

*BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE AGENDA  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2024*

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*Issued: May 22, 2024*

*Legislative Day No. 10: May 23, 2024 - BUDGET*

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*The accompanying notes are  
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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

**BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**May 23, 2024**

**BUDGET**

**NOTES TO THE AGENDA**

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Bill 19-24 (Annual Appropriation)

Council District(s) All

Mr. Patoka (By Req.)

Office of Budget and Finance

Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Baltimore County

The Administration is requesting approval of annual appropriations to the FY 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets totaling \$3,252,362,515 and \$309,871,129, respectively. In addition, the Administration requests approval of the 5-year Capital Program for fiscal years 2026 through 2030 totaling \$1,445,287,000. On May 16, 2024, the Council signaled its intent to approve one \$600,000 reduction to the General Fund PAYGO Contribution to Capital appropriation, which has the effect of also reducing the Capital Budget appropriation to the General Government Buildings Classification – New Buildings, Repair, Renovations, Minor Additions project, related to the Historic Courthouse Council Space Expansion by the same amount. These planned changes will be reflected as amendments to the budget bill.

The Operating Budget (as amended) consists of appropriations to the following funds:

General Fund	\$2,789,022,928
Gifts and Grants Fund	455,833,877 (1)
Housing Opportunities Fund	3,406,595
Economic Development Revolving Financing Fund	1,690,000
Neglected Property Community Fund	1,500,000
Liquor License Fund	909,115
<b>Total Proposed Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$ 3,252,362,515 (2)</b>

(1) Includes \$13,228,784 in County funds also appropriated in the General Fund Local Share Program.

(2) Excludes \$1,375,586,273 of non-County funds (grants, tuition, fees) as authorized spending for Education, Community College, Libraries, and Social Services, and excludes \$435,278,362 in Enterprise Funds not appropriated.

**Fiscal Summary**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Appropriations</b>	
<b>County</b>	\$	2,789,022,928 (1)
<b>Special Funds</b>		463,339,587 (2)
<b>Total Operating</b>		3,252,362,515
<b>Capital Budget</b>		309,871,129 (3)
<b>Total</b>	\$	3,562,233,644 (4)

(1) General Fund Operating Budget.

(2) Excludes \$1,375,586,273 of non-County funds and \$435,278,362 in Enterprise Funds not subject to Council appropriation; includes \$13,228,784 also appropriated in the General Fund's Local Share Program, and \$4,300,000 also appropriated in the General Fund's PAYGO Contribution to Capital.

(3) Includes \$144,321,363 also appropriated in the General Fund for PAYGO Contributions to Capital (General Government and within BCPS), \$3,300,000 also appropriated in the Housing Opportunities Fund, and \$1,000,000 also appropriated in the Economic Development Revolving Financing Fund.

(4) Includes \$161,850,147 in appropriations resulting in subsequent appropriations of the same amount; net appropriations total \$3,400,383,497.

**Analysis**

As amended, the appropriations for the FY 2025 Operating Budget total \$3.252 billion, and the appropriations for the FY 2025 Capital Budget (for Consolidated Public Improvement projects only) total \$309.9 million.

General Fund Operating Budget appropriations for FY 2025 include \$144.3 million for PAYGO contributions to the Capital Budget, \$13.2 million for local share contributions to the Gifts and Grants Fund Budget, and \$2.5 million of un-earmarked funds to the Reserve for Contingencies Program. The \$2.789 billion FY 2025 General Fund Operating Budget is supported by \$2.575 billion of estimated revenues (including \$10.6 million in reimbursements from other funds); the balance of the budget is funded by \$214.4 million of Surplus funds (Unassigned General Fund Balance).

The budget ordinance includes approval of planned spending for the FY 2026 – FY 2030 Capital Program (not including sewerage and water projects), which totals \$1.445 billion as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Planned Spending (\$ in Thousands)</u>
2026	\$ 627,571
2027	30,215 (1)
2028	379,043
2029	31,604 (1)
2030	376,854
Total	<u>\$ 1,445,287</u>

(1) FY 2027 and FY 2029 are the “off-years” of the biennial Capital budgeting process.

The Operating Budget program appropriations exclude non-County operating funds (federal and State grants, tuition, and fees received directly by certain agencies) totaling \$1,375,586,273. Such non-County funds are reflected in the Executive’s submitted budget as spending authorizations for Education, Community College, Libraries, and Social Services as follows:

Education	\$ 1,148,751,137
Community College	216,575,015
Libraries	9,940,095
Social Services	320,026
Total Non-County Funds	<u>\$ 1,375,586,273</u>

Together with the non-County funds, the combined operating budget totals \$4,627,948,788.

The bill excludes \$366,388,747 of Metropolitan District Operating Funds and \$74,173,138 of Metropolitan District Capital Funds (\$20,000,000 of which flows as a PAYGO Contribution from the Operating budget). In addition, the amount indicated above for the 5-year Capital Program for FYs 2026 through 2030 excludes \$1,471,142,000 of planned spending for Metropolitan District sewerage and water projects. Other enterprise funds excluded from the bill total \$68,889,615, consisting of \$62,632,818 for Education’s Food and Nutrition Services Fund, \$5,440,797 for the Recreational Facilities Fund, and \$816,000 for the Community College’s Auxiliary Enterprise Fund (food operations and book store).

The General Fund budget’s official revenue estimates assume the use of fund balance to support \$34,659,686 in ongoing operating costs. The budget complies with the Spending Affordability Committee’s numerical spending, debt service, and total debt guidelines.

Bill 19-24 will take effect July 1, 2024.

Bill 20-24

Council District(s) All

Mr. Patoka (By Req.)

Office of Budget and Finance

Property Tax

This bill proposes to levy a property tax rate of \$1.10 per \$100 of assessed real property value and \$2.75 per \$100 of assessed personal property value for FY 2025. In addition, the bill proposes not to impose a semi-annual fee on the second semi-annual property tax bill as authorized by Section 10-204.3 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Fiscal Summary

Funding Source	Estimated Revenue	Notes
County	\$ 1,203,742,781	(1) Estimated FY 2025 property tax revenues, including the estimated State reimbursement for the Homeowners' tax credit totaling \$8.3 million, and excluding collections of penalties, interest, and PILOTs.
State	--	
Federal	--	
Other	--	
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 1,203,742,781</u>	

Analysis

The proposed property tax rate of \$1.10 per \$100 of assessed real property value and \$2.75 per \$100 of assessed personal property value will generate estimated revenue totaling \$1,203,742,781 in FY 2025 according to the Office of Budget and Finance. This revenue estimate is net of discounts, credits (e.g., homestead tax credit), and other adjustments totaling \$77,666,064. The total amount of discounts, credits, and other adjustments in FY 2025 is above the FY 2024 level of \$65,187,050 due to an increase in Homestead Tax Credits.

FY 2025 estimated property tax revenues, combined with PILOT revenue and penalties and interest on delinquent taxes and not including the State reimbursement for the Homeowners' tax credit, total \$1,199,667,386. This total property tax revenue represents an increase of 4.5% over FY 2024 estimated property tax revenues totaling \$1,147,576,628.

The proposed tax rate of \$1.10 for FY 2025 is \$0.0386 higher than the constant yield tax rate of \$1.0614. The constant yield tax rate is the rate that would offset the effect of increasing assessments to maintain the same revenues from year to year. According to the submitted budget documents, each penny (\$0.01) of the tax rate yields approximately \$10.4 million in estimated property tax revenues (net of discounts and credits) for FY 2025.

According to State law, property owners are permitted to pay real property taxes for a principal residence in semi-annual installments. However, homeowners may choose to pay in one installment on or before September 30 of each year to avoid a semi-annual service charge, if any, which may equal up to 1.5% of the second installment plus an additional 0.15% to cover the administrative costs of the semi-annual payment program. Specifically, Section 10-204.3 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland allows a service charge to be imposed on the second installment of any property tax bill paid semi-annually, provided that the service charge is reasonably equivalent to the administrative cost of the program, and requires that any such service charge be adopted by the governing body as a part of the adoption of the property tax rate. For FY 2025, no service charge is being proposed. FY 2025 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the County has elected not to impose a semi-annual service charge. The Office of Budget and Finance advised that the additional revenue that would be generated by assessing the maximum fee would total \$321,883.

With the affirmative vote of at least five members of the County Council, Bill 20-24 will take effect July 1, 2024.



**Bill 21-24****Council District(s) All**

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**Mr. Patoka (By Req.)**

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**Personnel Law of Baltimore County**

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Bill 21-24 implements the changes to the Classification and Compensation Plan as recommended by the Personnel and Salary Advisory Board or required as a result of labor negotiations for FY 2025. The bill also states that the County Executive has approved the recommendations.

Section 1 of the bill provides that Pay Schedules I-C, I-E, and VI-P of the Standard Salary Grades for Classified employees are amended to adjust the pay schedules effective July 1, 2024. Specifically, an 8-year longevity is added to Schedules I-C and I-E, and grades 38 through 41 are added to Schedule VI-P.

Section 2 of the bill amends several salary grades in Section II, Classification and Compensation Plan effective July 1, 2024. Specifically, the bill amends the class titles for three budget analyst positions, reallocates the pay schedule for the Certified Accountant II class title, and amends the pay grade for 55 class titles. Finally, Section 2 adds five new class titles.

Section 3 of the bill amends a regulation in Rule 6 regarding promotions in Section IV, Compensation Plan Regulations effective July 1, 2024. Specifically, Section 3 amends subsections B and C of Regulation 6.01, which govern the number of steps on a new pay grade an employee's salary may rise if the employee is promoted to a class with a higher grade.

Section 4 of the bill provides that Pay Schedules I, I-C, I-E, III, IV, V, VI, VI-P, XI, and XII of the Standard Salary Grades for Classified employees are amended to adjust the pay schedules effective January 1, 2025. Specifically, Section 4 amends the Pay Schedules as follows:

- Schedule I is adjusted by 1% and a 9-year longevity is added;
- Schedules I-C and I-E are each adjusted by 1%;
- Schedules III, VI, VI-P, XI, and XII are each adjusted by 3%;
- Schedule IV is adjusted by \$4,000 for each step and longevity; and
- Schedule V is adjusted by 4% and longevities are added at 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 23, and 27 years.

The Administration has advised that there are amendments to Bill 21-24. In Section 2 of the bill, the amendments reallocate the pay schedule for the Investment Analyst I class title and amend the pay grades for 27 additional class titles. In an uncodified section of the bill, the amendments clarify that the provisions regarding the Forensic Services Supervisor and Fire Executive Officer class titles in Section 2 of the bill shall be applied retroactively to January 1, 2024. Last, in Section 4 of the bill, the amendments adjust Pay Schedule II by 2% effective January 1, 2025 and Pay Schedule XIII by adding an 8-year longevity effective January 1, 2025.

The Office of Budget and Finance advised that the FY 2025 budget impact of the proposed changes (including amendments) totals \$10.8 million (\$12.4 million, when including related increases for non-merit employees, which will occur alongside the proposed changes). See Exhibit A for the specific adjustments and associated salary cost impacts, as provided by the Office of Budget and Finance. The Office of Budget and Finance advised that the FY 2025 budget as submitted reflects the full amount of the bill and requested amendments.

In accordance with County Code, § 5-1-105, the Office of Budget and Finance provided an actuarial analysis of the retirement-related fiscal impact of Bill 21-24; the actuarial analysis assumed that “budgeted active COLAs that vary by pay schedule and group...have the following average effects: General County – 2.25% increase, General Agency – 2.25% increase, Police – 3.5% increase, Fire – 4.5% increase, and Correctional Officer and Deputy Sheriff – 3% increase.” Specifically, the County’s actuary estimated the following retirement-related fiscal impacts:

- an \$8.4 million increase to the County’s ARC for FY 2026, with \$4.7 million attributable to Police, \$2.2 million attributable to Fire, \$0.9 million attributable to General Government, \$0.4 million attributable to BCPS and CCBC, and \$0.2 million attributable to Corrections;
- more than \$89.7 million of cumulative increases to the ARC over the next ten years; and
- a 0.6 percentage point reduction to the System’s funded status next year - instead of rising to 59.3%, the System’s funded status would fall to 58.7%.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council and signature by the Executive, Bill 21-24 will take effect July 1, 2024.

**Bill 21-24 Fiscal Impact**  
**I. PAY SCALE ADJUSTMENTS**

COST OF LIVING (COLA)		FY 2025 BUDGET IMPACT
GENERAL GOVERNMENT (non-Merit estimate not in Bill 21-24 for informational purposes only)	3% Mid Year COLA	\$ 1,656,961
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 1,656,961</b>

PAY SCALE ADJUSTMENTS	EFFECTIVE DATE (ON OR ABOUT)	PAY SCHEDULE	FY 2025 ADJUSTMENT NOTES	FY 2025 BUDGET IMPACT
FEDERATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES		I	1% COLA Mid Year, add longevity 9 1/1/2025	\$ 933,563
FEDERATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES- CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS		I-C	1% COLA Mid Year, add longevity 8 7/1/2024	\$ 617,138
FEDERATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES - EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TECHNICIANS		I-E	1% COLA Mid Year, add longevity 8 7/1/2024	\$ 374,954
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES		II	2% COLA Mid Year as well as continuing retention bonuses	\$ 402,291
BALTIMORE COUNTY FEDERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES		III	3% COLA Mid Year, Jan 1, 2025	\$ 79,086
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE - LODGE NUMBER 4		IV	\$4,000 flat rate, effective 1/1/2025	\$ 4,290,000
BALTIMORE COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION		V	4% effective, 1/1/2025, add longevity: 12,14,16,18,20 (midpoint increase), 22,23,27 (1/3 step value each)	\$ 2,290,426
SUPERVISORY, MANAGEMENT AND CONFIDENTIAL AND UNREPRESENTED EMPLOYEES		VI	3% COLA Mid Year, Jan 1, 2025	\$ 339,512
PUBLIC SAFETY SUPERVISORY, MANAGEMENT AND CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES		VI-P	3% COLA Mid Year, Jan 1, 2025	\$ 31,194
PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS		XI	3% COLA Mid Year, Jan 1, 2025	\$ 12,271
SUPERVISORY, MANAGEMENT AND CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES		XII	3% COLA Mid Year, Jan 1, 2025	\$ 461,096
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE - LODGE NUMBER 25 - SHERIFF'S OFFICE		XIII	Add longevity 8	\$ 76,201
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 9,907,732</b>

**II. CLASSIFICATIONS AND GRADES**

REALLOCATION OF PAY GRADE	PAY SCHEDULE	CURRENT PAY GRADE	PROPOSED PAY GRADE	FY 2025 BUDGET IMPACT
Accountant I	I	25	26	\$ 113
Accountant II	I	29	31	\$ 6,611
Accountant III	XII	2M	4M	\$ -
Accountant II (Certified)	XII	30	1M	\$ -
Accountant III (Certified)	XII	3M	5M	\$ 2,568
Accountant IV (Certified)	XII	5M	7M	\$ 6,414
Account Clerk II	I	19	20	\$ 18,672
Account Clerk III	I	21	22	\$ 66,754
Shop Clerk	I	18	19	\$ 15,947
Financial Operations Supervisor I	I	25	26	\$ 7,085
Assistant Chief, Emergency Communication Center	XII	4M	6M	\$ -
Chief, Building Inspector	VI	32	33	\$ 1,240
Chief, Electrical Inspector	VI	32	33	\$ 4,230
Chief, Plumbing Inspector	VI	32	33	\$ 264
Utilities Crew Chief	I	27	29	\$ 8,804
Pumping Station Crew Chief	I	27	29	\$ -
Landfill Crew Chief	I	27	29	\$ 25,269
Solid Waste Crew Chief	I	27	29	\$ 12,863
Highways Crew Chief	I	27	29	\$ 175,417
Property Management Crew Chief	I	27	29	\$ 23,601
Correctional Commitment Specialist	I	21	23	\$ 36,167
Correctional Commitment Supervisor	I	23	25	\$ 6,396
Correctional Program Specialist	I	25	27	\$ 13,978
Safety Officer	I	26	27	\$ 2,071
Prop Management Grounds Maintenance Specialist Trainee	II	H15	H16	\$ 1,431
Engineer I	I	26	27	\$ -
Engineer II	I	30	31	\$ -
Engineer III	XII	3M	4M	\$ -
Engineer IV	XII	5M	6M	\$ -
Traffic Road Marking Crew Chief	I	27	29	\$ 4,099
Engineering Associate I	I	22	23	\$ 3,079
Engineering Associate II	I	25	26	\$ 8,102
Engineering Associate III	I	28	29	\$ 2,799
Engineering Associate IV	VI	30	31	\$ 3,990
Traffic Inspector II	I	25	26	\$ 2,372
Planner I	I	25	26	\$ -
Planner II	I	28	29	\$ 6,922
Planner III	XII	2M	3M	\$ 6,605
Planner IV	XII	4M	5M	\$ -
PAL Recreation Center Coordinator	I	25	26	\$ 14,251
PAL Recreation Leader	I	19	20	\$ 27,448
Human Services Program Specialist	I	28	29	\$ -

Heating & Air Conditioning Mechanic I	II	H19	H20	\$	34
Heating & Air Conditioning Mechanic II	II	H23	H24	\$	53,177
Natural Resources Manager	XII	3M	5M	\$	12,568
Geohydrologist II	XII	3M	5M	\$	3,142
Budget Analyst I	XII	1M	2M	\$	-
Budget Analyst II	XII	3M	4M	\$	3,939
Budget Analyst III	XII	5M	6M	\$	1,560
Building Engineer	XII	5M	6M	\$	-
Fire Executive Officer	XII	4M	5M (eff 1/1/24)	\$	5,110
Correctional Maintenance Crew Chief	I	27	29	\$	-
Survey Crew Chief	I	27	29	\$	-
Traffic Signal Construction Crew Chief	I	27	29	\$	-
Traffic Sign Maintenance Crew Chief	I	27	29	\$	-
Senior Benefits Specialist	VI	29	30	\$	2,694
Human Resources Analyst I	VI	26	27	\$	2,611
Human Resources Analyst II	VI	29	30	\$	19,041
Chief of Design	XII	6M	8M	\$	645
Chief of Construction Contracts Administration	XII	4M	6M	\$	-
Investment Analyst I	VI/XII	28	2M	\$	-
Investment Analyst II	XII	2M	4M	\$	-
Investment and Debt Management Administrator	XII	6M	8M	\$	-
Financial Operations Supervisor II	XII	2M	3M	\$	3,280
Senior Affairs Associate III	VI	31	32	\$	-
Senior Affairs Associate IV	XII	3M	4M	\$	3,286
Recreation Community Supervisor I	VI	25	26	\$	5,308
Recreation Community Supervisor II	VI	28	29	\$	33,869
Chief of Rec & Parks Admin Support Services	XII	4M	5M	\$	-
Chief of Park and Facility Maintenance	XII	4M	5M	\$	-
Chief of Recreation Services	XII	4M	5M	\$	-
Chief, Rec and Parks Capital Planning and Development	XII	4M	5M	\$	-
Heavy Equipment Supervisor	VI	28	29	\$	4,811
Public Works Technician I	II	H16	H18	\$	18,334
Public Works Technician II	II	H18	H20	\$	15,332
Public Works Technician III	II	H20	H22	\$	39,386
Landfill Supervisor	VI	28	29	\$	943
Landfill Manager	VI	31	33	\$	2,372
Recycling and Waste Prevention Manager	XII	1M	2M	\$	1,820
Highways Superintendent	VI	30	32	\$	13,222
Deputy Director of Corrections	XII	6M	8M	\$	-
Forensic Services Supervisor (eff 1/1/24)	XII	1M	8M	\$	85,483
				\$	<u>847,529</u>

Prepared by: Office of Budget and Finance

Bills 22-24 through 30-24

Council District(s) All

Mr. Patoka (By Req.)

Office of Budget and Finance

Borrowing Ordinances

The Administration is requesting approval of nine borrowing ordinances totaling approximately \$578.6 million to finance capital projects planned for the FY 2026–2027 biennial period. These ordinances will be subject to voter approval in the November 2024 election.

Fiscal Summary

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>County</b>	\$ 578,580,000	(1) Included as a planned funding source for FY 2026, the first year of the FY 2026 to 2027 biennial capital budget period.
<b>State</b>	--	
<b>Federal</b>	--	
<b>Other</b>	--	
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 578,580,000</u>	

Analysis

The bonds will be issued as cash is needed to meet capital spending requirements. Annual debt service costs (principal and interest) will be incurred after the bonds authorized by these borrowing ordinances are issued; the bonds cannot be issued until after the Council appropriates the bond funding to the Capital Budget.

The Office advised that based on a 4% effective interest rate (the estimated rate of current triple-A bond sales over a 20-year repayment term), the total estimated interest cost over the life of the bonds for the \$578.6 million of borrowing authority would total approximately \$243 million. However, actual interest rates and repayment periods may vary depending on market conditions

at the time the bonds are sold, which often does not occur until years after the borrowing is authorized. The County's last bond sale occurred in March 2023; the General Obligation (G.O.) bonds issued consisted of \$30 million in Consolidated Public Improvement (CPI) bonds with a true interest cost of 3.56%. (G.O. Bonds are generally repaid over a period of 20 years.) The Office advised that the next bond sale is estimated to occur in June 2024.

The nine borrowing ordinances are intended to finance capital projects planned for the FY 2026-2027 biennial period. The nine bills propose borrowing for the following general purposes; details of proposed projects are included in the FY 2026-2030 Capital Program.

**Bill 22-24 – Refuse Disposal - \$5,000,000**

Refuse disposal projects include the construction, reconstruction, extension, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, alteration, closing and capping, repair or modernization of County refuse disposal facilities, including the acquisition and development of related sites, the related architectural and engineering services, and the acquisition and installation of necessary equipment and facilities.

**Bill 23-24 – Community College - \$18,500,000**

Community College projects include the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, extension, improvement, enlargement, alteration, maintenance, repair, modernization, and development of buildings and other improvements for the Community College; the related architectural, engineering, and other services; and the purchase or other acquisition of land, easements, rights-of-way, and any and all other related rights and privileges. Funds also may be used to study future needs and to purchase or acquire and install furnishings and necessary equipment.

**Bill 24-24 – Public Works - \$55,440,000**

Public Works projects include the construction, improvement, repair, opening, relocation, grading, resurfacing, widening, and extension of roads, streets, highways, alleys, sidewalks, storm drain systems, bridges, sewer systems, refuse disposal systems, viaducts, environmental projects, grade crossings, and parking lots and structures. Projects also include the purchase or other acquisition of land, easements, rights-of-way, and all other related rights and privileges; the acquisition of equipment for the construction, maintenance, and repair of projects; and the planning, architectural, engineering, and other services related to such projects.

**Bill 25-24 – Parks, Preservation and Greenways - \$8,000,000**

Parks, preservation, and greenways projects include the purchase or other acquisition, construction, improvement, alteration, repair, maintenance, and equipping of all playgrounds, public parks, community centers, recreational facilities, and preservation and greenways projects. Projects also include the acquisition and development of the sites for such projects; related engineering, architectural, and other services; and the purchase or other acquisition, installation, maintenance, and repair of related equipment.

**Bill 26-24 – School - \$331,140,000**

School projects include the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, extension, alteration, repair, maintenance, conversion, and modernization of public school buildings and sites, other buildings and sites for school purposes, and buildings and sites that support school operations. Projects also include related drainage systems, and architectural and engineering services, including preparation of plans, drawings and specifications for the buildings and sites or the related conversion or modernization and development of the grounds, and recreational and educational equipment.

**Bill 27-24 – Agricultural and Rural Land Preservation - \$6,000,000**

Agricultural and rural land preservation projects include the purchase of land, development rights, conservation easements, and other real property approved by the Baltimore County Council pursuant to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program and the Rural Legacy Program or other similar federal or State programs.

**Bill 28-24 – Community Improvement - \$4,000,000**

Community improvement projects include the construction, renovation, extension, alteration, repair, or modernization of community improvements, including street curb, gutter, water, sewer and other utilities, and sidewalk improvements, pedestrian system improvements, interior and rear access improvements, landscaping and lighting improvements, and building and other structural improvements. Funds also may be used for the acquisition of land, easements, rights-of-way, and other related rights and privileges; for related engineering and other services; for the acquisition, installation, maintenance, and repair of equipment; and for loans, grants, or guarantees to reduce unemployment, retain existing industry and commercial enterprises, attract new industry and commercial enterprises, and encourage economic development.

**Bill 29–24 Waterway Improvement Program - \$20,000,000**

Waterway improvement projects include the acquisition of land, easements, rights-of-way, and any other rights and privileges for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, extension, alteration, repair, and modernization of waterway improvement and stormwater-related projects. Projects include engineering and other services, shoreline stabilization, shore erosion control, wetland restoration, stream bank and riverbank restoration, stabilization and reconstruction, control and monitoring of nonpoint pollutants, landscaping, dredging, planting of trees, and similar waterway improvement projects in residential, rural, and commercial areas. Funds also may be used for purchasing or acquiring, installing, maintaining, and repairing equipment and for funding grants to accomplish waterway improvements.

**Bill 30-24 – Operational Buildings - \$130,500,000**

Operational buildings projects include the construction, reconstruction, extension, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, alteration, repair or modernization of operational buildings for general government, senior centers, health, recreation, police, fire, library, and jail buildings. Projects also include related architectural, engineering, and other services; the purchase or acquisition of interests in and to land, easements, rights-of-way, and any and all other rights and privileges; and the purchase or other acquisition and installation of related furnishings and equipment.