



# FY24 Budget Overview

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MAYOR KATJANA BALLANTYNE

JUNE 1, 2023

CITY OF SOMERVILLE

MASSACHUSETTS

# We're listening to your priorities year-round



# Delivering Services and Meeting Our Obligations

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Core  
Services

Community  
Priorities

Obligations

Goals for  
Progress

Staff &  
Resources

# \$337.4M

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FY24 City of Somerville  
Operating Budget

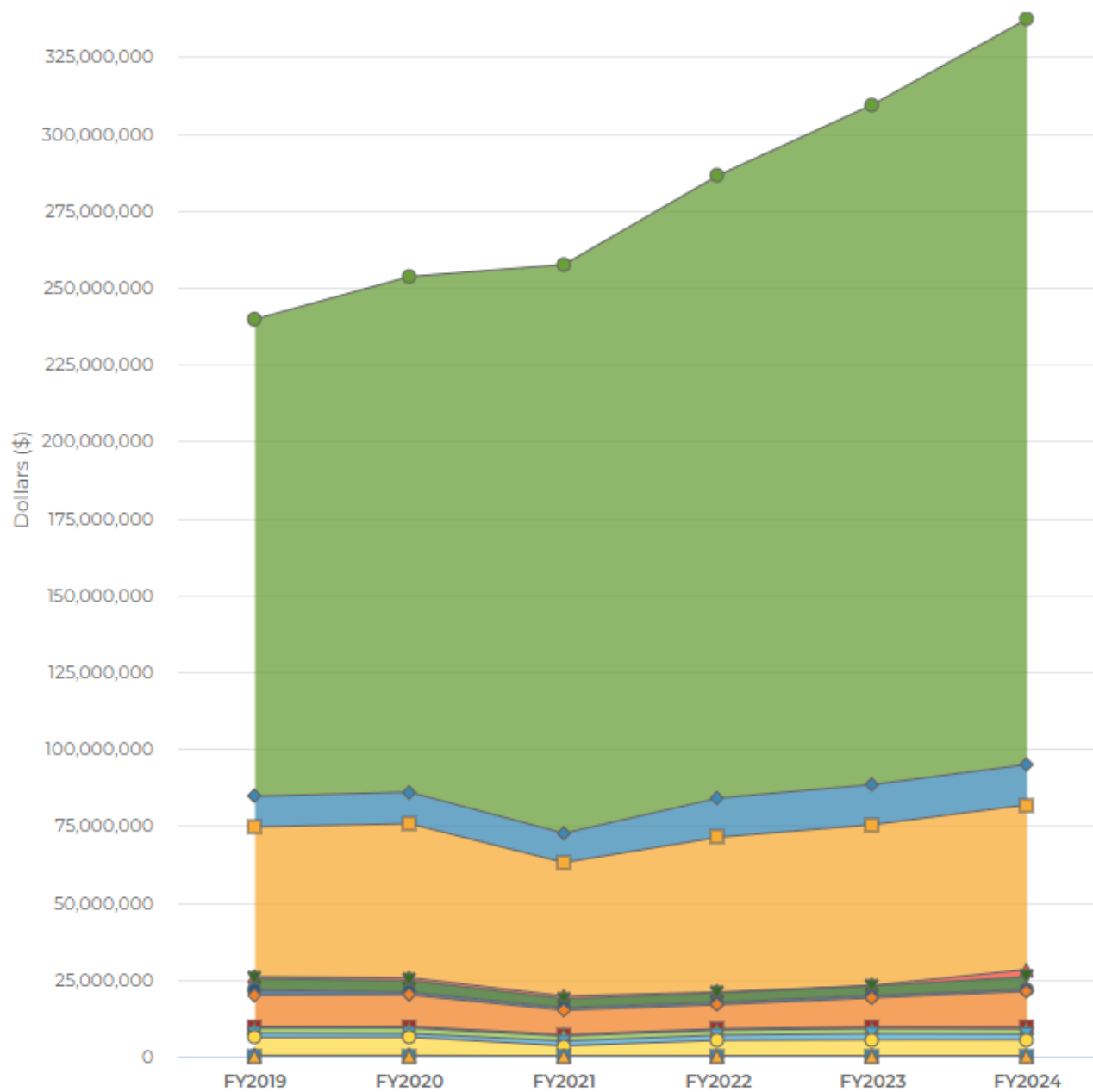
\$27.9M increase over FY23

The Fiscal Year 2024 extends from  
July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Link: [somerillema.gov/budget](https://somerillema.gov/budget)

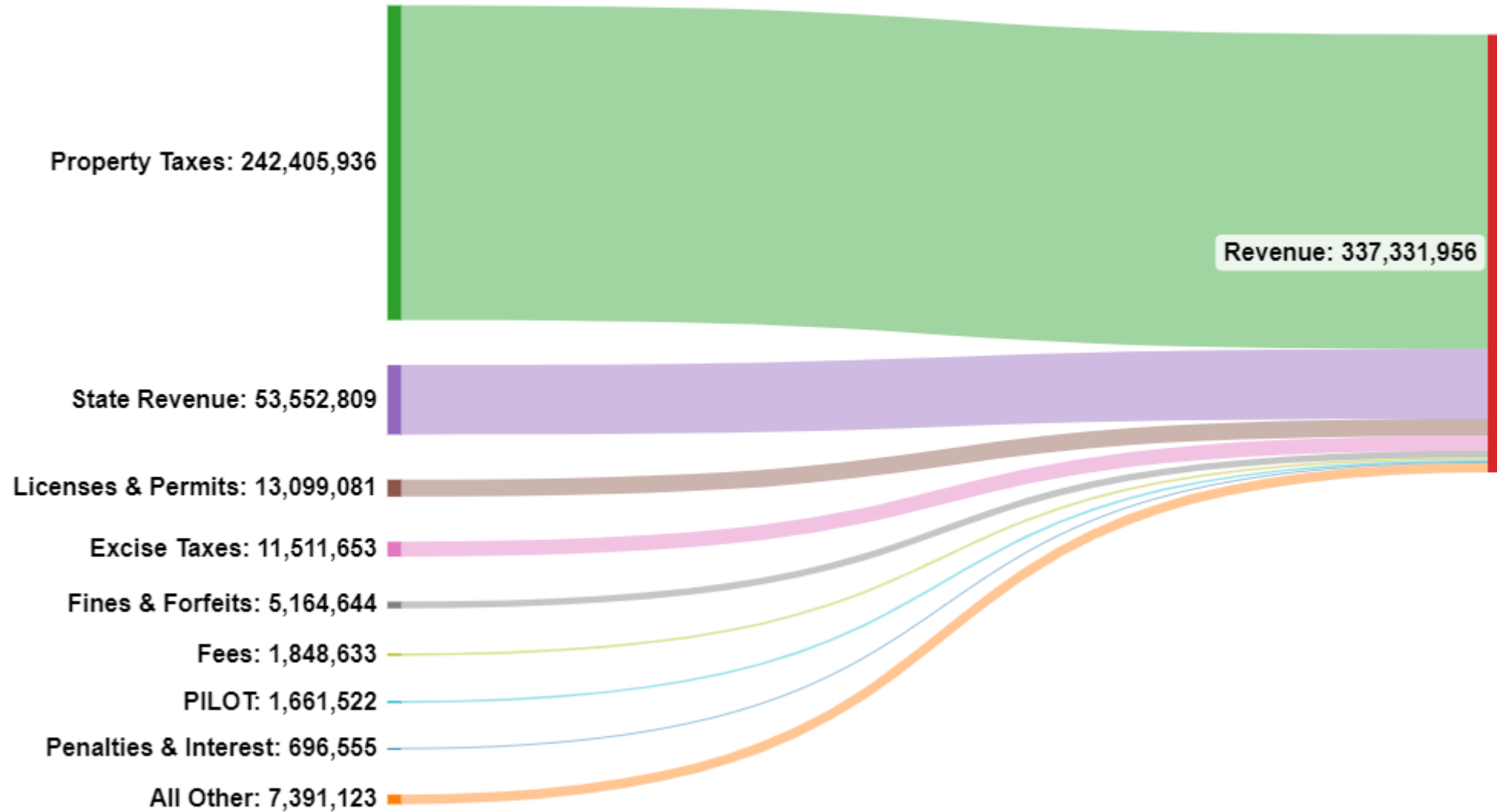
# Revenue at a Glance

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- PROPERTY TAXES
- LICENSES AND PERMITS
- STATE REVENUE
- INVESTMENT INCOME
- OTHER FINANCING SOURCES
- OTHER REVENUE
- EXCISE TAXES
- PENALTIES AND INTEREST
- PILOT
- FEES
- FINES AND FORFEITS
- CHARGES - TRASH
- RENTALS
- OTHER DEPT REVENUE

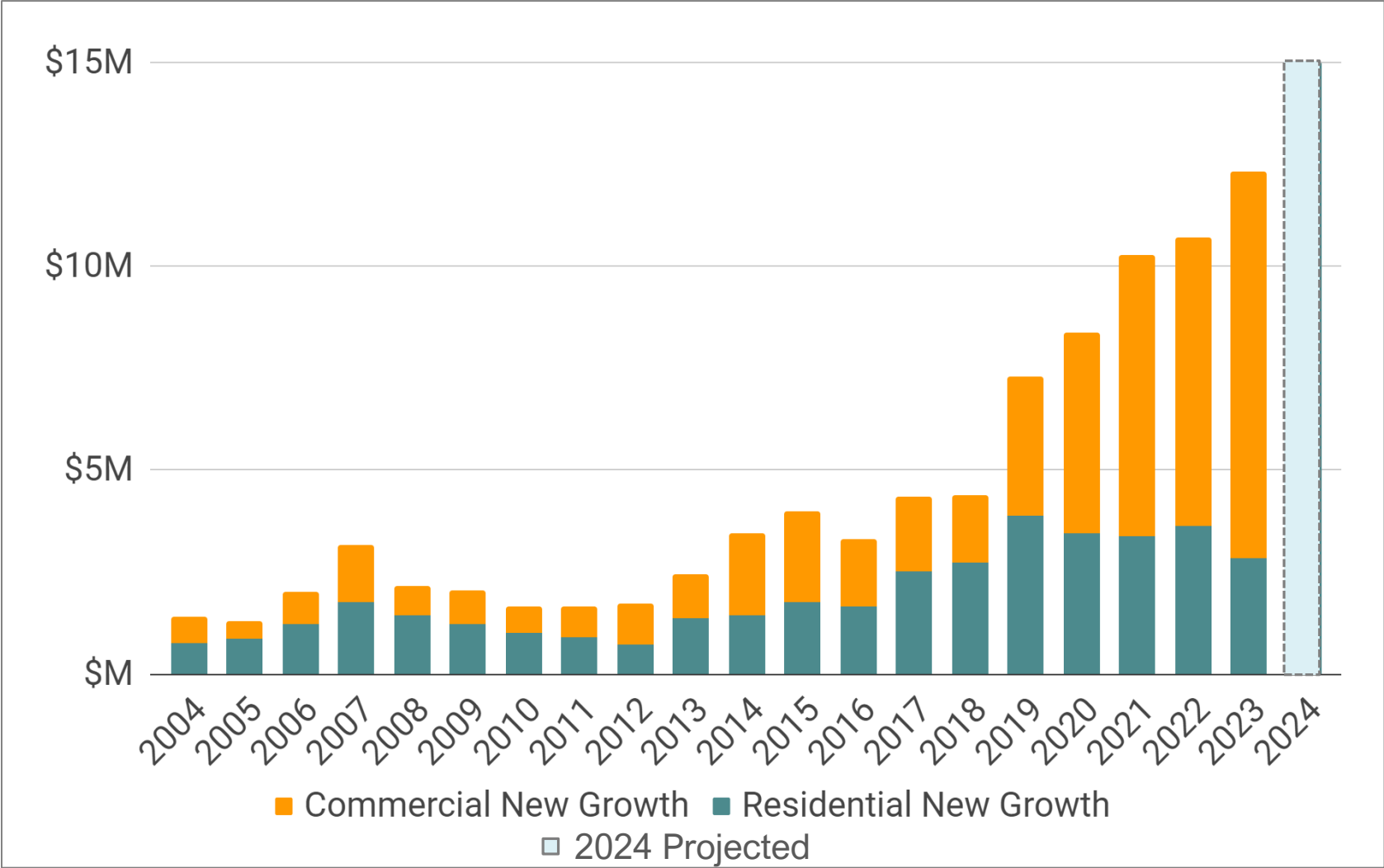
# FY24 Budgeted Revenue - at a Glance



# Annual New Growth since Fiscal Year 2004

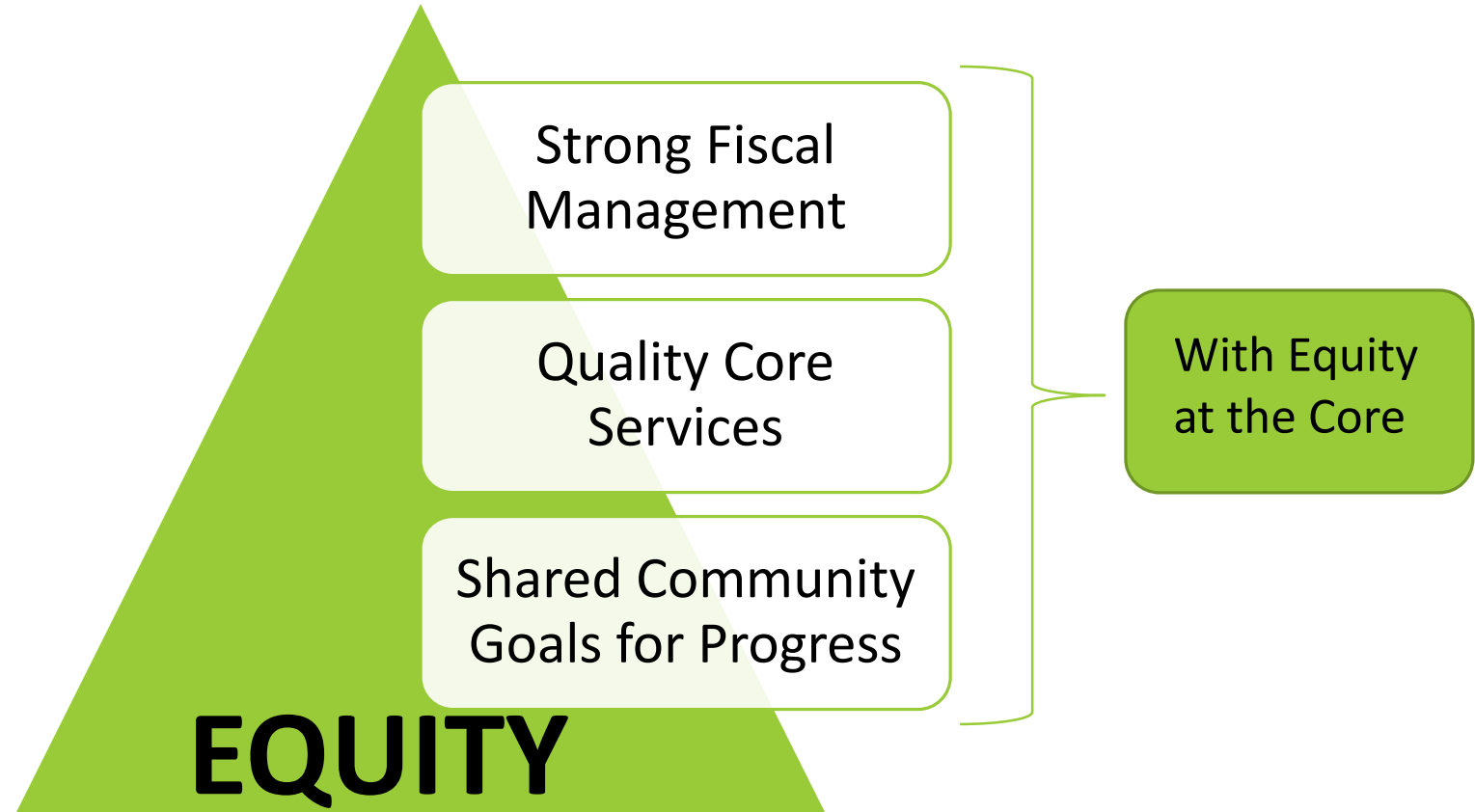
Somerville had the third-most new growth in the Commonwealth in FY22

*(FY23 pending)*



# FY23 Budget: A Foundation for Progress

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# Delivering on goals in FY23

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- Completed the renovation of the Healey Schoolyard
- Laid groundwork to launch City's first Municipal Housing Voucher program
- Opened two Teen Centers
- Planted a record number of trees: 504
- Installed record number of safe streets facilities
- Expanded rodent control efforts
- Invested tens of millions in affordable housing projects, initiatives, and supports to help prevent displacement
- Opened city's first overnight warming center for unhoused persons
- Advanced numerous infrastructure projects
- Increased digital and planning equity
- Expanded LGBTQ+ services
- Opened Day Engagement Center for unhoused residents
- Advanced efforts to open an Overdose Prevention Site (Supervised Consumption Site)
- Launched Participatory Budgeting, Civilian Oversight Committee, Youth Justice League, Public Safety for All Task Force, and more
- Expanded Anti-Displacement Task Force and efforts
- Launched Cultural Capacity Planning for the Arts

# Somerville Achieves AAA Bond Rating

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15-May-2023 | 14:40 EDT

## Somerville, MA GO Debt Rating Raised To 'AAA' On Economic Development, Financial Management; Outlook Stable

[View Analyst](#)  
[Contact Information](#)

Overview

NEW YORK (S&P Global Ratings) May 15, 2023--S&P Global Ratings raised its long-term rating to 'AAA' from 'AA+' on Somerville, Mass.'s general obligation (GO) debt.

At the same time, we assigned our 'AAA' rating to the city's series 2023 \$37.7 million GO municipal purpose loan and our 'SP-1+' short-term rating to its roughly \$64.2 million GO bond anticipation notes (BANs).

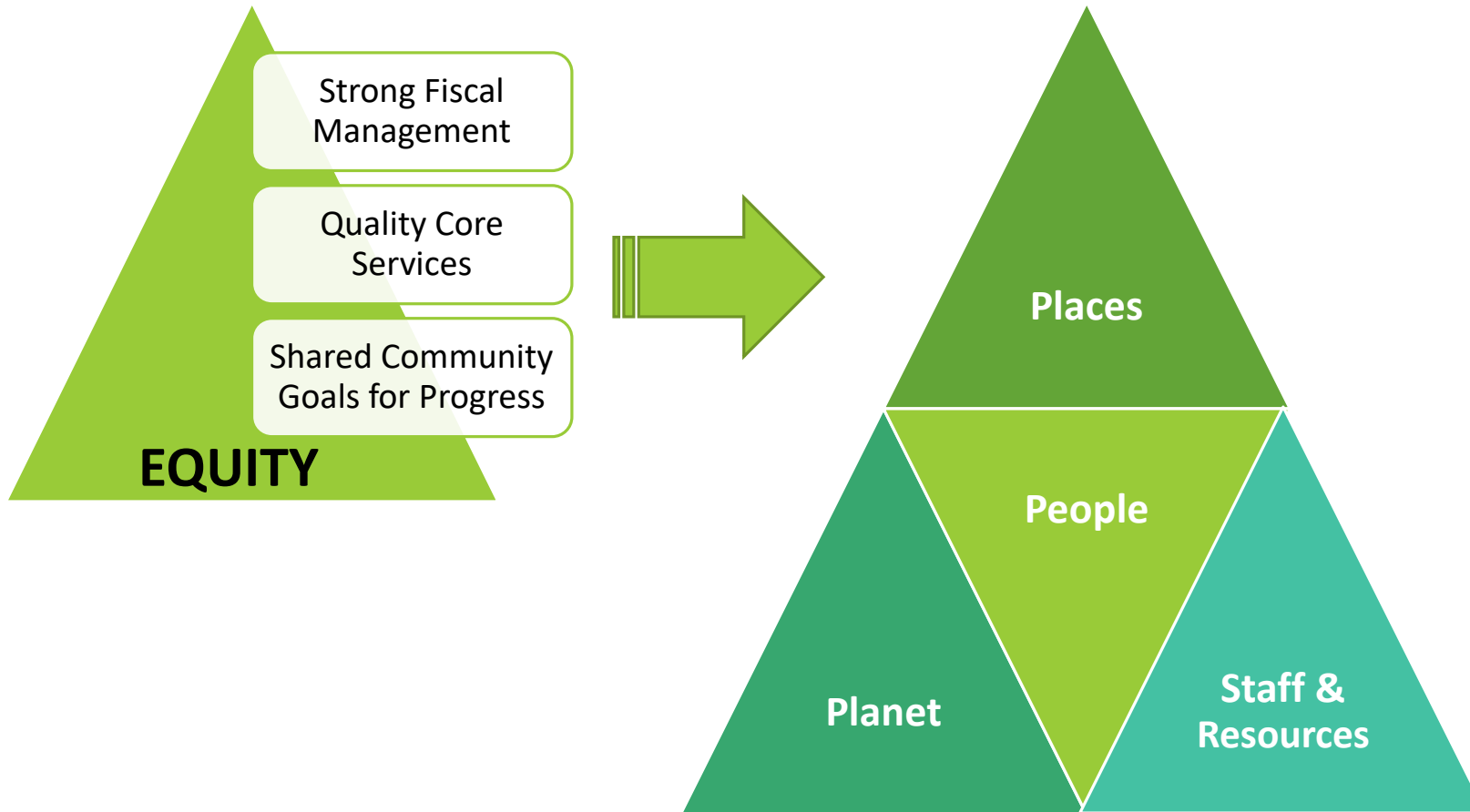
Finally, we affirmed our 'SP-1+' rating on the city's existing BANs.

"The upgrade reflects the city's ongoing economic development as well as a record of strong financial management and budgetary performance that has resulted in a very strong financial profile commensurate with that of other 'AAA' rated peers," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Lauren Freire.

The outlook is stable.

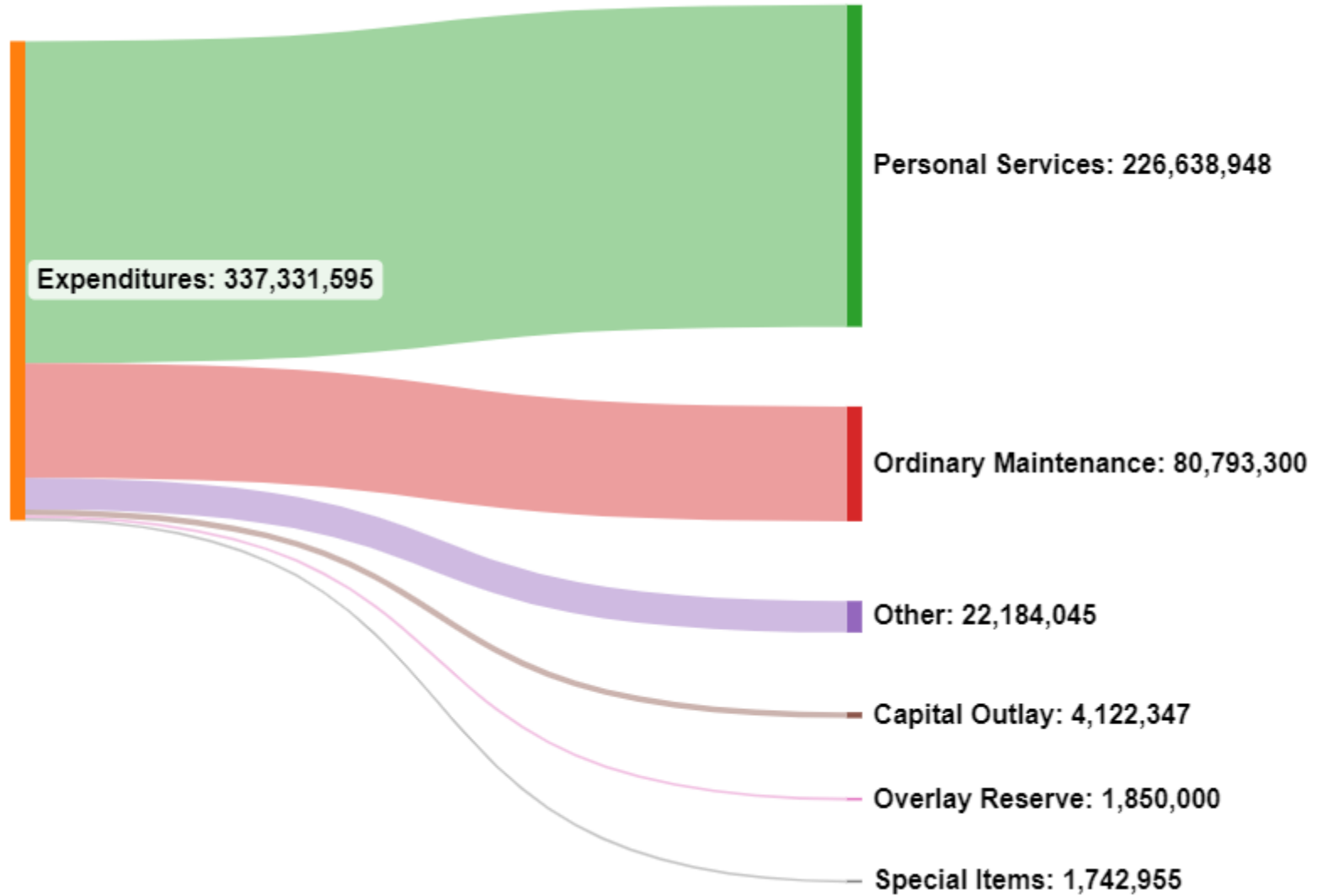
Somerville, located five miles north of Boston, is a key economic hub in the greater Boston metropolitan statistical area.

# FY24 Budget: Advancing Progress for Our People, Places, and Planet



# Expenditures at a Glance

City and Schools Budgets combined



## People

# Investing in Our People

- **Public Schools Budget 7.8% increase**
- **Out-of-School Time Funding**
- **Teen Center Staff and Expansion of Programs**
- **Family Services**
- **Housing Stability, Anti-Displacement, Affordable Housing**
- **Food Access**
- **Art Space & Services, New Dance Facility**
- **Library Access**



People

# Investing in Our People

- **ADA Compliance Capacity**
- **Building Council on Aging Capacity & Programming**
- **Expanded Recreation Programming for Older Adults**
- **Jail Diversion and Anti-Violence**
- **Language Justice**
- **Information Access**
- **Language Access**
- **Emergency Services**



People

# Mobile City Hall

BRINGING ESSENTIAL SERVICES OUT OF CITY HALL AND INTO THE COMMUNITY



Community  
Health  
Workers

Equity  
Support  
Team

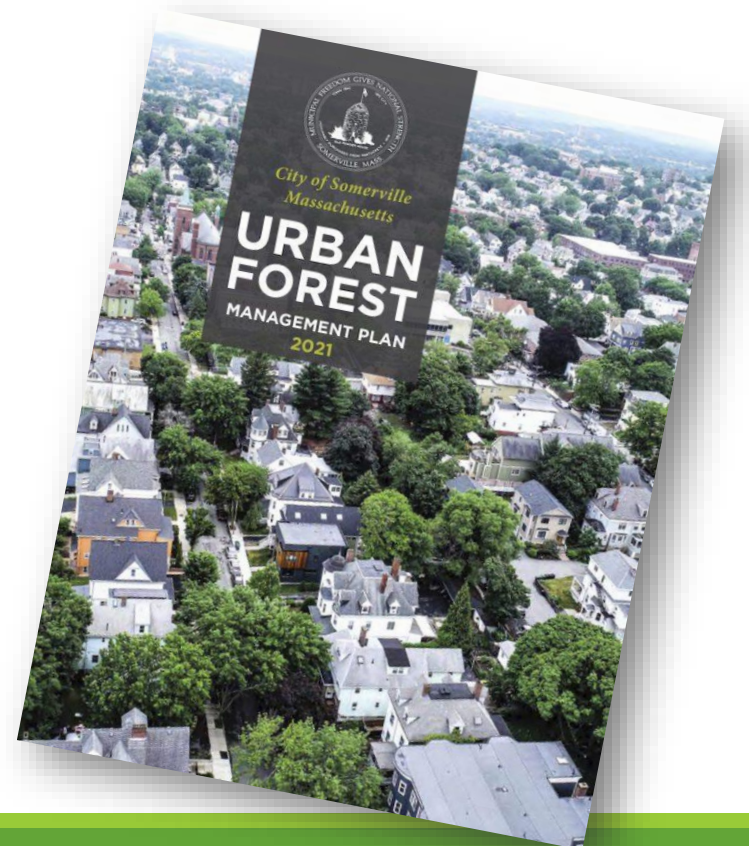
Library  
Social  
Worker



Places

# Funding Stewardship of Our Places

- Trees and the Urban Forest
- Rodent Control
- Street Safety/Mobility Improvements
- Roadway Paving
- Maintenance
- Infrastructure





# Taking on Legacy Infrastructure Challenges

01



Aging Water &  
Sewer

Flooding, combined  
sewers, systems  
well beyond  
expected lifespan

02



Old Buildings &  
Deferred  
Maintenance

Old structures,  
outdated systems,  
under-resourced  
maintenance

03



Roads Built for  
Cars, Not  
Vulnerable Users

We need to update  
infrastructure to  
meet VisionZero  
priorities

# Strategic Planning & Investment

We've undertaken a comprehensive effort to carefully map out a financial plan for new investments in our schools, our fire stations, our below-ground services, City buildings, and more.



# New Approach to Maintenance

Capital Projects is stress testing equipment and assessing. The City has not been doing this the past 20 years: we started this with the current FY23 budget. We have committed to increasing systems monitoring and replacement.



# Places

## Funding Stewardship of Our Places

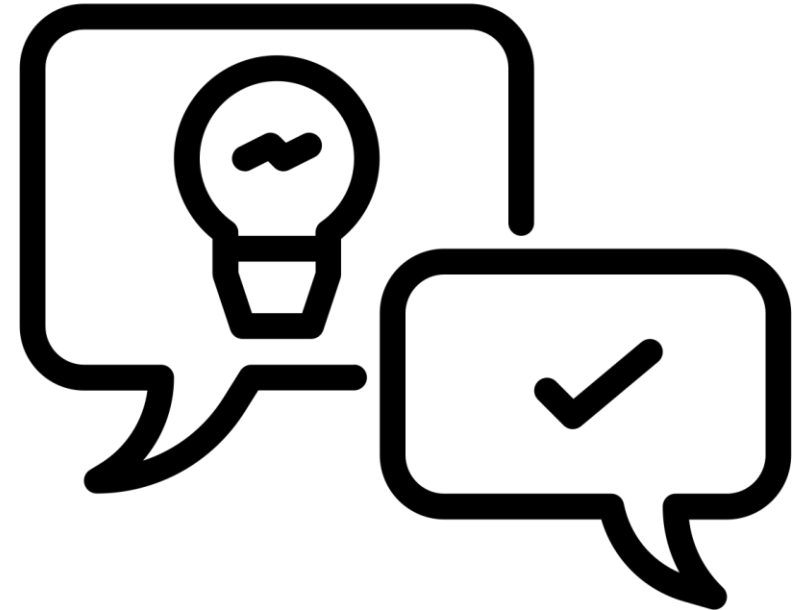
- **Building Systems Manager in the Department of Public Works (DPW)**
- **DPW Procurement Analyst**
- **DPW Deputy Director of Finance & Administration**
- **Sanitation & Hazardous Materials Program Manager**
- **GIS Manager**
- **Asset Management Program**
- **Planning for building projects: Brown School, the Winter Hill Community Innovation School, and City buildings**
- **Systems stress testing for Argenziano & Capuano Schools**
- **311 Deputy Director**



## Places

# Community Process for Disposition of Two Buildings

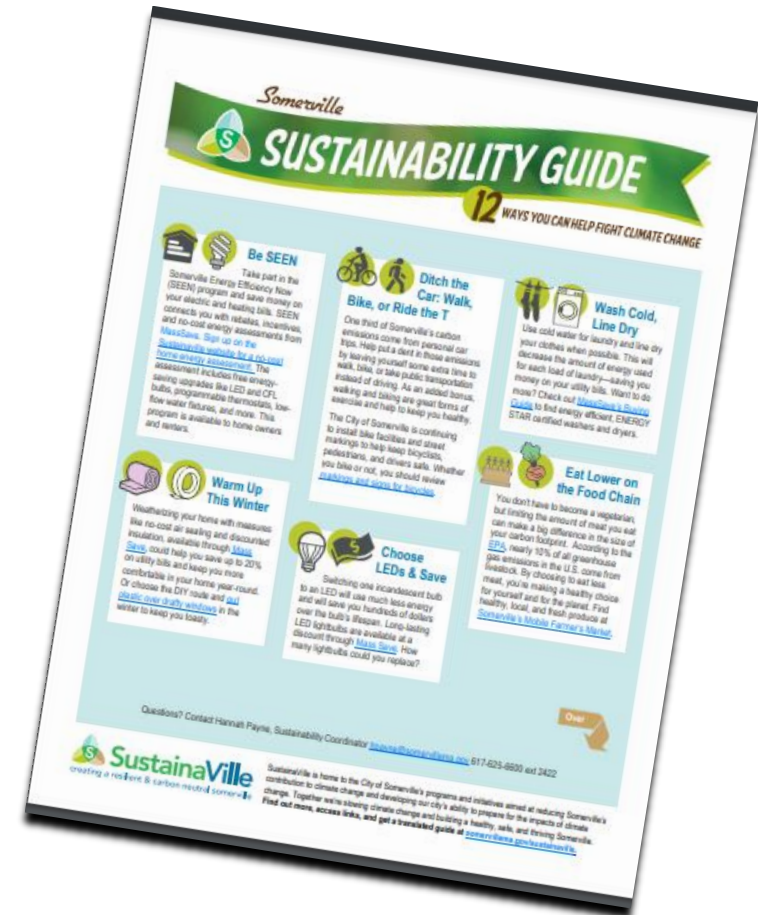
- **24 Cross St. East**, East Somerville, old insulation building, “the basilica”
- **45 College Ave.**, West Somerville, former church
- Community process for new nonprofits uses
  - Searching for partners
  - Working within neighborhood zoning restrictions
  - Looking for nonprofits or developer to work with nonprofits



# Planet

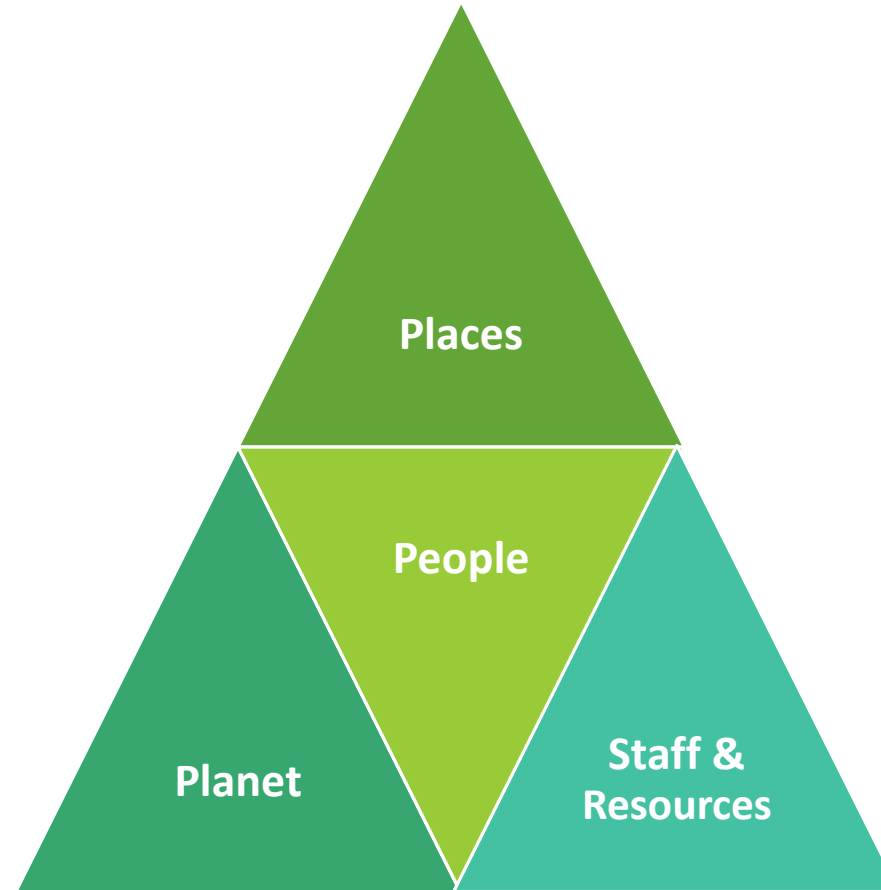
# Helping to Protect Our Planet

- Sustainability and Resiliency Coordinator
- Electric capacity pilot study
- Feasibility study for vertical geothermal projects
- T-Pass Program supporting sustainable transit
- Bike lanes
- CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) long-term control plan
- Green stormwater infrastructure



# Scaling the Organization to Meet Needs

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## Staff & Resources

# Scaling the Organization to Meet Needs

- Employee Engagement & Retention Specialist
- Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- Part-time support staff for the City Council
- Updated Information Technology positions
- Plumbing Inspector
- Licensing Operations Manager
- Information Technology upgrades
- Increased capacity in Auditing
- Deputy Assessor
- Curb Management Program Manager
- 28% increase in HVAC repair and replacement



# Initiatives Funded Outside the Budget

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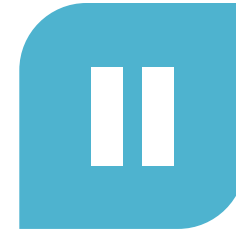
UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME  
PILOT



MUNICIPAL HOUSING  
VOUCHER PROGRAM



OVERDOSE PREVENTION  
CENTER



YEAR-ROUND ENGAGEMENT  
CENTER AND WINTER  
OVERNIGHT WARMING  
CENTER FOR UNHOUSED  
PERSONS



STABILIZATION FUND FOR  
EMERGENCY DISPLACEMENT



In Somerville it's about the "we", the "us", the "village" that it takes to get things done.

Thank you