

**City of La Crosse**  
**2026 Operating Budget Preliminary Estimate**  
**6/24/2025**

|    |   |                      |   |
|----|---|----------------------|---|
| 1  | 2025 Adopted Operating Expenses:  | \$ 72,368,600        | 2025 Operating Budget-Pg 4  |
| 2  | Estimated Expense Adjustments for 2026:   |                      |   |
| 3  | Projected Salary & Benefit Increase for Non-represented Employees                 | 215,400              | Annual merit (step) increases & related benefits  |
| 4  | Across the Board pay adjustments  | 587,000              | 3% cost of living adjustment  |
| 5  | Projected Salary & Benefit Increase for Union Employees                           | 746,100              | Fire 4% 1/2/26, Police 4% 1/2/26  |
| 6  | Health Insurance Premium Increase   | 1,223,000            | Estimated 15% Health Insurance rate Increase for Active & Retiree Health Insurance                  |
| 7  | Waste & Recycling Contract CPI Adjustment   | 98,000               | 4% CPI increase on recycling and waste contracts  |
| 8  | Wisconsin Retirement System Rate Adjustment                                       | -                    | Currently no estimated increase to WRS rates  |
| 9  | Fuel  | (263,300)            | Decrease in Prices. Price down 20%. Quantity contracted down 3%.                                    |
| 10 | Electricity   | 150,000              | Estimated 11% increase in rates for 2026  |
| 11 | Natural Gas   | (45,000)             | Estimated 12% rate increase for 2026, adjust down based on budgeted vs. actual history              |
| 12 | Water   | 25,100               | Estimated 30% rate increase subject to PSC approval   |
| 13 | Sanitary Sewer  | 1,200                | Estimated 3% rate increase  |
| 14 | Storm Water   | 110,100              | Estimated 142% rate increase  |
| 15 | Property & Liability Insurance Premium Increases                                  | 50,000               | 2026 Premium estimates provided by WMMIC  |
| 16 | Additional Debt Service Expenses  | 250,000              | Adjustment for increasing debt service costs  |
| 17 | Elections   | 100,000              | Increased for 2 additional elections in 2026  |
| 18 | Subtotal Estimated 2026 Expense Adjustments Increase/(Decrease)                   | 3,247,600            | <b>4.5% Increase in Expenditures from 2025 budgeted (Row 1) to 2026 Estimated (Row 19)</b>          |
| 19 | <b>Total 2026 Estimated General Fund Budget Expenses</b>                          | <b>75,616,200</b>    | <b>Operating Expenses &amp; Debt Service Expenses</b>   |
| 20 |   |                      |   |
| 21 | 2025 Adopted Operating Revenues:  | 30,785,792           | 2025 Operating Budget-Pg 3  |
| 22 | Estimated Revenue Adjustments for 2026:   |                      |   |
| 23 | Increased Shared Revenue  | 270,000              | Estimated increase of shared revenue  |
| 24 | One Time Revenues   | 0                    | One time revenues used to balance the Operating Budget  |
| 25 | Fund Balance  | (1,528,000)          | Expected decrease of fund balance funds used in the Operating Budget from \$1.528M 2025 to \$0 2026 |
| 26 | ARPA Funds  | 0                    | ARPA funds were required to be fully obligated by 12/31/24.   |
| 27 | Subtotal Estimated 2026 Revenue Adjustments Increase/(Decrease)                   | (1,258,000)          |   |
| 28 | <b>Total 2026 Estimated General Fund Budget Revenues</b>                          | <b>29,527,792</b>    |   |
| 29 | <b>Estimated 2026 General Fund Net Levy</b>                                       | <b>\$ 46,088,408</b> | <b>Levy for Operating Expenses &amp; Debt Service Payments</b>                                      |
| 30 | <b>2025 Adopted City General Fund Levy (Excluding TID)</b>                        | <b>\$ 41,582,808</b> |   |
| 31 | <b>Net City Levy Excluding TID Increase/(Decrease) 2026 vs 2025</b>               | <b>4,505,600</b>     | <b>Difference Row 29 vs. Row 30</b>   |
| 32 | Estimated Allowable Net New Construction (NNC) Increase                           | 368,600              | Placeholder using 2025 NNC amount   |
| 33 | <b>Net City Levy Excluding TID Increase/(Decrease) 2026 vs 2025 including NNC</b> | <b>\$ 4,137,000</b>  | <b>Increase would represent 14% of 2026 Estimated Operating Revenues</b>                            |