



# Pipeline Express

Providing reliable, quality water and services at a reasonable cost.

## Budget: Fiscal Year 2026 Planning for the New Budget

By Mike Twu

As we prepare for the 2026 budget, our finance team is working closely with department leaders to develop a plan that meets the needs of both our customers and employees. Our focus is on addressing key challenges such as aging infrastructure, water quality, and the increasing impacts of climate change. The 2026 budget will prioritize modernizing infrastructure, ensuring long-term sustainability, and keeping water affordable for everyone.

### Review of 2024 and 2025 Budgets

Looking back at 2024, SPRWS had \$84 million in total revenue, with 78% coming from water sales (not including grants or loans). Our operating and maintenance (O&M) expenses were \$64.7 million, and we made \$12.2 million in debt payments. The breakdown of O&M expenses is shown in the pie chart at far right.

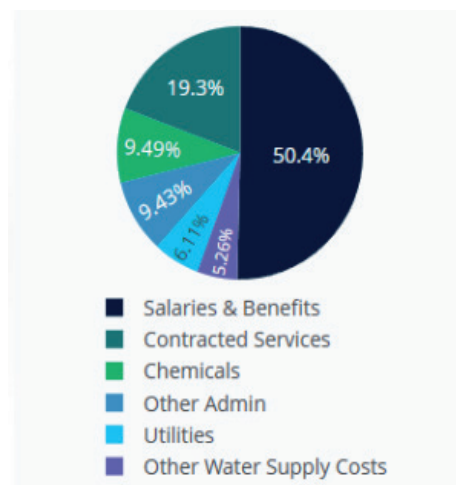
For 2025, we budgeted for \$136.9 million in revenue and \$92.7 million in

O&M costs. The large increase from 2024 is mainly due to a significant rise in private property service line replacements, which are being covered by \$41.1 million in grants.

### Forecasting the 2026 Budget

Looking ahead to 2026, we estimate total revenue (excluding grants and loans) to be about \$99.6 million. This estimate is based on expected population growth in our service areas and projected rate increases.

In the next few weeks, the finance team will work with department managers and the general manager to forecast O&M expenses for 2026. **We encourage all employees to be part of this process**, especially those with specialized knowledge who can help us identify potential costs. Your input is valuable in making sure the budget accurately reflects the needs of O&M. If you have any suggestions, please share them with your supervisor.



Summary costs 2024

### Building a Strong and Sustainable Future

Our main goal is to create a resilient, reliable, and sustainable water system. Through strategic investments in infrastructure, climate resilience, and water quality, we will ensure that all customers continue to have access to clean, safe, and affordable water for years to come.

# Fridley Pump Station

## Driving Reliability and Efficiency for Years to Come

By Rich Hibbard

If you've ever traveled along the Mississippi River near Fridley, you've likely passed by one of our most vital pieces of infrastructure—though you wouldn't know it from the outside. Originally constructed in **1925**, the Fridley pump station was built partially out over the river on a foundation of timber piles. Its main components included three electric pumps with a combined capacity of 38,000 gallons per minute, a 90-foot tall standpipe to manage pressure fluctuations, 60-inch steel discharge piping, a traveling screen system for debris removal, and a 250 kilo volt amperes (kVa) electrical substation. Decades later, concerns about low river levels during droughts spurred the construction of the north intake structure in **1959**, while a major flood in **1965** prompted protective repairs such as rockfill along the sheet-pile wall.

Now, in **2025**, we are embarking on a new round of improvements that will keep this station going strong well into the future. A top priority is upgrading the electrical transformers. While these transformers still operate reliably, replacement parts are no longer available, posing a risk of significant downtime if a failure occurs. By proactively replacing them, we can avoid lengthy outages and ensure uninterrupted pumping capacity. We're also updating station controls and integrating modern SCADA technology, allowing better remote monitoring and faster incident response.

Flood protection is another crucial focus. Although our current sump pumps

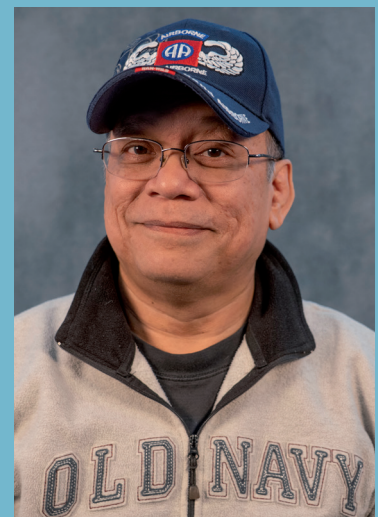
remain in fair condition, they aren't configured to fully protect the station's lower level during high river events. Upgrading these systems will help remove water more effectively in the event of a major flood, minimizing potential water damage to essential equipment.

Meanwhile, the traveling screens—which remove sticks, leaves, and debris before water reaches the pumps—are undergoing a condition assessment to determine whether they require rehabilitation or replacement. We're also evaluating the standpipe, originally installed to manage pressure, as it shows signs of age and may need repair, rehabilitation, or replacement. Additional mechanical and structural tasks include replacing or refurbishing sluice gates, mitigating corrosion on piping, and sealing minor roof and foundation leaks. Notably, the station still rests on those original timber piles, which recent inspections found to be in surprisingly good condition nearly a century later.

The station's enduring legacy underscores its importance in Saint Paul's daily life—ensuring that safe, reliable water flows to our customers. By modernizing the Fridley pump station's core components, we safeguard daily operations, cut long-term maintenance costs, and deliver a more resilient water supply to our customers. As the project launches in 2025, stay tuned for updates on how we're keeping the water coming from Fridley, day in and day out.

## MEET THE NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

Meet Gerry Elumba, who will be working in the lobby area in customer service



Gerry Elumba

We're excited to welcome Gerry Elumba as our new customer service representative!

Gerry brings over 20 years of customer service experience to his role at the customer service desk.

He is also a proud 82nd Airborne combat veteran. Outside of work, Gerry enjoys golfing, gardening, traveling, and volunteering at his local church and VFW.

Be sure to say hello and give him a warm welcome to the team!



# Keeping Water Flowing: Water Main Replacement 2025

By Kirill Maloylo

Maintaining a reliable water distribution system is no small task. Aging infrastructure, shifting soils, and everyday wear and tear all take a toll on underground water mains. Without regular rehabilitation, leaks, breaks, and emergency repairs can disrupt service, impact water quality, and lead to costly fixes. That's why the distribution division is taking a proactive approach—leveraging a mix of trenchless technologies and traditional methods to upgrade water mains efficiently while minimizing disruptions to the community.

In 2025, the division will rehabilitate more than 21,000 feet of water main using a combination of pipe bursting, cement lining, directional drilling, and open cut replacement. These strategies extend the lifespan of existing infrastructure, improve system reliability, and reduce the need for emergency repairs. By working in coordination with public works, county agencies, and other infrastructure partners, the division ensures that water main upgrades align with street reconstruction projects, maximizing efficiency and reducing costs.

Here's a closer look at the methods being used and how they help keep clean, safe water flowing to homes and businesses:

## Pipe Bursting

A trenchless method that replaces aging mains by pulling a new pipe through the old one while breaking the existing pipe outward. This approach is

especially useful in narrow corridors or developed areas where full excavation would be highly disruptive.

6,000 feet of pipe bursting planned for 2025

### Why it works:

- Minimizes surface disruption and restoration costs.
- Installs durable, corrosion-resistant materials.
- Allows for upsizing pipes to meet future demand.

## Cement Lining (Clean and Line)

An in-place rehabilitation method that applies a protective cement mortar lining inside older cast or ductile iron pipes. This restores water flow and prevents corrosion without the need for full pipe replacement.

13,000 feet of water main will be rehabilitated using cement lining in 2025.

### Why it works:

- Extends the lifespan of existing infrastructure.
- Improves water flow by reducing internal buildup.
- More cost-effective than full pipe replacement.

## Directional Drilling (Horizontal Directional Drilling)

A trenchless installation technique that allows new water mains to be placed along a pre-planned underground path, often in areas where traditional excavation is not feasible.

1,500 feet of new water main will be

installed using directional drilling in 2025

### Why it works:

- Ideal for difficult-to-excavate areas such as roads, rivers and or developed sites.
- Reduces environmental and surface impacts.
- Allows for long, continuous pipe installations.
- Protects mains by placing them deeper underground.

## Open Cut Replacement

While trenchless options are preferred, this traditional excavation method is used when pipe condition, depth, or alignment makes trenchless options impractical.

700 feet of water main will be replaced using open cut in 2025.

### Why it works:

- Provides full access for complex installations.
- Allows for precise pipe alignment adjustments.
- Used strategically when other methods are not viable.

By carefully selecting the best rehabilitation approach for each project, the distribution division is strengthening the water system for the long haul. These upgrades will enhance reliability, improve water quality, and reduce emergency repairs—ensuring that customers continue receiving safe, high-quality water for years to come.



# Getting Ready for the Construction Season, Round One



Brandon Bailey



Panha Chan



David Douglas



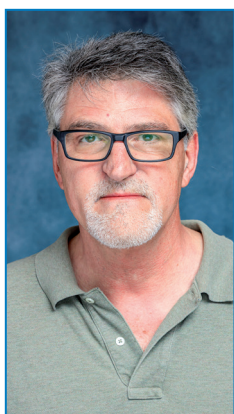
Jamal Evans



Chase Haack



Jon Hakes



Mark LaDouceur



Jamal McAllister



Jacob Moy



Walter O'Neal



Tyler Orvis



Quinton Shackleton



Elmer Stevenson



Raymond St. Germain



Bill Strouts



Tom Tonda



Brett Velander, Jr.



Brett Velander, Sr.

Employees are starting to return to work as we gear up for the construction season. This includes distribution staff who were on voluntary layoff: David Douglas, Mark LaDouceur, Tyler Orvis, Elmer Stevenson, and Raymond St. Germain.

Those working in Vadnais who are

returning to distribution are Brandon Bailey, Jamal McAllister and Jacob Moy. Staff working in the treatment plant over the winter and coming back to distribution are: Panha Chan, Tom Tonda, and Brett Velander, Sr. Distribution staff returning from meter operations are Jamal Evans, Brett Velander, Jr. and

Charles Washington. Seasonal temps from the hall returning to work are Chase Haack, Jon Hakes, Walter O'Neal, and Bill Strouts.

And utility trainee appointed to water utility worker I in distribution is Quinton Shackleton.

Others are scheduled to return in the next week.



Charles Washington