



## Greater Augusta Utility District Board Agenda

Monday, April 27, 2026 6:00 PM

22 Arsenal Street District Meeting Room, Augusta, Maine

1. Welcome - Knight
2. Introduce Board members
3. Introduce GAUD employees, consultants and guests
4. Rate hearing
5. Agenda additions
6. Old Business
  - a. Approve meeting minutes - pages 5 - 7 - **Motion**
  - b. Rate committee update - pages 12 - 13
  - c. Project updates – pages 8 - 9
  - d. General Manager’s report – pages 10 - 11
  - e. PFAS “forever chemicals”
  - f. PFAS litigation options update
7. New business
  - a. Review financial statements - pages 14 - 16; 2026 Approved Budget - pages 17 - 25
  - b. Review liens - page 3 - **Motion**
  - c. Approve rate modeling proposal - pages 26 - 34 - **Motion**
  - d. Communications update - pages 35 - 42
  - e. HR update
  - f. Executive Session - Acquisition of Property Discussion
  - g. Public comment
8. Adjourn - **Motion**

### Attachments:

- Minutes
- Financial statements & 2026 Approved Budget
- Tighe & Bond - rate modeling proposal
- Website Analytics Report - Q1 2026

**Attendees:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Knight – Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Tudman Walker	<input type="checkbox"/> Sawyer	<input type="checkbox"/> Begin
<input type="checkbox"/> Paradis – Clerk	<input type="checkbox"/> Munson	<input type="checkbox"/> Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/> Payne
<input type="checkbox"/> Corey – Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke	<input type="checkbox"/> Dennett	<input type="checkbox"/> Tarbuck

A quorum consists of 4 voting Trustees. The table below reflects my best understanding of current terms.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Term expiration</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Years served</b>
Ken Knight	Chair	9/19/2028	11/5/2003	22.4
Bob Corey	Treasurer	11/5/2026	3/17/2016	10.0
Pat Paradis	Clerk	1/5/2029	1/5/2017	9.2
Tim Dennett	Augusta	11/5/2026	4/17/2025	0.9
Keth Luke	Augusta - non voting		6/1/2016	9.8
Cecil Munson	Augusta	1/5/2029	1/5/2017	9.2
Brad Sawyer	Augusta	2/4/2028	11/15/2016	9.3
Keith Taylor	Hallowell		9/2/2024	1.5
Kara Tudman Walker	Hallowell - non-voting		9/2/2024	1.5

**Guests:**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Executive sessions are described in [MRS Title 1 Section 405](#). Executive sessions may only be called by a public recorded vote of 3/5 of the members, present and voting.

Upcoming holidays and meetings now on the fourth Monday of each month.

Monday, May 18, 2026	Regular meeting (3rd Monday due to holiday)	22 Arsenal
Monday, May 25, 2026	Memorial Day	Holiday
Friday, June 19, 2026	Juneteenth	Holiday
Monday, June 22, 2026	Regular meeting	22 Arsenal
Friday, July 3, 2026	Independence Day	Holiday
Monday, July 27, 2026	Regular meeting	22 Arsenal
Monday, August 24, 2026	Regular meeting	22 Arsenal

**Training opportunities**

April 9, Maine Water Utilities Association meeting Augusta Civic Center

1. Welcome
2. Introduce Board members
3. Introduce GAUD employees, consultants and guests
4. Rate hearing
5. Agenda additions
6. Old business

a. Approve meeting minutes - **Motion**

<b>Motion:</b> I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for March 23, 2026.			
M	2nd	For	Against

b. Rate committee update -

On March 23 the Board voted to propose 5% increases to rates at the water, sewer and stormwater divisions. Tonight is the public hearing for each of the three divisions.

Based on the outcome of the public hearing the Board will vote to file rates with the PUC pursuant to the rate setting schedule.

c. Project updates - Begin

Andy will provide updates regarding the District’s capital improvement projects.

d. General Manager’s report - Tarbuck

Brian will provide updates not otherwise covered in this report.

e. PFAS “forever chemicals” update

Andy covered our current PFAS issues in the project summary.

f. PFAS litigation options

Refer to the minutes from the March meeting for next steps.

7. New business

a. Review financial statements

Mike Payne will review the financial statements from March, 2026.

Tim Gill, from RKO, provided the draft 2024 audited financial statements on April 20, 2026. He has not fully completed the review of the workpapers but doesn’t anticipate any significant changes.

b. Review liens

267 Northern Avenue has three liens to be waived this month to prevent automatic foreclosure.

<b>Motion:</b> I move to waive three liens at 267 Northern Avenue.			
M	2nd	For	Against

c. Approve rate modeling proposal - **Motion**

We have a proposal from Tighe & Bond to update water, sewer and stormwater rates. This hasn't been updated in 15 years. I would like to update our existing models to provide the Board with a means to explore rate alternatives. If approved the \$27,000 contract would start in May and conclude in November. The output includes a 5 year rate forecast for each division and a spreadsheet based tool that management can use to evaluate other rate alternatives.

**Motion:** I move to authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Tighe and Bond to update the rate models for the water, sewer and stormwater divisions per the contract reviewed at this meeting.

M	2nd	For	Against
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d. Communications update - Meredith Strang-Burgess

Meredith will provide updates for the board.

e. HR update - Alan Burton

Alan will provide updates for the board.

f. Executive session to discuss land acquisition

**Motion:** I move to enter executive session to discuss property acquisition pursuant to MRS §405 6 C.

M	2nd	For	Against
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g. Public comment

8. Adjourn

**Motion:** I move that this body stand adjourned.

M Sawyer	2nd	For	Against
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## Minutes of the Greater Augusta Utility District (GAUD) Board Meeting

Date: Monday, March 23, 2026, 6:00 PM

### Board Members in Attendance:

Bob Corey, Cecil Munson, Patrick Paradis, Keith Taylor, Kara Tudman Walker, Brad Sawyer, Keith Luke, Ken Knight, Tim Dennett

### Staff and Consultants:

Mike Payne, Andy Begin, Meredith Strang-Burgess (Communications Consultant), Kristina Iliaria (Account Executive at Burgess), Alan Burton (Human Resources Consultant), Mike Hodgins (Verrill and Dana).

### Guests (for PFAS Litigation):

Jamie Belleau (Attorney, Maine), Paul Napoli (Napoli Shkolnik), Jay Simpson (Partner), Coral Odia (Partner).

### Old Business

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Bob Corey moved to accept the meeting minutes for February 23rd with amendments, and was seconded by Keith Taylor. The motion passed.

### Rate Committee Update and Rate Setting

Discussion Summary

- The Rate Committee, which met on March 11th, recommended a 3% rate increase.
- The rate-setting process is driven by specific Public Utilities Commission (PUC) deadlines. The public hearing is scheduled for April 27th.
- Staff noted that while the current year's budget can be covered without a rate increase, it is not financially sustainable long-term.
- Options presented for maintaining a minimum cash reserve over the next three years included 0%, 3%, and 7%.
  - **Drinking Water:** Tarbuck recommended 7% for long-term stabilization, citing significant expenses and a need for \$15 million in the 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) compared to the current \$2 million annual pipe investment.
  - **Impact:** A 7% increase across the board would cost the City of Augusta an estimated additional \$70,000. The City Manager indicated a preference for a 5% increase.

### Rate Setting Motion and Vote

- **Motion:** Bob Corey moved to increase utility rates as follows: 5% for the water rate, 5% for the sewer rate, and 5% for the stormwater rate.
- **Second:** Tim Dennett
- **Outcome:** The motion passed, setting a **5% rate increase across all three divisions** (Water, Sewer, and Stormwater).

## PFAS Litigation Options

### Discussion Points

- **Technical Opinion (Keith Taylor):** Expressed a technical opinion that pinpointing the source of PFAS contamination in the Kennebec River aquifer would be difficult. He noted that GAUD and other upstream wastewater treatment plants also discharge PFAS.
- **Legal Strategy (Paul Napoli):** Confirmed Napoli Shkolnik's successful experience in environmental and opioid litigation. The current strategy is to pursue "users of PFAS" (legacy paper mills) under the federal Superfund law (CERCLA).
  - **Risk Mitigation:** Paul stated the EPA issued a letter approximately two years ago indicating they will not pursue municipalities or wastewater treatment facilities under CERCLA. Filing a claim against the polluters also provides a legal defense for GAUD.
  - **Statute of Limitations:** Paul advised that to be conservative, they recommend filing a case before **May of 2026**.
  - **GAUD Effort:** Legal counsel assured the board that the utility's effort would be minimal, mainly involving one or two days of testimony from the Superintendent.
- **Motion Attempt:** Sawyer moved to authorize management to engage with Napoli Shkolnik to pursue PFAS litigation. The motion was not seconded.
- **Decision:** The board decided to table the vote and bring the PAS litigation options up again in **April** for further consideration.

### Management Updates (Andy/Brian)

#### PFAS Mitigation/Riverside Drive Filtration Facility

- The exterior shell of the Riverside Drive Facility is nearing completion this week.
- The facility, which will hold six PFAS removal vessels, is expected to be online early this summer.
- GAUD has secured approximately \$15 million in funding, including two EPA grants of nearly \$5 million and \$4 million.
- An exploration for a new, uncontaminated water source in North Augusta found adequate supply, but low background levels of PFAS contamination were still detected, leading to a continued search.

#### Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

- **Memorial Drive (CSO Mitigation):** The project to reduce combined sewer overflow (CSO) into the river is estimated to cost \$2 million to \$3 million to get through the west side rotary. GAUD plans to coordinate work with MDOT's eight, one-week shutdowns planned for 2027 to save substantial costs. Management may need to use the threat of eminent domain to secure necessary access from property owners at the former Walgreens.
- **Other Projects:** St. Catherine is wrapping up this spring; the Trunkline requires a deeper dive into environmental studies; and Davenport will start when the frost leaves the ground, with a target completion of June. The estimated cost for a mile of pipe replacement on Eastern Avenue is \$4.5 million which is about 2 years of the water division's capital improvement budget.

#### Other Business/Regulatory

- **Drinking Water Violation:** A violation was incurred due to the late submission of a regulatory form, not for operational failure.

- **SHAPE Program:** GAUD was removed from the Department of Labor (DOL) SHAPE program due to recurring safety hazards (e.g., equipment guards, missing electrical panel knockouts). Management plans to meet with the DOL to re-enter the program.
- **Personnel:** A young mechanical engineer left to pursue a higher-paying career in Massachusetts.
- **Sampling:** Routine quarterly PFAS sampling is starting for the Triangle wells.

### Financial Update (Mike Payne)

Division	Revenue (End of Month)	Expenses (End of Month)	Cash Flow (End of Month)
<b>Water</b>	\$3.0M (2% below budget)	\$750k (2% below budget)	Started at \$5.6M, ended at \$5.7M
<b>Sewer</b>	\$1.1M (3% below budget)	\$760k (3% below budget)	Started at \$1.9M, ended at \$1.7M
<b>Storm Water</b>	\$649k (2% below budget)	\$445k (2% below budget)	Started just below \$3.0M, ended at \$3.0M

*The 2024 audit financials are expected to be finished by the end of March.*

### Communications and HR Updates

Meredith Strang Burgess (Communications)

- Burgess is preparing communications efforts for the April 27th public rate hearing.
- A spring newsletter is planned to cover infrastructure, PFAS treatment, and the status of new wells.

Alan Burton (Human Resources)

- Three open positions: Meter Shop Assistant (applicant undergoing checks), Engineering Tech One (just posted), and Utility Worker (to be advertised in the spring).
- Work is underway on the personnel policy manual and internal/external communication loops.

### Executive Session

A motion was made by Keith Taylor and seconded by Pat Paradis to enter Executive Session pursuant to MRS §405 6 C.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

## Summary of Capital Improvement Projects

### **CIP #23015 - Riverside Drive PFAS/PFOA pilot study - \$1,103,846 spent to date**

**Status:** The contractor is putting the finishing touches on the building exterior and just waiting on paving. The filter vessels are in place and we are expecting to start the piping work this week. We are still shooting to be online this summer.

**Scope:** Mitigate PFAS at the Riverside Drive Treatment Building

**Purpose:** Comply with State and Federal requirements.

**Budget:** We are projecting \$15M in total funding for PFAS mitigation and continue to refine project scope

**Schedule:** Planned for Q2 2026

### **CIP #25032 - New Groundwater Source to Mitigate PFAS - \$134,836 spent to date**

**Status:** A third 8-inch test well has been installed in North Augusta. Early results indicated a high production well. Water quality samples will be taken this week to verify initial assessments of this site.

**Scope:** New source, part of our larger PFAS buildout with our Riverside Drive Solution

**Purpose:** Maintain 2 million gallons/day of backup supply without PFAS contamination.

**Budget:** Combined with the Riverside Drive budget of \$15M.

**Schedule:** Ongoing, likely finishing in 2027 if permitting is a concern.

### **CIP# 24024 - Brooks and St. Catherine Street - \$43,561 spent to date**

**Status:** This project started back up last week. CH Stevenson has installed a temporary water main to serve customers while the new water main is installed.

**Scope:** Replace approximately 600 feet of 6" unlined cast iron water main, 350 feet of 8" VCP sewer main and 700 feet of storm upgrades.

**Purpose:** Mutual road reconstruction project with COA, updating aging infrastructure.

**Budget:** Water (\$248k), Sewer/Storm (\$198k).

**Schedule:** Planned for Q3 2025 into 2026

### **CIP #23009 & #24019 - TL2 & TL4 - Station Consolidation - \$212,616 spent to date**

The environmental review documents were submitted and need to be reworked for higher level environmental impacts.

### **CIP# 25011 - Davenport Street Storm Drain - \$41,540 spent to date**

**Status:** Perryman Construction is expected to start construction this week or next week, which is ahead of schedule.

**Scope:** Separate 1,000 feet of storm main from the combined sewer and remove 3 catch basins, and 1,100 feet of water main.

**Purpose:** CSO abatement and storm separation and replacement of aging infrastructure (1911 WM).

**Budget:** \$480,000 (storm main), \$450,000 (water main)

**Schedule:** Complete Q2 2026, Contractual Completion by October 30, 2026,

### **CIP# 25017 - Amherst Street Water Main & Storm Drain - \$14,958 spent to date**

**Status:** Pending securing easements on the Augusta Plaza site prior to bidding.

Scope: Replace 640 feet of 6-inch cast iron water main with 8" ductile iron, and Separate 400 feet of storm main from the combined sewer and remove 4 catch basins.

Purpose: The water main is over 100 yrs old and has been identified as deficient in fire flow capacity. The storm work seems like a good fit on this street to remove 4 catch basins from the sewer.

Budget: \$357,500 (water main), \$120,000 (storm main)

Schedule: Complete Q4 2025/Q2 2026

**CIP# 25052 - Memorial Drive Stormwater Separation - \$29,140 spent to date**

Status: 90% Design. We submitted a Clean Water SRF application to help support this project for CSO separation. Alignment options are still being assessed as we deal with MDOT/COA and property owners.

Scope: Install 1,600 feet of 30-inch diameter Stormwater main.

Purpose: Part of a multi-phase stormwater separation project in the Memorial Circle area to separate over 60 catch basins from the sewer system. The first phase will be a large storm main in Memorial Drive from Gage Street and up West Crescent. Future phases will include spurs to Western Avenue, Swan and Green Streets.

Budget: \$3.0M (storm main)

Schedule: TBD, formulating a plan with MDOT work.

**CIP# 25051 - Eastern Avenue Water Main Replacement - \$3,124 spent to date**

Status: Design. We are 80% through our design efforts. We will likely put this out to bid during the summer/fall of 2026 for 2027 Construction (pending budget constraints).

Scope: 6,300 feet of 12-inch water main between Hospital Street and Cony Road.

Purpose: The 6 & 8-inch unlined cast iron mains have a high break history, approaching 100 years old. In 2025 we fixed 3 leaks with more than 6 along this route. This project will likely be phased into smaller segments for affordability.

Budget: \$4M (water main)

Schedule: TBD, formulating a plan with MDOT work.

## General Manager’s Report

The following employees have a March or April hire date. I had used a promotion date, not a hire date, in the last presentation. I was called out on it to say the least.

Name	Years	Month
Michael Girouard	1	3
Tucker Cummings	2	3
Isreal Colpitt	8	3
Randi Taylor	28	3
Timothy Dennett	1	4
Brandon Main	2	4

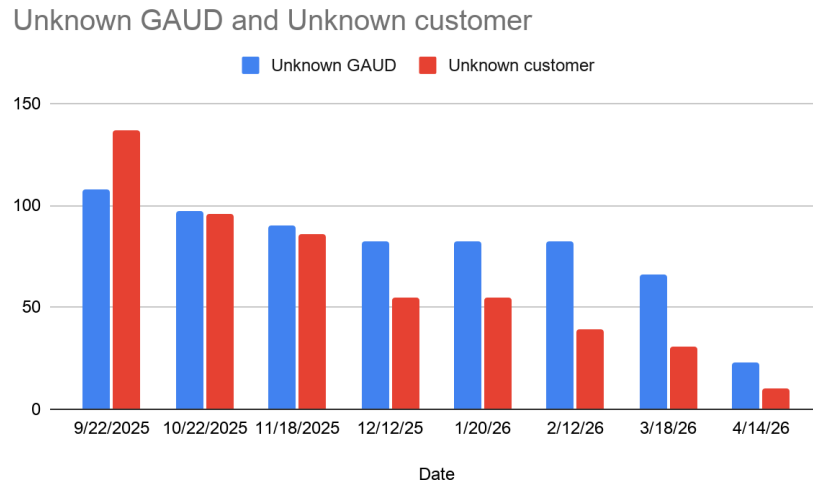
### Of interest:

- Seasonal water lines will be turned on by April 27 if not sooner.
- Q1 PFAS compliance samples were non-detect at Triangle Station. 3 more quarterly compliance samples remain. PFAS information is available here: [gaud.ws/PFAS](http://gaud.ws/PFAS)
- We are updating the specifications and procedures that we and our contractors follow. The language is old and clunky and it has taken longer than expected to improve it.
- We will soon have fiber optic connections at the plant. This has also taken much longer than expected. The office will follow.

### Lead and copper

Progress continues on identifying lead service lines that are either owned by the customer or by GAUD.

The chart below shows the progress we’ve made in identifying unknown service types. The goal is to get the number of unknown pipes to zero. To date we have not identified any GAUD owned lead services. We have identified 9 customer owned lead services.



Our goal remains to have all “unknown” services identified by January, 2028.

## Activities

March 30 - Day 3 of 3 Kennebec County All Hazards Assessment

March 31 - Tighe and Bond rate model meeting with Mike Payne

April 1 - NEIWPCC AI task force - second meeting

April 9 - Outreach MWUA / Ken / Mayor O'Brien / Brian / Andy

April 9 - Maranacook job shadow / future engineering students (?) Max Tomassone, Charlie

April 15 - met w/ forester at Carleton Pond re native American beech project / mulching / invasive species control w/ Jason Souzer

April 16, 2026 - monthly safety meeting

April 17, 2026 - COA senior staff meeting - Buker

April 22 Cleanup and Response Fund Review Board meeting - 2 to 3 meetings per year - was elected chair

April 23 - discuss CSO long term control plan update with Steve Freedman and Andy Begin

April 23 LEPC online meeting - GIS presentation - underwhelming

April 23 Addressing Cybersecurity in Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plans

## Rate setting timeline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Timeline</u>	<u>Regulatory summary</u>
Monday, February 23, 2026	February Board meeting		
Friday, March 20, 2026	Bill inserts to customers	<i>optional</i>	<i>no regulatory requirement to do this</i>
Monday, March 23, 2026	March Board meeting		<b>Last meeting to set rates to meet July 1 deadline</b>
Friday, March 27, 2026	Publish supporting materials / file with PUC and PA	hearing date - 30 days	<b>at least 30 days before</b> public hearing
Monday, April 6, 2026	Mail notice of public hearing	<i>hearing date - 21 days</i>	must be in mailboxes 14 days before public hearing (see below)
Monday, April 13, 2026	Publish notice of public hearing	hearing date - 14 days	at least 14 days before public hearing: customer notice ( <b>mail about one week before this date to ensure 14 day deadline is met</b> ) send copy to MPUC and PA (email) website / Facebook etc ( <i>optional</i> )
<b>Monday, April 27, 2026</b>	<b>April Board meeting &amp; rate public hearing</b>	<b>This drives all other dates</b>	<b>Public hearing</b>
Thursday, May 7, 2026	Soonest date to file rates w/ MPUC	hearing date + 10 days	<b>at least 10 days</b> after but no more than 30 days after public hearing
Monday, May 18, 2026	May Board meeting - <b>VOTE</b>		<b>vote to approve final rates with MPUC</b>
Wednesday, May 27, 2026	30 day petition period ends / <b>rates must be filed with PUC no later than today</b>	hearing date + 30 days	at least 10 days after but <b>no more than 30 days</b> after public hearing
Saturday, June 6, 2026	Earliest effective date of rates	filing date + 30 days	at least one month after rates filed with PUC

When will customers see the effects of the rate changes in their bills?

Rate change	June 6, 2026
Start of new rates	June 22, 2026
Customers receive bill for new rates	August 14, 2026
Payment due on new rates	September 9, 2026

The table below shows the current rates compared to proposed rates for a customer with a 5/8" water meter and a monthly consumption of 5 hundred cubic feet.

<b>Results</b>	<b>Current monthly</b>	<b>Proposed monthly</b>	<b>Δ</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Daily</b>
Water	\$ 37.35	\$ 39.22	\$ 1.87	\$ 22.41	\$ 0.06
Fire	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer	\$ 54.23	\$ 56.94	\$ 2.71	\$ 32.54	\$ 0.09
Storm	\$ 12.96	\$ 13.61	\$ 0.65	\$ 7.78	\$ 0.02
<b>Sum</b>	<b>\$ 104.54</b>	<b>\$ 109.77</b>	<b>\$ 5.23</b>	<b>\$ 62.72</b>	<b>\$ 0.17</b>
Annual	\$ 1,254.48	\$ 1,317.20	\$ 62.72		
Daily	\$ 3.43	\$ 3.61	\$ 0.17		

**GREATER AUGUSTA UTILITY DISTRICT**

**Financial Highlights for March 2026**

**Water Division**

**Income Statement:** Water revenue for the month ending March 31, 2026 totaled **\$1.7M** which is **1% below budget** and approximately **\$115K above** the same period last year. Expenses for the same period totaled **\$1.1M** which is **3% below budget** and approximately **\$22K below** the same period last year.

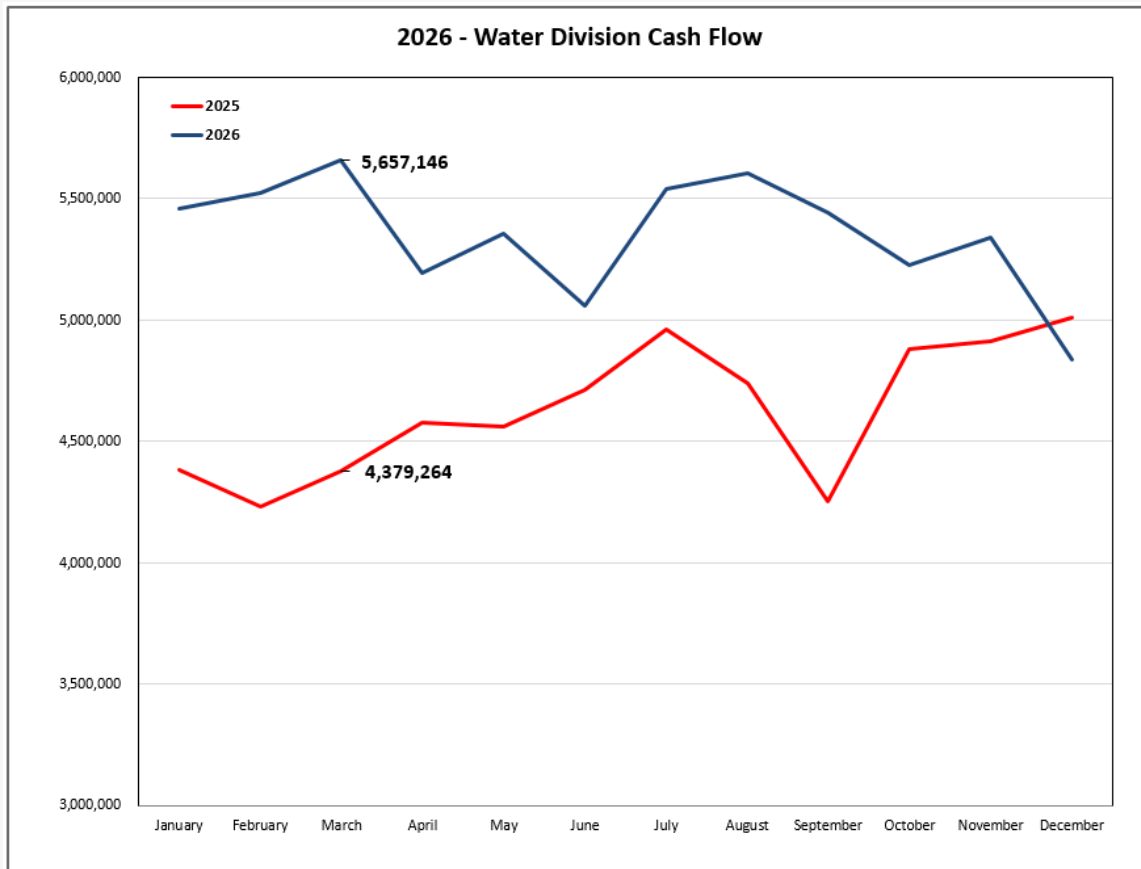
**Water Revenue**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>% Used</b>
Metered	4,392,963	1,011,687	23%
Fire Protection	2,459,060	614,569	25%
Investment income	12,000	12,239	102%
Other Income/Grants	104,952	67,991	65%
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>6,968,975</b>	<b>1,706,486</b>	<b>24%</b>

**Water Expenses**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>% Used</b>
Labor and fringe	2,441,057	558,536	23%
Power	275,000	64,585	23%
Supplies	589,650	85,141	14%
Debt interest	92,186	23,215	25%
Depreciation	1,003,435	270,831	27%
Other	663,068	102,266	15%
	<b>5,064,396</b>	<b>1,104,575</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Revenue - expense</b>	<b>1,904,579</b>	<b>601,912</b>	

**Cash Flow:** Cash at the beginning of the month was **\$5.7M**. Revenue of **\$649K** was collected. O&M expenses were **\$350K**. CIP expenses were **\$170K**. Cash at the end of the month was **\$5.7M**.



**GREATER AUGUSTA UTILITY DISTRICT**

**Financial Highlights for March 2026**

**Sewer Division**

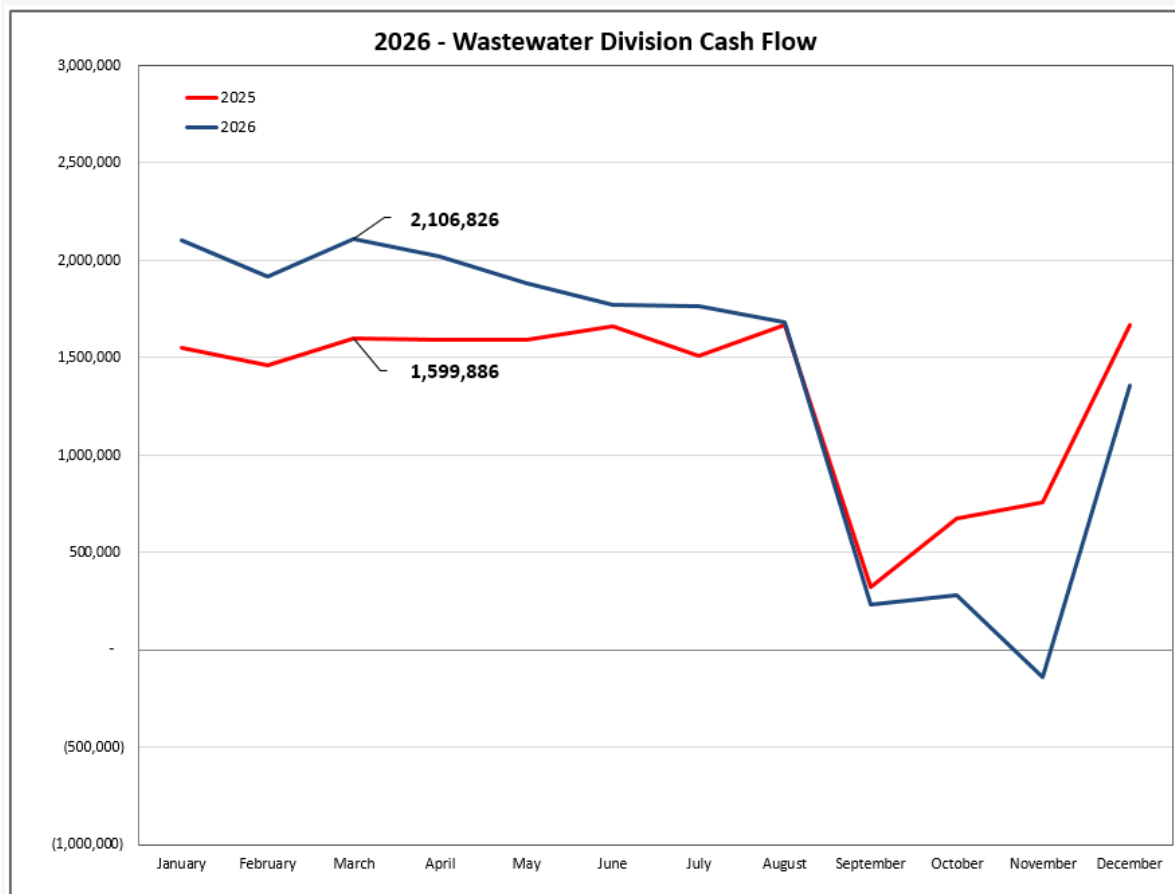
**Income Statement:** Sewer revenue for the month ending March 31, 2026 totaled **\$1.8M** which is **1% below budget** and approximately **\$111K above** the same period last year. Expenses for the same period totaled **\$1.4M** which is **1% below budget** and approximately **\$147K above** the same period last year.

Sewer Revenue			
	Budget	Actual YTD	% Used
Flat rate	30,836	7,632	25%
Metered	5,991,524	1,369,865	23%
Trunkline	939,184	238,476	25%
Investment income	12,000	12,239	102%
Other Income/Grants	365,692	122,038	33%
Sum:	<u>7,339,236</u>	<u>1,750,249</u>	<u>24%</u>

Sewer Expenses			
	Budget	Actual YTD	% Used
Labor and fringe	1,946,431	503,745	26%
Power	354,450	82,647	23%
Supplies	336,800	110,808	33%
Debt interest	239,124	55,022	23%
Depreciation	1,480,229	358,351	24%
Other	1,184,194	241,208	20%
	<u>5,541,228</u>	<u>1,351,780</u>	<u>24%</u>
Revenue - expense	1,798,008	398,470	

**Cash Flow:** Cash at the beginning of the month was **\$1.7M**. Revenue of **\$726K** was collected. O&M expenses totaled **\$475K**. CIP expenses were **\$63K**. Cash at the end of the month was **\$2.1M**.



**GREATER AUGUSTA UTILITY DISTRICT**

**Financial Highlights for March 2026**

**Storm Division**

**Income Statement:** Storm revenue for the month ending March 31, 2026 totaled **\$1.1M** which is **in line with budget** and approximately **\$47K above** the same period last year. Expenses for the same period totaled **\$522K** which is **8% below budget** and approximately **\$163K below** the same period last year last year.

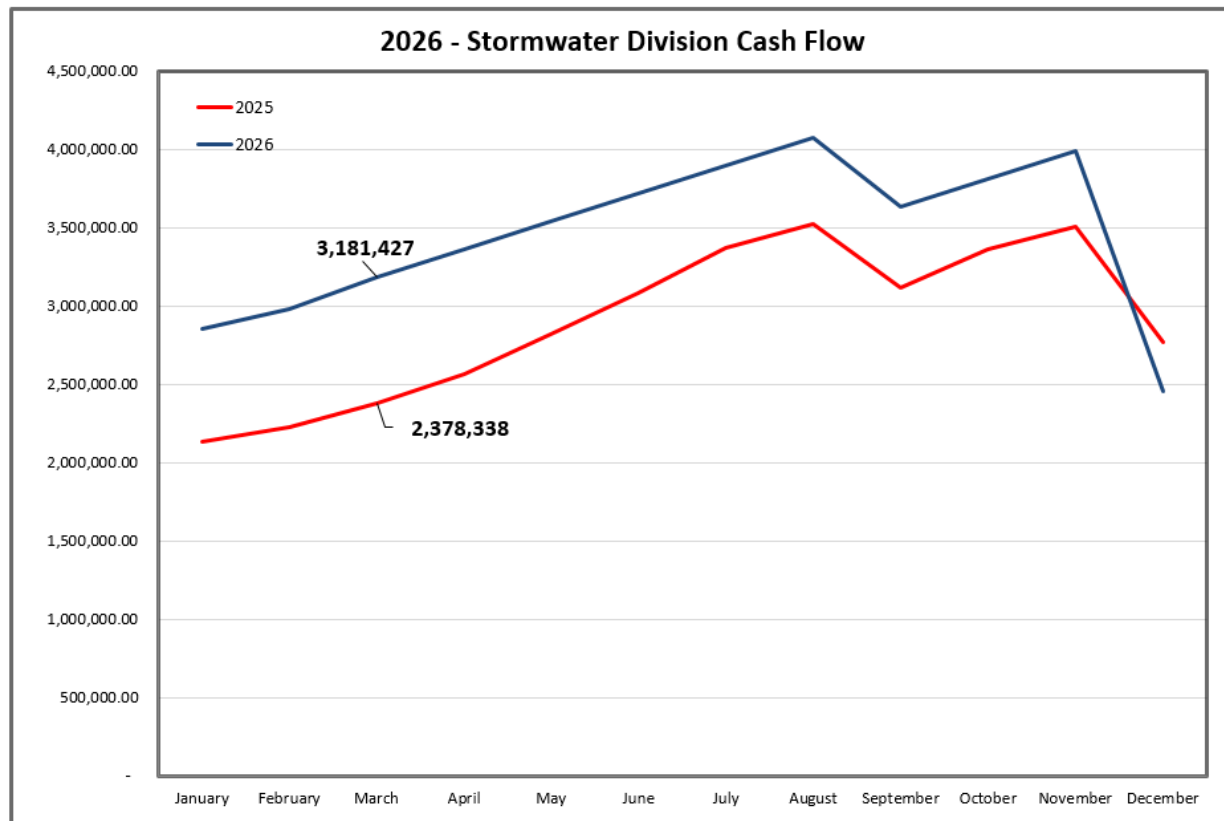
**Storm Revenue**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>% Used</b>
Stormwater	4,186,015	1,026,926	25%
Investment income	12,000	12,239	102%
Other Income/Grants	-	13,310	0%
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>4,198,015</b>	<b>1,052,475</b>	<b>25%</b>

**Storm Expenses**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>% Used</b>
Labor and fringe	1,312,424	204,952	16%
Power	151,000	21,320	14%
Supplies	185,650	29,723	16%
Debt interest	66,794	13,515	20%
Depreciation	913,376	217,918	24%
Other	372,478	34,975	9%
	<b>3,001,722</b>	<b>522,403</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Revenue - expense</b>	<b>1,196,293</b>	<b>530,073</b>	

**Cash Flow:** Cash at the beginning of the month was **\$3.0M**. Revenue of **\$448K** was collected. O&M expenses were **\$251K**. Cash at the end of the month was **\$3.2M**.



## 2026 Operating Budget Highlights

The 2026 operating budget is enclosed for approval by the Board of Trustees. The budget represents anticipated revenues and expenses between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.

The table below summarizes the 2026 budget and compares it to the 2025 projections for operations and maintenance.

Division	2025 Projections		2026 Proposed Budget		Change	
	Revenue	Expense	Revenue	Expense	Revenue	Expense
Water	\$ 6,857,915	\$ 4,746,399	\$ 6,968,975	\$ 5,064,396	1.6%	6.7%
Sewer	\$ 7,304,995	\$ 5,264,818	\$ 7,339,236	\$ 5,541,228	0.5%	5.3%
Storm	\$ 4,346,977	\$ 2,867,153	\$ 4,198,015	\$ 3,001,722	-3.4%	4.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 18,509,887</b>	<b>\$ 12,878,370</b>	<b>\$ 18,506,226</b>	<b>\$ 13,607,346</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>

Total overall budgeted revenue for 2026 shows no increase from the 2025 projections. This consists of a 2% increase in the water division, a 0% change in the sewer division, and a 3% decrease in the storm division. All three divisions' service revenues for 2026 have increased over the 2025 projections due to the effect of rate increases that were done in July 2025 of which a portion carries over into 2026. The 2026 service revenues do not include any potential rate increases that may occur in July. Rate changes that may take place will be discussed late 2025/early 2026.

Total budgeted expenses for 2026 are \$13.6M. Labor accounts for 42%, depreciation 25%, other 16%, supplies 8%, power 6% and debt interest 3%.

Total budgeted expenses for 2026 increased by 6% from the 2025 projections. The consists of a 7% increase in the water division, a 5% increase in the sewer division and an 5% increase in the storm division.

The 2026 budget for salaries and fringe benefits as presented includes two (2) positions that are currently vacant: one (1) utility worker and one (1) meter shop worker. The utility worker expense has been allocated amongst the divisions while the meter shop worker is allocated to the water division only. We've budgeted a 9% increase in health insurance costs for 2026. We're projecting 3% increase in other benefits.

The proposed budget reflects a wage increase of 5% for all personnel effective on or about January 1, 2026. The current union contract expired on December 31, 2024. We've completed union negotiations for the 2025-2027 contract. The agreement has been fully executed.

Power is budgeted to increase by \$36K or 5%. This increase is due to CMP looking for approval from the PUC for a sizeable rate increase for transmission and distribution. We do two different things to help offset our power costs. We've taken part in a solar project and receive credits for that. Additionally, we lock in electricity supply rates through a competitive bid process.

Other expenses are budgeted to increase by \$168K or 8% for multiple reasons. This increase is primarily due to various software contracts, the catch basin cleaning contract, chemical prices rising, and business insurance costs.

2026 Water, Sanitary & Storm Budgets As of  
11/24/2025

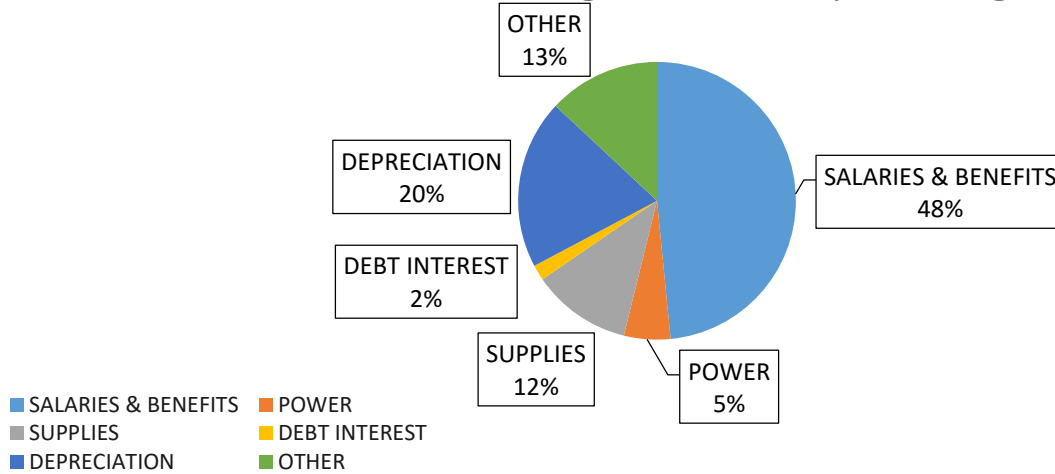
Water	Account	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Unaudited	2025 Projected	2026 Proposed	% Change
	METERED	\$ 2,533,826	\$ 2,752,787	\$ 2,901,986	\$ 3,600,601	\$ 4,023,739	\$ 4,392,963	9.2%
	FIRE PROTECTION	\$ 1,419,571	\$ 1,573,991	\$ 1,710,093	\$ 2,059,697	\$ 2,413,335	\$ 2,459,060	1.9%
	INVESTMENT INCOME	\$ 266	\$ 3,721	\$ 33,812	\$ 48,083	\$ 48,816	\$ 12,000	-75.4%
	OTHER	\$ 276,972	\$ 572,883	\$ 1,514,552	\$ 1,105,946	\$ 372,025	\$ 104,952	-71.8%
		\$ 4,230,635	\$ 4,903,381	\$ 6,160,443	\$ 6,814,327	\$ 6,857,915	\$ 6,968,975	1.6%
	SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$ 1,363,636	\$ 1,583,356	\$ 1,589,734	\$ 1,878,476	\$ 2,245,890	\$ 2,441,057	8.7%
	POWER	\$ 172,224	\$ 192,902	\$ 218,487	\$ 283,890	\$ 260,964	\$ 275,000	5.4%
	SUPPLIES	\$ 380,342	\$ 346,998	\$ 342,125	\$ 554,624	\$ 551,971	\$ 589,650	6.8%
DEBT INTEREST	\$ 122,729	\$ 110,319	\$ 96,174	\$ 111,576	\$ 86,591	\$ 92,186	6.5%	
DEPRECIATION	\$ 947,849	\$ 927,787	\$ 983,389	\$ 966,457	\$ 997,435	\$ 1,003,435	0.6%	
OTHER	\$ 484,892	\$ 540,650	\$ 496,433	\$ 561,900	\$ 603,548	\$ 663,068	9.9%	
	\$ 3,471,672	\$ 3,702,013	\$ 3,726,342	\$ 4,356,925	\$ 4,746,399	\$ 5,064,396	6.7%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 758,963	\$ 1,201,369	\$ 2,434,101	\$ 2,457,403	\$ 2,111,516	\$ 1,904,579		

Sanitary	Account	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Unaudited	2025 Projected	2026 Proposed	% Change
	FLAT RATE	\$ 12,040	\$ 13,670	\$ 18,203	\$ 26,104	\$ 30,162	\$ 30,836	2.2%
	METERED	\$ 2,585,765	\$ 3,000,963	\$ 3,679,364	\$ 4,913,834	\$ 5,693,467	\$ 5,991,524	5.2%
	TRUNKLINE	\$ 799,761	\$ 894,675	\$ 996,757	\$ 884,235	\$ 894,537	\$ 939,184	5.0%
	INVESTMENT INCOME	\$ 266	\$ 3,721	\$ 33,776	\$ 48,083	\$ 48,816	\$ 12,000	-75.4%
	OTHER	\$ 410,515	\$ 883,579	\$ 1,081,679	\$ 1,290,338	\$ 638,013	\$ 365,692	-42.7%
		\$ 3,808,346	\$ 4,796,607	\$ 5,809,779	\$ 7,162,594	\$ 7,304,995	\$ 7,339,236	0.5%
	SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$ 1,128,599	\$ 1,366,585	\$ 1,461,570	\$ 1,480,517	\$ 1,783,717	\$ 1,946,431	9.1%
	POWER	\$ 245,604	\$ 241,769	\$ 274,771	\$ 376,928	\$ 340,319	\$ 354,450	4.2%
SUPPLIES	\$ 269,096	\$ 306,767	\$ 324,546	\$ 273,429	\$ 312,494	\$ 336,800	7.8%	
DEBT INTEREST	\$ 242,661	\$ 257,704	\$ 268,032	\$ 279,753	\$ 255,476	\$ 239,124	-6.4%	
DEPRECIATION	\$ 1,528,264	\$ 1,569,367	\$ 1,421,714	\$ 1,478,051	\$ 1,475,129	\$ 1,480,229	0.3%	
OTHER	\$ 659,960	\$ 888,662	\$ 1,026,120	\$ 1,036,757	\$ 1,097,683	\$ 1,184,194	7.9%	
	\$ 4,074,183	\$ 4,630,854	\$ 4,776,753	\$ 4,925,436	\$ 5,264,818	\$ 5,541,228	5.3%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ (265,837)	\$ 165,754	\$ 1,033,026	\$ 2,237,159	\$ 2,040,177	\$ 1,798,008		

Storm	Account	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Unaudited	2025 Projected	2026 Proposed	% Change
	CATCH BASINS	\$ 1,872,871	\$ 1,834,649	\$ 826,992	\$ 835,486	\$ 848,242	\$ 864,108	1.9%
	ERU	\$ 2,195,712	\$ 2,153,718	\$ 3,239,542	\$ 3,247,564	\$ 3,277,456	\$ 3,321,907	1.4%
	INVESTMENT INCOME	\$ 266	\$ 3,721	\$ 33,810	\$ 48,083	\$ 48,816	\$ 12,000	-75.4%
	OTHER	\$ 10,421	\$ 304,535	\$ 448,530	\$ 598,236	\$ 172,463	\$ -	-100.0%
		\$ 4,079,270	\$ 4,296,623	\$ 4,548,874	\$ 4,729,369	\$ 4,346,977	\$ 4,198,015	-3.4%
	SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$ 909,728	\$ 1,042,880	\$ 1,036,996	\$ 1,062,077	\$ 1,219,461	\$ 1,312,424	7.6%
	POWER	\$ 113,234	\$ 117,106	\$ 135,721	\$ 192,323	\$ 143,642	\$ 151,000	5.1%
	SUPPLIES	\$ 159,154	\$ 197,376	\$ 196,975	\$ 192,725	\$ 178,895	\$ 185,650	3.8%
DEBT INTEREST	\$ 84,181	\$ 65,054	\$ 69,109	\$ 65,244	\$ 65,189	\$ 66,794	2.5%	
DEPRECIATION	\$ 1,019,364	\$ 983,872	\$ 882,159	\$ 906,304	\$ 909,876	\$ 913,376	0.4%	
OTHER	\$ 380,973	\$ 430,521	\$ 451,782	\$ 400,943	\$ 350,090	\$ 372,478	6.4%	
	\$ 2,666,634	\$ 2,836,811	\$ 2,772,742	\$ 2,819,616	\$ 2,867,153	\$ 3,001,722	4.7%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 1,412,636	\$ 1,459,812	\$ 1,776,132	\$ 1,909,753	\$ 1,479,824	\$ 1,196,293		

<b>TOTAL ALL DIVISIONS</b>	\$ 1,905,762	\$ 2,826,934	\$ 5,243,259	\$ 6,604,314	\$ 5,631,517	\$ 4,898,880	
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## 2026 Drinking Water O&M Expense Budget



Revenues are projected at \$7.0M which is slightly higher the prior year. The increase of 7% in water revenues (metered and fire protection combined) is due to the effect of rate increases that were done in 2025 of which a portion carries over into 2026. These revenues do not include any potential rate increases for 2026.

Overall expenses for operations and maintenance will increase by approximately 7% to \$5.1M.

Labor and fringe benefits are forecasted at \$2.5M or 48% of the total budget.

- Wages make up approximately 66% of the labor and fringe benefits expense. Wages are budgeted with a 5% increase.
- Health Insurance accounts for 18% of the expense. There is a 9% increase in health insurance premiums budgeted for 2026. Employees pay 15% of health insurance costs and the district pays the remaining 85%. Dental insurance premiums are budgeted to increase by 2.4% for 2026. The district covers the cost of the employee only.
- The remaining costs consists of overtime, taxes, retirement OPEB commitments, workers' compensation, uniforms and pay to Trustees.
- Included in the 2026 budget are two (2) positions that are currently vacant: one (1) utility worker and one (1) meter shop worker. The utility worker expense has been allocated amongst the divisions while the meter shop worker is allocated to the water division only.

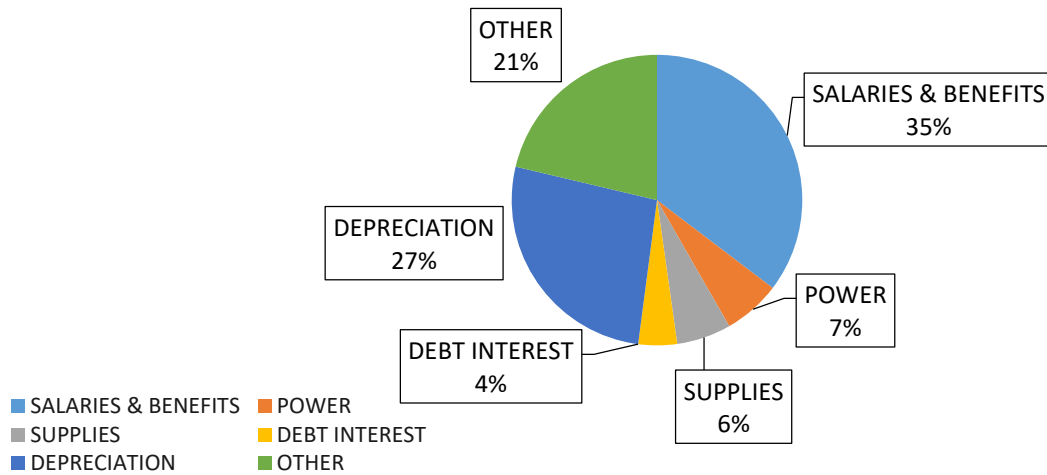
Debt interest is budgeted to increase by 6.5% which is due to normal decreases in amortization over the life of a loan.

Power is budgeted to increase by 5.4% in 2026 due to potential rate increases.

The "Other" category makes up 13% of the budget and includes a wide variety of expenses. Outside contractors, insurance, postage, chemicals, computer services and lawn mowing are all under the "other" umbrella. There is an increase of 10% in this category.

The supplies budget which includes construction supplies, computer supplies, safety supplies, office supplies, small tools, heating fuel, diesel, gasoline and equipment maintenance is \$590K which is 7% higher than 2025.

## 2026 Sewer O&M Expense Budget



Revenues are projected at \$7.3M, which is in line with 2025. Sewer services revenue is budgeted to increase by 5%. This is primarily due to the effect of rate increases that were done in 2025 of which a portion carries over into 2026. These revenues do not include any potential rate increases for 2026.

Expenses for operations and maintenance will increase by approximately 6% to \$5.6M.

Depreciation accounts for 27% of the expense budget.

Labor and fringe benefits are forecasted at \$2.0M or 35% of the total budget.

- Wages make up approximately 66% of the labor and fringe benefits expense. Wages are budgeted with a 5% increase.
- Health Insurance accounts for 18% of the expense. There is a 9% increase in health insurance premiums budgeted for 2026. Employees pay 15% of health insurance costs and the district pays the remaining 85%. Dental insurance premiums are budgeted to increase by 2.4% for 2026. The district covers the cost of the employee only.
- The remaining costs consist of overtime, taxes, retirement OPEB commitments, workers' compensation, uniforms and pay to Trustees.
- Included in the 2026 budget are two (2) positions that are currently vacant: one (1) utility worker and one (1) meter shop worker. The utility worker expense has been allocated amongst the divisions while the meter shop worker is allocated to the water division only.

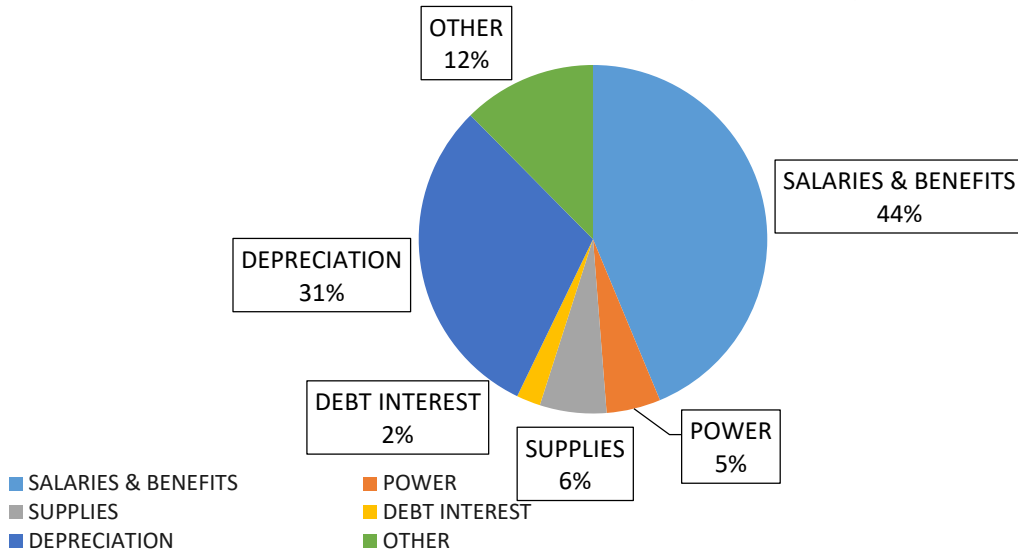
Debt interest is budgeted to decrease by 6% which is due to normal decreases in amortization over the life of a loan.

Power is budgeted to increase by 4% in 2026 due to potential rate increases.

The supplies budget which includes construction supplies, computer supplies, safety supplies, office supplies, small tools, heating fuel, diesel, gasoline and equipment maintenance is \$337K which is higher than 2025.

The "Other" expenses category makes up 21% of the budget and includes a wide variety of expenses. Other expenses are budgeted to increase by 8% for 2026. The majority of other expenses are based on flow and are allocated 59% sewer and 41% storm water.

## 2026 Stormwater O&M Expense Budget



Stormwater revenue is projected to be \$4.2M, which is slightly lower than 2025. Service revenues are budgeted to increase by 2%. This is primarily due to the effect of rate increases that were done in 2025 of which a portion carries over into 2026. These revenues do not include any potential rate increases for 2026.

Overall expenses for operations and maintenance will increase by 5% to \$3.0M.

Labor and fringe benefits are forecasted at \$1.3M or 44% of the total budget.

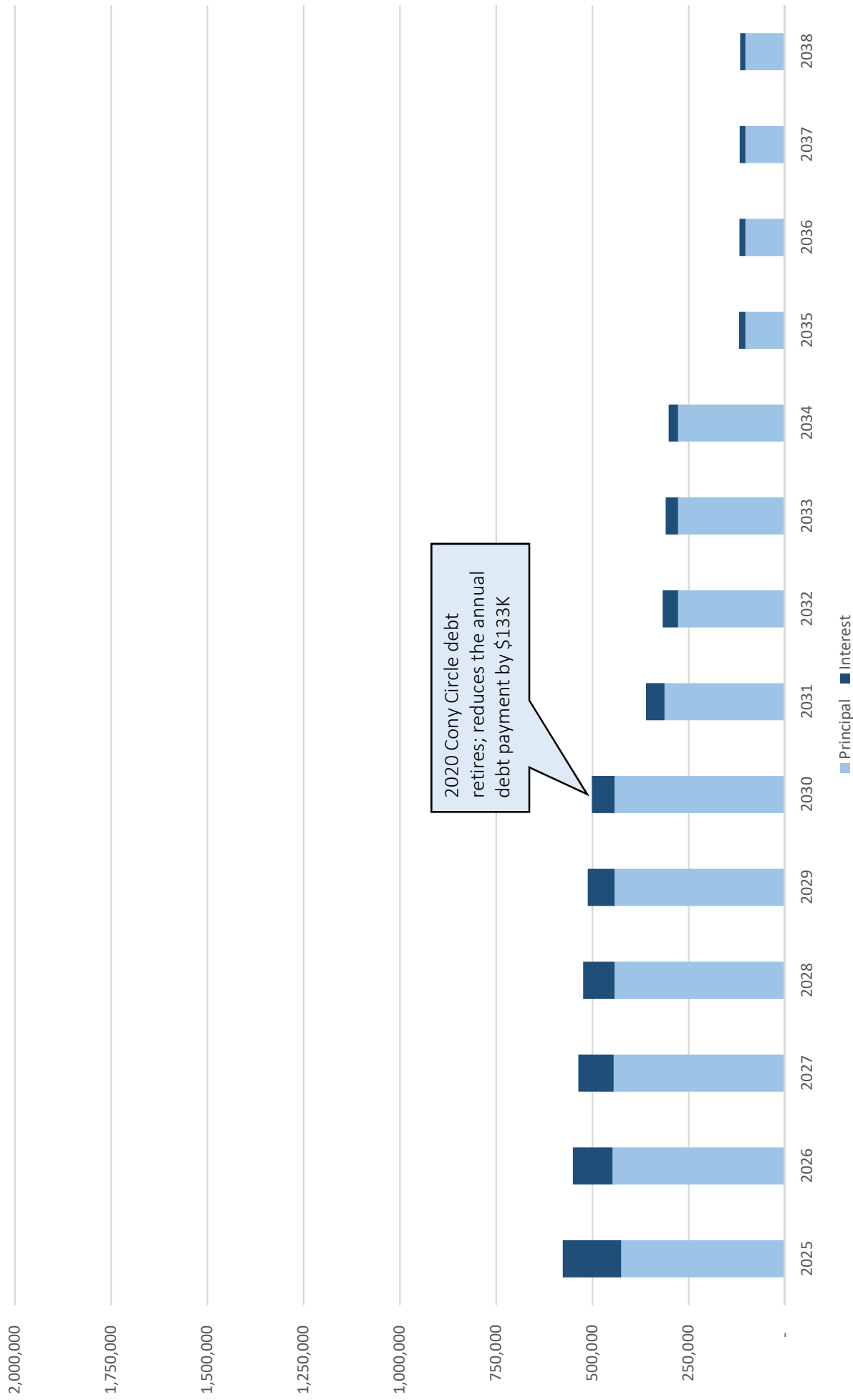
- Wages make up approximately 66% of the labor and fringe benefits expense. Wages are budgeted with a 5% increase.
- Health Insurance accounts for 18% of the expense. There is a 9% increase in health insurance premiums budgeted for 2026. Employees pay 15% of health insurance costs and the district pays the remaining 85%. Dental insurance premiums are budgeted to increase by 2.4% for 2026. The district covers the cost of the employee only.
- The remaining costs consist of overtime, taxes, retirement OPEB commitments, workers' compensation, uniforms and pay to Trustees.
- Included in the 2026 budget are two (2) positions that are currently vacant: one (1) utility worker and one (1) meter shop worker. The utility worker expense has been allocated amongst the divisions while the meter shop worker is allocated to the water division only.

Debt interest is budgeted to increase by 2.5% which is due to normal decreases in amortization over the life of a loan.

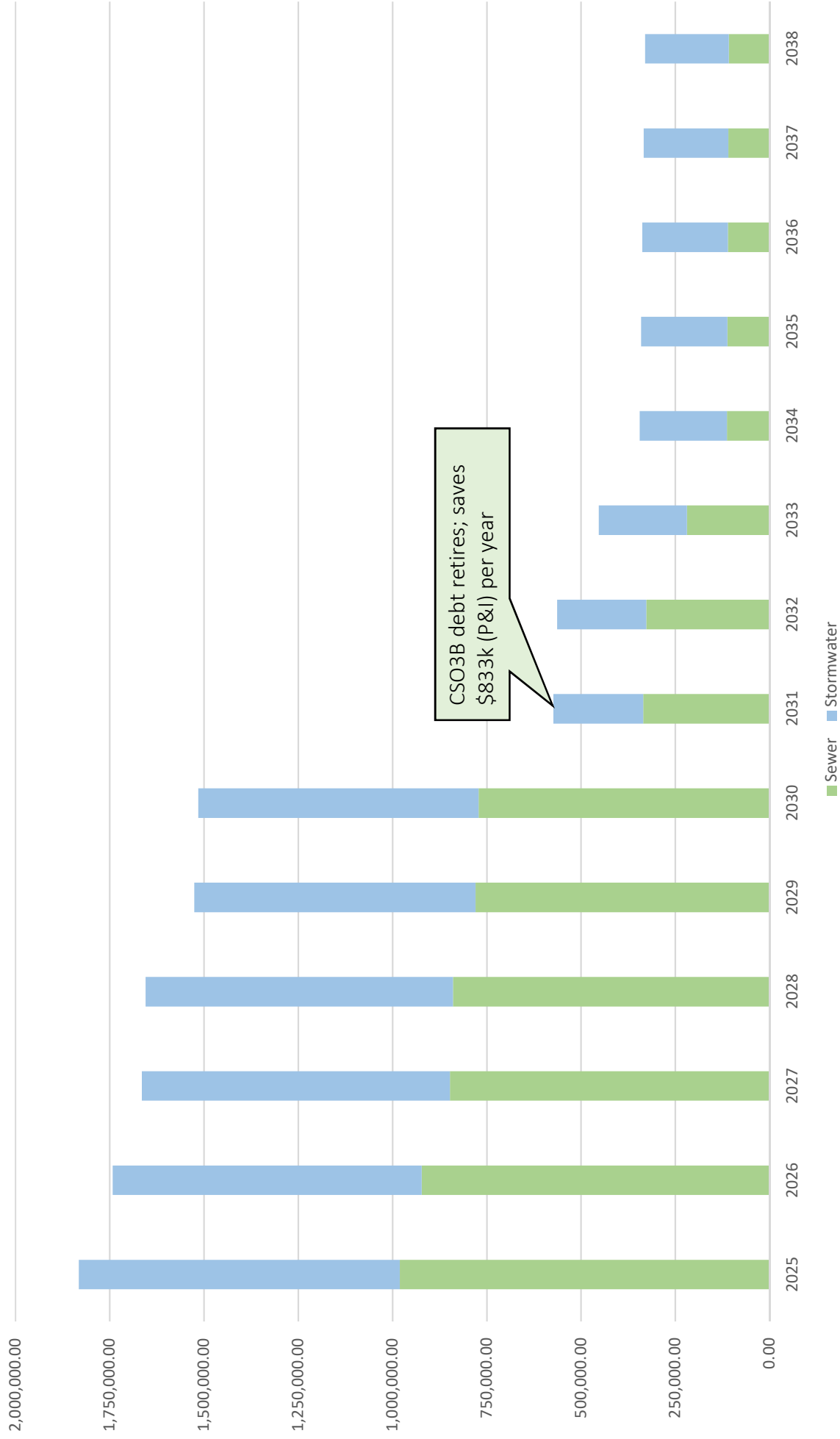
Power is budgeted to increase by 5% in 2026 due to potential rate increases.

The "Other" category makes up 12% of the budget and includes a wide variety of expenses. The majority of other expenses are based on flow and are allocated to 59% sewer and 41% storm water.

## Drinking Water division - Debt schedule - as of October 2025



# Sewer & Stormwater divisions - Debt schedule - as of October 2025



	<b>Water</b>
Total budget	\$ 2,500,000
Total proposed	\$ 2,388,645
Available	\$ 111,355

Year	Priority W	Cost center	Description	SUM of Water	SUM of Total est	Running sum
2026	1	Wells	Matching funds for PFAS removal equipment, total \$444	\$ 444,444	\$ 444,444	\$ 444,444
2026	2	Water pipe	Mains, Brooks Street, part of COA project, replace 620' of 6 inch cast iron water main with 8 inch ductile iron \$255 per foot, total \$200,310	\$ 200,310	\$ 200,310	\$ 644,754
2026	3	Water pipe	Mains, Davenport Street, part of COA project, replace 1,000' old main and removed three combined catch basins at \$500 per foot, total \$520,800	\$ 520,800	\$ 520,800	\$ 1,165,554
2026	4	Water pipe	Mains, Amherst Street, near former KMart; replace 700' of 6 inch cast iron water main with 8 inch ductile iron \$550 per foot, total \$525,800	\$ 525,800	\$ 525,800	\$ 1,691,354
2026	5	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	12 Williams Street, shop, install ADA compliant showers / bathroom / locker room - carry forward from 2024 - year 2 of 3	\$ 21,666	\$ 65,000	\$ 1,713,021
2026	6	Pump sta, water	Granite Hill Estates - replace one of two 5 HP pumps; improve piping to reduce 90s and tees	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 1,768,021
2026	7	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Track loader implements, bush hog and pavement grinder	\$ 23,833	\$ 71,500	\$ 1,791,854
2026	8	Pump sta, water	North Augusta station - replace Weinman Series 1200 split case pump	\$ 11,809	\$ 11,809	\$ 1,803,663
2026	9	Pump sta, water	Western Station - replace Act-Pak meter	\$ 8,250	\$ 8,250	\$ 1,811,913
2026	10	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	170 Hospital Street - building maintenance needed - paving estimate \$16K per JS 10/28/25 - insulation - roofing / plumbing / sewer service is cast iron underneath the slab - add natural gas line - Maine Natural Gas - year 1 of 2	\$ 21,666	\$ 65,000	\$ 1,833,580
2026	11	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Excavator, frost tooth; pin grabber; additional buckets	\$ 21,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 1,854,580
2026	12	Wells	Wells, Brookside Well, inspect and clean well and replace both the pump and motor, total \$198,000	\$ 198,000	\$ 198,000	\$ 2,052,580
2026	13	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Truck, acquire two pickups (one 1/2 ton and one 3/4 ton utility body) to replace truck 130 and 131	\$ 38,500	\$ 115,500	\$ 2,091,079
2026	14	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Truck, replace 1999 7 yard dump truck 62 - 26 years old	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 2,141,079
2026	15	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Relocate Cony Street grit dewatering site to State Street	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 2,151,079
2026	16	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Truck, replace truck 12 with 1 ton dump body with v-plow	\$ 31,500	\$ 94,500	\$ 2,182,578
2026	17	Pump sta, water	Kohls - replace obsolete GE Panametrics meter	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,188,578
2026	18	Wells	Enhance drinking water security	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 2,353,578
2026	19	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	GPS (2) units for GIS and DigSafe	\$ 6,733	\$ 20,200	\$ 2,360,312
2026	20	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Storage, acquire four storage containers to alleviate storage issues	\$ 15,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 2,375,312
2026	21	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	170 Hospital Street, security, update door access and CCTV at 170 Hospital Street garage site	\$ 13,333	\$ 40,000	\$ 2,388,645

	<b>Stormwater</b>	<b>Sewer</b>
Total budget	\$ 1,439,011	\$ 2,014,411
Sum of 2026 CIP projects	\$ 1,437,438	\$ 1,921,027
Available	\$ 1,573	\$ 93,384

<b>Year</b>	<b>Priority SS</b>	<b>Cost center</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SUM of Storm</b>	<b>SUM of Sewer</b>	<b>SUM of Sum_SS</b>	<b>SUM of Sum_all</b>	<b>SUM of SS_test</b>	<b>Running sum Storm</b>	<b>Running sum Sewer</b>
2026	1	Sewer only	Mains, Brooks Street, part of COA project, replace 400' of sewer pipe with PVC at \$230 per foot, total \$136,400	\$ -	\$ 136,400	\$ 136,400	\$ 136,400	\$ 136,400	\$ -	\$ 136,400
2026	2	Storm pipe	Mains, Brooks Street, part of COA project, replace 640' of storm pipe with PVC at \$166 per foot, total \$116,864	\$ 116,864	\$ -	\$ 116,864	\$ 116,860	\$ 116,864	\$ 116,864	\$ 136,400
2026	3	Sewer pipe	Mains, Amherst Street, near former KMart; add 700' of stormwater pipe; separate 3 combined sewer basins, \$550 per foot, total \$429,000	\$ 175,890	\$ 253,110	\$ 429,000	\$ 429,000	\$ 429,000	\$ 292,754	\$ 389,510
2026	4	WWTP	WWTP, replace chemical feed pump	\$ 4,305	\$ 6,195	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500	\$ 297,059	\$ 395,705
2026	5	WWTP	WWTP, rebuild waste activated sludge (WAS) pumps #1 and #3	\$ 5,597	\$ 8,054	\$ 13,650	\$ 13,650	\$ 13,650	\$ 302,656	\$ 403,759
2026	6	WWTP	WWTP, replace the Wiffle balls in the odor control tower	\$ 6,802	\$ 9,788	\$ 16,590	\$ 16,590	\$ 16,590	\$ 309,457	\$ 413,547
2026	7	WWTP	WWTP, replace AC in operations building	\$ 8,610	\$ 12,390	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 318,067	\$ 425,937
2026	8	WWTP	WWTP, Secondary clarifier 1, replace drive, rake arms and bridge	\$ 180,400	\$ 259,600	\$ 440,000	\$ 440,000	\$ 440,000	\$ 498,467	\$ 685,537
2026	9	Sewer pipe	Mains, Davenport Street, part of COA project, install 1,080' of new stormwater to separate three combined catch basins at \$400 per foot, total \$409,500	\$ 167,895	\$ 241,605	\$ 409,500	\$ 409,500	\$ 409,500	\$ 666,362	\$ 927,142
2026	10	WWTP	WWTP, replace main flow pump #1 (1980s pump) #2 has a bad motor; #4 replaced in 2019; #1 and #3 are both working	\$ 98,400	\$ 141,600	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 764,762	\$ 1,068,742
2026	11	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Relocate Cony Street grit dewatering site to State Street	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 774,762	\$ 1,078,742
2026	12	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	12 Williams Street, shop, install ADA compliant showers / bathroom / locker room - carry forward from 2024 - year 2 of 3	\$ 21,666	\$ 21,666	\$ 43,333	\$ 65,000	\$ 43,333	\$ 796,429	\$ 1,100,408
2026	13	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Track loader implements, bush hog and pavement grinder	\$ 23,833	\$ 23,833	\$ 47,666	\$ 71,500	\$ 47,666	\$ 820,262	\$ 1,124,241
2026	14	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	170 Hospital Street - building maintenance needed - paving estimate \$16K per JS 10/28/25 - insulation - roofing / plumbing / sewer service is cast iron underneath the slab - add natural gas line - Maine Natural Gas - year 1 of 2	\$ 21,666	\$ 21,666	\$ 43,333	\$ 65,000	\$ 43,333	\$ 841,928	\$ 1,145,907
2026	15	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Excavator, frost tooth; pin grabber; additional buckets	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 862,928	\$ 1,166,907
2026	16	Pump stations	PS8 Commerce Drive (2) pumps	\$ 14,760	\$ 21,240	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 877,688	\$ 1,188,147
2026	17	Sewer only	PS 14 Hallowell - add spare Muffin Monster	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 877,688	\$ 1,218,147
2026	18	Sewer pipe	Pipe relining	\$ 287,000	\$ 413,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 1,164,688	\$ 1,631,147
2026	19	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Truck, acquire two pickups (one 1/2 ton and one 3/4 ton utility)	\$ 38,500	\$ 38,500	\$ 76,999	\$ 115,500	\$ 76,999	\$ 1,203,188	\$ 1,669,647
2026	20	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Truck, replace truck 12 with 1 ton dump body with v-plow	\$ 31,500	\$ 31,500	\$ 62,999	\$ 94,500	\$ 62,999	\$ 1,234,687	\$ 1,701,147
2026	21	Pump stations	PS 9 Grinder Replacement	\$ 10,250	\$ 14,750	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,244,937	\$ 1,715,897
2026	22	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Truck, replace 1999 7 yard dump truck 62 - 26 years old	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 99,999	\$ 150,000	\$ 99,999	\$ 1,294,937	\$ 1,765,896
2026	23	Storm pipe	T66 elevator for CCTV tractor	\$ 24,000	\$ -	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 1,318,937	\$ 1,765,896
2026	24	WWTP	WWTP, Grit Auger Repair	\$ 12,300	\$ 17,700	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 1,331,237	\$ 1,783,596
2026	25	Pump stations	PS 2 Bond Brook Rockingham pump station	\$ 4,920	\$ 7,080	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 1,336,157	\$ 1,790,676
2026	26	WWTP	Update fire alarm system at WWTP	\$ 10,250	\$ 14,750	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,346,407	\$ 1,805,426
2026	27	WWTP	WWTP, Grit Classifier (1 of 2)	\$ 55,965	\$ 80,535	\$ 136,500	\$ 136,500	\$ 136,500	\$ 1,402,372	\$ 1,885,961
2026	28	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	GPS (2) units for GIS and DigSafe	\$ 6,733	\$ 6,733	\$ 13,467	\$ 20,200	\$ 13,467	\$ 1,409,105	\$ 1,892,694
2026	29	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	Storage, acquire four storage containers to alleviate storage issues	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 1,424,105	\$ 1,907,694
2026	30	Split 1/3 1/3 1/3	170 Hospital Street, security, update door access and CCTV at	\$ 13,333	\$ 13,333	\$ 26,666	\$ 40,000	\$ 26,666	\$ 1,437,438 <sup>25</sup>	\$ 1,921,027



16-51250001

April 17, 2026

Brian Tarbuck, General Manager  
Greater Augusta Utility District  
12 Williams Street  
Augusta, ME 04330

**Re: 2026 Water, Sewer and Stormwater Rate Study**

Dear Brian:

It was great speaking with you and Mike on March 31<sup>st</sup>. As a follow-up to our discussion, Tighe & Bond is pleased to provide this proposal to conduct the 2026 Water, Sewer and Stormwater Rate Study for the Greater Augusta Utility District (GAUD).

## Project Understanding

The GAUD is in the process of defining capital needs for its water, sewer, and stormwater utilities, each component of resulting capital improvement plans will require some level of public approval. Our experience has shown that developing a transparent base rate increase proposal is an effective means of providing stakeholders with the ability to make informed decisions relative to capital expenditures. When evaluating the impacts of future water, sewer or stormwater rates in terms of affordability, it is critical to include future costs of all three utilities.

## Scope of Services

Tighe & Bond will create new excel spreadsheet-based rate models for the Water, Sewer and Stormwater utilities. The update will include:

- o A Water, Sewer and Stormwater Rate forecast, for the next 5 fiscal years, representing FY'27- FY'31.
- o This Rate forecast will provide visibility to the District in regards to the level of rate increases necessary to continue with Water, Sewer and Stormwater capital investments while keeping customer rates affordable.

## Task 1 - Kickoff Meeting & Data Collection

To perform this comprehensive analysis, we will first conduct a kickoff meeting & prepare a data request:

### 1.1 Kickoff Meeting - We will meet with the District virtually to:

- a. Review overall project scope, identify parties to be involved and establish a regular schedule of communication.
- b. Discuss the management of the water, sewer, and stormwater utilities in terms of practices and policies relative to base rate setting, cash reserves, and borrowing.

- c. Discuss key data requirements, data timeframe, formats, etc.

## 1.2 Data Request -

Key pieces of data necessary to complete the 2026 Rate Study include:

- a. Budget & Actual results: Detailed line-item revenue and expenses for the Water, Sewer, and Stormwater utilities, for FY'23-FY'25.
- b. Budget forecast: Water, Sewer & Stormwater utilities' budget for FY'27.
- c. Metered customer water and sewer usage data for two full fiscal years (ideally FY'24 & FY'25) in excel format.
- d. Stormwater: # of catch basis and # of Equivalent Rate Units (ERUs). If impervious parcel or lot data in square footage is available, a copy of that data in excel format would be helpful to our analysis.
- e. Capital improvement plan (CIP): A Water, Sewer & Stormwater CIP containing a list of both on-going maintenance capital expenditures, and long-term Water, Sewer & Stormwater capital improvement projects expected to occur during our forecast period (FY'27-FY'31).
- f. Debt service schedule: Amount of total debt outstanding; annual interest expense & principal payment schedules.
- g. Retained earnings (or certified free cash balances) for the Water, Sewer, and Stormwater utilities as of FY'25.
- h. Access to the GIS datasets for all utilities.

## Task 2 - Development of Rate Models

Utilizing information learned during the kickoff meeting and the data request, we will create new excel-based water, sewer, and stormwater rate models, containing the following:

### 2.1 Water & Sewer: Revenues

**Revenue** - Total Revenue primarily consists of rate revenue (user fees) and non-rate revenue.

Rate revenue consists of fixed meter fees and volumetric, usage-based Tier rates. We will calculate total fixed meter fees by multiplying the # of customer connections served by the specific meter size by the respective meter fee.

The volumetric portion of Rate revenue will be calculated by multiplying metered customer usage by the respective volumetric rate (per 100 cubic feet).

The sum of fixed fees and the volumetric charges will lead to annual Rate revenues for FY'27-FY'31.

Non-rate revenues typically consist of Liens & Penalties, System Development Charges, Hydrant fees, Interest, etc. We will make future projections based upon our review of historical (FY'23-FY'25) level of Non-rate revenues.

The combination of Rate revenue and Non-Rate revenue will allow us to calculate Total Water & Sewer Revenues for FY'27-FY'31.

## 2.2 Stormwater: Revenues

Stormwater Revenues for GAUD are primarily a function of fixed catch basins cost and Equivalent Rate Units (ERU). We will multiply the number of catch basins and ERUs (both to be provided by the Town) by respective per-unit rates (in dollars) to calculate Stormwater rate revenues for FY'27-FY'31.

If there are Liens & Penalties and other forms of non-rate revenues, we will also consider those sources as part of our total Stormwater revenue projection.

## 2.3 Water, Sewer & Stormwater:

**Expenses** - We will review actual line-item Expense/Operating cost data for for FY'23-FY'25, to project future operational expenses.

We will share with the District our escalation factors utilized for various line-item operational expenses to project future levels (FY'27-FY'31).

**Capital Expenditure Projections** - We will review the latest Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that the District has for the Water, Sewer, and Stormwater utilities. We will incorporate details for water, sewer and stormwater capital projects expected to begin during FY'27-FY'31 into our rate forecast.

**Current and Future Debt Obligations** - We will review the water, sewer, and stormwater utility's current debt obligations (annual Interest expense and Principal payments), and project future funding needs.

## Task 3 - Data Validation Meeting

Our Data Validation meeting typically serves as the halfway point of our Rate Study. For this meeting, we will meet with the District (virtually) to present:

- o An initial or DRAFT Rate recommendation for the Water, Sewer, and Stormwater utilities for FY'27-FY'31

Client deliverable for this meeting will include a presentation summarizing the key inputs and variables supporting the initial Rate recommendation.

## Task 4 - Final Rate Recommendation

Following our data validation meeting, we will incorporate the GAUD's feedback, to produce our final rate recommendation. Once this is completed, we will deliver:

- a. Final Water, Sewer and Stormwater Rate recommendations for FY'27-FY'31, including Revenue and Expense run-rates.
- b. Retained Earnings balance demonstrating strong financial health of Water, Sewer, and Stormwater utilities.
- c. The metric that we will utilize as a best practice to quantify strong financial health: Retained Earnings as % of Operating Expense and Debt Service. The optimal level is typically 15%-20%.

If the District has an alternative metric to determine the appropriate level of annual Retained Earnings, we will also incorporate that as part of our analysis. Client deliverable will include presentation slides summarizing key results and assumptions supporting the Final Rate recommendation.

## Task 5 - Presentation of Results

Following the development of our final Water, Sewer & Stormwater rate recommendation, we will present the results, in-person, to the District's Board. It will include:

- o Final Water, Sewer and Stormwater rate recommendations for FY'27-FY'31.

Client deliverable for this meeting will include presentation slide deck summarizing the key points of the above listed items.

## Task 6 - Technical Memo

Following the Board presentation, we will deliver a Technical Memorandum detailing our calculations, assumptions, and findings of the 2026 Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Rate Study.

## Schedule

Assuming authorization to proceed by month-end April 2026, our estimated schedule is presented below.

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Kickoff Meeting	May 2026
Create Water Sewer & Stormwater Rate models	June-August 2026
Initial Rate Recommendation	September 2026
Final Rate Recommendation	November 2026

# Fee

Tighe & Bond will perform the scope of work noted above for a lump sum fee of \$27,000, invoiced monthly based on percentage complete. In the event that the scope of work is increased for any reason, the lump sum fee to complete the work shall be mutually revised by written amendment. Our attached Terms and Conditions is part of this letter agreement. The included schedule and fees are based on the above scope of work and assumptions. The schedule includes reasonable allowances for review and approval times by applicable parties. This schedule may need to be adjusted as the project progresses, allowing for changes in scope, character or size of the project requested by you, or for delays or other causes beyond our reasonable control.

We value your trust in Tighe & Bond and look forward to working with you on this important project. If you have any questions or require additional information to assist with your review, please contact Daniel Bisson at dbisson@tighebond.com or 207-232-6071.

Very truly yours,

TIGHE & BOND, INC.



Daniel P. Bisson, PE  
Vice President



Hasan S. Doza, CFA  
Senior Project Manager

Enclosure - Terms and Conditions (Rev 04/2020)

## ACCEPTANCE:

On behalf of the Greater Augusta Utility District the scope, fee, and terms of this agreement are hereby accepted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

J:\G\G5125 Greater Augusta, ME, Utility District\001\Proposal\Drafts\New Rate Study proposal\GAUD 2026 water, sewer, stormwater proposal v4-9-26.docx

**"CLIENT" is defined in the acceptance line of the accompanying proposal letter or the name the proposal is issued to; Tighe & Bond, Inc. is hereby referenced as "CONSULTANT"; "PROJECT" is defined in the accompanying proposal letter**

#### **1. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

**1.1** Invoices will generally be submitted once a month for services performed during the previous month. Payment will be due within 30 days of invoice date. Monthly payments to CONSULTANT shall be made on the basis of invoices submitted by CONSULTANT and approved by CLIENT. If requested by CLIENT, monthly invoices may be supplemented with such supporting data as reasonably requested to substantiate them.

**1.2** In the event of a disagreement as to billing, the CLIENT shall pay the agreed portion.

**1.3** Interest will be added to accounts in arrears at the rate of one and one-half (1.5) percent per month (18 percent per annum) or the maximum rate allowed by law, whichever is less, of the outstanding balance. In the event counsel is retained to obtain payment of an outstanding balance, CLIENT will reimburse CONSULTANT for all reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.

**1.4** If CLIENT fails to make payment in full within 30 days of the date due for any undisputed billing, CONSULTANT may, after giving seven days' written notice to CLIENT, suspend services and retain work product until paid in full, including interest. In the event of suspension of services, CONSULTANT will have no liability to CLIENT for delays or damages caused by such suspension.

#### **2. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS**

**2.1** CLIENT and CONSULTANT each binds itself, its partners, successors, assigns and legal representatives to the other parties to this Agreement and to the partners, successors, assigns and legal representatives of such other parties with respect to all covenants of this Agreement. CONSULTANT shall not assign, sublet or transfer its interest in this Agreement without the written consent of CLIENT, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

**2.2** This Agreement represents the entire and integrated Agreement between CLIENT and CONSULTANT and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations or Agreements, whether written or oral. This Agreement may be amended only by written instrument signed by both CLIENT and CONSULTANT. References to this agreement include these Terms & Conditions, any accompanying proposal or description of services, as well as any other documents referenced or incorporated therein. In the event one or more provisions of any of the foregoing documents conflict with the provisions of these Terms & Conditions, the provisions of these Terms & Conditions shall control.

**2.3** Nothing contained in this Agreement shall create a contractual relationship or cause of action in favor of a third party against CLIENT or against CONSULTANT.

#### **3. STANDARD OF CARE**

**3.1** In providing services, CONSULTANT will use that degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised under similar circumstances by individuals providing such services in the same or similar locality for similar projects.

#### **4. TERMINATION**

**4.1** This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon seven days' written notice in the event of substantial failure by the other party to perform in accordance with the terms hereof through no fault of the terminating party. In addition, CLIENT may terminate this Agreement for its convenience at any time by giving written notice to CONSULTANT. In the event of any termination, CLIENT will pay CONSULTANT for all services rendered and reimbursable expenses incurred under the Agreement to the date of termination and all services and expenses related to the orderly termination of this Agreement.

#### **5. RECORD RETENTION**

**5.1** CONSULTANT will retain pertinent records relating to the services performed for the time required by law, during which period the records will be made available upon reasonable request and upon reimbursement for any applicable retrieval/copying charges.

**5.2** Samples - All soil, rock and water samples will be discarded 30 days after submission of CONSULTANT's report, unless mutually agreed otherwise or unless CONSULTANT's customary practice is to retain for a longer period of time for the specific type of services which CONSULTANT has agreed to perform. Upon request and mutual agreement regarding applicable charges, CONSULTANT will ship, deliver and/or store samples for CLIENT.

#### **6. OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS**

**6.1** All reports, drawings, specifications, computer files, field data, notes, and other documents, whether in paper or electronic format or otherwise ("documents"), are instruments of service and shall remain the property of CONSULTANT, which shall retain all common law, statutory and other reserved rights including, without limitation, the copyright thereto. CLIENT's payment to CONSULTANT of the compensation set forth in the Agreement shall be a condition precedent to the CLIENT's right to use documents prepared by CONSULTANT.

**6.2** Documents provided by CONSULTANT are not intended or represented to be suitable for reuse by CLIENT or others on any extension or modification of this PROJECT or for any other projects or sites. Documents provided by CONSULTANT on this PROJECT shall not, in whole or in part, be disseminated or conveyed to any other party, nor used by any other party, other than regulatory agencies, without the prior written consent of CONSULTANT. Reuse of documents by CLIENT or others on extensions or modifications of this project or on other sites or use by others on this PROJECT, without CONSULTANT's written permission and mutual agreement as to scope of use and as to compensation, if applicable, shall be at the user's sole risk, without liability on CONSULTANT's part, and CLIENT agrees to indemnify and hold CONSULTANT harmless from all claims, damages, and expenses, including attorney's fees, arising out of such unauthorized use or reuse.

**6.3** Electronic Documents - CONSULTANT cannot guarantee the authenticity, integrity or completeness of data files supplied in electronic writeable format. If CONSULTANT provides documents in writeable electronic format for CLIENT's convenience, CLIENT agrees to waive any and all claims against CONSULTANT resulting in any way from the unauthorized use, alteration, misuse or reuse of the electronic documents, and to defend, indemnify, and hold CONSULTANT harmless from any claims, losses, damages, or costs, including attorney's fees,

arising out of the unauthorized use, alteration, misuse or reuse of any electronic documents provided to CLIENT.

**6.4** Electronic Data Bases - In the event that CONSULTANT prepares electronic data bases, geographical information system (GIS) deliverables, or similar electronic documents, it is acknowledged by CLIENT and CONSULTANT that such PROJECT deliverables will be used and perhaps modified by CLIENT and that CONSULTANT's obligations are limited to the deliverables and not to any subsequent modifications thereof. Once CLIENT accepts the delivery of maps, databases, or similar documents developed by CONSULTANT, ownership is passed to CLIENT. CONSULTANT will retain the right to use the developed data and will archive the data for a period of three years from the date of PROJECT completion.

## **7. INSURANCE**

**7.1** CONSULTANT will retain Workmen's Compensation Insurance, Professional Liability Insurance with respect to liabilities arising from negligent errors and omissions, Commercial General Liability Insurance, Excess Liability, Unmanned Aircraft, Cyber Liability, and Automobile Liability during this PROJECT. CONSULTANT will furnish certificates at CLIENT's request.

**7.2** Risk Allocation - To the fullest extent permitted by law, and not withstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the total liability, in the aggregate, of the CONSULTANT to the CLIENT and anyone claiming by or through the CLIENT, for any and all claims, losses, costs or damage, of any nature whatsoever, the liability of CONSULTANT to all claimants with respect to this PROJECT will be limited to an aggregate sum not to exceed \$100,000 or CONSULTANT's compensation for consulting services, whichever is greater. It is intended that this limitation apply to any and all liability or cause of action however alleged or arising, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

**7.3** Damages - Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, neither CLIENT nor CONSULTANT, their respective officers, directors, partners, employees, contractors or subconsultants shall be liable to the other or shall make any claim for any incidental, indirect or consequential damages arising out of or connected in any way to the PROJECT or to this Agreement. This mutual waiver of certain damages shall include, but is not limited to, loss of use, loss of profit, loss of business, loss of income, loss of reputation and any other consequential damages that may be incurred from any cause of action including negligence, strict liability, breach of contract and breach of strict or implied warranty. Both CLIENT and CONSULTANT shall require similar waivers of consequential damages protecting all the entities or persons named herein in all contracts and subcontracts with others involved in this PROJECT.

**7.4** CLIENT agrees that any and all limitations of CONSULTANT's liability or waivers of damages by CLIENT to CONSULTANT shall include and extend to those individuals and entities CONSULTANT retains for performance of the services under this Agreement, including but not limited to CONSULTANT's officers, partners, and employees and their heirs and assigns, as well as CONSULTANT's subconsultants and their officers, employees, and heirs and assigns.

## **8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

**8.1** In the event of a disagreement arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the services provided hereunder, CLIENT and CONSULTANT agree to attempt to resolve any such disagreement through direct negotiations between senior,

authorized representatives of each party. If any disagreement is not resolved by such direct negotiations, CLIENT and CONSULTANT further agree to consider using mutually acceptable non-binding mediation service in order to resolve any disagreement prior to proceeding to litigation.

## **9. SITE ACCESS**

**9.1** Right of Entry - Unless otherwise agreed, CLIENT will furnish right-of-entry on the land for CONSULTANT to make any surveys, borings, explorations, tests or similar field investigations. CONSULTANT will take reasonable precautions to limit damage to the land from use of equipment, but the cost for restoration of any damage that may result from such field investigations is not included in the agreed compensation for CONSULTANT. If restoration of the land is required greater than those included in the scope of work, upon mutual agreement this may be accomplished as a reimbursable additional service at cost plus ten percent.

**9.2** Damage to Underground Structures - Reasonable care will be exercised in locating underground structures in the vicinity of proposed subsurface explorations. This may include contact with the local agency coordinating subsurface utility information and/or a review of plans provided by CLIENT or CLIENT representatives for the site to be investigated. CONSULTANT shall be entitled to rely upon any information or plans prepared or made available by others. In the absence of physically confirmed underground structure locations, CLIENT agrees to accept the risk of damage and costs associated with repair and restoration of damage resulting from the exploration work.

## **10. OIL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

**10.1** If, at any time, evidence of the existence or possible existence of asbestos, oil, or other hazardous materials or substances is discovered, outside of any agreed scope of work or greater than those anticipated in any agreed scope of work, CONSULTANT reserves the right to renegotiate the fees for CONSULTANT's services and CONSULTANT's continued involvement in the PROJECT. CONSULTANT will notify CLIENT as soon as practical if evidence of the existence or possible existence of such hazardous materials or substances is discovered.

**10.2** The discovery of the existence or possible existence of hazardous materials or substances, outside or greater than any proposed in the agreed scope of work, may make it necessary for CONSULTANT to take accelerated action to protect human health and safety, and/or the environment. CLIENT agrees to compensate CONSULTANT for the cost of any and all measures that in its professional opinion are appropriate to preserve and/or protect the health and safety of the public, the environment, and/or CONSULTANT's personnel. To the full extent permitted by law, CLIENT waives any claims against CONSULTANT and agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless CONSULTANT from any and all claims, losses, damages, liability, and costs, including but not limited to cost of defense, arising out of or in any way connected with the existence or possible existence of such hazardous materials substances at the site.

## **11. SITE INVESTIGATIONS**

**11.1** In soils, groundwater, soil gas, indoor air, or other investigations, conditions may vary between successive test points and sample intervals and for locations at or between where observations, exploration, and investigations have been made. Because of the variability of conditions and the inherent uncertainties in such evaluations, explorations, or investigations,

changed or unanticipated conditions may occur that may affect overall PROJECT costs and/or execution. These variable conditions and related impacts on cost and PROJECT execution are not the responsibility of CONSULTANT.

**11.2** CLIENT recognizes that special risks occur whenever engineering or related disciplines are applied to provide information regarding subsurface conditions. Even an agreed sampling and testing program, implemented with appropriate equipment and personnel with the assistance of a trained professional performing in accordance with the applicable professional standard of care, may provide data or information which differs significantly from that discovered or encountered subsequently. Environmental, geological, and geotechnical conditions, that CONSULTANT may infer to exist between sampling points may differ significantly from those discovered or encountered subsequently. The passage of time also should be considered, and CLIENT recognizes that due to natural occurrences or direct, or indirect human intervention at or near the site, actual conditions may quickly change. CONSULTANT shall not be responsible for the identification of emerging contaminants for which no current regulatory provisions exist nor shall CONSULTANT be held liable for not identifying or discussing these compounds even if those compounds are detected at a later date. CLIENT realizes that these risks cannot be eliminated. The services included in this agreement are those agreed to, or selected, consistent with CLIENT's risk preferences and other considerations including cost and schedule.

**11.3** By authorizing CONSULTANT to proceed with the site investigation services, CLIENT confirms that CONSULTANT has not created nor contributed to the presence of any existing hazardous substances or conditions at or near the site. CLIENT recognizes that there is an inherent risk in drilling, borings, punching or driving probes, excavating trenches or implementing other methods of subsurface exploration at or near a site contaminated by hazardous materials. Further, CLIENT recognizes that these are inherent even through the exercise of the Standard of Care. CLIENT accepts the risk and agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold CONSULTANT and each of CONSULTANT's subcontractors, consultants, officers, directors, and employees harmless against and all claims for damages, costs, or expenses direct or consequential, in connection with a release of hazardous substances, except to the extent that such claims, damages, or losses are adjudicated to have resulted from CONSULTANT's gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of the services.

**12. FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATORY AGENCY AUDITS**

**12.1** For certain services rendered by CONSULTANT, documents filed with federal and state regulatory agencies may be audited after the date of filing. In the event that CLIENT's PROJECT is selected for an audit, CLIENT agrees to compensate CONSULTANT for time spent preparing for and complying with an agency request for information or interviews in conjunction with such audit. CLIENT will be notified at the time of any such request by an agency, and CONSULTANT will invoice CLIENT based on its standard billing rates in effect at the time of the audit.

**13. CLIENT's RESPONSIBILITIES**

**13.1** Unless otherwise stated in the Agreement, CLIENT will obtain, arrange, and pay for all notices, permits, and licenses required by local, state, or federal authorities; and CLIENT will make available the land, easements, rights-of-way, and access

necessary for CONSULTANT's services or PROJECT implementation.

**13.2** CLIENT will examine CONSULTANT's studies, reports, sketches, drawings, specifications, proposals, and other documents and communicate promptly to CONSULTANT in the event of disagreement regarding the contents of any of the foregoing. CLIENT, at its own cost, will obtain advice of an attorney, insurance counselor, accountant, auditor, bond and financial advisors, and other consultants as CLIENT deems appropriate; and render in writing decisions required by CLIENT in a timely manner.

**14. OPINIONS OF COST, FINANCIAL ANALYSES, ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY PROJECTIONS, AND SCHEDULES**

**14.1** CONSULTANT has no control over cost or price of labor and materials required to implement CLIENT's PROJECT, unknown or latent conditions of existing equipment or structures that may affect operation or maintenance costs, competitive bidding procedures and market conditions, time or quality of performance by operating personnel or third parties, and other economic and operational factors that may materially affect the ultimate PROJECT cost or schedule. Therefore, CONSULTANT makes no warranty, expressed or implied, that CLIENT's actual PROJECT costs, financial aspects, economic feasibility, or schedules will not vary from any opinions, analyses, projections, or estimates which may be provided by CONSULTANT. If CLIENT wishes additional information as to any element of PROJECT cost, feasibility, or schedule, CLIENT at its own cost will employ an independent cost estimator, contractor, or other appropriate advisor.

**15. CONSTRUCTION PHASE PROVISIONS**

The following provisions shall be applicable should the CONSULTANT be retained to provide Construction Phase Services in connection with the PROJECT:

**15.1** CLIENT and Contractor - The presence of CONSULTANT's personnel at a construction site, whether as onsite representatives or otherwise, does not make CONSULTANT or CONSULTANT's personnel in any way responsible for the obligations, duties, and responsibilities of the CLIENT and/or the construction contractors or other entities, and does not relieve the construction contractors or any other entity of their respective obligations, duties, and responsibilities, including, but not limited to, all construction methods, means, techniques, sequences, and procedures necessary for coordinating and completing all portions of the construction work in accordance with the construction contract documents and for providing and/or enforcing all health and safety precautions required for such construction work.

**15.2** Contractor Control - CONSULTANT and CONSULTANT's personnel have no authority or obligation to monitor, to inspect, to supervise, or to exercise any control over any construction contractor or other entity or their employees in connection with their work or the health and safety precautions for the construction work and have no duty for inspecting, noting, observing, correcting, or reporting on health or safety deficiencies of the construction contractor(s) or other entity or any other persons at the site except CONSULTANT's own personnel.

**15.3** On-site Responsibility - The presence of CONSULTANT's personnel at a construction site is for the purpose of providing to CLIENT an increased degree of confidence that the completed construction work will conform generally to the construction documents and that the design concept as reflected in the construction documents generally has been

implemented and preserved by the construction contractor(s). CONSULTANT neither guarantees the performance of the construction contractor(s) nor assumes responsibility for construction contractor's failure to perform work in accordance with the construction documents.

**15.4** Payment Recommendations - Recommendations by CONSULTANT to CLIENT for periodic construction progress payments to the construction contractor(s) are based on CONSULTANT's knowledge, information, and belief from selective observation that the work has progressed to the point indicated. Such recommendations do not represent that continuous or detailed examinations have been made by CONSULTANT to ascertain that the construction contractor(s) have completed the work in exact accordance with the construction documents; that the final work will be acceptable in all respects; that CONSULTANT has made an examination to ascertain how or for what purpose the construction contractor(s) have used the moneys paid; that title to any of the work, materials, or equipment has passed to CLIENT free and clear of liens, claims, security interests, or encumbrances; or that there are no other matters at issue between CLIENT and the construction contractors that affect the amount that should be paid.

**15.5** Record Drawings - Record drawings, if required as part of CONSULTANT's agreed scope of work, will be prepared, in part, on the basis of information compiled and furnished by others, and may not always represent the exact location, type of various components, or exact manner in which the PROJECT was finally constructed. CONSULTANT is not responsible for any errors or omissions in the information from others that are incorporated into the record drawings.

**16. DESIGN WITHOUT CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES**

The following provisions shall be applicable should the CONSULTANT be retained to provide design services but not be retained to provide Construction Phase Services in connection with the PROJECT:

**16.1** It is understood and agreed that the CONSULTANT's Scope of Services under this proposal does not include project observation or review of the Contractor's performance or any other construction phase services, and that such services will be provided by the CLIENT or others. The CLIENT assumes all responsibility for interpretation of the Contract Documents and for construction observation, and the CLIENT waives any claims against the CONSULTANT that may be in any way connected thereto.

**16.2** In addition, the CLIENT agrees, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to indemnify and hold harmless the CONSULTANT, its officers, directors, employees and subconsultants (collectively, CONSULTANT) against all damages, liabilities or costs, including reasonable attorney's fees and defense costs, arising out of or in any way connected with the performance of such services by other persons or entities and from any and all claims arising from modifications, clarifications, interpretations, adjustments or changes made to the Contract Documents to reflect changed field or other conditions, except for claims arising from the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the CONSULTANT.

**17. SCHEDULE**

**17.1** The CLIENT agrees that the CONSULTANT is not responsible for damages arising directly or indirectly from any delays for causes beyond the CONSULTANT's reasonable control. For purposes of this Agreement, such causes include,

but are not limited to, strikes or other labor disputes; severe weather disruptions or other natural disasters, pandemics, or acts of God; fires, riots, war or other emergencies; failure of any government agency to act in timely manner; failure of performance by the CLIENT or the CLIENT's contractors or consultants.

**17.2** The CONSULTANT's schedule includes reasonable allowances for review and approval times required by the CLIENT, performance of services by the CLIENT's consultants, and review and approval times required by public authorities having jurisdiction over the PROJECT. This schedule shall be equitably adjusted as the PROJECT progresses, allowing for changes in scope, character or size of the PROJECT requested by the Client, or for delays or other causes beyond the Consultant's reasonable control.

**18. MISCELLANEOUS TERMS**

**18.1** GOVERNING LAW - The CLIENT and the CONSULTANT agree that this Agreement and any legal actions concerning its validity, interpretation and performance shall be governed by the laws of the jurisdiction where the PROJECT is located, without regard to any conflict of laws provisions, which may apply the laws of other jurisdictions.

**18.2** LENDERS' REQUIREMENTS- The CONSULTANT shall not be required to execute any documents subsequent to the signing of this Agreement that in any way might, in the sole judgment of the CONSULTANT, increase the CONSULTANT's contractual or legal obligations or risks, or adversely affect the availability or cost of its professional or general liability insurance.

**18.3** CORPORATE PROTECTION - Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the CLIENT agrees that as the CLIENT's sole and exclusive remedy, any claim, demand or suit shall be directed and/or asserted only against the CONSULTANT, a Massachusetts corporation, and not against any of the CONSULTANT's individual employees, officers or directors.

**18.4** TITLES - The section headings used in this Agreement are intended principally for convenience and shall not be used in interpreting this Agreement or in determining any of the rights or obligations of the parties to this Agreement.

**18.5** Upon execution, these terms as incorporated into the accompanying proposal represent the final intent of the parties. Any modification, rescission, or waivers of these terms shall only be effective and binding if agreed to in writing by the parties.

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## **Website Analytics Report:**

**Q1 2026: January/February/March**

Prepared in April, 2026



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- II. Website Analytics
  - a. Overview and Traffic
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  - f. Trustee Page & Meeting Engagement
- III. Social Media
  - a. Facebook

### I. Q1 2026 Executive Summary

- The website saw a decline in traffic metrics quarter-over-quarter, yet saw an increase year-over-year.
- Saw the highest spikes in website traffic on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Desktop users increased by 2.7%, and Mobile users decreased by 6.2% in Q1 2026 vs. Q4 2025.
- “Career” page views this quarter (vs. Q4 2025). Saw a significant decline in clicks on the job posting(s).
- Facebook Fan count increased by 9 fans in Q1. Total views and engagement increased this quarter.

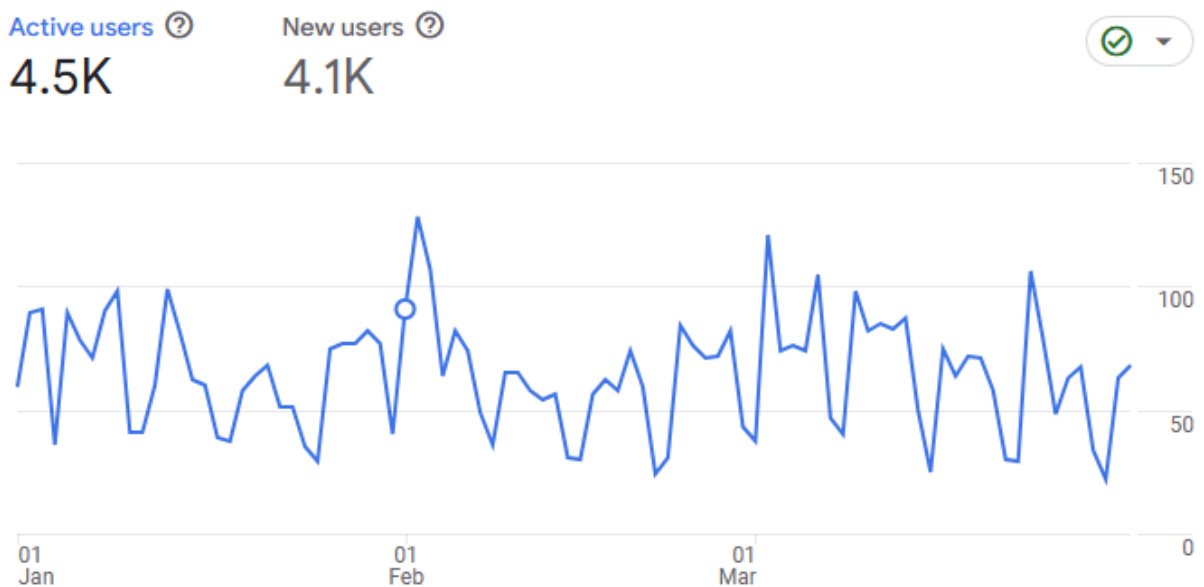
## II. Website Analytics

### A. Overview and Traffic

Website Users, Sessions, Engaged Sessions, and Page views on the GAUD website decreased quarter-over-quarter (Q1 2026 vs. Q4 2025). Year-over-year (Q1 2026 vs. Q1 2025), we see some metrics increased, while others decreased. Avg. Engagement Time/Session and Engagement Rate declined both quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year.

Q1 2026 Quarterly Website Traffic			
Metric	Q1 2026	Q4 2025	Q1 2025
Users	4,476	5,478	3,452
Sessions	6,577	7,507	5,486
Engaged Sessions	2,571	3,123	2,353
Avg. Engagement Time/Session	0m 21s	0m 23s	0m 27s
Engagement Rate	39.09%	41.6%	42.89%
Pageviews	9,545	11,137	8,431

The highest spikes in website traffic were seen on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> (128 users), Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (121 users), and Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> (106 users).

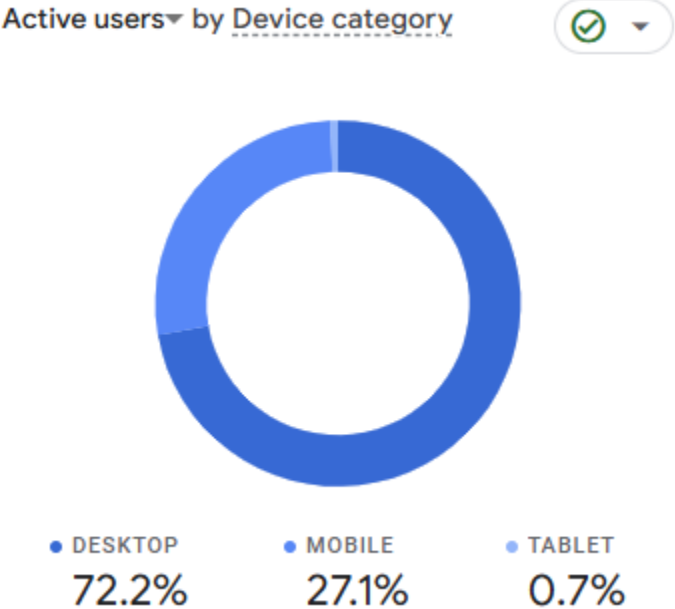


The chart below shows the individual performance by month in Q1 as well as a year-over-year comparison (Q1 2026 vs. Q1 2025). Most metrics dipped in February, but rebounded in March.

Q1 2026 Monthly Website Traffic					
Metric	Q4 2025	January	February	March	Q1 2026
Users	5,478	1,727	1,523	1,716	4,476
Sessions	7,507	2,250	1,970	2,250	6,577
Engaged Sessions	3,123	819	791	966	2,571
Avg. Engagement Time/Session	0m 23s	0m 21s	0m 20s	0m 22s	0m 21s
Engagement Rate	41.6%	36.4%	40.15%	42.93%	39.09%
Pageviews	11,137	3,275	2,835	3,435	9,545

**B. Devices**

In Q1 2026, Desktop users increased by 2.7%, and Mobile users decreased by 6.2% (vs. Q4 2025).



## C. Top Pages

Below are the ten most viewed pages on the site in Q1 2026. Most pages remained somewhat consistent with Q4 2025. “Drinking Water” appeared in the top 10 again, and “About Us” dropped out.

Page path and screen class ▾ +		↓ Views	Active users	Views per active user	Average engagement time per active user
Total		9,545 100% of total	4,463 100% of total	2.14 Avg 0%	31s Avg 0%
1	/	4,042 (42.35%)	2,307 (51.69%)	1.75	16s
2	/careers	610 (6.39%)	391 (8.76%)	1.56	22s
3	/request-for-proposals	527 (5.52%)	272 (6.09%)	1.94	17s
4	/how-to-pay-bill	486 (5.09%)	356 (7.98%)	1.37	22s
5	/contact-us	377 (3.95%)	271 (6.07%)	1.39	29s
6	/start-stop-service	296 (3.1%)	189 (4.23%)	1.57	28s
7	/trustees	277 (2.9%)	128 (2.87%)	2.16	45s
8	/search	208 (2.18%)	108 (2.42%)	1.93	23s
9	/drinking-water	172 (1.8%)	108 (2.42%)	1.59	29s
10	/rates	168 (1.76%)	121 (2.71%)	1.39	1m 09s

## D. Sources

Organic search took the top spot from Direct (typing the website URL directly into the browser) in Q1. Direct had taken the top spot from Organic Search in Q4 2025; however, Organic had previously been in the top position since Q4 2022.

Session primary...Channel Group) ▾ +		↓ Sessions	Engaged sessions	Engagement rate	Average engagement time per session	Events per session
Total		6,577 100% of total	2,571 100% of total	39.09% Avg 0%	21s Avg 0%	5.08 Avg 0%
1	Organic Search	3,130 (47.59%)	1,625 (63.2%)	51.92%	32s	5.97
2	Direct	3,078 (46.8%)	760 (29.56%)	24.69%	9s	4.19
3	Referral	158 (2.4%)	114 (4.43%)	72.15%	46s	6.94
4	Organic Social	131 (1.99%)	74 (2.88%)	56.49%	13s	5.27
5	Unassigned	16 (0.24%)	3 (0.12%)	18.75%	11s	2.56

## E. Careers Page Engagement

Pageviews on the “Career” page increased in Q1 2026 vs. Q4 2025. However, we saw a significant decline in clicks on the job posting(s).

Quarter-over-Quarter Careers Page Engagement				
Action	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026
/career page views	380	597	523	610
Clicks on job postings	97	275	417	109

## F. Trustee Page & Meeting Engagement

Pageviews on the “Trustees” page increased in Q1 2026 vs. Q4 2025. Tracking was reinstated for Zoom and clicks to watch previous meetings.

Quarter-over-Quarter Trustees Page Engagement				
Action	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026
/trustees page views	205	258	205	277
Clicks on “Attend on Zoom”	0	0	0	1
Clicks on “Watch Previously Recorded Meetings”	0	0	0	3

## III. Social Media

### A. Facebook

#### Overview

The GAUD Facebook page saw 9 new “Fans” this quarter. Saw a significant increase in views in Q1, and a nice lift in engagements.



Q1 2026 GAUD Facebook				
Quarter	Fans	Posts	Impressions	Engagements
Q1 2026	1,161	50	22,212*	1,438
Q4 2025	1,152	50	9,222*	371
Q3 2025	1,151	32	15,299*	305
Q2 2025	1,136	41	19,885*	500
Q1 2025	1,138	39	18,704*	408
Q4 2024	1,116	35	11,509	672
Q3 2024	1,108	33	22,336	1,503
Q2 2024	1,010	44	14,750	1,564
Q1 2024	997	47	16,465	689

Q4 2023	989	34	11,371	336
Q3 2023	984	32	14,022	470
Q2 2023	966	43	8,113	270
Q1 2023	951	53	9,075	365
Q4 2022	950	42	15,458	570
Q3 2022	924	47	14,113	1,019
Q2 2022	901	26	9,235	414
Q1 2022	892	40	13,594	584
Q4 2021	882	33	16,348	786
Q3 2021	866	34	12,834	715
Q2 2021	864	38	56,696	3,603
Q1 2021	851	39	17,283	762
Q4 2020	857	36	27,439	978
Q3 2020	769	43	13,900	1,414
Q2 2020	766	46	14,807	1,268
Q1 2020	762	62	22,565	2,939

\*Total views (as


measured in Meta).

Below are the Top 3 Facebook posts for Q1, based on “Views”:

Preview  Views 

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**It happened today. Back in 190...**


 Published • Mar 26 at 4:33 PM

...

763

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**Join us tonight at 6:00 PM at t...**


 Published • Mar 23 at 9:15 AM

...

236

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**This World Water Day, let's cel...**

 Published • Mar 22 at 5:33 PM

...

232