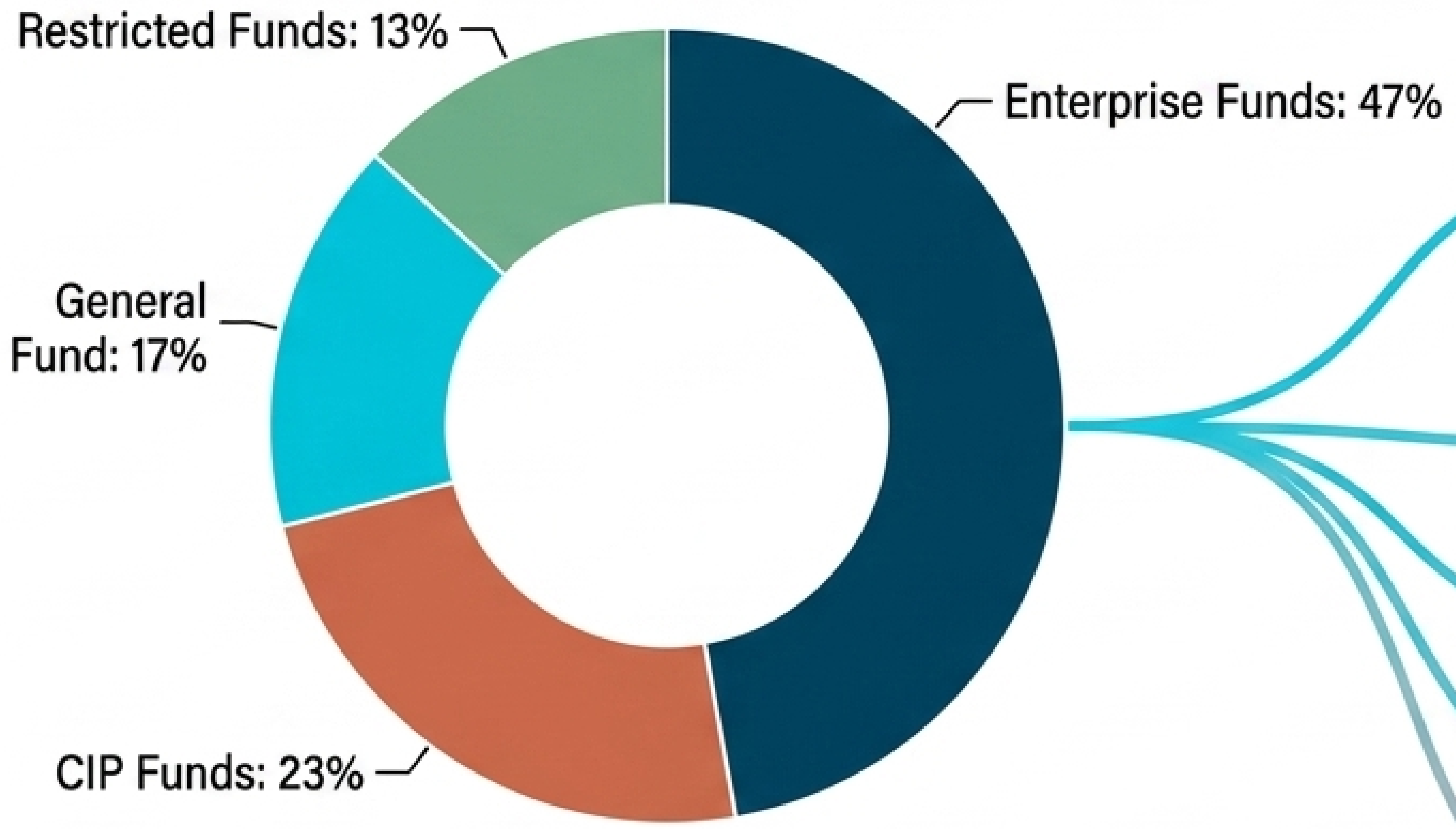


The 50% Anchor Line: Every chart in this blueprint uses the 50% mark as the central benchmark. Bars past the line are trending high; bars behind it are trending low. We highlight why these variances occur.

$3,979,633 in Unassigned Fund Balance (51.07% of the total approved budget), acting as a healthy buffer for cash flow.

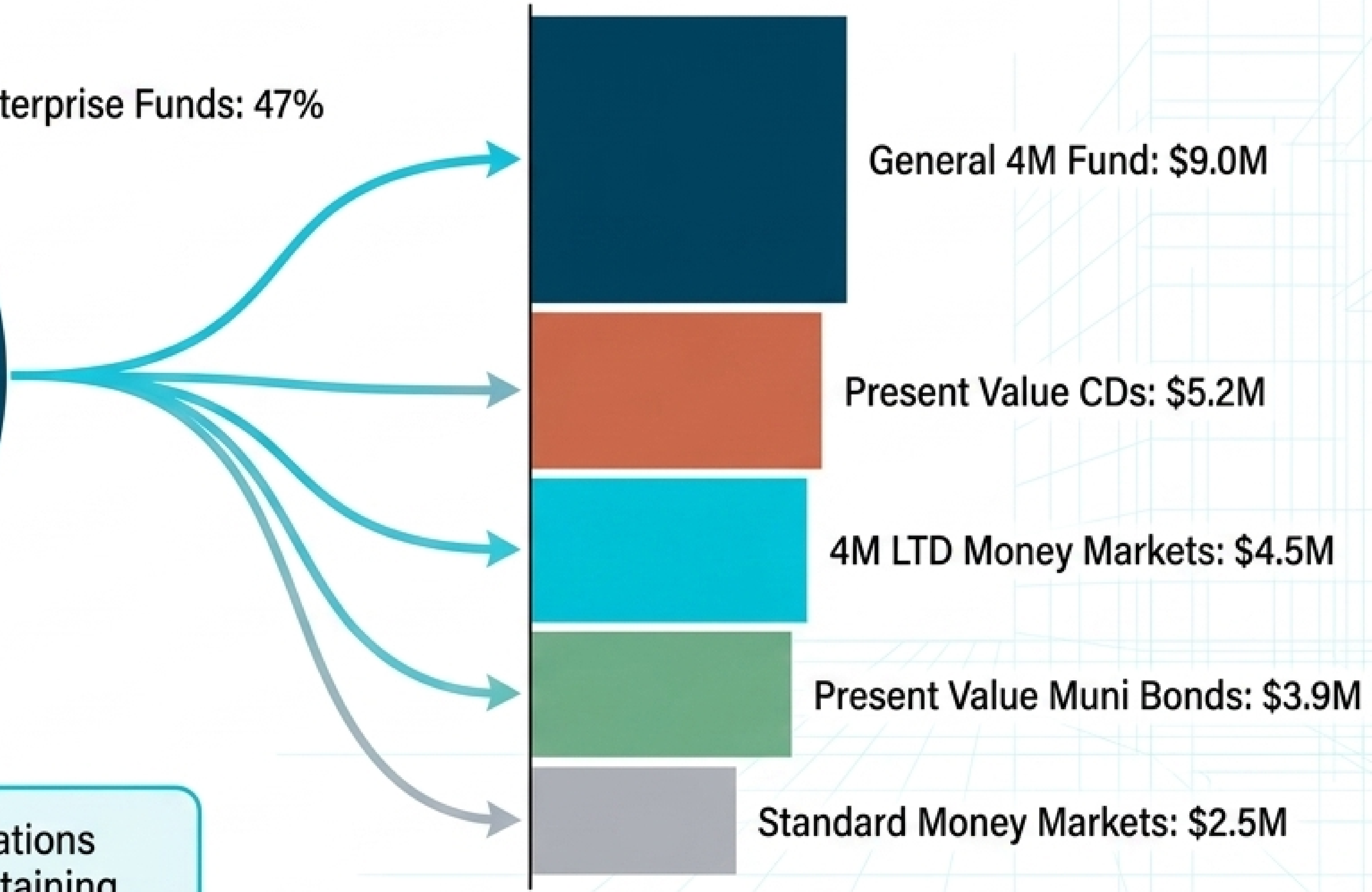
The City Cash Liquidity Map: $25.3 Million Total

City Cash by Fund Type

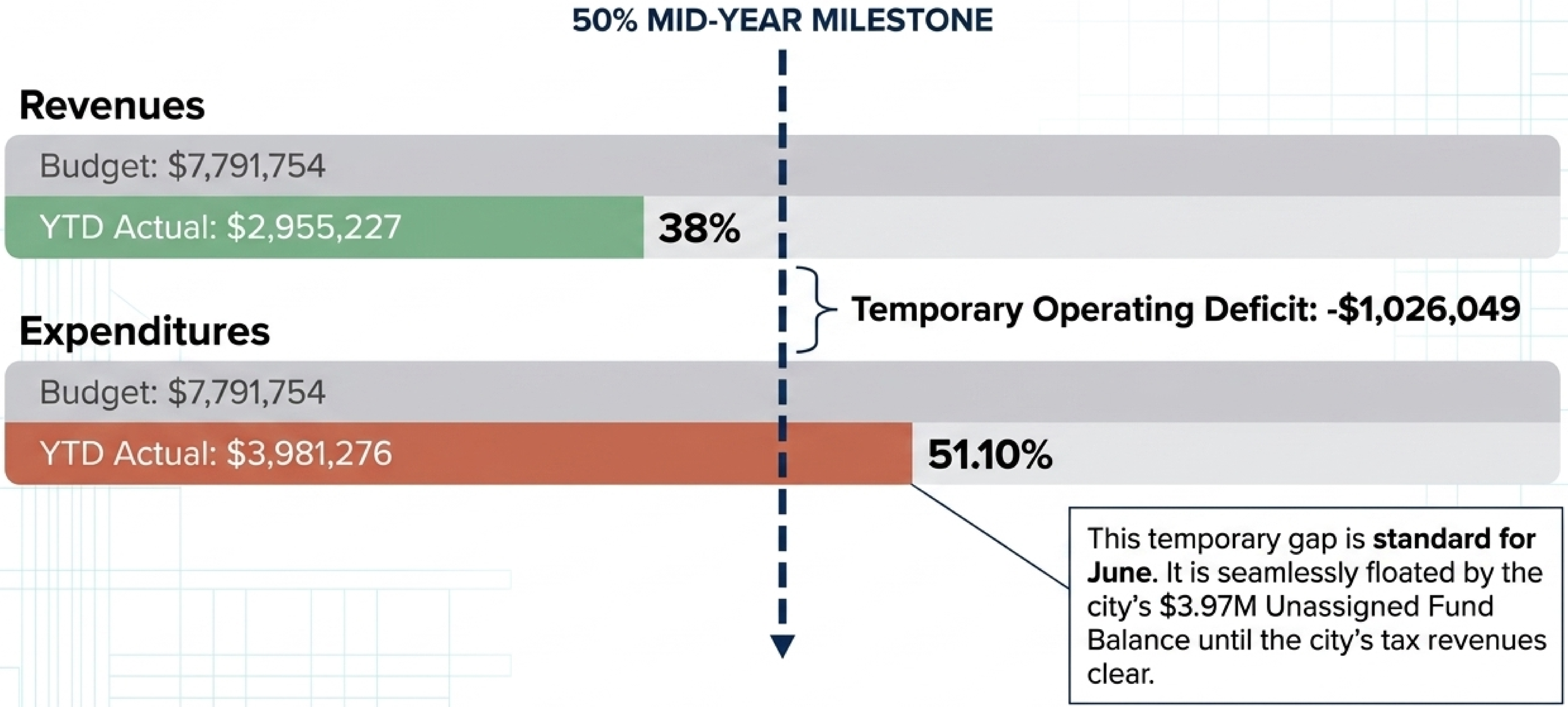


Nearly 50% of city cash is tied to Enterprise operations (Water, Sewer, Liquor), which function as self-sustaining businesses separate from the tax-supported General Fund.

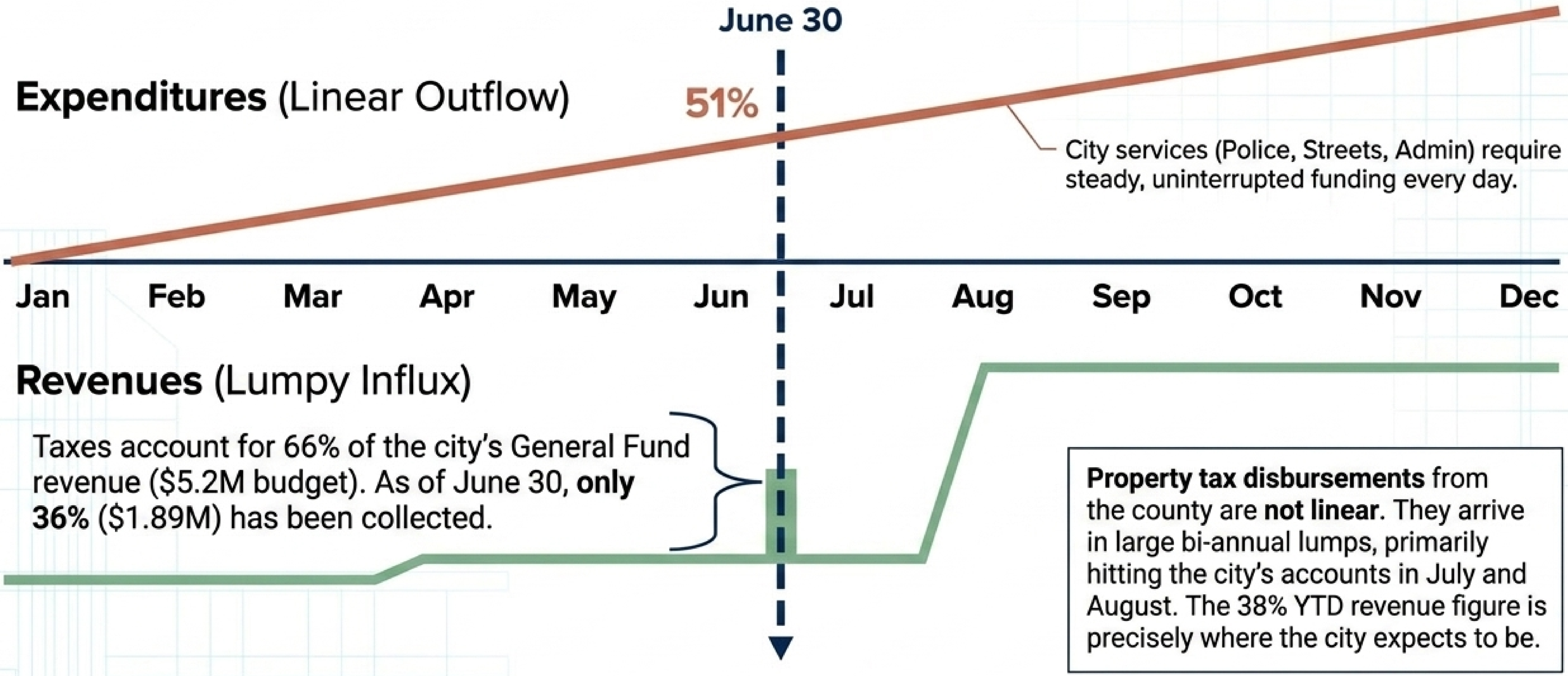
Physical Cash Allocation



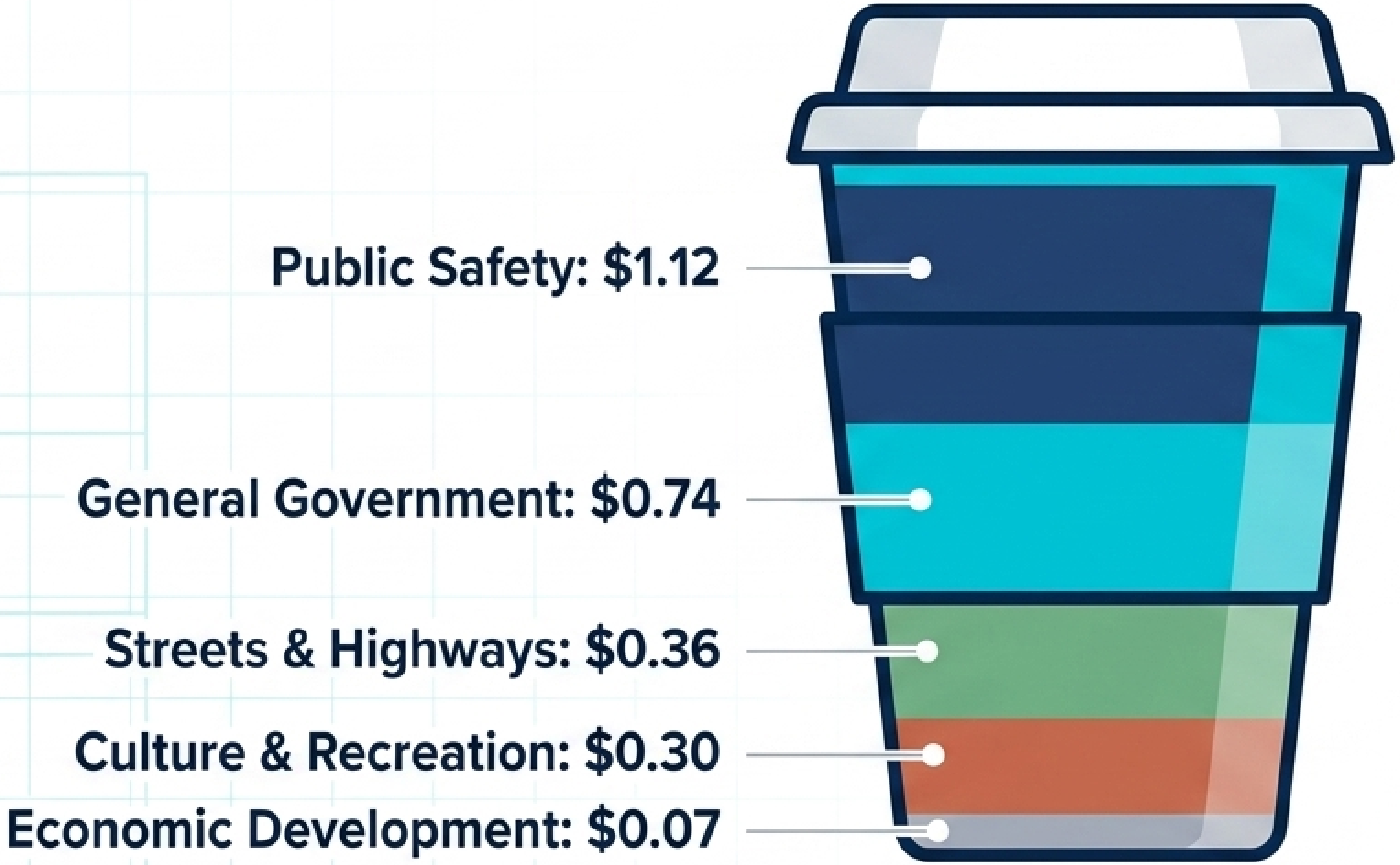
General Fund Operations: Expenditures align with the 50% mark, while revenues reflect a planned lag.



The Revenue Lag Model: Why 50% of the year does not equal 50% of the revenue.



Municipal ROI: City services cost $2.59 per day for the average household.



> Through June 2026, the combined cost of keeping Big Lake safe, paved, and operational equates to less than the price of a daily coffee.
>
> (The projected full-year 2026 cost is $5.07/day).

General Fund Expenditure by Department

Department	Budget	YTD Actual	
Public Safety	$3,773,168	$1,727,393	45.78%
Streets & Highways	$1,157,021	$549,910	47.53%
Culture & Recreation	$986,804	$460,551	46.67%
Economic Development	$219,677	$102,319	36.99%
General Government	$1,655,084	$1,141,103	68.90%

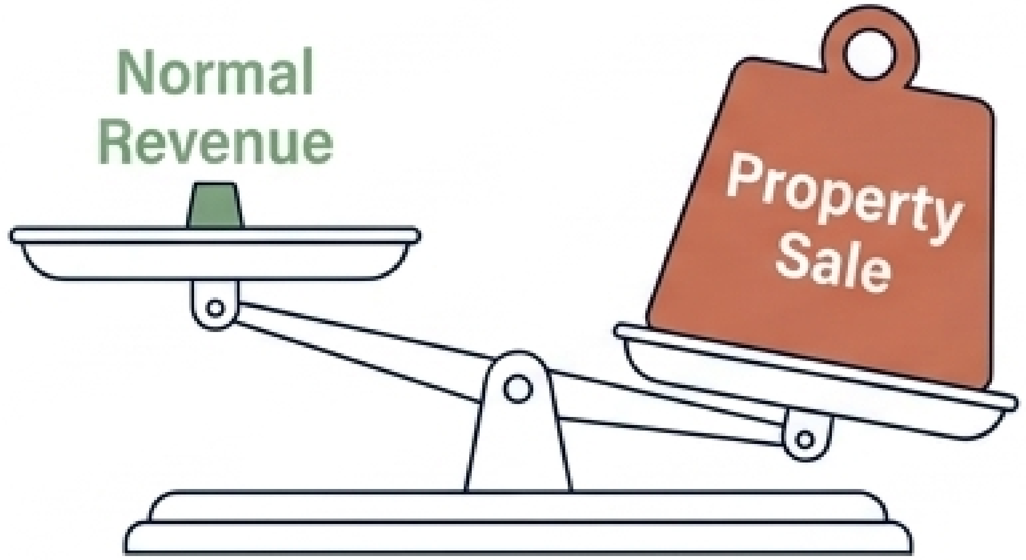
Why is General Government tracking high? This is driven primarily by front-loaded IT/Software expenditures and Administration costs earlier in the in the year. Core physical services (Safety, Streets, Parks) are all operating comfortably below the 50% threshold.

Community Programs Health Check (Special Funds)

Program	Revenue Pacing	Expenditure Pacing
Farmers Market (Fund 280)	50% **88.4%** ($14.8K)	50% **31.5%** ($6.2K)
	Highly healthy. Early influx of vendor licenses and $9.5K in organization donations front-loads revenue.	
Music in the Park (Fund 282)	**104.1%** ($33.5K)	**50.1%** ($16.3K)
	Watchlist. While revenue exceeds target, contractor expenditures ($21K contracted vs $9.6K spent YTD) indicate the program will run over budget based on signed agreements.	
Park Dedication (Fund 120)	**Highlighting Capital Outlay: $337,734 spent YTD.**	
	Major capital milestone achieved with the funding of Lake Ridge and Lake Side Park equipment.	

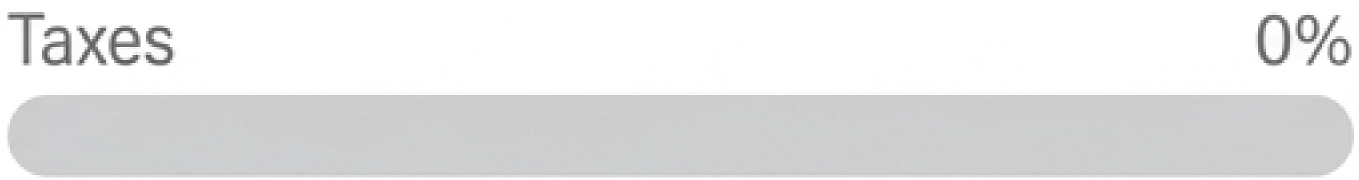
Economic Development Authority (EDA) Snapshot

The Anomaly



On paper, the EDA shows massive YTD revenue. This is entirely due to an unbudgeted property sale generating $164,781.94.

The Operating Reality



Stripping away the property sale, core operating revenue is lagging. The EDA budgeted $158,400 in Real Estate & Property Taxes, but $0 has been received YTD.

Just like the General Fund, this is a timing issue. These taxes are slated for July/August receipt. Operating expenditures are tracking at 63% ($100K spent), which will be stabilized once H2 taxes post.

Enterprise Operations: Water Fund Health

Enterprise funds (like Water, Sewer, Liquor) make up 47% of city cash. They operate like businesses, sustained by user fees rather than taxes.

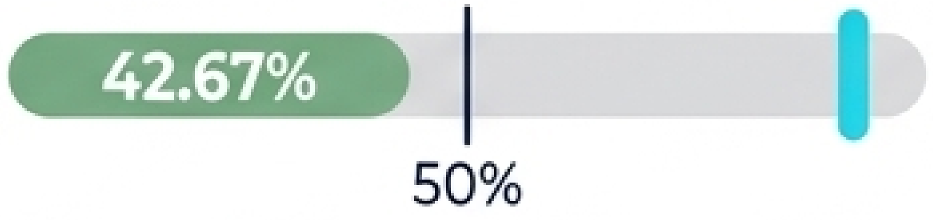
Usage & Rates

↓ Water usage is down 6%.

↓ Rates were strategically decreased by 5%.

Revenue Impact

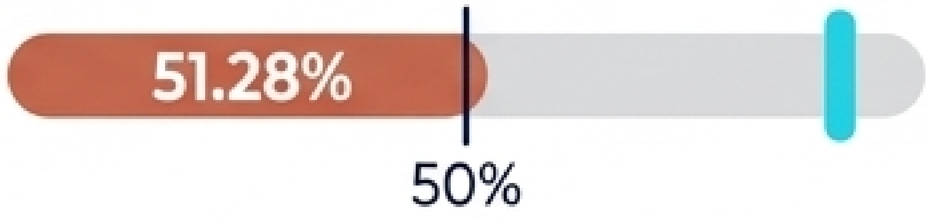
Revenue tracks at **42.67%** ($955K YTD / $2.23M Budget)



This 8% downward variance from the 50% line is a direct, expected result of the decreased rates and lower usage.

Expenditure Pacing

Expenditures track closely to the midpoint at **51.28%** ($1.47M YTD / $2.87M Budget).



The Water Fund remains structurally sound, absorbing the rate decrease and usage dip without jeopardizing service delivery.

The City of Big Lake Outlook: Executing the Blueprint

Expenditure Discipline

Core city services (Police, Streets, Parks) are operating below the 50% cost threshold.

The $2.59 daily cost per household remains an exceptional municipal ROI.

Revenue Influx Imminent

The perceived YTD deficit (-$1.02M) is a mechanical artifact of the tax cycle. July and

August will see the normalization of revenues for both the General Fund and the EDA.

Unshakeable Liquidity

With **$25.3M** in total cash and a robust **$3.97M** Unassigned Fund Balance, the city possesses the liquidity required to effortlessly bridge seasonal tax gaps and fund capital improvements (like the new Lake Ridge park equipment).

As of June 30, the City of Big Lake is operating precisely according to design.