



# 2026 Verona Municipal Budget



Budget Workshop  
February 23, 2026



# 2025 Result of Operations

## Tax Collection:

- Collection rate greater than 99%
- 2025 Delinquent Taxes at year end totaled \$496,207.69

<u>Year</u>	<u>% of Property Taxes Collected as of 12/31</u>
2025	99.30
2024	99.32
2023	99.24
2022	99.28
2021	98.47



# 2025 Result of Operations

## Miscellaneous Revenue:

- All of our anticipated revenues came in higher than the budgeted amount. See below a list of our largest percentages received over the budgeted amounts.

2025 Revenues			
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>2025 Anticipated</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>%</u>
Interest on Deposits	400,000	738,575	84.64%
Licenses	15,000	24,709	64.73%
Community Center Rentals	35,000	56,000	60.00%
Parking Meters	50,000	79,622	59.24%
Municipal Court	125,000	173,268	38.61%
Uniform Fire Safety Act	20,000	25,720	28.60%
Alcoholic Beverages	15,000	19,217	28.11%
Recreation Fees	350,000	440,260	25.79%



# 2025 Result of Operations

**Expenses:**

- Our garbage and recycling contracts were bid in 2023 for 2024-2028. Increase of 5% per year
- Our medical expenses continue to rise
- Our pension amounts continue to increase
- Our OPEIU contract was settled in 2025

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Paid/Charged</u>
2025	29,318,826.81	28,291,498.05
2024	28,531,569.91	27,337,489.83



# 2026 Proposed Municipal Budget Summary

Revenue Source	2025 Budget	2026 Budget (Proposed)
Miscellaneous Anticipated Revenue	5,398,226.81	6,484,930
Delinquent Taxes	475,000	475,000
Fund Balance	4,000,000	4,000,000
Library	1,140,016	1,237,897
Amount to be Raised by Taxation	<u>18,305,584</u>	<u>19,327,673</u>
TOTAL	29,318,826.81	31,525,500.00
Expense Appropriation	2025 Budget	2026 Budget (Proposed)
Salary and Wages	10,127,612	10,454,825
Statutory Expenses	2,487,296	2,641,409
Debt Service	3,201,580	3,250,580
Public Library	1,140,016	1,237,897
Reserve for Uncollected Tax	1,500,000	1,500,000
Other Expenses	<u>10,862,322.81</u>	<u>12,440,789</u>
TOTAL	29,318,826.81	31,525,500.00



# 2025 vs 2026 Municipal Budget Comparison

	2025 Budget	2026 Budget (Proposed)	Change
Municipal Tax Levy * does not include Library *	\$18,288,642	19,327,673	5.68%
Municipal Tax Rate	.761	.503	-33.85%
Avg. Property Valuation	\$435,752	\$704,400	61.65%
Municipal Tax on Avg. Property	\$3,315	\$3,544	\$230
Assessed Valuation	2,404,312,800	3,841,265,900	59.77%



# Municipal Tax History

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Municipal Levy	16,323,921	16,832,635	17,288,689	17,677,898	18,115,597	18,498,151	18,825,600	19,445,600	20,565,570
% Change from Prior Year	2.76%	3.12%	2.71%	2.25%	2.48%	2.11%	1.77%	3.29%	5.76%
Municipal Tax Rate	.807	.702 *	.722	.740	.759	.772	.784	.809	.535
% Change from Prior Year	2.85%	-13.03%	2.82%	2.43%	2.50%	1.68%	1.53%	3.09%	-33.82%
Total Operating Expenses	22,022,732	22,687,943	23,398,830	24,082,039	25,298,140	27,098,577	28,216,686	27,311,756	28,487,168
% Change from Prior Year	.97%	3.02%	3.13%	2.92%	5.05%	7.12%	4.13%	-3.21%	4.13%

\* 2019 and 2026 Revaluation Years

The Municipal Tax Levy has increased at an average of 2.91% since 2018.



# 2026 Material Changes

The majority of the Township expenses remain consistent year to year. Increases to the operating budget are often driven by a handful of budget lines:

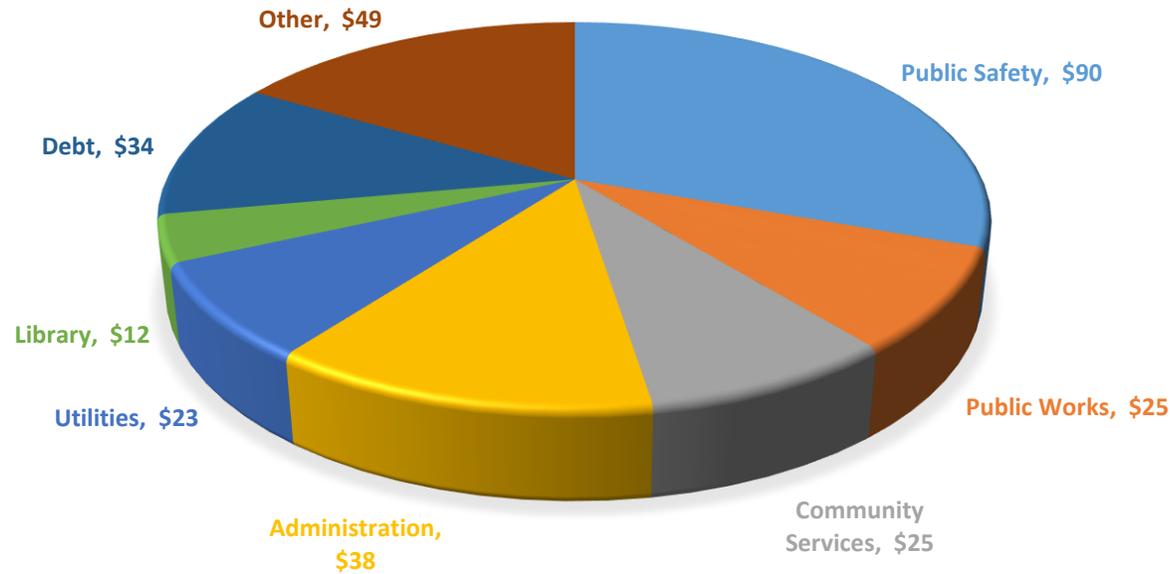
2026 Increases to Operating Expenses shown below: \$826,703

Budget Line	2026 Amount	Increase	Description
General Insurance	971,000	53,886	Increase over 5%
Employee Medical Benefits	3,180,000	320,000	Medical increased over 14%
Police Pension	1,627,900	115,604	Statutory payment required by the State of NJ
Salary and Wages	10,454,825	327,213	PBA and OPEIU contracts finalized
Health Waivers	85,000	10,000	Increased medical waivers by employees



# What Municipal Taxes Can the Average Resident Expect to Pay?

## AVERAGE MONTHLY COST

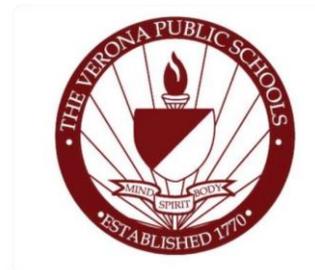
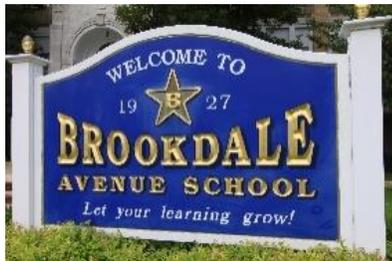
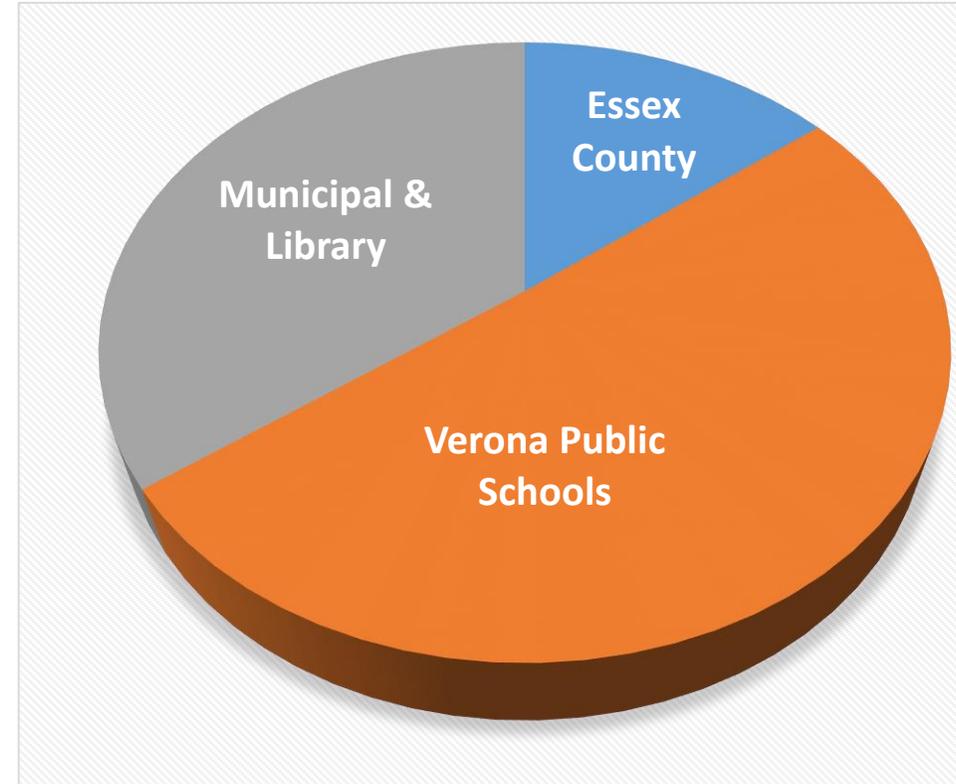


Municipal Service	Annual Cost
Public Safety	\$ 1,083
Capital Projects and Debt	\$ 405
Public Works	\$ 304
Gas/Electric, Garbage, Recycling	\$ 281
Administration and Legal	\$ 452
Community Services and Recreation	\$ 296
Public Library	\$ 139
Other Miscellaneous Services	<u>\$ 584</u>
<b>Total Average Annual Tax Bill</b>	<b>\$ 3,544</b>

Municipal Service	Monthly
Public Safety	\$ 90
Capital Projects and Debt	\$ 34
Public Works	\$ 25
Gas/Electric, Garbage, Recycling	\$ 23
Administration and Legal	\$ 37
Community Services and Recreation	\$ 25
Public Library	\$ 12
Other Miscellaneous Services	<u>\$ 49</u>
<b>Total Monthly Service Bill</b>	<b>\$ 295</b>



# Now, Let's Look at the Entire Property Tax Bill of a Verona Resident



- 2026 School and County estimated based on historical increases



# Open Space Trust Fund

## Ordinance 2019-36 Established an Open Space Trust Fund Tax:

- This ordinance was amended by approval of referendum in 2023. Ordinance 2023-48, which increased the tax rate from \$.02 per \$100 assessed valuation to \$.03 per \$100 assessed valuation
  - Acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes;
  - Development of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes;
  - Maintenance of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes;
  - Historic preservation of historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas or objects and the acquisition of such properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas or objects for historic preservation purposes; or
  - Payment of debt service on indebtedness issued or incurred by the Township for any of the purposes set forth in above
- Tax Rate: \$.03 per \$100 of assessed valuation
  - Estimated Open Space Funds to be Raised: \$1,152,379
  - Average Residential Tax: \$211.32





# Look ahead

- Workshop Discussions with Department Heads today and March 9, 2026
- Introduction of Budget – March 23, 2026
- Public Hearing and Adoption – April 20, 2026

