



ROANOKE, VA

City and County FY 2024 Report

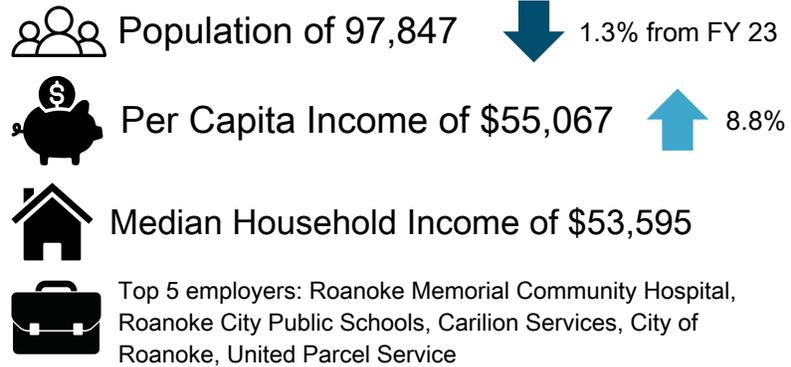
Visit Our Website At:

<https://www.roanokeva.gov/>

Who We Are

Roanoke, Virginia is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia. The city is known for its natural beauty, with access to the Appalachian Trail, the Roanoke River, and numerous outdoor amenities. In addition to its scenic setting, Roanoke has long served as a major trade and transportation center, making it the cultural and economic hub of the region.

City Snapshot



Core Values

- Integrity & Honesty
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Respect For Others
- Listening & Communication
- Continuous Improvement
- Accountability



Mayor Lea

The city and county of Roanoke operate under a Mayor-Council government. The Roanoke City Council is represented by 6 members. Both the Mayor and City Council members serve 4 year terms and are elected separately. Mayor Sherman P. Lea Sr. is the 46th elected mayor of Roanoke, serving until the end of 2024

Strategic Goals

- Foster environment for lifelong education
- Create a safe community
- Provide social safety net for citizens
- Maintain and build quality infrastructure
- Provide exceptional and competitive government services
- Enhance Roanoke's exceptional vitality and livability.
- Cultivate a thriving local economy.

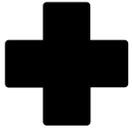
How Do WE Work for YOU?

We provide a full range of services including general government administration, public safety (fire, police, crime prevention unit), public works, recreational activities, judicial administration, health and welfare activities and community development activities.

How We're Doing



Community Development spending nearly doubled to \$33.2M (from \$17.2M in FY23).



9,000 residents gained new access to Medicare coverage this year.



Student Enrollment rose 0.1% and English Learner (EL) students increased by about 7.9% from FY 23.



Multiple capital projects are in progress, such as the Main Street (Wasena) Bridge Replacement, the Eureka Recreation Center

Key Accomplishments

- Added an ambulance to Station 14, cutting average EMS response time in East Roanoke **from 8 to 3 minutes**
- In 2024, libraries hosted **1,276** summer reading events, distributed **4,317** materials, and had **21,743** patrons.
- Homeless assistance team **housed 241 homeless individuals**, a 9% increase from last year.
- The Office of Real Estate Valuation earned the **distinguished Certificate of Excellence in Assessment Administration**, one of 57 offices nationally.
- \$611,355 invested through **HUD HOME** funds in affordable housing projects in FY24.

National Recognition

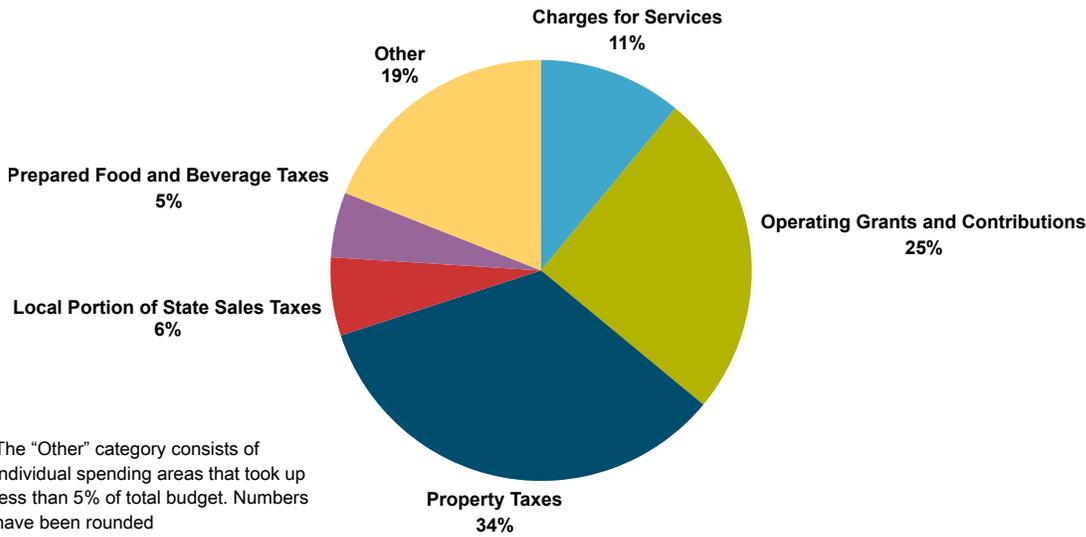
- **AARP:** Top 25 Livable Community in Virginia
- **National Civic League:** 2024 All-American City Award.
- **GFOA of US and Canada:** Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for FY 2023.
- **Welcoming America:** Certified Welcoming Destination.



Major Initiatives

- **Roadmap to Student Success:** Our plan to build innovative, resilient, and empowered students. Since 2022–2023 programs are in place, with continued progress monitoring in Roanoke schools.
- **Gun Violence Prevention Commission:** Works to prevent and respond to gun violence through monthly meetings and partnerships that develop intervention programs and promote non-violent, healthy pathways.
- **Vision Zero:** Aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries by 2035. Annual campaigns and community outreach continue to advance safer, more accessible streets.

FY 24 Revenues



The "Other" category consists of individual spending areas that took up less than 5% of total budget. Numbers have been rounded

Fiscal Year 2024 Revenues
\$470.8 million

Changes Explained
 In 2024, the City of Roanoke's revenues rose to \$470.8 million, up from \$438.3 million in 2023. The increase was mainly due to higher property taxes, service charges, and operating grants, while capital grants and some smaller tax categories declined. Overall, revenues grew by about 7% year over year.

FY 2024 Financial Audit Summary

In accordance with the Virginia State Code, the City of Roanoke underwent an independent audit of its financial statements, performed by BrownEdwards CPA. The city received a clean audit opinion for the year ending June 30, 2024, meaning the financial statements were found to be accurate and fairly presented, as well as in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Government Auditing Standards.

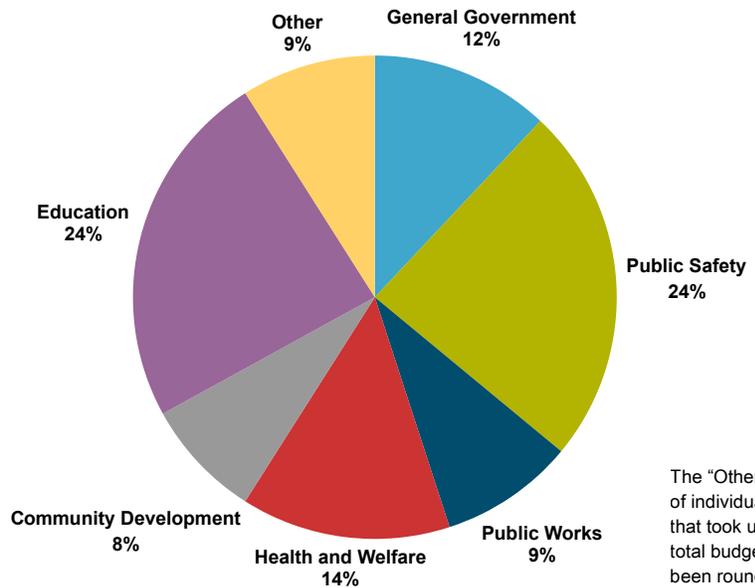
To View Full Financial Audit, Visit:

<https://www.roanokeva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21756/Annual-Comprehensive-Financial-Report-Fiscal-Year-Ended-June-30-2024>



To View Full Financial Audit, Scan Here

FY 24 Expenditures



The "Other" category consists of individual spending areas that took up less than 5% of total budget. Numbers have been rounded

Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures
\$469.5 million

Changes Explained
 In 2024, the City of Roanoke's total expenses increased to \$469.5 million, up from \$433.1 million in 2023. The rise was driven largely by higher spending on public safety, health and welfare, and community development. Overall, expenditures grew by about 8% year over year, reflecting the city's expanded investment in community and safety services.

The City Council of Roanoke spent about \$5 million higher than the approved budget for the General Fund due to rising costs for the Children's Services Act and staffing needs in the Fire Department. While staff changes contributed to this unapproved spending, it also highlighted where improvements are needed. We are putting stronger checks and safeguards in place to ensure our budgeting process remains accurate, transparent, and accountable to the community.

Looking Ahead

Anticipated Challenges

We as a city are dedicated to keeping Roanoke an affordable place to live. The Roanoke City Council is exploring options such as affordable housing initiatives, targeted tax relief, and economic development partnerships to help manage the cost of living for all residents.

While various federal funding sources, such as the Appalachian Regional Commission and certain environmental programs, are uncertain, we remain committed to maintaining quality city services. We will continue seeking alternative funding and partnerships to protect our Blue Ridge Mountains and Roanoke's natural environment.

The Roanoke Police Department continues to address staffing shortages and rebuild trust following recent recruitment and retention challenges. Increased outreach, officer training, and collaborative neighborhood programs are underway to ensure all residents feel safe, supported, and heard.

Planned Initiatives

The City of Roanoke continues to advance our **Harmony with Nature** goal through the **Climate Action Plan**, reducing emissions, expanding green infrastructure, and improving energy efficiency. Our **Flood Resiliency Plan**, funded through Virginia's Community Flood Preparedness Fund, strengthens stormwater systems and reduces neighborhood flood risks.

City Council is developing a **Code of Conduct and Rules of Procedure** to enhance transparency, accountability, and public trust.

Through our **Equity Action Plan** and commitment to **Equitable and Empowering Incomes**, we're increasing employee wages, promoting pay equity, and integrating equity goals into all city planning and budgeting.

Your feedback is valuable to us
Contact city offices:



540-853-2000



www.roanokeva.gov



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