

Wauwatosa's Financial Snapshot

2025

Breaking Down Your Tax Bill

Thinking about taxes rarely feels simple, but we strive to share numbers in a way that resonates. To help simplify understanding the city portion of your property tax bill, we broke it down as a monthly payment — similar to a monthly subscription or other service charges you may have.

In 2024, the average monthly Wauwatosa tax bill was \$168.12. Here's how you support the essential services that keep Wauwatosa running on a monthly basis:

- For less than the cost of a 6-pack of LED lights, you get curbside waste and recycling, snow plowing, road maintenance, and upgraded LED streetlights (90% transitioned to LEDs).
- For less than a standard Netflix subscription, you have access to the most visited library in Milwaukee County, with over 300K visits in 2023 and ranking

#2 nationally for children's materials circulation.

- For less than the cost of a combined smoke and carbon monoxide detector, our Fire Department responds to nearly 10,000 calls a year.
- For less than private security monitoring, you have 24/7 police services that contributed to an 18% reduction in crashes in 2023.
- For less than a Starbucks drink, you benefit from a Health Department making waves as a public health influencer.

Your tax dollars fuel the services that keep our community thriving. The cost of city services is determined by the city's operating budget, created in partnership with Wauwatosa's Common Council, city staff, and the public. Visit wauwatosa.net to view property tax records.

City Service	Price Per Month
General Government	\$15.11
Police	\$45.15
Fire	\$33.02
Other Public Safety	\$2.33
Public Works	\$13.71
Health	\$3.69
Conservation and Development	\$7.20
Library	\$9.88
Debt	\$29.63
Parks	\$3.70
Capital	\$4.70
Total:	\$168.12

Above is an estimate of monthly costs for city services. This is based on the average assessment of a single-family home in 2024.

Finding Efficiencies: Community Service Officers

Community Service Officers are making a significant difference in Wauwatosa, both in the community and in our financial forecast.

Community Service Officers (CSOs) are non-sworn, part-time employees of the Wauwatosa Police Department who are typically interested and on their way to a full-time career in law enforcement.

CSOs perform non-criminal-related police duties, such as responding to non-emergency

calls, generating investigative leads, managing traffic during community events, and much more.

CSOs help keep sworn Police Officers focused on high-priority calls and public safety while gaining their own valuable experience in the field at a lower cost to the city.

In the 2025 budget, we implemented an increase of \$30,096 to expand current CSO hours — while reducing expenditures in other ways — to help further

Wauwatosa Police Department's efficiency and CSO program. Thank you, CSOs, for the role you play in keeping our community safe.





Wauwatosa Maintains Top Rating for Financial Operations

The City of Wauwatosa has once again achieved Moody’s Investor Services’ highest bond rating of Aaa, solidifying its position among the strongest creditworthy municipalities in the United States. This exceptional rating reflects the city’s financial strength and its ability to finance critical infrastructure projects like street improvements, water system upgrades, and sewerage enhancements at the most competitive lending rates.

Moody’s highlighted several key strengths of Wauwatosa’s

creditworthiness, including a very strong and stable reserve position, a robust local economy supported by high resident income, and a promising pipeline of new developments.

In addition to maintaining its top-tier credit rating, Wauwatosa completed its annual financial audit. This rigorous audit process ensures transparency and accountability in the city’s financial operations, further reinforcing trust in the management of public funds. [Learn more about our financial operations.](#)



Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

Housing needs often change as life changes — income levels fluctuate, households change size, and sometimes individuals need additional assistance for daily living. Did you know you maybe be able to build a separate living space on your residential property in Wauwatosa to fit your current needs?

These additional living spaces, often referred to as Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) or backyard apartments, are a housing option that can benefit individuals and families while simultaneously promoting sustainable community development.

ADUs provide several community benefits, including:

- Contributing needed residential units to the city’s deficient housing stock while preserving the character of Wauwatosa’s neighborhoods
- Offering residents — or soon-to-be residents — another affordable, flexible housing option
- Providing homeowners an option to generate rental income or provide a home for extended family

The City of Wauwatosa’s Development Team is available to help residents navigate making these additional living spaces a reality.

In addition to offering free homeowner consultations, the City of Wauwatosa is offering \$25,000 in assistance for ADUs built in 2025. Financial assistance is available to the first four residents who submit a complete, buildable permit application and meet the program’s criteria.

To learn more about ADUs or submit an interest form, visit wauwatosa.net. A member of our team will contact you directly.



These are examples of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) that have been built around the country. From left to right, these images come from the City of Fairfield, CA, Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council of Los Angeles, CA, and Titus Contracting.





Wauwatosa Continues Financial Support for Small Businesses

From unique dining options, shopping venues, and other community gathering places, our small businesses are at the heart of what makes Wauwatosa a great place to live, work, and visit.

The City of Wauwatosa has consistently provided financial support to small businesses in a number of ways. At times, there are low interest loan programs or even forgivable loans available.

Recently, Wauwatosa’s Common Council reallocated the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding to the Community Development Authority to create

a more robust small business support program.

Through the new program, businesses can receive funding assistance to help cover:

- Current building renovations
- Equipment purchases
- Professional services
- Business start-ups or expansions
- Redevelopment opportunities

Funds can also be used by small businesses for promotional and outreach efforts or networking events.

To apply for small business support, businesses should connect with the city’s economic development team. To learn more, visit, wauwatosa.net.



Continued Advancements to Sustainability

The City has reduced its reliance on electric energy by 58%, from 3,866,340 kilowatt hours in 2010 to 1,619,335 kilowatt hours in 2023. We expect further savings as we continue to expand the use of solar photovoltaic systems.

Solar panel installations will continue to help power key City facilities. For example, solar

energy will provide about 74% of the police station’s electricity needs, resulting in an estimated \$35,000 annual savings. We also are installing solar panels near the Potter Road pumping station, which will save \$28,000 each year.

Soon, the City will celebrate the conversion of nearly 100% of our streetlights to energy-efficient

LEDs, another critical step toward long-term sustainability.

To continue driving these efforts forward, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will welcome a Sustainability Manager to their team in 2025. This new position — supported by the reallocation of .5 FTE — will make a significant impact on the future of [sustainability in Wauwatosa](http://sustainability.in.wauwatosa).

Vehicle Registration Fee Coming in 2025



In our recent community survey, residents identified priorities for the city to address, including how we manage traffic and congestion.

The 2025 budget includes a \$15 vehicle registration fee to help us address this community priority.

Revenue from this initiative will be dedicated to funding traffic calming measures, like reducing reckless driving and increasing our roadway maintenance.

We have already had success with projects like the trial curb

extension installation on 90th Street and North Avenue. The installation aimed to calm traffic and reduce unsafe passing on the right at this intersection. After 10 months of success, permanent concrete curb extensions were installed.

With the new funding, we plan to continue traffic calming trials and install additional infrastructure to improve traffic safety and flow across Wauwatosa.

The \$15 vehicle registration fee is anticipated effective April 2025.





Wauwatosa Elected Officials

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A TYPICAL YEAR IN CITY SERVICES



Calls for Police Service

34,944



Trees Pruned

2,548



Calls for Fire/EMS Service

9,795



Tons of Materials Recycled

3,848



Water Meters Inspected & Repaired

15,527



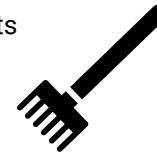
Tons of Garbage Collected

11,657



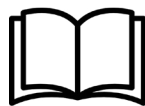
Overdose Prevention Kits Distributed

600



Tons of Yard Waste Collected

7,317



Library Checkouts

830,512



Fire Department Medical Calls

5,989



Building Permits Issued

4,284



Tons of Asphalt Patch

880



Building and Safety Inspections

716



Wauwatosa.net Web views (million)

1.3

