

2025 City of Stillwater, Oklahoma Historical Financial Data Analysis

Executive Summary

“Comprehensive Fiscal Blueprint: FY 2025 Adopted Budget, Amendments & Sinking Fund Overview”

4 July 2025

This deep-dive executive summary integrates all submitted City of Stillwater FY 2025 financial documents—including the Adopted Budget, seven budget amendment packages, and the FY 2025–2026 Sinking Fund Estimate of Needs—to present a unified view of revenue projections, expenditure allocations, capital investments, debt-service obligations, and contingency planning.

1. Aggregate Revenue & Funding Sources

- **General Fund Revenues:** Projected at **\$51.2 million**, driven by conservative sales-tax estimates (\$30 million) and stable property-tax collections.
- **Grant & Donation Inflows:** Over **\$4 million** in new grant awards (FEMA mitigation, EPA treatment upgrades, FAA airport improvements) plus **\$50,000+** in philanthropic gifts supporting library, parks, and public-safety programs.
- **Enterprise Charges & Fees:** Combined utility and airport user fees totaling **\$64 million**, underpinning system operations and rate-stabilization reserves.

2. Expenditure & Transfer Commitments

- **Operating Expenses:** **\$48 million** in core department budgets—public safety (police, fire, EMS), library, parks, street maintenance—maintaining 588 full-time positions with no net staffing reductions.
- **Inter-Fund Transfers:** **\$34 million** redirected to capital and enterprise uses, including \$21.8 million to water/wastewater projects and \$10 million to transportation sales-tax infrastructure.
- **Amendment Highlights:** Seven adopted amendments added **\$17 million** in targeted appropriations—chiefly for water-treatment chemical upgrades (\$5 million), consultant task orders (\$4.3 million), substation reliability projects (\$0.3 million), and emergency-response equipment (\$0.9 million).

3. Capital Improvement & Sinking Fund Planning

- **Major CIP Investments:**
 - **Water Treatment Plant Chemical Project:** \$5 million EPA-backed upgrade.
 - **Stormwater Master Plan:** \$0.9 million in fee-supported design and repair work.
 - **Airport Terminal Relocation & Equipment:** \$6 million combined FAA grants and local match.

Disclaimer: This executive summary synthesizes data from the following user-provided documents:

2025-Adopted-Budget-Stillwater-FY25.pdf, 2025-Sinking-Fund-Estimate-Needs-Stillwater.pdf, 2025-Adopted-Budget-Stillwater-FY25-A1.pdf through A8.pdf (budget amendments). While every effort has been made to accurately interpret and integrate these documents, the inherent complexity of municipal budgets and amendment requests may lead to unintentional omissions or misinterpretations. For official figures and policy details, please refer directly to the City of Stillwater’s Finance Department and the County Excise Board filings.

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- **Debt-Service & Sinking Fund:**
 - General Obligation bonds (2022 issue) require **\$858,200** in semiannual payments.
 - FY 2025 sinking-fund levy set at **\$955,525** (including a 5 % delinquency cushion) at a millage rate of **2.11 mills** to cover all maturities through mid-2026.
- 4. **Strategic Financial Stewardship**
 - **Grant Leverage:** Aggressive pursuit of federal and state grants minimizes local tax burdens by over **\$10 million**, enabling advanced infrastructure without rate spikes.
 - **Reserve Health:** General Fund reserves remain within Council policy (30–60 days of operating costs), while enterprise rate-stabilization funds exceed minimum thresholds.
 - **Contingency & Risk Mitigation:** Mid-year amendments reallocated **\$1.6 million** to self-insurance, emergency management, and unanticipated capital cost overruns, preserving service continuity.

Deep Dive Analysis

- **Revenue Forecasting & Conservatism:** In response to regional economic uncertainties, sales-tax projections were trimmed by ~23 %, prompting reallocation of contingency reserves and selective deferral of noncritical projects.
- **Capital Delivery Acceleration:** The City front-loads high-priority water and airport projects by sequencing grant awards and consultant task orders, ensuring design and permitting are complete ahead of construction cycles.
- **Inter-Fund Collaboration:** Robust transfers from enterprise funds to rate-stabilization and capital accounts smooth inter-year cost fluctuations, while General Fund support for the Transportation Sales Tax Fund secures leveraged bond capacity.
- **Debt Management Discipline:** Adherence to the sinking-fund schedule preserves bond ratings and avoids reserve drawdowns; incremental millage adjustments were calibrated to community affordability metrics.
- **Philanthropy & Community Engagement:** Targeted donations—particularly for library literacy programs and parks playground equipment—supplement taxpayer support and foster public-private partnerships.

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