



Soil Conservation District FY 2026 Budget Overview

Budget & Policy Analysis Division

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April 10, 2025

Agenda

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Soil Conservation District

Steven Darcey, Executive Director



Mission

- provides grading, erosion and sediment control services, agricultural landowner assistance, and rural land preservation services to the citizens and residents of the County in order to protect the County's soil and water resources

Core Services



Provide technical review/approval for land grading, erosion and sediment control and small pond dam safety



Provide agricultural landowner assistance services for soil and water conservation program implementation



Administer rural land preservation programs



Provide soil and water conservation technical services to urban agricultural operations



Provide education and outreach to citizens and students through multiple soil and water conservation programs

Strategic Focus FY 2026



Maintain the average turnaround time for urban land grading, mining, erosion/sediment control, dam safety, and small pond plan reviews at or below five days by providing efficient technical assistance to customers

Increase the number of acres treated by best management practices on agricultural land by providing technical assistance to land owners

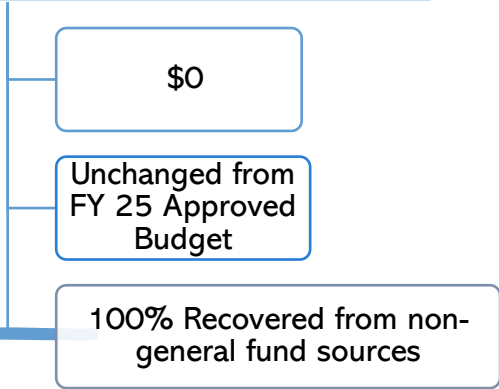
Increase the acres of preserved agricultural land in the County through perpetual easements, directing development away from the rural tier, reducing the need for development related infrastructure funding to rural areas of the County and encouraging investment in active agricultural enterprises that enhance economic development in rural areas

Increase education and outreach of soil and water conservation

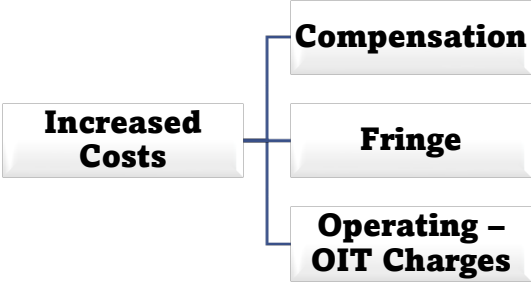
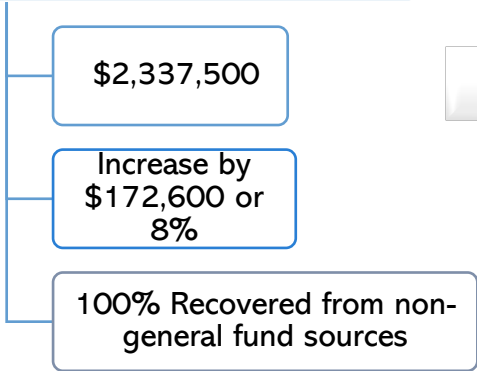
Increase the acres of preserved agricultural land in the County

FY 2026 BUDGET SUMMARY

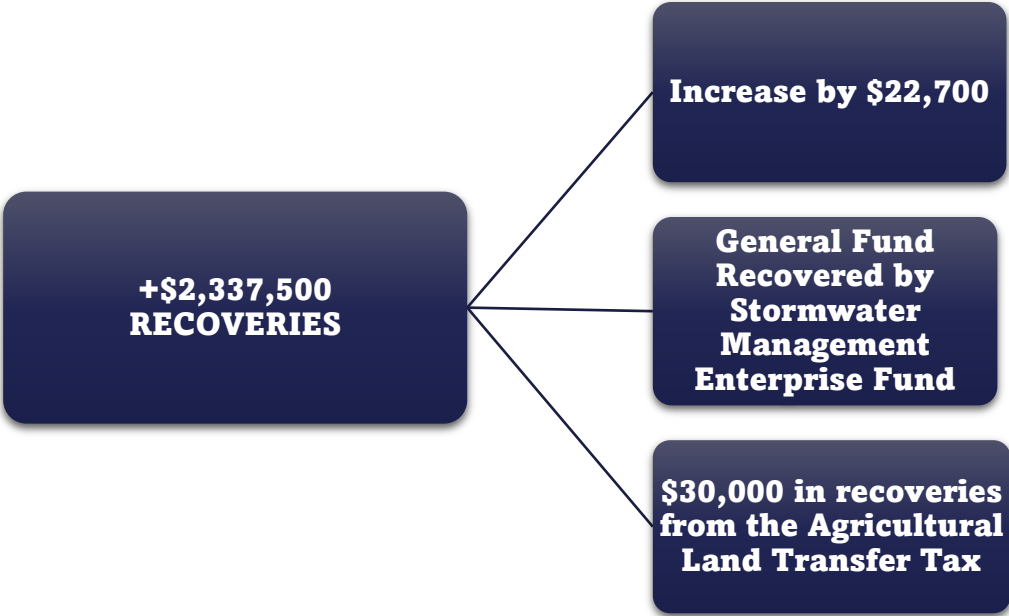
Proposed FY 2026



Proposed FY 2026 Before Recoveries



Recoveries, FY 2025 and FY 2026						
	Specific Project	FY 2025 Approved	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Proposed	Change (FY25 VS FY26)	Change %
1	Salaries - MD Ag Tax	\$ 22,100	\$ 22,100	\$ 22,100	\$ -	0%
2	Fringe - MD Ag Tax	\$ 7,900	\$ 7,900	\$ 7,900	\$ -	0%
	Sub-Total MD Ag Tax	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	
3	Salaries - Storm Water Mgmt.	\$1,513,300	\$1,545,100	\$1,624,300	\$ 111,000	7.18%
4	Fringe - Storm Water Mgmt.	\$ 495,700	\$ 479,600	\$ 541,100	\$ 45,400	9.47%
5	Operating - Storm Water Mgmt.	\$ 125,900	\$ 125,900	\$ 142,100	\$ 16,200	12.87%
	Sub-Total Storm Water Mgmt.	\$2,134,900	\$2,150,600	\$2,307,500	\$ 172,600	8.03%
	TOTAL RECOVERIES	\$2,164,900	\$2,180,600	\$2,337,500	\$ 172,600	7.92%

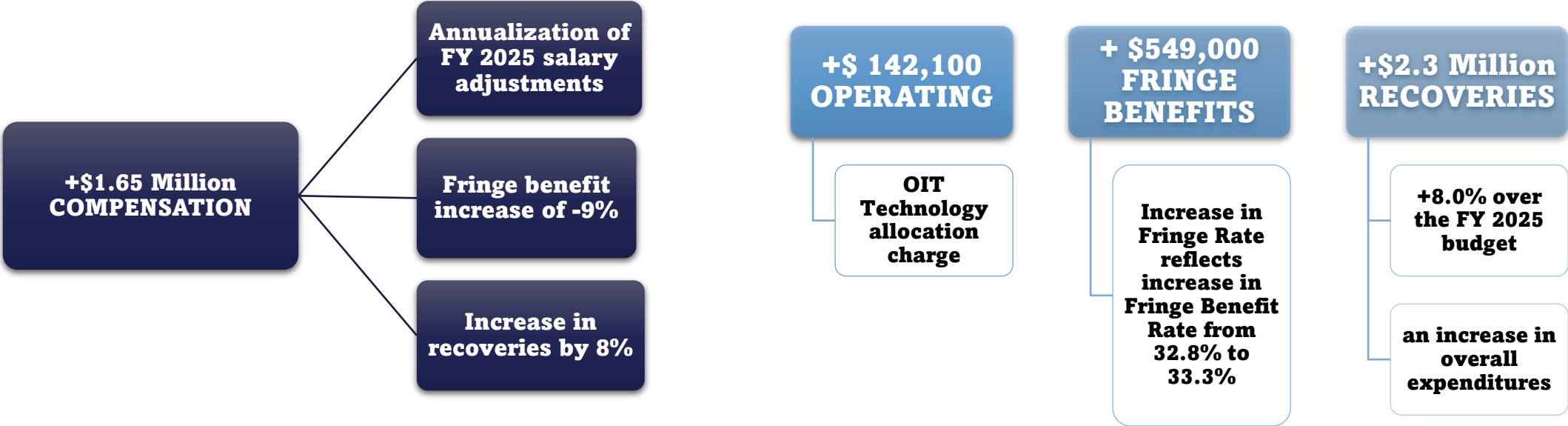


GENERAL FUND OVERVIEW

100%
Recovered from
non-general
fund sources

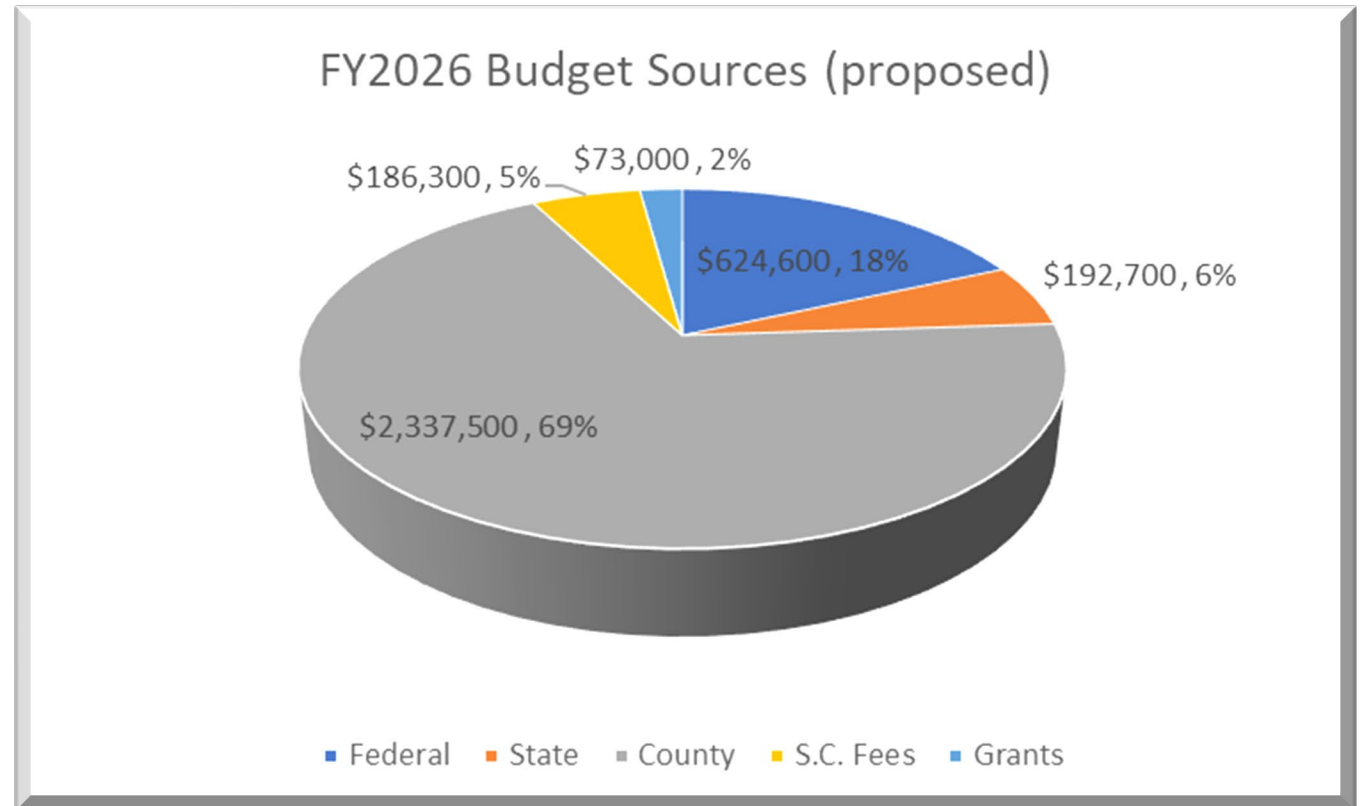
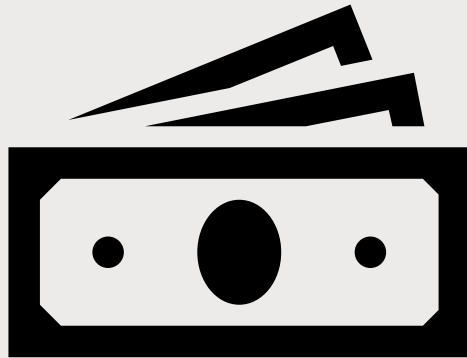
Expenditures by Category - General Fund

Category	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Proposed	Change FY25-FY26	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$1,485,788	\$1,535,400	\$1,567,200	\$1,646,400	\$111,000	7.2%
Fringe Benefits	452,604	503,600	487,500	549,000	45,400	9.0%
Operating	120,198	125,900	125,900	142,100	16,200	12.9%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	—
SubTotal	\$2,058,590	\$2,164,900	\$2,180,600	\$2,337,500	\$172,600	8.0%
Recoveries	(2,058,590)	(2,164,900)	(2,180,600)	(2,337,500)	(172,600)	8.0%
Total	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	



Revenues

- **The County provides the majority of the District's operating Funds (approximately \$2.3 million) followed by the Federal (\$624,600) and the state (\$192,700)**



Grants

FY 2026 Grant Funding

- \$73,000, a \$3,100 increase from FY 2025
- District anticipates fewer grant opportunities due to uncertainty in federal administration

Full time Urban AG Planner

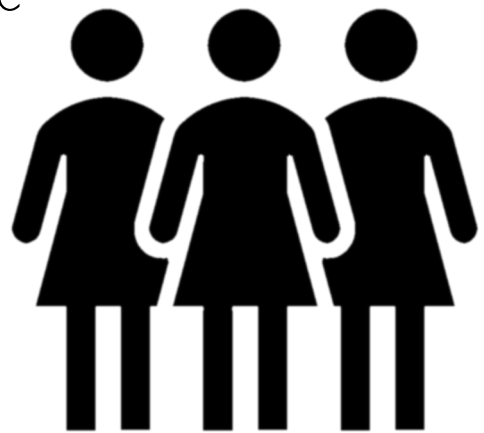
- Through a National Association of Conservation Districts technical grant, the District was able to hire a full-time urban AG planner last year. Efforts are underway to make this a full-time position

STAFFING

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget includes funding for 16 full-time positions and remains unchanged from FY 2025

There have been no resignations in 2025

0% attrition rate



FULL TIME

CIVILIAN

Unchanged

PART TIME

Unchanged

Net

Decrease

Unchanged

Highlights

The District's integral initiatives include the preservation of acres of agriculture land through various programs. Current programs total 7,356 preserved acres countywide.

- Two properties settled for 64 acres and \$251,430.**

- Five other application rankings were approved for 289.66 acres.**

- All five properties have been appraised and one property has been made an offer.**

Continued involvement with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) on the curriculum in Agricultural Science Education and Environmental Science Academy, the Envirothon, and interacting with the Future Farmers of America (FFA), has yielded positive results for the District's education and outreach programs

The District has participated in the County's Summer Youth Enrichment Program over the past several years, and plans to host an intern in FY2026, contingent on state and federal budgets


The Urban Farm Incubator at Watkins Regional Park currently has 10 farm businesses with working plots, and M-NCPPC is looking to open additional parcels

The District provided technical assistance with a pilot project at Clagett Landing Road to specialty farmers providing flowers, vegetables, and grains on those parcels. Currently, there are two farmers there



THANK YOU

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