



LEMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT: PAST TO PRESENT

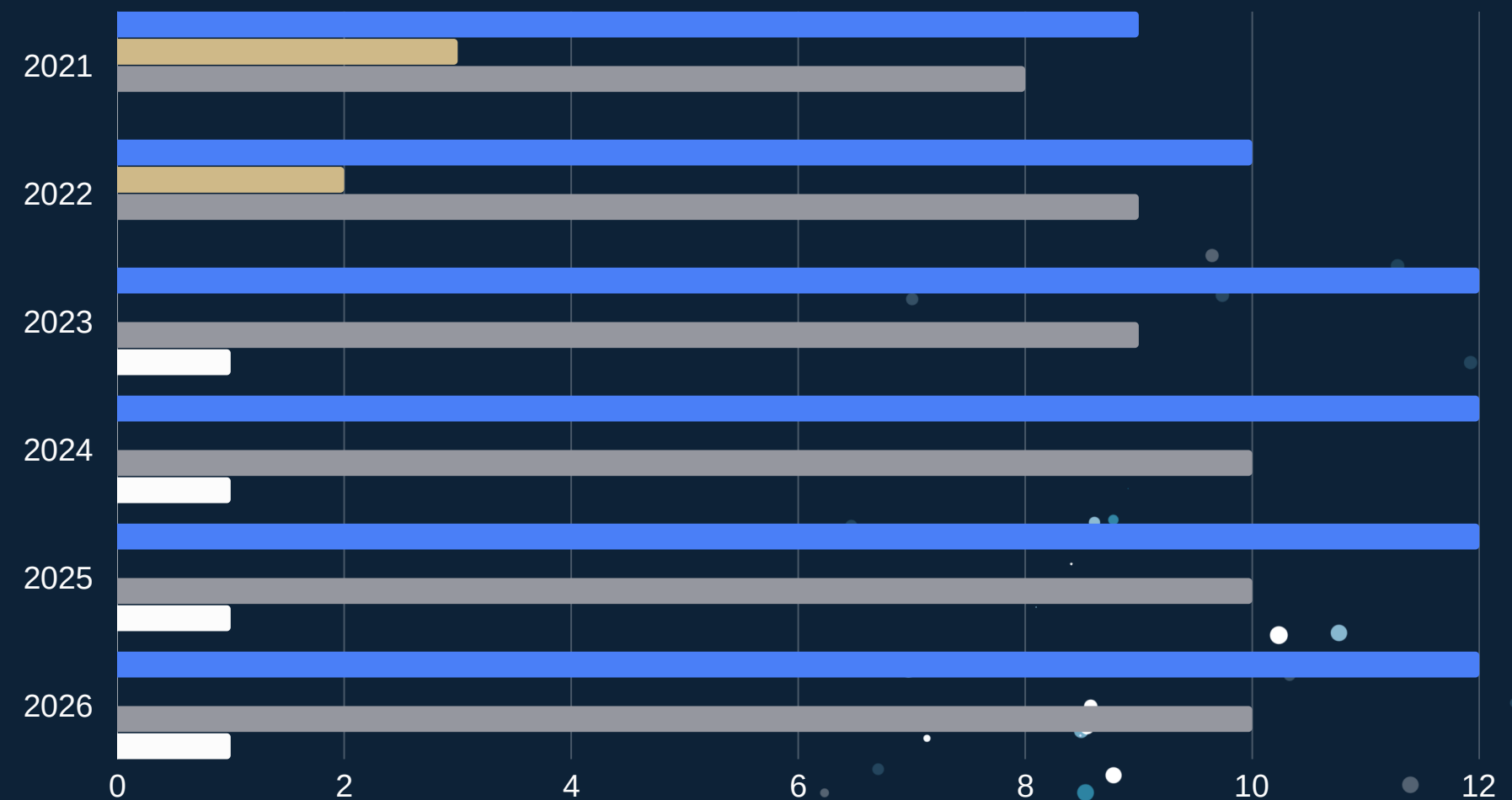
A comprehensive look at our transportation department's journey from its founding to today, including personnel growth, bus fleet evolution, and special education services.





BUS FLEET OVERVIEW

Our original fleet included 9 new leased buses, 3 Gorski leased buses, and 8 minivans. Two of those buses have wheelchair accessible lifts. We quickly added a 9th minivan to the fleet. As the Gorski buses leases ended, we replaced them with new buses. We added a Minibus for activities, and finally a wheelchair accessible minivan.



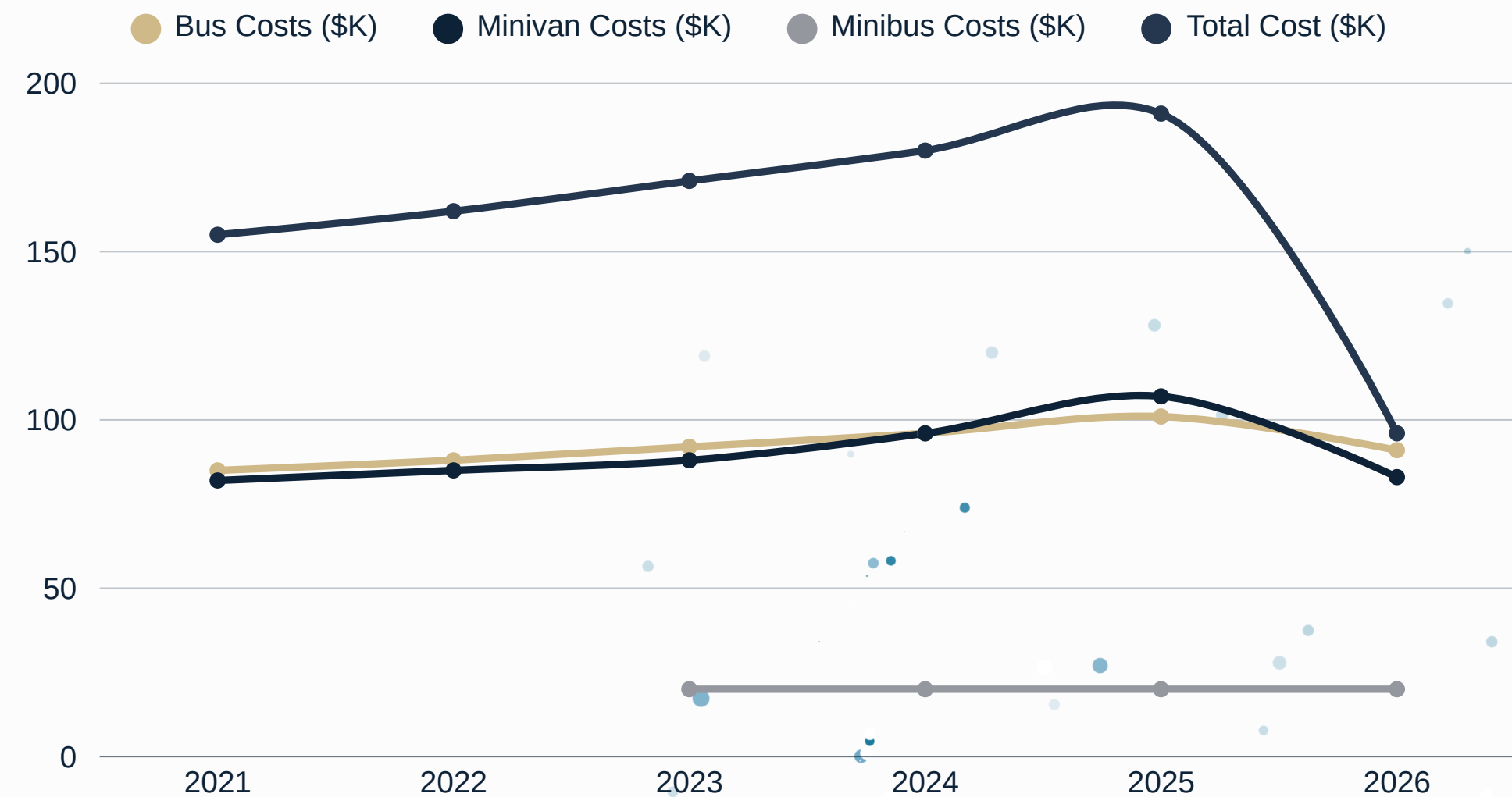
BUS FLEET COSTS



While our initial investment in the district's fleet required a significant upfront cost, that strategy is now yielding financial returns. Today, we outright own 9 of our 12 buses. Additionally, we managed to cut our minivan lease expenses by 50%. This transformed what was once an ongoing expense into valuable, equity-building assets for our district.

Moving forward, our plan is to implement a sustainable rolling replacement cycle—rotating out a couple of buses each year—which allows us to maintain a modern, reliable fleet, minimize maintenance costs, and keep our capital budget predictable year after year.

Annual Fleet Costs





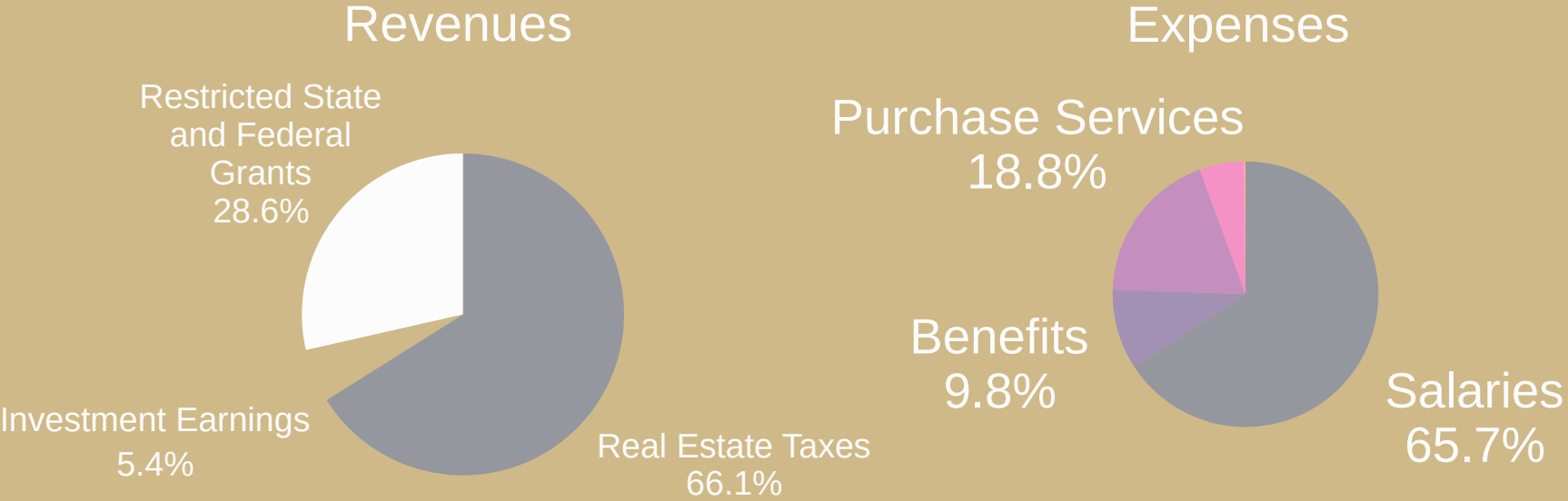
Understanding Fleet Cost Allocation

FISCAL YEAR 2021



ENDING FUND BALANCE
\$1,443,211

FISCAL YEAR 2025



ENDING FUND BALANCE
\$1,539,503

PERSONNEL

DRIVERS



2021
9 CDL Drivers
8 Special Education
Drivers
3 Aides

2026
9 CDL Drivers
9 Special Education
Drivers
4 Aides
(4 Also work in our
kitchen)

SUPERVISORS



Department
leadership is split
between the Assistant
Principal and the
Operations Specialist.
They address
personnel issues,
hiring, fleet
management,
scheduling, and driver
compliance.

MAINTENANCE



We have a CDL and non-CDL
driver perform under the
hood checks each morning
for the buses and minivans,
respectively. Drivers are
responsible for their own
checks and reporting issues
to these drivers. We have a
maintenance package with
Enterprise Fleet
Management for the
minivans. We use Central
States for maintenance on the
buses.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

AGING FLEET REPLACEMENT



As we look ahead to the 2026-27 school year, LHS has reached a major financial milestone: for the first time, our budget requires zero dollars for outstanding bus leases or purchases, meaning we are officially past the initial 'first wave' of heavy capital expenses. To capitalize on this position and responsibly manage our aging fleet, we have developed a sustainable, cost-neutral rotation plan. First, we propose leveraging the current equity in our existing minivans to lease brand-new models, which will actually lower our monthly operational costs while upgrading our vehicles. Second, we will begin systematically offloading two older buses per year, establishing a predictable, rotating replacement cycle. This strategy allows us to modernize our transportation fleet, while minimizing spikes in future capital expenditure.

FACILITIES



The selection of the transportation lot represents has been a win for LHS, by balancing student-centered logistics with fiscal responsibility. From a spatial and geographical standpoint, the site is ideal to safely house, maintain, and deploy our fleet. Its incredibly close location drastically reduces empty mileage and minimizes student ride times. The transportation office meets the need of our drivers. More importantly, this asset was secured and developed on an incredibly sound cost basis.

3RD PARTY PARTNERS



To complement our in-house fleet, we have established secure, reliable partnerships with verified third-party driving companies. This has given us an understanding of their pricing models and specialized driver pools. We recognize that out-of-district and specialized transportation require a precise, case-by-case approach. This strategic approach ensures we are never overpaying for generalized services, allowing us to optimize district expenditures while providing our most vulnerable students travel in safe, supportive, and properly equipped vehicles and drivers.

STAFFING



Our ability to attract and maintain a loyal team at LHS is a direct reflection of our competitive compensation and benefit packages. Thanks to the Board's continued support, we offer a workplace where drivers want to build long-term careers, ensuring continuity and stability for our students. However, we also recognize the fine line existing between keeping LHS transportation properly staffed and maintaining financial efficiency. We are careful not to over-hire, ensuring that every new position is strictly necessary and sustainable.



QUESTIONS

