**‘BROOMFIELD TAXPAYER MATTERS’ MISLEADS VOTERS**

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| BTM Claim | Fact Check |
| *Per-person spending up 186% since 2017 to $7,722 (2026)* | **Misleading**: It includes $283.5M one-time bond proceeds. Actual increase is ~97% over 9 years (~8% annually), **close to combined inflation plus population growth** (~6%). We have increased police budget by 27% and added 35 officers. Result: Lowest per capita crime rate in metro, i.e. safest city. |
| *Total spending increased $599M (245%) since 2017* | **False**: When compared correctly — excluding bond proceeds and pass-through fiduciary funds — **growth consistent with ~6%/year.** The change from 2025 to the 2026 “operating budget” decreases by $23.6M once one-time bond items, fiduciary contributions and interfund activities are removed. |
| *2026 budget will use $283.5M in bond proceeds (32% of budget)* | **True but normal:** These are borrowed funds for long-lived capital projects (water tanks, police facility), not operational spending. **Accounting rules require showing bonds as both revenue and expense** in the year issued. |
| *Property taxes up 13.6% since 2023* | **Lacks context:** **Tax rate hasn’t changed since 2001** (28.968 mills); the increase is due to state-determined valuations rising ~41% for residential. Average annual change ≈4.6%. |
| *Debt will hit $510M (125% jump vs 2025)* | **Context missing** $283.5M of this is for new infrastructure. **Existing debt decreases** from $241.9M (2024) to $227.3M (2025). Enterprise debt (e.g., water) is separate from general fund obligations. Total assets are nearly $1.3B, so debt level is reasonable. |
| *Water rates increasing 133% by 2028* | **Context missing**. Rate increases are tied to infrastructure upgrades and regulatory compliance. BTM omits that these are **planned, incremental, and fund safe/reliable water service**. Without it, more frequent and longer outages. |
| *244% spending increase since 2017* | **Double counts one-time items**. Removing bond proceeds and required accounting rules, budget shows ~97% total growth (not 244%) or ≈8%/yr. **Not even close.** |