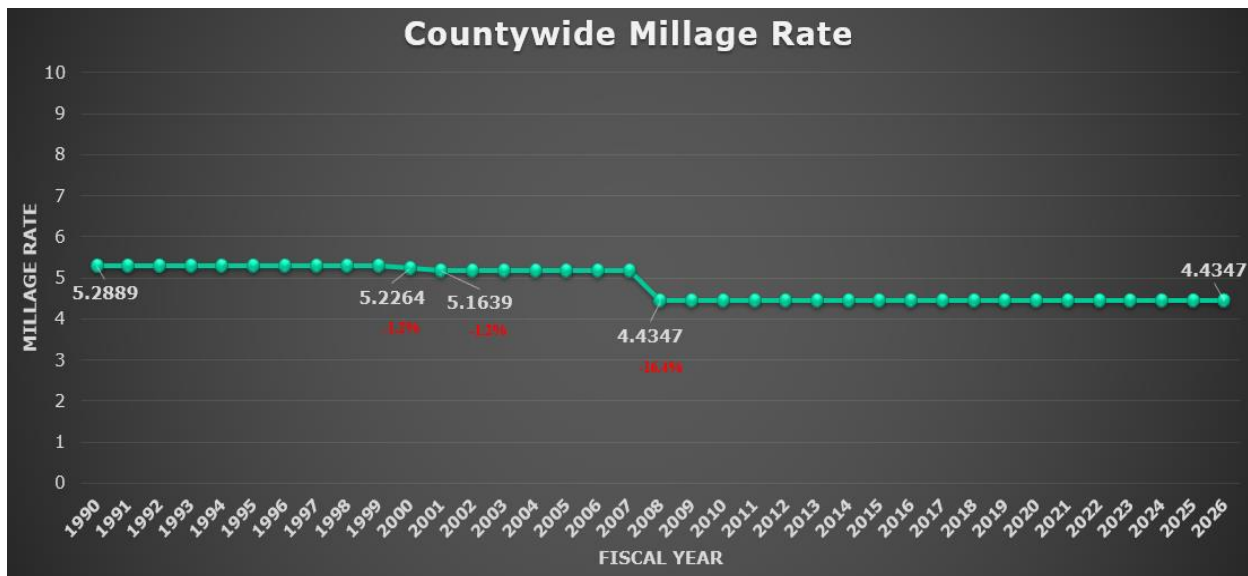




Orange County, Florida

The largest funding source is Property Tax, supporting essential services such as public safety, transportation, health and homeless services, recreation, environmental services, and more. Orange County has been able to maintain its countywide operating millage rate (tax rate) that is currently 11th lowest in the State of Florida at 4.4347 since 2008 when it was reduced from 5.1639 even though population and inflation have increased.



Orange County's population has grown by 125,488 residents or 9% from 2020 to 2025. In addition to residential growth, tourism growth has also increased from 35 million visitors in 2020 to over 75 million visitors. This large tourism population places additional demands on services like transportation, public safety, and environmental protection that are disproportionate to the residential population. Although the situation is not unique to Orange County, it is more extreme in the Central Florida area than in many other metropolitan statistical areas in the United States.

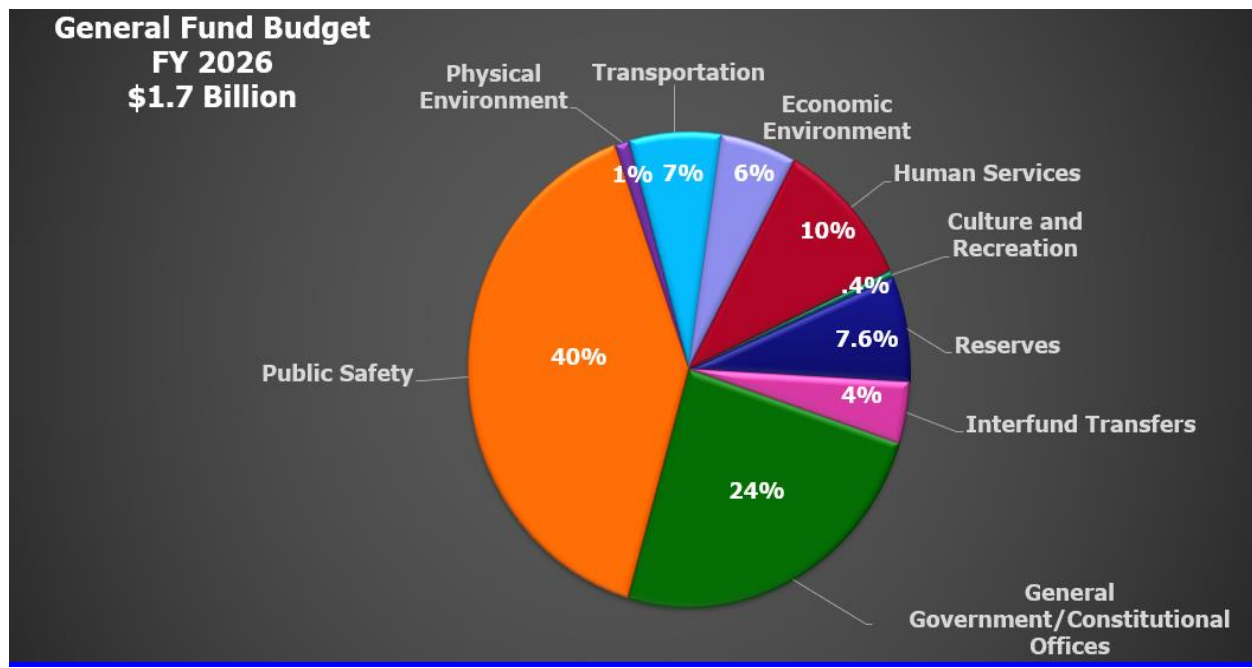
In addition, Orange County Government has not been immune to inflation as the price for goods and services. Some of the inflation has resulted in increases in pay for salary and benefits to retain and hire qualified employees and keep pace with the market, especially with correctional officers, law enforcement and firefighters. It is estimated that the cost of construction has gone up by over 35% and the consumer price index has risen over 24% during the past 5 years.

Orange County's ad valorem collections have increased \$330 million over 5 years, which is annual growth of about 9% a year that is comparable to counties across the state, in fact Orange County's ad valorem percentage growth is lower than 48 other Florida counties.

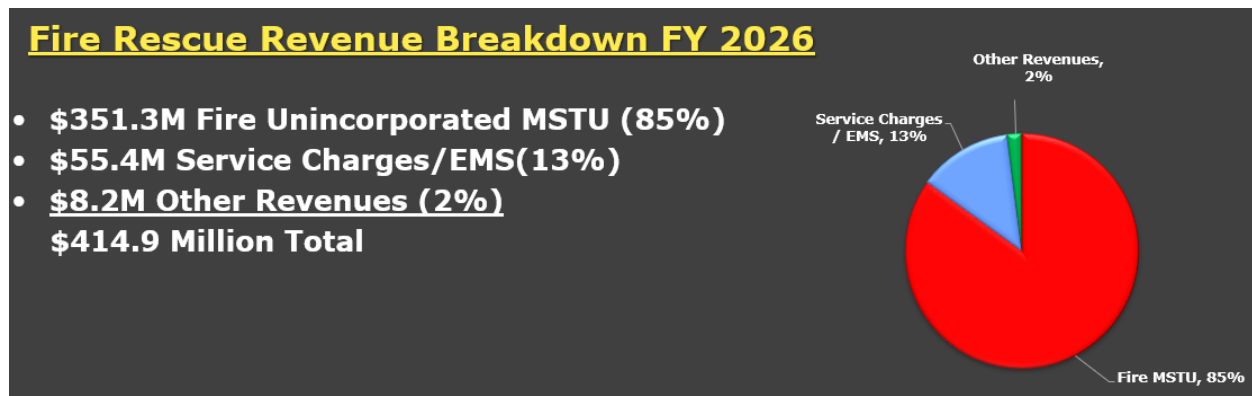
It should be noted that a portion of that increase each year is the result of new development – homes, businesses, tourist attractions – being added to the tax rolls, adding new revenue but also requiring the County to add more services to maintain the level of quality citizens expect. More specifically, these are NOT increases being borne by average residents. Homestead property assessments are capped to no more than a 3% increase each year for a resident who has homestead exemption. Homestead property owners currently receive a significant tax break — a 48% aggregate discount off the Market Value.

Homestead properties currently account for \$61 billion or 26% of the total \$235 billion in 2025 taxable property value. Eliminating homestead property taxes would reduce countywide property tax revenue by 26%, resulting in a \$271 million reduction in countywide millage revenue, \$58 million less for Sheriff unincorporated millage revenue and \$91 million less for Fire and EMS unincorporated millage revenue.

The fiscal year 2026 General Fund budget is \$1.7 billion. The largest budget allocation in the general fund is for Public Safety, which makes up 40% or nearly \$700 million of the general fund budget that is primarily to fund the Sheriff and Corrections. The next highest percentage of 24% is constitutional offices and general government.



Orange County Fire Rescue is funded through its own unincorporated municipal tax. 85% of Fire Rescue revenue comes from property taxes to serve unincorporated Orange County, which includes many of the tourism areas.



These are just a few of the financial highlights that utilize property taxes to fund Orange County Government related to public safety, housing, homelessness, and transportation. It is clear increases have been made to support public safety and to support services that have been proven to reduce recidivism, build healthier and stronger youth and families, provide meals for residents facing economic challenges, and address the many challenges of mental health and homelessness.