DATE:
TO: ESU #1 Board of Directors
FROM: Bill Heimann, Administrator
RE: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 Board Meeting
There will be a meeting of the ESU #1 Board of Directors, on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 5:25 PM in the

ESU #1 Conference Room
211 Tenth Street
Wakefield, NE 68784-5014

Consideration, discussion and any action necessary will be taken on the following items.

A. ESU1 2026-27 Budget Hearing
B. Public Comment
C. Adjournment

This agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on . A copy of the agenda reflecting any changes will be kept in the ESU #1 Administrative office and will be readily available for public inspection during normal office hours. Except for items of emergency nature, the agenda will not be enlarged later than twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting. The Board reserves the right to change the order of business discussed.

*Action Items

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, that the governing body will meet on the 15 day of September 2026, at 5:25 o'clock P.M., at 211 10th St., Wakefield, NE for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following proposed budget. The budget detail is available at the office of the Clerk during regular business hours.

2024-2025 Actual Disbursements & Transfers	$	15,641,176.00
2025-2026 Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers	$	16,938,814.00
2026-2027 Proposed Budget of Disbursements & Transfers	$	19,087,095.00
2026-2027 Necessary Cash Reserve	$	2,750,000.00
2026-2027 Total Resources Available	$	21,837,095.00
Total 2026-2027 Personal & Real Property Tax Requirement	$	2,686,889.00
Unused Budget Authority Created For Next Year	$	125,420.76

Breakdown of Property Tax:

Personal and Real Property Tax Required for Non-Bond Purposes	$	2,686,889.00
Personal and Real Property Tax Required for Bonds	$	-

NOTICE OF SPECIAL HEARING TO SET FINAL TAX REQUEST

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Section 77-1632, that the governing body will meet on the 15 day of September 2026, at following Budget Hearing o'clock P.M., at 211 10th St., Wakefield, NE for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request.

	2025	2026	Change
Operating Budget	18,388,352.00	19,087,095.00	4%
Property Tax Request	$ 2,540,336.10	$ 2,686,889.00	6%
Valuation	16,935,573,988	17,912,590,265	6%
Tax Rate	0.015000	0.015000	0%
Tax Rate if Prior Tax Request was at Current Valuation	0.014182		

ESU #1 BUDGET

OVERVIEW FOR 2026-27

BUDGET PROCESS

- Fiscal Year is September 1 to August 31
- County Assessor provides property valuation by August 20.
- Publish notice of budget hearing in newspaper
- Tuesday, Sept. 15 budget hearing and property tax request hearing at 5:25 P.M.
- Hearings are mandated by state statute.
- The ESU #1Board will be asked to approve the 2026-2027 budget and tax asking during the September 15 regular meeting.
- Budget must be adopted and submitted to the state by September 30.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND PROPOSED BUDGET

HOW ARE ESU'S FUNDED?

- Contracted Services, Trainings, etc. (Schools)
- Grants (State or Federal)
- Core Service Dollars (State)
- State distributes amongst ESU's based on a formula
- Property Taxes (Local)
  - Statutory maximum levy is $0.015

- What are Core Services and how are they funded?

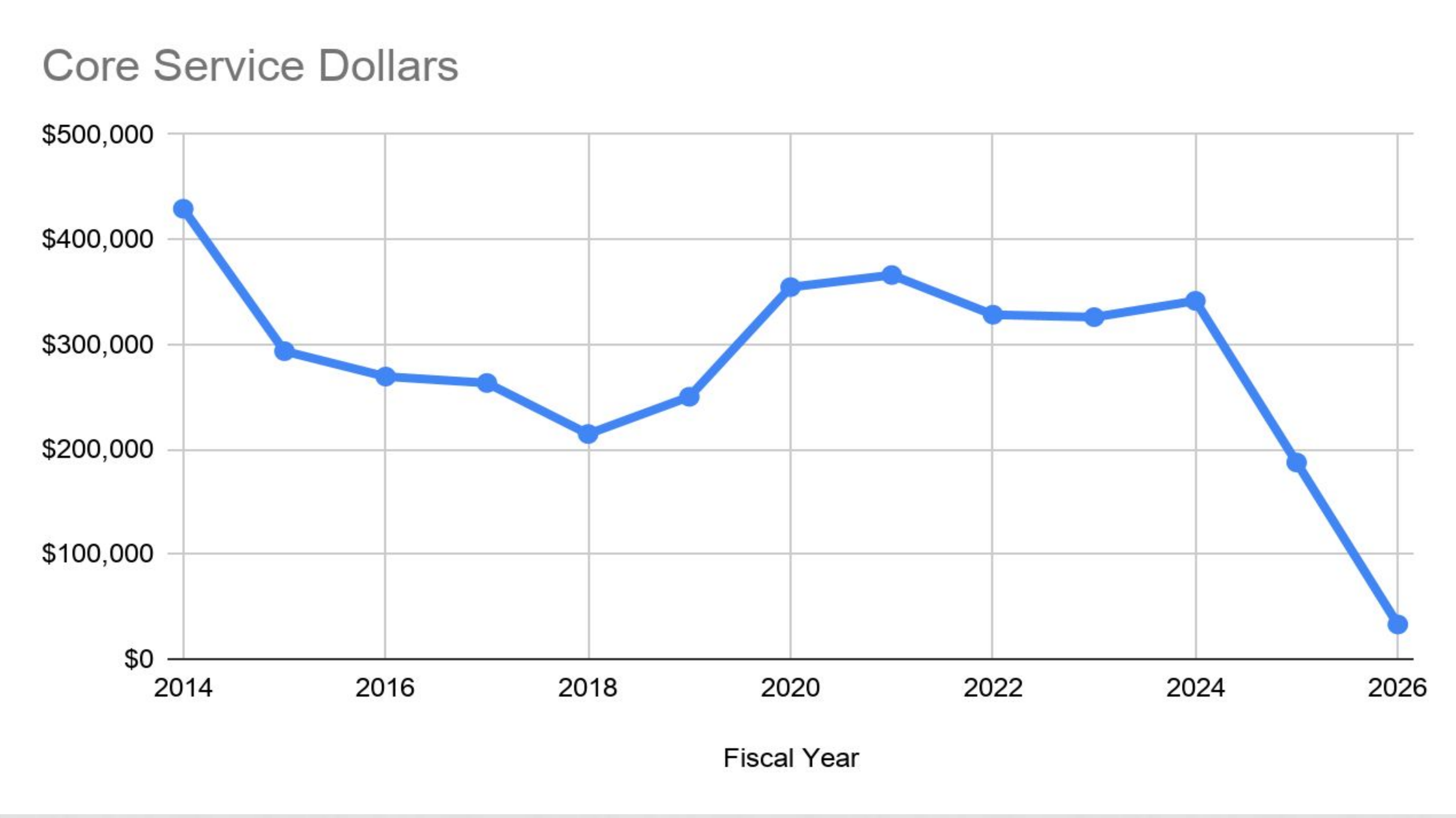
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RULE 84 (SECTION 8) CORE SERVICES

- TITLE 92 CHAPTER 84 008 Core Services
- 008.01 Provision of Core Services. Core services shall be provided by the ESU to all member school districts.
- Core services shall be defined by each ESU as follows:
- 008.01A **Core services** shall be within the following service areas in order of priority: Staff development, which **shall include staff development related to improving the achievement of all students** including the achievement of students in poverty and students with diverse backgrounds; **technology, including distance education services; and instructional materials services;**
- 008.01B Core services shall improve teaching and student learning by focusing on enhancing school improvement efforts, meeting statewide requirements including but not limited to accountability requirements, and achieving statewide goals in the state's system of elementary and secondary education;

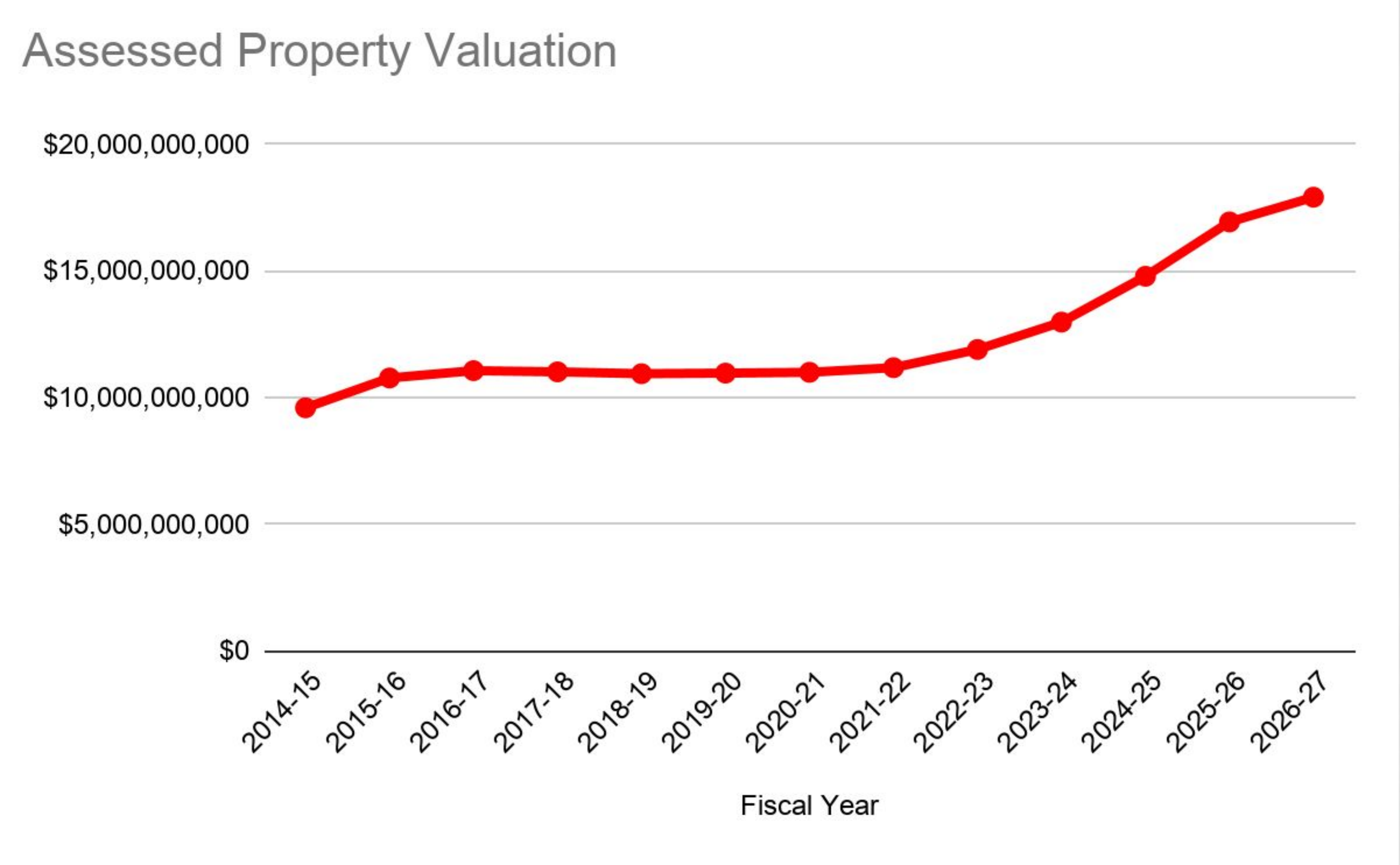
CORE SERVICES CONTINUED

- 008.01C Core services shall provide schools with access to services that:
- 008.01C1 the ESU and its **member school districts have identified as necessary services;**
- 008.01C2 are **difficult, if not impossible, for most individual school districts to effectively and efficiently provide with their own personnel and financial resources;**
- 008.01C3 can be efficiently provided by each ESU to its member school districts; and
- 008.01C4 can be adequately funded to ensure that the service is provided equitably to the state's public school districts;
- 008.01D Core services shall be designed so that the effectiveness and efficiency of the service can be evaluated on a statewide basis; and
- 008.01E Core services shall be provided by the ESU in a manner that minimizes the costs of administration or service delivery to member school districts.

ESU1 CORE SERVICE HISTORY



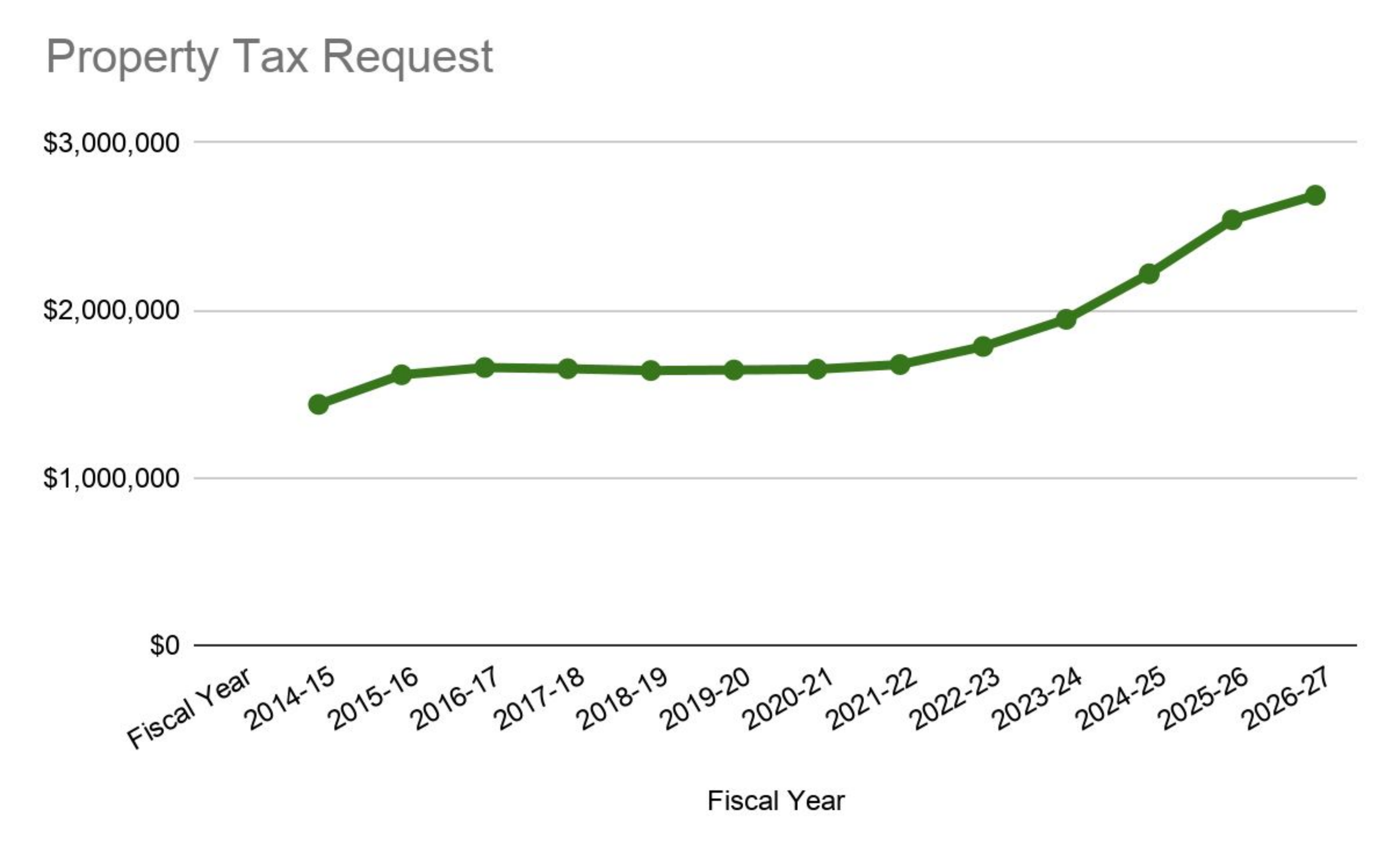
ESU1 PROPERTY VALUATION



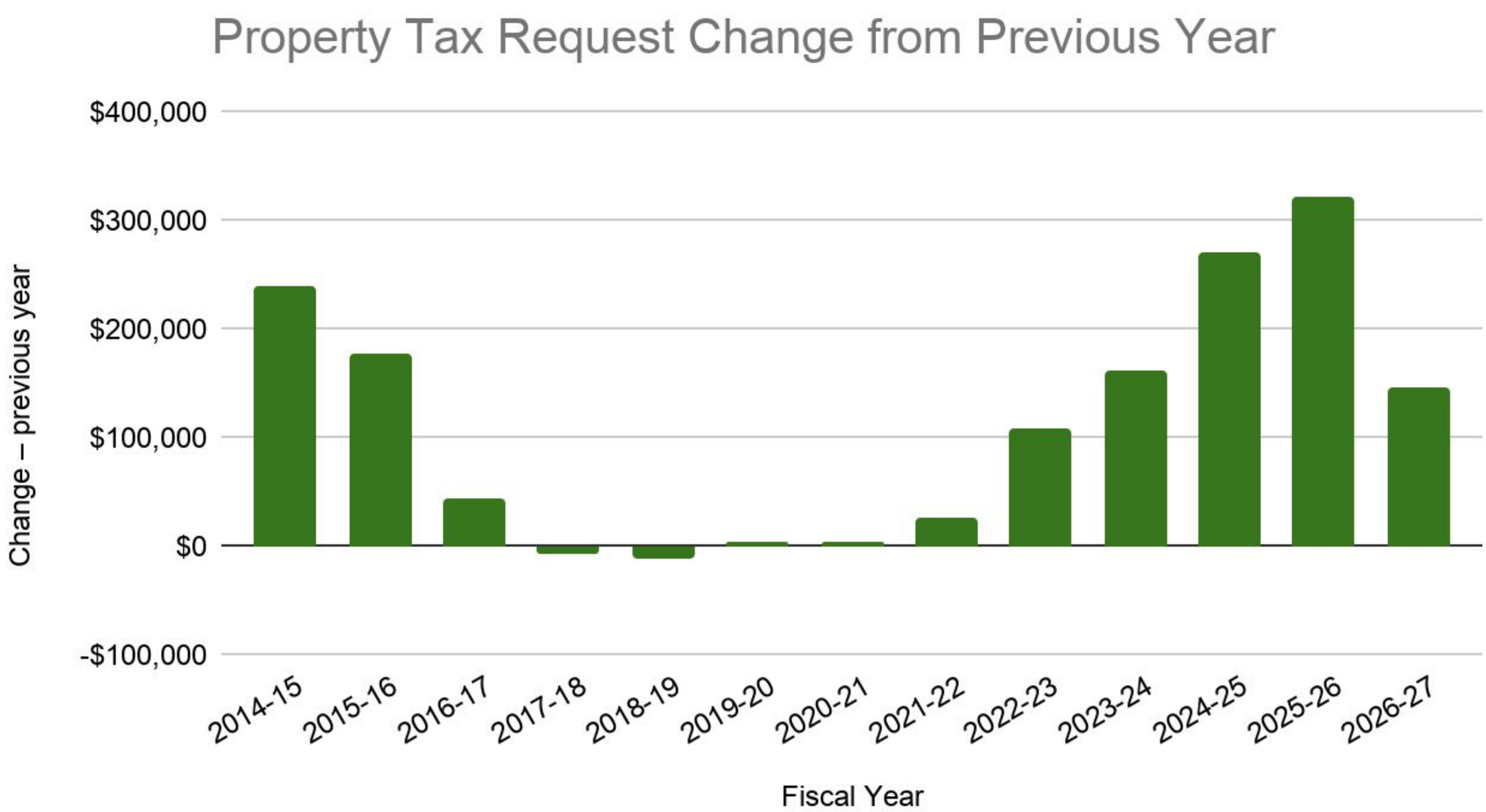
Property Tax Request for ESU1

Assessed Property Value	ESU #1 Tax Levy	Annual Portion of Property Tax to ESU1
$100,000	$0.015	$15
$250,000	$0.015	$37.50
$500,000	$0.015	$75
$1,000,000	$0.015	$150
$5,000,000	$0.015	$750
$10,000,000	$0.015	$1,500

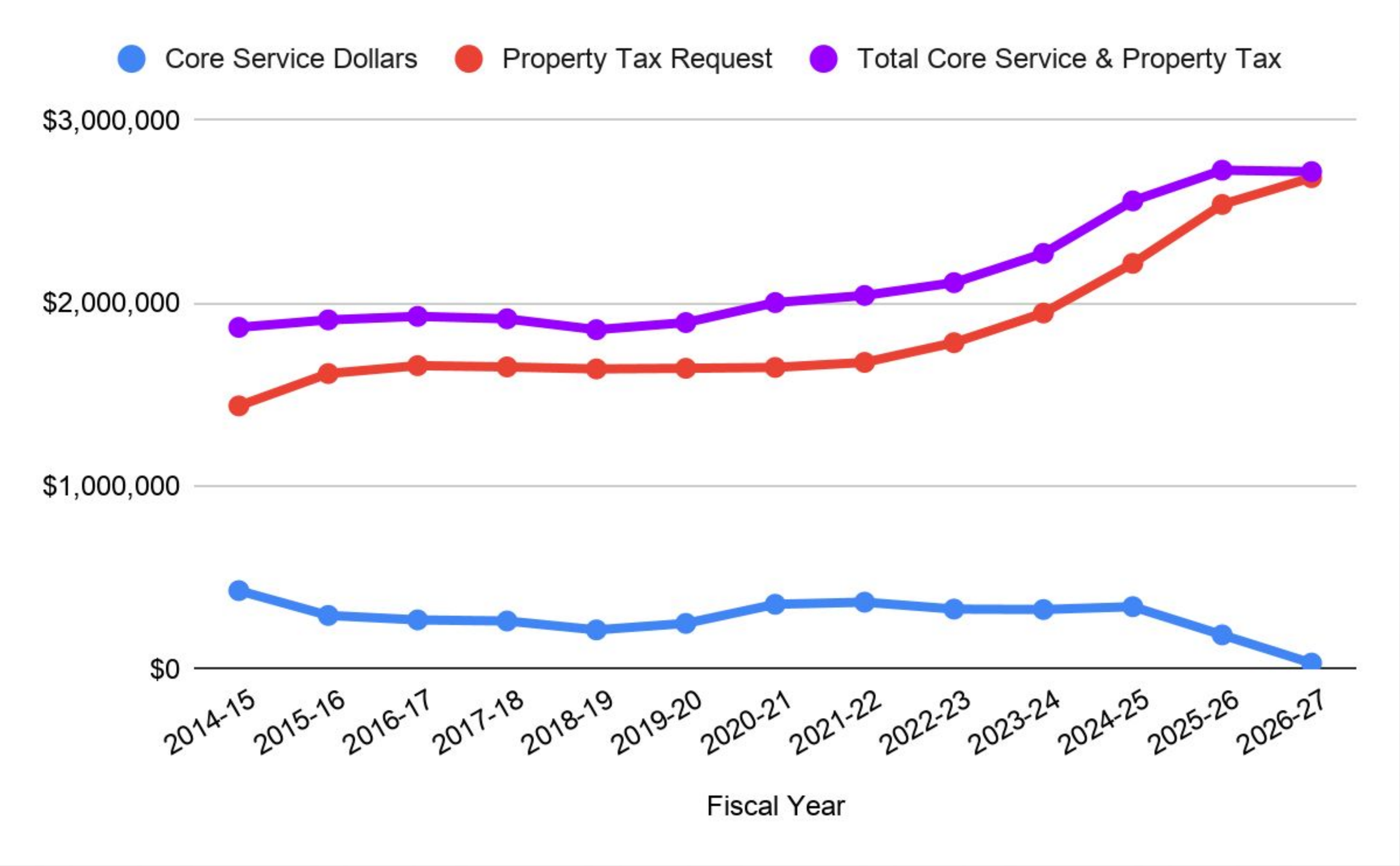
ESU1 PROPERTY TAX REQUEST HISTORY



ESU1 PROPERTY TAX REQUEST CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR



ESU1 PROPERTY TAX & CORE SERVICE REVENUE



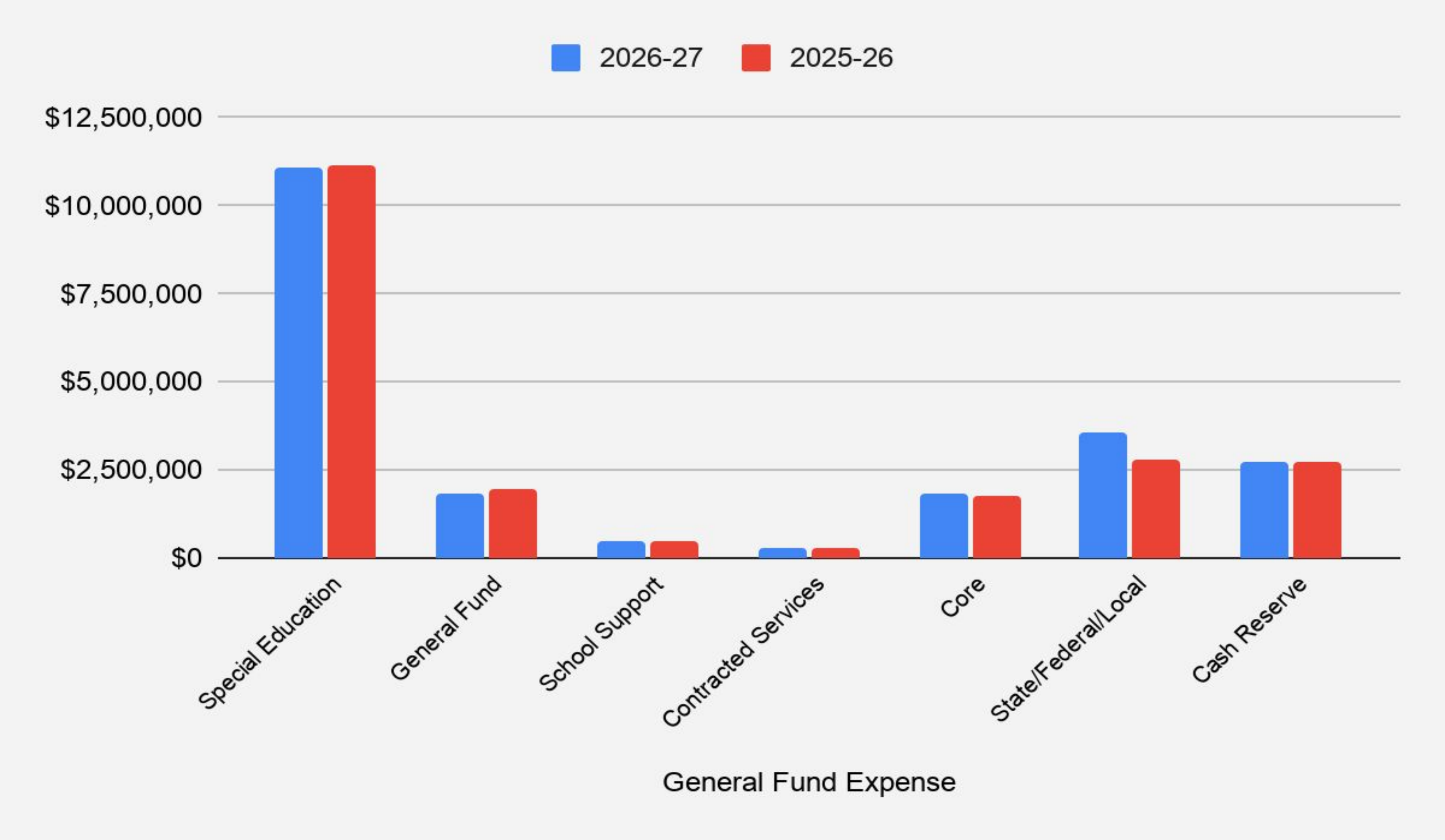
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

- Budget of Expenditures
  - A budget is an estimate and identifies **maximum expenditure limit**
  - Special Education
    - Personnel provide required services ages birth to age 21 services to all 23 districts
    - Increase: Employee compensation, additional staff SLP, School Psychologist
    - Higher costs for travel, training, computers, supplies, equipment and related costs
  - General Fund
    - Board, Administration, Business Office, Operation and Maintenance
    - Increase for Employee compensation, facility improvements
  - School Support - approved in the spring by Superintendents, ESU1 Board
  - Contracted Services (other): SPED consultants for schools, school nurse
  - Core Services/Infrastructure: Media, Staff Development, Technology Infrastructure, Technology Training
  - Federal, State, Local Grants: Early Learning Connections, MTSS, Perkins, Title I-C

BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES COMPARISON

General Fund Expense Budget	2026-27	2025-26
Special Education	$11,096,217	$11,142,070
General Fund	$1,806,840	$1,946,207
School Support General Fund	$487,500	$483,500
Contracted Services (other)	$306,545	$288,120
Core Service/Infrastructure	$1,813,335	$1,741,333
State/Federal/Local	$3,576,608	$2,787,122
Cash Reserve	$2,750,000	$2,750,000
Total	$21,837,045	$21,138,352

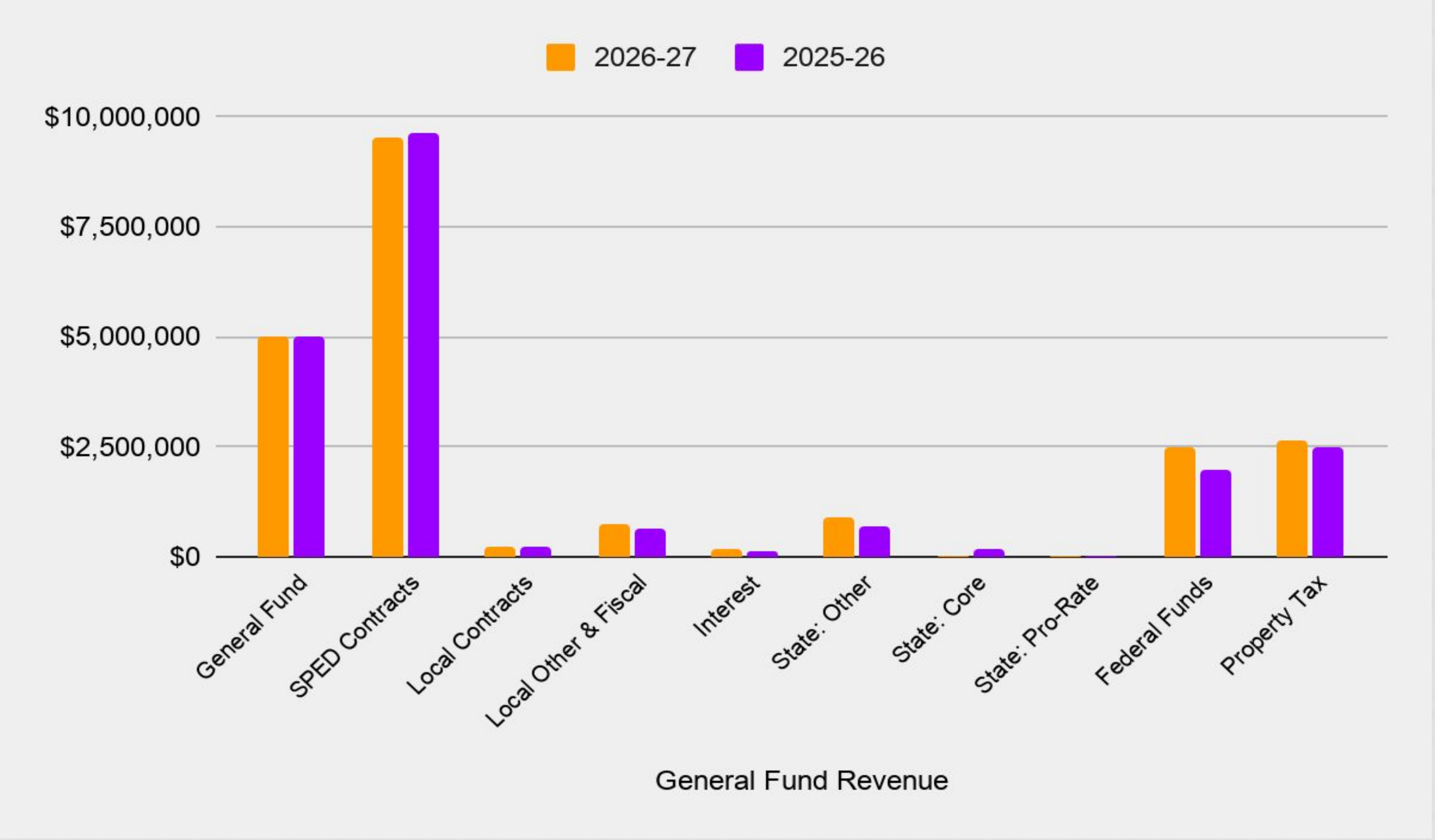
BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES COMPARISON



EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

- Special Education and Contract Services
  - Estimated expenditures equals **58%** of budget
- Core Services/School Support/General Fund/Infrastructure
  - Estimated expenditures equals **23%** of budget
- Grants Funds
  - Estimated expenditures equals **19%** of budget
- Cash Reserve is budgeted amount that will not expend

BUDGET OF REVENUE COMPARISON



BUDGET SUMMARY

- General Fund Revenue
  - Beginning Balance is estimated funds from previous year
    - Cash position necessary because ESU1 expends Grants and Contracted Services first, receives reimbursement several months afterwards
- Special Education and Contract Service
  - Revenue offsets expenditures – billed quarterly
  - ESU1 charges less than actual expense
- Local, State, Federal Resources
  - Core Service Funds decreased $308,000 since 2024
  - State and Federal Grants provide reimbursement for allowable expenditures
  - Legislation considered to eliminate ESU Levy Authority or further restrict
    - State replacement funding based on current year property tax revenue