

FY26 Operating Budget Update

March 1, 2025

SELECT BOARD, FINANCE COMMITTEE, TOWN ADMINISTRATION, TOWN DEPARTMENTS



Changes To Budget

Adjustments Made to FY26 Operating Budget Since 2/1/25 Meeting		
Item #	Description	Increase/ (Decrease)
Expenditures		
1	Department Head wage increases for contract settlements	\$39,520
2	Increase audit budget for new contract and one year of Single Audit	\$10,000
3	Decrease Town Counsel budget for 3A Litigation (moved to capital)	(\$25,000)
4	Increase for MASCO 2.5.25 Budget	\$130,687
5	Increase for Essex North Shore Tech Preliminary Budget	\$129,389
6	Increase DPW Salaries & Wages for Facilities Director	\$110,000
7	Increase COA Salaries & Wages for Program & Volunteer Coordinator	\$56,376
8	Increase Debt Service for reduction of CPA Fund contribution to Library Debt (RE Tax increase below to net)	\$92,875
9	Increase in Town Health Insurance for actual rates	\$113,924
Total Expense Increase (Decrease)		\$657,771

Changes To Budget

Adjustments Made to FY26 Operating Budget Since 2/1/25 Meeting		
Item #	Description	Increase/ (Decrease)
Revenues		
1	Increase in net real estate tax revenue - Library Offset; Overlay Decrease	\$142,875
2	Increase motor Vehicle Excise	\$75,000
3	Increase penalties & interest on taxes	\$5,000
4	Increase MELD transfer	\$40,000
5	Increase investment income	\$25,000
6	Decrease for TSS Fee (double counted recycling sticker revenue)	(\$10,000)
7	Increase fees for change in Recycling Sticker fee	\$1,000
8	Increase Cemetery Fees	\$5,000
9	Increase in Cherry Sheet State Aid	\$62,070
10	Increase PEG transfer for salary adjustment	\$425
Total Revenue (Increase)/Decrease		\$346,370
Net Change - From 2/1/2025		\$311,401

Budget Summary - Revenues

REVENUES					
	FY2025		FY2026		
	BUDGETED	ESTIMATE	\$ Change	% Change	
NET PROPERTY TAXES RAISED	\$ 38,770,582	\$ 40,211,428	\$ 1,440,846	3.7%	
TOTAL NET STATE AID	2,298,018	2,403,178	105,160	4.6%	
TOTAL LOCAL RECEIPTS	4,132,344	4,315,844	183,500	4.4%	
TOTAL OFFSET RECEIPTS	1,146,477	1,208,310	61,833	5.4%	
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 46,347,421</u>	<u>\$ 48,138,760</u>	<u>\$ 1,791,339</u>	<u>3.9%</u>	

Budget Summary - Expenditures

EXPENDITURES					
	FY2025 BUDGET	FY2026 PROPOSED	\$ Change	% Change	
TOTAL TOWN SERVICES	\$ 15,120,722	\$ 16,142,600	\$ 1,021,878	6.8%	
TOWN DEBT SERVICE	3,828,178	3,952,350	124,172	3.2%	
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	15,312,562	15,875,686	563,124	3.7%	
TOTAL MASCONOMET ASSESSMENT	11,103,806	11,789,683	685,877	6.2%	
TOTAL ESSEX NORTH SHORE ASSESSMENT	982,153	1,158,466	176,313	18.0%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 46,347,421	\$ 48,918,785	\$ 2,571,364	5.5%	

Breakdown of Town Services

	FY2025	FY2026	\$ Change	% Change
Total Salaries	\$ 8,316,381	\$ 8,840,106	\$ 523,725	6.3%
Total Other Expenses	3,116,778	3,186,721	\$ 69,943	2.2%
Total Capital Outlay	137,500	137,500	\$ -	0.0%
Total Health Insurance	976,433	1,290,335	\$ 313,902	32.1%
Total Retirement	2,083,090	2,149,917	\$ 66,827	3.2%
Total Prop & Liab Insurance	330,500	393,200	\$ 62,700	19.0%
Total Other Unclassified	140,040	144,821	\$ 4,781	3.4%

Salaries includes two new FTE ~ \$157,000

Budget Status

FY 2026 Proposed Revenue	\$ 48,138,760
FY 2026 Proposed Budget	\$ 48,918,785
Surplus/ (deficit)	\$ (780,025)

- Outstanding Items
- Masco Final Budget
- Elementary School Budget
- Final Override Totals