

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF BELLINGHAM



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

7:30 p.m.

BELLINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

**Town of Bellingham
Annual Town Meeting
May 22, 2024**

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

John Allam, Chairman
Joseph E. Collamati, Jr., Vice Chairman
Kevin Keppler
Jennifer Kuzmeskas
Jack McCarthy
Brian Boyd
Tina M. Griffin, Clerk

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
COMMITTEE**

Roland A. Lavalley, Chairman
Joseph E. Collamati, Jr.
Jennifer Kuzmeskas
Jack McCarthy
Michael Hennessy
Tina M. Griffin, Clerk

MODERATOR

Michael Carr

TOWN CLERK

Lawrence J. Sposato, Jr.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Michael J. Connor, Chairman
Sahan Sahin, Vice Chairman
Michael Hennessy
Ann Odabashian
Hilarie Allie, Administrative Assistant

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Michael J. Reed, Jr., Chairman
Jennifer L. Altomonte, Vice Chairwoman
Mark J. Flannery
Bev Pierce
Erik Ormberg

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Heidi Chuckran

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Denis C. Fraine

TOWN MEETING GLOSSARY

- CHERRY SHEET** A financial statement from the State that itemizes State aid and assessments to the Town.
- ENTERPRISE FUND** A fund where expenditures are restricted for operating, capital, and debt costs of a particular service (such as water, sewer, trash, and stormwater). It allows a community to recover the total costs of a service through user fees or the user fees may be supplemented by taxation. The budget for an enterprise fund is not autonomous, it must be voted annually at Town Meeting. An enterprise fund balance can be carried over from year to year.
- FISCAL YEAR** The Town operates on a fiscal year that begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.
- FREE CASH** Funds certified by the state as appropriated in previous years but not expended. It can result from higher than anticipated revenue and/or lower than anticipated expenditures.
- OVERLAY RESERVE** A Board of Assessors fund used to cover tax abatements and statutory exemptions.
- RESERVE FUND** A Finance Committee fund used for extraordinary and unforeseen expenditures during the year.
- REVOLVING FUND** A fund created to allow specific programs to use fees collected to defray the expenses of the program. A revolving fund does not have to be appropriated each year.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF BELLINGHAM
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Norfolk, ss:
To either of the Constables of the Town of Bellingham, in the County of Norfolk;

GREETINGS:
In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs to meet at the:

BELLINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

At 60 Blackstone Street in said Bellingham, on Wednesday, the twenty-second day of May 2024, at 7:30 p.m., then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. OPERATING EXPENSES AND SALARIES
STARTS ON NEXT PAGE

ARTICLE 1. FY2024 OPERATING BUDGET

To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds, and/or otherwise for the following purposes, to include determining the expenses and salaries of the various elected and appointed Town Officers for the period commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, or act to do anything in relation thereto.

1. All travel expenses are paid at the rate of 67.0 cents per mile. No travel expenses shall be paid except upon receipt of vouchers showing dates, expenses incurred and the number of miles traveled.
2. All dollar amounts listed have been rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 Budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
114 TOWN MEETING MODERATOR							
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %	\$0
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100	0.00 %	\$100
Total 114	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100	0.00 %	\$100
122 SELECTMEN							
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$9,500	\$9,600	\$12,900	\$12,900	\$12,900	0.00 %	\$12,900
Salaries	\$56,663	\$58,362	\$65,000	\$74,460	\$74,460	14.55 %	\$74,460
Expenses	\$46,494	\$78,803	\$80,016	\$80,301	\$80,301	0.36 %	\$80,301
Total 122	\$112,657	\$146,765	\$157,916	\$167,661	\$167,661	6.17 %	\$167,661
123 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR							
Salaries/Clerical Support	\$201,224	\$209,169	\$218,925	\$234,728	\$234,728	7.22 %	\$234,728
Expenses	\$2,156	\$2,785	\$53,974	\$28,974	\$13,974	(74.11)%	\$13,974
Total 123	\$203,380	\$211,954	\$272,899	\$263,702	\$248,702	(8.87)%	\$248,702
131 FINANCE COMMITTEE							
Salaries	\$3,820	\$3,820	\$3,820	\$4,107	\$4,107	7.51 %	\$4,107
Expenses	\$1,428	\$250	\$1,575	\$1,575	\$1,575	0.00 %	\$1,575
Total 131	\$5,248	\$4,070	\$5,395	\$5,682	\$5,682	5.32 %	\$5,682

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 Budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
132 RESERVE FUND							
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$50,000	0.00 %	\$50,000
Total 132	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$50,000	0.00 %	\$50,000
135 CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER							
Salaries	\$261,527	\$267,608	\$278,967	\$290,580	\$290,580	4.16 %	\$290,580
Expenses	\$67,886	\$71,403	\$106,656	\$175,791	\$175,791	64.82 %	\$175,791
Total 135	\$329,413	\$339,011	\$385,623	\$466,371	\$466,371	20.94 %	\$466,371
137 ASSESSORS							
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	0.00 %	\$3,600
Salaries	\$161,300	\$151,066	\$245,108	\$258,298	\$258,298	5.38 %	\$258,298
Expenses	\$9,758	\$46,206	\$42,900	\$76,200	\$76,200	77.62 %	\$76,200
Total 137	\$174,658	\$200,872	\$291,608	\$338,098	\$338,098	15.94 %	\$338,098
142 ASSESSORS REVALUATION							
Expenses	\$18,725	\$24,366	\$49,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	(8.16)%	\$45,000
Total 142	\$18,725	\$24,366	\$49,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	(8.16)%	\$45,000
145 TREASURER/COLLECTOR							
Salaries	\$237,894	\$270,677	\$306,799	\$297,306	\$297,306	(3.09)%	\$297,306
Expenses	\$77,818	\$114,571	\$110,371	\$121,157	\$121,157	9.77 %	\$121,157
Total 145	\$315,712	\$385,248	\$417,170	\$418,463	\$418,463	0.31 %	\$418,463
151 TOWN COUNSEL							
Expenses	\$108,439	\$92,478	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	0.00 %	\$110,000
Total 151	\$108,439	\$92,478	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	0.00 %	\$110,000
152 HUMAN RESOURCES							
Salaries	\$108,205	\$121,729	\$157,642	\$169,789	\$169,789	7.71 %	\$169,789
Expenses	\$3,945	\$16,012	\$35,970	\$25,000	\$25,000	(30.50)%	\$25,000
Total 152	\$112,150	\$137,741	\$193,612	\$194,789	\$194,789	0.61 %	\$194,789

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 Budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
154 MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS							
Salaries	\$176,409	\$198,949	\$209,402	\$215,432	\$215,432	2.88 %	\$215,432
Expenses	\$327,812	\$365,393	\$492,030	\$541,663	\$541,663	10.09 %	\$541,663
Total 154	\$504,221	\$564,342	\$701,432	\$757,095	\$757,095	7.94 %	\$757,095
156 TAX TITLE FORECLOSURE							
Expenses	\$26,625	\$18,635	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	0.00 %	\$50,000
Total 156	\$26,625	\$18,635	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	0.00 %	\$50,000
161 TOWN CLERK							
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$73,999	\$76,220	\$92,000	\$94,000	\$94,000	2.17 %	\$94,000
Salaries	\$52,552	\$44,173	\$47,000	\$94,600	\$94,600	101.28 %	\$94,600
Expenses	\$5,268	\$7,228	\$15,800	\$19,300	\$19,300	22.15 %	\$19,300
Total 161	\$131,819	\$127,621	\$154,800	\$207,900	\$207,900	34.30 %	\$207,900
162 ELECTIONS							
Salaries	\$22,091	\$66,296	\$71,600	\$90,600	\$90,600	26.54 %	\$90,600
Expenses	\$14,009	\$20,774	\$24,000	\$34,000	\$34,000	41.67 %	\$34,000
Total 162	\$36,100	\$87,070	\$95,600	\$124,600	\$124,600	30.33 %	\$124,600
171 CONSERVATION COMMISSION							
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$6,000	\$6,250	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	0.00 %	\$7,000
Salaries	\$50,250	\$70,300	\$108,250	\$114,945	\$75,900	(29.88)%	\$75,900
Expenses	\$7,968	\$6,147	\$12,020	\$12,078	\$12,078	0.48 %	\$12,078
Total 171	\$64,218	\$82,697	\$127,270	\$134,023	\$94,978	(25.37)%	\$94,978

Account Description	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Budget FY 2024	Department Head Requested FY 2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY 2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY 2024 Budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY 2025
172 PLANNING BOARD							
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$4,750	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	0.00 %	\$5,000
Salaries	\$120,659	\$133,424	\$131,259	\$138,479	\$210,029	60.01 %	\$210,029
Expenses	\$1,239	\$2,085	\$21,500	\$21,550	\$21,550	0.23 %	\$21,550
Total 172	\$126,648	\$140,509	\$157,759	\$165,029	\$236,579	49.96 %	\$236,579
173 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS							
Salaries	\$7,275	\$7,200	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	0.00 %	\$7,500
Expenses	\$298	\$322	\$1,100	\$500	\$500	(54.55)%	\$500
Total 173	\$7,573	\$7,522	\$8,600	\$8,000	\$8,000	(6.98)%	\$8,000
183 DISABILITY COMMISSION							
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500	0.00 %	\$500
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	100.00 %	\$20,000
Total 183	\$0	\$0	\$20,500	\$20,500	\$20,500	0.00 %	\$20,500
189 PUBLIC BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE							
Salaries	\$82,474	\$87,817	\$111,249	\$122,279	\$122,279	9.91 %	\$122,279
Expenses	\$219,580	\$235,933	\$318,526	\$300,312	\$310,312	(2.58)%	\$310,312
Total 189	\$302,054	\$323,750	\$429,775	\$422,591	\$432,591	0.66 %	\$432,591
190 OTJ INJURY FOR DEDUCTIBLE (On the job)							
Expenses	\$25,659	\$6,843	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	0.00 %	\$25,000
Total 190	\$25,659	\$6,843	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	0.00 %	\$25,000
193 PROPERTY & LIABILITY INSURANCE							
Expenses	\$591,370	\$691,048	\$823,500	\$823,500	\$823,500	0.00 %	\$823,500
Total 193	\$591,370	\$691,048	\$823,500	\$823,500	\$823,500	0.00 %	\$823,500
194 RETIREMENT ASSESSMENT							
Expenses	\$3,304,448	\$3,534,569	\$4,161,172	\$4,329,820	\$4,329,820	4.05 %	\$4,329,820
Total 194	\$3,304,448	\$3,534,569	\$4,161,172	\$4,329,820	\$4,329,820	4.05 %	\$4,329,820

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 Budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
195 MEDICARE/EMPLOYER SHARE							
Expenses	\$5,372,074	\$546,728	\$588,000	\$617,400	\$617,400	5.00 %	\$617,400
Total 195	\$5,372,074	\$546,728	\$588,000	\$617,400	\$617,400	5.00 %	\$617,400
196 TOWN REPORTS							
Expenses	\$865	\$1,000	\$1,115	\$1,115	\$1,115	0.00 %	\$1,115
Total 196	\$865	\$1,000	\$1,115	\$1,115	\$1,115	0.00 %	\$1,115
197 PHYSICAL/OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH							
Expenses	\$41,415	\$53,690	\$41,800	\$42,808	\$42,808	2.41 %	\$42,808
Total 197	\$41,415	\$53,690	\$41,800	\$42,808	\$42,808	2.41 %	\$42,808
210 POLICE DEPARTMENT							
Salaries	\$3,287,179	\$3,574,800	\$4,142,462	\$4,716,811	\$4,676,811	12.90 %	\$4,676,811
Expenses	\$272,846	\$331,414	\$325,870	\$280,948	\$280,948	(13.79)%	\$280,948
Total 210	\$3,560,025	\$3,906,214	\$4,468,332	\$4,997,759	\$4,957,759	10.95 %	\$4,957,759
220 FIRE DEPARTMENT							
Salaries	\$2,959,394	\$3,106,278	\$3,440,592	\$4,264,571	\$3,695,353	7.40 %	\$3,695,353
Expenses	\$291,032	\$377,076	\$508,213	\$686,404	\$651,404	28.18 %	\$651,404
Total 220	\$3,250,426	\$3,483,354	\$3,948,805	\$4,950,975	\$4,346,757	10.08 %	\$4,346,757
251 TOWN INSPECTOR							
Salaries	\$187,881	\$201,484	\$240,560	\$253,440	\$253,440	5.35 %	\$253,440
Expenses	\$9,150	\$2,671	\$4,359	\$4,159	\$4,159	(4.59)%	\$4,159
Total 251	\$197,031	\$204,155	\$244,919	\$257,599	\$257,599	5.18 %	\$257,599
253 INSPECTOR OF PLUMBING AND GAS							
Salaries	\$29,583	\$29,825	\$31,446	\$32,406	\$32,406	3.05 %	\$32,406
Expenses	\$340	\$97	\$400	\$400	\$400	0.00 %	\$400
Total 253	\$29,923	\$29,922	\$31,846	\$32,806	\$32,806	3.01 %	\$32,806

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 Budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
255 ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR							
Salaries	\$27,136	\$27,541	\$28,257	\$29,105	\$29,105	3.00 %	\$29,105
Expenses	\$240	\$470	\$500	\$500	\$500	0.00 %	\$500
Total 255	\$27,376	\$28,011	\$28,757	\$29,605	\$29,605	2.95 %	\$29,605
292 ANIMAL CONTROL							
Salaries	\$134,423	\$156,756	\$165,410	\$169,702	\$169,702	2.59 %	\$169,702
Expenses	\$7,518	\$6,471	\$8,300	\$7,900	\$7,900	(4.82)%	\$7,900
Total 292	\$141,941	\$163,227	\$173,710	\$177,602	\$177,602	2.24 %	\$177,602
294 TREE WARDEN							
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$4,333	\$5,958	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$10,000	53.85 %	\$10,000
Salaries	\$2,167	\$2,462	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700	0.00 %	\$3,700
Expenses	\$19,871	\$20,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$35,000	(50.00)%	\$35,000
Total 294	\$26,371	\$28,420	\$80,200	\$80,200	\$48,700	(39.28)%	\$48,700
299 AUXILIARY POLICE							
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %	\$0
Total 299	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %	\$0
300 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT							
School Salaries and Expenses	\$27,878,707	\$28,765,338	\$33,491,791	\$34,974,856	\$34,974,865	4.43 %	\$34,974,865
Transportation	\$3,081,955	\$3,152,555	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %	\$0
Total 300	\$30,960,662	\$31,917,893	\$33,491,791	\$34,974,856	\$34,974,865	4.43 %	\$34,974,865
302 BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL							
Expenses	\$1,014,129	\$1,080,034	\$1,186,947	\$1,252,847	\$1,237,733	4.28 %	\$1,237,733
Total 302	\$1,014,129	\$1,080,034	\$1,186,947	\$1,252,847	\$1,237,733	4.28 %	\$1,237,733
422 HIGHWAY							
Salaries	\$227,445	\$267,135	\$460,019	\$457,120	\$482,119	4.80 %	\$482,119
Expenses	\$843,844	\$808,378	\$1,112,104	\$925,528	\$825,528	(25.77)%	\$825,528
Total 422	\$1,071,289	\$1,075,513	\$1,572,123	\$1,382,648	\$1,307,647	(16.82)%	\$1,307,647

Note: Services are regionalized with the Town of Franklin and budget costs are shared.

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 Budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
423 SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL							
Salaries	\$89,209	\$67,457	\$41,008	\$55,000	\$55,000	34.12 %	\$55,000
Expenses	\$579,250	\$192,544	\$220,800	\$228,000	\$228,000	3.26 %	\$228,000
Total 423	\$668,459	\$260,001	\$261,808	\$283,000	\$283,000	8.09 %	\$283,000
424 STREET LIGHTING							
Expenses	\$152,671	\$118,469	\$162,750	\$162,750	\$135,000	(17.05)%	\$135,000
Total 424	\$152,671	\$118,469	\$162,750	\$162,750	\$135,000	(17.05)%	\$135,000
426 GAS AND OIL							
Expenses	\$224,293	\$211,476	\$257,868	\$223,000	\$223,000	(13.52)%	\$223,000
Total 426	\$224,293	\$211,476	\$257,868	\$223,000	\$223,000	(13.52)%	\$223,000
491 CEMETERY							
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$3,600	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800	0.00 %	\$4,800
Expenses	\$4,197	\$2,262	\$4,201	\$4,651	\$4,651	10.71 %	\$4,651
Total 491	\$7,797	\$7,062	\$9,001	\$9,451	\$9,451	5.00 %	\$9,451
510 BOARD OF HEALTH							
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$9,600	\$9,600	60.00 %	\$9,600
Salaries	\$126,746	\$124,287	\$140,534	\$144,096	\$144,096	2.53 %	\$144,096
Expenses	\$2,904	\$12,697	\$17,153	\$17,503	\$17,503	2.04 %	\$17,503
Total 510	\$135,650	\$142,984	\$163,687	\$171,199	\$171,199	4.59 %	\$171,199
541 COUNCIL ON AGING							
Salaries	\$153,346	\$199,147	\$228,041	\$263,844	\$263,844	15.70 %	\$263,844
Expenses	\$38,292	\$40,378	\$39,356	\$41,700	\$41,700	5.96 %	\$41,700
Total 541	\$191,638	\$239,525	\$267,397	\$305,544	\$305,544	14.27 %	\$305,544
543 VETERANS ASSISTANCE							
Salaries	\$8,500	\$42,105	\$54,984	\$55,019	\$59,787	8.74 %	\$59,787
Expenses	\$69,374	\$75,226	\$104,500	\$104,500	\$105,000	0.48 %	\$105,000
Total 543	\$77,874	\$117,331	\$159,484	\$159,519	\$164,787	3.33 %	\$164,787

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 Budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
610 LIBRARY							
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$500	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	0.00 %	\$600
Salaries	\$408,036	\$445,550	\$463,009	\$479,468	\$479,468	3.55 %	\$479,468
Expenses	\$156,531	\$163,214	\$169,950	\$172,150	\$172,150	1.29 %	\$172,150
Total 610	\$565,067	\$609,364	\$633,559	\$652,218	\$652,218	2.95 %	\$652,218
630 PARKS AND RECREATION							
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$2,050	\$2,050	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	0.00 %	\$3,000
Salaries	\$69,333	\$93,922	\$121,186	\$129,435	\$129,435	6.81 %	\$129,435
Expenses	\$68,326	\$67,980	\$70,810	\$72,055	\$72,055	1.76 %	\$72,055
Total 630	\$139,709	\$163,952	\$194,996	\$204,490	\$204,490	4.87 %	\$204,490
632 TOWN COMMON							
Salaries	\$652	\$5,261	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500	0.00 %	\$9,500
Expenses	\$11,023	\$15,066	\$25,800	\$25,800	\$25,800	0.00 %	\$25,800
Total 632	\$11,675	\$20,327	\$35,300	\$35,300	\$35,300	0.00 %	\$35,300
650 HISTORICAL COMMISSION							
Expenses	\$5,999	\$6,739	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	0.00 %	\$7,000
Total 650	\$5,999	\$6,739	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	0.00 %	\$7,000
651 CULTURAL COUNCIL							
Salaries	\$9,375	\$75,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	0.00 %	\$7,500
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %	\$0
Total 651	\$9,375	\$75,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	0.00 %	\$7,500
660 MEMORIAL DAY/VETERANS DAY							
Expenses	\$14,458	\$14,739	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	0.00 %	\$18,000
Total 660	\$14,458	\$14,739	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	0.00 %	\$18,000
750 DEBT SERVICE							
Expenses- Principal	\$3,411,848	\$2,734,487	\$2,812,071	\$2,874,481	\$2,874,481	2.22 %	\$2,874,481
Expenses- Interest	\$952,620	\$1,035,737	\$928,131	\$1,028,369	\$1,028,369	10.80 %	\$1,028,369
Total 750	\$4,364,468	\$3,770,224	\$3,740,202	\$3,902,850	\$3,902,850	4.35 %	\$3,902,850

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 Budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
989 OPEB TRUST							
Transfer	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	(50.00)%	\$50,000
Total 989	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	(50.00)%	\$50,000
990 WORKERS COMPENSATION							
Transfer	\$25,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	(100.00)%	\$0
Total 990	\$25,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	(100.00)%	\$0
991 UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST							
Transfer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %	\$0
Total 991	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %	\$0
992 GROUP INSURANCE TRUST FUND							
Transfer	\$7,100,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,950,000	\$7,650,000	\$7,650,000	(3.77)%	\$7,650,000
Total 992	\$7,100,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,950,000	\$7,650,000	\$7,650,000	(3.77)%	\$7,650,000
994 MUNICIPAL INSURANCE TRUST							
Transfer	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %	\$0
Total 994	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00 %	\$0

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 Budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
996 CAPITAL INVESTMENT TRUST							
Transfer	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$200,000	\$50,000	0.00 %	\$50,000
Total 996	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$200,000	\$50,000	0.00 %	\$50,000
997 COMP ABSENCES FUND							
Transfer	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	(25.00)%	\$75,000
Total 997	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	(25.00)%	\$75,000
Total General Fund	\$66,388,777	\$63,252,465	\$68,630,628	\$72,067,965	\$71,132,164	3.64 %	\$71,132,164

(By Board of Selectmen)
RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee. Funding as follows:

Taxation & Other Available Sources	\$	70,227,775
Title 5 Betterments	\$	152,681
Pension Reserve	\$	-
Trash Receipts	\$	47,409
Water Receipts	\$	523,201
Sewer Receipts	\$	147,692
Stormwater Receipts	\$	33,406
Total	\$	71,132,164

ARTICLE 2. TRASH ENTERPRISE

To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Trash Enterprise for a period commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2025 budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$75,739	\$73,665	\$77,355	\$78,536	\$78,536	1.53 %	\$78,536
Expenses	<u>\$1,610,481</u>	<u>\$1,739,470</u>	<u>\$1,778,031</u>	<u>\$1,746,546</u>	<u>\$1,746,546</u>	(1.77)%	<u>\$1,746,546</u>
Total 430 - Trash	\$1,686,220	\$1,813,135	\$1,855,386	\$1,825,082	\$1,825,082	(1.63)%	\$1,825,082

(By Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee, Funding as follows:

Funding: \$ 1,777,673 Trash Enterprise Receipts
 \$ 47,409 Appropriated in the General Fund for indirect costs funded from Trash Receipts
\$ 1,825,082 Total

ARTICLE 3. WATER ENTERPRISE

To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Water Enterprise for a period commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$1,096,901	\$1,055,183	\$1,313,825	\$1,304,730	\$1,304,730	(0.69)%	\$1,304,730
Expenses	<u>\$2,266,440</u>	<u>\$2,331,899</u>	<u>\$2,653,584</u>	<u>\$2,772,810</u>	<u>\$2,772,810</u>	4.49 %	<u>\$2,772,810</u>
Total 450 - Water	\$3,363,341	\$3,387,082	\$3,967,409	\$4,077,540	\$4,077,540	2.78 %	\$4,077,540

(By Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee, Funding as follows:

Funding: \$ 3,554,339 Water Enterprise Receipts
 \$ 523,201 Appropriated in the General Fund for indirect costs funded from Water Receipts
\$ 4,077,540 Total

ARTICLE 4. SEWER ENTERPRISE

To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Sewer Enterprise for a period commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$337,525	\$331,763	\$414,728	\$435,340	\$435,340	4.97 %	\$435,340
Expenses	\$1,050,195	\$1,130,652	\$1,222,720	\$1,289,536	\$1,289,536	5.46 %	\$1,289,536
Total 460 - Sewer	\$1,387,720	\$1,462,415	\$1,637,448	\$1,724,876	\$1,724,876	5.34 %	\$1,724,876

(By Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee, Funding as follows:

Funding: \$ 1,577,184 Sewer Enterprise Receipts
 \$ 147,692 Appropriated in the General Fund for indirect costs funded from Sewer Receipts
\$ 1,724,876 Total

ARTICLE 5. STORMWATER ENTERPRISE

To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Stormwater Enterprise for a period commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

Account Description	Actual FY2022	Actual FY2023	Budget FY2024	Department Head Requested FY2025	Board of Selectmen Recommended FY2025	% Change FinCom vs. FY2024 budget	Finance Committee Recommended FY2025
Elected/Appointed Salaries	\$367,466	\$453,170	\$507,724	\$540,384	\$540,384	6.43 %	\$540,384
Expenses	\$186,831	\$222,825	\$456,250	\$347,480	\$347,480	(23.84)%	\$347,480
Total 490 - Stormwater	\$554,297	\$675,995	\$963,974	\$887,864	\$887,864	(7.90)%	\$887,864

(By Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee, Funding as follows:

Funding: \$ 854,458 Stormwater Enterprise Receipts
 \$ 33,406 Appropriated in the General Fund for indirect costs funded from Stormwater Receipts
\$ 887,864 Total

ARTICLE 6. CONVEYANCES AND EASEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept by gift and/or purchase conveyances or easements for sewers, water lines, retaining walls and streets, and to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or otherwise, a sum of money to carry out said purposes; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 7. PURCHASE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or otherwise, a sum of money and to authorize the DPW Director, in conjunction with other Town Departments, to purchase surplus government equipment for the Town; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 8. TOWN PROPERTY AUCTION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell at public auction any of the property which the Town may have acquired or may hereafter acquire through proceedings based upon non-payment of taxes or under proceedings for the sale of lands of low value, to impose upon the property so sold such restrictions, reservations or conditions as shall be deemed expedient, and to execute quitclaim deeds and other instruments thereto; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 9. HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of funds allotted or to be allotted by the State under authorization of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, (as pertaining to Highway Funds) for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of Town roads, said funds to be borrowed in anticipation of State Revenue; and expended under the direction of the DPW Director; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: DPW Director)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 10. AMEND FY2024 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 1 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting by reducing, adding to, deleting, amending, or transferring funds from various sources for items within said Article 1; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0
Funding as listed below:

Description	Amount	Funding Source
Snow & Ice Budget	\$200,000	Free Cash

ARTICLE 11. AMEND FY2024 TRASH ENTERPRISE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 2 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting by reducing, adding to, deleting, or otherwise amending appropriations or by transferring funds from various sources for items within said Article 2; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0
Funding as listed below:

Description	Amount	Funding Source
Trash Enterprise Budget	\$200,000	Trash Retained Earnings

ARTICLE 12. AMEND FY2024 WATER ENTERPRISE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 3 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting by reducing, adding to, deleting, or otherwise amending appropriations or by transferring funds from various sources for items within said Article 3; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 13. AMEND FY2024 SEWER ENTERPRISE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 4 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting by reducing, adding to, deleting, or otherwise amending appropriations or by transferring funds from various sources for items within said Article 4; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 14. AMEND FY2024 STORMWATER ENTERPRISE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 5 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting by reducing, adding to, deleting, or otherwise amending appropriations or by transferring funds from various sources for items within said Article 5; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 15. CAPITAL OUTLAY – (Expenditures \$50,000 & Over)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money and to determine how such appropriation shall be raised, whether by transfer of available funds, by taxation, by borrowing or otherwise, and if by borrowing to authorize the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds or notes of the Town therefor for the purpose of financing the purchase and equipping, construction, reconstruction and/or engineering costs associated with various capital outlay items or improvements proposed by Town Departments, Boards or Committees, and, as may be appropriate, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into lease/purchase agreements of up to or exceeding three years; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee as listed below:

RECOMMENDED by the Capital Improvements Committee as listed below:

Department	Description	Amount	Funding Source	Finance Committee	Capital Improvements Committee
Fire	Replace Pumper Engine	\$1,100,000	Borrowing	6/0	5/0
Police	Replace Police Vehicles (Qty 2)	\$142,000	Free Cash	6/0	5/0
DPW	North Main Street Roadwork	\$500,000	Free Cash	5/0	5/0
Water	Phase I of II for Replacement of Existing Wells at Site #11	\$265,000	Water Retained Earnings	5/0	5/0
Sewer	Middle School Sewer Main Replacement	\$100,000	Free Cash	5/0	5/0
School	High School Rooftop Compressors	\$60,412	Free Cash	5/0	5/0
School	High School Tile Replacement	\$99,024	Free Cash	5/0	5/0
School	DiPietro Heat Pump System	\$117,670	Free Cash	5/0	5/0
TOTAL: Capital Projects Over \$50K		\$2,384,106			

ARTICLE 16. NON-CAPITAL OUTLAY – (Expenditures of Less Than \$50,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money and to determine how such appropriation shall be raised, whether by transfer of available funds, by taxation, by borrowing or otherwise, and if by borrowing to authorize the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds or notes of the Town therefor for the purpose of financing the purchase and equipping of various non-capital outlay items or improvements proposed by Town Departments, Boards or Committees, and, as may be appropriate, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into lease/purchase agreements of up to or exceeding three years; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

*RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 6/0
Funding as listed below:*

Department	Description	Amount	Funding Source
Fire	Mini-Split System Installation at Headquarters	\$23,247	Free Cash
Fire	South Station Replacement Windows	\$25,000	Free Cash
School	Memorial School Boiler Repairs	\$14,685	Free Cash
Parks	Richardson Field Fencing Repairs	\$30,000	Free Cash
Town Hall	Window Replacement at Old Town Hall Building	\$30,356	Free Cash
Community Center	Ceiling and Insulation Repairs at North Community Center	\$8,300	Free Cash
Town Hall	HVAC Unit Replacements (4 of 12 Units)	\$38,400	Free Cash
DPW	Installation of Security Cameras and FOB's	\$24,906	Free Cash
TOTAL: Capital Projects Under \$50K		\$194,894	

ARTICLE 17. CIVIL SERVICE LAW

To see if the Town will vote to remove all police officers, regardless of rank, in the Town of Bellingham Police Department from the provisions of Chapter 31(Civil Service) of the General Laws. This act shall not impair the civil service status of any person employed on a permanent basis as a police officer, regardless of rank, of the Town of Bellingham Police Department on the effective date of this act; or act or do anything in relation thereto. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 18. DEBT AUTHORIZATION – BLACKSTONE VALLEY

To see if the Town will vote to approve the \$10,000,000 debt authorized by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Committee on February 15, 2024 and amended by its actions of March 14, 2014 to pay costs of roof reconstruction and the replacement energy efficient rooftop HVAC units at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, located at 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto. Such debt approval by the Town to be contingent upon the District’s ability to secure grant approval from the Massachusetts School Building Authority Accelerated Repair grant program.

(By: Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0
RECOMMENDED by the Capital Improvements Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 19. GENERAL BYLAW AMENDMENT CHAPTER 216, ARTICLE VI

To see if the Town will vote to amend its General Bylaw Chapter 216, Article VI, by adding Section 216-13 entitled “Restriction on idling, parking and standing on public way”, which shall provide as follows, or act or do anything in relation thereto:

Any Commercial or Industrial business owner, property owner, property manager, lessee, or the person in charge of such site shall be responsible for the safe and proper coordination of all commercial vehicle traffic in and out of such business. This includes deliveries, service vehicles, pickups, or other business at said location(s). No such business shall allow commercial vehicles to idle, park, stand, or que, on a public way in the Town of Bellingham for a period exceeding 5 minutes. Any violation of this by-law shall be punishable by a fine assessed to said business of \$250 per vehicle for the 1st violation, \$500 per vehicle for any subsequent violation. Any such vehicle found violating this section may be ordered to move from the roadway or towed by the Police Department.

This section shall not apply to properly permitted construction projects, maintenance, or roadwork approved by the Town DPW Director, Police Chief, Town Administrator, or their designee. Additionally in a bona fide emergency any Commercial or Industrial business owner, property owner, property manager, lessee, or the person in charge of such may contact the Police Department to obtain a temporary waiver for a period not to exceed 2 hours.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 20. AMEND ZONING BY-LAWS CHAPTER 240, ARTICLE VI

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaws, Chapter 240 Article VI Definitions, Section 240-32 Term Defined, Livestock Raising, by deleting the language shown in strikethrough as follows: "The raising of harboring of 10 or more poultry or of more than two cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, goats, minks, rabbits or similar farm animals ~~six months or older~~"; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Planning Board)

*The Planning Board took No Action on this Article
The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article*

ARTICLE 21. DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE

To see if the Town will vote to accept a deed in lieu of foreclosure from Taft Estates, LLC or from the current owner thereof, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. Chapter 60, Section 77C, to a parcel of land located on the easterly side of Pulaski Boulevard, identified by the Assessors' as Parcel 0091-0006-0001, shown as "Open Space" on a plan recorded with the Norfolk Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 624, Page 87, and being a portion of the premises described in a deed recorded in Book 31193, Page 230, which is subject to a tax taking held by the Treasurer/Collector for unpaid real estate taxes, said parcel to be under the care, custody, control and management of the Board of Selectmen for passive recreation purposes, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and record the deed, provided the Board of Selectmen determines that the deed and the acceptance shall comply with the provisions of G.L. Chapter 60, Section 77C; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 22. AMEND GENERAL BY-LAWS CHAPTER 71-6 REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E½, of the General Laws, to amend the chart set forth in Chapter 71-6 of the Town Bylaws, Revolving Funds, by inserting a new annual expenditure limit of \$80,000 for Inspectional Services for Fiscal Year 2025 and subsequent years, with such expenditure limit to apply from fiscal year to fiscal year unless amended by vote of Town Meeting prior to July 1 in any year; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 23. OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 to rescind the vote taken under Article 26 of the May 24, 2023 Annual Town Meeting creating a Special Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and dedicating 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town to such fund pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §5B, such funds henceforth to be placed in a special revenue fund to be expended without further appropriation for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents; or take any other action related thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 24. RESCISSION OF UNISSUED BORROWING AUTHORITY

To see if the Town will vote to rescind unissued borrowing authorizations for the projects set forth, and for the amounts listed, in the chart below, which borrowing authorizations are no longer needed for the purposes for which they were initially approved; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

Date of Approval	Original Purpose	Unissued Amount
11/13/2019	Acquire 12 Mechanic Street (Domino's Building)	\$384,000
10/11/2017	Septic Improvements	\$300,000
		\$684,000

(By: Chief Financial Officer)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 25. TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise for the purpose of funding the Stabilization Fund; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 26. TRANSFER TO CAPITAL INVESTMENT TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise for the purpose of funding the Capital Investment Trust Fund; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 27. TRANSFER TO GROUP INSURANCE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise for the purpose of funding the Group Health Insurance Trust Fund; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

RECOMMENDED by the Finance Committee 5/0

Funding as listed below:

Description	Amount	Funding Source
Group Health Insurance Trust Fund	\$500,000	Free Cash

ARTICLE 28. UNPAID BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise for the payment of certain unpaid bills; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE MAY 2024
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**