

# TOWN OF BLANDFORD

## Annual Town Meeting Warrant

To be held June 5, 2023



# Article 2: Capital Stabilization Fund



Transfer remaining capital project fund monies into new stabilization



Ensures funds will be used for larger capital expenditures with Town Meeting authorization



Aligns with recommendations from Capital Improvement Plan



# Articles 3-6: School Budget



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Gateway assessment: increase from \$1.46M to \$1.48M



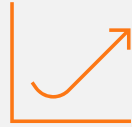
Transfer out of Ed Stabilization to cover difference



Vocational ed budget increase of ~\$75k due to new enrollments + rate increases



# Article 7: Omnibus Budget



4% increase over FY23, in line with projections



Increased assessments from Hampden Co retirement + Hilltown ambulance



Savings from Treasurer-Collector transition - Implements wage/salary recommendations

# Articles 9-11: Stabilization Top-Ups



\$1.56M in non-Enterprise Fund stabilization accounts

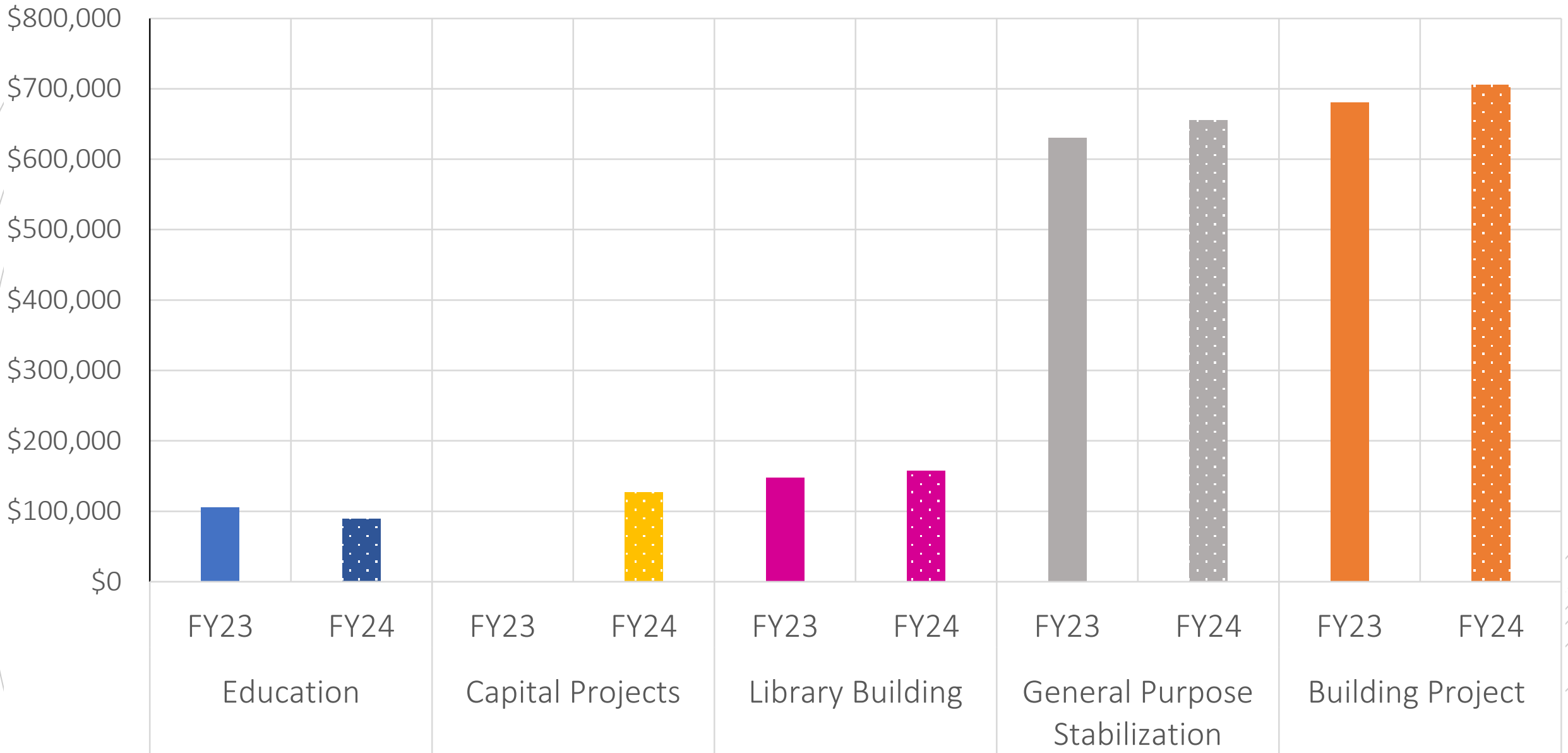


Net transfers: \$186k



After transfers: \$1.75M

### Stabilization Funds



# Articles 12-16: Other Free Cash Transfers



\$20k for ongoing ash tree removal project



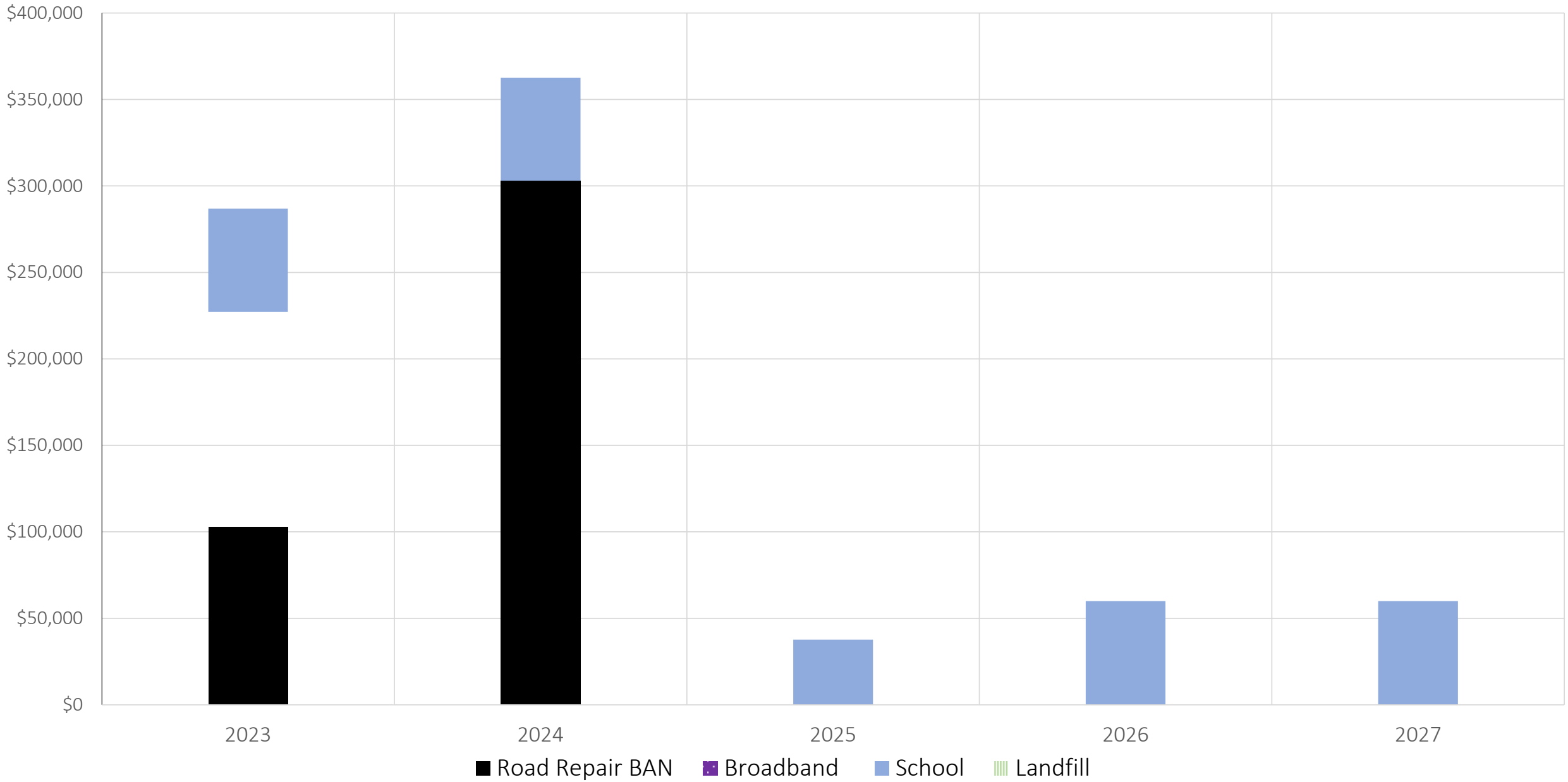
\$25k for turnout gear and self-contained breathing apparatus



\$300k to pay off 2019 road bond debt



# Existing Excluded and Short-Term Debt



# Article 17: Fire-Highway Facility Project



\$180K for designer services



\$65K for OPM fee



Brings projects through schematic design with cash on hand

# Fire-Highway Facility Project: Timeline



March 2021  
PRE-BID  
\$120k from  
Building  
Project  
Stabilization

June 2023  
SCHEMATIC  
DESIGN  
\$245k from Free  
Cash

Fall 2023:  
FULL DESIGN  
Building  
Stabilization funds  
or Rural and Small  
Town Development  
Fund grant

2024:  
CONSTRUCTION  
BIDS/CONTRACTS



## Article 18: Fire Equipment Borrowing



Small debt issue: \$600k @ 4%  
over next 10 years



Covers replacement of brush  
truck and Engine 1



Uses debt as a tool to allow  
flexibility for Dept. in vehicle  
replacement

# Fire Equipment Issues



## Engine 1 – 1996

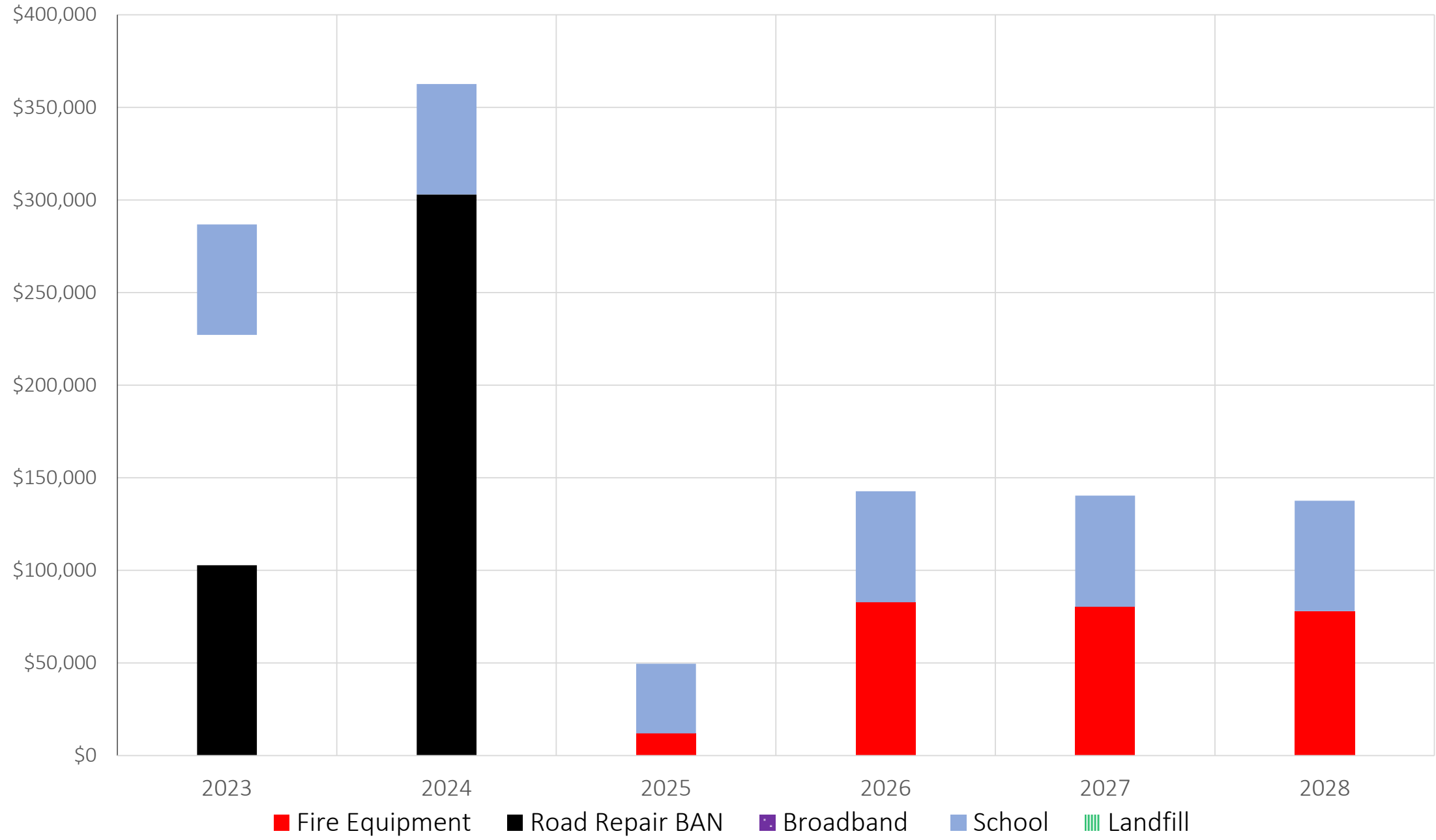
- Issues:
  - Pump failed annual testing
  - Broken ladder brackets
  - Real warning lights
  - Oversized brackets for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
  - Repair costs averaging \$15,000 annually

**Brush 3** - Loaned from Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in the 1970s

- Issues:
  - Challenges with starting pump
  - Inadequate hose reel and minimal water supply
  - Unable to tow utility
  - Failing backpack water pumps



# Five-Year Debt Schedule with Fire Vehicle Borrowing



# Article 19: Library Masonry Repairs



\$15,000 from Library Building Stabilization

# Articles 20-26: Enterprise Funds



Transfer Retained Earnings for debt, stabilization and capital



Transfer Retained Earnings for capital and current year utility bills



Water budget anticipates SCADA project

## Articles 27-29: Bylaw Updates



Allows Town Clerk to make ministerial corrections as needed



Creates Commission on Disability



Reduces bond requirement for hauling on Town roads above 10 tons





Questions?