

Second Quarter 2025 Financial Report

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Compiled and Presented by the Administrative Services Department Finance Division

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August 12th, 2025

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For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Executive Summary

This report compares Whatcom County's financial performance for the first six months of 2025 (through the second quarter) with the same six-month period in 2024.

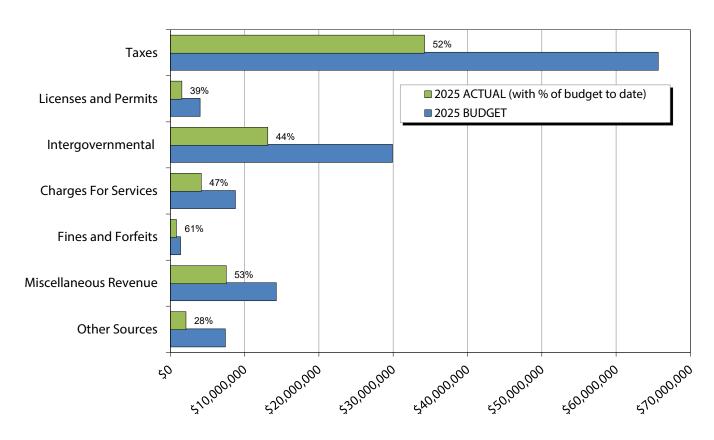
Whatcom County's 2025 second-quarter financial report shows performance consistent with 2024. By the end of the second quarter, the General Fund has collected 48.33% of its budgeted revenues and has spent 44.74% of its budgeted expenditures. Revenues increased \$1.4 million compared to the first six months of 2024. This increase is composed of the 2025 property tax levy increase, which boosts revenue by \$4.2 million (for the first half of the year), offset by a significant decrease in intergovernmental revenues due to a change in accounting for prepaid grant revenue. At the quarter's end, we had \$5.7 million worth of unearned grant revenue on the balance sheet. Expenditures are within current year expectations and match the percentage of budget spent during the same six-month period in 2024, though they have increased by approximately \$4 million (6.7%) compared to 2024. Increases in spending are primarily due to employee step increases, cost-of-living adjustments, and inflationary increases related to service contracts.

The current estimated 2025 General Fund ending fund balance is projected to be approximately \$28 million.

For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



General Fund Revenue - Budget vs. Actual



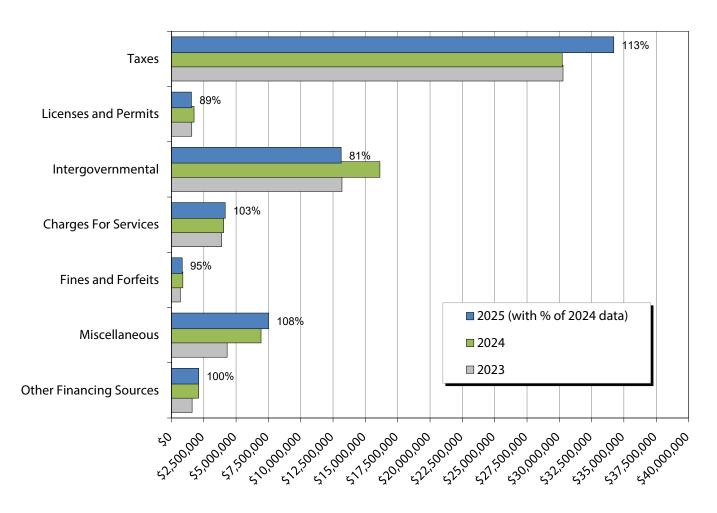
	2025 Budget Adopted	2025 Budget Supp'ls	2025 Budget Amended	Actual as of 6/30/2025	% Collected To Date
Taxes	65,678,646	-	65,678,646	34,221,327	52.10%
Licenses and Permits	4,019,695	-	4,019,695	1,555,212	38.69%
Intergovernmental	27,955,809	1,956,778	29,912,587	13,131,273	43.90%
Charges For Services	8,756,320	17,092	8,773,412	4,159,146	47.41%
Fines and Forfeits	1,370,300	-	1,370,300	838,380	61.18%
Miscellaneous Revenue	14,143,804	125,000	14,268,804	7,517,287	52.68%
Other Sources	7,397,264	26,442	7,423,706	2,108,297	28.40%
Total Revenue	129,321,838	2,125,312	131,447,150	63,530,922	48.33%

See pages 4 and 5 for General Fund Revenue Notes.

For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



General Fund Revenue through June 30th - Compared to Prior Years



	2023	2024	2025
Taxes	30,289,219	30,228,093	34,221,327
Licenses and Permits	1,574,003	1,753,010	1,555,212
Intergovernmental	13,196,943	16,127,700	13,131,273
Charges For Services	3,876,182	4,044,171	4,159,146
Fines and Forfeits	696,399	879,490	838,380
Miscellaneous	4,312,273	6,936,841	7,517,287
Other Financing Sources	1,597,271	2,112,983	2,108,297
Total Revenue	55,542,290	62,082,288	63,530,922

See pages 4 and 5 for General Fund Revenue Notes.

For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



General Fund Revenue Notes

Taxes

Property tax and retail sales tax make up 96.1% of Whatcom County's tax revenue budget; the remaining 3.9% is composed of Enhanced 911 (E911) taxes passed through to the City of Bellingham's emergency dispatch center and a much smaller amount of excise and gambling taxes.

Taxes are up 13.2%, or \$3,993,234, over second quarter 2024 amounts. The County Council approved a 9.8% increase in property taxes for 2025, generating approximately \$4.2 million in additional revenues. New construction and increases in personal property and state utility valuations should add another \$800,000 to 2025 collections. Current property tax collections are up \$2.5 million or 13.85% compared to the first half of 2024.

Current year sales tax collections present modest growth of 2.9%, or \$353,657, compared to last year's first half collections. A significant accounting change in 2025 affects Enhanced 911 (E911) tax reporting. Whatcom County collects these taxes and passes them through to the City of Bellingham for emergency dispatch services. Previously, these taxes bypassed the General Fund and were distributed directly from the Treasurer's Suspense Fund. The State Auditor now requires the County to record E911 taxes as General Fund revenue before distributing them to the City. Revenues through second quarter include \$1,127,261 in E911 taxes.

Licenses & Permits

Building permits account for 39.8% of 'Licenses & Permits' budget. Health & Community Services' restaurant, food handling, on-site septic, and other miscellaneous health-related licenses and permits make up 37.9% of the budget. Cable franchise fee revenues are 18.4% and marriage licenses, firearm permits, well permits, and fire control permits account for the remaining 3.9%.

'License and Permit Fees' are \$197,798, or 11.3%, below amounts collected during the first half of 2024. Building permits decreased by \$88,900, 11.2%, largely due to code changes influenced by an influx of permit submissions by prospective builders in the first half of 2024, which was a one-time occurrence. Health and Community Services revenues also saw a reduction by \$92,500 or 13.2%. Restaurant and food handler permits are \$51,000 less than the prior year amounts due to late monthly billings resulting from staffing issues in Health & Community Services. On-site sewage permits are also down \$26,500.

Intergovernmental Revenue

'Intergovernmental Revenue' is mainly federal and state grants, entitlements and shared revenues.

Intergovernmental Revenues' are \$2,996,427 (18.6%) below the first half of 2024 due to an accounting procedure change designed to better match revenues with expenses. Previously, the County recognized advance grant payments as revenue when received, then reclassified them as liabilities if unspent by year-end. Under the new approach, advance payments are recorded as unearned revenue on the balance sheet and recognized as revenue only when expended according to grant restrictions. The variance primarily reflects \$2.7 million in federal Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funding and Parks FEMA funding for prior year flood damages that were previously recognized as revenue but are now held as unearned revenue until spent.

For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



General Fund Revenue Notes, continued

Charges for Services

'Charges for Services' include document recording fees (Auditor), motor vehicle license fees (Auditor), plan check fees (Planning & Development Services), adult probation fees (District Court Probation), immunizations (Health Department), fees charged to other governments for probation and law enforcement-related services and several other miscellaneous service fees that help cover the costs of providing specific services used by individual customers.

'Charges for Services' increased by \$114,975, or 2.8%, in the first half of 2025 when compared to the first half of 2024. The most significant changes were in the following departments: Superior Court Clerk fee revenues rose \$103,000 or 38.1% due to increases in state-mandated fees as well as new fees imposed on water adjudication cases. District Court fees dropped \$90,000, or 15.3% due to the timing of probation service payments from municipalities. Sheriff fees increased \$79,000, or 66.5%, largely due to more federal forest patrol revenues and increases in reimbursable overtime. Treasurer fees also increased by \$67,000 or 22.3% due to an increase in real estate excise tax processing fees.

Fines and Forfeits

'Fines and Forfeits' consist principally of property tax penalties, traffic infraction revenue, and criminal traffic misdemeanor penalties. It also includes bail/bond forfeitures, code enforcement fines, public defense recoupment and other miscellaneous criminal costs and penalties.

'Fines and Forfeits' revenues had a modest reduction of 4.7%, or \$41,100, below first-half 2024 amounts. Traffic and non-traffic infractions and state interpreter cost reimbursements caused District Court revenues to be up \$115,200 (21.4%); however, penalties assessed by the Treasurer on late property tax, filing, special assessments, and real estate excise taxes had a 48% reduction of \$153,200.

Miscellaneous

'Miscellaneous' revenues are made up of delinquent property tax interest earnings, investment interest earnings, rents, contributions, refunds, judgments and settlements, and various small, otherwise unclassified, amounts.

'Miscellaneous' revenues increased \$580,447 (8.37%) over the first half of 2024, though this category contains significant variances. Investment earnings rose \$536,200 (12.7%), and property tax interest increased by \$1,346,000 due to an appeals settlement with a large commercial taxpayer. However, judgments and settlements decreased by approximately \$1,387,000 because opioid and vape settlement funds received last year are now recorded as unearned revenue on the balance sheet until spending restrictions are met.

Other Financing Sources

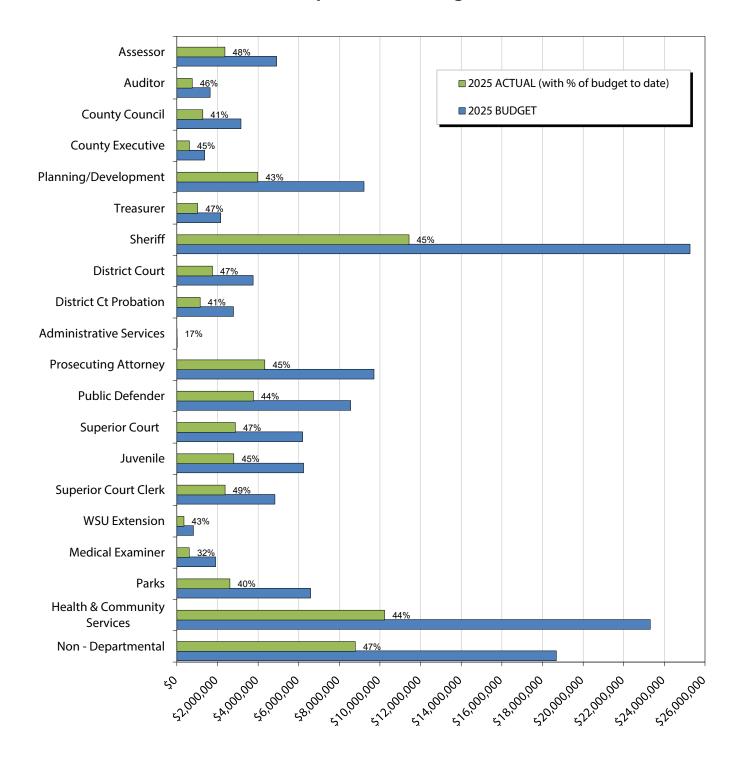
The 'Other Financing Sources' revenue budget is composed of state timber revenues (1.8%) and transfers from other Whatcom County funds (98.2%).

The 'Other Financing Sources' category decreased by \$4,686, or .2%, in the first half of 2025. There have been no significant changes in the activity of other financing sources from the prior year.

For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



General Fund Expenditures - Budget vs. Actual



See page 7 for chart detail and page 10 for General Fund Expenditure Notes.

For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



General Fund Expenditures - Budget vs. Actual

	2025 Adopted Budget	2025 Budget Supp'ls	2025 Amended Budget	Actual as of 6/30/25	% Expended To Date
Assessor	4,828,751	81,897	4,910,648	2,368,370	48.23%
Auditor	1,629,817	10,953	1,640,770	758,521	46.23%
County Council	2,855,091	302,375	3,157,466	1,279,711	40.53%
County Executive	1,320,334	52,509	1,372,843	617,727	45.00%
Planning & Development	8,868,587	348,304	9,216,891	3,989,061	43.28%
Treasurer	2,165,712	-	2,165,712	1,028,330	47.48%
Sheriff	24,400,875	860,769	25,261,644	11,427,504	45.24%
District Court	3,747,939	12,500	3,760,439	1,754,103	46.65%
District Court Probation	2,791,208	-	2,791,208	1,146,944	41.09%
Administrative Services	15,400	-	15,400	2,662	17.29%
Prosecuting Attorney	9,663,749	44,427	9,708,176	4,332,677	44.63%
Public Defender	8,494,892	58,442	8,553,334	3,770,603	44.08%
Superior Court	5,619,827	575,600	6,195,427	2,885,767	46.58%
Juvenile	6,239,488	-	6,239,488	2,806,810	44.98%
Superior Court Clerk	4,824,442	8,400	4,832,842	2,373,559	49.11%
WSU Extension	819,777	-	819,777	351,058	42.82%
Medical Examiner	1,909,636	-	1,909,636	616,409	32.28%
Parks	6,475,386	110,615	6,586,001	2,613,505	39.68%
Health & Community Services	22,864,426	443,433	23,307,859	10,230,473	43.89%
Non - Departmental*	18,073,330	608,887	18,682,217	8,786,646	47.03%
Total General Fund Expenditures	137,608,666	3,519,111	141,127,777	63,140,439	44.74%

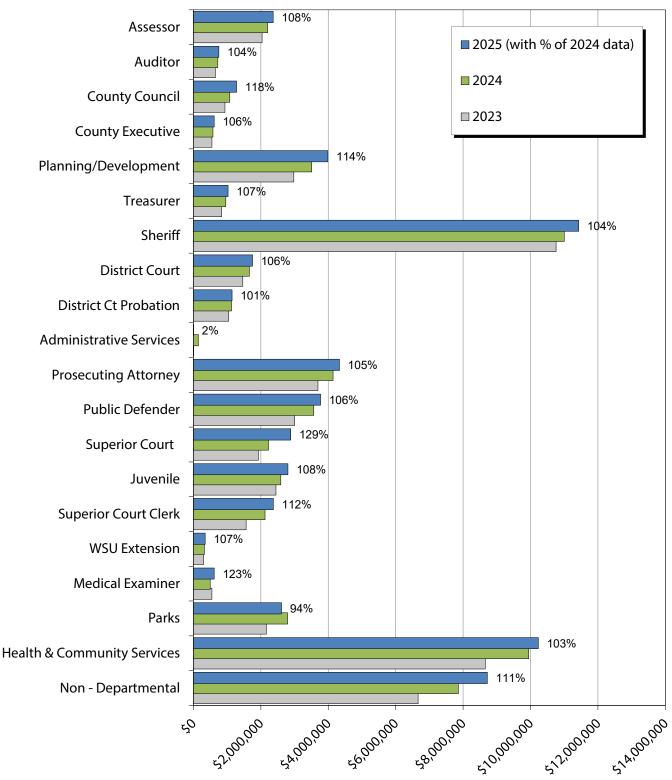
^{* \$2,570,000} of pass through expenditure authority has been eliminated for presentation purposes.

See page 10 for General Fund Expenditure Notes.

For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



General Fund Expenditures through June 30th - Compared to Prior Years



See page 9 for chart detail and page 10 for General Fund Expenditure Notes.

For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



General Fund Expenditures through June 30th - Compared to Prior Years

	2023	2024	2025
Assessor	2,037,627	2,201,554	2,368,370
Auditor	653,202	727,599	758,521
County Council	936,890	1,083,350	1,279,711
County Executive	552,654	581,560	617,727
Planning & Development	2,978,886	3,510,865	3,989,061
Treasurer	840,439	964,398	1,028,330
Sheriff	10,758,265	11,001,107	11,427,504
District Court	1,464,745	1,661,769	1,754,103
District Court Probation	1,052,431	1,130,571	1,146,944
Adminstrative Services	5,272	149,766	2,662
Prosecuting Attorney	3,693,961	4,142,321	4,332,677
Public Defender	3,008,077	3,572,981	3,770,603
Superior Court	1,932,020	2,230,750	2,885,767
Juvenile	2,450,281	2,595,130	2,806,810
Superior Court Clerk	1,563,808	2,123,946	2,373,559
WSU Extension	302,407	327,305	351,058
Medical Examiner	551,436	501,020	616,409
Parks	2,166,042	2,794,512	2,613,505
Health & Community Services	8,655,895	9,942,075	10,230,473
Non-Departmental	6,667,320	7,857,913	8,720,932
TOTAL	52,271,658	59,100,491	63,074,726

For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



General Fund Expenditure Notes

General Fund expenditures through the second quarter were 44.74% of the approved budget, consistent with prior years. Departmental spending increased 7% (\$3,974,000) compared to the first six months of 2024. All departments increased spending except Parks, which spent 94% of its 2024 second-quarter amounts.

Several departments experienced notable changes in spending patterns compared to the first half of 2024:

Council Office increases reflect the charter review process, contracts related to the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (IPRTF), and the addition of a legislative coordinator during the biennial budget process.

Planning and Development Services increases relate primarily to work on the 2025 comprehensive plan update.

Superior Court expenditures rose due to water adjudication expenses, including filling vacant positions and establishing a new courtroom. Superior Court Clerk also increased spending for water adjudication staffing.

Medical Examiner costs increased as the County brought services in-house, including staffing, operating costs, and building expenses.

Parks expenditures decreased due to reductions in maintenance and operations.

For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



General Fund Conclusion

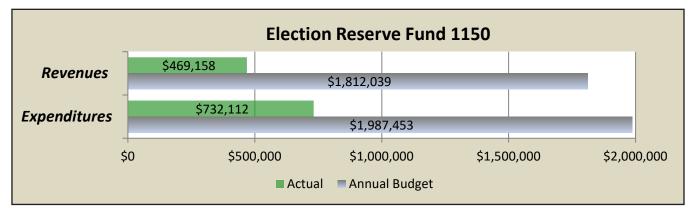
	2025 Projected	6/30/25 Actual
Beginning Fund Balance 1/1/25 ¹	30,885,243	
Revenues		
Revenues 2025	129,321,838	63,530,922
Continuing Appropriations from 2024	428,376	-
Supplemental Budgets 2025	1,696,936	
Total Revenue	131,447,150	63,530,922
Expenditures		
Budgeted Expenditures 2025	137,608,666	63,140,439
Continuing Appropriations from 2024	1,147,294	-
Supplemental Budgets 2025	2,371,817	
Total Expenditures	141,127,777	63,140,439
Surplus (Deficit)	(9,680,627)	390,483
Other Considerations		
Estimated Budget Lapse on Original Budget ²	6,880,433	
Projected Ending Fund Balance 12/31/25	28,085,050	

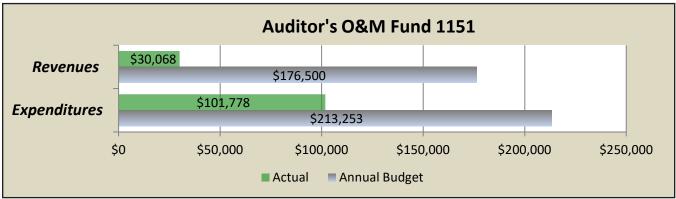
Note 1: Beginning fund balance for 2025 was adjusted from the first quarter 2025 report to reflect an accurate closing number. The first quarter report used a projected beginning fund balance since transactions for 2024 had not fully closed. Note 2: The estimated budget lapse is 5% of the original Council-adopted expenditure budget

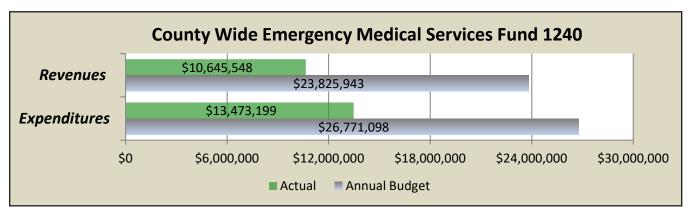
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Special Revenue Funds and Other Funds



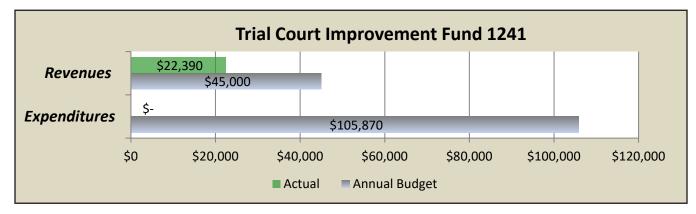


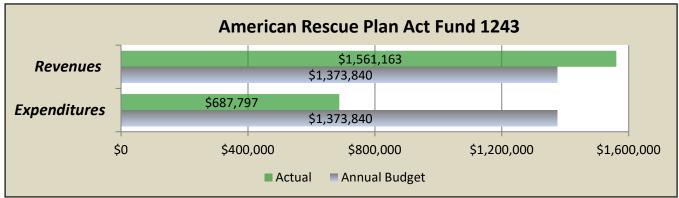


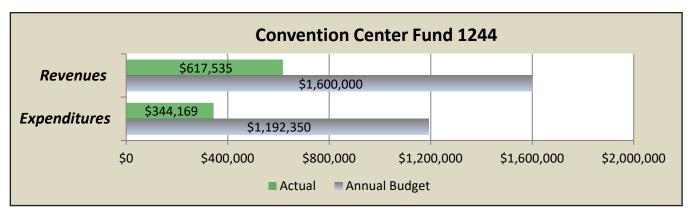
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Special Revenue Funds and Other Funds, continued



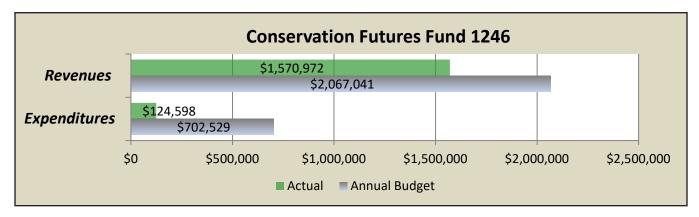


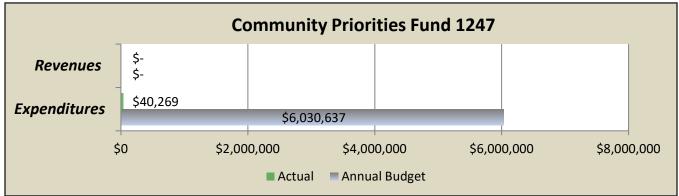


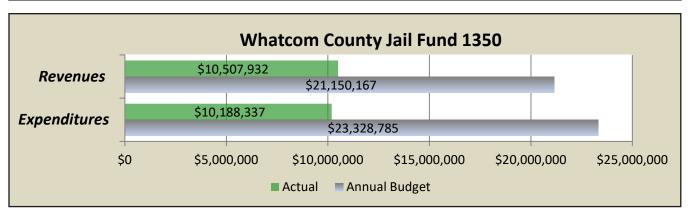
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Special Revenue Funds and Other Funds, continued



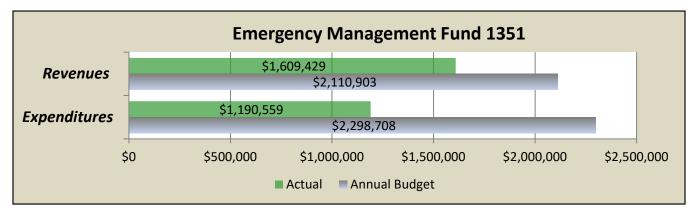




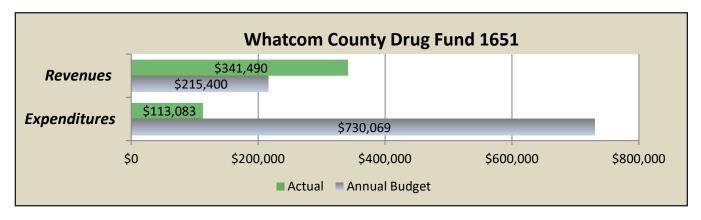
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Special Revenue Funds and Other Funds, continued





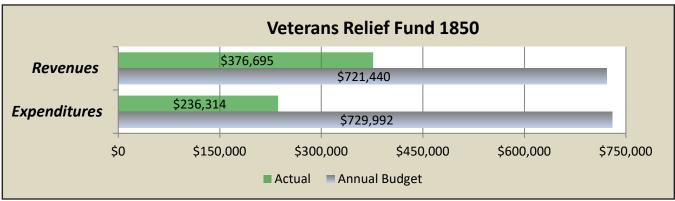


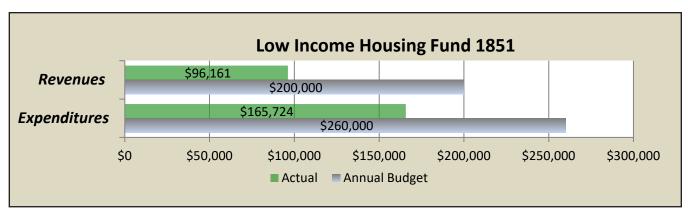
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Special Revenue Funds and Other Funds, continued





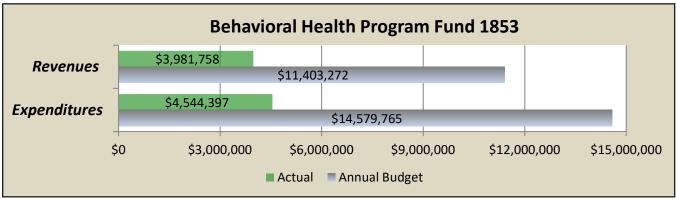


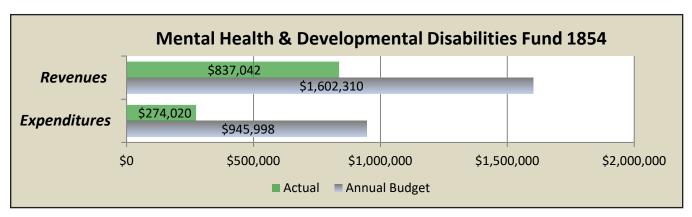
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Special Revenue Funds and Other Funds, continued



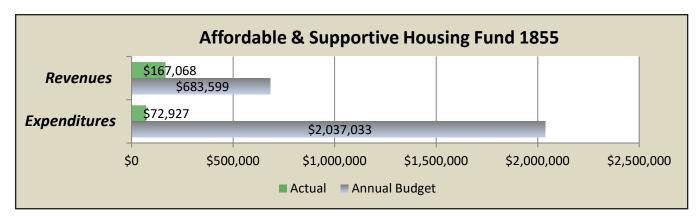


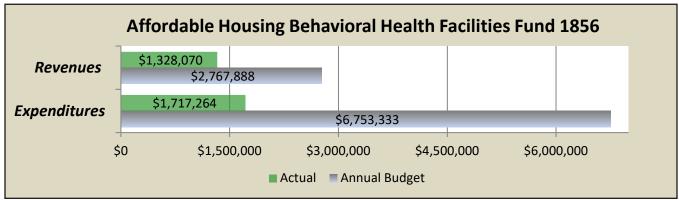


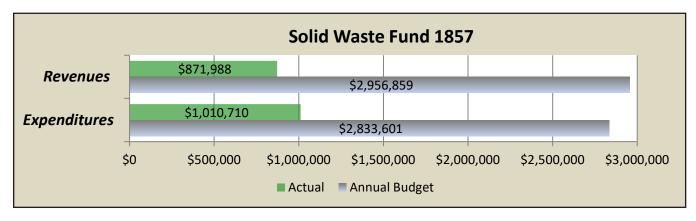
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Special Revenue Funds and Other Funds, continued



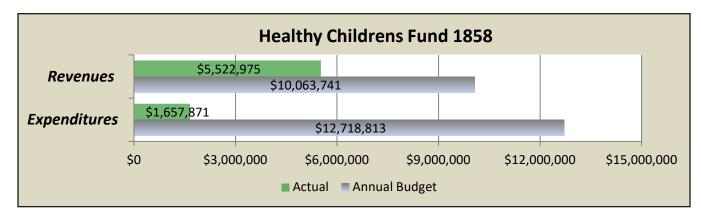


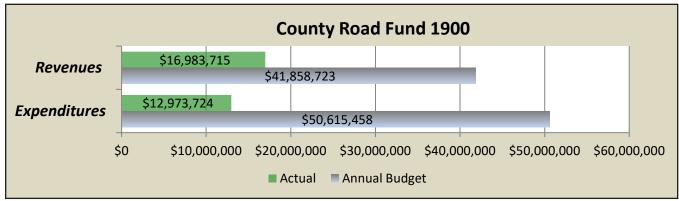


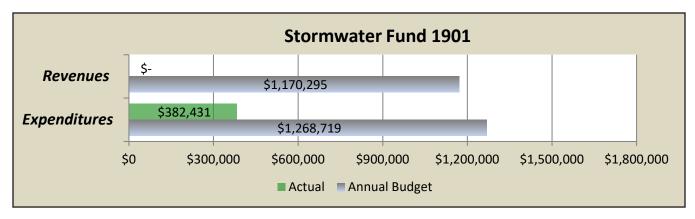
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Special Revenue Funds and Other Funds, continued



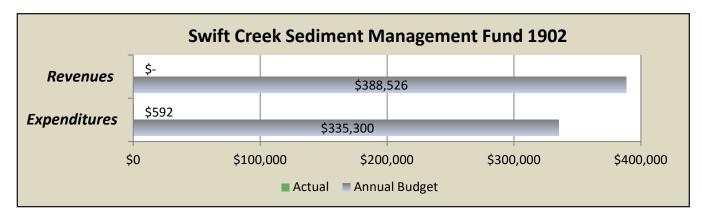


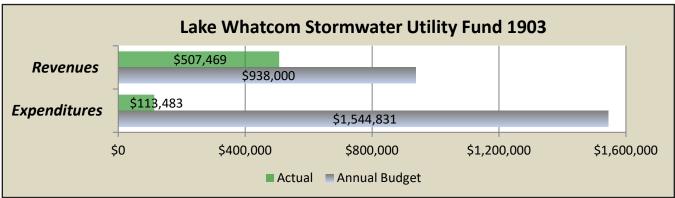


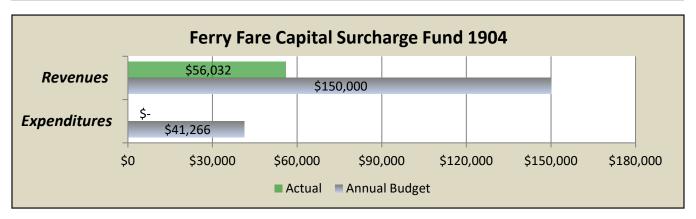
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Special Revenue Funds and Other Funds, continued



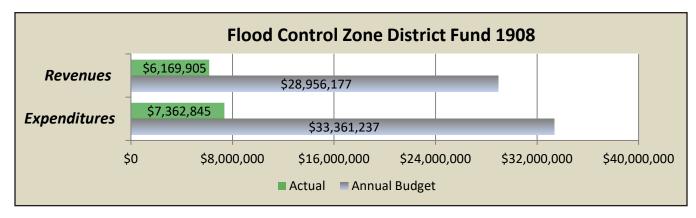


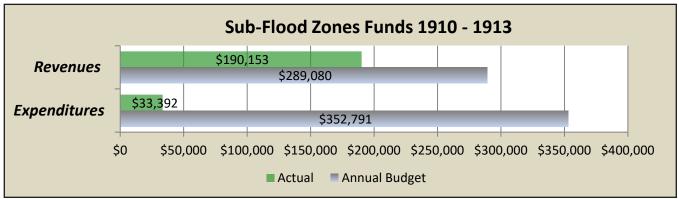


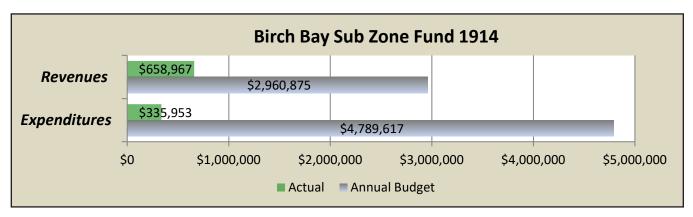
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Special Revenue Funds and Other Funds, continued



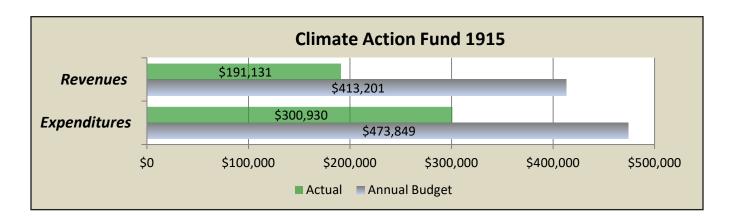




For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



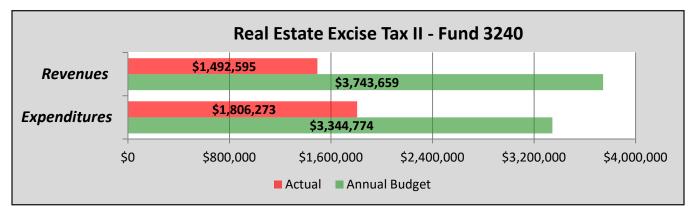
Special Revenue Funds and Other Funds, continued

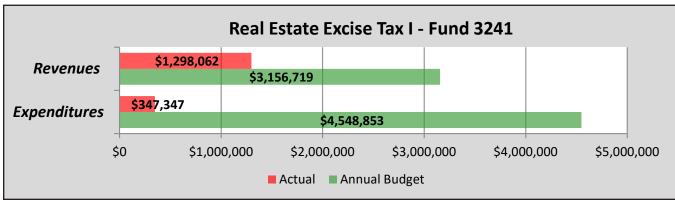


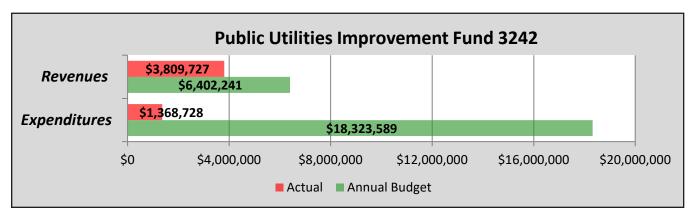
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Capital Project Funds



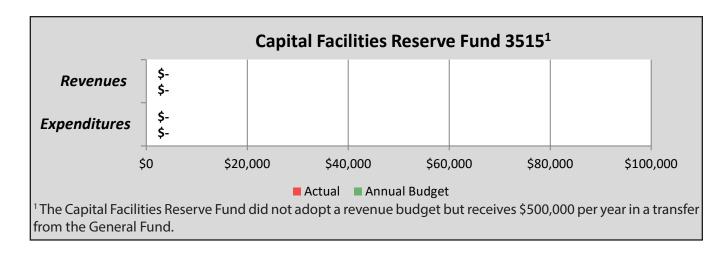




For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



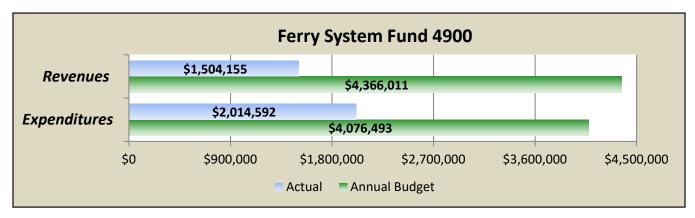
Capital Project Funds, continued

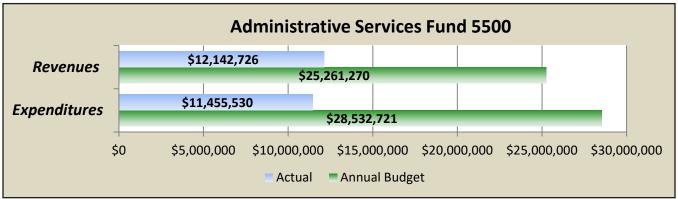


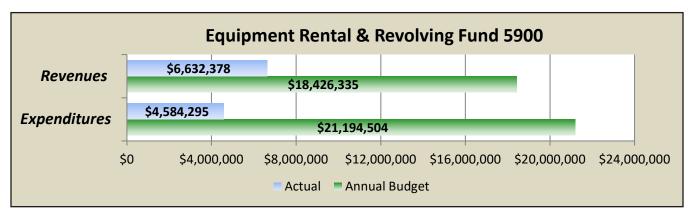
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Enterprise and Internal Service Funds



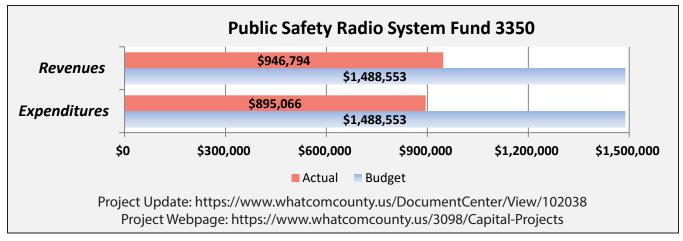


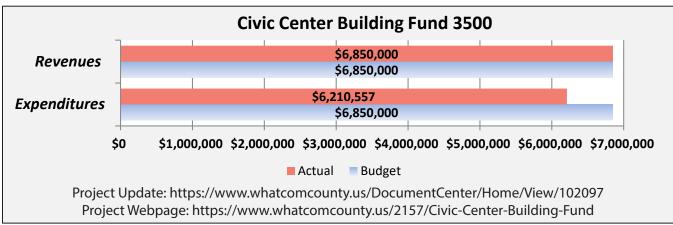


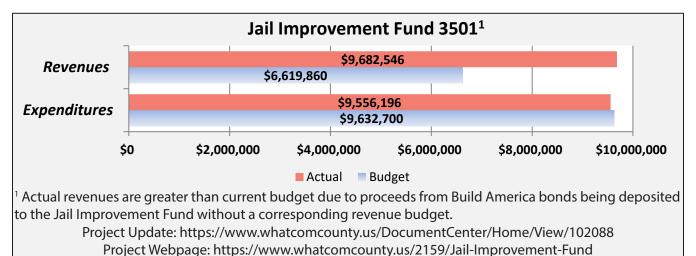
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Project Budget Funds Life of Project



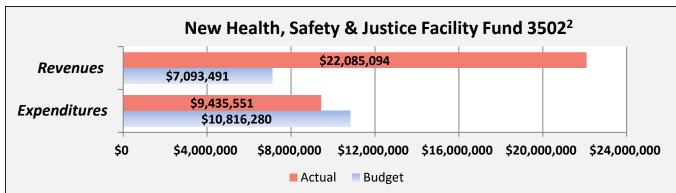




For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025

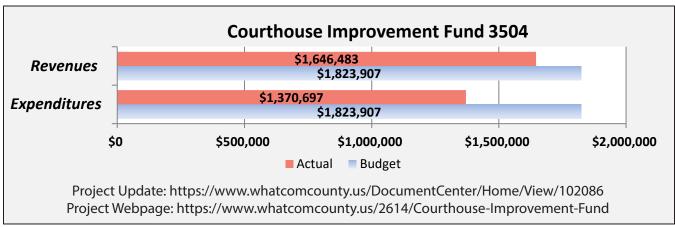


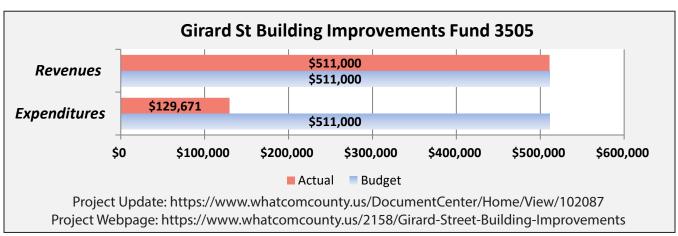
Project Budget Funds, continued Life of Project



² Three \$1 million dollar transfers from the General Fund were deposited to this fund (2014 - 2016) without budget ordinances being adopted for those transactions. In addition, beginning in June 2024 a voter approved 2/10ths sales tax is now being collected for construction of the new facility. These funds also do not have a corresponding revenue budget.

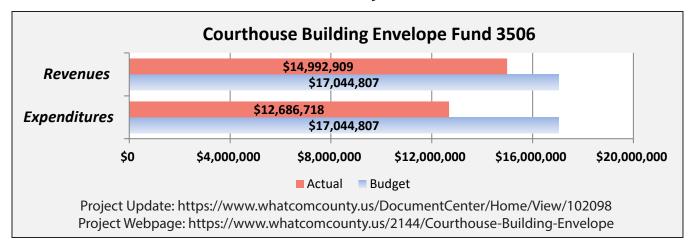
Project Update: https://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/102089 Project Webpage: https://www.whatcomcounty.us/2161/New-Health-Safety-and-Justice-Facility

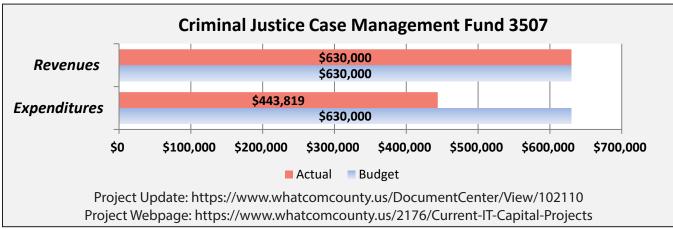


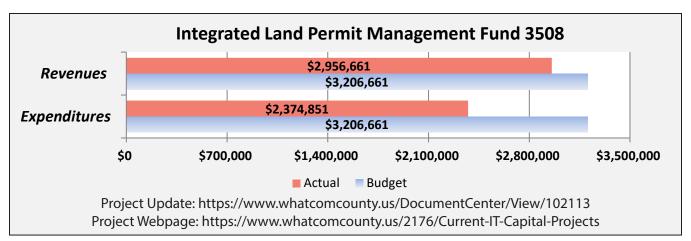


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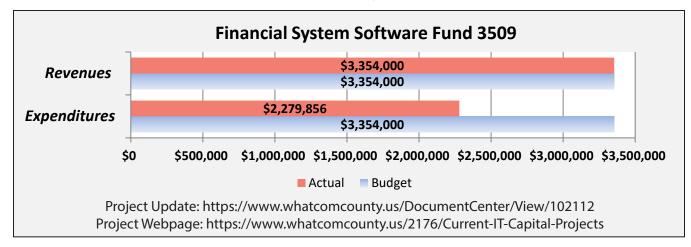


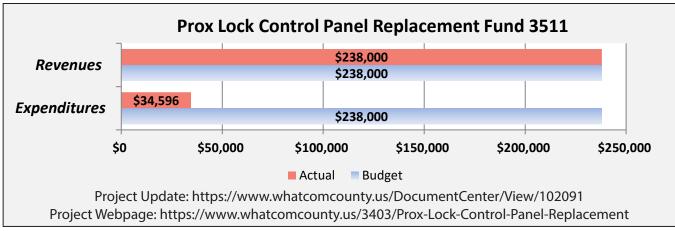


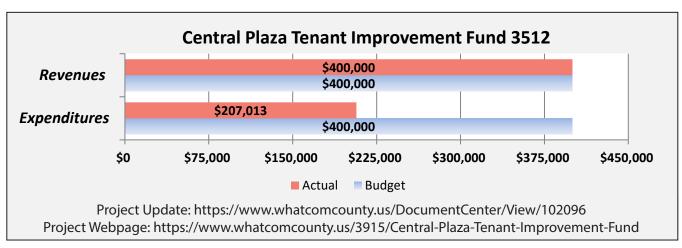


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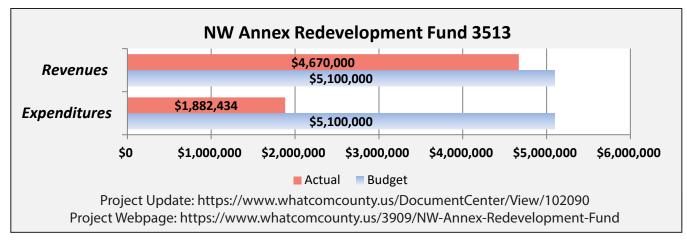


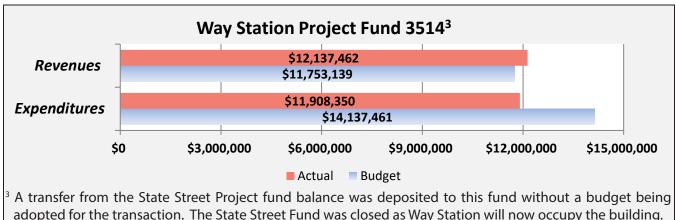


For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025



Project Budget Funds, continued Life of Project

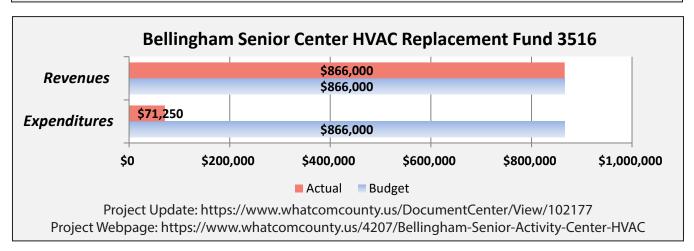




A transfer from the State Street Project fund balance was deposited to this fund without a budget being adopted for the transaction. The State Street Fund was closed as Way Station will now occupy the building.

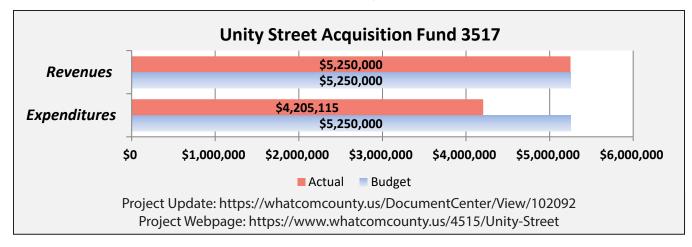
Project Update: https://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/102093

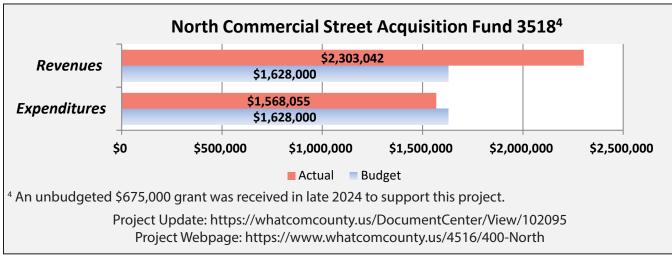
Project Webpage: https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3953/Way-Station-Project-Fund

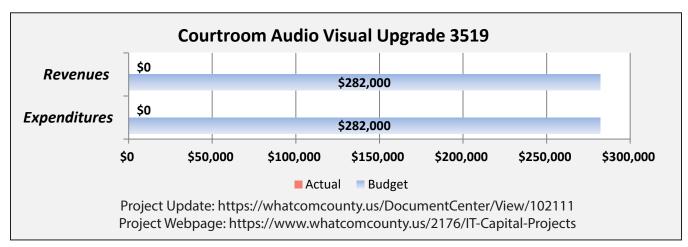


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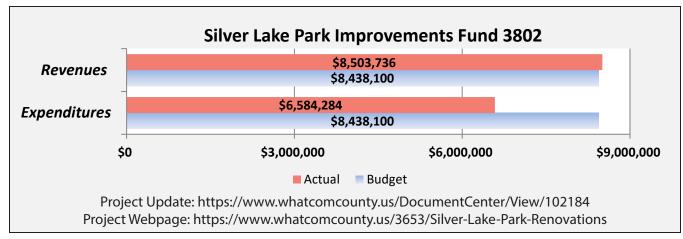


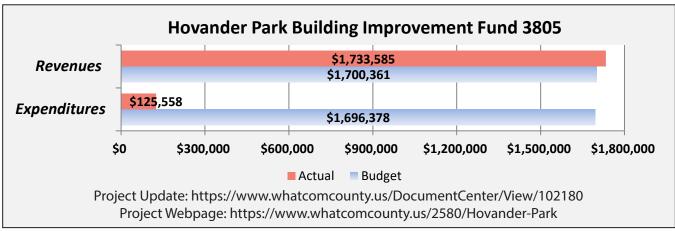


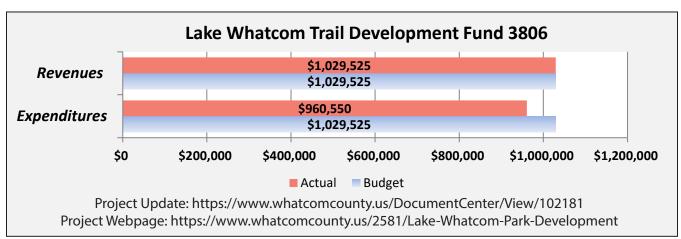


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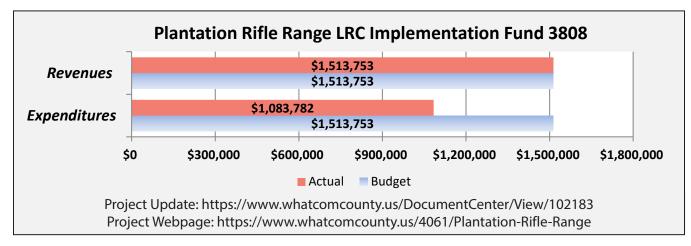


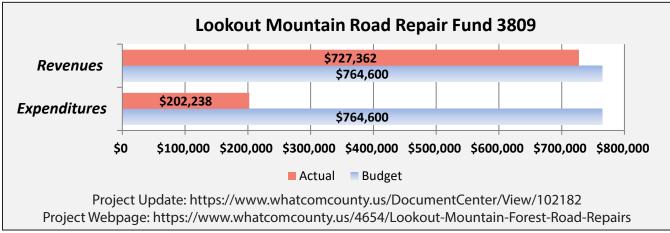


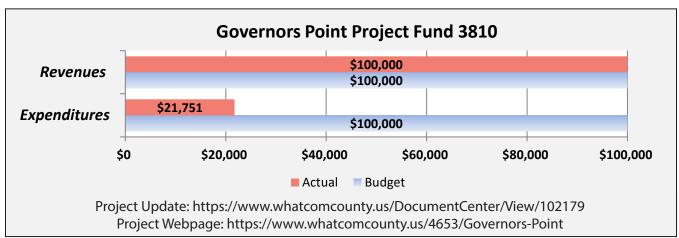


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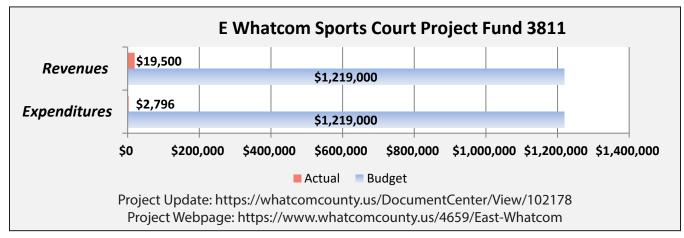


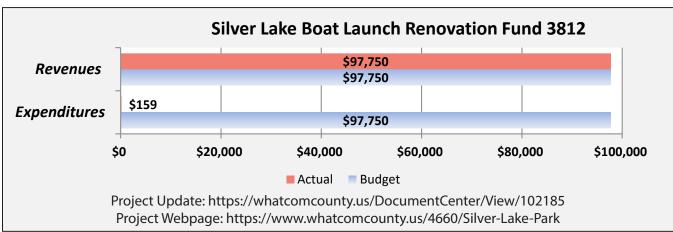


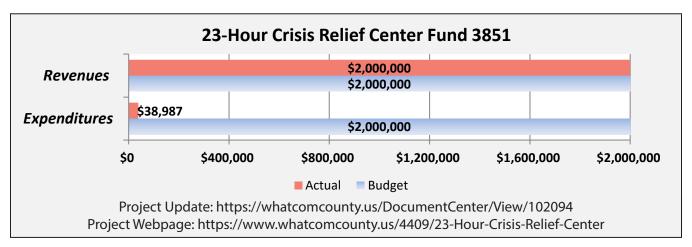


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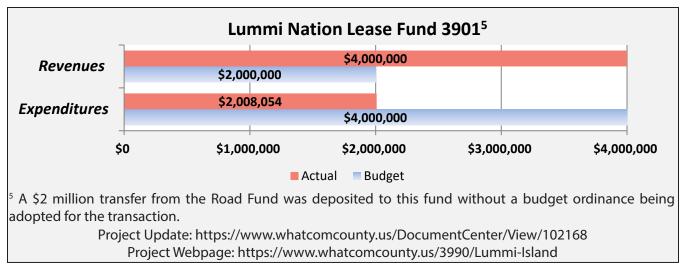


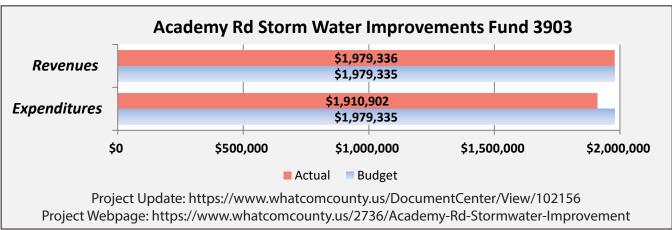


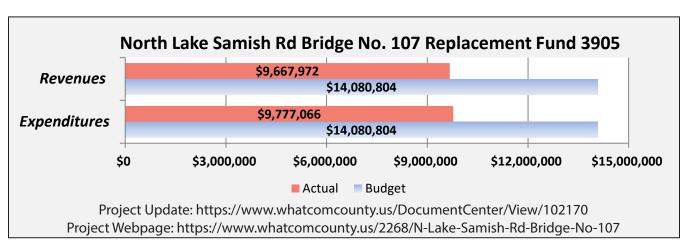


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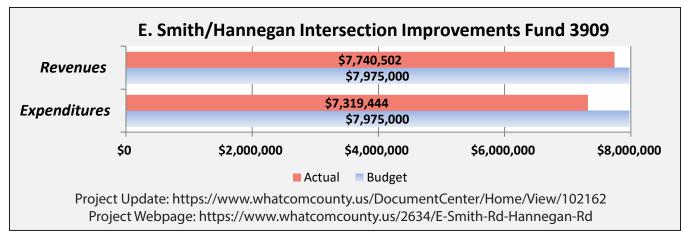


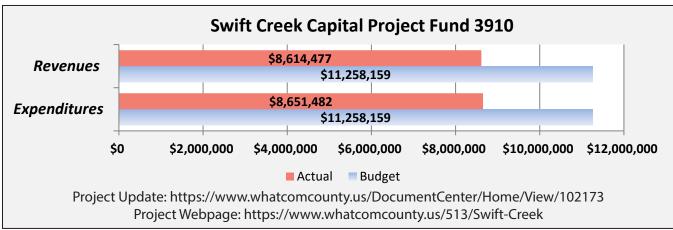


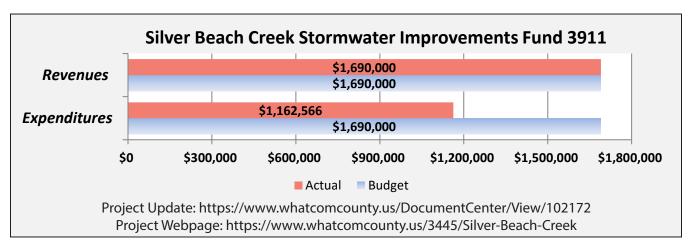


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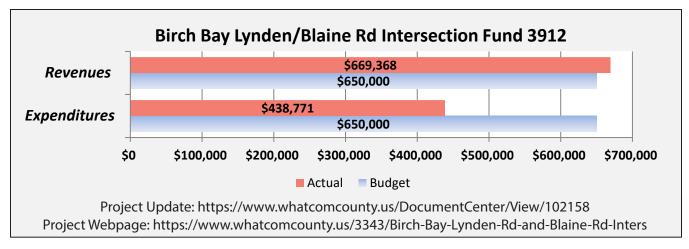


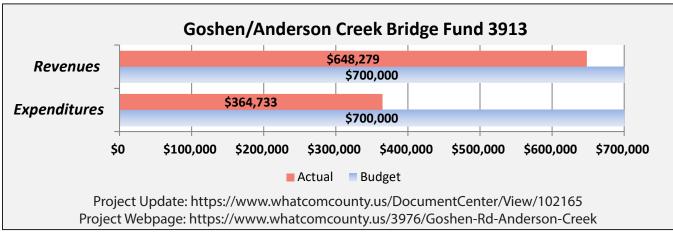


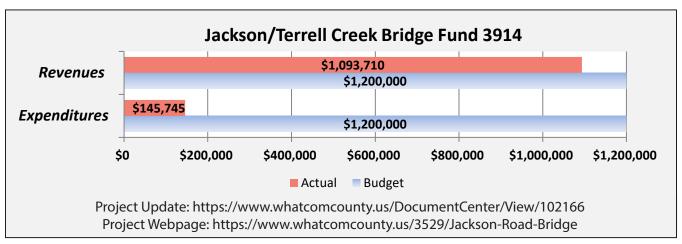


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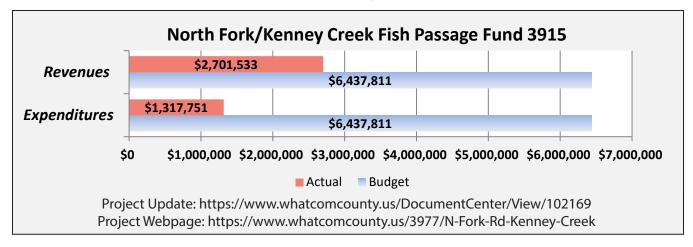


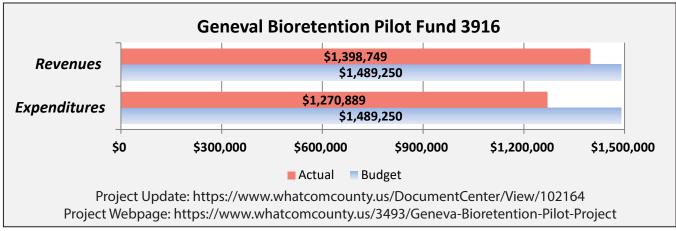


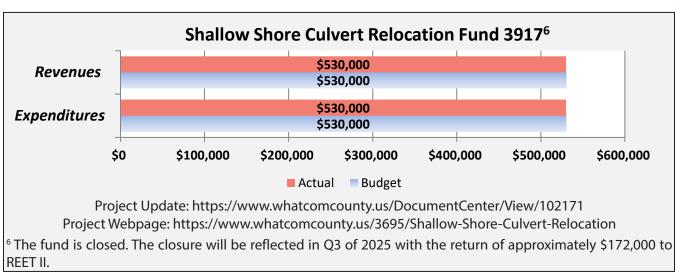


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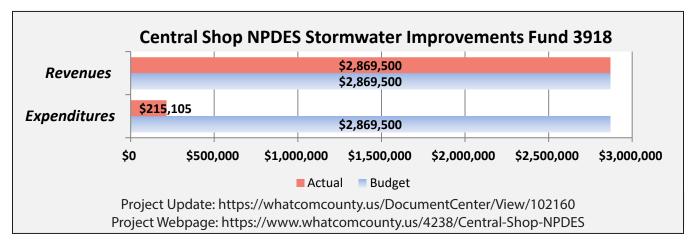


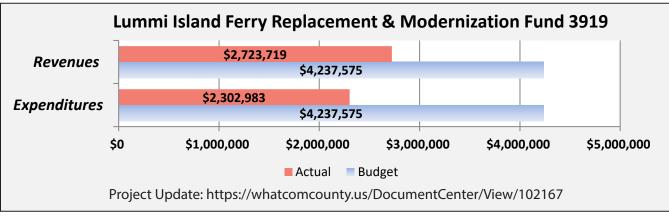


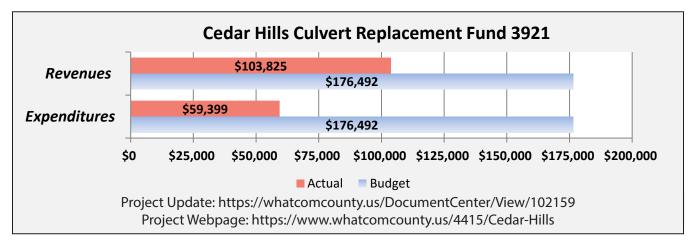


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