



ANNUAL REPORT to CITIZENS

FISCAL YEAR END MARCH 31, 2026, REPORT

Spring Lake Township is a general law township of approximately 15,000 residents located in West Michigan along the shores of Spring Lake, the Grand River, and Lake Michigan. The Township provides a variety of services to residents, which includes more than 1,050 acres of parks and 26 miles of multi-purpose pathways.

Over the past year, the Township has made significant strides in community engagement and infrastructure improvements. The Township's fiscal year runs April 1-March 31. The data in this report is for fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

Culture of Kindness: As the Township continues to construct new sections of multi-use trails, we are working to develop a Culture of Kindness pathway etiquette campaign to ensure enjoyable trail use for all.

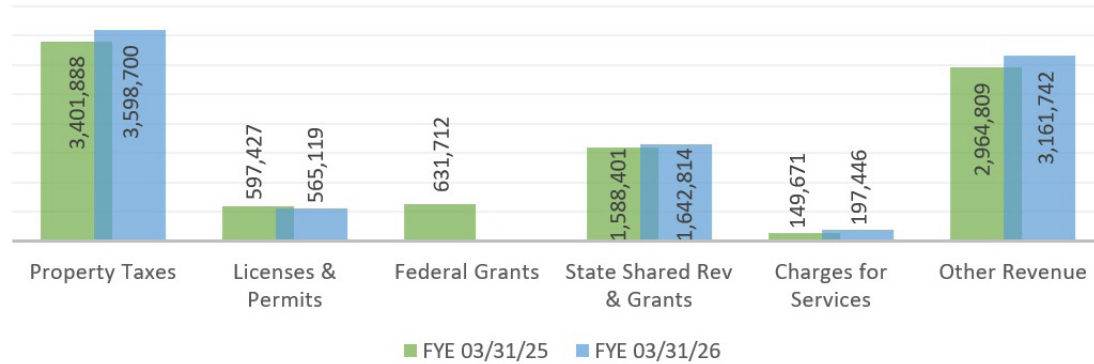
Parks and Recreation: Maintaining public parks and outdoor recreation access remain a Township priority. Highlights from the past year include the addition of pickleball courts at Rycenga Park, resurfacing of courts and addition of pickleball at Water Tower Park, and the pending acquisition of property on Petty's Bayou for public access to Spring Lake.

Community Visioning: An M-104 corridor study is under way after several community engagement opportunities. Nearly 700 people submitted responses to an online survey asking what they'd like to see along the corridor.

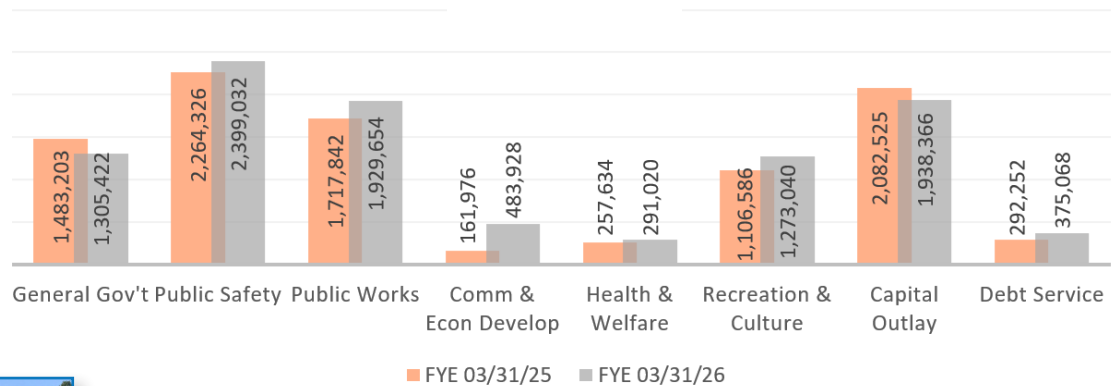


GOVERNMENTAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

REVENUES



EXPENSES



This data is for fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.



Notable differences from fiscal year end (FYE) 2025 to 2026 include an increase in property tax revenue due to the state set taxable value percentage increase (2.7%), reduction of federal grants due to one-time ARPA funding, and an increase in "other revenue" for the fire department special assessment and reimbursement of labor-sharing costs. In expenditures, increases were due to wage and benefit costs, debt payments, and an investment in the renovation of the Community Center, 15549 Cleveland St.

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY; AUDIT & CREDIT RATING RESULTS

The general fund is the chief operating fund of the Township. At the end of fiscal year 2026, unassigned fund balance was \$2,767,129 which represents 58% of the total general fund (GF) expenditures.

General Fund revenues exceeded budget by 4.7%, primarily due to higher interest income, reimbursements, and rental revenue for the newly renovated Community Center. The Township's two primary revenue sources – general operating tax levy and state shared revenue – increased by 5.9% and 0.9%, respectively, compared to the prior fiscal year. General Fund expenditures were 4.4% below budget, primarily due to lower-than-expected costs for elections

and reduced maintenance expenses in Parks and Recreation and the Cemetery.

The Township's credit rating remains AA: "Double A. Very strong creditworthiness" from S&P Global Ratings. This is the second-highest rating they issue.

The Township undergoes an annual audit required by the state of Michigan. The Township's audit for fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, resulted in a clean audit opinion. Reports and financial statements can be found on the Township website, www.springlaketwp.org, under the "About" link.

TOWNSHIP STATISTICS

CY: Calendar Year; FYE: Fiscal Year End



FIRE DEPARTMENT

	CY 2024	CY 2025
Total number of incidents	1350	1626
Number of Fire incidents	26	27
Fire loss	\$683,702	\$45,750
Number of Medical incidents	1014	1248
Average EMS response time (minutes)	6:01	4:15
Average Structure Fire response times (minutes)	7:31	4:30



OTTAWA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

	CY 2024	CY 2025
Total calls for service (Township)	3273	3421
Total violent crimes (Township)	18	18
Total property crimes (Township)	65	73
Marine unit hours (Township)	577	409

Information from Annual Report



PROPERTY INFORMATION

	FYE 2025	FYE 2026
Taxable Values	\$1,124,528,368	\$1,192,265,638
Mortgage foreclosures completed (incl. Village)	5	2
New single family building permits	38	27
Value of new single family building permits	\$15,164,549	\$15,866,008
Drinking water supplied (gallons)	587,913,000	631,722,000
Water treated (gallons)	680,226,000	739,982,000
Sewer usage billed (gallons)	300,079,000	292,502,000
Sewer treated (gallons)	251,497,000	267,077,000

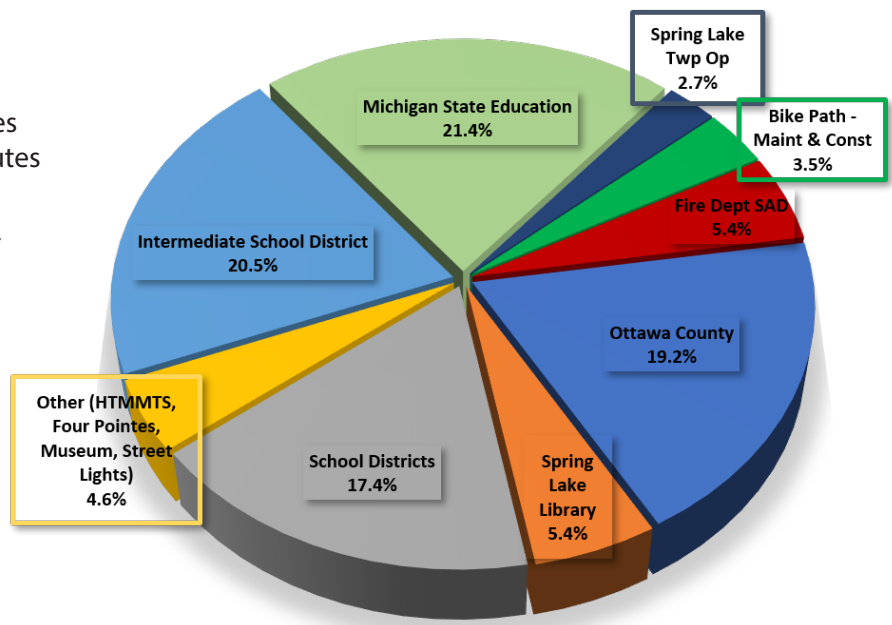


PROPERTY TAXES

Spring Lake Township collects property taxes for local taxing authorities and then distributes those funds.

The Township retains approximately 12% of the total taxes billed.

This report is published annually to inform residents about the past year's budget, financial highlights, and investments in our community. Questions can be directed to Finance Director Amy Bessinger at (616) 842-1340.



FISCAL YEAR 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS



The Fire Department Operations Fund, which is financed by a special assessment district, experienced a decrease in fund balance of \$28,068, ending at \$2,118,174. The department's Capital Fund purchased a new pumper truck, a medical response vehicle, and completed concrete improvements at Station 2.

The Township's water and sewer funds are supported by user fees. Fiscal year projects included engineering and planning for Public Works building renovations, pump station upgrades, and the painting of two shared water towers.

In July 2025, the Township Board completed a bond sale to finance the construction of additional bike paths, funded by a voter-approved millage passed in August 2024. During the fiscal year, construction for phase I began, and planning and engineering continued for phases II and III. It is anticipated that the final phase will be completed in FY2027/28.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

For fiscal year 2026/27, the Township budget includes additional capital improvements for bike paths and parks, equipment acquisition across various departments, and completion of the Public Works building renovations.

In May 2026, a significant section of the North Bank Trail collapsed, compromising a portion of sewer line. Cleanup and damage assessment are ongoing, and the full scope of the project is not yet determined. This unexpected event may delay planned bike path maintenance projects.

General Fund revenues are expected to increase to the prior-year budget. However, the Township has noted potential risks, including changes in the state's allocation of gas sales tax revenue, which could affect state revenue sharing – the Township's primary revenue source.

General Fund expenditures are expected to increase, primarily due to labor costs and one-time appropriations of \$300,000 for potential land acquisition and \$100,000 for improvements to Rycenga Park court resurfacing.

All other funds, special revenue and enterprise, do not anticipate significant changes in major revenue sources. All funds are projected to generate sufficient revenue to cover budgeted expenditures.

STAY IN-THE-KNOW ABOUT SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP

Stay connected

Spring Lake Township holds monthly Board meetings on the second Monday of each month at Barber School (check website to confirm meeting location). The public is invited and encouraged to attend in person or watch the meetings live-streamed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@springlakegovernment/streams>

Four newsletters are mailed annually, as well as frequent e-newsletters. Register to receive e-news by visiting the Township's website, www.springlaketwp.org (or scan the QR code below).



Township Board of Trustees

Spring Lake Township is governed by the Board of Trustees which is comprised of the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and four trustees. Each board member is elected by Township residents and serves a four-year term. Additionally, the Township board has an appointed Township Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations.

Supervisor: Jerry Rabideau

Clerk: Cathy Pavick

Treasurer: Jim Koster

Trustees: Christopher Estes, Ande Scherf, Jack Schroeder, Molly Ziegler

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