City Council
Regular Meeting

Monday, June 15, 2026, 7:45 PM
City Council Chamber, 1st Floor
562 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jason Chen
Cal Finocchiaro
Maya Jamaleddine
Manjula Karamcheti
Elizabeth Kowal
John Obremski
Christopher Park
Devin Romanul
Kimberly Vandiver
Ryan Williams
Brad Freeman, President

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order by President Freeman at 7:45 PM
Councilor Karamcheti was in remote attendance after the Executive Session, joining at 8:47 PM

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jason Chen	At-Large	Present	
Cal Finocchiaro	Ward 6	Present	
Maya Jamaleddine	At-Large	Present	
Manjula Karamcheti	Ward 1	Present-Remote attendance	Arrived at 8:47 PM
Elizabeth Kowal	At-Large	Present	
John Obremski	Ward 2	Present	
Christopher Park	Ward 3	Present	
Devin Romanul	Ward 7	Present	
Kimberly Vandiver	Ward 5	Present	Arrived at 7:47 PM
Ryan Williams	At-Large	Present	
William Bradley Feeman	President	Present	

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

A. City Council Regular Meeting June 1, 2026 7:45 PM

Motion to Approve the minutes made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and minutes were approved
Councilors Karamcheti and Vandiver were not present for this vote

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Ryan Williams

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

When: Jun 15, 2026 07:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: City Council Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
https://cityofmelrose-org.zoom.us/j/96637769858?pwd=FD52kMo0YWapZHPaVjgbpDEeRk6P36.1
Passcode:426077
Webinar ID: 966 3776 9858

Motion to Open public comment made by Councilor Romanul at 7:47 PM
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

Comments on the floor:
Cory Allen of 179 E Foster Street from Fighting for Black Lives advocated for supporting a $150,000 appropriation for the Affordable Housing Trust, citing racial disparities in home loan denial rates.

Gail Infurna of 12 Mount Vernon Street and a former mayor and member of the Affordable Housing Corporation, spoke in support of the free cash transfer to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, emphasizing its importance for accessing state and federal housing funds.

Janine Venuti of Altamont Avenue spoke in favor of a resolution supporting a state audit of the legislature, citing the 67% Melrose voter approval and need for transparency.

Camarie Clark of 64 Bellevue Avenue spoke in favor of a resolution supporting a state audit of the legislature, stating that former MA speakers of the house have been convicted of fraud and the state leadership is going against the will of the people by not allowing the audit.

Ron Tauro of 159 Derby Road spoke in support of the Benjamin Lynde House Historic District since it is one of the few remaining historic structures with a story that should be preserved and told.

Jim O'Loughlin of 39 Lincoln Street asked councilors to support the state audit resolution and audit proclamation.

Eric Wildman of 105 Laurel Street spoke in favor of the $150,000 for the Affordable Housing Trust and its potential to unlock state and federal money and urged council to approve it.

There were no comments via Zoom

Motion to Close public comment made by Councilor Finocchiaro at 8:05 PM
Seconded by Councilor Romanul
All were in favor and public comment was closed

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to Enter into Executive Session made by Councilor Vandiver at 8:05 PM
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
Motion passed 9-1

Councilor Chen asked to postpone Executive Session until the end of the meeting and the request was denied by President Freeman.
Councilor Karamcheti was not present for this vote.

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED**
AYES:	Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	Jason Chen
ABSENT:	Manjula Karamcheti

A. To consider the continued lease of 53 parking spaces near St. Mary's Church located at 41 Myrtle Street in Melrose, from the Archdiocese of Boston, and to discuss ongoing negotiations and proposals for a successor lease, with the current lease set to expire June 30, 2026, as an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the City.

Motion to Place on File made by Councilor Williams
Seconded by Councilor Romanul
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Manjula Karamcheti

V. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to End Executive Session made by Councilor Williams at 8:43 PM
Seconded by Councilor Vandiver

All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Manjula Karamcheti

Regular Council meeting was resumed

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HONORABLE MAYOR & OTHER CITY OFFICIALS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Filings by the Honorable Mayor

i. Appropriations

1. **(ID # 2026-1334):** Appropriation from Peg Access Fund #2922 in the amount of $167,277.80 to MMTV and $55,759.27 to Melrose Public Schools (#1803).

Motion to Refer to Appropriations & Oversight Committee made by President Freeman
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
TO:	Appropriations & Oversight

ii. Orders

1. **(ID # 2026-1376):** Report on results of the Municipal Surplus Buildings Study for the Police Station and Ripley School Sites

Motion to Refer to Appropriations & Oversight Committee made by President Freeman
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
TO:	Appropriations & Oversight

2. **(ID # 2026-1382):** Authorization to Amend Solid Waste Facility Operating Agreement by and between the City of Melrose and Waste Management of Massachusetts.

Motion to Refer to Appropriations & Oversight Committee made by President Freeman
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
TO:	Appropriations & Oversight

B. Filings by members of the Honorable City Council

i. Resolutions

1. **(ID # 2026-1381):** Resolution Affirming Accountability, Transparency and Respect for the Will of the Voters
Sponsored by Cal Finocchiaro

Motion for Immediate Consideration made by Councilor Finocchiaro
Seconded by Councilor Chen
All were in favor and motion passed

Councilor Karamcheti joined the meeting via remote attendance at 8:47 PM

The council discussed a resolution regarding the voter mandated state legislative audit, with Councilor Finocchiaro introducing the motion and several members speaking in support of increased transparency in state government. Councilor Finocchiaro read the document and supporting letter, which is attached to these minutes, and Councilor Romanul shared comments at the beginning also. Councilor Jamaleddine is in support of the audit but expressed concerns about the auditor's capacity to conduct comprehensive audits of everyone in a fair manner, and not to have the auditor pick and choose who is audited to her specific agenda. She is concerned about the auditor's ability to audit all legislators equally, suggesting a potential for bias. Councilor Chen highlighted specific transparency issues with the legislature's current audit process, and commented that the current formula of pay for legislators is set by leadership, is unclear, and could lead to corruption. Councilor Karamcheti expressed support for the resolution, stating that it's a non-partisan issue and emphasized the need for accessible information to constituents. Councilor Finocchiaro clarified that the resolution aims to support voter demands for transparency.

Motion to Place on File made by Councilor Williams
Seconded by Councilor Romanul
Motion passed 10-1

RESULTS:	**ACCEPTED**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	Maya Jamaleddine

C. Licenses

i. **(ID # 2026-1336):** New Common Victualler License for Shawbak Lebanese Eatery and Bakery

Motion to Refer to Protection & License Committee made by President Freeman
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
TO:	Protection & License

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Appropriations for FY26

i. **(ID # 2026-1145):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) to the Assessing Department (#141) in the amount of $9,000 to cover the cost of mailing tax impact notices to all taxpayers in Melrose.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

ii. **(ID # 2026-1164):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) to the Planning Department (#175) in the amount of $75,000 to hire a consultant for technical assistance to update the City's Housing Production Plan (HPP).

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

iii. **(ID # 2026-1165):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) to the Planning Department (#175) in the amount of $70,000 to hire a consultant for technical assistance to update the Downtown Parking Study.

Motion to Reject made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
Motion passed 9-2, Appropriation not approved

RESULT:	**APPROPRIATION REJECTED/NOT APPROVED**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	Bradley Freeman, John Obremski

iv. **(ID # 2026-1170):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) in the amount of $150,000 to the Affordable Housing Trust (#8270).

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Williams
Motion passed 10-1

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED**
AYES:	Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	Jason Chen

Some councilors expressed concerns about the lack of a detailed strategy, clear outcomes, the ability to overcome obstacles, and questioned if this is the best use of free cash funds. The majority supported the funding, citing the need for affordable housing in Melrose and the Trust's previous success in preserving three affordable rental units.

v. **(ID # 2026-1171):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) to Memorial Building (#693) in the amount of $50,000 for boiler replacement and HVAC controls.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed
Councilor Obremski had stepped out of the room during this vote

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	John Obremski

vi. **(ID # 2026-1172):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) to the School Department (#300) in the amount of $12,193.20 to purchase vape detectors for MVMMS.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Jamaleddine
All were in favor and motion passed
Councilor Obremski had stepped out of the room during this vote

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	John Obremski

vii. **(ID # 2026-1173):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) to the School Department (#300) in the amount of $72,180 to purchase MHS Band uniforms.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Jamaleddine
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

viii. **(ID # 2026-1174):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) to the School Department (#300) in the amount of $44,296.32 for the purchase of athletic equipment.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

ix. **(ID # 2026-1175):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) to DPW-Admin/Engineering Department (#401) in the amount of $710,000 for design and permitting of Ell Pond Park.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
Motion passed 9-2

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul
NAYS:	Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams

Councilor Vandiver and Councilor Williams expressed concerns about the planning process and public engagement, choosing not to support the project at this time. Councilor Karamcheti shared her support for the project while emphasizing the importance of addressing public engagement and transparency concerns in the design phase.

x. **(ID # 2026-1176):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) to DPW-Highway Department (#422) in the amount of $400,000 for Lebanon Street TIP project design.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

xi. **(ID # 2026-1177):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) to DPW - School Facilities Department (#402) in the amount of $20,000 to update school signage.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Williams
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

xii. **(ID # 2026-1202):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) in the amount of $37,000 to the Planning Department (#175) for treating the Towners, Swains, and Ell Ponds.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Williams
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

xiii. **(ID # 2026-1237):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) in the amount of $17,000 to the Parks Department for the Purchase of AEDs for playing fields.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro

All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

xiv. **(ID # 2026-1238):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) in the amount of $400,000 to the Fire Department (#221) for projected overtime costs through the end of the Fiscal Year.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Williams
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

xv. **(ID # 2026-1239):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) in the amount of $30,000 to the Fire Department(#221) for projected motor vehicle repair through the end of the Fiscal Year.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Williams
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

xvi. **(ID # 2026-1242):** An Appropriation from Free Cash (account 01-324001) in the amount of $560,000 to the City Stabilization fund (#8401).

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

xvii. **(ID # 2026-1249):** An Appropriation from Mt. Hood Retained Earnings (account 620000-319000) in the amount of $200,000 to Mt. Hood Reserve Fund (8417-490000).

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Williams
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

xviii. **(ID # 2026-1250):** An Appropriation from Mt. Hood Retained Earnings (account 620000-319000) in the amount of $150,000 to Mt. Hood Professional Services (account 620000-529000) to fulfill contract obligations.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

xix. **(ID # 2026-1251):** An Appropriation from Sewer Retained Earnings (account 6000-319000) to Sewer Equipment (account 604413-551002) for the down payment on a Vactor Truck.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

B. Appropriations for FY27

i. **(ID # 2026-1204):** An Appropriation in the amount of $2,236,997 to fund the Fiscal Year 2027 Mt. Hood Enterprise Fund budget.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

ii. **(ID # 2026-1205):** An Appropriation in the amount of $8,461,623 to fund the Fiscal 2027 Sewer Enterprise Fund budget.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Kowal
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

iii. **(ID # 2026-1206):** An Appropriation in the amount of $6,702,788 to fund the Fiscal Year 2027 Water Enterprise fund budget.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Kowal
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

iv. **(ID # 2026-1207):** An Appropriation in the amount of $3,639,322 to fund the Fiscal Year 2027 Solid Waste Enterprise fund budget.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Kowal
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

v. **(ID # 2026-1213):** Fiscal Year 2027 Water Rates

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Kowal
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

vi. **(ID # 2026-1214):** Fiscal Year 2027 Sewer Rates.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Kowal
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

vii. **(ID # 2026-1215):** An Appropriation in the amount of $348,948.80 for Other Funding Sources (OFS) for Fiscal Year 2027.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Kowal
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

viii. **(ID # 2026-1212):** Reauthorization of the revolving fund table for Fiscal Year 2027.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Park
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

ix. **(ID # 2026-1208):** An Appropriation in the amount of $126,652,797 to fund the Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund Operating Budget.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Vandiver
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

Councilor Chen suggested the need to bring in department heads or the CFO to understand final items after contract negotiations are completed and their impact on the approved line items in the operating budget.

C. Orders

i. **(ID # 2026-1240):** An order to increase the Recreation Revolving Fund (#2652) spending limit for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026 from $500,000 to $575,000.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

ii. **(ID # 2026-1241):** Acceptance of a donation to the Parks Department for the purchase and maintenance of AED units at parks throughout the City.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Vandiver
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

iii. **(ID # 2026-1291):** Vote to establish the Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Vandiver

All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

Councilor Park initially expressed concerns about restrictions on affordable housing development but ultimately supported the motion after learning that multifamily housing could still be built if it complies with historic district guidelines. Councilor Chen expressed concern that the Historic District could have too much power to prevent new housing, but supported the order. Councilor Finocchiaro stated that this house is different and special with its family history in Melrose, and she trusts the Planning Board and Historic District to stay in check. And overall, she supports more housing in Melrose.

D. Transfers

i. **(ID # 2026-1290):** A transfer in the amount of $69,000 from Health Insurance (#914) to Workers Compensation (#912) to fund estimated costs through the end of the fiscal year.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

ii. **(ID # 2026-1293):** Requesting a transfer of $7,000 from the Memorial Building Salaries account 016931-511000 to the Memorial Building Professional Services account 016932-529000 to cover the FY26 HVAC repairs.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

iii. **(ID # 2026-1294):** Transfer to DPW-Facilities (#402) in the amount of $130,000 from various DPW accounts for June utilities.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Finocchiaro
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

iv. **(ID # 2026-1298):** Requesting an interdepartmental transfer of funds from the Elections Salaries PT Line item (011621-512000) in the amount of $24,437 to the Printing line item 011622-521000.

Motion for Passage made by Councilor Romanul
Seconded by Councilor Williams
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

X. EXPIRIES

XI. RULE 36 REPORTS

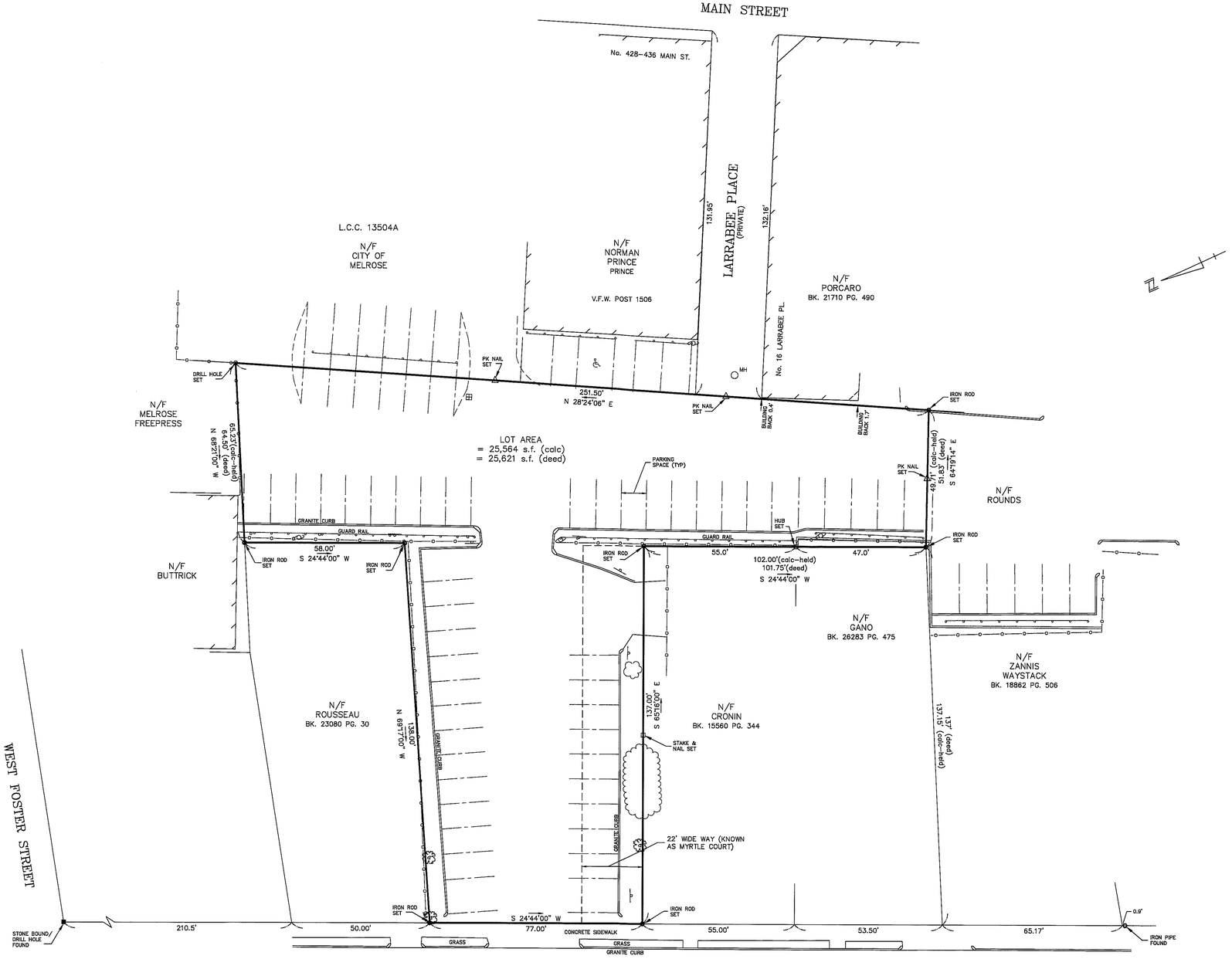
XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn made by Councilor Romanul at 10:12 PM
Seconded by Councilor Vandiver
All were in favor and motion passed

RESULT:	**ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Jason Chen, Cal Finocchiaro, Bradley Freeman, Maya Jamaleddine, Manjula Karamcheti, Elizabeth Kowal, John Obremski, Christopher Park, Devin Romanul, Kim Vandiver, Ryan Williams
NAYS:	None

Councilor Finocchiaro thanked Chair Romanul for all of his work through the A&O season, and thanked Vice Chair Vandiver for her assistance in running the remote A&O meeting.

COPYRIGHT:
ANGELO B. VENEZIANO & ASSOCIATES
15 HALL STREET, MEDFORD, MA 02155
DATE: JANUARY 5, 1999



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED FROM AN INSTRUMENT SURVEY.

Thomas M. Killion 1/20/99

THOMAS M. KILLION, P.L.S. DATE:

TITLE REF: BK. 2319 PG. 62-63
PLAN REF: L.C.C. 18926A
L.C.C. 13540A
L.C.C. 10375A
BK. 10943 PG. END
BK. 7911 PG. 594
PL. BK. 45 PL. 24
PL. BK. 65 PL. 23
BK. 9993 PG. 462
1892 COUNTY LAYOUT OF MAIN STREET

SITE PLAN OF LAND
OWNED BY ST. MARY'S PARISH
41 MYRTLE STREET
MELROSE, MASS.
(MIDDLESEX COUNTY)

PREPARED BY:
MEDFORD ENGINEERING & SURVEY
15 HALL ST. MEDFORD, MA. 02155
ANGELO B. VENEZIANO - PE & PLS
781-396-4466 fax: 781-396-8052

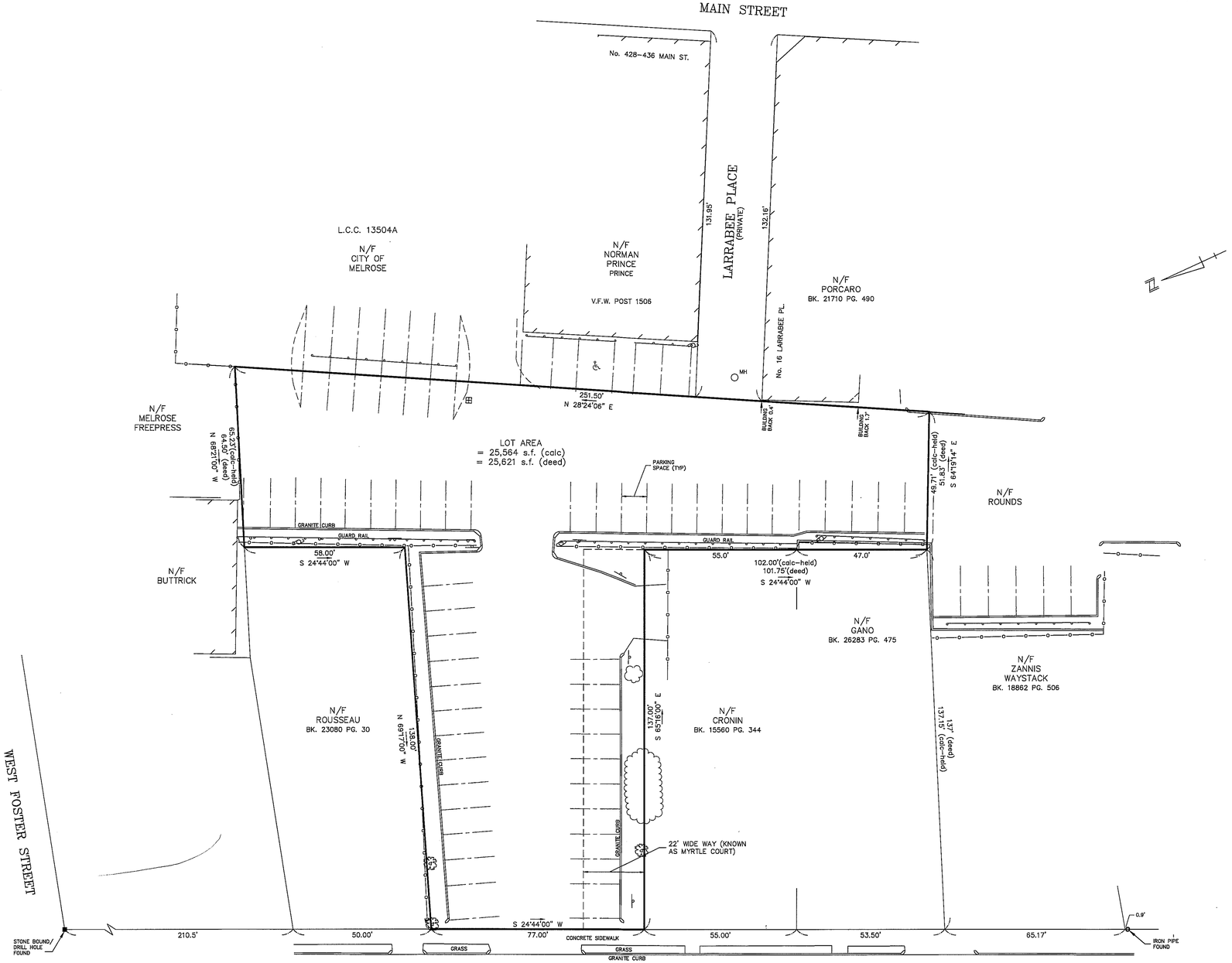
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SCALE: 1" = 20'

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REV: JANUARY 20, 1999
DATE: JANUARY 5, 1999

FIELD	DESIGN	DRAW	CALC.	CHECK	FILE No.
D.O.M./M.L.	-	M.L.	M.L.	T.M.K.	12986

COPYRIGHT:
ANGELO B. VENEZIANO & ASSOCIATES
15 HALL STREET, MEDFORD, MA 02155
DATE: JANUARY 5, 1999



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED FROM AN INSTRUMENT SURVEY.

Thomas M Killion 1/5/99

THOMAS M. KILLION, P.L.S. DATE:

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THOMAS
M.
KILLION
NO. 32002
REGISTERED
LAND SURVEYOR

TITLE REF: BK. 2319 PG. 62-63
PLAN REF: L.C.C. 18926A
L.C.C. 13540A
L.C.C. 10375A
BK. 10943 PG. END
BK. 7911 PG. 594
PL. BK. 45 PL. 24
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1892 COUNTY LAYOUT OF
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SITE PLAN OF LAND
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MELROSE, MASS.
(MIDDLESEX COUNTY)

PREPARED BY:
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781-396-4466 fax:781-396-8052

0 10 20 40
SCALE: 1" = 20'

C:\JOBS\12986.DWG DATE: JANUARY 5, 1999

FIELD	DESIGN	DRAW	CALC.	CHECK	FILE No.
D.O.N	-	M.L.	M.L.	T.M.K	12986

CITY OF MELROSE

Auditor's Office

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4110

To: Melrose City Council

From: Kerriann Golden, CFO/City Auditor

Date: June 9, 2026

Re: Appropriation 2026-1334

The requested appropriation is requested semi-annually to distribute fees collected from Comcast and Verizon. The grant agreement executed 6/24/25 distributes 75% of the cable revenues to MMTV and 25% to Melrose Public Schools.

Date Received	Company	Total Payment	75% MMTV	25% Melrose Public Schools
2/12/2026	Comcast	60,542.17	45,406.63	15,135.54
3/3/2026	Verizon	50,835.74	38,126.81	12,708.94
5/13/2026	Comcast	63,565.88	47,674.41	15,891.47
5/15/2026	Verizon	48,093.28	36,069.96	12,023.32
Total to be appropriated			**167,277.80**	**55,759.27**

FIRST AMENDMENT TO SOLID WASTE FACILITY OPERATING AGREEMENT

This first amendment ("Amendment") is made and entered into as of May ___, 2026 by and between the City of Melrose (the "City") and Waste Management of Massachusetts, Inc. ("Contractor").

WHEREAS, City and Contractor have entered into an agreement titled Solid Waste Facility Operating Agreement, dated September 6, 2019 (the "Agreement");

WHEREAS, City and Contractor desire to modify certain terms of the Agreement through this Amendment to reflect a longer term commitment to allow for Contractor to construct and operate a new SWF at a new location on the Premises ("New SWF");

WHEREAS, Contractor intends to begin the process necessary to construct a New SWF at a new location on the Premises as contemplated in Section 3 of the Agreement, to modify the existing site plan for the New SWF to allow for a more efficient use, expansion (permitted SWF tonnage limits and hours of operation) and operation of the New SWF while maximizing the City's use of the property surrounding the New SWF to allow for alternative uses.

Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. Section 2.1. Conveyance of SWF. Section 2.1 is amended by adding new paragraph 2.1(a) as follows:
    1. If Contractor completes construction of the New SWF on the Premises, Contractor shall convey title in the New SWF to the City upon Contractor's receipt of the Authorization to Operate as issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.
    2. All other terms and provisions in Section 2 of the Agreement shall apply to the New SWF.
2. **Section 3. Cooperation Between Contractor and City**. Section 3 is amended by adding a new paragraph as follows:
    1. Contractor and the City agree that Contractor shall seek required permits, licenses and necessary government approvals to advance the construction of a New SWF at a new location on the Premises for the acceptance, processing, loading and outbound transfer of solid waste in accordance with said permits and governmental approvals. In connection with the construction of the New SWF, Contractor intends to demolish and remove the former SWF and return the area of property for the City's use. Given the uncertainties of the permitting and governmental approvals process, the Parties' obligations under

DRAFT

this Amendment are contingent upon the Contractor receiving all necessary permits, licenses and necessary approvals for the Project, and the construction of the New SWF remaining legally, financially (project cost not exceeding more than 10% of current cost estimates) and operationally feasible to the Contractor. Should Contractor be unable to obtain all necessary approvals and permits, despite using diligent efforts and good faith to obtain the same, or determine that the construction of the New SWF is no longer legally, financially or operationally feasible, it shall provide all such documents as necessary evidencing as much to the City, and this Amendment shall be null and void and all terms and provisions of the Agreement shall remain in force and effect.

3. **Section 4. Term**. City and Contractor agree to exercise the two Renewal Terms set forth in Section 4 of the Agreement and extend the Agreement for a period of twenty years, by deleting Section 4 (Term) in its entirety and substituting therefor the following:
    1. Section 4. TERM. The Agreement shall begin on the Effective Date and continue through September 5, 2049. Upon expiration or termination of this Agreement, Contractor shall be relieved of further obligations hereunder, except as may be expressly set forth or reserved herein.
4. **Section 4.1. Early Termination**.

    Section 4.1 (Early Termination) of the Agreement shall be replaced with the following:

    1. **Taking.** The term "**Taking**" as used in this section shall mean an appropriation or taking under the power of **eminent domain** by any public or quasi-public authority or a voluntary sale or conveyance in lieu of condemnation but under threat of condemnation. .n the event of a Taking of the Premises after construction of the new SWF, necessitating the early termination of this Agreement and Amendment prior to its end date in 2049, both shall terminate and expire as of the date possession is delivered to the condemning authority, and the parties hereto shall each be released from any liability accruing pursuant to the Agreement or this Amendment after the date of termination. In the event of a Taking, both the City and WM shall have a right to their fair and reasonable share of compensation awarded as a result of any condemnation proceedings, or agreed to as part of any settlement in lieu thereof, in the amount of damages that have resulted to the respective parties from the Taking. The parties agree to work together in good faith to defend against such any such action and if necessary negotiate a resolution that provides fair compensation to both parties in consideration of WM investment in the construction of the new SWF.

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2. The City may terminate this Agreement and Amendment for cause pursuant to the conditions and process outlined in Section 10.

5. **Section 5.2. Host Fees**. City and Contractor agree to continue Host Fee increases of 3.5% annually throughout the Term of the Agreement through September 5, 2049, effective July 1 of each year, pursuant to the terms of the Agreement. Upon receipt of the "Authorization to Operate" the New transfer station, in the event Contractor's Additional Payments set forth in Section 5.4 exceeds $75,000 in a fiscal year, adjusted annually by 3.3%, the amount of such excess above $75,000 shall be applied as a credit against, and shall reduce dollar-for-dollar, the Host Fee payments otherwise payable by Contractor to the City during that same fiscal year. In no event shall any credit be taken against the Host Fee payments when the year-over-year increase in payments as set for in the Agreement fall below 3.3%.

6. All other terms and provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall apply to the operation of the New SWF.

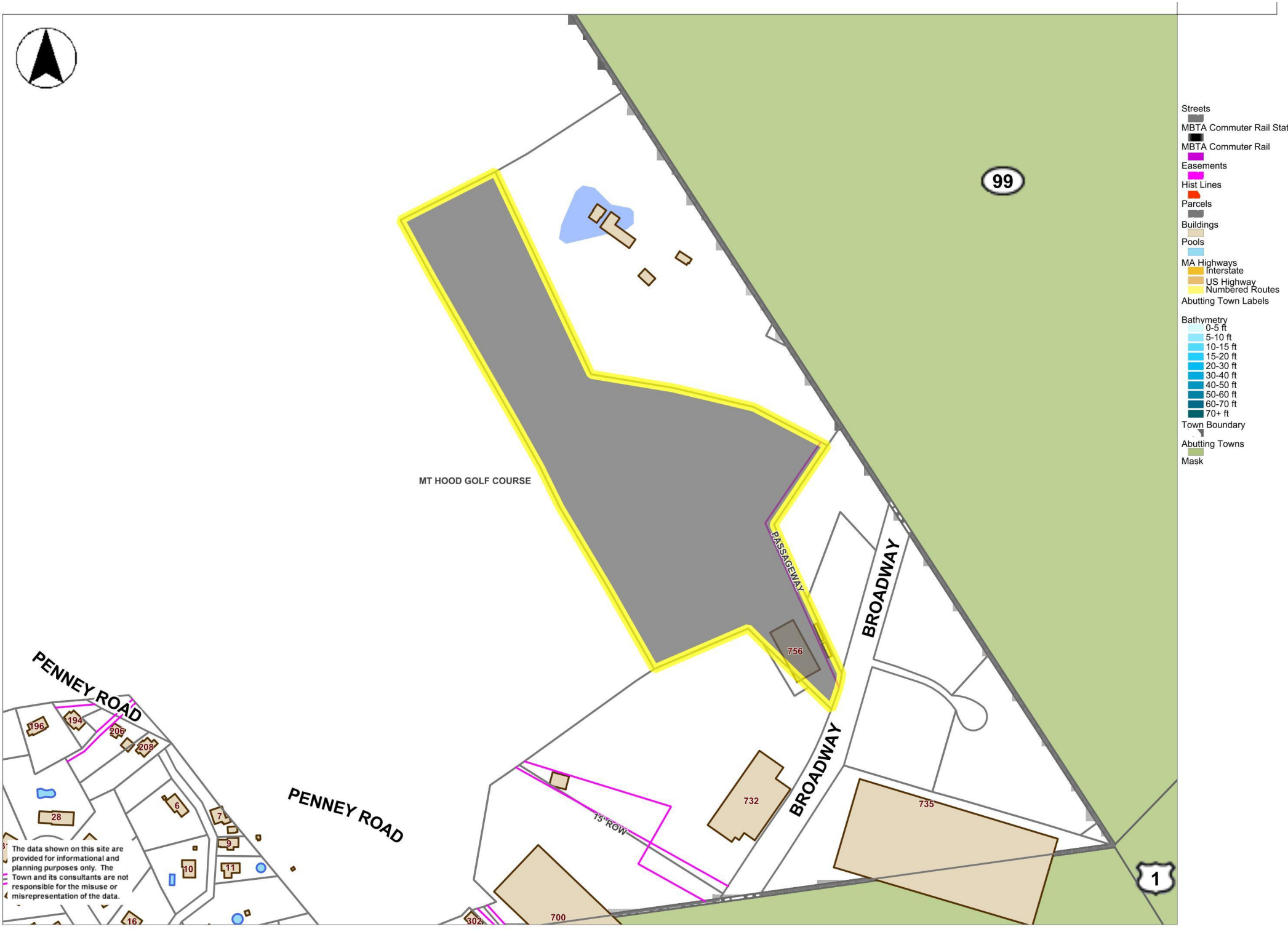
7. This Amendment may be executed in counterparts, and each counterpart shall be deemed an original, and all counterparts shall constitute one and the same instrument.

8. This Amendment constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous understandings, whether oral or written. This Amendment may not be amended or modified except in writing signed by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Amendment as of the date first above written.

CITY:	**CONTRACTOR:**
CITY OF MELROSE	**WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.**
By: _____	By: _____
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:

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Printed on 06/10/2026 at 03:45 PM

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City of Melrose
2026

Resolution Affirming Accountability, Transparency and Respect for the Will of the Voters

Sponsored by Councilor Finocchiaro

WHEREAS, public confidence in government depends upon accountability, integrity, transparency and the responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources; and

WHEREAS, elected officials derive their authority from the people and therefore have a responsibility to ***conduct public business in a manner worthy of the public's trust and confidence; and***

WHEREAS, taxpayers have a right to expect that public funds and governmental operations are ***conducted in an open and accountable manner; and***

WHEREAS, public trust is strengthened when government actions, expenditures and operations are subject to appropriate review and transparency; and

WHEREAS, members of the Melrose City Council conduct public business in accordance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, public ethics laws, financial disclosure requirements, and other accountability measures designed to maintain public trust and confidence in government; and

WHEREAS, independent audits are a widely recognized tool for identifying inefficiencies, strengthening public confidence, and ensuring responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2024, the voters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved Question 1 by a substantial statewide margin, authorizing the State Auditor to conduct audits of the Massachusetts Legislature; and

WHEREAS, approximately sixty-seven percent (67%) of voters in the City of Melrose supported the ballot initiative, demonstrating strong local support for greater accountability in state government; and

WHEREAS, through their approval of the ballot initiative, the voters of Massachusetts and the City of Melrose expressed a clear expectation that public institutions and elected officials entrusted with taxpayer resources should be answerable to the public they serve; and

WHEREAS, respect for the will of the voters is a fundamental principle of representative government, and any effort to limit, redefine, or delay the implementation of a voter-approved law warrants careful ***public scrutiny; and***

WHEREAS, preserving public confidence in government requires that voter-approved laws be implemented in a manner consistent with the intent expressed by the electorate; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Melrose City Council affirms its support for accountability, public trust, and the principle that all elected officials and public institutions entrusted with taxpayer resources should be answerable to the public they serve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Melrose City Council recognizes and supports the expressed will of Massachusetts voters as reflected in the passage of Question 1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Melrose City Council encourages state leaders and public officials to work in good faith to ensure that accountability, openness, and public trust remain central to the operation of state government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the State Auditor, the members of the Massachusetts General Court, and the City's state legislative delegation.

Adopted by the Melrose City Council on this 15th day of June 2026.

Attest: Members of the City Council

From: Ward Hamilton <wardhamiltonforcitycouncil@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 10:44 AM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: (ID # 2026-1381): Resolution Affirming Accountability, Transparency and Respect for the Will of the Voters

Good morning, President Freeman and members of the City Council.

On November 5, 2024, almost twelve thousand Melrose voters (11,656 or 67.31% of votes cast) called for the State Legislature to submit to oversight by the State Auditor. The issue of auditing the Massachusetts Legislature has overwhelming bipartisan support among the public and outside watchdog groups, and I urge you to vote to affirm the resolution.

Massachusetts has historically been the only state where the legislature, the judiciary, and the governor's office are simultaneously exempt from state public records laws. While eight other states exempt their legislatures in some capacity, our sweeping multi-branch exemption is unique. Also, Massachusetts ranks last among the 49 states that require Statements of Financial Interests in terms of making that information easily accessible to the public.

It's difficult to believe that a state as progressive and advanced as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would be so backwards when it comes to matters of government transparency, especially when one considers all of the other metrics in which we rank so high. It's time to stop the "spin," end the charade, and clean the proverbial house.

Thank you for your continued service to and leadership in our community.

Ward A. Hamilton

87 E. Emerson St.

From: James O'Loughlin <jamesoloughlin007@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2026 5:01 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Audit Proclamation

Councilors,

I ask that you support the audit proclamation on Monday night.

While I acknowledge that some tweaking may be required to the original ballot initiative to address separation of powers issues, the general intent of the ballot initiative was loud and clear. 72% of voters across the state and 67% of voters in Melrose wanted an independent set of eyes on the legislature. And that loud and clear message has now been ignored, if not obstructed, for a year and a half.

I found it particularly concerning that the recent transparency bill from the House attempts to write the courts out of any dispute between the legislature and the auditor. If we look at Washington, how many times over the past year and a half have groups gone to the courts for relief or mitigation of excesses of power? It is incredibly ironic and unfortunate that some in Massachusetts would attempt to write the courts out of this process.

Because state and municipal governments are so intertwined in Massachusetts, and because an overwhelming majority of your constituents voted in favor of the ballot initiative, I believe it is appropriate that you act on the proclamation. I ask that you please give voice to the 67% of your constituents who voted for the ballot initiative, and support the proclamation.

Regards,

Jim OLoughlin

39 Lincoln St

From: Dillan Patel <dillanpatel01@outlook.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 9:23 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Resolution Affirming Accountability, Transparency and Respect for the Will of the Voters

I understand that the Melrose City Council debated a resolution to affirm the and voice support for the audit of the Massachusetts Legislature that was approved by a large majority of voters last November including two thirds of Melrose voters. Several people spoke in favor of the resolution and audit during public comment. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend to make a public comment.

I would like to voice my support for the Melrose City Council's resolution proposed by Councilor Finocchiaro. The Malden City Council and Reading Select Board have recently voted to support the will of people and by having more towns and cities stand up for the Massachusetts voters send a clear message to the legislature that they are not beyond accountability. It is disappointing that a former City Council member, now state representative has voted affirmatively on a half-measure that does not achieve anywhere near what the votes or the State Auditor asked for.

Thank you for passing 8 to 1 the resolution.

Thank you,

Dillan Patel,

232 Tremont Street, Melrose.

From: Alicia Koerber <akoerber33@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 6:30 AM

To: Chen, Jason <jchen@cityofmelrose.org>

Cc: City Council <CityCouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Re: I support the Resolution Affirming Accountability, Transparency, & Respect for the Will of Voters

That's such great news Jason! Thanks for the response.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 16, 2026, at 6:12 AM, Chen, Jason <jchen@cityofmelrose.org> wrote:

Thanks for writing, Alicia. I agree and support the audit. The resolution passed last night 10-1.

Take care,

Jason

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 15, 2026, at 5:26 PM, Alicia Koerber <akoerber33@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to support "the Resolution Affirming Accountability, Transparency & Respect for the Will of the Voters". I believe that accountability and transparency in government is essential. I also support the efforts of the State Auditor and the states overwhelming support of the ballot question from November 2024.

Please consider voting yes on this resolution tonight.

Warmly,

Alicia Koerber

109 Highview Ave

Good evening President Freeman and fellow Councilors.

I am in support of this resolution because I believe accountability should not depend on what office someone holds or how much power they possess.

In November 2024, the people of Massachusetts spoke clearly. By an overwhelming margin, they voted to authorize the State Auditor to audit the Legislature. The voters of Melrose joined that majority.

Yet earlier this month, the Legislature passed a bill that will significantly limit or prevent the audit voters approved. Our own State Representative voted in favor of that legislation.

Reasonable people can disagree about the legal arguments surrounding this issue. What is harder to dispute is the message it sends when government appears to resist the oversight that voters overwhelmingly endorsed.

Independent audits are not punishment—they are a standard tool used throughout government, as we do here in Melrose, to promote transparency and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

I will also note that when I introduced an earlier version of this resolution, I was encouraged to withdraw it because of concerns that speaking out on this issue could jeopardize state funding for our community. Whether those concerns were well-founded or not, I found it troubling that a discussion about accountability could be accompanied by fears of political consequences.

At its core, this resolution is about a simple principle: government derives its authority from the people, and when voters speak so clearly, their decision deserves respect.

I respectfully ask for your support.

Thank you.

Cal Finocchiaro

From: Ted Hunt <thedrainsurgeon2156@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 6:09 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Audit

To the Honorable city council.

Please support the state auditor to access and audit the audit supported by 70 percent of the voters. It's in the cities best interest because all politics start at the local level and it's very disappointing for the State to be shortchanging the cities and towns, to cause the past and future overrides, putting citizens against citizens. The state doesn't have a funding issue but a spending issue, for me I think the state has too much control over local issues and I don't understand why the elected officials don't push back. As someone who is retired and is on a fixed income and finding it harder each year to keep up with the tax issues. Please don't force me out of a city my family loves since 1983 and leaves me with a choice of paying increasing taxes or not paint my house.

Thank you for putting the issue before you.

Ted Hunt

241 Tremont St, Melrose, MA 02176

From: Ellen <yaya2470@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 5:10 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject:

I’m writing to support the “ Resolution Affirming Accountability, Transparency and Respect for the Will of the Voters”. I believe that accountability and transparency in government is essential and I support the efforts of the State Auditor and the states overwhelming support of the ballot question from November 2024. Please consider voting yes on this resolution tonight.

Thanks for your consideration.

Ellen Steward

325 Swains Pond Avenue

Melrose, MA 02176

From: kristen cook <kecc18@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 6:03 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Supporting the resolution to support the majority vote on Question 1 2024

To the members of our city council,

Good Afternoon.

I am writing in support of the resolution of the vote/will of the people of Melrose and Massachusetts on ballot Question 1 of the November 2024 election.

The results of this vote were evident. The people spoke! With 67% of Melrose in favor and 71% of Mass voters in favor, thereby granting the office of the state auditor the explicit authority to audit the state legislature.

We voted for and deserve accountability and transparency in government! Our legislature should not be allowed to self audit. Allowing our state legislature to audit its own financials and happenings is not only a severe conflict of interest, but also, violates the fundamental audit principals of independence and objectivity.

The state auditor should be the sole auditor of our legislature as this will prevent conflicts of interest, preserve independence, and ensure unbiased assessments.

I support the efforts of the state auditor and the states overwhelming support of the ballot question from November of 2024.

Please consider voting yes on this resolution tonight.

Thank you for all you do for our city and state and thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Kind Regards,

Kristen Cook

CITY OF MELROSE

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Sarah MacLellan
Chief Assessor
smaclellan@cityofmelrose.org

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4104

To:	The Honorable City Council
From:	Sarah MacLellan
Date:	April 15, 2026
Subject:	Free Cash Appropriation for Mailing of Impact Notices during 5-year Revaluation Year

The Assessing Department is requesting a $9,000 Free Cash appropriation to cover the cost of mailing tax impact notices to all taxpayers in Melrose.

Article III, Section 15-10 of the City of Melrose Code of ordinances requires that:

> "For those fiscal years wherein the tax list is comprised of new state-mandated evaluations, the Assessors shall cause an impact notice to be sent to each individual taxpayer. Such notices shall be sent prior to the delivery of the tax list by the Assessors to the City Collector."[1]

In Massachusetts, all real and personal property is assessed at full and fair cash value as of January 1st each year. This means that assessors are required annually to review and analyze market conditions and property data to ensure that assessed values reflect the market values for the assessment period.

In addition to these annual assessments (interim valuation years), all Massachusetts municipalities are required by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) to complete a comprehensive revaluation every five years. This process is referred to as the "certification" or the "revaluation year".

During the revaluation year, which will be Fiscal Year 2027 for Melrose, the Assessing Department undertakes a detailed systematic review of all property assessments within the city. The process includes data collection and verification, in-depth market analysis, valuation modeling, and state certification. Final certification from the DOR confirms that property assessments in Melrose meet the state's required standards of accuracy and fairness.

As part of the Massachusetts DOR's regular Revaluation process, there is a required public disclosure period during which the assessors must notify taxpayers of proposed property tax

[1] City of Melrose Code, Part 1 Administrative Legislation, Chapter 15, Article III Board of Assessors §15-10 Impact notices. https://ecode360.com/15358118

assessments prior to the issuance of tax bills. Under state guidelines, this requirement is satisfied by posting notice on the city's website or in a newspaper of general circulation, for a minimum of five days. However, the city's ordinance imposes a more stringent requirement, mandating that the Assesssors' Office mail a written notice of proposed assessments to each taxpayer.

The requested $9,000 appropriation will be used exclusively to cover printing, materials and postage costs associated with mailing these required notices to all taxpayers. This ensures compliance with the ordinance while also supporting the Assessing Department's objective of providing clear communication with residents regarding property valuation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am available to provide additional information or answer questions as needed.

City Auditor

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Telephone - (781) 979-4110

Fax - (781) 662-2182

Free Cash Orders for Fiscal Year 2026

"Free cash" is a term used to describe any remaining, unrestricted funds from the previous fiscal years. After it is "certified" by the state, free cash use requires a recommendation from the Mayor and an appropriation from the City Council.

More information on free cash is available on the state's website (https://www.mass.gov/info-details/free-cash).

Council Order Item ID	APPRO Amount	Balance of Free Cash	Dep/Fund	Description	Status
	Certified	***$5,558,450.00***			
2026-612	$20,020.00	5,538,430.00	Dept - 162	Poll Pads and a label Printer	Approved
2026-614	$50,000.00	5,488,430.00	Fund - 2543	Melrose Cultural Council	Approved
2026-615	$25,000.00	5,463,430.00	Dept - 121	Chamber and City Event Support	Approved
2026-1147	*$170,000.00*	*5,293,430.00*	*Dept - 423*	*Sidewalk Plow*	*A&O*
2026-1148	*$880,000.00*	*4,413,430.00*	*Dept- 931*	*DPW Vehicles*	*A&O*
2026-1149	*$865,000.00*	*3,548,430.00*	*Dept-931*	*DPW Snow and Ice Deficit*	*A&O*
2026-1150	*$244,944.00*	*3,303,486.00*	*Fund - 1620*	*School Department*	*A&O*
2026-1151	*$10,000.00*	*3,293,486.00*	*Dept- 422*	*Bike Racks*	*A&O*
2026-1145	*$9,000.00*	*3,284,486.00*	*Dept - 141*	*Tax Impact Notices Mailing*	*Submitted*
2026-1164	*$75,000.00*	*3,209,486.00*	*Dept - 175*	*Housing Production Plan*	*Submitted*
2026-1165	*$70,000.00*	*3,139,486.00*	*Dept - 175*	*Downtown Parking Study*	*Submitted*
2026-1169	*$30,000.00*	*3,109,486.00*	*Dept - 543*	*Welcome Home Veterans Sign*	*Submitted*
2026-1170	*$150,000.00*	*2,959,486.00*	*Fund – 8270*	*Affordable Housing Trust*	*Submitted*
2026-1171	*$50,000.00*	*2,909,486.00*	*Dept – 693*	*Boiler replacement and HVAC controls*	*Submitted*
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CITY OF MELROSE

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4190

LORI MASSA, AICP
Director & City Planner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis
Melrose City Council

FROM: Lori Massa, Director & City Planner

CC: Kerriann Golden, CFO/Auditor
Lauren Grymek, Chief of Staff

DATE: April 17, 2026

RE: Housing Production Plan Update – Free Cash Request

The Office of Planning and Community Development respectfully requests that the City Council approve an appropriation of free cash in the amount of $75,000 to hire a consultant for technical assistance to update the City's Housing Production Plan (HPP), which will expire in April 2027. Revisiting the City's housing needs and goals will not only help the City plan for future development, but having a current, state approved, HPP is also required to apply for temporary safe harbor if the City still does not have 10% of the total year-round housing units on our Subsidized Housing Inventory.

To meet the requirements of a state approved plan, an HPP must contain the following elements:

- Housing needs and demand assessment
- Housing goals for the next five years
- Analysis of factors affecting development
- A development framework and identification of opportunity sites
- Numeric production targets
- Recommendations for the city to achieve its housing goals and an actionable implementation plan

Ensuring that the updated HPP includes the information above will require careful research and data collection, and opportunities for public engagement. With the help of a consultant, the resultant document will be a robust and useful planning document that will help guide the City's housing and development policies and goals for the next 5 years.

City Auditor

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Telephone - (781) 979-4110

Fax - (781) 662-2182

Free Cash Orders for Fiscal Year 2026

"Free cash" is a term used to describe any remaining, unrestricted funds from the previous fiscal years. After it is "certified" by the state, free cash use requires a recommendation from the Mayor and an appropriation from the City Council.

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2026-615	$25,000.00	5,463,430.00	Dept - 121	Chamber and City Event Support	Approved
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From: Massa, Lori
To: Chen, Jason
Cc: Grymek, Lauren
Subject: Re: Housing production plan funding
Date: Friday, May 8, 2026 1:02:49 PM
Attachments: Outlook-preview.pn.png

Hi Jason,

Thanks for your efforts to find ways to save money and your confidence in the planning staff. We are a small but mighty group. With the number of projects on our plates hiring consultants to help with some initiatives is needed. We have regulatory requirements related to our case work and response to permits, and therefore we do not have the ability to control how much time we can devote to other projects...and we'd like to continue to do other projects. Increasing staff to do the work is a more expensive option.

Housing Production Plan:
Wakefield and Andover did their HPP update with consultants:
Wakefield used JM Goldson LLC - funded by a grant
Andover used MVPC - their regional planning agency - funded through the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) Community Planning Grant, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Planning Assistance Grant, and through District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funds

We have applied for and received several grants for planning. The timing for a grant for the HPP didn't work out. We are very close but still not there for 'permanent' safe harbor so a current and State compliance HPP is needed to be able to be eligible for temporary safe harbor. We have used the current HPP twice to gain temporary safe harbor.

Previous parking study: https://www.cityofmelrose.org/DocumentCenter/View/133/Downtown-Parking-Study-PDF?bidId=
Parking is always a hot button topic. Having the study done professionally will legitimize the results. Working with staff, residents, boards/commission are important but having an outside/unbiased view is beneficial, especially for this topic.
Constructing parking is expensive and can have negative consequences for walkability/vibrancy and traffic. Understanding if/where there are issues and if we can manage parking more efficiently is the best first step.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss.
Thanks,
Lori

From: Chen, Jason <jchen@cityofmelrose.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 8:23 AM
To: Massa, Lori <lmassa@CityofMelrose.org>

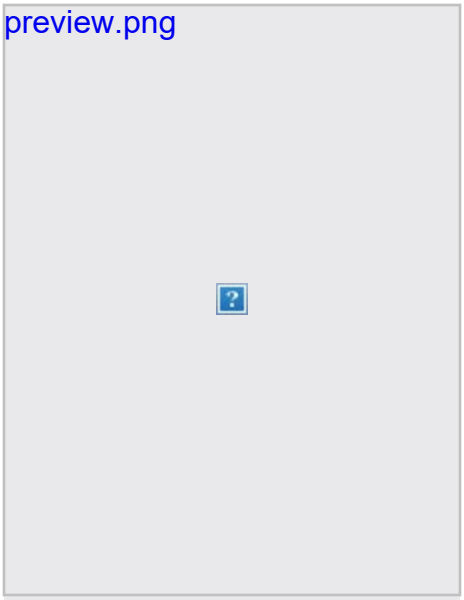
Cc: Grymek, Lauren <lgrymek@CityofMelrose.org>
Subject: Housing production plan funding

Hi Lori,

Thanks for submitting the HPP and parking study free cash requests.

I read through the housing production plan again this week and I appreciate the requirement to update it every 5 yrs for safe harbor status. A number of communities including Wakefield and Andover have updated it without consultants by using the expertise of volunteers and staff within the community.

Wakefield's 2026 report is similar in scope and depth to ours.



Housing-Production-Plan-FY-2026-2030-PDF
PDF Document · 13.9 MB

I think it would be a great opportunity for community volunteerism and engagement. To your credit, the current housing production plan (2022) is thorough and looks like an excellent foundation to update and edit. Perhaps we can use similar demographic data and economic trends from by referencing nearby towns like Winchester and Wakefield with recently updated plans.

I am trying to find ways for us to save money while maintaining high standards and meeting requirements. I have high confidence in you and our staff and community to resourcefully and collaboratively update this plan and expect it will be well received by the community.

The parking study is another line item which I question. I'd rather spend $70k building more parking, than funding a study that says we need more or less parking. Would you please send examples of previous parking studies for Melrose, and what we learned from them? Do we have traffic / urban planners in the community that can volunteer to review previous studies, check if assumptions are still valid, and make a recommendation?

Thanks for taking my feedback, and happy to chat anytime.

Jason

Sent from my iPhone
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From: Massa, Lori
To: Chen, Jason
Cc: Grymek, Lauren; Romanul, Devin; Vandiver, Kimberly
Subject: Re: Questions for tomorrow
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 2:27:18 PM

Hi Councilor Chen,

To give you some context on creating housing, from a colleague in Cambridge and a recent Boston Globe article, developing housing in Boston and Cambridge costs between $600,000 to $1 million per unit. We spent $140,000 for the Melrose Affordable Housing Corporation to get $300,000 of Federal HOME funds to be able to purchase and renovate 3 units to create permanently affordable units. This is a huge win for Melrose. Affordable housing takes planning, any type of support, and a long-term approach because it is not quick or easy to create. There is no way to say if I put this much money in, this is how many units I will get. We are relaying on others to request the money to build housing and if we don't have any, we won't get requests or affordable units outside of those required by zoning.

I'm hoping that we can figure out a way to update the housing production plan for less than $75,000. 80% of that document looks like routine verbiage that does not appear to require deep domain knowledge. Would you please suggest other ways to accomplish the goal?

The updated Housing Production Plan should not be a routine verbiage of information. We want to be using updated, innovative data to come up with new goals, policies and actions including preferred development sites. We received a $100,250 grant to implement some of the remaining actions in the current plan. With the number of projects on our plates hiring consultants to help with some initiatives is needed. We have regulatory requirements related to our case work and response to permits, and therefore we do not have the ability to control how much time we can devote to other projects...and we'd like to continue to do other projects. Increasing staff to do the work is a more expensive option.

Community engagement and education is an important part of planning and stripping this out of a plan's scope to reduce the price is possible but I wouldn't recommend it.

When do you expect us to reach 10% and will our current plan still be up-to-date when that happens? Do we lose safe Harbor after our housing production plan is five years old from the date it was published?

There are 2 different state "approvals" of HPPs. One is the approval after it is created. The other is certification of the plan if you would like to claim temporary safe harbor because an unwanted 40B project is going to be proposed and the ZBA has approved the required number of units in that calendar year. If we don't have an approved HPP, we can't ask the state to certify it for temporary safe harbor if the ZBA has approved the required number of units in the calendar year. Info on our website that may be helpful: https://www.cityofmelrose.org/173/Comprehensive-Permit-Information--40B

We would need about 50 units to get to 10% but this number is always changing. Find more here: https://www.cityofmelrose.org/DocumentCenter/View/1865/Subsidized-Housing-Inventory-Update-

8152025

I'm not convinced that we should spend $70,000 on the parking study. Can you please help me understand what the key questions we want the consultant to answer?

What is the current parking utilization at different points of the week? What worked or did not work from the last plan from 2012? What are the current best practices and recommendations to best manage parking?

To answer a question from your other email:

Sources of funding for the trust: There have been 8 projects that have had to contribute to the Affordable Housing Trust since 2007; there was a small payment for administrative costs that we received for managing the sale of an affordable unit that we could put into the trust; free cash from 2021; and interest at a variable rate.

The affordable housing requirements went into effect in 2004 and we amended them in 2019.

The zoning ordinance requires that project that have 8 or more residential units provide 15% as affordable. If the fraction is less than 0.5 there is a payment required. If the fraction is 0.5 or higher, it rounds up to a unit.

For project with 5, 6, or 7 units have the option of providing 1 affordable unit or making a contribution to the Trust Fund.

It is better to have affordable units built as part of the project; however, small projects are hard to pencil out and therefore a payout is an option. It is unusual for municipalities to require any contribution to affordable housing for smaller projects as we do.

The City demands a lot of development to satisfy various goals and if we press too much, we are not going to get development.

I have no way of estimating how many projects will require payment into the trust and how many projects will be needing trust funds to happen. Melrose is fortunate to have recent projects proposed, approved, and construction is happening - other municipalities are seeing a big slowdown. Development cycles and market conditions greatly impact future growth. The Housing Production Plan helps to frame where we would like to see development next. Most of the sites identified in the current plan are permitted or developed.

Here are webpages that will hopefully have some additional helpful information:

Information on the MBTA Communities Law, which includes a development list from the fall of 2025:

https://www.cityofmelrose.org/783/MBTA-Communities-Law

Information on affordable units in Melrose:

https://www.cityofmelrose.org/370/Affordable-Housing

Thanks,
Lori

From: Chen, Jason <jchen@cityofmelrose.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 9:22 AM
To: Massa, Lori <lmassa@CityofMelrose.org>
Cc: Grymek, Lauren <lgrymek@CityofMelrose.org>; Romanul, Devin <dromanul@cityofmelrose.org>; Vandiver, Kimberly <kvandiver@cityofmelrose.org>
Subject: Questions for tomorrow

Hello Lori, I hope you are wellI hope you are well.

I wanted to send ahead a few questions I had prior to tomorrow's meeting.

Regarding the affordable housing trust free cash request, I'm still not convinced that this is a cost-effective way to add affordable housing units in Melrose. The $150,000 we spent to have three deeded affordable units does not move the needle in my view. I'm willing to be convinced if there's other more cost-effective mechanisms.

I'm hoping that we can figure out a way to update the housing production plan for less than $75,000. 80% of that document looks like routine verbiage that does not appear to require deep domain knowledge. Would you please suggest other ways to accomplish the goal?

I understand we need an up-to-date housing production plan to reach safe Harbor. When do you expect us to reach 10% and will our current plan? Still be up-to-date when that happens? Do we lose safe Harbor after our housing production plan is five years old from the date it was published?

I certainly understand the importance of reaching safe Harbor given the risks that summit Avenue presents.

I'm not convinced that we should spend $70,000 on the parking study. Can you please help me understand what the key questions we want the consultant to answer?

I will look more closely at your departmental budget today and send ahead any questions that I have.

Please let me know if it's easier to speak by phone.

Thank you for your leadership and organization.

Jason

Sent from my iPhone
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LORI MASSA, AICP
Director & City Planner

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis
Melrose City Council

FROM: Lori Massa, Director & City Planner

CC: Kerriann Golden, CFO/Auditor
Lauren Grymek, Chief of Staff

DATE: April 17, 2026

RE: Downtown Parking Study – Free Cash Request

The Office of Planning and Community Development respectfully requests that the City Council approve an appropriation of free cash in the amount of $70,000 to hire a consultant for technical assistance to update the Downtown Parking Study that was created in 2012. The original report helped provide a framework for managing downtown parking and offered a series of recommendations to best ensure that the parking needs of residents and visitors are met. Many of the recommendations were implemented such as the creation of the Merchant Parking Program. However, because it has been over 14 years since downtown parking was completed, it is time to reevaluate parking utilization and best practices for management.

The need to balance the supply and availability of parking spaces for business patrons and employees while maintaining a walkable and pedestrian-friendly environment is critical. We recommend dedicating funding to hiring a consultant to review current parking regulations and analyze parking utilization during the week and on the weekends to determine whether the existing parking supply is managed appropriately and whether the regulations and/or the location of parking should be adjusted. Based on the findings, the consultant will provide recommendations for improving the parking supply and availability.

The goal of the updated parking study is to continue to provide an environment downtown that supports mobility, adaptability, and economic development.

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I wanted to send ahead a few questions I had prior to tomorrow's meeting.

Regarding the affordable housing trust free cash request, I'm still not convinced that this is a cost-effective way to add affordable housing units in Melrose. The $150,000 we spent to have three deeded affordable units does not move the needle in my view. I'm willing to be convinced if there's other more cost-effective mechanisms.

I'm hoping that we can figure out a way to update the housing production plan for less than $75,000. 80% of that document looks like routine verbiage that does not appear to require deep domain knowledge. Would you please suggest other ways to accomplish the goal?

I understand we need an up-to-date housing production plan to reach safe Harbor. When do you expect us to reach 10% and will our current plan? Still be up-to-date when that happens? Do we lose safe Harbor after our housing production plan is five years old from the date it was published?

I certainly understand the importance of reaching safe Harbor given the risks that summit Avenue presents.

I'm not convinced that we should spend $70,000 on the parking study. Can you please help me understand what the key questions we want the consultant to answer?

I will look more closely at your departmental budget today and send ahead any questions that I have.

Please let me know if it's easier to speak by phone.

Thank you for your leadership and organization.

Jason

Sent from my iPhone
****CITY OF MELROSE PUBLIC RECORDS NOTICE: Please be advised that the Massachusetts Attorney General has determined that email is a public record unless the content of the email falls within one of the stated exemptions under the Massachusetts Public Records Laws.****
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City Auditor

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Telephone - (781) 979-4110

Fax - (781) 662-2182

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2026-614	$50,000.00	5,488,430.00	Fund - 2543	Melrose Cultural Council	Approved
2026-615	$25,000.00	5,463,430.00	Dept - 121	Chamber and City Event Support	Approved
2026-1147	*$170,000.00*	*5,293,430.00*	*Dept - 423*	*Sidewalk Plow*	*A&O*
2026-1148	*$880,000.00*	*4,413,430.00*	*Dept- 931*	*DPW Vehicles*	*A&O*
2026-1149	*$865,000.00*	*3,548,430.00*	*Dept-931*	*DPW Snow and Ice Deficit*	*A&O*
2026-1150	*$244,944.00*	*3,303,486.00*	*Fund - 1620*	*School Department*	*A&O*
2026-1151	*$10,000.00*	*3,293,486.00*	*Dept- 422*	*Bike Racks*	*A&O*
2026-1145	*$9,000.00*	*3,284,486.00*	*Dept - 141*	*Tax Impact Notices Mailing*	*Submitted*
2026-1164	*$75,000.00*	*3,209,486.00*	*Dept - 175*	*Housing Production Plan*	*Submitted*
2026-1165	*$70,000.00*	*3,139,486.00*	*Dept - 175*	*Downtown Parking Study*	*Submitted*
2026-1169	*$30,000.00*	*3,109,486.00*	*Dept - 543*	*Welcome Home Veterans Sign*	*Submitted*
2026-1170	*$150,000.00*	*2,959,486.00*	*Fund – 8270*	*Affordable Housing Trust*	*Submitted*
2026-1171	*$50,000.00*	*2,909,486.00*	*Dept – 693*	*Boiler replacement and HVAC controls*	*Submitted*
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CITY OF MELROSE

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4190

LORI MASSA, AICP
Director & City Planner

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis
Melrose City Council

FROM: Lori Massa, Director & City Planner

CC: Kerriann Golden, CFO/Auditor
Lauren Grymek, Chief of Staff

DATE: April 29, 2026

RE: Affordable Housing Trust Fund – Free Cash Request

The Office of Planning and Community Development respectfully requests that the City Council approve an appropriation of free cash in the amount of $150,000 to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF). The AHTF, which was established by the City Council in 2020, has a mission of creating, preserving, and supporting diverse affordable housing to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income households in Melrose over their lifespan, in collaboration with municipal and community partners.

As outlined in the Board of Trustees' five year action plan, the AHTF has three goals: securing sustainable and diverse funding sources, supporting the creation of more affordable homes, and educating the community about local housing needs to build support for more affordable housing. Since the beginning of 2026, the Trustees have engaged with stakeholders, conducted public outreach, and approved a funding request from the Melrose Affordable Housing Corporation (MAHC) to assist with the purchasing of three units that will be deed restricted, affordable units in perpetuity.

However, because the Trust's primary source of revenue is from housing developments required to pay into the Trust, which is sporadic and unpredictable, the Trust does not have a stable source of income. Therefore, with the support of this free cash, the Board can continue to work towards meeting the goals of the AHTF while supporting community partners and accomplishing the City's housing targets.

June 1, 2026

To: Melrose City Council

As a Melrose resident I urge you all to vote no on the free cash request for $150,000 to the Affordable Housing Trust. I commend Melrose for focusing on making the city more affordable to all but taxpayer money should not be used for this purpose. I suggest setting up a voluntary fund for the Affordable Housing Trust like the Melrose Emergency Fund and encourage donations in that manner to fund the trust.

The recent override has made it less affordable to residents due to the increased tax assessments, and not only from the override but the extra 2.5% increase still added to it this year. That hard earned money should be used only for purposes that directly benefit those that paid it.

I do not think it's fair to allow any of the tax levied money from residents to be used for this purpose and I urge you to vote no on any amount that may be requested. I thankfully and respectfully hope that you share this message with all and seriously consider it. I know that many of my neighbors and friends feel the same way and are too afraid to express it.

A very concerned Melrose resident

CITY CLERK MELROSE-MA
2026 JUN 2 PM3:22

From: Jen McAndrew <mccarthy.mcandrew@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 7:40 AM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Cc: Massa, Lori <lmassa@cityofmelrose.org>; Grymek, Lauren <lgrymek@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Appropriation to Affordable Housing Trust

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the city's domain. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you believe that this message is spam, please use the "Report Spam" button in Outlook to report it.

Dear City Council Members, I hope you and your families are doing well. I know it's a very busy time for the Council, and particularly tonight with several meetings on your docket. Thank you for all your work on behalf of Melrose. This year, I am part

Warning: Unusual sender <mccarthy.mcandrew@gmail.com>

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear City Council Members,

I hope you and your families are doing well.

I know it's a very busy time for the Council, and particularly tonight with several meetings on your docket. Thank you for all your work on behalf of Melrose. This year, I am particularly encouraged, given the will of the voters and the passage of the override, that Melrose is in the fortunate position of having some resources to allocate to important priorities and much-needed investments. While there are many high-priority investments for consideration on your agenda, I am reaching out in strong support of one in particular: the appropriation from free cash of $150,000 to the Affordable Housing Trust (Item ID # 2026-1170).

The establishment of the Affordable Housing Trust was an important step forward for a community like Melrose. Now you have the opportunity to take another step by adding funds to the Trust to support its mission. I think this does a few things. First, it is a signal of the City's values. This is not just theoretical. It shows the Commonwealth, at a time where there is (rightly, in my mind) pressure on municipalities to address the state's housing crisis, that Melrose is serious about affordable housing. Secondly, it establishes the precedent with the community, and with others considering Melrose as their home, that making these investments--perhaps annually, when resources allow--is something that the Mayor and, if you approve it, the Council are willing to do.

There may be some who likely wish the amount was even higher, and I understand that. But to me this is an important step. A few of you have probably heard me say that my life's motto is "progress is being made, more work remains." (It certainly applies to being the parent of teens, as many of you can attest!) It's also true of our civic life together. Voting for this appropriation is a step for progress, even if more work remains.

My best to you all and my gratitude for your service,

Jen McAndrew

12 Sears Avenue

From: ERIC WILDMAN <ewildman@comcast.net>

Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2026 11:16 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Affordable Housing Trust, ID # 2026-1170

Good evening,

I want to share my strong support for the appropriation from free cash of $150,000 to the Affordable Housing Trust, ID # 2026-1170.

The establishment of the Affordable Housing Trust was a key step in addressing affordability in the City Melrose. The use of these funds to potentially leverage federal and state resources represents an incredible opportunity for our community. I understand that some might think this appropriation is too small in relation to the scale of the affordability crisis in metro-Boston, I tend to agree. However, using the relative scale of this appropriation as a reason to oppose this order would be unfortunate. Rather, I'd prefer this Council take an all of the above approach to addressing this issue and, by this vote, make it known that the City of Melrose is willing to put its money where its mouth is when it comes to addressing affordability in our community.

While the focus of this message is the Affordable Housing Trust, I would be remiss if I did not note my support for the following orders: ID # 2026-1164, ID # 2026-1175 and ID # 2026-1241.

Regards,

Eric Wildman

105 Laurel Street, Melrose

From: Kelly Thome <kthome@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:36 AM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Affordable Housing Trust vote

Members of my City Council,

I am asking you to please vote yes on tonight's Affordable Housing Trust vote. This is important for our city and a direct representation of what I believe our city holds as values.

Thank you,

Kelly Thome

1056 Main St

Ward 1-2

From: Paul Brodeur <pb2010@verizon.net>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 4:22 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Support for Order 2026-1170 - Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Dear Honorable Members

Attached for your consideration is a letter in support of the above-referenced order. I am also providing the link to the study referenced in the letter.

https://bostonchamber.com/supercharging-housing-production/

Good luck tonight as you make many important decisions in finalizing the operating budget and numerous free cash appropriations.

Sincerely,

Paul

Paul Brodeur
125 Trenton Street
Melrose, MA 02176

June 15, 2026

Melrose City Council
Melrose City Hall
562 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176

RE: Melrose Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Dear President Freeman and Members of the Melrose City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed deposit of $150,000 from the City's free cash into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This strategic investment will help address the urgent need for housing in our community and across the Commonwealth. Importantly, it also demonstrates our city's commitment to ensuring all residents have access to safe, stable, and affordable homes.

The need for increased housing resources is more critical than ever, as highlighted in the recent Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce report entitled *Supercharging Housing Production*. The report underscores the pressing shortage of all forms of housing across Greater Boston, including Melrose, and calls for bold action by local governments to expand housing opportunities. While I do not endorse all the solutions in the report, it does correctly identify a significant gap between the current pace of housing development and the growing demand, especially for moderate- and lower-income families. Without proactive measures, many residents will continue to face challenges securing adequate housing, which in turn impacts the broader economic vitality and livability of our city and our region.

A million-dollar home is no longer an unusual thing in the Melrose real estate market. Assuming a prospective buyer can put down 20%, the buyer will need to borrow $800,000. Assuming the buyer can get an interest rate of 6% (slightly below the current market). That will generate a monthly payment of $4,796 for thirty years, exclusive of property taxes, insurance, utilities, and other fees. While not every home in Melrose is going to sell for $1,000,000, it's an important example of the current market. That is the market our municipal employees and our adult kids are facing.

By allocating $150,000 to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Melrose will be taking a concrete step toward helping address the affordability crisis. This deposit can leverage available grant funding to maximize our impact by helping local non-profits buy affordable units. It can be used for homeowner downpayment assistance or to help a renter with a security deposit. Importantly, it also signals to state agencies, developers, and community partners that Melrose is serious about meeting the housing needs of its residents. The Trust Fund serves as a crucial vehicle for supporting local projects, preserving existing affordable units, and attracting additional resources for future initiatives.

As mayor, I was proud to sign into law the ordinance creating the Trust and to submit the first free cash funding order for the Trust. I urge the City Council to build on that foundation by approving this deposit and continue leading the way in addressing our city's housing challenges. Making this relatively small deposit into the Trust Fund is an investment in the future of Melrose—one that will strengthen our community, support economic growth, and ensure that Melrose remains a welcoming home for all.

Thank you for your consideration and your ongoing commitment to the well-being of Melrose residents.

Sincerely,

Paul Brodeur

From: janis mamayek <yekmama@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 6:11 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Affordable Housing Trust, ID # 2026-1170

Good Evening Members of hte Council

As an architect who has dedicated more than three decades to Affordable housing across the Commonwealth, and as a resident of Melrose, I am writing to express my strong support for the appropriation of $150,000 from free cash to the Affordable Housing Trust (ID # 2026-1170).

This action will empower the AHT to act on its mission, communicate local support in potential larger deals leveraging state and federal resources and possibly jump start smaller scaled projects. The need for Affordable [capital A] is great; the City can do great things with a properly funded trust.

INspire good,

Janis Mamayek

30 Trento St

City Auditor

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

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CITY OF MELROSE

SOLDIERS & SAILORS
MEMORIAL BUILDING

590 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone (781) 979-4185
www.melrosememorialhall.com

KATHY PIGOTT-BRODEUR
Executive Director/Operations Manger
Kpigottbrodeur@cityofmelrose.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis
Melrose City Council
CC: Lauren Grymek
Kerri Golden, CFO
From: Kathy Pigott-Brodeur, Executive Director/Operations Manager, Memorial Hall
DATE: April 28, 2026
RE: FY26 Memorial Hall Free Cash Request

I respectfully request an appropriation of **$50,000** from FY26 Free Cash to cover the cost of the following repairs at Memorial Hall.

Repair #1: Upgrading the existing controls software for the HVAC system.
This software has not been updated since 2013 and it can no longer be serviced remotely and temperature settings fluctuate. Upgrading the software will allow for remote service, reduce the need for on-site technicians visits and associated costs. Additionally, the upgrade will provide improved control of the heating and cooling system, ensuring temperatures can be accurately maintained to meet event requirements..

- **Free Cash request: Total needed for Repair #1, (Building Repair line item 016932 527700) = $10,440**

Repair #2: : defective boiler replacement
The current boiler model is no longer available for purchase, and replacement parts can no longer be obtained. As a result, the boiler must be replaced..

- **Free Cash request: Total needed for Emergency Repair #2, (Professional Service line item 016932 529000) = $39,560**

Please let me know if you require any additional information to process this request.
Thank you for your time and assistance.

City Auditor

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Memorandum

To: Mr. Ken Kelley

From: Mr. Jason Merrill
Melrose High School
Principal

Date: 4/2826

Re: Vape Detectors - MVMMS

Greetings,

I would like to express the importance of purchasing vape detectors for MVMMS. They have proven to be an effective tool for MHS. Vaping is a national epidemic negatively affecting all students at the middle and high school levels. I am requesting to purchase vape detectors for all student bathrooms. This is a high need resource for student safety and success.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Jason Merrill

City Auditor

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Telephone - (781) 979-4110

Fax - (781) 662-2182

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2026-1170	*$150,000.00*	*2,959,486.00*	*Fund – 8270*	*Affordable Housing Trust*	*Submitted*
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2026-1177	*$20,000.00*	*1,650,816.48*	*Dept - 401*	*School Signage*	*Submitted*
2026-1178	*$3,000.00*	*1,647,816.48*	*Dept - 162*	*Census Mailer*	*Submitted*

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MELROSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To: Kenneth Kelley, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
From: Steve Black, MVMMS Assistant Principal, Ben Vermilyea, Band Director/Teacher
Date: April 28, 2026
Re: Marching Band Uniforms

Please accept this memo to support the purchasing of new Marching Band uniforms.

The MHS Marching Band consists of approximately 65 students who compete in the New England Scholastic Band Association (NESBA) and perform at community events. The program is currently on a growth trajectory, recently winning first place in NESBA Division IV in 2024 and earning awards for Best Visual Performance and Best Color Guard this past year.

Current Uniform Condition

Our current uniforms have no official purchase record. While boosters estimated them to be 15 to 20 years old, a representative from Stanbury Uniforms determined they pre-date 2001, as they lack the manufacturing dates standard for the last 25 years. Although the Bandaiders booster group has worked diligently to clean and maintain them, the equipment no longer matches the caliber of our students' performances.

Student Benefit

New uniforms will directly benefit the student experience in the following ways:

- **Performance Quality:** Every student will have a properly fitting uniform, allowing them to move comfortably and perform at their highest physical level.
- **Student Confidence:** High-quality attire provides students with the confidence they deserve when performing before large audiences at venues like Fenway Park and Fred Green Field.
- **Pride and Representation:** New uniforms reflect the hard work of the students and the pride the Melrose community has for its band program.

Long-Term Investment

While this is a significant cost, high-quality uniforms are a long-term investment. With current enrollment trends rising, we've reached to several professionals who have helped us estimate the number of uniforms needed to ensure current and projected needs, ensuring a sustained investment. Our booster group is committed to the professional storage and maintenance required to ensure this new equipment lasts for decades to come. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

City Auditor

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Telephone - (781) 979-4110

Fax - (781) 662-2182

Free Cash Orders for Fiscal Year 2026

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Council Order Item ID	APPRO Amount	Balance of Free Cash	Dep/Fund	Description	Status
	Certified	***$5,558,450.00***			
2026-612	$20,020.00	5,538,430.00	Dept - 162	Poll Pads and a label Printer	Approved
2026-614	$50,000.00	5,488,430.00	Fund - 2543	Melrose Cultural Council	Approved
2026-615	$25,000.00	5,463,430.00	Dept - 121	Chamber and City Event Support	Approved
2026-1147	*$170,000.00*	*5,293,430.00*	*Dept - 423*	*Sidewalk Plow*	*A&O*
2026-1148	*$880,000.00*	*4,413,430.00*	*Dept- 931*	*DPW Vehicles*	*A&O*
2026-1149	*$865,000.00*	*3,548,430.00*	*Dept-931*	*DPW Snow and Ice Deficit*	*A&O*
2026-1150	*$244,944.00*	*3,303,486.00*	*Fund - 1620*	*School Department*	*A&O*
2026-1151	*$10,000.00*	*3,293,486.00*	*Dept- 422*	*Bike Racks*	*A&O*
2026-1145	*$9,000.00*	*3,284,486.00*	*Dept - 141*	*Tax Impact Notices Mailing*	*Submitted*
2026-1164	*$75,000.00*	*3,209,486.00*	*Dept - 175*	*Housing Production Plan*	*Submitted*
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Athletics

Stephen J. Fogarty, AD

MEMO

To: Mr. Ken Kelley

From: Stephen J. Fogarty, Director of Athletics

RE: Student Uniforms and Score Table requests

Date: 4/28/26

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Melrose High School lacrosse and basketball team uniforms are in need of replacement. These two sports, specifically girls and boys lacrosse, and boys basketball, are the highest priority replacement needed at this time. Our students deserve to wear newer, more modern uniforms made of better and least restrictive fabrics.

Our current score table is approximately 25 years old and too small to accommodate all of the game officials needed to host a home high school game. A newer and larger table would support competitive events for multiple high school sports.

Best,

Stephen J. Fogarty
Mr. Stephen J. Fogarty
Director of Athletics
(781)462-3223
sfogarty@melroseschools.com

City Auditor

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Telephone - (781) 979-4110

Fax - (781) 662-2182

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Administration–Engineering–Water–Sewer–Facilities
Parks–Forestry–Highway–Sanitation–Cemetery–Fleet

CITY OF MELROSE

Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., BCEE
Director of Public Works

City Yard, 72 Tremont Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone – (781) 665-0142
E-mail: eproakis@cityofmelrose.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis
Melrose City Council

From: Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., Director of Public Works

cc: Kerriann Golden, CFO/Auditor
Lauren Grymek, Chief of Staff
James Troup, Deputy DPW Director – Administration & Finance
Jay Coy, Acting City Engineer

Date: April 28, 2026

Re: Ell Pond Park Improvements Project Design – Free Cash Request

The Department of Public Works requests $710,000 to advance the design of the Ell Pond Park Improvements Project. The complete project has currently been brought to 25% design as part of a federal earmark focused on stormwater improvements (Phase 1). This funding request for $710,000 will bring the entire park design to near-completion (approximately 90%) and will bring the next phase of improvements to bid-ready documents. A phasing plan will be developed during the design phase. The proposed funding also covers permitting for the entire park project.

Elements of the Ell Pond Park Improvements Project are as follows:

- Improvements to the East Knoll, West Knoll, and Cabbage Patch fields to improve playing surfaces and increase uptime
- Addition of a multi-use path around the perimeter of the park (approximately 0.75 mile loop), along with better interior path connections and connections to new fitness areas
- Off-road pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure parallel to Lynn Fells Parkway, since on-road options are limited in this vicinity for safety reasons
- Restoration of wetlands and improvements to water quality and habitat at the inlet to Ell Pond from the Parkway near Melrose Street.
- A pedestrian bridge over the wetlands providing an in-park connection to the Crystal Street tennis courts and adjacent park area with added aesthetic benefits
- Complete rehabilitation of the Crystal Street tennis courts and improvements to the Lyons tennis courts as needed
- Addition of an accessible path to the top of the knoll, providing access to the knoll memorials to visitors of all abilities
- An outdoor classroom area that can be used by students of the middle and high school complex as well as other user groups

- Improvements to the boat launch into Ell Pond, providing better access to active recreation
- Repaving and restriping of the knoll parking lot
- Maintenance of the existing dog park
- Improved access to view and sit near Ell Pond

The conceptual design for the park improvements was developed based on significant public input during the Ell Pond Feasibility Study project phase. Beginning in 2020, the Ell Pond Park Working Group, consisting of representatives from the City's Parks, DPW, Conservation, and Planning Departments, as well as the Melrose Park and Conservation Commissions, has guided the conceptual design development. This group continues to oversee the design process and will lead the public outreach activities for this next phase of design, along with our consultants from Weston and Sampson.

The Ell Pond Park Improvements Project was identified as the top ranked project in the City's recent Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Initiating the final design is the next phase in the implementation of this project. Ell Pond Park is a valuable amenity for the City, and the proposed project will help it reach its full potential, offering amenities for a wide variety of park users for years to come.

The Department of Public Works hereby requests $710,000 of free cash to advance the design of the Ell Pond Park Improvements Project. The funds will be deposited into a dedicated account set up by the Auditor's Office and will be managed by the Department of Public Works, in conjunction with the Parks Department.

Thank you for your consideration of this important community project.

ELL POND PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 2026

CITY OF MELROSE

Weston & Sampson
design studio



AGENDA

1. Project History
2. Project Schedule and Project Goals
3. 25% Design Plan
4. Stormwater Management
5. Opinion of Probable Construction Cost Estimate
6. Question and Discussion



1 PROJECT HISTORY

INCEPTION | PHASE 1 PROJECT | WHAT'S NEXT?

2020-2022

Ell Pond Feasibility Study and Preferred Master Plan

Weston & Sampson℠



Preferred Master Plan (2021)

FEBRUARY 2025

Ell Pond Park was awarded $1M EPA/ Federal Earmark grant for stormwater improvement.

NOVEMBER 2025

Ell Pond Park Stormwater Management Project Kick-Off

Weston & Sampson℠



City Working Group and Weston & Sampson Team at A Site Assessment and Evaluation Meeting in December, 2025

TODAY

Ell Pond Park 25% Design Complete for City Funding Application

Weston & Sampson℠



Current 25% Parks Design Illustrative Plan

2022 FEASIBILITY STUDY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

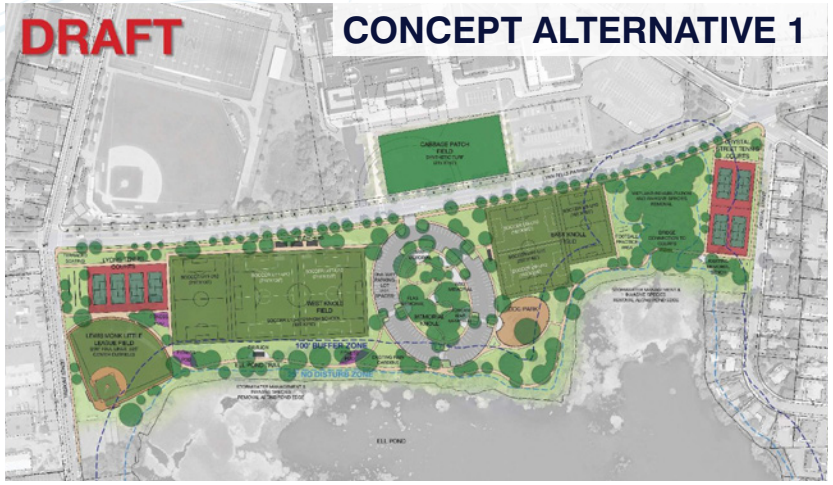
Public Engagement Takeaways

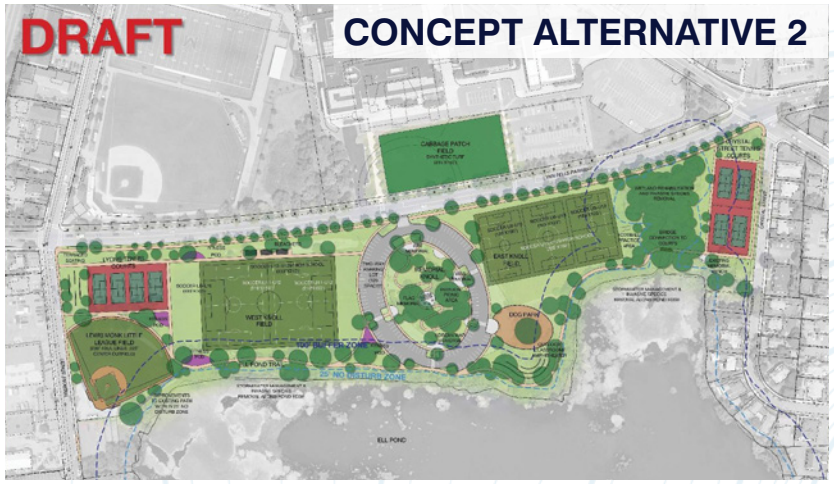
Why are people coming to Ell Pond Park?
Field use and walking.

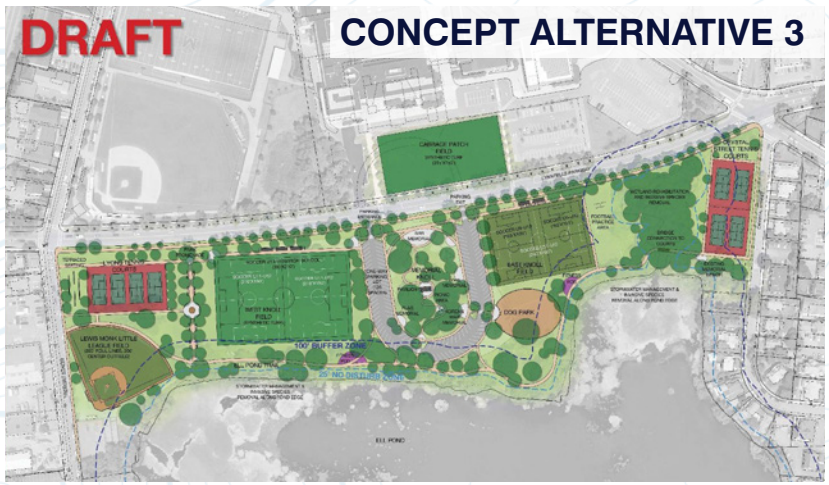
Fields:
Average condition, accessibility, and satisfaction.
Poor drainage.

Courts:
Average condition, accessibility, and satisfaction.

What is desired?
Better drainage of fields.
More seating.
Improved walking paths and trails.
Improvements to pond and waterfront.



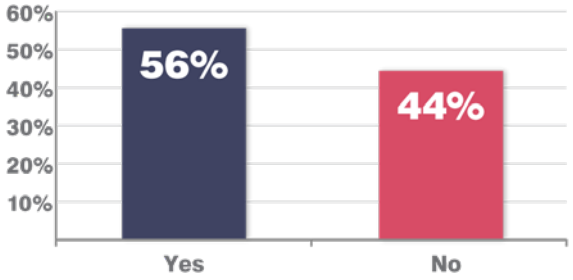




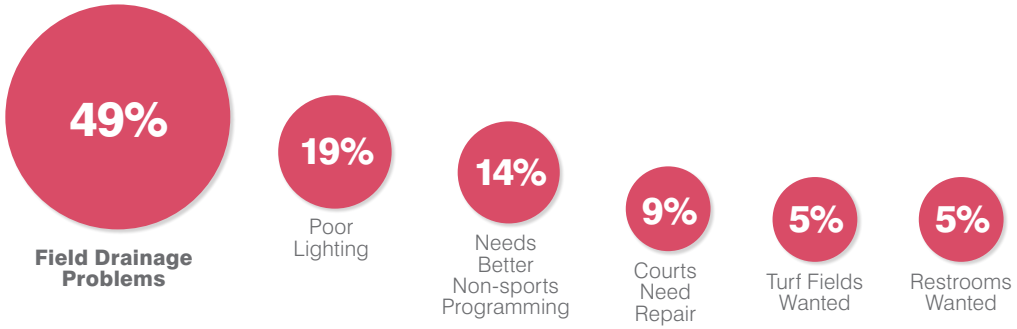
2022 FEASIBILITY STUDY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY STATISTICS

Key Concerns and Challenges

Q2: Are existing sports and recreation facilities at Ell Pond Park (fields and/or courts) sufficiently meeting the needs of your organization or program in terms of availability and performance?

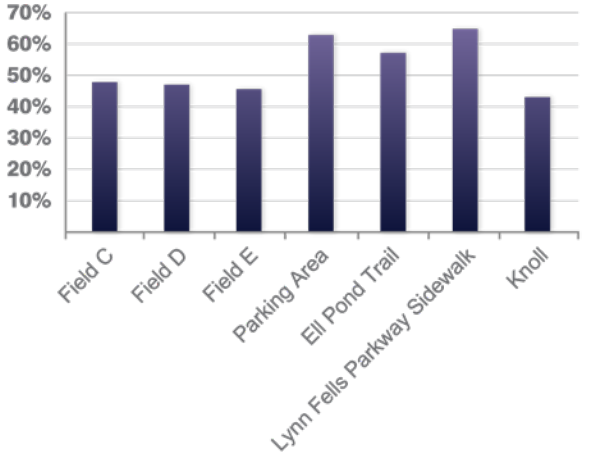


If NO, why?



Current usage of the park

Q3: Check any site features and/or facilities that you or your family use (Check all that apply). Refer to the site map above.



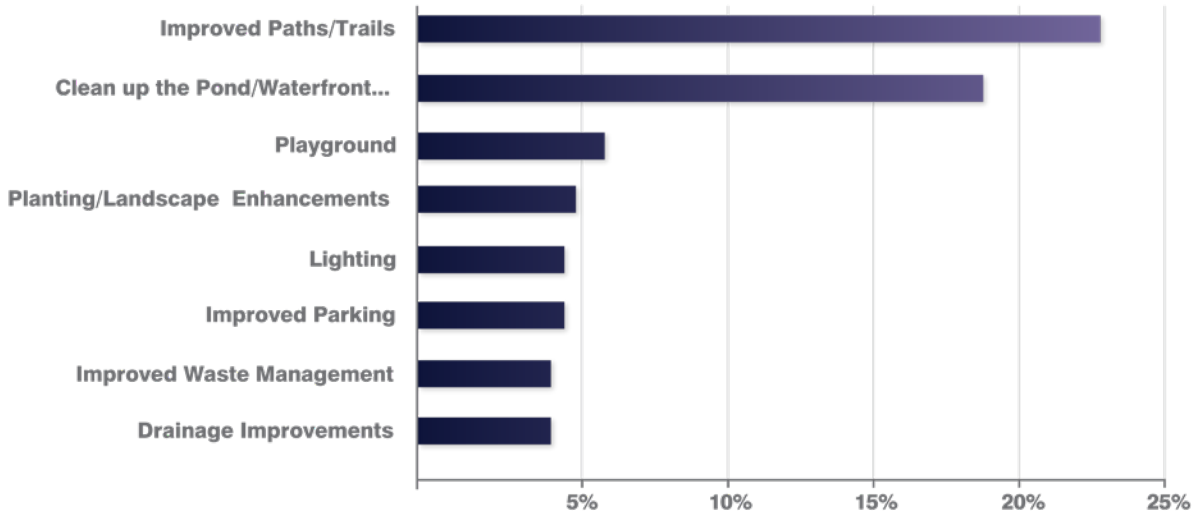
Top usage: most are coming for fields or walking

A total of **487 people** participated in the survey.

2022 FEASIBILITY STUDY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY STATISTICS

Most Desired Improvements

Q12: In relation to this master planning effort, please identity other facility or site improvements that would help to meet the needs of you, your family and/or site improvements that would help to meet the needs of you, your family and/or other Melrose residents.





Improved path/trails

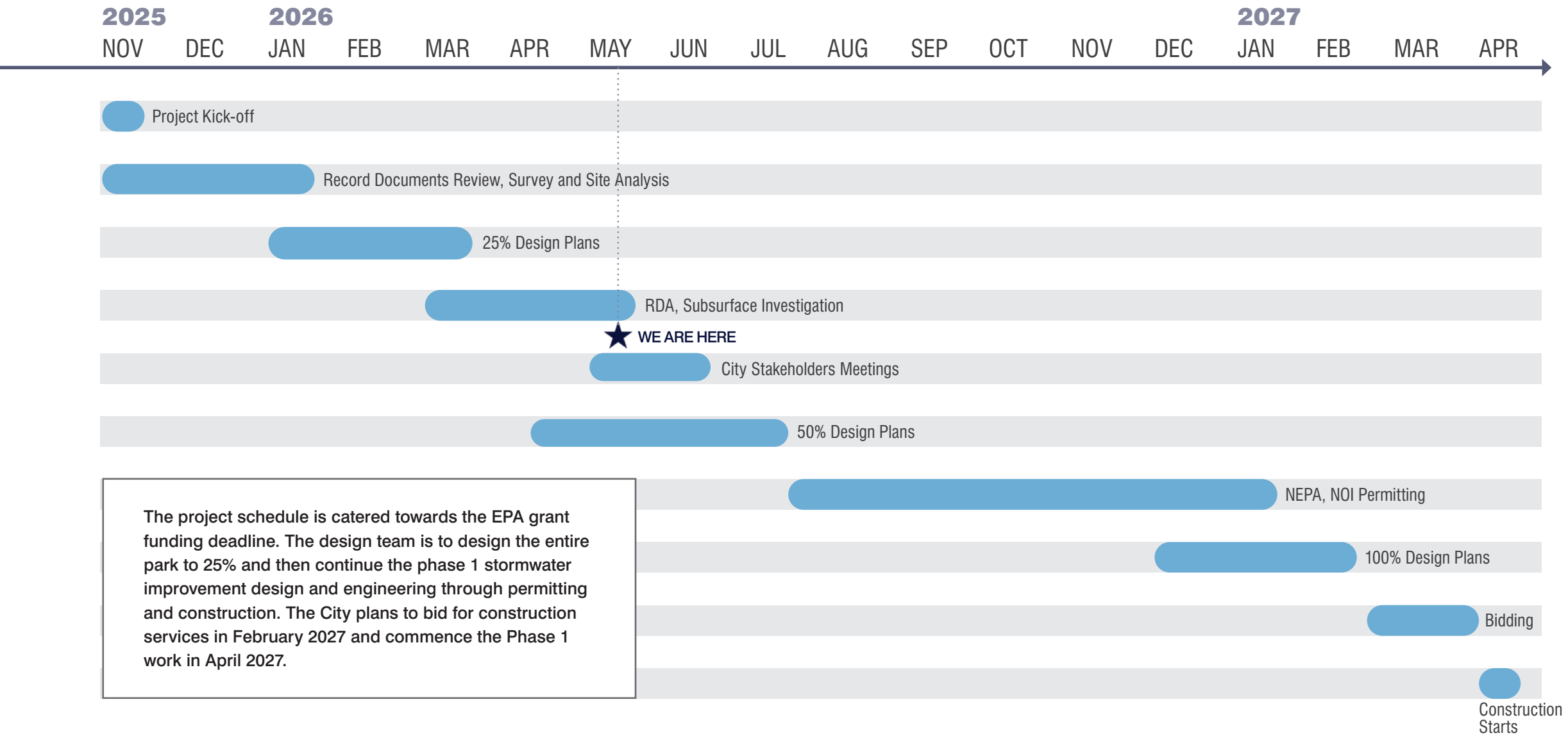


Clean pond/ waterfront improvements

2022 FEASIBILITY STUDY PREFERRED CONCEPT



2 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT SCHEDULE AND GOALS



The project schedule is catered towards the EPA grant funding deadline. The design team is to design the entire park to 25% and then continue the phase 1 stormwater improvement design and engineering through permitting and construction. The City plans to bid for construction services in February 2027 and commence the Phase 1 work in April 2027.

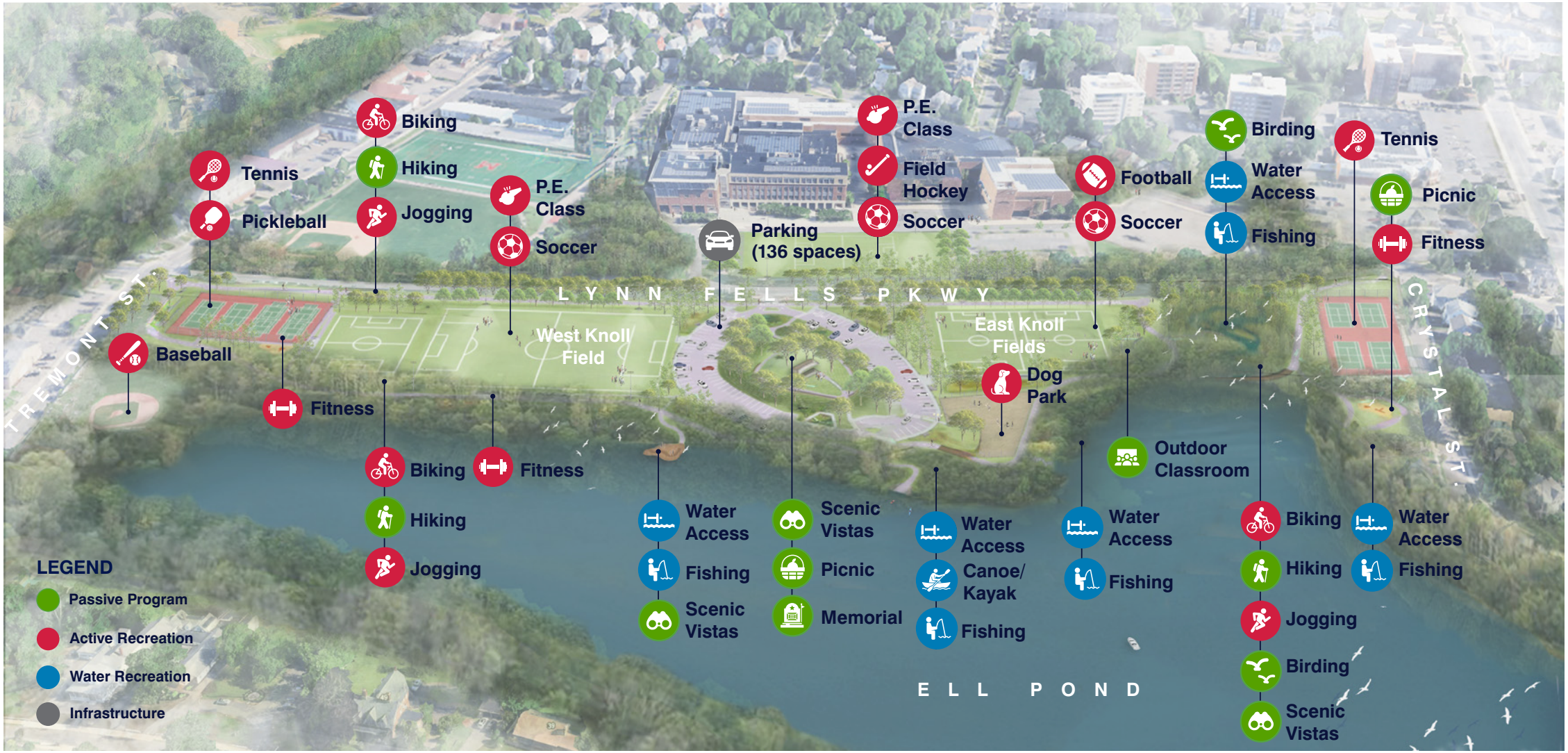
3 25% DESIGN PLAN



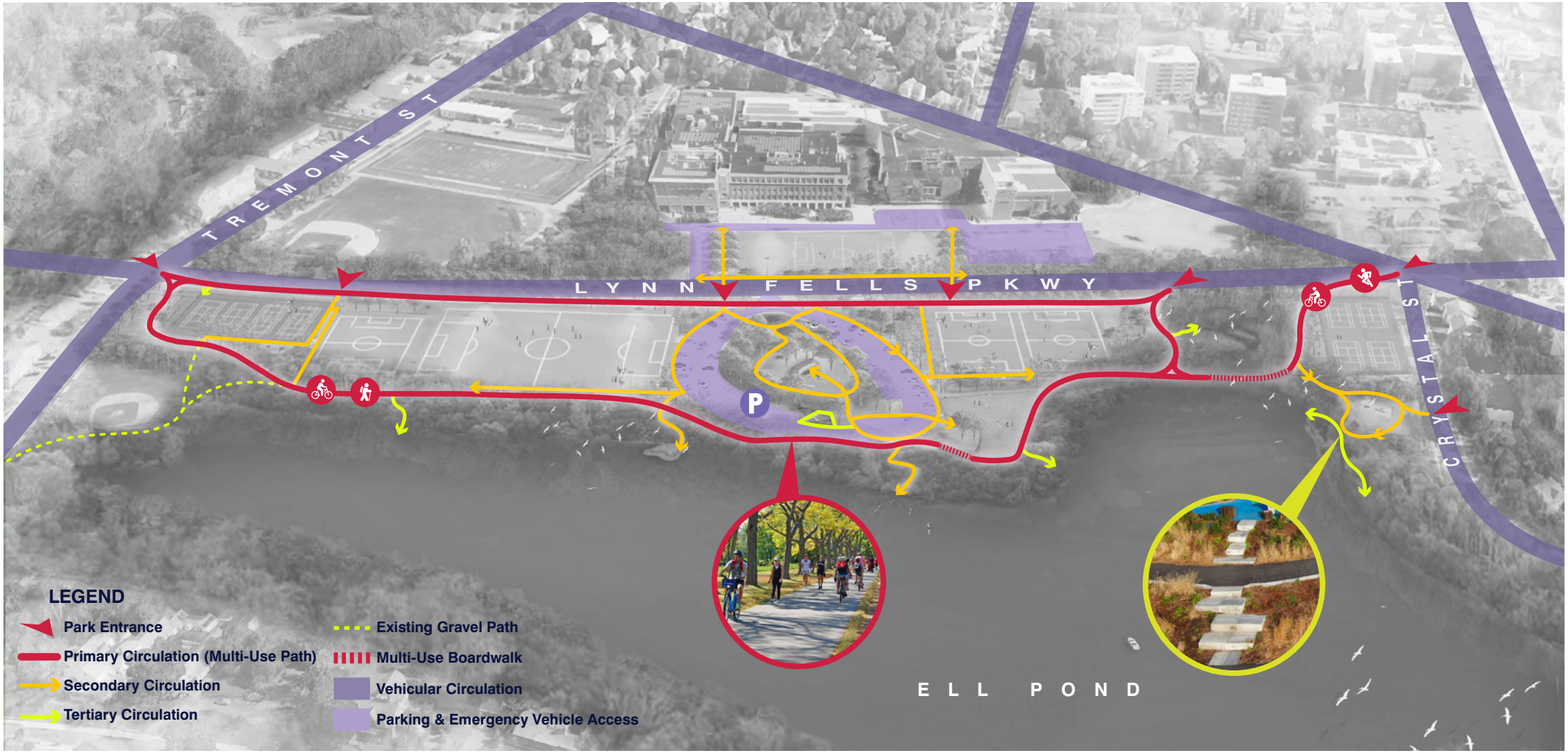
BIRDSEYE PERSPECTIVE - FULL BUILDOUT



ENVISION AN INCLUSIVE PARK WITH DIVERSE PROGRAM



CIRCULATION DIAGRAM



TOP OF MEMORIAL KNOLL

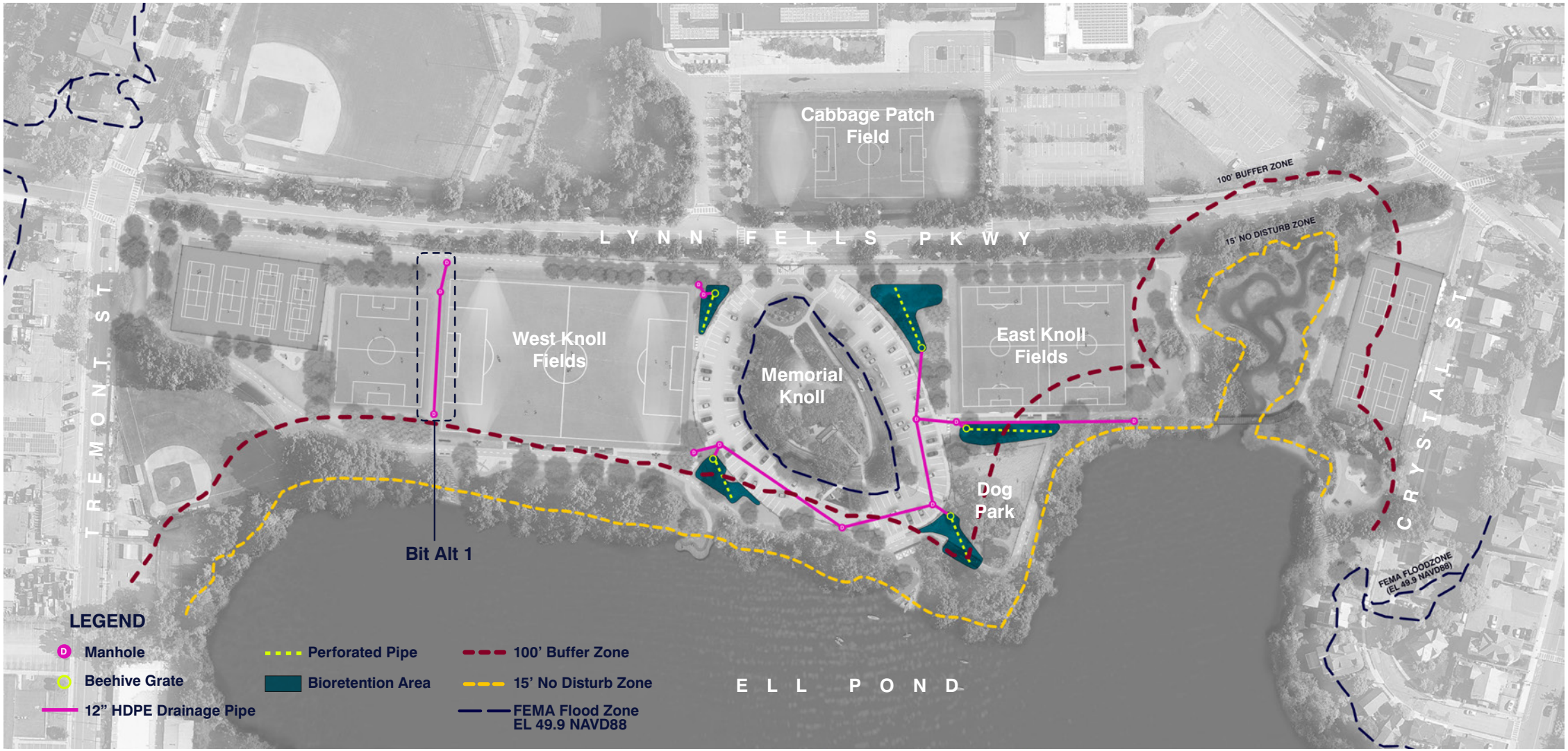




MULTI - USE PATH



4 STORMWATER AND DRAINAGE DIAGRAM - PHASE 1



STORMWATER AND DRAINAGE DIAGRAM - FULL BUILD OUT



5 25% DESIGN PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE

- PHASE 1 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

  Total Design and Construction Cost: **$1,175,000**

- 90% DESIGN FOR FULL BUILD OUT AND BID READY DOCUMENTS FOR PHASE 2*

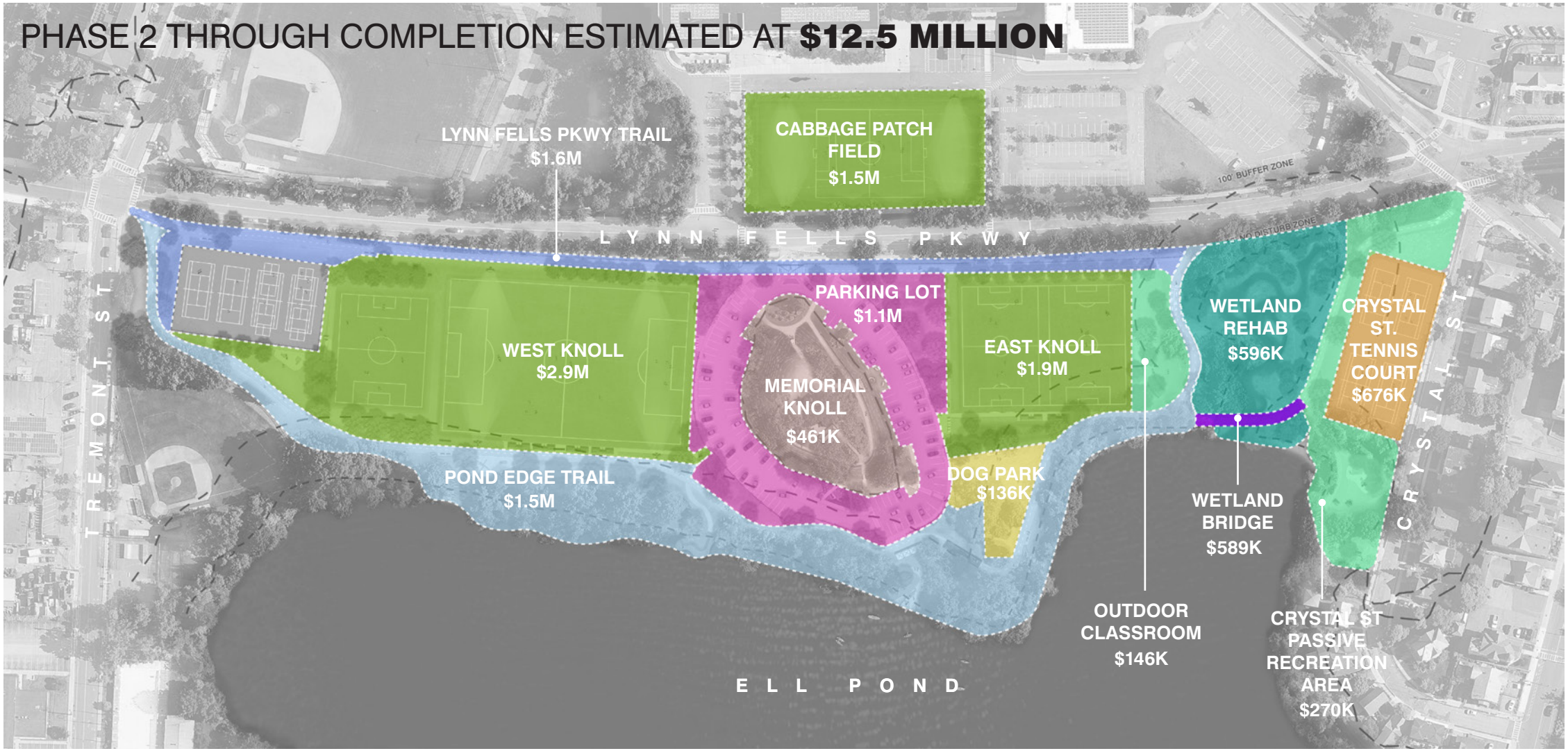
  Total Design Cost: **$710,000**

- PHASE 2* THROUGH COMPLETION ESTIMATED AT **$12.5 MILLION**

  (excluding inflation and environmental remediation cost if applicable)

* The specific components of Phase 2 and future phases will be determined during the design phase.

25% DESIGN PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE



(excluding inflation and environmental remediation cost if applicable)

0' 60' 120' 240'

25% DESIGN PLAN



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

THANK YOU!

CITY OF MELROSE

Weston & Sampson
design studio

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing in my role as Chair of the Melrose Park Commission in support of the request to appropriate $710,000 in free cash to advance the design of the Ell Pond Park Improvements Project.

Over the past several years, the city, through a collaborative process involving DPW, the Parks Department, the Park Commission, the Conservation Commission, and members of the public, has developed a thoughtful and comprehensive vision for Ell Pond Park. The proposed funding represents an important next step in moving that vision from concept toward implementation.

From the perspective of the Park Commission, one of the most important aspects of this project is the planned improvement of the East and West Knoll fields and the Cabbage Patch field. These fields are heavily utilized by Melrose residents through high school athletics, youth sports organizations, and recreational programming. Soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, football, and other youth sports programs collectively serve a large and growing number of children and families throughout our community.

At present, the condition of the East and West Knoll fields has deteriorated significantly. Drainage issues and the overall condition of the playing surfaces frequently render the fields unusable following rain events and have made it increasingly difficult to sustain healthy grass growth. The current state of the fields also limits the city's ability to safely and reliably accommodate the growing demand for athletic field time.

This is not simply a recreational issue. Access to youth and school sports provides meaningful physical, mental, and social benefits for participants across a wide range of ages. As participation in youth athletics continues to grow, it is important that the city maintain and improve the public facilities that make those opportunities possible. Failing to invest in these fields risks limiting access for current and future participants and places increasing strain on the rest of the city's athletic field inventory.

Importantly, the Ell Pond Park Improvements Project is broader than athletic field improvements alone. The project also includes enhancements that will benefit the community more generally, including completion of the walking path around Ell Pond, improved accessibility throughout the park, improvements associated with the veterans memorial area between the knoll fields, environmental and stormwater improvements, and additional opportunities for passive recreation for residents of all ages.

The proposed appropriation is for completion of the formal design and permitting work necessary to position the city to pursue future funding opportunities and advance the

project in phases over time. While this funding does not itself construct the improvements, it is a critical and necessary step toward implementation.

Ell Pond Park is one of the city's most visible and heavily used public recreational spaces. Advancing this project represents an investment not only in fields and infrastructure, but in the health, accessibility, and quality of life of the Melrose community for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of our public parks and recreational facilities.

Sincerely,

Jim Donohue

Chair Melrose Park Commission

From: Gretchen Kruger <president@melroseyouthsoccer.org>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 12:29 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Letter of Support from MYS-Ell Pond Park Design

Subject: Letter of Support – Ell Pond Park Improvements Project

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing on behalf of Melrose Youth Soccer to express our strong support for the proposed funding to advance the design of the Ell Pond Park Improvements Project.

Access to safe, reliable, and high-quality playing fields is one of the most pressing challenges facing youth sports in our community today. The current conditions at the West Knoll, in particular, significantly limit its usability. Poor field conditions frequently render the space unplayable, especially during and after periods of rain. As a result, games and practices for hundreds of players each season are routinely displaced and funneled onto an already overburdened set of fields across the city.

This strain has real consequences. We simply do not have enough playable field space to support the number of children who want to participate in soccer and other sports. Field availability constraints force difficult scheduling compromises, reduce practice time, and limit the overall quality of the experience for our players.

This past spring underscored the severity of the issue. Due to limited field capacity, we were unable to host high school–aged teams within our local programming. That is a significant loss—not only for player development, but for maintaining engagement and community connection among older athletes who still want to play.

The proposed improvements to the East Knoll, West Knoll, and Cabbage Patch fields would directly address these challenges by increasing field durability, improving drainage, and extending usable playing time throughout the season. These upgrades are critical to ensuring that our fields can support consistent, safe play for all users.

At its core, this project is about inclusion. Every child who wants to play should have the opportunity to do so. Right now, field limitations are one of the primary barriers preventing that goal. Investing in Ell Pond Park is an investment in access, equity, and the health and well-being of our community's youth.

We strongly support the Department of Public Works' request for funding to advance this project and respectfully urge its approval.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Melrose's youth.

Sincerely,

Melrose Youth Soccer

Melrose Public Schools
Administrative Offices
360 Lynn Fells Parkway, Melrose, MA 02176
Phone: 781-662-2000 V/TTY FAX: 781-979-2112

CARI BERMAN
Superintendent
cberman@melroseschools.com

KEN KELLEY
Deputy Superintendent
kkelley@melroseschools.com

May 21, 2026

Dear Members of the Melrose City Council,

We are writing in our respective roles as the Superintendent of Melrose Public Schools, the Principal of Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School and Melrose High School, and the Athletic Director for Melrose High School, in support of the free cash appropriation request of $710,000 to advance the design of the Ell Pond Park Improvements Project.

We appreciate the collaborative process the city has led over the last several years – with the Department of Public Works, the Parks Department, the Park Commission, the Conservation Commission, and members of the public – to develop a comprehensive vision for Ell Pond Park. Advancing the project design with this appropriation builds on the work and planning completed to date and is critical to realizing these improvements.

A redesigned Ell Pond Park has great potential for the Middle School and High School to expand education beyond the walls of the buildings: an outdoor classroom component would provide opportunities for hands-on instruction and learning; and the potential for a boat launch would support extracurricular activities and clubs (fishing, recreation activities, etc.) by allowing students to fully take advantage of water access. MVMMS Wellness Classes recently started a fishing unit on the shores of Ell Pond. The Wellness Classes could expand their outdoor programs on the weather proof fields.

The project would also provide opportunities for student-athletes, adding much needed space and scheduling capacity for practices, scrimmages and games. This past school year we had over 1,200 students register for an athletic team. As youth and school-based sports continue to expand in our community, growing demands for usable field spaces often come into conflict with seasonal weather limitations that often close the West and East Knoll fields. The project, when completed, would make our fields more reliable and weather-durable, and also improve the overall offerings of Melrose's athletic facilities to be more in line with surrounding towns. Families and community members could enjoy the active and passive recreation activity opportunities while practices and games are being played.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Cari Berman

Cari Berman, Superintendent
Melrose Public Schools

Jason Merrill

Jason Merrill, Principal
Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School and Melrose High School

Stephen Fogarty

Stephen Fogarty, Athletic Director
Melrose High School

From: Ryan Sullivan <rpsully.rs@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:56 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Letter of Support from Melrose Youth Lacrosse re: Ell Pond Park Design

Dear Members of the Melrose City Council,

We write to you today on behalf of Melrose Youth Lacrosse to express our support for the proposed funding to advance the design of the Ell Pond Park Improvements Plan. We believe this investment represents a meaningful and lasting commitment to the health, safety, and athletic development of our youth and the wider Melrose community and we respectfully urge the Council to move forward with this important initiative.

Improved Playing Surfaces and Safety for Our Youth Players

The safety and well-being of the Melrose community of athletes and their ability to compete in both recreational and competitive athletic environments should be one of our highest priorities. Natural grass fields, while traditional, are highly susceptible to uneven wear, bare patches, and muddy conditions that significantly increase the risk of injury. Artificial turf provides a consistent, well-cushioned, and level playing surface that reduces the likelihood of trips, falls, and impact-related injuries. Modern turf systems are engineered with advanced infill materials designed to absorb impact and support healthy play. Our children deserve to compete and practice on surfaces that give them every advantage — and every protection.

Longer Seasons and Availability During Inclement Weather

One of the most significant limitations of natural grass fields is their vulnerability to weather conditions. Rain, snow, and freezing temperatures can render grass fields unplayable for days or even weeks at a time, disrupting practice schedules, postponing games, and shortening entire seasons. Artificial turf drains efficiently and withstands a wide range of weather conditions, allowing our youth athletes to continue training and competing with minimal interruption. Extended playing seasons mean more time on the field, more skill development, and more opportunities for our youth players to benefit from organized athletics.

Additional Surfaces for All Youth Sports Organizations

The demand for quality athletic field space in Melrose continues to grow. Our city is home to a vibrant and diverse collection of youth sports organizations — from soccer and lacrosse to football and field hockey — all of which are competing for limited field availability. Artificial turf fields can sustain far heavier use than natural grass without deteriorating, effectively increasing the total usable field capacity across our community. This means more scheduling flexibility, less conflict between organizations, and greater access to quality playing surfaces for every child in Melrose, regardless of the sport they love. Additionally, these surfaces can be marked with a host of dimensions spanning a wide range of sport requirements, granting our community more versatility in how and where to schedule games, practices and other community events. We see these benefits first hand with the use of Fred Green and Pine Banks facilities and how they support multiple athletic and recreational events. Offering additional facilities to a wider range of athletic teams and recreational uses will only improve the programming Melrose can offer our residents.

We recognize that this investment requires thoughtful planning and fiscal consideration. However, when weighed against the long-term benefits — reduced maintenance costs, durability, expanded usage, and the safety and enrichment of our children and community — the conversion of East Knoll, West Knoll and Cabbage Patch to artificial turf represents a wise and forward-thinking use of city resources. Communities across the region have made this transition and have seen the positive impact it delivers year after year.

We thank the City Council for your continued dedication to making Melrose a wonderful place to raise a family and grow as a community. We respectfully ask for your support in moving this proposal forward and look forward to seeing our youth sports programs thrive on improved athletic facilities.

Respectfully,

_____

Melrose Youth Lacrosse League

Ryan Sullivan

Melrose Youth Lacrosse Board Member & Coach

Rpsully.rs@gmail.com

From: J Schulz <jacobaschulz@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 5:46 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Side Walk Plow and Ell Pond

Hello all,

I think the city needs a new sidewalk plow and to use them more often in the winter. Myrtle Street has many elderly and young parents with strollers that use the sidewalks all year long, and the sidewalk plows rarely come down the street. If they do, they only do one side. The corner of Vine and Myrtle was four feet high this past winter forcing people into the street.

I also fully support spending the money on the Ell Pond plan so that we are ready to apply for grant money. Ell Pond could be the heart of the city, and is currently a mess. A plan would be the first step towards galvanizing the city toward the glory that could be.

Thank you,

Jacob Schulz

158 Myrtle.

May 5, 2026

Dear Members of the Melrose City Council:

On behalf of the Veterans Advisory Board, we respectfully submit this letter in strong support of the administration's request for a free cash appropriation in the amount of $710,000 for the design and permitting of Ell Pond Park.

Ell Pond Park serves not only as one of Melrose's most treasured public spaces, but also as a sacred place of remembrance dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans and Gold Star families. The Memorial Knoll, centrally located within the park, stands as a lasting tribute to generations of Melrose residents who answered the call to serve our country.

The memorials located throughout the park reflect the courage, sacrifice, and patriotism of those who served in defense of our freedoms, including:

- The World War I Memorial honoring the 32 Melrose residents who gave their lives during that conflict.
- The World War II Memorial featuring symbolic elements inspired by the national memorial in Washington, D.C., including the Atlantic and Pacific wreaths, water feature, and the historic "Kilroy Was Here" engraving.
- The Korean War Memorial commemorating the six Melrose residents who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Korean conflict.
- The Vietnam Reflection Area, providing a peaceful and respectful setting for remembrance and reflection.
- The Student Respect Garden, designed to inspire future generations through messages of honor, service, respect, and civic responsibility.
- The Gold Star Families Memorial, dedicated to the families who endured the immeasurable loss of a loved one in military service to our nation.

Additionally, the memorial trees planted throughout the knoll stand as living tributes to Melrose residents lost in war, ensuring their legacy continues for generations to come.

The Veterans Advisory Board strongly supports the proposed design and permitting process, particularly the effort to improve and maintain safe and equitable access throughout all areas of the park. Of special importance is the inclusion of ADA-compliant access to the Memorial Knoll and Gold Star Families Memorial so that veterans, seniors, individuals with disabilities, families, students, and all members of the public may continue to visit, reflect, and participate in commemorative events without limitation.

Preserving and improving access to these memorial spaces is essential not only for today's residents, but for future generations who will look to Ell Pond Park as a place to learn about sacrifice, service, patriotism, and community remembrance.

The Veterans Advisory Board respectfully urges the City Council to support this appropriation request and thanks the Council for its continued commitment to preserving these important memorials and public spaces.

Sincerely,

Melrose Veterans Advisory Board

City Auditor

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Telephone - (781) 979-4110

Fax - (781) 662-2182

Free Cash Orders for Fiscal Year 2026

"Free cash" is a term used to describe any remaining, unrestricted funds from the previous fiscal years. After it is "certified" by the state, free cash use requires a recommendation from the Mayor and an appropriation from the City Council.

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	Certified	***$5,558,450.00***			
2026-612	$20,020.00	5,538,430.00	Dept - 162	Poll Pads and a label Printer	Approved
2026-614	$50,000.00	5,488,430.00	Fund - 2543	Melrose Cultural Council	Approved
2026-615	$25,000.00	5,463,430.00	Dept - 121	Chamber and City Event Support	Approved
2026-1147	*$170,000.00*	*5,293,430.00*	*Dept - 423*	*Sidewalk Plow*	*A&O*
2026-1148	*$880,000.00*	*4,413,430.00*	*Dept- 931*	*DPW Vehicles*	*A&O*
2026-1149	*$865,000.00*	*3,548,430.00*	*Dept-931*	*DPW Snow and Ice Deficit*	*A&O*
2026-1150	*$244,944.00*	*3,303,486.00*	*Fund - 1620*	*School Department*	*A&O*
2026-1151	*$10,000.00*	*3,293,486.00*	*Dept- 422*	*Bike Racks*	*A&O*
2026-1145	*$9,000.00*	*3,284,486.00*	*Dept - 141*	*Tax Impact Notices Mailing*	*Submitted*
2026-1164	*$75,000.00*	*3,209,486.00*	*Dept - 175*	*Housing Production Plan*	*Submitted*
2026-1165	*$70,000.00*	*3,139,486.00*	*Dept - 175*	*Downtown Parking Study*	*Submitted*
2026-1169	*$30,000.00*	*3,109,486.00*	*Dept - 543*	*Welcome Home Veterans Sign*	*Submitted*
2026-1170	*$150,000.00*	*2,959,486.00*	*Fund – 8270*	*Affordable Housing Trust*	*Submitted*
2026-1171	*$50,000.00*	*2,909,486.00*	*Dept – 693*	*Boiler replacement and HVAC controls*	*Submitted*
2026-1172	*$12,193.20*	*2,897,292.80*	*Dept- 300*	*Vape Detectors MVMMS*	*Submitted*

2026-1173	*$72,180.00*	*2,825,112.80*	*Dept - 300*	*MHS Band Uniforms*	*Submitted*
2026-1174	*$44,296.32*	*2,780,816.48*	*Dept-300*	*Basketball & Lacrosse Uniforms, Scorer table*	*Submitted*
2026-1175	*$710,000.00*	*2,070,816.48*	*Dept- 401*	*Ell Pond Park Design*	*Submitted*
2026-1176	*$400,000.00*	*1,670,816.48*	*Dept - 422*	*Lebanon TIP Project*	*Submitted*
2026-1177	*$20,000.00*	*1,650,816.48*	*Dept - 401*	*School Signage*	*Submitted*
2026-1178	*$3,000.00*	*1,647,816.48*	*Dept - 162*	*Census Mailer*	*Submitted*

*The first three appropriation requests listed were approved at the 4/6/26 City Council meeting. As requests are submitted by the administration and approved by the City Council, the table above will be updated accordingly and shared with subsequent orders.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Administration–Engineering–Water–Sewer–Facilities
Parks–Forestry–Highway–Sanitation–Cemetery–Fleet

CITY OF MELROSE

Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., BCEE
Director of Public Works

City Yard, 72 Tremont Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone – (781) 665-0142
E-mail: eproakis@cityofmelrose.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis
Melrose City Council

From: Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., Director of Public Works

cc: Kerriann Golden, CFO/Auditor
Lauren Grymek, Chief of Staff
James Troup, Deputy DPW Director – Administration & Finance
Jay Coy, Acting City Engineer

Date: April 28, 2026

Re: Lebanon Street Transportation Improvement Project Design – Free Cash Request

The Department of Public Works requests $400,000 toward the further advancement of the design of the Lebanon Street Transportation Improvement Project (TIP). This project involves the reconstruction of Lebanon Street from Grove Street to the Malden City limit, extending the prior TIP project on Lebanon Street, which covered the corridor from approximately Main Street to Grove Street. The TIP program is federally funded and funnels to municipalities in eastern Massachusetts through the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), in coordination with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). The final construction project, slated to begin in FY29, is estimated to cost over $10M and will be funded by the federal TIP program.

The DPW has been working on the planning and design of this project with consultants from Stantec since 2022. Since that time, we have expended approximately $540,000 to complete preliminary planning, conduct meetings with MassDOT to ensure the project meets their eligibility criteria, perform survey, and complete design up through the 25% design stage. The remainder of design and construction services which the City is required to fund will cost approximately $1.07M, of which $200,000 has already been allocated through a past road bond.

At this time, we propose to fund an additional $400,000 using available free cash, to bring the project through the 75% design stage. The remainder of funds will be derived from a combination of future Chapter 90 allocations from the state and future road bonds, to bring the project to bid-ready design, permitting, and construction administration. Ultimately, with this investment, the City will take advantage of over $10M in construction funds provided by the federal government.

The Department of Public Works hereby requests $400,000 of free cash to further advance the design of the Lebanon Street TIP project. The funds will be deposited into a dedicated account set up by the Auditor's Office and managed by the DPW.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

City Auditor

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Telephone - (781) 979-4110

Fax - (781) 662-2182

Free Cash Orders for Fiscal Year 2026

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2026-1150	*$244,944.00*	*3,303,486.00*	*Fund - 1620*	*School Department*	*A&O*
2026-1151	*$10,000.00*	*3,293,486.00*	*Dept- 422*	*Bike Racks*	*A&O*
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2026-1177	*$20,000.00*	*1,650,816.48*	*Dept - 401*	*School Signage*	*Submitted*
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Administration–Engineering–Water–Sewer–Facilities
Parks–Forestry–Highway–Sanitation–Cemetery–Fleet

CITY OF MELROSE

Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., BCEE
Director of Public Works

City Yard, 72 Tremont Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone – (781) 665-0142
E-mail: eproakis@cityofmelrose.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis
Melrose City Council

From: Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., Director of Public Works

cc: Kerriann Golden, CFO/Auditor
Lauren Grymek, Chief of Staff
James Troup, Deputy DPW Director – Administration & Finance
Scott Enos, Facilities Manager

Date: April 28, 2026

Re: School Signage – Free Cash Request

The Department of Public Works requests $20,000 to purchase and install signage at the Melrose Public School buildings. Several years ago, the DPW Facilities Division conducted a survey of prinicipals to identify signage needs on their campuses. A handful of items were addressed at that time where a funding source was available, but the majority of signage improvements were unable to be implemented due to budgetary constraints.

The DPW plans to initiate an updated survey of principals and will visit each school site to confirm current needs. The proposed budget will fund the highest priority needs at each school.

The Department of Public Works hereby requests $20,000 of free cash for school signage. The funds will be deposited into a dedicated account set up by the Auditor's Office, and spending will be managed by the DPW.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

CITY OF MELROSE

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4190

LORI MASSA, AICP
Director & City Planner

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis
Melrose City Council

FROM: Lori Massa, Director OPCD
Ingrid Winkler, Conservation Agent

CC: Kerriann Golden, CFO/Auditor
Lauren Grymek, Chief of Staff

DATE: May 1, 2026

RE: Treating the Towners, Swains, and Ell Ponds – Free Cash Request

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The Office of Planning and Community Development respectfully requests that the City Council approve an appropriation of free cash in the amount of $37,000 for the Conservation Commission to undergo a project at Towners Pond, which will set it on an effective maintenance plan and also address area residents' complaints related to the condition of the pond. The Conservation Commission is responsible for the maintenance of Towners, Swains, and Ell Ponds.

Towners Pond has a nuisance-level growth of water lilies that is impacting its overall pond health. The proposed treatment plan includes the application of a systemic herbicide (Sonar) to control the nuisance vegetation, followed by the subsequent removal of vegetative material through hydro-raking.

The quoted cost for the hydro-raking is $2,700 per day and we expect that it will take 5 to 10 days total over 2 to 3 years depending on how much material is removed to complete the work. DPW would handle the removal and disposal of the plant material.

We have recently learned that there are new environmental permitting requirements for hydro-raking, which will add extensive costs. The costs are for coordination, filing fees, and sampling. The estimated permitting costs based on phone conversations with consultants is $10,000.

Therefore, we are requesting $37,000 above our annual budget to cover the costs related to regulatory permitting, compliance, and the work of hydro-raking.

There is a $14,000 budgeted line-item for Conservation Maintenance. The amount had been $9,925 per year until FY24 when it was increased to $14,000. Even with the budget line item in the past the Conservation Commission has requested free cash historically for larger pond maintenance projects.

Available records, while not complete, indicate that the City previously invested at a significantly higher level in pond management. For example, the pond management budget exceeded $37,000 in 1998, not including an additional estimated $23,000 allocated for Swains Pond management. Hydro raking of Towners Pond may have been completed in 1998 (postponed from previous year due to low water conditions) at a cost of approximately $22,000, and again in 2009 and 2010. Sonar treatments were also routinely applied to Swains and Towners Ponds through approximately 2015 but have not been utilized in recent years, until this year. Over the past decade, pond management efforts have been limited compared to historical practices, with the exception of the 3-year water chestnut harvesting effort in Ell Pond.

At present, Towners Pond is showing the most signs of neglect and requires immediate and more intensive treatment. The budgeted amount covers routine maintenance and those dollars will be more effectively spent after the hydro-raking occurs. With the support of this free cash, the Conservation Commission can effectively maintain Towners and the other ponds within their jurisdiction. Without additional intervention, conditions are likely to worsen.

City Auditor

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Telephone - (781) 979-4110

Fax - (781) 662-2182

Free Cash Orders for Fiscal Year 2026

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2026-614	$50,000.00	5,488,430.00	Fund - 2543	Melrose Cultural Council	Approved 4/6/26
2026-615	$25,000.00	5,463,430.00	Dept - 121	Chamber and City Event Support	Approved 4/6/26
2026-1147	$170,000.00	5,293,430.00	Dept - 423	Sidewalk Plow	*A&O*
2026-1148	$880,000.00	4,413,430.00	Dept- 931	DPW Vehicles	*A&O*
2026-1149	$865,000.00	3,548,430.00	Dept-931	DPW Snow and Ice Deficit	*A&O*
2026-1150	$244,944.00	3,303,486.00	Fund - 1620	School Department	*A&O*
2026-1151	$10,000.00	3,293,486.00	Dept- 422	Bike Racks	*A&O*
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2026-1178	*$3,000.00*	*1,647,816.48*	*Dept - 162*	*Census Mailer*	*A&O*
2026-1202	*$37,000.00*	*1,610,816.48*	*Dept - 175*	*Treatment of ponds*	*Submitted*
2026-1237	*$17,000.00*	*1,593,816.48*	*Dept – 651*	*AED Units for Parks*	*Submitted*
2026-1238	*$400,000.00*	*1,193,816.48*	*Dept – 221*	*Projected overtime through year end*	*Submitted*
2026-1239	*$30,000.00*	*1,163,816.48*	*Dept – 221*	*Motor vehicle repair*	*Submitted*
2026-1242	*$560,000.00*	*603,816.48*	*Fund - 8401*	*City Stabilization fund*	*Submitted*

*Approved appropriation requests are noted with the date of the City Council meeting in which a final vote occurred. As requests are submitted by the administration and approved by the City Council, the table above will be updated accordingly and shared with subsequent orders.

City Auditor

City Hall, 562 Main Street

Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

Telephone - (781) 979-4110

Fax - (781) 662-2182

Free Cash Orders for Fiscal Year 2026

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	Certified	***$5,558,450.00***			
2026-612	$20,020.00	5,538,430.00	Dept - 162	Poll Pads and a label Printer	Approved 4/6/26
2026-614	$50,000.00	5,488,430.00	Fund - 2543	Melrose Cultural Council	Approved 4/6/26
2026-615	$25,000.00	5,463,430.00	Dept - 121	Chamber and City Event Support	Approved 4/6/26
2026-1147	$170,000.00	5,293,430.00	Dept - 423	Sidewalk Plow	*A&O*
2026-1148	$880,000.00	4,413,430.00	Dept- 931	DPW Vehicles	*A&O*
2026-1149	$865,000.00	3,548,430.00	Dept-931	DPW Snow and Ice Deficit	*A&O*
2026-1150	$244,944.00	3,303,486.00	Fund - 1620	School Department	*A&O*
2026-1151	$10,000.00	3,293,486.00	Dept- 422	Bike Racks	*A&O*
2026-1145	*$9,000.00*	*3,284,486.00*	*Dept - 141*	*Tax Impact Notices Mailing*	*A&O*
2026-1164	*$75,000.00*	*3,209,486.00*	*Dept - 175*	*Housing Production Plan*	*A&O*
2026-1165	*$70,000.00*	*3,139,486.00*	*Dept - 175*	*Downtown Parking Study*	*A&O*
2026-1169	*$30,000.00*	*3,109,486.00*	*Dept - 543*	*Welcome Home Veterans Sign*	*A&O*
2026-1170	*$150,000.00*	*2,959,486.00*	*Fund – 8270*	*Affordable Housing Trust*	*A&O*
2026-1171	*$50,000.00*	*2,909,486.00*	*Dept – 693*	*Boiler replacement and HVAC controls*	*A&O*
2026-1172	*$12,193.20*	*2,897,292.80*	*Dept- 300*	*Vape Detectors MVMMS*	*A&O*

2026-1173	*$72,180.00*	*2,825,112.80*	*Dept - 300*	*MHS Band Uniforms*	*A&O*
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2026-1176	*$400,000.00*	*1,670,816.48*	*Dept - 422*	*Lebanon TIP Project*	*A&O*
2026-1177	*$20,000.00*	*1,650,816.48*	*Dept - 401*	*School Signage*	*A&O*
2026-1178	*$3,000.00*	*1,647,816.48*	*Dept - 162*	*Census Mailer*	*A&O*
2026-1202	*$37,000.00*	*1,610,816.48*	*Dept - 175*	*Treatment of ponds*	*Submitted*
2026-1237	*$17,000.00*	*1,593,816.48*	*Dept – 651*	*AED Units for Parks*	*Submitted*
2026-1238	*$400,000.00*	*1,193,816.48*	*Dept – 221*	*Projected overtime through year end*	*Submitted*
2026-1239	*$30,000.00*	*1,163,816.48*	*Dept – 221*	*Motor vehicle repair*	*Submitted*
2026-1242	*$560,000.00*	*603,816.48*	*Fund - 8401*	*City Stabilization fund*	*Submitted*

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2026-1150	$244,944.00	3,303,486.00	Fund - 1620	School Department	*A&O*
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WATER AND SEWER RATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CITY OF MELROSE

Ken Truesdale, Resident Representative, Chair
Kathryn Armata, Treasurer/Collector
Kerri Golden, CFO/Auditor
Elizabeth Kowal, City Council Representative
Jim O'Loughlin, Resident Representative
Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., Director of Public Works
Jay Coy, Acting City Engineer

Melrose City Yard, 72 Tremont Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 665-0142

MEMORANDUM

To: Melrose City Council

From: Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee

cc. Mayor Jen Grigoraitis
James Troup, DPW
Lisa Patterson, DPW
Jennifer Rosa, DPW, Water and Sewer Committee Clerk

Date: April 8, 2026

Re: Summary of FY27 Water and Sewer Rate Orders

The Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee, consisting of the members listed above, respectfully submits the following water and sewer rate recommendations for FY27. They are recommended by unanimous vote of the committee.

The FY27 revenue requirements for the water and sewer enterprise funds can be met using the FY26 water and sewer rates, with no increases to either volumetric rates or base fees. The FY27 rates benefit from modest increases in the MWRA water and sewer assessments and lower debt repayment obligations in FY27 in the sewer fund compared to FY26. The sewer assessment has only increased moderately due to continued reductions in sewer flows resulting from the City's ongoing efforts to remove extraneous flows (groundwater infiltration and rainwater inflow) from the sanitary sewer system.

As you may recall from prior years, we target reserve fund balances of 10% of annual operating expenses for each fund. Based on the budgeted revenue requirements for FY27, the reserve funds are presently at just over 10% of each fund's operating budget, thus no transfers are recommended into the water and sewer reserve funds for FY27.

Thus far in FY26, water use has met or exceeded our projections in last year's rate model. As a result, the water and sewer enterprise funds are projected to have sufficient revenue to cover expenses as we come to the close of FY26. Therefore, we are not recommending any retained earnings be used this year to cover revenue shortfalls.

With no proposed changes to the water and sewer rates for FY27, the recommended rates are shown below, matching FY25 and FY26 rates.

Proposed FY27 Water and Sewer Rates

Proposed FY26 Volumetric Rates	Water (per 100 cf)	Sewer (per 100 cf)
Tier 1	$8.32	$12.25
Tier 2	$11.15	$15.43
Proposed FY26 Base Fees (meter size)	**Water (per meter)**	**Sewer (per meter)**
5/8"	$20.33	$26.38
3/4"	$20.33	$26.38
1"	$20.33	$26.38
1.5"	$79.53	$103.58
2"	$123.93	$161.48
3"	$227.53	$296.58
4"	$375.53	$489.58
6"	$745.53	$972.08
2nd Meter Fee	$20.33 ($50.00 if not upgraded)	--

In addition to these rates, the Committee respectfully recommends the following:

1. No transfers to reserves from either water or sewer free cash for FY27, as noted above.

2. A free cash allocation from the Sewer Enterprise Fund in the amount of $150,000 for a downpayment on the replacement of the City's Vactor truck. No free cash is requested from the Water Enterprise Fund at this time.

3. No recommended changes to ordinance language in Section 228, Water, Sewer, and Drains pertaining to rates.

The Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee submitted a memo in April 2025 related to water and sewer discount programs. Our committee is continuing our work evaluating options for the future of these programs. Although we are not making any recommendations at this time regarding acting on the items covered in the memo, it is attached hereto, for the information of the City Council, especially for the benefit of new members of the Council.

We appreciate your consideration of these items and are happy to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to continuing the important work of our committee in FY27 to provide fiscally responsible and sustainable water and sewer rates for the Melrose community.

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 20272 FY2027 ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: MT HOOD ENTERPRISE FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
51 SALARIES							
620000 511000 S & W	112,811.00	114,600.00	114,600.00	98,800.28	114,600.00	118,087.00	3.0%
TOTAL SALARIES	112,811.00	114,600.00	114,600.00	98,800.28	114,600.00	118,087.00	3.0%
52 CONTRACTUAL							
620000 522000 TELEPHONE	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
620000 523300 CONTRACTOR	29,929.56	20,000.00	20,000.00	6,434.99	20,215.32	20,000.00	.0%
620000 527309 SECURITY	492.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	492.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	.0%
620000 528600 AUDIT SERV	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	.0%
620000 528800 PLOWING	6,445.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	12,847.50	6,000.00	6,000.00	.0%
620000 528900 LEGAL COUN	.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	.0%
620000 529000 PROF SERV	1,690,985.61	1,578,000.00	1,578,000.00	1,377,832.26	1,578,000.00	1,578,000.00	.0%
620000 529001 MT HD IMPR	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
620000 529006 MH CAP IMP	186,497.62	50,000.00	50,000.00	48,463.68	64,713.68	50,000.00	.0%
620000 529017 PROF CONS	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	1,920,709.79	1,680,360.00	1,680,360.00	1,446,070.43	1,695,289.00	1,680,360.00	.0%
53 SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
620000 530500 OFFICE SUP	65.02	4,000.00	4,000.00	.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	.0%
620000 530501 MISC SUP	9,148.90	12,000.00	12,000.00	9,911.32	12,500.00	12,000.00	.0%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	9,213.92	16,000.00	16,000.00	9,911.32	16,500.00	16,000.00	.0%
54 OTHER CHARGES							
620000 548960 MT HD COMM	3,616.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	1,702.36	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
627512 549102 MUNI INT	.00	164,893.00	164,893.00	24,332.50	164,893.00	152,550.00	-7.5%
627522 549100 PROJ DEBT	32,989.81	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	36,605.81	174,893.00	174,893.00	26,034.86	174,893.00	162,550.00	-7.1%
56 MISCELLANEOUS							
620000 590002 MTHD PILOT	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
627112 565000 MUNI DEBT	.00	233,706.00	233,706.00	43,300.00	233,706.00	260,000.00	11.3%
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	.00	233,706.00	233,706.00	43,300.00	233,706.00	260,000.00	11.3%
TOTAL MT HOOD ENTERPRISE FUN	2,079,340.52	2,219,559.00	2,219,559.00	1,624,116.89	2,234,988.00	2,236,997.00	.8%
GRAND TOTAL	2,079,340.52	2,219,559.00	2,219,559.00	1,624,116.89	2,234,988.00	2,236,997.00	.8%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Kerriann Golden **

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 20272 FY2027 ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
51	SALARIES							
604411 511000	S & W	565,649.70	600,052.00	600,052.00	430,482.19	600,052.00	666,070.00	11.0%
604411 512000	PT S&W	21,357.50	15,900.00	15,900.00	4,440.00	15,900.00	15,900.00	.0%
604411 513000	OVERTIME	12,760.63	26,433.00	26,433.00	20,133.48	26,433.00	26,433.00	.0%
	TOTAL SALARIES	599,767.83	642,385.00	642,385.00	455,055.67	642,385.00	708,403.00	10.3%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
604412 521500	POSTAGE	17,732.12	18,000.00	18,000.00	15,000.00	18,424.36	18,000.00	.0%
604412 522000	TELEPHONE	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
604412 522500	ELECTRIC	33,805.70	24,000.00	24,000.00	26,636.93	25,194.76	35,000.00	45.8%
604412 524002	CONSTRUCT	157,385.28	45,000.00	45,000.00	156,097.31	201,447.31	45,000.00	.0%
604412 525204	CONSULT	2,599.99	5,000.00	5,000.00	3,775.68	5,000.00	5,000.00	.0%
604412 525307	CODE RED	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
604412 525406	DEA	210.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	630.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	.0%
604412 527302	REPAIRS	54,104.89	45,000.00	45,000.00	44,575.00	90,497.00	45,000.00	.0%
604412 527331	BRAZILST	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
604412 527701	PUMP STA	30,283.19	45,000.00	45,000.00	53,668.46	58,461.75	45,000.00	.0%
604412 528600	AUDIT SERV	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
604412 529000	PROF SERV	5,534.29	25,000.00	25,000.00	213,402.95	231,403.37	25,000.00	.0%
604412 529200	MWRA ASSES	6,926,272.00	6,860,838.00	6,860,838.00	6,145,229.70	6,860,838.00	6,930,395.00	1.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	7,237,927.46	7,080,338.00	7,080,338.00	6,669,016.03	7,503,766.55	7,160,895.00	1.1%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
604412 530500	OFFICE SUP	355.98	1,000.00	1,000.00	944.50	1,630.23	1,000.00	.0%
604412 531000	GAS & OIL	32,901.19	15,000.00	15,000.00	8,106.67	15,000.00	15,000.00	.0%
604412 532000	CLEAN&DISF	2,150.32	6,695.00	6,695.00	.00	6,695.00	6,695.00	.0%
604412 533500	TOOLS	6,330.75	9,500.00	9,500.00	9,946.76	11,300.74	9,500.00	.0%
604412 535000	SAND&GRAVE	.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	.0%
604412 535501	CLOTHING	3,475.02	3,800.00	3,800.00	3,537.14	3,800.00	3,800.00	.0%
604412 535504	GLOVES	750.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	.0%
604412 535509	SAFE EQUIP	.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	800.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	.0%
604412 535800	PATCHING	2,923.81	8,750.00	8,750.00	240.70	9,790.92	8,750.00	.0%
604412 536000	CEM&CONCR	3,394.28	7,500.00	7,500.00	.00	8,850.72	7,500.00	.0%
604412 536100	PIPES&FITT	2,845.04	13,621.00	13,621.00	5,000.00	20,775.96	13,621.00	.0%
604412 536310	WAT METERS	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	25,000.00	.0%
604412 536320	EQUIP PTS	22,624.85	20,125.00	20,125.00	9,495.41	21,182.90	20,125.00	.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	77,751.24	93,491.00	93,491.00	39,071.18	106,526.47	118,491.00	26.7%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
604412 540700	SEMINARS	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 20272 FY2027 ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
604412 540704 PROF DEVEL	1,125.73	4,000.00	4,000.00	2,813.54	4,431.00	4,000.00	.0%
607512 549102 MUNI INT	16,607.08	10,329.00	10,329.00	10,329.78	10,329.00	5,351.00	-48.2%
607522 549100 PROJ DEBT	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	17,732.81	14,329.00	14,329.00	13,143.32	14,760.00	9,351.00	-34.7%
55 CAPITAL OUTLAY							
604412 551073 CONSTRUCT	105,455.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
604413 551002 PW VEH&EQU	35,960.13	80,000.00	80,000.00	18,089.87	83,180.35	90,000.00	12.5%
609313 551054 SEWER TRK	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	141,415.13	80,000.00	80,000.00	18,089.87	83,180.35	90,000.00	12.5%
56 MISCELLANEOUS							
607112 565000 MUNI DEBT	445,752.00	369,578.00	369,578.00	369,578.00	369,578.00	374,483.00	1.3%
607112 565002 DEBT CITY	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	445,752.00	369,578.00	369,578.00	369,578.00	369,578.00	374,483.00	1.3%
TOTAL SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	8,520,346.47	8,280,121.00	8,280,121.00	7,563,954.07	8,720,196.37	8,461,623.00	2.2%
GRAND TOTAL	8,520,346.47	8,280,121.00	8,280,121.00	7,563,954.07	8,720,196.37	8,461,623.00	2.2%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Kerriann Golden **

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 20272 FY2027 ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: WATER ENTERPRISE FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
51	SALARIES							
614511 511000	S & W	983,826.74	999,530.00	999,530.00	831,348.52	999,530.00	1,066,629.00	6.7%
614511 511099	PY SALARY	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614511 512000	PT S&W	16,797.50	15,900.00	15,900.00	3,840.00	15,900.00	15,900.00	.0%
614511 513000	OVERTIME	55,670.56	64,838.00	64,838.00	55,560.40	64,838.00	64,838.00	.0%
TOTAL SALARIES		1,056,294.80	1,080,268.00	1,080,268.00	890,748.92	1,080,268.00	1,147,367.00	6.2%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
614512 521500	POSTAGE	17,732.08	18,000.00	18,000.00	15,377.00	18,424.39	18,000.00	.0%
614512 522000	TELEPHONE	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614512 522302	WAT STUDY	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614512 522310	WTR IMPROV	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614512 522401	HYDRANT	.00	32,500.00	32,500.00	30,000.00	62,500.00	32,500.00	.0%
614512 522500	ELECTRIC	26,826.62	17,713.00	17,713.00	14,026.11	17,713.00	20,500.00	15.7%
614512 522600	GAS HEAT	3,073.45	5,110.00	5,110.00	3,544.55	5,110.00	5,110.00	.0%
614512 524002	CONSTRUCT	14,536.75	54,000.00	54,000.00	41,850.35	80,023.25	54,000.00	.0%
614512 524005	SLAYTON RD	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614512 525204	CONSULT	6,054.88	18,500.00	18,500.00	11,698.71	18,500.00	18,500.00	.0%
614512 525307	CODE RED	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614512 525350	DR/BC SVC	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614512 525406	DEA	210.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	630.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	.0%
614512 527104	LEAK DET	12,200.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	13,000.00	17,800.00	17,500.00	.0%
614512 527202	WAT REPLAC	2,890.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	81,400.00	96,110.00	50,000.00	.0%
614512 527203	RESIDENT2N	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614512 527204	METER UPGR	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614512 527302	REPAIRS	.00	46,500.00	46,500.00	46,500.00	46,500.00	46,500.00	.0%
614512 527400	BACKFLOW	15,878.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	5,005.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	.0%
614512 527701	PUMP STA	16,908.70	25,000.00	25,000.00	29,227.18	34,498.30	25,000.00	.0%
614512 527900	METERLEASE	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614512 528600	AUDIT SERV	11,491.98	10,000.00	10,000.00	.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
614512 529000	PROF SERV	36,133.49	40,000.00	40,000.00	73,621.98	50,625.73	40,000.00	.0%
614512 529200	MWRA ASSES	3,865,069.00	3,762,588.00	3,762,588.00	3,386,329.20	3,762,588.00	3,895,071.00	3.5%
614512 529205	MALDEN99	7,119.98	25,000.00	25,000.00	6,500.00	26,823.38	25,000.00	.0%
614512 529210	SAFE DRINK	7,373.50	10,000.00	10,000.00	.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL		4,043,498.43	4,152,411.00	4,152,411.00	3,758,710.08	4,277,216.05	4,287,681.00	3.3%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
614512 530500	OFFICE SUP	387.23	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,860.62	1,630.23	1,000.00	.0%
614512 531000	GAS & OIL	32,911.18	22,750.00	22,750.00	8,106.67	22,750.00	22,750.00	.0%
614512 533500	TOOLS	8,905.86	12,500.00	12,500.00	14,100.01	14,323.70	12,500.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 20272 FY2027 ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: WATER ENTERPRISE FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
614512 535000 SAND&GRAVE	.00	3,605.00	3,605.00	.00	3,605.00	3,605.00	.0%
614512 535501 CLOTHING	7,232.02	9,150.00	9,150.00	5,085.49	9,150.00	9,150.00	.0%
614512 535509 SAFE EQUIP	136.99	2,000.00	2,000.00	.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	.0%
614512 535800 PATCHING	8,639.77	25,235.00	25,235.00	10,000.00	31,344.60	25,235.00	.0%
614512 536100 PIPES&FITT	36,151.93	62,000.00	62,000.00	32,381.28	63,613.48	62,000.00	.0%
614512 536300 HYDRANTS	25,000.00	40,800.00	40,800.00	34,306.77	40,800.00	40,800.00	.0%
614512 536310 WAT METERS	18,440.28	5,000.00	5,000.00	6,053.52	5,000.00	25,000.00	400.0%
614512 536320 EQUIP PTS	28,748.51	27,250.00	27,250.00	21,081.73	29,137.07	27,250.00	.0%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	166,553.77	211,290.00	211,290.00	132,976.09	223,354.08	231,290.00	9.5%
54 OTHER CHARGES							
614512 540700 SEMINARS	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614512 540704 PROF DEVEL	2,745.74	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,125.10	6,431.00	6,000.00	.0%
617512 549102 MUNI INT	16,045.00	10,710.00	10,710.00	10,710.00	10,710.00	8,960.00	-16.3%
617522 549100 PROJ DEBT	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	18,790.74	16,710.00	16,710.00	14,835.10	17,141.00	14,960.00	-10.5%
55 CAPITAL OUTLAY							
614512 551073 CONSTRUCT	18,255.43	.00	.00	76,789.51	76,789.51	.00	.0%
614513 551002 PW VEH&EQU	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
614513 551082 RELOCATION	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	18,255.43	.00	.00	76,789.51	76,789.51	.00	.0%
56 MISCELLANEOUS							
617112 565000 MUNI DEBT	1,128,850.00	980,890.00	980,890.00	980,890.00	980,890.00	1,021,490.00	4.1%
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	1,128,850.00	980,890.00	980,890.00	980,890.00	980,890.00	1,021,490.00	4.1%
TOTAL WATER ENTERPRISE FUND	6,432,243.17	6,441,569.00	6,441,569.00	5,854,949.70	6,655,658.64	6,702,788.00	4.1%
GRAND TOTAL	6,432,243.17	6,441,569.00	6,441,569.00	5,854,949.70	6,655,658.64	6,702,788.00	4.1%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Kerriann Golden **

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 20272 FY2027 ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: SOLID WASTE ENTEPRISE FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
52 CONTRACTUAL							
634332 522700 TRASH DISP	776,767.77	850,000.00	850,000.00	696,571.99	876,571.99	867,000.00	2.0%
634332 522710 TRASH/RECY	2,132,964.17	2,233,920.00	2,233,920.00	1,678,304.68	2,300,955.83	2,323,277.00	4.0%
634332 522712 REC CONTA	137,405.12	261,170.00	261,170.00	284,218.48	374,889.88	261,170.00	.0%
634332 522713 REC EVENTS	84,521.20	65,000.00	65,000.00	64,991.09	69,315.12	65,000.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	3,131,658.26	3,410,090.00	3,410,090.00	2,724,086.24	3,621,732.82	3,516,447.00	3.1%
54 OTHER CHARGES							
637512 549102 MUNI INT	.00	41,928.00	41,928.00	.00	41,928.00	37,875.00	-9.7%
637522 549100 PROJ DEBT	34,195.80	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	34,195.80	41,928.00	41,928.00	.00	41,928.00	37,875.00	-9.7%
56 MISCELLANEOUS							
637112 565000 MUNI DEBT	.00	77,100.00	77,100.00	.00	77,100.00	85,000.00	10.2%
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	.00	77,100.00	77,100.00	.00	77,100.00	85,000.00	10.2%
TOTAL SOLID WASTE ENTEPRISE	3,165,854.06	3,529,118.00	3,529,118.00	2,724,086.24	3,740,760.82	3,639,322.00	3.1%
GRAND TOTAL	3,165,854.06	3,529,118.00	3,529,118.00	2,724,086.24	3,740,760.82	3,639,322.00	3.1%

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WATER AND SEWER RATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CITY OF MELROSE

Ken Truesdale, Resident Representative, Chair
Kathryn Armata, Treasurer/Collector
Kerri Golden, CFO/Auditor
Elizabeth Kowal, City Council Representative
Jim O'Loughlin, Resident Representative
Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., Director of Public Works
Jay Coy, Acting City Engineer

Melrose City Yard, 72 Tremont Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 665-0142

MEMORANDUM

To: Melrose City Council

From: Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee

cc. Mayor Jen Grigoraitis
James Troup, DPW
Lisa Patterson, DPW
Jennifer Rosa, DPW, Water and Sewer Committee Clerk

Date: April 8, 2026

Re: Summary of FY27 Water and Sewer Rate Orders

The Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee, consisting of the members listed above, respectfully submits the following water and sewer rate recommendations for FY27. They are recommended by unanimous vote of the committee.

The FY27 revenue requirements for the water and sewer enterprise funds can be met using the FY26 water and sewer rates, with no increases to either volumetric rates or base fees. The FY27 rates benefit from modest increases in the MWRA water and sewer assessments and lower debt repayment obligations in FY27 in the sewer fund compared to FY26. The sewer assessment has only increased moderately due to continued reductions in sewer flows resulting from the City's ongoing efforts to remove extraneous flows (groundwater infiltration and rainwater inflow) from the sanitary sewer system.

As you may recall from prior years, we target reserve fund balances of 10% of annual operating expenses for each fund. Based on the budgeted revenue requirements for FY27, the reserve funds are presently at just over 10% of each fund's operating budget, thus no transfers are recommended into the water and sewer reserve funds for FY27.

Thus far in FY26, water use has met or exceeded our projections in last year's rate model. As a result, the water and sewer enterprise funds are projected to have sufficient revenue to cover expenses as we come to the close of FY26. Therefore, we are not recommending any retained earnings be used this year to cover revenue shortfalls.

With no proposed changes to the water and sewer rates for FY27, the recommended rates are shown below, matching FY25 and FY26 rates.

Proposed FY27 Water and Sewer Rates

Proposed FY26 Volumetric Rates	Water (per 100 cf)	Sewer (per 100 cf)
Tier 1	$8.32	$12.25
Tier 2	$11.15	$15.43
Proposed FY26 Base Fees (meter size)	**Water (per meter)**	**Sewer (per meter)**
5/8"	$20.33	$26.38
3/4"	$20.33	$26.38
1"	$20.33	$26.38
1.5"	$79.53	$103.58
2"	$123.93	$161.48
3"	$227.53	$296.58
4"	$375.53	$489.58
6"	$745.53	$972.08
2nd Meter Fee	$20.33 ($50.00 if not upgraded)	--

In addition to these rates, the Committee respectfully recommends the following:

1. No transfers to reserves from either water or sewer free cash for FY27, as noted above.

2. A free cash allocation from the Sewer Enterprise Fund in the amount of $150,000 for a downpayment on the replacement of the City's Vactor truck. No free cash is requested from the Water Enterprise Fund at this time.

3. No recommended changes to ordinance language in Section 228, Water, Sewer, and Drains pertaining to rates.

The Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee submitted a memo in April 2025 related to water and sewer discount programs. Our committee is continuing our work evaluating options for the future of these programs. Although we are not making any recommendations at this time regarding acting on the items covered in the memo, it is attached hereto, for the information of the City Council, especially for the benefit of new members of the Council.

We appreciate your consideration of these items and are happy to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to continuing the important work of our committee in FY27 to provide fiscally responsible and sustainable water and sewer rates for the Melrose community.

WATER AND SEWER RATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CITY OF MELROSE

Ken Truesdale, Resident Representative, Chair
Kathryn Armata, Treasurer/Collector
Kerri Golden, CFO/Auditor
Ward Hamilton, City Council Representative
Jim O'Loughlin, Resident Representative
Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., Director of Public Works
Vacant, City Engineer

Melrose City Yard, 72 Tremont Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 665-0142

MEMORANDUM

To: Melrose City Council

From: Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee

cc. Mayor Jen Grigoraitis
James Troup, DPW
Donna Cardillo, DPW
Lisa Patterson, DPW

Date: April 17, 2025

Re: FY26 Water and Sewer Discount Program Recommendations

During the FY25 rate setting process, the Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee initiated discussions about the City's present discount programs for both low income residents and for senior citizens. As a result of this discussion, recommendations were made last year to enact the following changes:

- Changing the low-income water and sewer discount thresholds from $15,000 and $23,000 (single and married gross income) to $35,000 and $40,000, respectively, with annual water consumption not to exceed 6,250 cubic feet. There were previously no households that qualified for the low-income water and sewer discount.
- Allowing the existing condo discount to be extended to owner-occupied two-family properties owned by senior citizens, matching the dollar value of the condo discount (currently $146/year), provided that the same water usage thresholds used for the condo discount are met.

While many other changes to the water and sewer discount programs were discussed, the committee unanimously agreed that further study was prudent before additional recommendations were made. The Committee agreed to evaluate options further during FY25.

Based on last year's updates, our current discount programs are as follows:

Current Water and Sewer Discounts
We presently have a 20% water and sewer bill discount that applies to owner-occupied, single or two-family properties, using under 6,250 cubic feet of water per year, with working, upgraded water meters. This discount applies to:

- All qualifying property owners over the age of 65, and
- Qualifying property owners of any age earning less than $35,000 gross income (for those filing taxes as "single") or $40,000 gross income (for those filing taxes as "married" filing jointly)

This means that the current water and sewer discounts for seniors are not tied to income level. We have 667 households presently receiving the senior citizen water and sewer discounts. We also have another 85 senior households who receive this discount who live in condos. Based on last year's updates, we continue to have no non-senior households receiving the low-income discount.

Current Solid Waste and Recycling Fee ("Trash Fee") Discounts
All of our trash fee discount programs are income-based. There are currently two ways to qualify for the trash fee discounts:

- All residents, regardless of age, with a gross income of $65,870 or less (single) or $75,280 or less (married) are eligible for a 50% discount on the trash fee.
- All residents, regardless of age, with a gross income of $55,000 or less (single) or $65,000 or less (married) are eligible for a 100% discount on the trash fee. These numbers were increased last year based on a City Council order to more closely match HUD income levels for "very low" income.

We presently have 99 senior households who receive the 100% trash fee discount, four non-senior households who receive the 100% discount, and 103 senior households who receive the 50% discount, with no non-senior households.

Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds
Note that the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds function independently from the City's general fund. Rates are set each year to ensure that the enterprise funds are each self-sufficient. Any discounts that are given for water usage are deducted from the modeled revenue in the water fund, and similarly any discounts on sewer usage are deducted from the sewer fund. (The Solid Waste and Recycling Enterprise Fund similarly acts independently, and any discounts from the trash fee are absorbed within that fund.) Thus, these discounts are factored into the rates set for each utility and are subsidized by all users of the utility for which the discount was given.

Discount Program Subcommittee

Following last year's discussion, the Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee established a subgroup of members and advisory staff to develop recommendations for the discount programs moving forward.

Central to the subcommittee's discussion was a desire to direct the City's discount programs toward the people who need them most. For the low-income discount, the subcommittee acknowledged a need to raise the income thresholds to levels that allow for more low-income residents to participate, in place of levels that were so low that nobody qualified. For the senior discount, there was a robust discussion about whether all seniors should be eligible to receive the discounts, or just those in financial need.

In order to fully evaluate these questions and develop recommendations, the subcommittee reviewed discount programs in other MWRA communities. Focusing on the 14 fully-served (water and sewer) MWRA communities with the highest combined rates:

- Four have no senior discount program.
- Seven have senior discount programs that are based on income thresholds.
- Three (including Melrose) have senior discount programs with no income thresholds.

In looking at the entire MWRA service area:

- 48% of communities have no discount programs,
- 28% have only senior discounts,
- 12% have both senior and low-income discounts, and
- 12% have only low-income discounts.

The subcommittee agreed that it would be ideal to have income thresholds that are tied to a regional metric that increases with inflation, so that we do not have to reevaluate our thresholds from year to year. The subcommittee also agreed that the ease of implementation for City staff is a critical consideration, and ideally income thresholds would be either consistent with those established for the trash program to streamline the billing process by avoiding the use of multiple income thresholds, or, as appropriate, tied to existing senior tax break programs, to eliminate the task of separately evaluating income levels. Presently all senior discount holders are only required to show proof of their age for the water and sewer discount, while all applicants are required to prove income levels for the trash discounts.

The subcommittee presented its findings to the Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee over the last several months, and the Committee developed the following recommendations.

Recommendations

The Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee recommends the following modifications to the existing water and sewer discount programs to the City Council for consideration:

- Adjust the low-income water and sewer discount income thresholds to match those approved by the City Council last year for the 100% trash discount. Specifically, the low-income discount thresholds would be $55,000 (single) and $65,000 (married). These numbers were selected by the City Council for the 100% trash discount as they are close to the HUD "very low income" values.

- While the Committee would ideally prefer thresholds that change annually along with regional metrics, the HUD values have seen some significant increases in recent years (some years around 10%). Given the need to keep the discount programs small enough that there are not unwanted impacts to other ratepayers, we recommend continuing to monitor the HUD numbers, to determine if it's appropriate to switch to their use in FY27, after one more year of monitoring. This year of monitoring will also allow us to better ascertain the number of new participants and assess the overall cost of the discounts.

- Move toward a needs-based senior discount program for the following reasons:

    - A needs-based approach is consistent with most MWRA communities that have a discount program.
    - If the City did not have discount programs, and we were to start one today, we would be unlikely to apply it to residents who do not have a financial need.
    - We have concerns about the long-term costs of the program. These costs are paid by other property owners who subsidize the cost of the discounts through higher rates.

- The revised discount program is recommended to apply to seniors who qualify for the 41A, 41C, or Circuit Breaker real estate tax assistance programs. The discount could be automatically applied to all seniors who meet the income thresholds for these programs, provided that they also meet the City's 6,250 cf/year water usage thresholds. Note that the income thresholds for several of these programs, in particular the Senior Circuit Breaker, are somewhat higher than the HUD very low-income values; thus the program would remain advantageous for more senior citizen households than if the City had solely the low-income program. The inclusion of the Senior Circuit Breaker as an income threshold would make Melrose's senior discount program more generous than all of the other senior income thresholds surveyed.

- In order to move toward these need-based thresholds for senior citizens, we recommend that, at some point, new applicants to the senior discount program should be required to meet the above-listed thresholds. This could be implemented starting in FY27 or later, to provide time for education and adjustment.

- Existing senior citizens receiving the senior discount could remain "grandfathered" into the program, either permanently or for a specified time period. Factors to consider include giving existing participants time to adjust while at the same time being fair to those seniors newly turning 65 who would no longer be eligible to participate as a result of the changes to the program. The Committee suggests five years may be a good middle ground for phasing out those who do not have a financial need using either the low-income criteria or the state's real estate tax assistance criteria.

Implementation of these recommendations would result in the following actions:

- The low-income thresholds would be increased to $65,000 (married) and $55,000 (single), starting on October 1, 2025.
- Starting on October 1, 2026, all senior applicants to the discount programs would have to demonstrate financial need through existing tax assistance programs.
- Starting on October 1, 2031, seniors who cannot demonstrate financial need would no longer be included in the water and sewer discount program.

In summary, these proposed revisions:

- Provide rate-payer funded discounts to those with demonstrated need, consistent with the majority of communities surveyed,
- Increase need-based thresholds over current levels,
- Streamline the approval and administration of the water and sewer discount program by aligning eligibility thresholds with those of other City-administered programs, and
- Better align discount eligibility with need-based thresholds that adjust for inflation in accordance with programs established by third parties (i.e., Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)).

The Committee welcomes feedback from the City Council on these recommendations and looks forward to answering any questions at the Water and Sewer Rate hearings during the FY26 budget hearings. Thank you for your consideration of these important matters.

WATER AND SEWER RATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CITY OF MELROSE

Ken Truesdale, Resident Representative, Chair
Kathryn Armata, Treasurer/Collector
Kerri Golden, CFO/Auditor
Elizabeth Kowal, City Council Representative
Jim O'Loughlin, Resident Representative
Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., Director of Public Works
Jay Coy, Acting City Engineer

Melrose City Yard, 72 Tremont Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 665-0142

MEMORANDUM

To: Melrose City Council

From: Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee

cc. Mayor Jen Grigoraitis
James Troup, DPW
Lisa Patterson, DPW
Jennifer Rosa, DPW, Water and Sewer Committee Clerk

Date: April 8, 2026

Re: Summary of FY27 Water and Sewer Rate Orders

The Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee, consisting of the members listed above, respectfully submits the following water and sewer rate recommendations for FY27. They are recommended by unanimous vote of the committee.

The FY27 revenue requirements for the water and sewer enterprise funds can be met using the FY26 water and sewer rates, with no increases to either volumetric rates or base fees. The FY27 rates benefit from modest increases in the MWRA water and sewer assessments and lower debt repayment obligations in FY27 in the sewer fund compared to FY26. The sewer assessment has only increased moderately due to continued reductions in sewer flows resulting from the City's ongoing efforts to remove extraneous flows (groundwater infiltration and rainwater inflow) from the sanitary sewer system.

As you may recall from prior years, we target reserve fund balances of 10% of annual operating expenses for each fund. Based on the budgeted revenue requirements for FY27, the reserve funds are presently at just over 10% of each fund's operating budget, thus no transfers are recommended into the water and sewer reserve funds for FY27.

Thus far in FY26, water use has met or exceeded our projections in last year's rate model. As a result, the water and sewer enterprise funds are projected to have sufficient revenue to cover expenses as we come to the close of FY26. Therefore, we are not recommending any retained earnings be used this year to cover revenue shortfalls.

With no proposed changes to the water and sewer rates for FY27, the recommended rates are shown below, matching FY25 and FY26 rates.

Proposed FY27 Water and Sewer Rates

Proposed FY26 Volumetric Rates	Water (per 100 cf)	Sewer (per 100 cf)
Tier 1	$8.32	$12.25
Tier 2	$11.15	$15.43
Proposed FY26 Base Fees (meter size)	**Water (per meter)**	**Sewer (per meter)**
5/8"	$20.33	$26.38
3/4"	$20.33	$26.38
1"	$20.33	$26.38
1.5"	$79.53	$103.58
2"	$123.93	$161.48
3"	$227.53	$296.58
4"	$375.53	$489.58
6"	$745.53	$972.08
2nd Meter Fee	$20.33 ($50.00 if not upgraded)	--

In addition to these rates, the Committee respectfully recommends the following:

1. No transfers to reserves from either water or sewer free cash for FY27, as noted above.

2. A free cash allocation from the Sewer Enterprise Fund in the amount of $150,000 for a downpayment on the replacement of the City's Vactor truck. No free cash is requested from the Water Enterprise Fund at this time.

3. No recommended changes to ordinance language in Section 228, Water, Sewer, and Drains pertaining to rates.

The Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee submitted a memo in April 2025 related to water and sewer discount programs. Our committee is continuing our work evaluating options for the future of these programs. Although we are not making any recommendations at this time regarding acting on the items covered in the memo, it is attached hereto, for the information of the City Council, especially for the benefit of new members of the Council.

We appreciate your consideration of these items and are happy to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to continuing the important work of our committee in FY27 to provide fiscally responsible and sustainable water and sewer rates for the Melrose community.

WATER AND SEWER RATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CITY OF MELROSE

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Ward Hamilton, City Council Representative
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Vacant, City Engineer

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MEMORANDUM

To: Melrose City Council

From: Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee

cc. Mayor Jen Grigoraitis
James Troup, DPW
Donna Cardillo, DPW
Lisa Patterson, DPW

Date: April 17, 2025

Re: FY26 Water and Sewer Discount Program Recommendations

During the FY25 rate setting process, the Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee initiated discussions about the City's present discount programs for both low income residents and for senior citizens. As a result of this discussion, recommendations were made last year to enact the following changes:

- Changing the low-income water and sewer discount thresholds from $15,000 and $23,000 (single and married gross income) to $35,000 and $40,000, respectively, with annual water consumption not to exceed 6,250 cubic feet. There were previously no households that qualified for the low-income water and sewer discount.
- Allowing the existing condo discount to be extended to owner-occupied two-family properties owned by senior citizens, matching the dollar value of the condo discount (currently $146/year), provided that the same water usage thresholds used for the condo discount are met.

While many other changes to the water and sewer discount programs were discussed, the committee unanimously agreed that further study was prudent before additional recommendations were made. The Committee agreed to evaluate options further during FY25.

Based on last year's updates, our current discount programs are as follows:

Current Water and Sewer Discounts
We presently have a 20% water and sewer bill discount that applies to owner-occupied, single or two-family properties, using under 6,250 cubic feet of water per year, with working, upgraded water meters. This discount applies to:

- All qualifying property owners over the age of 65, and
- Qualifying property owners of any age earning less than $35,000 gross income (for those filing taxes as "single") or $40,000 gross income (for those filing taxes as "married" filing jointly)

This means that the current water and sewer discounts for seniors are not tied to income level. We have 667 households presently receiving the senior citizen water and sewer discounts. We also have another 85 senior households who receive this discount who live in condos. Based on last year's updates, we continue to have no non-senior households receiving the low-income discount.

Current Solid Waste and Recycling Fee ("Trash Fee") Discounts
All of our trash fee discount programs are income-based. There are currently two ways to qualify for the trash fee discounts:

- All residents, regardless of age, with a gross income of $65,870 or less (single) or $75,280 or less (married) are eligible for a 50% discount on the trash fee.
- All residents, regardless of age, with a gross income of $55,000 or less (single) or $65,000 or less (married) are eligible for a 100% discount on the trash fee. These numbers were increased last year based on a City Council order to more closely match HUD income levels for "very low" income.

We presently have 99 senior households who receive the 100% trash fee discount, four non-senior households who receive the 100% discount, and 103 senior households who receive the 50% discount, with no non-senior households.

Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds
Note that the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds function independently from the City's general fund. Rates are set each year to ensure that the enterprise funds are each self-sufficient. Any discounts that are given for water usage are deducted from the modeled revenue in the water fund, and similarly any discounts on sewer usage are deducted from the sewer fund. (The Solid Waste and Recycling Enterprise Fund similarly acts independently, and any discounts from the trash fee are absorbed within that fund.) Thus, these discounts are factored into the rates set for each utility and are subsidized by all users of the utility for which the discount was given.

Discount Program Subcommittee

Following last year's discussion, the Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee established a subgroup of members and advisory staff to develop recommendations for the discount programs moving forward.

Central to the subcommittee's discussion was a desire to direct the City's discount programs toward the people who need them most. For the low-income discount, the subcommittee acknowledged a need to raise the income thresholds to levels that allow for more low-income residents to participate, in place of levels that were so low that nobody qualified. For the senior discount, there was a robust discussion about whether all seniors should be eligible to receive the discounts, or just those in financial need.

In order to fully evaluate these questions and develop recommendations, the subcommittee reviewed discount programs in other MWRA communities. Focusing on the 14 fully-served (water and sewer) MWRA communities with the highest combined rates:

- Four have no senior discount program.
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In looking at the entire MWRA service area:

- 48% of communities have no discount programs,
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The subcommittee agreed that it would be ideal to have income thresholds that are tied to a regional metric that increases with inflation, so that we do not have to reevaluate our thresholds from year to year. The subcommittee also agreed that the ease of implementation for City staff is a critical consideration, and ideally income thresholds would be either consistent with those established for the trash program to streamline the billing process by avoiding the use of multiple income thresholds, or, as appropriate, tied to existing senior tax break programs, to eliminate the task of separately evaluating income levels. Presently all senior discount holders are only required to show proof of their age for the water and sewer discount, while all applicants are required to prove income levels for the trash discounts.

The subcommittee presented its findings to the Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee over the last several months, and the Committee developed the following recommendations.

Recommendations

The Water and Sewer Rate Advisory Committee recommends the following modifications to the existing water and sewer discount programs to the City Council for consideration:

- Adjust the low-income water and sewer discount income thresholds to match those approved by the City Council last year for the 100% trash discount. Specifically, the low-income discount thresholds would be $55,000 (single) and $65,000 (married). These numbers were selected by the City Council for the 100% trash discount as they are close to the HUD "very low income" values.

- While the Committee would ideally prefer thresholds that change annually along with regional metrics, the HUD values have seen some significant increases in recent years (some years around 10%). Given the need to keep the discount programs small enough that there are not unwanted impacts to other ratepayers, we recommend continuing to monitor the HUD numbers, to determine if it's appropriate to switch to their use in FY27, after one more year of monitoring. This year of monitoring will also allow us to better ascertain the number of new participants and assess the overall cost of the discounts.

- Move toward a needs-based senior discount program for the following reasons:

    - A needs-based approach is consistent with most MWRA communities that have a discount program.
    - If the City did not have discount programs, and we were to start one today, we would be unlikely to apply it to residents who do not have a financial need.
    - We have concerns about the long-term costs of the program. These costs are paid by other property owners who subsidize the cost of the discounts through higher rates.

- The revised discount program is recommended to apply to seniors who qualify for the 41A, 41C, or Circuit Breaker real estate tax assistance programs. The discount could be automatically applied to all seniors who meet the income thresholds for these programs, provided that they also meet the City's 6,250 cf/year water usage thresholds. Note that the income thresholds for several of these programs, in particular the Senior Circuit Breaker, are somewhat higher than the HUD very low-income values; thus the program would remain advantageous for more senior citizen households than if the City had solely the low-income program. The inclusion of the Senior Circuit Breaker as an income threshold would make Melrose's senior discount program more generous than all of the other senior income thresholds surveyed.

- In order to move toward these need-based thresholds for senior citizens, we recommend that, at some point, new applicants to the senior discount program should be required to meet the above-listed thresholds. This could be implemented starting in FY27 or later, to provide time for education and adjustment.

- Existing senior citizens receiving the senior discount could remain "grandfathered" into the program, either permanently or for a specified time period. Factors to consider include giving existing participants time to adjust while at the same time being fair to those seniors newly turning 65 who would no longer be eligible to participate as a result of the changes to the program. The Committee suggests five years may be a good middle ground for phasing out those who do not have a financial need using either the low-income criteria or the state's real estate tax assistance criteria.

Implementation of these recommendations would result in the following actions:

- The low-income thresholds would be increased to $65,000 (married) and $55,000 (single), starting on October 1, 2025.
- Starting on October 1, 2026, all senior applicants to the discount programs would have to demonstrate financial need through existing tax assistance programs.
- Starting on October 1, 2031, seniors who cannot demonstrate financial need would no longer be included in the water and sewer discount program.

In summary, these proposed revisions:

- Provide rate-payer funded discounts to those with demonstrated need, consistent with the majority of communities surveyed,
- Increase need-based thresholds over current levels,
- Streamline the approval and administration of the water and sewer discount program by aligning eligibility thresholds with those of other City-administered programs, and
- Better align discount eligibility with need-based thresholds that adjust for inflation in accordance with programs established by third parties (i.e., Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)).

The Committee welcomes feedback from the City Council on these recommendations and looks forward to answering any questions at the Water and Sewer Rate hearings during the FY26 budget hearings. Thank you for your consideration of these important matters.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Fund #	**Revolving Fund**	**Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from the Fund**	**Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund**	**Program of Activity Expenses Payable from Fund**	**Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund**	**Other Requirements/ Reports**	**Fiscal years**
2607	Veterans	Veterans Service Officer and Board	Donations	Supplies, administrative fees and permits for any programs related to Veteran Services and Melrose Community events.	$2,000 Annual Cap		Fiscal Year 2027 and subsequent years
2652	Recreation	Park Commission	Registration and User fees collected for Recreation Department sponsored programs	Costs associated with the various programs sponsored by the Recreation Department including the Director and Assistant Director's salary, program coordinator salaries as well as supplies and equipment needed to run the program.	$500,000 Annual Cap		Fiscal Year 2027 and subsequent years
2658	Inspectional Services	Director of Inspectional Services	Fees from inspections of multifamily homes	State-Mandated certificates of inspections, multifamily inspections, equipment, contracted inspectors, education and printing.	$15,000 Annual Cap. Salaries related to contracted inspectors are only paid from this fund.		Fiscal Year 2027 and subsequent years
2659	Health	Director of Health Department	Fees associated with public health programs	Costs associated with flu clinics, sale of bike helmets, salaries and CPR classes	$60,000 Annual Cap		Fiscal Year 2027 and subsequent years
2665	Police False Alarm	Chief of Police	Fees associated with excessive false alarm responses from private homes and businesses throughout the City	Maintenance of Police Department Fleet	$10,000 Annual Cap. No salaries are paid from this fund		Fiscal Year 2027 and subsequent years
2669	Park Permits	Park Commission	Rental Fees and Custodial charges received from activities hosted by user groups and organizations that do not reside within the City.	Supplies and maintenance costs associated with parks, fields and playgrounds where permits are issued.	$40,000 Annual Cap		Fiscal Year 2027 and subsequent years
2750	Beebe Estate	Beebe Estate Trustees	Fees associated with the rental of this building and donations	Fees related to maintaining the Beebe Estate in a safe and sanitary manner.	$30,000 Annual Cap. No salaries are paid from this fund		Fiscal Year 2027 and subsequent years
2811	Council on Aging	Council on Aging Director	Donations	Council on Aging and Milano Center Programs and services, minibus related expenses and costs associated with maintaining the Milano Center in a safe and sanitary manner, Salary for Social Service Coordinator	$65,000 Annual Cap		Fiscal Year 2027 and subsequent years

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
112	CITY COUNCIL							
51	SALARIES							
011121 511000	S & W	62,887.48	72,595.00	72,595.00	57,287.90	72,595.00	73,746.00	1.6%
	TOTAL SALARIES	62,887.48	72,595.00	72,595.00	57,287.90	72,595.00	73,746.00	1.6%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
011122 520500	ADVERTIS	2,302.00	300.00	300.00	1,910.00	300.00	3,000.00	900.0%
011122 521000	PRINTING	206.00	700.00	700.00	790.00	700.00	700.00	.0%
011122 523100	EXPENSES	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	9,737.46	11,000.00	12,000.00	9.1%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	13,508.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,437.46	12,000.00	15,700.00	30.8%
	TOTAL CITY COUNCIL	76,395.48	84,595.00	84,595.00	69,725.36	84,595.00	89,446.00	5.7%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
121	MAYOR							
51	SALARIES							
011211 511000	S & W	335,222.26	345,726.00	345,726.00	296,506.71	345,726.00	377,019.00	9.1%
	TOTAL SALARIES	335,222.26	345,726.00	345,726.00	296,506.71	345,726.00	377,019.00	9.1%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
011212 521000	PRINTING	456.76	750.00	750.00	584.64	998.00	750.00	.0%
011212 523100	EXP ACCT	7,026.69	7,000.00	7,000.00	6,063.19	7,000.00	7,000.00	.0%
011212 525401	WEBSITE	.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	12,000.00	33.3%
011212 529000	PROF SERV	486.90	4,000.00	4,000.00	9,029.05	9,500.00	6,000.00	50.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	7,970.35	20,750.00	20,750.00	24,676.88	26,498.00	25,750.00	24.1%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
011212 540500	DUES/MEMB	22,828.00	24,500.00	24,500.00	23,780.00	24,500.00	24,500.00	.0%
011212 540600	EDUC/SEMIN	3,540.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	763.16	2,250.00	2,250.00	.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	26,368.00	26,750.00	26,750.00	24,543.16	26,750.00	26,750.00	.0%
	TOTAL MAYOR	369,560.61	393,226.00	393,226.00	345,726.75	398,974.00	429,519.00	9.2%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
135	AUDITOR							
51	SALARIES							
011351 511000	S & W	386,437.15	407,422.00	407,422.00	347,802.58	407,422.00	343,703.00	-15.6%
	TOTAL SALARIES	386,437.15	407,422.00	407,422.00	347,802.58	407,422.00	343,703.00	-15.6%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
011352 528600	AUDIT SERV	69,170.00	80,165.00	80,165.00	79,337.50	80,165.00	84,000.00	4.8%
011352 529000	PROF SERV	11,800.00	11,800.00	11,800.00	10,777.55	11,800.00	42,702.00	261.9%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	80,970.00	91,965.00	91,965.00	90,115.05	91,965.00	126,702.00	37.8%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
011352 540500	DUES/MEMB	225.00	600.00	600.00	500.00	600.00	1,000.00	66.7%
011352 540600	EDUC/SEMIN	2,527.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	150.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	2,752.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	650.00	1,600.00	3,000.00	87.5%
	TOTAL AUDITOR	470,159.15	500,987.00	500,987.00	438,567.63	500,987.00	473,405.00	-5.5%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
141	ASSESSORS							
51	SALARIES							
011411 511000	S & W	244,040.09	256,712.00	256,712.00	220,689.14	256,712.00	272,319.00	6.1%
	TOTAL SALARIES	244,040.09	256,712.00	256,712.00	220,689.14	256,712.00	272,319.00	6.1%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
011412 521000	PRINTING	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	.0%
011412 523000	MILEAGE	1,029.04	1,000.00	1,000.00	35.14	1,000.00	1,000.00	.0%
011412 528000	FEES	298.05	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	.0%
011412 529000	PROF SERV	3,327.75	15,900.00	15,900.00	30,793.16	31,507.99	15,900.00	.0%
011412 529300	REVAL	103,082.75	103,500.00	103,500.00	138,353.75	138,559.01	108,675.00	5.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	107,987.59	120,950.00	120,950.00	169,732.05	171,617.00	126,125.00	4.3%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
011412 530200	COPY SUP	181.70	200.00	200.00	192.02	200.00	200.00	.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	181.70	200.00	200.00	192.02	200.00	200.00	.0%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
011412 540500	DUES/MEMB	695.00	700.00	700.00	694.00	700.00	700.00	.0%
011412 540600	EDUC/SEMIN	6,339.01	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,795.00	3,000.00	6,000.00	100.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	7,034.01	3,700.00	3,700.00	2,489.00	3,700.00	6,700.00	81.1%
	TOTAL ASSESSORS	359,243.39	381,562.00	381,562.00	393,102.21	432,229.00	405,344.00	6.2%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR							
51	SALARIES							
011451 511000	S & W	419,478.42	441,481.00	441,481.00	381,753.01	441,481.00	532,737.00	20.7%
	TOTAL SALARIES	419,478.42	441,481.00	441,481.00	381,753.01	441,481.00	532,737.00	20.7%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
011452 521000	PRINTING	9,720.05	20,000.00	20,000.00	4,713.77	20,000.00	16,250.00	-18.8%
011452 521500	POSTAGE	69,472.33	60,000.00	60,000.00	55,082.77	60,000.00	55,000.00	-8.3%
011452 521801	FOLD MAINT	1,470.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,544.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	.0%
011452 527600	OFFICE EQU	1,210.94	1,215.00	1,215.00	300.00	1,215.00	2,000.00	64.6%
011452 528002	TITLE FEES	880.39	1,260.00	1,260.00	1,105.00	1,639.61	3,500.00	177.8%
011452 529000	PROF SERV	17,788.31	14,848.00	14,848.00	3,937.59	15,961.75	15,000.00	1.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	100,542.02	98,723.00	98,723.00	66,683.13	100,216.36	93,150.00	-5.6%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
011452 540500	DUES/MEMB	265.00	165.00	165.00	485.00	165.00	475.00	187.9%
011452 540600	EDUC/SEMIN	1,073.13	1,500.00	1,500.00	845.09	1,500.00	2,000.00	33.3%
011452 544100	SURETY	2,000.00	2,075.00	2,075.00	2,000.00	2,075.00	2,000.00	-3.6%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	3,338.13	3,740.00	3,740.00	3,330.09	3,740.00	4,475.00	19.7%
	TOTAL TREASURER/COLLECTOR	523,358.57	543,944.00	543,944.00	451,766.23	545,437.36	630,362.00	15.9%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
151 CITY SOLICITOR							
51 SALARIES							
011511 511000 S & W	165,764.98	148,603.00	148,603.00	128,598.75	148,603.00	171,959.00	15.7%
01151771 511000 S & W	114,306.22	119,475.00	119,475.00	103,496.50	119,475.00	123,061.00	3.0%
TOTAL SALARIES	280,071.20	268,078.00	268,078.00	232,095.25	268,078.00	295,020.00	10.1%
52 CONTRACTUAL							
011512 523100 EXPENSES	451.14	1,200.00	1,200.00	205.00	3,410.00	1,200.00	.0%
011512 529000 PROF SERV	33,104.27	30,000.00	30,000.00	10,332.90	31,790.00	30,000.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	33,555.41	31,200.00	31,200.00	10,537.90	35,200.00	31,200.00	.0%
53 SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
011512 534200 BOOKS	357.00	500.00	500.00	407.00	500.00	500.00	.0%
011512 534250 ELECT MASS	3,322.00	3,850.00	3,850.00	3,816.00	4,454.00	4,152.00	7.8%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	3,679.00	4,350.00	4,350.00	4,223.00	4,954.00	4,652.00	6.9%
54 OTHER CHARGES							
011512 540500 DUES/MEMB	1,300.00	2,730.00	2,730.00	1,270.00	2,730.00	2,500.00	-8.4%
011512 540600 EDUC/SEMIN	1,932.09	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,680.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	.0%
011512 544310 PROP INS	807,504.40	884,112.00	884,112.00	891,383.40	889,764.00	968,715.00	9.6%
011512 544500 CLAIMSDED	12,013.07	10,000.00	10,000.00	2,054.97	10,000.00	60,000.00	500.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	822,749.56	899,842.00	899,842.00	896,388.37	905,494.00	1,034,215.00	14.9%
TOTAL CITY SOLICITOR	1,140,055.17	1,203,470.00	1,203,470.00	1,143,244.52	1,213,726.00	1,365,087.00	13.4%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
152 HUMAN RESOURCES							
51 SALARIES							
011521 511000 S & W	156,945.53	164,061.00	164,061.00	145,536.92	164,061.00	200,629.00	22.3%
TOTAL SALARIES	156,945.53	164,061.00	164,061.00	145,536.92	164,061.00	200,629.00	22.3%
52 CONTRACTUAL							
011522 520500 ADVERTISE	5,999.67	.00	8,000.00	12,653.84	10,357.75	8,000.00	.0%
011522 521000 PRINTING	96.96	100.00	100.00	91.00	100.00	100.00	.0%
011522 529600 ADA	.00	.00	.00	10,000.00	.00	10,000.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	6,096.63	100.00	8,100.00	22,744.84	10,457.75	18,100.00	123.5%
54 OTHER CHARGES							
011522 540500 DUES/MEMB	539.00	519.00	519.00	574.00	519.00	519.00	.0%
011522 540600 EDUC/SEMIN	242.99	500.00	500.00	90.00	500.00	500.00	.0%
011522 543000 PHYSICAL	15,129.00	.00	12,000.00	10,790.00	10,253.00	12,000.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	15,910.99	1,019.00	13,019.00	11,454.00	11,272.00	13,019.00	.0%
TOTAL HUMAN RESOURCES	178,953.15	165,180.00	185,180.00	179,735.76	185,790.75	231,748.00	25.1%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
51	SALARIES							
011551 511000	S & W	390,639.04	410,358.00	410,358.00	337,308.93	410,358.00	425,211.00	3.6%
	TOTAL SALARIES	390,639.04	410,358.00	410,358.00	337,308.93	410,358.00	425,211.00	3.6%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
011552 522000	TELEPHONE	156,475.53	100,000.00	100,000.00	80,749.54	128,788.95	100,000.00	.0%
011552 522004	WAN COMMUN	13,877.41	12,000.00	12,000.00	4,199.59	16,199.59	12,000.00	.0%
011552 525105	COMP MAINT	34,999.29	29,280.00	29,280.00	32,920.10	33,919.58	29,280.00	.0%
011552 525203	NET SERVIC	2,900.00	.00	.00	.00	2,100.00	.00	.0%
011552 525301	MUNIS SUPP	123,833.50	130,343.00	130,343.00	131,241.67	132,343.00	136,860.00	5.0%
011552 525303	LICENSES	245,353.97	265,491.00	265,491.00	289,562.90	300,377.14	288,766.00	8.8%
011552 525305	IT COM NOT	6,867.13	7,417.00	7,417.00	7,317.11	7,417.00	7,417.00	.0%
011552 525309	OSDBA	3,362.80	10,000.00	10,000.00	.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
011552 525402	INTERNET	16,067.51	9,180.00	9,180.00	5,789.80	9,180.00	9,180.00	.0%
011552 529000	PROF SERV	106,251.87	105,000.00	105,000.00	120,139.76	123,882.32	105,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	709,989.01	668,711.00	668,711.00	671,920.47	764,207.58	698,503.00	4.5%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
011552 530120	COMP MISC	3,482.09	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,983.18	2,000.00	.00	-100.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	3,482.09	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,983.18	2,000.00	.00	-100.0%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
011552 540700	SEMINARS	800.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,565.00	3,900.00	2,500.00	.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	800.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,565.00	3,900.00	2,500.00	.0%
55	CAPITAL OUTLAY							
01155772 551097	SCHOOL IT	555,609.39	.00	525,000.00	614,969.95	226,600.61	525,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	555,609.39	.00	525,000.00	614,969.95	226,600.61	525,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	1,660,519.53	1,083,569.00	1,608,569.00	1,627,747.53	1,407,066.19	1,651,214.00	2.7%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
161	CITY CLERK							
51	SALARIES							
011611 511000	S & W	253,637.53	293,212.00	293,212.00	261,316.59	293,212.00	301,754.00	2.9%
011611 513000	OVERTIME	8,791.07	11,400.00	11,400.00	1,944.26	11,400.00	11,400.00	.0%
	TOTAL SALARIES	262,428.60	304,612.00	304,612.00	263,260.85	304,612.00	313,154.00	2.8%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
011612 520500	ADVERTISE	-26.07	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,144.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	.0%
011612 521000	PRINTING	3,377.03	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,313.44	3,000.00	3,000.00	.0%
011612 525109	DOG MAINT	1,523.45	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,000.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	.0%
011612 525308	AGENDASOFT	.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	.00	10,000.00	17,915.00	79.2%
011612 529301	RECODE	7,912.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	8,156.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	12,786.41	26,200.00	26,200.00	12,613.44	26,200.00	34,115.00	30.2%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
011612 530501	VITALSUPPL	2,716.51	5,000.00	5,000.00	1,767.05	5,000.00	5,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	2,716.51	5,000.00	5,000.00	1,767.05	5,000.00	5,000.00	.0%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
011612 540500	DUES/MEMB	615.00	700.00	700.00	455.00	700.00	700.00	.0%
011612 540600	EDUC/SEMIN	885.60	4,000.00	4,000.00	620.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	.0%
011612 544100	SURETY	20.00	75.00	75.00	.00	75.00	75.00	.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	1,520.60	4,775.00	4,775.00	1,075.00	4,775.00	4,775.00	.0%
	TOTAL CITY CLERK	279,452.12	340,587.00	340,587.00	278,716.34	340,587.00	357,044.00	4.8%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
162	ELECTION/REGISTRAR							
51	SALARIES							
011621 511000	S & W	3,805.10	4,569.00	4,569.00	2,953.40	4,569.00	4,569.00	.0%
011621 512000	PT S&W	80,587.83	55,000.00	55,000.00	30,562.40	55,000.00	55,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL SALARIES	84,392.93	59,569.00	59,569.00	33,515.80	59,569.00	59,569.00	.0%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
011622 521000	PRINTING	16,966.64	13,000.00	13,000.00	27,951.88	13,000.00	13,000.00	.0%
011622 521500	POSTAGE	8,101.83	11,000.00	11,000.00	8,623.77	11,000.00	11,000.00	.0%
011622 525102	EQUIPMAINT	15,864.50	16,000.00	16,000.00	14,642.06	20,000.00	16,000.00	.0%
011622 529000	PROF SERV	8,089.46	10,000.00	10,000.00	2,173.65	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	49,022.43	50,000.00	50,000.00	53,391.36	54,000.00	50,000.00	.0%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
011622 530506	ELEC SUPP	1,377.55	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,795.41	3,000.00	3,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	1,377.55	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,795.41	3,000.00	3,000.00	.0%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
011622 540500	DUES/MEMB	25.00	200.00	200.00	.00	200.00	200.00	.0%
011622 540600	EDUC/SEMIN	.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	25.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	.0%
	TOTAL ELECTION/REGISTRAR	134,817.91	113,769.00	113,769.00	89,702.57	117,769.00	113,769.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
165 LIQUOR COMMISSION							
52 CONTRACTUAL							
011652 529000 PROF SERV	387.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	.0%
011652 529027 COMPLIANCE	.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	387.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	.0%
TOTAL LIQUOR COMMISSION	387.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
175 PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOP							
51 SALARIES							
011751 511000 S & W	375,298.16	374,802.00	374,802.00	324,105.56	374,802.00	385,654.00	2.9%
TOTAL SALARIES	375,298.16	374,802.00	374,802.00	324,105.56	374,802.00	385,654.00	2.9%
52 CONTRACTUAL							
011752 520500 ADVERTISE	880.00	880.00	880.00	399.00	880.00	880.00	.0%
011752 521000 PRINTING	1,280.00	1,280.00	1,280.00	555.34	1,280.00	1,280.00	.0%
011752 528810 CONSERV	9,053.42	14,000.00	14,000.00	4,946.58	18,946.58	14,000.00	.0%
011752 529000 PROF SERV	471.78	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,500.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	11,685.20	16,160.00	16,160.00	5,900.92	21,106.58	18,660.00	15.5%
54 OTHER CHARGES							
011752 540000 ENERGY	3,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
011752 540500 DUES/MEMB	1,654.40	1,925.00	1,925.00	1,719.80	1,925.00	1,925.00	.0%
011752 540600 EDUC/SEMIN	2,400.67	2,455.00	2,455.00	1,275.28	2,455.00	2,455.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	7,055.07	6,880.00	6,880.00	2,995.08	4,380.00	4,380.00	-36.3%
55 CAPITAL OUTLAY							
011752 551080 CONSULT	.00	.00	.00	60,000.00	.00	.00	.0%
01175772 551072 CONTR SVCS	25,000.00	.00	.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	25,000.00	.00	.00	160,000.00	100,000.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL PLANNING & COMMUNITY D	419,038.43	397,842.00	397,842.00	493,001.56	500,288.58	408,694.00	2.7%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
211	POLICE							
51	SALARIES							
012111 511000	S & W	5,101,716.77	5,182,115.00	5,336,191.00	4,402,182.37	5,182,115.00	5,670,660.00	6.3%
012111 513000	OVERTIME	623,440.40	457,900.00	457,900.00	361,766.42	457,900.00	457,900.00	.0%
012111 513010	OT TRAININ	164,869.56	125,000.00	125,000.00	188,677.64	125,000.00	150,000.00	20.0%
012111 514000	COURT TIME	17,503.10	26,000.00	26,000.00	15,109.48	26,000.00	26,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL SALARIES	5,907,529.83	5,791,015.00	5,945,091.00	4,967,735.91	5,791,015.00	6,304,560.00	6.0%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
012112 521000	PRINTING	1,942.12	2,540.00	2,540.00	1,099.75	2,560.00	2,540.00	.0%
012112 521500	POSTAGE	814.60	3,750.00	3,750.00	3,397.33	3,750.00	3,750.00	.0%
012112 523500	LAUNDRY	802.50	800.00	800.00	653.40	925.00	800.00	.0%
012112 525103	LEAPS	839.50	1,240.00	1,240.00	839.50	1,240.00	1,240.00	.0%
012112 525108	GENERATOR	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
012112 525202	COMP SUPP	48,145.30	60,000.00	60,000.00	47,515.72	60,000.00	67,785.00	13.0%
012112 527305	RADIO SYS	22,555.74	20,000.00	20,000.00	18,080.03	20,000.00	20,000.00	.0%
012112 529000	PROF SERV	10,540.16	10,000.00	10,000.00	9,040.65	10,025.00	10,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	85,639.92	98,330.00	98,330.00	80,626.38	98,500.00	106,115.00	7.9%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
012112 530120	COMP MISC	281.20	2,500.00	2,500.00	344.87	2,500.00	2,500.00	.0%
012112 530202	FILM SUP	617.98	590.00	590.00	547.11	590.00	590.00	.0%
012112 530501	MISC SUP	3,406.25	2,969.00	2,969.00	848.33	3,033.46	6,000.00	102.1%
012112 530505	RADAR	1,316.40	5,000.00	5,000.00	.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	.0%
012112 533400	ACCREDIT	3,220.00	3,900.00	3,900.00	.00	3,900.00	.00	-100.0%
012112 534200	BOOKS	493.44	800.00	800.00	356.00	800.00	800.00	.0%
012112 535400	FOOD	233.39	500.00	500.00	201.37	500.00	500.00	.0%
012112 535500	UNIFORMS	97,581.11	73,000.00	73,000.00	60,738.36	73,400.00	73,000.00	.0%
012112 535600	NARCAN	2,023.12	2,500.00	2,500.00	794.46	2,500.00	2,500.00	.0%
012112 535700	AMMUNITION	15,150.58	12,500.00	12,500.00	2,141.14	12,500.00	12,500.00	.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	124,323.47	104,259.00	104,259.00	65,971.64	104,723.46	103,390.00	-.8%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
012112 540000	COM ENGAGE	9,699.77	10,000.00	10,000.00	8,302.15	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
012112 540007	RECRUIT	.00	.00	46,134.00	46,134.00	.00	46,134.00	.0%
012112 540500	DUES/MEMB	12,820.08	13,500.00	13,500.00	12,365.00	13,500.00	14,000.00	3.7%
012112 540702	TRAINING	24,511.80	20,000.00	20,000.00	15,124.24	20,794.00	20,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	47,031.65	43,500.00	89,634.00	81,925.39	44,294.00	90,134.00	.6%
55	CAPITAL OUTLAY							
012113 551049	POL VEHICL	.00	.00	.00	90,000.00	.00	.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
012113 551100 POL EVIDEN	.00	.00	.00	16,000.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	.00	.00	.00	106,000.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL POLICE	6,164,524.87	6,037,104.00	6,237,314.00	5,302,259.32	6,038,532.46	6,604,199.00	5.9%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
221	FIRE							
51	SALARIES							
012211 511000	S & W	4,877,556.39	5,201,301.00	5,201,301.00	4,501,854.16	5,201,301.00	5,328,184.00	2.4%
012211 513000	OVERTIME	1,635,358.72	489,300.00	489,300.00	719,982.70	489,300.00	513,500.00	4.9%
012211 513010	OT TRAININ	12,012.88	11,500.00	11,500.00	12,253.40	11,500.00	11,500.00	.0%
012211 515000	MUTUAL AID	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
	TOTAL SALARIES	6,524,927.99	5,702,101.00	5,702,101.00	5,234,090.26	5,702,101.00	5,853,184.00	2.6%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
012212 521000	PRINTING	173.10	250.00	250.00	45.50	250.00	250.00	.0%
012212 527311	LIFE/SAFET	14,210.75	10,900.00	10,900.00	6,546.18	11,946.00	15,000.00	37.6%
012212 527500	VEHICLEREP	128,317.88	80,000.00	80,000.00	65,446.51	80,000.00	100,000.00	25.0%
012212 527605	FIRE CONTR	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	.0%
012212 527606	RADIO CONT	9,279.25	10,000.00	10,000.00	1,014.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
012212 529000	PROF SERV	39,328.14	50,000.00	50,000.00	43,360.12	55,000.00	40,000.00	-20.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	196,309.12	156,150.00	156,150.00	121,412.31	162,196.00	170,250.00	9.0%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
012212 530100	COMP PURCH	1,070.73	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
012212 530503	PREVENTSUP	3,651.75	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,380.20	3,000.00	4,000.00	33.3%
012212 530514	EMS SPLY	.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	7,840.45	25,000.00	10,000.00	-60.0%
012212 531000	GAS & OIL	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
012212 531200	TIRES	766.73	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	.0%
012212 531500	BATTERIES	670.06	750.00	750.00	469.73	750.00	2,000.00	166.7%
012212 532000	CLEAN SUP	8,469.80	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,234.95	7,000.00	7,500.00	7.1%
012212 533200	ELECTR SUP	2,199.26	1,000.00	1,000.00	242.81	1,000.00	1,000.00	.0%
012212 533300	ALARM SYS	1,804.35	4,000.00	4,000.00	964.18	4,000.00	4,000.00	.0%
012212 533500	TOOLS	2,792.91	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,316.22	3,000.00	3,000.00	.0%
012212 534200	BOOKS	549.21	2,000.00	2,000.00	157.25	2,000.00	2,000.00	.0%
012212 535500	UNIFORMS	50,883.00	52,100.00	52,100.00	49,423.00	52,100.00	52,100.00	.0%
012212 535501	CLOTHING	.00	500.00	500.00	.00	500.00	500.00	.0%
012212 535502	PROTECT CL	2,252.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,743.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	.0%
012212 535505	TURNOUT	52,034.48	.00	.00	75,000.00	75,000.00	.00	.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	127,144.28	105,250.00	105,250.00	153,271.79	180,250.00	93,000.00	-11.6%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
012212 540500	DUES/MEMB	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	.0%
012212 540600	EDUC/SEMIN	911.21	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,106.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	2,011.21	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,206.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	.0%
56 MISCELLANEOUS							
012212 560200 ED REIMB	24,972.83	20,000.00	20,000.00	9,009.78	20,000.00	20,000.00	.0%
012212 568000 FIRE HOSE	2,923.99	3,700.00	3,700.00	2,798.61	3,700.00	3,700.00	.0%
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	27,896.82	23,700.00	23,700.00	11,808.39	23,700.00	23,700.00	.0%
TOTAL FIRE	6,878,289.42	5,989,801.00	5,989,801.00	5,522,788.75	6,070,847.00	6,142,734.00	2.6%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
241	INSPECTION SERVICES							
51	SALARIES							
012411 511000	S & W	384,056.48	406,890.00	406,890.00	341,880.37	406,890.00	416,970.00	2.5%
012411 513000	OVERTIME	783.52	1,900.00	1,900.00	638.56	1,900.00	1,900.00	.0%
	TOTAL SALARIES	384,840.00	408,790.00	408,790.00	342,518.93	408,790.00	418,870.00	2.5%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
012412 521000	PRINTING	43.10	325.00	325.00	250.00	325.00	400.00	23.1%
012412 529000	PROF SERV	10,356.90	10,000.00	10,000.00	4,903.20	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	10,400.00	10,325.00	10,325.00	5,153.20	10,325.00	10,400.00	.7%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
012412 530502	W & M SUP	.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	780.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	50.0%
012412 534200	BOOKS	396.00	750.00	750.00	.00	750.00	1,000.00	33.3%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	396.00	1,750.00	1,750.00	780.00	1,750.00	2,500.00	42.9%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
012412 540500	DUES/MEMB	790.00	500.00	500.00	1,488.00	500.00	500.00	.0%
012412 540600	EDUC/SEMIN	904.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	280.00	1,300.00	2,600.00	100.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	1,694.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,768.00	1,800.00	3,100.00	72.2%
	TOTAL INSPECTION SERVICES	397,330.00	422,665.00	422,665.00	350,220.13	422,665.00	434,870.00	2.9%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT							
51	SALARIES							
012911 511000	S & W	28,080.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	8,653.95	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL SALARIES	28,080.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	8,653.95	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
012912 530703	RADIO	391.28	.00	.00	970.00	970.00	.00	.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	391.28	.00	.00	970.00	970.00	.00	.0%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
012912 540000	OTH CHGEXP	810.83	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	810.83	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
	TOTAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	29,282.11	10,000.00	10,000.00	9,623.95	10,970.00	10,000.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
296 PARKING							
51 SALARIES							
012961 511000 S & W	15,483.00	15,931.00	15,931.00	13,668.04	15,931.00	16,333.00	2.5%
TOTAL SALARIES	15,483.00	15,931.00	15,931.00	13,668.04	15,931.00	16,333.00	2.5%
52 CONTRACTUAL							
012962 521000 PRINTING	5,031.50	6,750.00	6,750.00	1,009.50	6,750.00	6,750.00	.0%
012962 527950 GROV/MYRTL	34,999.92	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	.0%
012962 529000 PROF SERV	12,809.89	12,000.00	12,000.00	9,947.05	12,040.65	14,000.00	16.7%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	52,841.31	53,750.00	53,750.00	45,956.55	53,790.65	55,750.00	3.7%
TOTAL PARKING	68,324.31	69,681.00	69,681.00	59,624.59	69,721.65	72,083.00	3.4%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
300 SCHOOL							
51 SALARIES							
013001 511000 S & W	.00	42,523,875.00	46,342,675.00	.00	42,523,875.00	49,332,180.00	6.5%
TOTAL SALARIES	.00	42,523,875.00	46,342,675.00	.00	42,523,875.00	49,332,180.00	6.5%
TOTAL SCHOOL	.00	42,523,875.00	46,342,675.00	.00	42,523,875.00	49,332,180.00	6.5%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
399	REGIONAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENT							
54	OTHER CHARGES							
013012 547100	REGION SCH	1,619,030.00	1,951,636.00	1,951,636.00	1,951,636.00	1,951,636.00	2,066,354.00	5.9%
013012 547200	MINUTEMAN	27,426.18	28,201.00	28,201.00	28,200.18	28,201.00	29,231.00	3.7%
013012 547300	ESSEX AGRI	184,459.00	191,310.00	191,310.00	141,961.00	191,310.00	193,731.00	1.3%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	1,830,915.18	2,171,147.00	2,171,147.00	2,121,797.18	2,171,147.00	2,289,316.00	5.4%
	TOTAL REGIONAL SCHOOL ASSESS	1,830,915.18	2,171,147.00	2,171,147.00	2,121,797.18	2,171,147.00	2,289,316.00	5.4%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
401 PW ADMINISTRATION/ ENGINEERING							
51 SALARIES							
014011 511000 S & W	776,408.34	694,535.00	806,239.00	608,324.48	694,535.00	831,489.00	3.1%
014011 512000 PT S&W	20,361.50	.00	21,000.00	6,330.00	.00	21,000.00	.0%
014011 513000 OVERTIME	1,178.00	4,000.00	7,905.00	12,070.40	4,000.00	7,905.00	.0%
TOTAL SALARIES	797,947.84	698,535.00	835,144.00	626,724.88	698,535.00	860,394.00	3.0%
52 CONTRACTUAL							
014012 520500 ADVERTIS	4,881.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	11,075.60	4,000.00	4,000.00	.0%
014012 521000 PRINTING	82.02	4,500.00	4,500.00	.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	.0%
014012 521500 POSTAGE	694.01	4,250.00	4,250.00	1,371.40	4,250.00	4,250.00	.0%
014012 529000 PROF SERV	38,133.81	45,000.00	45,000.00	120,186.83	136,731.76	45,000.00	.0%
014012 529304 WELLNESS	210.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,192.50	1,500.00	1,500.00	.0%
014012 529500 GIS SERVIC	4,590.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	.00	10,000.00	6,000.00	.0%
01401772 529025 SCH OUTRCH	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	3,500.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	48,590.84	65,250.00	65,250.00	134,826.33	160,981.76	68,750.00	5.4%
53 SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
014012 533502 PROF TOOLS	4,720.61	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,672.45	5,000.00	5,000.00	.0%
014012 533503 OPER TOOLS	1,464.09	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,562.60	6,000.00	6,000.00	.0%
014012 535501 CLOTHING	25,993.26	28,000.00	28,000.00	30,739.74	28,000.00	39,015.00	39.3%
014012 535509 SAFE EQUIP	548.49	8,000.00	8,000.00	.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	.0%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	32,726.45	47,000.00	47,000.00	40,974.79	47,000.00	58,015.00	23.4%
54 OTHER CHARGES							
014012 540704 PROF DEVEL	8,595.89	12,000.00	12,000.00	3,888.75	12,000.00	15,000.00	25.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	8,595.89	12,000.00	12,000.00	3,888.75	12,000.00	15,000.00	25.0%
55 CAPITAL OUTLAY							
014012 551046 SOFT LIC	17,526.36	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
014012 551072 STWRSTUDY	.00	.00	.00	25,000.00	.00	.00	.0%
014012 551073 ELLPOND	.00	.00	.00	80,000.00	.00	.00	.0%
014012 551184 ACCESS	3,871.00	.00	.00	71,129.00	71,129.00	.00	.0%
014012 551194 SUMMER	.00	.00	.00	205,147.50	.00	.00	.0%
014012 551195 LEB&SYLVAN	.00	.00	.00	175,000.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	21,397.36	.00	.00	556,276.50	71,129.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL PW ADMINISTRATION/ ENG	909,258.38	822,785.00	959,394.00	1,362,691.25	989,645.76	1,002,159.00	4.5%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
402 PW FACILITY MAINTENANCE							
51 SALARIES							
014021 511000 S & W	135,792.56	128,870.00	128,870.00	120,685.86	128,870.00	208,254.00	61.6%
014021 512004 INTERNS	66,682.50	.00	69,120.00	3,495.00	.00	69,120.00	.0%
014021 513000 OVERTIME	15,143.08	15,461.00	15,461.00	13,751.65	15,461.00	15,461.00	.0%
01402531 512002 LIBR PART	15,012.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	14,556.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	.0%
01402771 511041 SAL CUSTOD	844,902.46	877,783.00	877,783.00	709,894.43	877,783.00	823,767.00	-6.2%
01402771 511042 SAL MAINT	364,951.37	382,744.00	437,093.00	320,856.94	382,744.00	443,980.00	1.6%
01402771 512003 SCH PART	24,580.91	25,000.00	25,000.00	22,065.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	.0%
01402771 513000 OT SCH BLD	91,842.27	60,000.00	78,329.00	56,439.13	60,000.00	78,329.00	.0%
01402771 513008 OT F GREEN	45,929.85	7,960.00	7,960.00	31,212.40	7,960.00	30,000.00	276.9%
TOTAL SALARIES	1,604,837.00	1,522,818.00	1,664,616.00	1,292,956.41	1,522,818.00	1,718,911.00	3.3%
52 CONTRACTUAL							
014022 522525 ESCO PROJ	230,456.94	237,941.00	237,941.00	237,940.64	237,941.00	245,649.00	3.2%
014022 522526 ESCO QC	8,117.22	16,621.00	16,621.00	11,882.78	28,503.78	16,621.00	.0%
014022 527700 MUNBLD REP	74,642.58	120,000.00	120,000.00	139,692.49	120,000.00	620,000.00	416.7%
014022 527759 MUN MAJ CL	6,907.73	30,000.00	30,000.00	7,500.00	30,092.27	30,000.00	.0%
014022 529000 PROF SERV	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	500.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	.0%
01402502 522506 CH ELECTR	42,999.30	55,620.00	55,620.00	33,950.13	55,620.00	55,620.00	.0%
01402502 522611 CH HEAT	17,166.53	18,700.00	18,700.00	16,855.16	18,700.00	18,700.00	.0%
01402512 522507 STR LIGHTS	125,403.26	168,000.00	168,000.00	128,424.51	168,000.00	168,000.00	.0%
01402522 522509 COA ELECT	8,416.10	6,800.00	6,800.00	11,670.75	6,800.00	6,800.00	.0%
01402522 522613 COA HEAT	2,326.90	4,910.00	4,910.00	2,525.24	4,910.00	4,910.00	.0%
01402532 522510 LIBRARY EL	20,041.96	60,000.00	60,000.00	82,150.61	60,000.00	110,000.00	83.3%
01402532 522614 LIBR HEAT	6,388.30	.00	.00	904.17	.00	.00	.0%
01402542 522511 POLICE ELE	20,736.58	22,200.00	22,200.00	6,900.28	22,200.00	22,200.00	.0%
01402542 522615 POL HEAT	9,669.53	7,500.00	7,500.00	10,542.47	7,500.00	7,500.00	.0%
01402552 522512 FIRE ELEC	34,494.67	33,300.00	33,300.00	36,057.45	33,300.00	33,300.00	.0%
01402552 522616 FIRE HEAT	19,362.11	20,000.00	20,000.00	23,043.44	23,013.89	20,000.00	.0%
01402582 522515 PARK ELECT	31,940.47	31,800.00	31,800.00	25,642.61	31,800.00	31,800.00	.0%
01402592 522516 CEM ELECT	3,928.34	6,900.00	6,900.00	3,029.99	6,900.00	6,900.00	.0%
01402592 522619 CEM HEAT	4,393.59	4,250.00	4,250.00	4,497.98	4,250.00	4,250.00	.0%
01402602 522508 OPER ELECT	18,184.95	49,440.00	49,440.00	23,647.96	49,440.00	49,440.00	.0%
01402602 522612 OPER HEAT	34,707.26	39,000.00	39,000.00	54,932.72	39,000.00	39,000.00	.0%
01402772 522524 SCH ELECT	959,078.87	840,000.00	840,000.00	877,387.81	840,000.00	860,000.00	2.4%
01402772 522627 SCH HEAT	312,470.71	267,800.00	267,800.00	490,474.18	267,929.44	300,000.00	12.0%
01402772 527550 SCH CLEAN	152,839.39	236,900.00	236,900.00	29,958.81	237,224.09	236,900.00	.0%
01402772 527551 SCH GROUND	.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	.0%
01402772 527552 SCH EQUIP	149,535.44	77,250.00	77,250.00	79,029.03	98,702.46	77,250.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
01402772 527553 SCH SYSTEM	9,608.50	21,800.00	21,800.00	14,640.14	28,946.77	21,800.00	.0%
01402772 527554 SCH DOOR	12,885.64	5,000.00	5,000.00	276.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	.0%
01402772 527555 SCHOOL SEC	7,601.58	10,000.00	10,000.00	6,105.88	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	2,344,304.45	2,436,732.00	2,436,732.00	2,360,163.23	2,480,773.70	3,046,640.00	25.0%
53 SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
014022 533100 CLEAN SUP	8,815.14	20,000.00	20,000.00	24,097.47	23,975.50	20,000.00	.0%
014022 533107 CLEAN EQUI	13,412.99	13,750.00	13,750.00	3,915.00	13,750.00	13,750.00	.0%
01402772 531825 SCH CONTR	470,010.74	437,750.00	437,750.00	347,432.11	464,006.00	437,750.00	.0%
01402772 533115 SC CUSTOD	78,790.50	146,000.00	146,000.00	136,769.04	146,000.00	146,000.00	.0%
01402772 533116 SCH MAINT	113,373.28	98,000.00	98,000.00	104,129.93	98,000.00	98,000.00	.0%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	684,402.65	715,500.00	715,500.00	616,343.55	745,731.50	715,500.00	.0%
55 CAPITAL OUTLAY							
014023 551094 REPAIR	.00	.00	40,000.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
01402772 551191 ASBESTOS	75,000.00	.00	.00	100,000.00	.00	100,000.00	.0%
01402773 551172 SCHOOL REP	3,711.25	.00	4,345,052.00	3,847,983.53	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	78,711.25	.00	4,385,052.00	3,947,983.53	.00	100,000.00	-97.7%
TOTAL PW FACILITY MAINTENANC	4,712,255.35	4,675,050.00	9,201,900.00	8,217,446.72	4,749,323.20	5,581,051.00	-39.3%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
422	PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY							
51	SALARIES							
014221 511000	S & W	277,736.26	297,292.00	297,292.00	252,037.18	297,292.00	393,738.00	32.4%
014221 512004	INTERNS	4,000.00	.00	4,800.00	.00	.00	4,800.00	.0%
014221 513000	OVERTIME	26,544.21	27,973.00	33,737.00	16,519.78	27,973.00	33,737.00	.0%
	TOTAL SALARIES	308,280.47	325,265.00	335,829.00	268,556.96	325,265.00	432,275.00	28.7%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
014222 520200	TRAF SIG	12,568.86	17,000.00	17,000.00	10,000.00	21,000.00	17,000.00	.0%
014222 520450	LIGHT MAIN	20,273.91	15,000.00	15,000.00	20,000.00	15,000.00	21,400.00	42.7%
014222 524000	HIRE EQUIP	27,104.46	27,500.00	27,500.00	22,849.53	29,470.00	27,500.00	.0%
014222 526900	TRAF MRKNG	58,073.29	50,000.00	60,000.00	30,000.00	50,000.00	60,000.00	.0%
014222 527100	CATCH BSN	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	.0%
014222 527101	NPDES DRAI	39,130.37	62,000.00	62,000.00	68,895.00	127,386.50	62,000.00	.0%
014222 527102	DRAINMAINT	560.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	49,115.00	68,415.00	20,000.00	.0%
014222 527105	MS4	27,543.84	44,725.00	44,725.00	27,787.84	58,077.84	44,725.00	.0%
014222 527307	SIDEWK REP	27,587.03	20,100.00	20,100.00	38,149.00	55,210.00	20,100.00	.0%
014222 529012	ST SWEEP	52,208.85	55,000.00	55,000.00	52,000.00	55,000.00	96,000.00	74.5%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	295,050.61	341,325.00	351,325.00	348,796.37	509,559.34	398,725.00	13.5%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
014222 533000	PAINTS	6,604.45	8,266.00	8,266.00	5,461.00	8,266.00	8,266.00	.0%
014222 533504	BARRICADE	379.61	.00	.00	.00	1,720.39	2,100.00	.0%
014222 535800	BUT PATCH	35,319.30	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	44,000.00	10.0%
014222 536000	CEM&CONCR	1,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	81.89	2,500.00	2,500.00	.0%
014222 536210	ROAD STRUC	4,255.99	7,560.00	7,560.00	3,760.00	7,560.00	7,560.00	.0%
014222 537200	LUMBER	1,000.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	800.00	2,800.00	2,400.00	.0%
014222 538000	SIGN MAT	15,260.47	10,000.00	10,000.00	9,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	64,319.82	70,726.00	70,726.00	59,102.89	72,846.39	76,826.00	8.6%
55	CAPITAL OUTLAY							
014222 551183	TRAFCALM	14,679.75	.00	50,000.00	124,115.85	110,320.25	50,000.00	.0%
014223 551101	ROADS	.00	.00	600,000.00	180,000.00	.00	600,000.00	.0%
014223 551165	DRAIN	40,914.67	.00	330,000.00	39,085.34	39,085.34	330,000.00	.0%
014223 551190	SIDEWALK	23,436.20	.00	250,000.00	66,563.80	66,563.80	250,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	79,030.62	.00	1,230,000.00	409,764.99	215,969.39	1,230,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY	746,681.52	737,316.00	1,987,880.00	1,086,221.21	1,123,640.12	2,137,826.00	7.5%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
423 PUBLIC WORKS SNOW REMOVAL							
51 SALARIES							
014231 513000 OVERTIME	217,462.29	144,125.00	144,125.00	347,787.75	144,125.00	200,000.00	38.8%
TOTAL SALARIES	217,462.29	144,125.00	144,125.00	347,787.75	144,125.00	200,000.00	38.8%
52 CONTRACTUAL							
014232 524000 HIRE EQUIP	195,196.46	273,700.00	273,700.00	544,915.83	273,700.00	274,700.00	.4%
014232 529015 YOUTH SNOW	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
014232 529220 WEATHER	2,794.40	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,954.38	2,300.00	2,300.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	197,990.86	276,000.00	276,000.00	547,870.21	276,000.00	277,000.00	.4%
53 SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
014232 531000 GAS&OIL	55,020.41	15,000.00	15,000.00	60,318.15	15,000.00	15,000.00	.0%
014232 531201 TIRE CHAIN	7,165.05	2,000.00	2,000.00	5,524.44	2,000.00	2,000.00	.0%
014232 531203 PLOW PARTS	42,773.09	30,000.00	30,000.00	104,338.92	30,000.00	30,000.00	.0%
014232 531800 PARTS&REP	71,949.16	35,000.00	35,000.00	94,801.58	35,000.00	35,000.00	.0%
014232 533500 TOOLS	12,114.18	2,000.00	2,000.00	16,718.70	2,000.00	2,000.00	.0%
014232 534900 SALT	370,524.54	237,000.00	237,000.00	428,751.15	237,000.00	237,000.00	.0%
014232 535000 SAND&GRAVE	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
014232 535401 SNOW MEALS	.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,945.37	2,000.00	2,000.00	.0%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	559,546.43	323,000.00	323,000.00	712,398.31	323,000.00	323,000.00	.0%
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS SNOW REMO	974,999.58	743,125.00	743,125.00	1,608,056.27	743,125.00	800,000.00	7.7%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
433	PUBLIC WORKS SOLID WASTE/SANI							
51	SALARIES							
014331 511000	S & W	126,651.12	138,355.00	138,355.00	110,630.25	138,355.00	130,981.00	-5.3%
014331 512000	PT S&W	6,225.00	5,000.00	7,500.00	.00	5,000.00	7,500.00	.0%
014331 513000	OVERTIME	60,804.92	38,300.00	58,000.00	37,217.99	38,300.00	58,000.00	.0%
TOTAL SALARIES		193,681.04	181,655.00	203,855.00	147,848.24	181,655.00	196,481.00	-3.6%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
014332 524000	HIRE EQUIP	45,583.47	40,000.00	40,000.00	39,451.40	40,000.00	50,000.00	25.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL		45,583.47	40,000.00	40,000.00	39,451.40	40,000.00	50,000.00	25.0%
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS SOLID WAS		239,264.51	221,655.00	243,855.00	187,299.64	221,655.00	246,481.00	1.1%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
475	PW PARK & FORESTRY							
51	SALARIES							
014751 511000	S & W	579,655.22	641,092.00	607,911.00	467,618.95	607,911.00	581,699.00	-4.3%
014751 512000	PT S&W	16,120.00	.00	24,000.00	.00	.00	24,000.00	.0%
014751 513000	OVERTIME	56,894.27	40,375.00	55,900.00	38,433.06	40,375.00	55,900.00	.0%
	TOTAL SALARIES	652,669.49	681,467.00	687,811.00	506,052.01	648,286.00	661,599.00	-3.8%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
014752 524006	FRST HIRED	20,960.00	21,500.00	154,681.00	69,278.20	54,681.00	100,000.00	-35.4%
014752 524007	PARK HIRED	27,230.20	30,000.00	30,000.00	17,270.39	31,230.20	30,000.00	.0%
014752 527400	IRRIG REP	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	8,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	.0%
014752 527806	PLYGRND RE	1,474.44	6,500.00	26,500.00	13,679.52	11,239.08	26,500.00	.0%
014752 528805	MOW&MAINT	51,260.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	57,421.00	70,690.00	68,000.00	36.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	112,924.64	120,000.00	273,181.00	165,649.11	179,840.28	236,500.00	-13.4%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
014752 531826	EQUIP PART	7,459.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	3,000.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	.0%
014752 533050	FLD MRKNG	6,638.82	7,500.00	7,500.00	6,763.15	7,500.00	7,500.00	.0%
014752 533505	LAND EQUIP	5,224.93	6,500.00	6,500.00	3,062.50	8,269.80	6,500.00	.0%
014752 535200	LANDSC SUP	43,438.62	50,000.00	55,000.00	32,188.82	50,000.00	55,000.00	.0%
014752 537300	FENCE MAT	420.35	4,200.00	4,200.00	1,500.00	5,279.65	4,200.00	.0%
014752 537610	BEN&BARR	.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	5,183.12	8,187.73	4,200.00	.0%
014752 537640	ADOPTASITE	5,000.00	.00	5,000.00	.00	.00	5,000.00	.0%
014752 537641	FLOWERVET	.00	.00	.00	8,000.00	.00	.00	.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	68,181.72	78,900.00	88,900.00	59,697.59	85,737.18	88,900.00	.0%
55	CAPITAL OUTLAY							
014752 551182	TREES	34,859.00	.00	100,000.00	141,363.15	41,363.15	100,000.00	.0%
014753 551168	PARKS	75,776.45	.00	536,000.00	283,791.55	283,791.55	.00	.0%
014753 551169	COURTUPGRA	7,694.15	.00	125,000.00	13,537.75	437.75	.00	.0%
014753 551177	FIELD	.00	.00	352,300.00	33,000.00	.00	.00	.0%
	TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	118,329.60	.00	1,113,300.00	471,692.45	325,592.45	100,000.00	-91.0%
	TOTAL PW PARK & FORESTRY	952,105.45	880,367.00	2,163,192.00	1,203,091.16	1,239,455.91	1,086,999.00	-49.8%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
485	PW AUTOMOTIVE							
51	SALARIES							
014851 511000	S & W	167,223.01	155,827.00	212,951.00	125,826.73	155,827.00	150,368.00	-29.4%
014851 513000	OVERTIME	11,414.77	6,160.00	6,160.00	5,918.35	6,160.00	6,160.00	.0%
	TOTAL SALARIES	178,637.78	161,987.00	219,111.00	131,745.08	161,987.00	156,528.00	-28.6%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
014852 531000	GAS & OIL	30,589.49	120,000.00	120,000.00	97,677.29	120,000.00	140,000.00	16.7%
014852 531200	TIRES	2,304.18	15,000.00	15,000.00	10,000.00	15,000.00	21,775.00	45.2%
014852 531204	POL TIRES	3,000.00	3,308.00	3,308.00	2,500.00	3,308.00	3,308.00	.0%
014852 531205	WELD SUPP	1,639.05	2,040.00	2,040.00	1,500.00	2,040.00	2,040.00	.0%
014852 531500	BATTERIES	1,500.00	4,245.00	4,245.00	.00	4,245.00	4,245.00	.0%
014852 531800	PARTS&REP	93,282.06	98,313.00	98,313.00	122,363.76	102,609.26	98,313.00	.0%
014852 531824	EVCHARGIN	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	15,000.00	.0%
014852 532000	CLEAN&DISF	2,413.00	3,360.00	3,360.00	3,020.00	3,360.00	3,360.00	.0%
014852 533500	TOOLS	2,961.82	4,500.00	4,500.00	2,047.64	4,500.00	4,500.00	.0%
01485542 531804	POL MV RP	13,077.91	20,000.00	20,000.00	30,678.94	27,660.96	25,650.00	28.3%
01485772 531814	ALL SCH MV	4,517.38	8,400.00	8,400.00	1,200.00	8,400.00	8,400.00	.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	155,284.89	279,166.00	279,166.00	270,987.63	291,123.22	326,591.00	17.0%
	TOTAL PW AUTOMOTIVE	333,922.67	441,153.00	498,277.00	402,732.71	453,110.22	483,119.00	-3.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
491	CEMETERY							
51	SALARIES							
014911 511000	S & W	166,192.07	146,694.00	208,038.00	141,307.65	146,694.00	294,494.00	41.6%
014911 512000	PT S&W	21,096.54	15,000.00	24,580.00	4,266.86	15,000.00	24,650.00	.3%
014911 513000	OVERTIME	16,654.08	15,400.00	15,400.00	22,616.47	15,400.00	15,400.00	.0%
	TOTAL SALARIES	203,942.69	177,094.00	248,018.00	168,190.98	177,094.00	334,544.00	34.9%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
014912 524000	HIRE EQUIP	5,593.10	3,000.00	3,000.00	.00	3,000.00	4,800.00	60.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	5,593.10	3,000.00	3,000.00	.00	3,000.00	4,800.00	60.0%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
014912 530704	CEM MARK	.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	.0%
014912 531205	WELD SUPP	201.55	850.00	850.00	500.00	850.00	850.00	.0%
014912 532000	CLEAN&DISF	.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	900.00	80.0%
014912 535200	LANDSC SUP	12,397.95	12,000.00	12,000.00	8,327.31	12,869.00	16,700.00	39.2%
014912 536000	CEM&CONCR	.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	.00	1,000.00	4,500.00	350.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	12,599.50	16,850.00	16,850.00	9,327.31	17,719.00	25,450.00	51.0%
	TOTAL CEMETERY	222,135.29	196,944.00	267,868.00	177,518.29	197,813.00	364,794.00	36.2%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
511 HEALTH							
51 SALARIES							
015111 511000 S & W	539,988.88	539,369.00	539,369.00	468,470.96	539,369.00	634,428.00	17.6%
015111 513000 OVERTIME	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	25,000.00	.0%
01511771 511000 S&W SCHOOL	712,986.88	747,047.00	747,047.00	545,224.37	747,047.00	842,326.00	12.8%
TOTAL SALARIES	1,252,975.76	1,286,416.00	1,286,416.00	1,013,695.33	1,286,416.00	1,501,754.00	16.7%
52 CONTRACTUAL							
015112 520500 ADVERTISE	.00	250.00	250.00	.00	250.00	250.00	.0%
015112 521000 PRINTING	282.37	250.00	250.00	67.42	250.00	250.00	.0%
015112 522711 SHARPS	1,750.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,610.00	1,940.00	1,800.00	.0%
015112 523000 MILEAGE	490.43	1,000.00	1,000.00	192.38	1,000.00	1,000.00	.0%
015112 524500 PEST CONTR	24,893.97	21,500.00	21,500.00	19,853.06	21,500.00	21,500.00	.0%
015112 529000 PROF SERV	380.64	8,000.00	8,000.00	502.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	.0%
015112 529031 ANIM SHELT	3,282.74	4,000.00	4,000.00	200.00	4,000.00	9,000.00	125.0%
01511772 529000 PROF SERV	5,528.69	9,000.00	9,000.00	7,135.50	9,000.00	9,000.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	36,608.84	45,800.00	45,800.00	29,560.36	45,940.00	50,800.00	10.9%
53 SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
015112 530501 MISC SUP	726.23	600.00	600.00	262.44	600.00	600.00	.0%
015112 533500 TOOLS	410.84	600.00	600.00	98.07	600.00	600.00	.0%
01511772 532100 MEDICALSUP	8,667.69	8,900.00	8,900.00	3,732.50	8,900.00	8,900.00	.0%
01511772 535501 CLOTHING	4,000.00	4,400.00	4,400.00	4,000.00	4,400.00	4,800.00	9.1%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	13,804.76	14,500.00	14,500.00	8,093.01	14,500.00	14,900.00	2.8%
54 OTHER CHARGES							
015112 540500 DUES/MEMB	905.64	800.00	800.00	1,045.38	800.00	800.00	.0%
015112 540700 SEMINARS	2,520.37	2,500.00	2,500.00	606.16	2,500.00	2,500.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	3,426.01	3,300.00	3,300.00	1,651.54	3,300.00	3,300.00	.0%
TOTAL HEALTH	1,306,815.37	1,350,016.00	1,350,016.00	1,053,000.24	1,350,156.00	1,570,754.00	16.4%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
540 BEEBE ESTATE							
52 CONTRACTUAL							
015402 522505 BEEBE ELEC	2,544.70	1,800.00	1,800.00	2,012.16	1,800.00	1,800.00	.0%
015402 522605 BEEBE GAS	3,369.32	3,900.00	3,900.00	3,998.75	3,900.00	3,900.00	.0%
015402 527700 BLDGREPAIR	749.82	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,044.15	2,000.00	2,000.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	6,663.84	7,700.00	7,700.00	7,055.06	7,700.00	7,700.00	.0%
53 SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
015402 530501 MISC SUP	.00	200.00	200.00	.00	200.00	200.00	.0%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	.00	200.00	200.00	.00	200.00	200.00	.0%
TOTAL BEEBE ESTATE	6,663.84	7,900.00	7,900.00	7,055.06	7,900.00	7,900.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
541	COUNCIL ON AGING							
51	SALARIES							
015411 511000	S & W	285,779.30	260,084.00	260,084.00	223,647.76	260,084.00	294,946.00	13.4%
	TOTAL SALARIES	285,779.30	260,084.00	260,084.00	223,647.76	260,084.00	294,946.00	13.4%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
015412 521000	PRINTING	.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	.0%
015412 523000	MILEAGE	130.25	50.00	50.00	.00	50.00	100.00	100.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	130.25	450.00	450.00	400.00	450.00	500.00	11.1%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
015412 530501	MISC SUP	1,084.92	1,095.00	1,095.00	1,095.00	1,095.00	2,500.00	128.3%
015412 535500	UNIFORMS	400.00	400.00	400.00	42.00	400.00	500.00	25.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	1,484.92	1,495.00	1,495.00	1,137.00	1,495.00	3,000.00	100.7%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
015412 540500	DUES/MEMB	3,332.00	3,332.00	3,332.00	2,626.56	3,332.00	4,415.00	32.5%
015412 543800	PROGRAM SU	.00	.00	40,000.00	11,213.88	.00	2,500.00	-93.8%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	3,332.00	3,332.00	43,332.00	13,840.44	3,332.00	6,915.00	-84.0%
	TOTAL COUNCIL ON AGING	290,726.47	265,361.00	305,361.00	239,025.20	265,361.00	305,361.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
542 WOMEN'S COMMISSION							
54 OTHER CHARGES							
015422 540000 OTH CHGEXP	1,025.52	.00	.00	117.50	117.50	2,500.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	1,025.52	.00	.00	117.50	117.50	2,500.00	.0%
TOTAL WOMEN'S COMMISSION	1,025.52	.00	.00	117.50	117.50	2,500.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
543 VETERANS							
51 SALARIES							
015431 511000 S & W	179,987.48	74,256.00	74,256.00	63,272.40	74,256.00	76,513.00	3.0%
TOTAL SALARIES	179,987.48	74,256.00	74,256.00	63,272.40	74,256.00	76,513.00	3.0%
52 CONTRACTUAL							
015432 523000 MILEAGE	246.50	100.00	100.00	492.08	100.00	1,000.00	900.0%
015432 525303 LICENSES	973.04	1,000.00	1,000.00	.00	1,000.00	500.00	-50.0%
015432 527803 WAR MEM	1,947.58	5,000.00	5,000.00	2,594.00	5,000.00	10,000.00	100.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	3,167.12	6,100.00	6,100.00	3,086.08	6,100.00	11,500.00	88.5%
54 OTHER CHARGES							
015432 540500 DUES	185.91	250.00	250.00	600.94	250.00	200.00	-20.0%
015432 540600 EDUC/SEMIN	1,721.22	1,000.00	1,000.00	513.28	1,000.00	3,000.00	200.0%
015432 543800 PROGRAM SU	.00	.00	30,000.00	5,835.26	.00	.00	.0%
015432 544000 VET BENE	157,806.81	175,000.00	175,000.00	152,151.17	175,000.00	192,650.00	10.1%
015432 544020 EVENTS	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	5,000.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	159,713.94	176,250.00	206,250.00	159,100.65	176,250.00	200,850.00	-2.6%
TOTAL VETERANS	342,868.54	256,606.00	286,606.00	225,459.13	256,606.00	288,863.00	.8%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
544 HUMAN RIGHTS							
54 OTHER CHARGES							
015442 540000 OTH CHGEXP	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,500.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,500.00	.0%
TOTAL HUMAN RIGHTS	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,500.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
545 DISABILITY COMMISSION							
54 OTHER CHARGES							
015452 540000 OTH CHGEXP	1,461.45	.00	.00	605.44	605.44	2,500.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	1,461.45	.00	.00	605.44	605.44	2,500.00	.0%
TOTAL DISABILITY COMMISSION	1,461.45	.00	.00	605.44	605.44	2,500.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
611	LIBRARY							
51	SALARIES							
016111 511000	S & W	1,064,612.52	1,052,032.00	1,077,347.00	912,321.30	1,052,032.00	1,170,932.00	8.7%
016111 513000	OVERTIME	12,770.02	12,881.00	12,881.00	8,082.98	12,881.00	14,901.00	15.7%
	TOTAL SALARIES	1,077,382.54	1,064,913.00	1,090,228.00	920,404.28	1,064,913.00	1,185,833.00	8.8%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
016112 521000	PRINTING	461.72	1,000.00	1,000.00	593.29	1,000.00	1,000.00	.0%
016112 521500	POSTAGE	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,740.19	1,000.00	1,000.00	.0%
016112 523000	MILEAGE	85.93	250.00	250.00	.00	250.00	250.00	.0%
016112 525104	NOBLE	52,780.02	54,372.00	54,372.00	54,372.00	54,372.00	55,869.00	2.8%
016112 527702	CONTRACT	15,937.33	15,235.00	15,235.00	14,515.52	15,235.00	15,235.00	.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	70,265.00	71,857.00	71,857.00	71,221.00	71,857.00	73,354.00	2.1%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
016112 530100	COMP PURCH	1,484.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	492.99	1,500.00	1,500.00	.0%
016112 530500	OFFICE SUP	7,894.07	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,889.63	8,000.00	8,000.00	.0%
016112 534100	AUDIO MAT	1,232.48	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,332.79	3,000.00	3,000.00	.0%
016112 534150	VIDEO FORM	2,141.78	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,012.86	3,000.00	3,000.00	.0%
016112 534200	BOOKS	46,810.92	35,000.00	51,550.00	51,550.00	35,000.00	53,000.00	2.8%
016112 534210	ELECTRONIC	1,792.75	2,330.00	2,330.00	2,192.35	2,330.00	2,330.00	.0%
016112 534220	NETWRK ECO	27,225.00	27,225.00	27,225.00	27,225.00	27,225.00	30,155.00	10.8%
016112 534230	DOWNLOAD	22,660.97	20,000.00	20,000.00	19,247.43	20,000.00	20,000.00	.0%
016112 534240	ELECTR DAT	16,581.74	17,800.00	17,800.00	12,370.29	17,800.00	15,000.00	-15.7%
016112 534300	LIB PASSES	2,375.00	2,375.00	2,375.00	2,375.00	2,375.00	2,375.00	.0%
016112 534800	RECRE SUP	1,031.29	1,000.00	1,000.00	944.53	1,000.00	.00	-100.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	131,230.00	121,230.00	137,780.00	129,632.87	121,230.00	138,360.00	.4%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
016112 540500	DUES/MEMB	814.00	300.00	300.00	425.00	300.00	300.00	.0%
016112 540600	EDUC/SEMIN	500.00	500.00	500.00	.00	500.00	500.00	.0%
016112 542700	RECPROGRAM	2,086.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,455.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	.0%
016112 543800	PROGRAM SU	.00	.00	10,000.00	9,311.05	.00	10,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	3,400.00	3,400.00	13,400.00	12,191.05	3,400.00	13,400.00	.0%
	TOTAL LIBRARY	1,282,277.54	1,261,400.00	1,313,265.00	1,133,449.20	1,261,400.00	1,410,947.00	7.4%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
631 RECREATION							
51 SALARIES							
016311 511000 S & W	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	83,070.00	.0%
TOTAL SALARIES	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	83,070.00	.0%
TOTAL RECREATION	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	83,070.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
652	PINE BANKS							
51	SALARIES							
016521 511000	S & W	229,941.66	266,928.00	266,928.00	214,743.02	266,928.00	271,681.00	1.8%
016521 513000	OVERTIME	3,665.15	5,770.00	5,770.00	4,634.61	5,770.00	6,531.00	13.2%
	TOTAL SALARIES	233,606.81	272,698.00	272,698.00	219,377.63	272,698.00	278,212.00	2.0%
52	CONTRACTUAL							
016522 522000	TELEPHONE	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	3,840.00	-30.2%
016522 522500	ELECTRIC	21,050.00	21,050.00	21,050.00	21,050.00	21,050.00	9,500.00	-54.9%
016522 527500	MV REPAIRS	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	.0%
016522 527700	BLDGREPAIR	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	.0%
016522 528600	AUDIT SERV	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	16,425.00	26.3%
016522 528804	ATH FIELD	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,500.00	6.1%
016522 529000	PROF SERV	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	.0%
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	55,850.00	55,850.00	55,850.00	55,850.00	55,850.00	46,265.00	-17.2%
53	SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
016522 530500	OFFICE SUP	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	525.00	5.0%
016522 530800	HEAT FUEL	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,450.00	4,450.00	4,500.00	12.5%
016522 531000	GAS & OIL	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	.0%
016522 532000	CLEAN SUP	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	525.00	5.0%
016522 533000	PAINTS	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	525.00	5.0%
016522 533500	TOOLS	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	525.00	5.0%
016522 535100	PARK SUP	55,000.00	55,000.00	55,000.00	55,000.00	55,000.00	55,000.00	.0%
016522 537200	LUMBER	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	525.00	5.0%
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	65,000.00	65,000.00	65,000.00	65,450.00	65,450.00	65,625.00	1.0%
54	OTHER CHARGES							
016522 543201	WCINS PINE	4,750.00	4,750.00	4,750.00	5,250.00	4,750.00	5,250.00	10.5%
016522 544320	FIRE INS	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7.1%
016522 544325	PB LIAB IN	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,750.00	1,250.00	.0%
016522 544330	AUTO INS	2,550.00	2,550.00	2,550.00	2,875.00	2,875.00	2,875.00	12.7%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	15,550.00	15,550.00	15,550.00	16,875.00	16,875.00	16,875.00	8.5%
55	CAPITAL OUTLAY							
016522 551053	PB VEH&EQU	.00	.00	.00	15,520.50	.00	28,130.00	.0%
016523 551099	PB PROJECT	101,294.18	101,295.00	101,295.00	101,294.18	101,295.00	75,971.00	-25.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
016523 551102 PF SHED	48,597.67	48,598.00	48,598.00	48,597.67	48,598.00	48,598.00	.0%
016523 551189 TURF/PLAYG	76,828.15	76,829.00	76,829.00	76,828.15	76,829.00	76,829.00	.0%
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	226,720.00	226,722.00	226,722.00	242,240.50	226,722.00	229,528.00	1.2%
TOTAL PINE BANKS	596,726.81	635,820.00	635,820.00	599,793.13	637,595.00	636,505.00	.1%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
693 MEMORIAL BUILDING							
51 SALARIES							
016931 511000 S & W	158,106.32	148,886.00	148,886.00	118,443.62	148,886.00	153,361.00	3.0%
TOTAL SALARIES	158,106.32	148,886.00	148,886.00	118,443.62	148,886.00	153,361.00	3.0%
52 CONTRACTUAL							
016932 522500 ELECTRIC	16,850.60	20,700.00	20,700.00	9,074.98	25,959.88	20,700.00	.0%
016932 522600 GAS HEAT	16,368.93	12,295.00	12,295.00	17,313.78	12,295.00	12,295.00	.0%
016932 527303 ELEVATOR	5,535.92	5,813.00	5,813.00	5,768.72	5,813.00	6,011.00	3.4%
016932 527700 BLDGREPAIR	8,645.29	6,273.00	6,273.00	1,861.12	6,273.00	6,273.00	.0%
016932 529000 PROF SERV	14,614.19	16,000.00	16,000.00	15,891.19	16,000.00	22,240.00	39.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	62,014.93	61,081.00	61,081.00	49,909.79	66,340.88	67,519.00	10.5%
53 SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
016932 530501 MISC SUP	5,200.74	5,170.00	5,170.00	3,769.59	5,170.00	5,170.00	.0%
016932 530508 MARKET SUP	393.00	800.00	800.00	26.98	800.00	800.00	.0%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	5,593.74	5,970.00	5,970.00	3,796.57	5,970.00	5,970.00	.0%
TOTAL MEMORIAL BUILDING	225,714.99	215,937.00	215,937.00	172,149.98	221,196.88	226,850.00	5.1%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
711 MUNICIPAL DEBT							
56 MISCELLANEOUS							
017112 565000 MUNI DEBT	2,259,500.00	2,333,100.00	2,333,100.00	2,410,200.00	2,333,100.00	2,179,000.00	-6.6%
017112 565010 EX PRINC	1,733,909.35	1,809,910.00	1,809,910.00	1,809,909.35	1,809,910.00	1,934,410.00	6.9%
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	3,993,409.35	4,143,010.00	4,143,010.00	4,220,109.35	4,143,010.00	4,113,410.00	-.7%
TOTAL MUNICIPAL DEBT	3,993,409.35	4,143,010.00	4,143,010.00	4,220,109.35	4,143,010.00	4,113,410.00	-.7%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
751	MUNICIPAL DEBT INTEREST							
54	OTHER CHARGES							
017512 549102	MUNI INT	1,127,840.76	1,472,667.00	1,472,667.00	1,514,593.77	1,472,667.00	1,396,459.00	-5.2%
017512 549103	EXEMPT INT	227,255.94	159,778.00	159,778.00	159,777.75	159,778.00	2,042,017.00	1178.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	1,355,096.70	1,632,445.00	1,632,445.00	1,674,371.52	1,632,445.00	3,438,476.00	110.6%
	TOTAL MUNICIPAL DEBT INTERES	1,355,096.70	1,632,445.00	1,632,445.00	1,674,371.52	1,632,445.00	3,438,476.00	110.6%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
752 PROJECTED DEBT & TEMP INTEREST							
54 OTHER CHARGES							
017522 549100 PROJ DEBT	311,275.56	380,300.00	380,300.00	312,968.75	380,300.00	897,362.00	136.0%
017522 549103 EXEMPT INT	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	311,275.56	380,300.00	380,300.00	312,968.75	380,300.00	897,362.00	136.0%
TOTAL PROJECTED DEBT & TEMP	311,275.56	380,300.00	380,300.00	312,968.75	380,300.00	897,362.00	136.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
911 PENSION							
51 SALARIES							
019111 511010 CONTRIB	7,366,574.00	7,620,971.00	8,120,971.00	8,120,971.00	7,620,971.00	8,272,164.00	1.9%
TOTAL SALARIES	7,366,574.00	7,620,971.00	8,120,971.00	8,120,971.00	7,620,971.00	8,272,164.00	1.9%
TOTAL PENSION	7,366,574.00	7,620,971.00	8,120,971.00	8,120,971.00	7,620,971.00	8,272,164.00	1.9%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
912 WORKER'S COMPENSATION							
54 OTHER CHARGES							
019122 543100 W C MED	147,408.67	100,000.00	100,000.00	129,433.54	100,000.00	150,000.00	50.0%
019122 543101 W C EXP	35,166.32	50,000.00	50,000.00	36,309.03	50,000.00	50,000.00	.0%
019122 543102 W C BENE	241,935.54	234,000.00	234,000.00	212,089.44	234,000.00	234,000.00	.0%
019122 543200 INDEMN	80,331.61	70,000.00	70,000.00	55,961.52	70,000.00	70,000.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	504,842.14	454,000.00	454,000.00	433,793.53	454,000.00	504,000.00	11.0%
TOTAL WORKER'S COMPENSATION	504,842.14	454,000.00	454,000.00	433,793.53	454,000.00	504,000.00	11.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
913	UNEMPLOYMENT							
54	OTHER CHARGES							
019132 544400	UNEMP EXP	79,969.86	411,000.00	411,000.00	155,168.59	418,440.00	100,000.00	-75.7%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES		79,969.86	411,000.00	411,000.00	155,168.59	418,440.00	100,000.00	-75.7%
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT		79,969.86	411,000.00	411,000.00	155,168.59	418,440.00	100,000.00	-75.7%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
914 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							
51 SALARIES							
019141 511000 S & W	96,816.15	101,220.00	101,220.00	90,294.49	101,220.00	115,107.00	13.7%
TOTAL SALARIES	96,816.15	101,220.00	101,220.00	90,294.49	101,220.00	115,107.00	13.7%
54 OTHER CHARGES							
019142 549201 GROUP HEAL	13,139,054.91	14,500,000.00	14,942,455.00	11,914,426.63	14,500,000.00	16,426,989.00	9.9%
019142 549214 LIFE INS P	79,832.37	90,000.00	90,000.00	71,866.17	90,000.00	90,000.00	.0%
019142 549215 SENTINEL F	13,822.60	16,000.00	16,000.00	12,743.80	16,000.00	16,000.00	.0%
019142 549217 PART B 70%	928,880.95	985,000.00	985,000.00	953,755.00	985,000.00	1,056,720.00	7.3%
019142 549218 PART B PEN	21,673.90	22,000.00	22,000.00	15,694.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	.0%
019142 549223 HIATUS	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.0%
019142 549224 OPT OUT	784,050.34	816,800.00	816,800.00	618,430.14	816,800.00	816,800.00	.0%
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	14,967,315.07	16,429,800.00	16,872,255.00	13,586,915.74	16,429,800.00	18,428,509.00	9.2%
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	15,064,131.22	16,531,020.00	16,973,475.00	13,677,210.23	16,531,020.00	18,543,616.00	9.3%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND		2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
916	MEDICARE TAX CITY PORTION							
54	OTHER CHARGES							
019162 548000	MED TX CTY	983,942.45	1,005,581.00	1,046,705.00	848,010.22	1,005,581.00	1,099,040.00	5.0%
	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	983,942.45	1,005,581.00	1,046,705.00	848,010.22	1,005,581.00	1,099,040.00	5.0%
	TOTAL MEDICARE TAX CITY PORT	983,942.45	1,005,581.00	1,046,705.00	848,010.22	1,005,581.00	1,099,040.00	5.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
930 DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT							
52 CONTRACTUAL							
019302 527602 IT COPY LE	47,006.97	27,707.00	27,707.00	21,125.30	31,023.21	27,707.00	.0%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	47,006.97	27,707.00	27,707.00	21,125.30	31,023.21	27,707.00	.0%
53 SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
019302 530100 IT COMP PU	66,308.12	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	.0%
019302 530103 IT PRINTER	3,541.10	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,173.10	2,371.26	2,000.00	.0%
019302 530500 OFFICE SUP	21,108.52	33,329.00	33,329.00	35,392.86	38,076.07	33,329.00	.0%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	90,957.74	63,329.00	63,329.00	65,565.96	68,447.33	63,329.00	.0%
55 CAPITAL OUTLAY							
019303 551059 PERMIT SFT	50,688.27	60,000.00	60,000.00	54,939.08	79,072.21	60,000.00	.0%
019303 551165 DRAIN	2,564.15	.00	.00	76,055.73	76,055.73	.00	.0%
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	53,252.42	60,000.00	60,000.00	130,994.81	155,127.94	60,000.00	.0%
TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT	191,217.13	151,036.00	151,036.00	217,686.07	254,598.48	151,036.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
931 CAPITAL OUTLAY							
53 SUPPLIES & MATERIAL							
019313 530706 FIRE EQUIP	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	109,000.00	.0%
019313 535505 BUNKER GEA	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	58,500.00	.0%
019313 537500 FURN&FIX	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	100,000.00	.0%
01931773 537500 FURN&TECH	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	100,000.00	.0%
TOTAL SUPPLIES & MATERIAL	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	367,500.00	.0%
55 CAPITAL OUTLAY							
019313 551032 PUMP	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	50,000.00	.0%
019313 551049 POL VEHICL	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	83,000.00	.0%
019313 551072 MASONRY	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	250,000.00	.0%
019313 551185 ARC ELECT	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	225,000.00	.0%
019313 551186 MILANO	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	75,000.00	.0%
01931773 551097 SCHOOL IT	114,868.29	.00	.00	.00	8,953.47	325,000.00	.0%
01931773 551168 PARKS	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	200,000.00	.0%
01931773 551193 MVMMS	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	100,000.00	.0%
01931773 551196 HOOV APR	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	75,000.00	.0%
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	114,868.29	.00	.00	.00	8,953.47	1,383,000.00	.0%
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	114,868.29	.00	.00	.00	8,953.47	1,750,500.00	.0%

NEXT YEAR / CURRENT YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

PROJECTION: 2027 FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET FOR PERIOD 99

ACCOUNTS FOR: GENERAL FUND	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ORIG BUD	2026 REVISED BUD	2026 ACTUAL	2026 PROJECTION	2027 MAYOR	PCT CHANGE
942 STABILIZATION FUNDS							
56 MISCELLANEOUS							
019422 561300 STABIL TRT	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	.0%
019422 561350 CONTRACT	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	400,000.00	.0%
019422 561400 OPEB TRUST	50,000.00	50,000.00	550,000.00	.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	-90.9%
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	100,000.00	100,000.00	600,000.00	.00	100,000.00	500,000.00	-16.7%
TOTAL STABILIZATION FUNDS	100,000.00	100,000.00	600,000.00	.00	100,000.00	500,000.00	-16.7%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	64,190,836.38	107,575,802.00	121,092,352.00	66,213,351.77	109,305,232.97	126,652,797.00	4.6%
GRAND TOTAL	64,190,836.38	107,575,802.00	121,092,352.00	66,213,351.77	109,305,232.97	126,652,797.00	4.6%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Kerriann Golden **

Fiscal Year 2027

Board/Commission Memo to City Council

Board/Commission: Beebe Estate

Name of Chair: Bill Butler

1. **Board/Commission Overview: Trustees appointed to steward the Beebe Estate**

2. **FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges: Accomplishments: New master lock and key system, exterior painting, holiday decor, appointed new member and Building Manager, John Tozza, extra shrub pruning, new website done in partnership with the Creative Alliance, hosted second year of Bier Garden events. Challenges: gutter inspection - looking to replace gutter in phases this and next FY.**

3. **FY 27 Priorities: Generate more awareness of the estate for private rental use via online marketing campaign and special events. Complete gutter renovation. Complete wifi installation for the use of renters.**

4. **What, if anything, has changed for your Board/Commission Budget for FY 27? Nothing.**

Fiscal Year 2027

Board/Commission Memo to City Council

Board/Commission: Commission on Disability

Name of Chair: Gary Hale

1. **Board/Commission Overview:** The purpose of the Commission on Disability is to provide advocacy, education and information toward the goal of assuring that Melrose is fully inclusive of all people with disabilities. The Commission is comprised of seven members, four of whom are individuals with disabilities, one a parent of a young adult with a disability, one member with years of experience in the field of disability, and a City liaison. Several of our members have many years of experience working with people with disabilities in various ways and toward unique goals. The predominance of a perspective on disability as it exists on our Commission makes us an informed and insightful group that effectively advocates for Melrose residents with disabilities and that provides an expert resource to the City in its shared commitment to the inclusion of people with disabilities.

2. **FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:**
   A. The Commission worked with City personnel to obtain a $171,000 grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability to address some accessibility needs in three elementary schools. The work was underway during the April school vacation.
   B. The Commission completed and is distributing a "Guide for Community Organizations" that addresses ways in which people with disabilities can be welcomed and included in organizational activities, considerations for ensuring accessibility in meeting spaces and when conducting events, and ways to address reasonable accommodation requests.
   C. Last July, the Commission organized some activities to acknowledge disability pride month and to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Activities included a panel discussion, a book reading about disability for children and a mural was painted on the side of the YMCA.
   D. The Commission initiated and effort to connect students with disabilities at the high school with work experience opportunities at Melrose businesses. This has been a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and the High School Special Ed Department.
   E. The Commission provided a resource to work with the City toward website accessibility. City the size of Melrose are expected by the State to have addressed this satisfactorily by April, 2027.
   F. We have taken on some advocacy issues, particularly when it tends to effect the disability community at large. An example of this are the 'no parking' signs along Lebanon Street across from the softball field.

3. **FY 27 Priorities:**
   A. The Commission will be available to provide education and resources pertaining to the Guide for Community Organizations.

B. We intend to continue and expand our initiative to increase the participation of community businesses in providing work exposure and experience for students with disabilities at the High School
C. We will, again, arrange activities for Disability Pride Month, July.
D. We will continue to develop our partnerships with city departments to bring important advocacy issues to their attention and to provide our resources and expertise when requested.
E. We will continue to seek ways to reach out to and connect with the disability community in Melrose.

4. **What, if anything, has changed for your Board/Commission Budget for FY 27?**

In FY'26, the Commission on Disability had no budget although the City was very supportive in finding funds to cover our few expenses. As the Commission on Disability, we are able to access the Handicapped Parking Violation fund by requesting these funds through the City. In FY'27, we anticipate a budget of $2,500 which we will prudently utilize to support our priority activities.

Fiscal Year 2027

Board/Commission Memo to City Council

Board/Commission: Human Rights Commission

Name of Chair: Josh Shortlidge

1. **Board/Commission Overview:**
    a. The Melrose Human Rights Commission (MHRC) works closely with City of Melrose leadership and partners to address issues of human and civil rights, reinforces a positive atmosphere in the community, and amplifies and promotes organizations and people working to make Melrose one community, open to all.
2. **FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:**
    a. Distributed "Know Your Rights" (KYR) Red Cards in seventeen languages at Melrose City Hall, the Melrose Farmers Market, and other high-need locations
        i. KYR Red Cards are small, business-card-sized tools that help individuals assert their constitutional rights during encounters with immigration or law enforcement
    b. Published three resource guides to connect vulnerable community members with available services:
        i. Legal and Civil Rights Resource Guide (PDF)
        ii. LGBTQ+ Resource Guide (PDF)
        iii. Immigrant and Refugee Legal Resource Guide (PDF)
    c. Created an intake process to review claims of discrimination based on protected class and provide referrals to appropriate agencies and resources
    d. Increased community engagement through social media outreach
    e. Provided supplies and support for community events, including MLK Day of Service and the Roosevelt School World Culture Fair
    f. Challenge: The absence of an administrative budget limited the scale, consistency, and reach of these efforts
3. **FY 27 Priorities:**
    a. Visibility: Strengthen MHRC's role as a trusted public resource
        i. Publish human and civil rights explainer pieces in local media
        ii. Participate in community events to share MHRC materials and KYR information
    b. Education: Expand KYR and documentation training
        i. Host KYR trainings, including at least one in a high-need location
        ii. Partner with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office for trainings (KYR, active bystander)
        iii. Continue distribution of KYR cards and resource materials
        iv. Develop educational materials explaining judicial vs. administrative warrants
    c. Community Coordination: Strengthen local alignment
        i. Clarify and publish ICE-related policies in coordination with Melrose Police
        ii. Confirm and document policies for Melrose Public Schools and Melrose Wakefield Hospital

d. Community Engagement: Deepen participation and support
    i. Facilitate community forums to explain policies and answer questions
    ii. Ensure legal training resources are accessible to residents
    iii. Host or co-host active/aware bystander trainings with community partners
e. Foundations: Build internal capacity
    i. Provide training for commissioners on human and civil rights fundamentals

4. **What, if anything, has changed for your Board/Commission Budget for FY 27?**
    a. The need for resources, trainings, and community engagement has increased. MHRC has established a strong foundation for outreach aligned with the City's commitment to protecting residents' rights. With funding, the Commission can expand multilingual materials, replenish KYR cards, and host public forums, trainings, and interpretation services.
    b. Without a restored budget, MHRC's ability to provide consistent programming, respond to community needs, and proactively address discrimination and misinformation will remain limited.
    c. Request: Restoration of an annual operating budget of $2,500 to support:
        i. Printing and translation of materials
        ii. Community events and trainings
        iii. Outreach supplies and tools
        iv. Administrative support

Fiscal Year 2027

Board/Commission Memo to City Council

Board/Commission: Commission on Women

Name of Chair: Karen Blackburn & Alli Goldberg

1. Board/Commission Overview:

The Melrose Commission on Women ("MCW") works to investigate, understand, educate, and promote constructive action in areas of interest and concern to all women and girls, including trans women and girls, in our community. As a central voice in the community, MCW promotes opportunities, fosters equity and belonging, and provides the community with a vehicle for information, advocacy and action on issues affecting all women. Understanding that our community is open to all, we advocate and support diversity across all aspects of our lives - gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, culture, age, abilities, and socio-economic background.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Despite not having a budget due to the fiscal realities of the city, the MCW had a productive year. Building on the success of our financial literacy event to close out the previous fiscal year, we once again focused on bring women together to engage with and learn from one another. We hosted two book club events centered on women's brain health—understanding some of the factors that contribute to Alzheimer's in women and the role nutrition plays. Both events were held at The Residence at Melrose Station and close to 50 people attended. We are currently planning a June event focused on the role fitness plays in preventing Alzheimer's and leading a healthy life. We welcomed three new commissioners, who each bring a variety of expertise and passion to this work.

The most significant challenge has been finding creative ways to introduce more of the community to our work and events. We've been unable to utilize our Facebook account for several years but have finally developed a workaround that should make raising awareness of our events and engagement opportunities much easier.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

With our commissioners having incredible full lives outside of this work, we aim to keep our programming focused and simple. In FY27 we plan to revisit our interview series with MMTV, EmpowerHER, where we interviewed leaders in our community on issues of importance to women. We'll continue with our thematic book events and will explore other programming ideas depending on issues and opportunities facing our primary constituents.

4. What, if anything, has changed for your Board/Commission Budget for FY 27?

Having a budget for FY27 will be a huge help in ensuring our programming is not solely reliant on donated time and items.

Fiscal Year 2027

Board/Commission Memo to City Council

Board/Commission: Liquor License Commission

Name of Chair: Joseph P. Nevin, Jr.

1. **Board/Commission Overview:**
   FY 2026 was a solid year. Melrose currently has 21 liquor licenses issued – 12 Restaurants (3 wine & malt beverages and 9 full alcohol), 3 Retail full alcohol licenses, 1 Farmer/Brewer license and 5 Private Clubs. The Liquor License Commission met on a monthly basis. All licenses were renewed in December 2025.

2. **FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:**
   a. New Licenses – Three new establishments opened
      - Restaurant Full Alcohol – Bangkok Thai
      - Restaurant Wine & Malt Beverages – Table 4 & Big Fin Poke
      - Retail Full Alcohol – Franklin Market
   b. Farmers market multiple one day permits/multiple vendors – summer & winter
   c. One day permits – We issue approximately 25 – 40 one day permits annually.
   d. We had one Commissioner depart the Commission (Kevin Cronin) and added a new Commissioner (Diane Casey). We thank and greatly appreciate Commissioner Cronin's time, dedication and service to the commission and welcome Commissioner Casey.

3. **FY 27 Priorities:**
   a. Review current Melrose Liquor Licensing Commission General Rules and Regulations for Licensing of Alcoholic Beverage Sales in the City of Melrose, last amended March 30, 2015.
   b. Review current license fees and those of surrounding communities.
   c. License Renewals.
   d. Website update.

4. **What, if anything, has changed for your Board/Commission Budget for FY 27?**

   No change.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Clerk's/Elections

Name of Department Head: Tanji Cifuni

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The City Clerk is the official keeper of the history and records of Melrose. Our mission remains dedicated to maintaining and protecting historical records as safely as possible while also servicing the public by providing information in an efficient and timely manner.

At the literal and figurative main entrance to City Hall, the Clerk's office is a busy, vibrant gateway municipal services. Often the first point of contact with the public is to respond to questions and concerns that arise with our residents.

The 4-person department consists of a City Clerk, an Assistant City Clerk, an Elections Administrator and a Senior Clerk.

City Clerk *Tanji Cifuni*

Asst. City Clerk *Linda Reed*

Election Clerk *James Harris*

Senior Clerk *Kathy Maihack*

Records kept by the office include:

- Vitals Statistics: Births, Deaths, Marriages, Affidavits & Correction of Vitals
- Election and Census records
- Business Certificate Filings and Dissolution
- Original filings of Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning, Site Plan and Slope Protection Decisions (29 cases)
- All notifications of meetings of municipal governmental bodies (253 meetings)
- Common Victualler Licenses, Second Hand Dealers Licenses, Class I & II Motor Vehicle Licenses, Gasoline Storage Certificates, Food Truck and Hackney license
- Dog Licenses
- Insurance Claim filings
- Raffle permits
- Conflict of Interest completion records
- Oaths of Office and Committee
- All City Council documents: Orders, ordinances, resolutions and motions minutes, agenda for all meetings, Council related Mayoral communications and all City of Melrose Board and Commission appointments (25 council meetings)

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

- Conducted a successful local election in November with 11,227 voters turning out which is 51% of the total registered voters (Early Voters 4857 and Election Day 6370)
- Distribution of annual online Conflict of Interest training information to all City employees including public safety and public school personnel.
- Rolled out a new software platform for city and school agenda and minutes across the city. This was a large undertaking and the roll out of the program was successful.
- Annual training of election workers with almost 100 percent attendance
- Continued organization, inspection and preservation of municipal records
- Electronic distribution of monthly Campaign Finance newsletter
- Refresh and update to departmental webpages
- Updated our licensing and permit fees for the department
- Created and or edited our annual license applications
- Coordinated a SAFE audit with the State (Paid for by the State) on our election procedures on a daily basis as well as Election Day
- Revamped the nomination packages for the local election
- Mailed out over 16,000 census first week in January and to date have received and processed a little over 10,000 over the last few months. We will be mailing out a REMINDER confirmation card to all registered voters that have not mailed in their census in the next week.
- Send updated Registered Dog Licenses to BOH the first day of the Month to post on website
- Send the State Representative the list of all newly registered voters on the first day of each month

3. FY 27 Priorities:

Updating the 28 Election Poll pads for the Primary and November State Elections

Running a smooth State Primary and November election

Increasing the voter turnout for State elections

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

At this time, we did not run against any negative financial constraints because we plan accordingly.

5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

Election Office

If a School Committee member runs for office then we manage the election process and make sure that the candidate files their campaign finance reports in a timely manner.

City Clerks office

- Perform the oaths for the School Committee members
- We also make sure that all school staff members complete the annual conflict of interest training

- Post Agendas and minutes for all School Subcommittee meetings

6. What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?

The City Council, Clerks Office and Elections office was not negatively or positively affected by the result of the override election at this time.

	Total number of transactions	Total
Sterilized dogs @$23 each	1597	$36,728
Intact dogs @$25 each	131	$3,275
Late Fee @ $18 each	150	$4,178
Replacement Tag @ $5 each - Total 2 = $10.00	2	$10
Marriage Certificates @ $20 each - Over the counter	75	$1,500
Birth Certificates -@ $20 each - Over the counter	642	$12,840
Death Certificates -@ $20 each - Over the counter	474	$9,480
Marriage Certificates - @ $22 each- Online	72	$1,584
Birth Certificates - @ $22 each - Online	419	$9,218
Death Certificates - @22 each - Online	288	$6,336
Marriage Intentions -@75 each	28	$2,100
Mail-In Vital Requests -@ $22 each	40	$880
Gas and Storage -Different amounts per location	29	$3,137
Fees -@ $50 each	15	$750
Amendments - @ $75 each	10	$750
Planning Board -Different amounts per job	2	$2,165
Board of Appeals Commerical - @ $500 each	1	$500
Board of Appeals Residential @ $350 each	10	$3,500
Business Certificates - @ $75 each	35	$2,625
Change of Business - @ $15 each	2	$30
Common Victualler - @ $175 each	40	$7,000
Class II Motor - @ $150 each	5	$750
Second Hand Dealer - @ $150 each	3	$450
Livery -$175 each	1	$175
Raffles - @ $50 for new $10 for renewal	2	$60
Copies - @ 1.00 each	9	$9.00
Total		**$110,030**

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Council on Aging

Name of Department Head: Erica Drummond

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The Melrose Council on Aging (COA) aims to connect older adults with programs, resources, and services in our community to generate a positive impact on daily living. The COA serves older adults aged 60+. Members of the Milano Center have the opportunity to participate in fitness programs, social engagement activities, and educational presentations. Members can also take advantage of resources like the COA's social services team and transportation program.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

a. Marked progress on strategic planning goals that were created from the 2022 Needs Assessment including creation of resources for housing options, an ADU information session, assisting members with MBTA discount passes, a digital literacy program on rideshare apps, a YMCA information session, Senior Strolls with the Friends of the Middlesex Fells, the continuation of our weekly walking club, resource creation for food insecurity, a monthly men's breakfast to increase male membership, distribution of a resource guide and accessible walking maps, hosting our annual Open House and Resource Fair, increasing fitness class offerings, and creating participant led programming like armchair travel.
b. Progress towards an Age-Friendly/Dementia-Friendly city designation with plans to officially apply by the end of the fiscal year
c. As of 4/24/2026, the Milano Center has served 1,199 individuals who have recorded 14,104 check ins.
d. As of 4/24/2026, the Council on Aging transportation program has provided 2,034 rides to Melrose residents, with 524 of those going to medical destinations.
e. Challenges included an update to our weekly schedule to maximize parking efficiency, increased costs of goods and services, and special limitations within the Milano Center building.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

a. Updates to the Council on Aging city webpage to include tax relief resources, support groups, durable medical equipment, Memory Café, and all program offerings
b. "Milano on the Move" programming to work more collaboratively with local resources, businesses, and city departments
c. Memory Café – continuing this monthly resource for caregivers and their loved ones
d. "Aging in Place" panel
e. "Enriching Retirement" programming
f. Member-led programming

4. **What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?**

   Changes to the department's budget include several line item increases to create level funding from FY25, increases to salaries and wages to keep positions competitive, and increases to the "Dues & Memberships" line item to reflect the higher costs of services.

5. **What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?**

   N/A

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

   The Proposition 2 ½ Override has ensured that the Council on Aging's Milano Center can continue to operate at levels residents have come to expect. This includes the transportation program, social services, fitness offerings, social engagement activities, and educational opportunities. Specifically, the Milano Center will reduce fitness class fees from $5 per class to $2 per class in order to maximize participation in these vital programs. Without the Proposition 2 ½ Override, this price reduction would not be possible.

   In addition to level funding from FY25, the Council on Aging is also benefiting from $40,000 in capital funding from the override to install lighting along the driveway. Upon completion, this project will provide safe access to participants who walk to evening events, as well as increasing the overall security of the property.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Veterans' Services

Name of Department Head: Tammy Shovelton

1. Department Overview and Mission:

Melrose Veterans' Services administers all aspects of Massachusetts Chapter 115—including emergency funds for urgent needs—helps veterans and families understand and file for federal, state, and local benefits, liaises on VA claims and appeals, hosts benefits-review meetings to explain changes, coordinates Veterans Day and Memorial Day commemorations, cares for and preserves Melrose's veterans monuments, and operates a monthly food mart where veterans and family members select the groceries they need. These efforts cut red tape, improve food security, protect historic memorials, and reduce hardship while honoring the service of our veteran community.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

In FY26, Melrose Veterans' Services relocated its office from the Milano Center to City Hall to improve access and coordination; restored the Otis W. Bishop Memorial Plaque; conducted several outreach events; actively supported 77 veterans on VA claims; ensured 16 veterans or dependents received Chapter 115 assistance; and launched Monthly Veteran Socials to strengthen community connection. We also formally codified and publicly published the Veterans Property Tax Work-Off Program

3. FY 27 Priorities:

Sustain and expand outreach through monthly socials, neighborhood pop-up benefits clinics, and quarterly workshops; provide comprehensive care and preservation of all veterans memorials citywide with a documented inspection/maintenance schedule; and host Thanksgiving and Christmas community dinners for Melrose veterans and families with on-site benefits navigation, and follow-up case management—strengthening access to benefits, food security, and community connection.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

In FY27, the Veterans' Services Department will implement a 3% salary increase, increase mileage funding to support home visits and event logistics, expand war memorial maintenance, strengthen outreach programming, and increase the veteran's benefits line. We are also raising the allocation

for employee professional development to ensure staff can meet evolving state and federal standards in benefits administration, claims processing, compliance.

5. **What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?**

NA

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

Thanks to the override, the Veterans' Services Department has restored outreach funding and raised targeted spending levels where needs are most acute—professional development (required training), mileage for home visits and outreach, war memorial maintenance, veterans' benefits assistance, and employee education/seminars—while decreasing software and licensing costs through consolidation and efficiencies. These adjustments sustain service quality, expand access to benefits, and ensure we can meet growing demand and deliver timely support to Melrose veterans and their families.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Mayor (121)

Name of Department Head: Mayor Jen Grigoraitis

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The mayor is the chief executive officer of the City of Melrose, elected by the voters at large every four years. The mayor oversees all City operations and is responsible for appointing department heads, city officers, and the members of multi-member bodies (Boards & Commissions). Jen Grigoraitis is the 24th Mayor of Melrose, the first woman elected mayor, and assumed office on January 8, 2024.

The mayor has oversight over all City departments, with all department heads with the exception of the superintendent of schools, reporting to the mayor. Per city charter, the mayor serves as an *ex officio* member of the Melrose School Committee, which hires and supervises the superintendent.

The mayor's office engages with a variety of stakeholders, including residents; federal, state, and local elected officials; members of City boards and commissions; and local media Staff also regularly provide information and resources to residents via email, phone and in-person visits.

The Mayor's Department is currently staffed by the following employees:

- Mayor Jen Grigoraitis
- Chief of Staff, Lauren Grymek
- Communications & Events Manager, Thomas Dalton
- Part-Time Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Constituent Services Representative, Diane MacDonald

The Mayor's Department continues to utilize and manage Property Tax Work Off Participants who provide front desk coverage to answer and transfer phone calls within City Hall, greet and assist walk-ins, and assist with administrative tasks in the absence of a full-time Executive Assistant.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Constituent Services and Events:
Throughout FY 26, Mayor Grigoraitis and her staff met with hundreds of residents in a variety of settings and forums including: in-person Mayor's Office Hours; coffee hours at senior and public housing facilities (the Steele House, the Cefalo Complex, the Cochrane House, the McCarthy House, the Fuller and Gould Houses, and the Residence at Melrose Station); and new events such as *Slice of the City* neighborhood pizza socials and a *New Resident Open House* at City Hall. The mayor also conducted in-person office hours with residents throughout the year.

These events provided an opportunity for residents to speak directly with the mayor about their concerns, priorities, and hopes for the community. At the five Slice of the City events held over the summer and fall, residents joined the mayor and city councilors for informal gatherings at parks and green spaces in their wards of the city while enjoying pizza from a neighborhood restaurant.

The mayor's office works closely with departments who regularly provide social services support and outreach, including the Council on Aging and the Veterans' Services Department. These departments oversee City resources including the Melrose Emergency Fund, the monthly Veterans Food Mart and the Veterans Relief Fund, and assist with SNAP benefits and applications, emergency funding and housing resources.

Through this social services team, the mayor's office led the city's response to the temporary termination of SNAP benefits to approximately 50 Melrose residents in early 2026. Thanks to the generosity of so many Melrosians who sustainably donate to the Melrose Emergency Fund, the city was able to provide grocery store gift cards to residents in need over eight weeks, as well as share resources on non-profit supports available for the impacted Melrosians.

The Mayor's Office is the primary respondent to calls and emails from residents looking for information and resources. On a typical weekday the Mayor's office receives an average of 15 calls and dozens of emails and website contact forms plus walk-in visits from residents looking for general City information and assistance, ideas and requests of the Mayor, and help and resources. One of the office's Property Tax Work Off participants has extensive public sector case management experience and we have created a case coordinator role filled by this individual so that they can assists with calls regarding housing and food insecurity. Most of the calls regarding housing come from residents residing at the Melrose Housing Authority and the Mayor's office can easily resolve and assist these residents thanks to the collaborative working relationship with the Housing Authority's Executive Director. Our PTWO case coordinator is tracking calls for social services support to help us best assess future options.

Communications:

The Mayor's Office serves as the primary communications hub for residents and stakeholders. The Office provides: a weekly email newsletter to approximately 2,800 individual subscribers; weekly City Hall submissions and press releases to the *Melrose Weekly News* and *Melrose Messenger*; a monthly email newsletter of activities and events run by local non-profits; frequent social media updates to over 2,200 followers on both Facebook and Instagram ; and episodes of the Melrose Minute podcast via MMTV.

The Mayor's Office also serves as the primary communications department for all City Departments, responding to media inquiries and interviews, assisting with writing of press releases and social media posts, advising on web content and helping to promote and publicize city programs and events.

The Mayor's Office continued to support and promote an incredible number of community events, including the following during FY 26:

1. Summer Stroll
2. Victorian Fair
3. Home for the Holidays
4. Sustainability Day
5. DPW Day (May) - expanded to serve the entire community this year
6. Third Annual 8th Grade Civics Day (June)
7. Melrose High Grad Night (June)
8. Pride flag raising at City Hall (June)
9. Juneteenth flag raising at City Hall (June)

10. Disability Pride

City Initiatives & Special Projects:

The Mayor's Office continues to oversee and liaise with the City's boards and commissions; to date the mayor has submitted 67 new mayoral appointments and reappointments throughout Fiscal Year 26 to resolve backlogs of empty seats and lapsed terms reaching back years. Staff regularly meets with chairs to strategize and plan for community programs, services and initiatives.

Through the Chief of Staff and CFO, the Mayor's office oversaw and coordinated the City's FY 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Program including the (CIP) Final Report.

Since 1995, the CIP Committee has reviewed and recommended funding for capital projects on an annual basis. Capital projects are major, non-recurring expenditures that typically cost $25,000 or more and have a useful life of five or more years. For this iteration of the CIP, the committee reviewed over 100 project requests submitted by six departments.

Creating a CIP is both a requirement of the city charter and a DLS recommended best practice for municipalities. The CIP is NOT a funding source; it is instead a guiding document on how the City should consider and prioritize planned capital investments as funding sources become available.

Additionally, the Mayor's office applied for and was awarded a Technical Assistance Planning Grant from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to conduct a strategic planning process for Memorial Hall and how we best utilize that building. The Chief of Staff has been the lead representative on the City side for this project, which has included a community survey, meetings with MAPC and various stakeholders and a community forum, to inform a strategic plan for how best to utilize Memorial Hall for the future.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

Building Capacity in Sustainability and Youth Services:

The Mayor's Office will be asking the City Council to formally codify a Sustainability Commission to guide the administration's work on energy savings and climate stewardship; and to bring back a Birth to Five advisory group to unify and enhance our local programs and opportunities for Melrose's youngest residents. In addition, plans are underway to host the Slice of the City and New Resident Open House events again. In FY 27, the Mayor's office will continue to pursue Vision Zero priorities, and we are currently waiting for the grant funding to be finalized.

Communicating About the Override:

After Melrose voters entrusted the city with additional revenue in the November 2025 override referendum, the Mayor's Office and City Hall have undertaken unprecedented levels of public engagement and information-sharing to accurately and comprehensively demonstrate the impact of the override. The city website features several detailed lists and descriptions of override-funded services and projects, and communications spanning from press submissions to email newsletter to physical signage and flyers have clearly acknowledged the impact of the override on the viability and delivery of improved or sustained city services.

Budget Transparency with ClearGov:

Since Mayor Grigoraitis took office, City Hall has prioritized providing the most transparency into the city budget of any administration to date. The administration has regularly provided the City Council with updates as we move through several fiscal years and have regularly added documentation on the

City website. The administration continues to work towards even more access: this month, the City's visual budget will be available on the city website, thanks to our use of ARPA funds to support the adoption of ClearGov, a platform which will enable us to share the budget with the public in a more comprehensive and digestible manner

Public Safety Facilities Advisory Committee:
The Public Safety Facilities Advisory Committee is appointed by the Mayor and staffed by the Public Safety Buildings Project Manager, who reports directly to the Mayor. The PSFAC was formed in 2024 to advise the mayor's administration on the Public Safety Facilities renovation and replacement projects approved by Melrose voters in a November 2023 debt exclusion vote.

4. **What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?**

   There are three line items within Department 121 which are changing for FY 27:

   (011211-511000) S&W: The Salary & Wages line item is increasing 9.1% to reflect the salary schedule set forth for salary of the Mayor according to Melrose Revised Ordinances, Chapter 48-1. Mayor. Part A, Salary and cost of living adjustments and any anticipated step-ups for three staff members in the department.

   On February 5, 2024, the City Council voted to increase the annual salary of the Mayor's position from $125,000, which had been in effect since January 1, 2014, as follows: $137,500 - Effective January 1, 2026; and $150,000 - Effective January 1, 2027. Mayor Grigoraitis declined the increase for FY 26 due to the budget challenges facing the City at that time.

   (011212 – 525401) Website: The Website line item is increasing 33.3%. Oversight and maintenance of the City Website was previously in the City Council (112) Department under Website (011122 – 525401) and in FY 26 the work and annual costs were moved into the Mayor's Department under a new line item. The increase in annual costs represents the full annual amount to host and maintain the City's website. In FY 26 some of the costs were covered by remaining APRA funds which are no longer available.

   (011212 – 529000) Prof Serv: The Professional Services line item is increasing 50% to account for opportunities to support community outreach that would include things such as additional mailers and posters to communicate information to residents; hiring interpreters for events; and adding one-time community meetings and events as needed. It will also allow the Mayor's Office to provide support for City-administered and managed community events including photography, marketing and publicity.

5. **What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?**

   There are no direct costs housed in Department 121 which support the Melrose Public Schools. However, the Communications Manager works on school-related communications, press releases and other public-facing information as requested by the mayor and the superintendent of schools.

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

The Professional Services line item is increasing 50% to account for opportunities to support community outreach that would include things such as additional mailers and posters to communicate information to residents; hiring interpreters for events; and adding one-time community meetings and events as needed. It will also allow the Mayor's Office to provide support of City-administered and managed community events including photography, marketing and publicity.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Legal Department 151

Name of Department Head: Shannon Phillips, City Solicitor

1. **Department Overview and Mission:**

   The Legal Department functions as a full-time law office for the City of Melrose providing legal services to the Mayor, City Council, School Committee, Department Heads, Boards and Commissions and other municipal officials. We regularly advise and represent the City in areas such as zoning, employment, labor law, Title IX issues, civil service, procurement, permitting and licensing, education law, ethics, code enforcement, public records, and open meeting law. We prepare and review public contracts, leases, deeds, easement documentation and other legal documents, assist in drafting ordinances and policy, and represent the City and schools in a variety of courts and administrative agencies. This office also manages, coordinates and responds to public records requests received by the City of Melrose, as well as processes and manages all insurance and claims for the City. Aside from these duties, this office oversees and regularly advises on labor relations and is responsible for negotiating with twelve different collective bargaining units between the City and Schools.

   The mission of this Department is to provide sound and effective legal advice and representation to the City on a daily basis- Mayor, City Council, School Committee, Boards, Commissions and public officials- to allow for informed decisions to be made that help navigate potential risks and ensure legal compliance with state and federal laws. In doing so, we protect the City's interests by helping to avoid costly litigation, maintain the public's trust in local government, and ensure municipal policies and actions are legally defensible.

2. **FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:**
   - Developed an orientation and training for newly elected officials on legal responsibilities as municipal officials;
   - Managed and responded to an increased volume of public records in a timely and effective manner;
   - Managed Insurance and claims processes for the City;
   - Assisted the School Committee in process and negotiations related to the hiring of a new Superintendent;
   - Assisted with legal issues related to the Prop 2 ½ override question and its passage by voters.
3. **FY 27 Priorities:**
   - Assist in the implementation and creation of a more streamlined contract/ procurement process for the City;
   - Settle any pending Collective Bargaining Agreements; and
   - Stay current on changes in legislation, litigation, municipal practice, to proactively prevent issues and concerns in the City and Schools.

4. **What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?**
    - The filling of a position (split between HR and Legal) which will take some of the administrative burden for certain tasks- claims processing and management, public records management and responses, processing payroll and invoices- off of current staff and assist the Department in being able to more efficiently focus on providing legal guidance proactively on areas of legal concern.

5. **What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?**
    - Educator's Professional Liability Insurance, Property Insurance, some legal expenses

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

    During the FY26 budget cycle, the role of Executive Assistant – a position that has existed for more than 20 years- was eliminated from this Department given financial constraints.

    With the Prop 2 ½ override approved last November, a new position is being proposed to be shared between Human Resources and Legal, given HR's expansion to administer school-related leaves and benefits. Half of the salary and benefits for this position will be funded out of this Department's Budget for FY27.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Library - 611

Name of Department Head: Linda C.W. Gardener

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The Melrose Public Library provides public library services to the Melrose community. The library provides access to information through physical books, both in print and on CD; downloadable ebooks and e-audiobooks; magazines and newspapers, online databases and more. We provide access to the internet and computers, book groups and other programming for all ages and spaces to work, study or relax.

Our mission is to provide a portal for all to explore, imagine and engage. The library is where literacy, local history and community connect!

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

FY2026 began 2.5 months after the Public Library re-opened in its renovated/reconstructed space. The year has been full of both accomplishments and challenges. We began the year with the loss of one of our 13 full time positions due to the early separation incentive. This, combined with being unable to add anticipated staff for the larger, active new building, has proven to be very challenging. Staff worked hard to acclimate both themselves and the public to the new environment and received both positive and constructive feedback, which we continue to build upon. Work on the building continued after we opened, with punch list items and necessary changes.

Despite the challenges, we were excited to register over 2,000 library cards in the first year open. After the successful Override vote, we were able to be open on Sundays once again, which was very well received. We have been consistently in the top 3 NOBLE libraries for items circulated. We were also able to bring in more outside programs, including children's events that had between 100 – 200 attendees.

The Local History Room is now available for in-person visits by appointment, and we continue to work on digitizing the collection to make it more accessible. Our library e-newsletter is published monthly which includes a "Did you know" section to help make residents aware of new services available at the library. The April issue let everyone know that we now have a variety of activities that kids can use in the Children's Room, including board games, card games and coloring kits.

We are happy to be able to offer patrons needing internet access a choice between our traditional public computers and a laptop that can be checked out for in-house use. This allows patrons who do not own a laptop to have the same flexibility as patrons who do when deciding where in the building to do their work. We collaborated with the Melrose Residence to have a group of their residents come and get a chance to look around the library and get library cards, and several staff participated in the Bridge's Community Read day.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

We are looking forward to continuing to improve our offerings in FY27 through the following priorities:

Comprehensive collections – We will have a focus on improving our Young Adult nonfiction collections to better meet middle and high school interests and needs. We will also work on strengthening areas of the collection throughout the building with more authors with diverse voices.

Diverse services - We will continue to utilize the results of the FY26 Children's Room survey to inform the direction of both active and passive programming, making adjustments as possible with staffing and budget. We will digitize additional specific portions of the Local History collection, including photographs capturing local history.

User-Centric Facilities - We will explore opportunities to increase library access for senior members of the community who may have difficulty coming to the library. Purpose-designed rooms in the library will be used to offer educational craft programs for all ages.

Superb staffing – Staffing is a priority both in ensuring that staffing levels are adequate to meet our goals and the community's needs and that staff have the opportunity to benefit from staff trainings and professional development, both of which will enhance our ability to provide excellent services to the community. Staffing is the foundation upon which all other priorities can be built.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

Line 534800 (Recreational Supplies) has been eliminated, due to the increase in line 543800 (Program Supplies), which performs the same purpose.

We will have funding to be open on Sundays for the full school year in FY27, which was cut in the original FY26 budget.

The Program Supplies line is a significant increase from prior years, and will allow us to continue the enhanced program offerings initiated this year to better meet community desire.

Salary & Wages has been increased (not including restoration of the full time position), allowing for additional part time staff which will enable us to meet more of our priorities and better respond to patrons' needs.

5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

The library does not house any direct costs related to the Melrose Public Schools, although our collections are regularly used by Melrose students for school projects as well as personal interest.

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

The library has regained funding for the Sunday hours which were lost prior to the Override vote.

Our programming budget has been increased, which will allow us to continue providing a diverse array of programs for patrons of all ages.

We will be able to hire some additional part time staff, which will enable us to better serve the community's needs.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Human Resources

Name of Department Head: Polina Latta

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The Human Resources Department is committed to promoting fair and consistent employment practices across the City of Melrose. It supports employees and retirees by administering health and wellness benefits, ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations, and upholding the terms of collective bargaining agreements. The department also serves as the employer for the City and a key resource for effectively communicating employment-related matters to all City staff. Through high-quality service and by fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive workplace, Human Resources aims to create an environment where employees from all backgrounds can succeed and thrive, ultimately helping to deliver outstanding services to the diverse community we serve**.**

To accomplish these responsibilities, the department is staffed with:

Polina Latta, *Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations*
Diane Barrett, *Benefits Coordinator for City and School*
Matt Travers, *HR Systems & Operations Specialist*

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

School HR Support

- Assisted with the recruitment and hiring, and onboarded, trained and supported a new School HR Coordinator, ensuring continuity of service and operational stability during transition.
- Led development of the *Melrose Public Schools HR Portal* in partnership with School Administration and City IT, creating a centralized platform that improves employee access to HR, benefits, policies, training and support information.
- Following the School HR vacancy, transitioned key school HR functions to the City HR Department to maintain continuity, strengthen compliance, improve consistency of practice, and enhance operational efficiency and employee experience across City and School operations.

Contract Negotiations

- Four Union contracts expire at the end of FY 26. The City is on schedule begin health insurance negotiations with the PEC for a successor health insurance agreement, which expired June 30, 2027. The HR Director serves as a member of the City's collective bargaining team, alongside the City Solicitor and CFO. The team is currently engaged in active contract negotiations with four unions including: Library, Clerical, Laborers, and Fire, and will begin PEC negotiations related to health insurance. These negotiations focus on maintaining fiscal responsibility while supporting competitive, sustainable, and fair employee compensation and benefits structures.

Workforce Restoration

The second half of the year was a busy period for recruiting and promotions. The department supported the recruitment, hiring, and onboarding of 12 benefited new employees (3 were managers/department heads), processed over 40 non-benefited (part-time/seasonal) hires, and facilitated nearly 10 promotions as positions opened and qualified internal candidates advanced.

ADA Support

- Secured CART and interpreter services for high school graduation, significantly improving accessibility for students, families, and attendees.
- Assisted with obtaining ADA grant funding in collaboration with DPW and the Commission on Disabilities to advance priority projects aligned with the 2022 ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, including accessibility improvements at Hoover, Horace Mann, and Winthrop schools.
- Advanced citywide ADA compliance and accessibility by expanding closed-captioning requirements for virtual meetings, collaborating with City Clerk and Chief of staff to expand closed-captioning guidance, and updating municipal and school ADA resource pages, and strengthening coordination between Commission on Disabilities and City departments.

3. FY 27 Priorities

- Collaborate with IT and Auditor's office to streamline and automate HR processes to improve workflow efficiency between Departments, leveraging existing technology tools and the MUNIS HR module.
- In collaboration with IT, Mayor's office, and other departments, prepare for and support compliance with Digital Accessibility requirements under the ADA, through proactive planning and implementation.
- Continue supporting the school through the implementation of standardized HR processes to strengthen compliance, enhance internal controls, and establish a unified HR framework across City and School operations.
- Modernize the performance evaluation system to make it more relevant and align it with performance management and payroll practices.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

The **HR Salary budget** has increased, to support the School HR alignment. To successfully integrate the School HR function within the City's Human Resources Department and distribute responsibilities among existing HR staff without the need to hire additional professional personnel, it was proposed that certain routine and clerical duties were reassigned to a new Administrative Assistant role to be shared with the Legal Department. This adjustment allows professional HR staff to focus on higher-level and more complex responsibilities, improves operational efficiency, reduces costs by eliminating the need for higher-cost professional staff to perform administrative tasks and improves employee experience across City and School operations, which helps with staff retention.

The **Health Contractual budget** has increased due a number of factors, including broader economic conditions and the evolving healthcare landscape. This budget is inherently dynamic and difficult to fully control. At any given time, it reflects a snapshot of current membership enrollment, which is shaped by employee life events as well as broader socioeconomic trends.

In addition to economic pressures, the budget is influenced by annual Open Enrollment changes, Opt-Out participation, Medicare premium adjustments, and individual employee status changes throughout the year. For FY27, the rate increases for non-Medicare plans range from 4.1% to 13.6%, while Medicare plans premiums have increased between 4.0% and 7.5%.

The **Workers' Compensation medical budget** was increased to $30,000. Approximately 60% of the current budget is attributed to prescription costs for a long-term recipient. This expenditure reflects a contractual obligation and does not impact service delivery, and is a more accurate representation of the actual cost, which helps avoid year budget shortfalls.

The **Unemployment budget** has been decreased to $100,000, which is more fiscally appropriate, in the absence of layoffs.

Employee Benefits, Worker's Compensation and Unemployment are budgets that are contractual and legally mandated budget obligations for the City of Melrose. They don't directly impact service delivery.

5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

The HR Department is responsible for managing the Employee Benefits, Workers' Compensation, and Unemployment budgets, which support both City and School employees and retirees.

6. What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?

As a result of the approval of Proposition 2½, the City secured funding to restore 17 school positions, 5 DPW positions and 2 Police officer positions that had previously remained unfilled. The HR Department plays a key role in the full recruitment and hiring lifecycle for City employees, as well as enrollment benefits for all City and School positions.

As a result, additional funding was reinstated to the City's Health Contractual budget, Advertising and Pre-employment exams budgets.

Timely filling of vacancies with qualified candidates directly supports service delivery across City departments.

MELROSE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FUNDING SCHEDULE

Fiscal Year	Unfunded Liability	Net Normal Cost	Funding Amortization of UAAL	Amortization of Recognized Asset Loss/(Gain)	Net 3(8)(c) Payments	Schedule Contribution
2027	63,838,212	2,157,044	6,190,650	-	128,752	8,476,446
2028	61,682,892	2,254,111	6,438,276	-	128,752	8,821,139
2029	63,134,430	2,355,546	6,695,807	455,665	128,752	9,635,770
2030	59,901,765	2,461,546	6,963,639	473,892	128,752	10,027,828
2031	54,538,535	2,572,315	7,242,185	272,633	128,752	10,215,885
2032	50,315,378	2,688,069	7,531,872	283,539	128,752	10,632,232
2033	45,474,965	2,809,032	7,833,147	294,880	128,752	11,065,812
2034	39,961,223	2,935,439	8,146,473	306,676	128,752	11,517,339
2035	33,713,640	3,067,534	8,472,332	318,943	128,752	11,987,560
2036	26,666,932	3,205,573	8,811,225	331,700	128,752	12,477,250
2037	18,750,687	3,349,823	9,163,674	344,968	128,752	12,987,218
2038	9,888,988	3,500,565	9,530,221	358,767	128,752	13,518,305
2039	0	3,658,091	-	-	128,752	3,786,843
2040	-	3,822,705	-	-	128,752	3,951,457

Amortization of Unfunded Liability as of July 1, 2026

Year	Type*	Original Base	Original Amort. Amount	Percentage Increasing	Original # of Years	Current Amort. Amount	Years Remaining
2027	Fresh Start	63,838,212	6,190,650	4.00%	12	6,190,650	12
2029	Asset Loss	4,022,690	455,665	4.00%	10	-	10
2031	Asset Gain	(1,598,195)	(220,214)	4.00%	8	-	8

* Asset Gain/Loss is the amount recognized by the smoothing method in the year shown

Bases in the funding schedule:

- Fresh Start amortization of the unfunded liability: 12 years.
- Deferred recognition of assets gains and losses, recognized in the contributions over the course of the amortization period.

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PERAC

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

PHILIP Y. BROWN, ESQ., *Chair* WILLIAM T. KEEFE, *Executive Director*

Auditor DIANA DIZOGLIO | KATHLEEN M. FALLON | KATE FITZPATRICK | JAMES J. GUIDO | RICHARD MACKINNON, JR. | JENNIFER F. SULLIVAN, ESQ.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Melrose Retirement Board

FROM: William T. Keefe, Executive Director TBK

RE: Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2027

DATE: December 3, 2025

Required Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation: **$8,476,446**

This Commission is hereby furnishing you with the amount to be appropriated for your retirement system for Fiscal Year 2027 which commences July 1, 2026.

Attached please find the portion of the Fiscal Year 2027 appropriation to be paid by each of the governmental units within your system.

The current schedule is due to be updated by Fiscal Year 2028.

As we indicated in PERAC Memo #27/2025, we are sending this letter only to the Retirement Board. Upon receipt, please forward this letter to the appropriate governmental bodies.

If you have any questions, please contact PERAC's Actuary, John Boorack, at (617) 666-4446 Extension 935.

WTK/jfb
Attachment

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10 CABOT ROAD, SUITE 300 | MEDFORD, MA 02155
PH 617 666 4446 | FAX 617 628 4002 | WWW.MASS.GOV/PERAC

Melrose Retirement Board

Appropriation by Governmental Unit

Fiscal Year 2027 - July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Aggregate amount of appropriation: **$8,476,446**

UNIT	Percent of Aggregate Amount	Funding Schedule (excluding ERI)	ERI	Total Appropriation
City of Melrose	97.59%	$8,272,164	$0	$8,272,164
Melrose Housing Authority	2.41%	$204,282	$0	$204,282
UNIT TOTAL	**100%**	**$8,476,446**	**$ 0**	**$8,476,446**

The Total Appropriation column shown above is in accordance with your current funding schedule and the scheduled payment date(s) in that schedule. Whenever payments are made after the scheduled date(s), the total appropriation should be revised to reflect interest at the rate assumed in the most recent actuarial valuation. Payments should be made before the end of the fiscal year.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Department of Public Works

Name of Department Head: Elena Proakis Ellis, Director

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The Melrose Department of Public Works provides quality services to the community in the areas of drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, recycling, parks, forestry, fleet, highway, cemetery, facilities, engineering, and administration, while promoting health, safety, sustainability, and fiscal responsibility through the teamwork and commitment of an honest and dependable workforce.

The DPW's budget is a combination of several components. The general fund operating budget is broken down into budgets for:

1) Administration and Engineering
2) Facilities Maintenance
3) Highway
4) Snow Removal
5) Sanitation
6) Parks and Forestry
7) Automotive
8) Wyoming Cemetery

In addition, the DPW manages three enterprise funds with independent budgets: Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste/Recycling.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2026, these are some of the items DPW has completed:

- Potholes filled: 189 locations
- Storms responded to: 42 inches of snow (not including salting operations, plowable storms only)
- Vehicles in fleet maintained: 144 pc. of equipment
- Tonnage of trash/recycling:
    - 4,633.70 tons of trash
    - 1,648.67 tons of recycling
- Parks/fields/open spaces maintained: 82 locations
- Total work orders resolved: 3,496 (908 facilities and 2,588 operations)
- Invoices processed: 1,235 purchase orders
- Recycled 230 mattresses as part of the mattress recycling drop-off program

The Department of Public Works also played a critical role in several large projects/events such as:

- Capital projects including paving, water main replacement, sewer main improvements, and drainage improvements

- Support of City events including school sports, elections, memorials, Earth Week, Victorian Fair, and private facility rentals
- Applied for and received multiple grants for infrastructure and environmental initiatives, including acceptance in to the Massachusetts State Building Association's Accelerated Repair Program for the Melrose High School Learning Commons Roof and roofing and other building improvements at the Franklin School.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

The DPW's priorities for FY27 include getting back up to full staffing levels by filling critical vacancies with quality staff, implementing important infrastructure and facilities projects that have been funded by grants and by the FY26 supplemental budget, and keeping up on essential services provided daily by the department.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

The DPW's FY27 budget is largely unchanged from the FY26 supplemental budget, with a return to full staffing and level-funding of many of our contractual and materials/supplies line items, except where contract pricing showed significant increases in competitively bid on-call contracts. Salary line items show step increases but do not yet reflect the outcome of ongoing contract negotiations with both our laborers and clerical unions.

Several staff members have been shifted between DPW Divisions to more accurately reflect the workload of the department and routine assignments of those roles. These moves resulted in no net change in our total number of employees funded through the general fund and through each of our enterprise funds.

Rising energy costs are reflected in our facilities budget and continue to be outside of the City's control. We continue to implement energy efficiency projects and look for savings wherever feasible, such as through demand management programs.

Finally, some of the capital line items (paving, sidewalks, facilities) from the FY26 supplemental budget have been maintained into FY27, allowing the department to continue implementing critical infrastructure repairs and replacements as needs arise and to plan for small projects in the coming year.

5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

Many line items within DPW's Facilities budget are directly related to school spending. These include items such as:

- Custodial and maintenance staff
- Contracted work such as cleaning and inspections within school buildings
- Maintenance and repairs of school facilities
- Capital repairs and upgrades of school buildings
- A portion of administrative staff time and resources to oversee all of the above

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

   The successful override has allowed DPW to fully fund our prior staffing levels, critical to providing essential services to the City, and has grown our ability to respond to capital needs. The DPW (including Engineering, Operations, and Facilities) submitted nearly 100 projects to the capital improvement plan program. These are necessary upgrades and repairs all over Melrose that require attention, such as paving, roof replacements, Melrose High School bathrooms, drainage improvements, etc. The DPW is better able to plan for and address these needs with adequate funding, allowing us to be more proactive and less reactive. Furthermore, the availability of free cash is allowing the DPW to get back into a cycle of vehicle replacements that is sorely needed, especially during winter operations when failing equipment can result in immediate safety hazards.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Auditor - 135

Name of Department Head: Kerriann Golden CFO/City Auditor

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The mission of the Auditor's Office is to provide accurate, timely, and comprehensive financial information to support long-term fiscal planning and informed decision-making for the benefit of the community. At the core of this mission is the Office's responsibility to safeguard the city's financial assets while upholding the highest standards of accountability, transparency, and stewardship.

The Auditor's office is responsible for the following:

-General ledger management and oversight of all finance functions

-Financial reporting to Department of Local Services and Federal Government

-Processing of weekly payroll and maintenance of weekly employee pay and benefits.

-Process Accounts Payable and 1099 reporting

-Compliance with Municipal, State and Federal Finance regulations.

-Training employees on Munis software for payroll, accounts payable and reporting

-Providing information and participating in Collective Bargaining Negotiations for the 6 City Unions.

-Internal Controls

There are 3 positions in the department-

- CFO/City Auditor
- Assistant City Auditor
- Accounts Payable Clerk
- *Payroll Manager will be transferred to the Treasurer's Office for FY27*

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

-Affirmed the City's bond rating (AA+ Stable outlook)

-For the 2nd consecutive year, received Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting on the FY24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).

-Certified Free Cash of $5,558,450

-Developed draft Financial Policies with the Treasurer/Collector and Assistant Auditor.

-Financial Process audit by DLS

-Piloted ACH payments to our chapter 115 benefit recipients

-Completed the Capital Improvement Plan

-1099 reporting to the IRS

-Met all Federal and State reporting requirements

3. **FY 27 Priorities:**

-Finalize Financial Policies

-Assist in hiring a Payroll Manager and transition role to the Treasurer's Office

-Implement Phase 2 of ACH vendors

-Update documentation and review all internal controls

-Training of all Finance Staff (Tyler PACE) to find efficiencies

4. **What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?**

The payroll position is being transferred from the Auditor's Office to the Treasurer's Office. This will allow the auditing department to shift our focus to enhancing reporting and conducting more internal audits of processes. Overall, I think this transition will result in more efficiencies with payroll reporting

The contractual category is increasing by $34,737. The requested increase is our budget reporting module as well as investment in Tyler PACE (Munis). PACE stands for Planned Adoption, Consulting and Education. Tyler PACE will do a optimization test of our accounting software (Munis) to ensure we are using it most efficiently, provide consultation and training on how to set up and use modules. The goal of this program is to ensure the system operates most efficiently and that everyone is properly trained. If more processes can be automated, it will allow for better turnaround time and efficiency.

5. **What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?**

Annual Audit – The annual audit is paid through the Auditor's budget. The audit covers all funds on the city general ledger including the school department.
OPEB Reporting – The annual valuation is paid for out of the Auditor's budget. This valuation covers all employees and retirees of the City and School.
Tyler Pace – Tyler Pace will allow for training of all administrative staff on modules within Munis. The cost for this for all departments (HR, IT, Treasury, School, Assessing and Auditing) will be in the Auditing budget.
Staff time - The auditor's office processes account for payable warrants and 1099 reporting, processes payroll, enters new hires on the weekly payroll. We provide support on Munis, the accounting software.
As part of the School End of Year Report and reported on Schedule 1 and 19 is the Per Pupil Administrative cost average. **Section 10.04** of the Massachusetts Department of Secondary Education (DESE) Regulations for School Finance, and Section IV of DESE's Guidelines for Student and Financial Reporting provide the option of charging and reporting municipal administrative costs based on the statewide average cost per student of these services. For

FY2026, the rate set by DESE is $152.77 * enrollment of 3,985 for FY26 – The total administrative cost average per pupil is $608,788.50.

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

   The override will allow us to restore education money and attend training in our professional association. It will also allow us to invest in Tyler Pace and our employees to identify efficiencies in our software and provide comprehensive training and support.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Assessors

Name of Department Head: Sarah MacLellan

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The mission of the Melrose Assessing Department is to provide fiscal stability by promptly, fairly, and equitably determining the valuation of all real and personal property located in the city for the purpose of taxation.

In addition, the department administers motor vehicle excise taxes, real, personal, and motor vehicle excise tax abatements, and all property tax exemptions as allowed by law.

The Department serves property owners, residents, local and other municipal officials, real estate professionals, and state government.

The core impacts of the Department's functions are as follows:

- Establish the tax base that funds local services – the tax levy in Melrose represents approximately 72% of the city's total revenue.
- By maintaining an accurate and updated records database, ensure all property assessments are fair and equitable, and that each property owner pays their appropriate share of the levy.
- Provide transparency and accountability in how property values and are determined.
- Administer property tax exemptions for specific groups including veterans, older adults, blind individuals, surviving spouses, and others.
- Offer processes for taxpayers to review, question and appeal their property assessment if they believe their property is incorrectly valued.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Accomplishments:

- Successfully managed a significant increase in taxpayer inquiries and in-person visits related to the override, providing clear guidance and timely responses to residents
- Certified and incorporated over $780,000 in new growth into the tax base
- Implemented newly adopted local-option veterans' exemption increases efficiently and accurately
- Maintained compliance with all Massachusetts Department of Revenue reporting and certification requirements

Challenges:

- For FY 2026, the Assessing Department's Training and Education budget was reduced by 50%, limiting the department's ability to keep staff current with evolving assessment practices, changes in state laws and guidance from the Mass. Dept. of Revenue, and preparation for cases before the Appellate Tax Board, while requiring only prioritization of limited essential training for the year

- Reduced funding also limited cross-training and professional development for the clerk and assistant assessor roles, making it more difficult to build depth across roles and continue improving service to the public

3. **FY 27 Priorities:**

   For FY 2027, the department's main priority is to achieve full compliance with the Mass. Dept. of Revenue's 5-year Recertification with Melrose, ensuring accurate, equitable valuations and timely reporting.

   The department also plans to reinvest in staff training and professional development, while also building capacity with cross-training. The department will continue to provide responsive and transparent service to residents and taxpayers and focus on capturing new growth.

4. **What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?**

   The proposed budget for Assessors includes a reinstatement of the training and education line item. This will allow the department to resume the required coursework to maintain assessor certification, while also supporting ongoing professional development to stay current with evolving assessing methodologies, emerging technology, and Dept. of Revenue standards. This re-investment ensures continued certification compliance and equitable property assessments, and improves the department's ability to provide reliable service to the public.

   The revaluation budget line was increased 5% to keep pace with rising annual recurring vendor contract costs. This will allow the department to complete assessments and achieve certification on schedule and keep property data updated to ensure fair and equitable assessments.

   The proposed budget replaces the prior mileage reimbursement model with a mileage stipend for the Chief Assessor. This streamlines administrative processes by eliminating the need for mileage submissions and aligns the department's practice with comparable communities, allowing for more efficient use of staff time.

5. **What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?**

   No direct costs

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

   The override had a direct positive impact on the Assessors Department by restoring and stabilizing its operating budget. It allows the department to reinstate professional development funding, address rising contractual costs and implement more efficient administrative practices. As a result, the department will be well-positioned to maintain certification requirements, ensure accurate and equitable property assessments and provide efficient and reliable service to the public.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Treasurer Collector

145- Treasurer/Collector
296 – Parking
916 – Medicare City Portion
711 – Municipal Debt
751 – Municipal Interest
752 – Projected Debt and Temporary Interest

Name of Department Head: Kathryn Armata

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The mission of the Treasurer Collector's office is to ensure timely collection of revenues, invest and disburse funds appropriately, and maintain fiscal responsibility while supporting the City's operational and borrowing needs. The Treasurer Collector department has six positions; three Collections Clerks, a Treasury/Parking Clerk, an Assistant Treasurer and the Treasurer Collector.

The Collectors are the outward facing team. They interact with clients, law firms, and processing companies. They are responsible for providing professional and courteous responses to inquiries, the processing of real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise tax, and water/sewer/trash payments. They also issue Municipal Lien Certificates. The team members each specialize in a specific type of billing but are crossed-trained across all collections to ensure ongoing operations when short staffed.

The Assistant Treasurer is responsible for cash management duties, and her client base is the City departments. The Assistant Treasurer books all cash receipts of the City, funds all vendor and payroll warrants, and processes the payroll warrants of the City and Schools. She also manages the annual tailings process (uncashed checks).

The Treasury side of the operation includes the Treasury/Parking Clerk who is responsible for managing the collection and dispute of parking tickets and processing deduction changes in the payroll system. The Treasury/Parking Clerk also serves as back up to the Assistant Treasurer for payroll processing and provides backup at the Collections window when there is a staffing shortage.

The department will be adding the position of Payroll Manager, which currently sits in the City Auditor's department, to the team in the near future. The transition is being made due to a recommendation included in the Department of Labor Services (DLS) review of financial operations conducted near the beginning of the Mayor's term.

In addition, the department is responsible for issuing and managing City debt, investment of City funds, managing relationships with banking and investment partners and our debt advisor and bond counsel, reconciliation of all bank and investment accounts, quarterly government filings, the liening of outstanding water bills to real estate bills, issuing W2's, and continuously working to enhance processes and procedures.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Prior to the issuance of the Q3/Q4 actual billing our reports showed a significantly higher than usual receivables level on the Water/Sewer accounts. The Water/Sewer Clerk proactively reached out to every outstanding client via phone to remind them of the overdue amount and respond to any questions about payment plan options and the liening process. Overall, the calls were appreciated and approximately $300,000 was collected prior to going to lien. The effort was positive to the City from a collections viewpoint and to the clients who avoided additional fees, interest and possible escrow adjustments.

During the fiscal year, the Collections team added an on-line request portal to the options available on cityhallsystems.com. For a $2 fee, the portal allows clients to order tax payment information, bill copies and other requested research (forms are also available at the Collections window).

Over the last several months, a committee of the CFO/City Auditor, Assistant Auditor, City Solicitor and Treasurer Collector has been working to convert the City's Financial Policies to DLS suggested format. The process should be completed and the policies sent to the Mayor for approval around fiscal year end.

We transitioned the Veterans' monthly payments from physical checks to electronic payments and upgraded the card swipe at the Collectors window that is more user friendly to chip cards. Currently, we are collaborating with the Audit team to transition certain vendor payments to electronic form via a third-party provider. The project, which will be rolled out in phases, will enable us to meet the increasing vendor demand for electronic payment in a secure manner.

In December 2025, the City issued $30.655 million of 25 year General Obligation Bonds (GOs) and a $26 million Bond Anticipation note (BAN) to fund the first construction phase of the Public Safety Building project. The lead up to the offering required collaboration among many departments to complete the offering document and prepare for the review meeting with Standard & Poor's. The City was able to maintain its rating of AA+ and we were pleased with the market participation and results of the auction.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

The use of a third-party accounts payable partner will be a staged rollout to minimize the impact on day-to-day operations. The Treasury team is committed to supporting the Audit team in this effort.

There will be a large focus on hiring and training the new Payroll Manager over the next several months. The position is now vacant and duties being managed by the Assistant Auditor. We are meeting with her regularly to set up a smooth transition with a good starting knowledge base.

If it doesn't occur by year end, we will bid out the Deputy Collector duties as well as collections processor relationship. Although we are satisfied with our current business partner, it is good to review the relationship periodically to ensure we are getting the best service for a competitive price. There are a limited number of providers in this area of municipal services.

Preparing and executing on a successful second round of long-term financing for the Public Safety Building project will take place in the fall of 2026. The goal is to maintain or improve the City's rating of AA+ and obtain competitive market pricing.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

There are no significant changes to the Treasurer Collector (145) budget. The largest increase is in the Salary line of based on anticipated step-ups, the addition of the Payroll Manager, and an estimate for contractual changes. The Treasurer Collector budget consists primarily of payroll expenses and

equipment maintenance and processing costs. The postage line item takes into account the number of elections to be held in the fiscal year and other large volume mailings (such as excise tax bills). The driver for the $5,000 reduction in budget is the fact that there will only be two state elections in FY27. Printing costs will be lower due to a change in the Tax Title process that shifts some advertising costs to constable delivery fees in the Title Fees line.

The Parking budget (296) is budgeted to increase 3.4% primarily due to a salary step up and $2,000 increase in the professional services line item.

The debt budget (711) is slightly lower because payments on matured non-exempt bonds (that rolled off the schedule) were higher than the new issue exempt principal obligation being added to the payment schedule.

Interest (751) is $1.816 million higher than FY26 due to the addition of the $1.9 million exempt interest related to the FY26 debt issuance offset by interest on matured bonds that rolled off the schedule.

Projected Debt and Temporary Interest (752) is higher due to the maturing $26 million BAN being much larger the previous year's BAN maturity.

Medicare (916) – Medicare expense is calculated on total wages less FSA contributions, dental, health and life insurance premiums, and opt-outs of the City health plan. Currently, the City is negotiating multiple union contracts. We are conservatively budgeting a 5% increase to include estimated contract increases and the rehiring of certain roles made available by the Override.

5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

There are no direct costs of the Schools in the Treasurer Collector or Parking department budgets.

In FY27, the principal payments on School related debt will be $2,978,909.35 and interest costs will be $621,420.84. A significant amount of the payments (principal $1,888,909.35 and interest $89,199.56) is associated with the two exempt bonds for the Middle School that will be fully paid in FY29. The balance is spread over multiple projects undertaken over the years.

6. What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approve on your Department's Budget for FY 27?

Treasurer Collector -145 - The majority of the costs of the Department are for payroll, processing, and equipment maintenance. The Override did not impact the budget.

Parking - 296 – The Override had no impact on the budget.

Debt – 711,751,752 - The Override had no impact on the budget.

Medicare 916 – Increased payroll expenses associated with hires allowed by the Override will increase budgeted Medicare costs.



NORTHEAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
FY 2027 BUDGET

Presented to the School Committee
April 9, 2026

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School
FY 27 Budget
Executive Summary

The Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School District's FY27 budget reflects the district's continued effort to balance fiscal responsibility with the need to provide high-quality vocational and academic programming for students across its member communities. The budget was developed with a focus on minimizing the financial impact on municipalities while meeting state-mandated funding requirements and supporting the operational needs of the district's new school facility.

The Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School District's FY27 total member assessment is projected to be $29,396,815, representing an increase of $4,529,354 (18.21%) over FY26. Despite significant fiscal pressures, the district was able to limit assessments to only the increase in minimum local contribution required under the state funding formula, meeting the district's goal of minimizing the financial impact on member communities.

A primary driver of the FY27 assessment increase is the normalization of debt service associated with the new school building project. In FY26, the District reduced the debt service burden through a one-time use of $2.7 million from Excess and Deficiency (E&D) funds. With that temporary offset no longer available, the FY27 debt service payment increases to $9,076,663.

Additionally, under the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Net School Spending formula, Northeast Metro Tech must increase educational spending by $2,475,336 to meet the state-mandated minimum spending requirement. However, the projected Chapter 70 state aid increase is only $526,008, leaving a $1,949,328 gap that must be met through the state-mandated minimum local contributions from member communities.

Other FY27 cost drivers include contractual salary obligations and step increases, the addition of instructional staff to support enrollment growth and expanded programs, additional custodial and security staffing required to operate the new school facility, increased transportation costs including the addition of a 24th bus, rising health insurance expenses, and expanded vocational program supplies needed to support the new building and growing student population.

To help mitigate these increases, the district will apply $2.4 million in additional revenue sources, including $1.6 million in transportation reimbursement and $800,000 from Excess and Deficiency funds, directly reducing the financial burden on member communities.

The total FY27 operating budget, including debt service, is projected to be $48,516,400, representing an increase of $5,155,361 (11.89%) over FY26, while continuing to support high-quality vocational and academic programming for a growing student population.

The FY27 budget proposal includes the following highlights and assumptions:

Based on our Chapter 70 formula calculation, Northeast Metro Tech is projected to receive $16,719,585 in aid for FY27. This amount is $526,008 higher than our budgeted aid in FY26.

We anticipate FY27 transportation revenue of $1,600,000 , which is $200,000 more than the revenue we received in FY26.

	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget	FY27 Appropriation	Change	% Change
Chapter 70 Aid	$ 14,072,974	$ 16,193,577	$ 16,719,585	$ 526,008	3.25%
Transportation Aid (Reimbursement Fund)	$ 1,200,000	$ 1,400,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 200,000	14.29%
Total State Revenue	$ 15,272,974	$ 17,593,577	$ 18,319,585	$ 726,008	4.13%

Expenses

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School's total operating expense before debt service for FY27 is projected to be $39,439,737 ; 6.98% or $2,574,954 over the FY26 total operating budget of $36,864,783 .

	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Change	% Change
Northeast Metro Tech	$ 31,650,800	$ 36,864,783	$ 39,439,737	$ 2,574,954	6.98%
with debt service	$ 33,513,000	$ 43,361,038	$ 48,516,400	$ 5,155,361	11.89%

This total request can be attributed to increases in Salary, Contracted Services, Supplies, and Equipment over the FY26 budget amount.

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School's salary request for FY27 is $23,456,828 ; $1,439,543 or 6.54% over the FY26 budget of $22,017,285 The increase in the salary request can be attributed to the following conditions:

	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Change	% Change
Total Salary	$ 19,922,061	$ 22,017,285	$ 23,456,828	$ 1,439,543	6.54%

Highlighted Salary Expenses	Notes	FTE	Change
Steps and Lanes/Salary Increases			$ 946,577
New Biotech Teacher			$ 117,198
New CCL Teacher			$ 104,603
New Marketing Teacher			$ 92,016
New Medical Assisting Teacher			$ 104,603
New Custodian			$ 73,915
New Security			$ 52,626
New Special Ed Teacher			$ 112,403
New Reading Teacher			$ 110,602
Salary Savings			$ (275,000)

Total Increase of Highlighted Expenses	$ 1,439,543

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School's FY27 Contractual Services budget is $14,015,242 ; 7.30% or $953,293 more than the FY26 budget of $13,061,949 . The increase in the contracted services request can be mainly attributed to the following expenses and conditions:

	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Change	% Change
Total Contracted Services	$ 12,046,225	$ 13,061,949	$ 14,015,242	$ 953,293	7.30%

Highlighted Contracted Service Expenses	Notes	Increase in Funding
Contractual Increase to Transportation, Added 24th bus		$ 350,350
Increases in Health Insurance Cost		$ 636,495
Increase In Building Insurance Coverage		$ 250,563
New Copier Lease		$ 60,000
Increase in Special Events Line		$ 25,000
Increase in Game Officials Due to Sports Success		$ 14,000
Increase in Graduation Expenses		$ 13,000
Reduction to Compensated Absence Fund		$ (275,000)
Increase In FICA Split Funding		$ 50,000
Increase In Retirement Contribution		$ 43,611
Removal of Modular Lease		$ (150,000)
Reduction in Building Service Contracts/Repairs	Covered By Warranty	$ (64,725)

Total Increase of Highlighted Expenses	$ 953,293

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School's Supplies and Materials budget for FY27 is $1,890,644 ;22.90% or $352,268 more than the FY26 amount of $1,538,376 . The increase in supplies is due to the consumable supplies budget requested by department heads during the budget process.

	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Change	% Change
Total Supplies	$ 1,639,113	$ 1,538,376	$ 1,890,644	$ 352,268	22.90%

Highlighted Supply Expenses	Notes	Increase in Funding
Increase In Cosumable Supply Raw Materials-Stock for New Building		$ 352,268

Total Increase of Highlighted Expenses	$ 352,268

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School's FY27 equipment/technology budget is $77,023 ; -68.84% or $(170,150) less than the FY26 budget amount. The increase in equipment is attributed to:

	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Change	% Change

Total Equipment	$ 145,763	$ 247,173	$ 77,023	$ (170,150)	-68.84%

Highlighted Equipment Expenses			Increase in Funding
Reduction In Equipment Request Due to Project			$ (170,150)

Total Increase of Highlighted Expenses $ (170,150)

Regionalization exists as a measure to offer services at a reduced cost to its member districts. Knowing the financial constraints faced by each member City and Town, Northeast aims to limit the annual operating assessment increase. We are able to attain that goal by using $800,000 from our other funding sources to offset total expenditures, therefore reducing the assessment.

Funding Summary	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Change	% Change
Northeast Metro Tech Total Operating Expense	$ 32,185,546	$ 36,864,783	$ 39,439,737	$ 2,574,954	6.98%
Total Chapter 70 Revenue Applied to Budget	$ 14,072,974	$ 16,193,577	$ 16,719,585	$ 526,008	3.25%
Total Transportation Applied	$ 1,600,000	$ 1,400,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 200,000	14.29%
Total Other Funds (E&D)	$ 300,000	$ 900,000	$ 800,000	$ (100,000)	-11.11%
Total Assessment Requested Before Debt Service	$ 16,212,572	$ 18,371,206	$ 20,320,152	$ 1,948,946	10.61%
Total Debt Service	$ 1,737,600	$ 6,496,255	$ 9,076,663	$ 2,580,408	39.72%
			$ 29,396,815	$ 4,529,354	cross check
Northeast Metro Tech Requested Assessment	$ 22,390,182	$ 24,867,461	$ 29,396,815	$ 4,529,354	18.21%

Before the capital assessment, the total assessment increase results in an increase of 10.61% After application of the debt service payment, the total assessment increase to the member communities is 18.21% .

District	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Enrollment Change	$ Change	% Change
Chelsea	$ 2,039,983	$ 2,273,334	$ 2,685,454	-11	$ 412,120	18.1%
Malden	$ 2,778,419	$ 3,251,977	$ 4,211,460	22	$ 959,483	29.5%
Melrose	$ 1,619,030	$ 1,951,636	$ 2,066,354	-4	$ 114,718	5.9%
North Reading	$ 939,751	$ 1,042,462	$ 978,721	-7	$ (63,740)	-6.1%
Reading	$ 858,300	$ 1,295,702	$ 1,292,317	-4	$ (3,384)	-0.3%
Revere	$ 3,285,660	$ 3,616,676	$ 4,479,006	10	$ 862,330	23.8%
Saugus	$ 2,621,975	$ 2,557,570	$ 3,075,825	4	$ 518,255	20.3%
Stoneham	$ 1,650,461	$ 1,653,036	$ 1,940,084	4	$ 287,048	17.4%
Wakefield	$ 2,370,610	$ 2,445,557	$ 2,834,622	5	$ 389,065	15.9%
Winchester	$ 143,050	$ 275,451	$ 415,254	4	$ 139,802	50.8%
Winthrop	$ 1,245,687	$ 1,255,602	$ 1,491,810	3	$ 236,208	18.8%
Woburn	$ 2,837,256	$ 3,248,457	$ 3,925,906	9	$ 677,449	20.9%
Funding from Cities/Towns	$ 22,390,182	$ 24,867,461	$ 29,396,815	35	$ 4,529,354	18.21%

District	Minimum Contribution	Transp.	Budget Adjustment Assessment	Total Operating Assessment Before Capital	Capital/Debt Assessment	Total Assessment w	Students	Enrollment Percentage
Chelsea	$ 1,062,641	$ 14,356	$ 57,219	$ 1,134,216	$ 1,551,238	$ 2,685,454	242	17.1%
Malden	$ 2,742,882	$ 12,992	$ 51,781	$ 2,807,655	$ 1,403,806	$ 4,211,460	219	15.5%
Melrose	$ 1,563,416	$ 4,449	$ 17,733	$ 1,585,598	$ 480,755	$ 2,066,354	75	5.3%
N. Reading	$ 744,017	$ 2,076	$ 8,275	$ 754,369	$ 224,353	$ 978,721	35	2.5%
Reading	$ 977,143	$ 2,788	$ 11,113	$ 991,044	$ 301,273	$ 1,292,317	47	3.3%
Revere	$ 2,561,137	$ 16,966	$ 67,623	$ 2,645,726	$ 1,833,281	$ 4,479,006	286	20.2%
Saugus	$ 2,264,419	$ 7,178	$ 28,610	$ 2,300,207	$ 775,619	$ 3,075,825	121	8.5%
Stoneham	$ 1,457,264	$ 4,271	$ 17,024	$ 1,478,559	$ 461,525	$ 1,940,084	72	5.1%
Wakefield	$ 2,143,921	$ 6,110	$ 24,354	$ 2,174,385	$ 660,237	$ 2,834,622	103	7.3%
Winchester	$ 314,666	$ 890	$ 3,547	$ 319,102	$ 96,151	$ 415,254	15	1.1%
Winthrop	$ 1,082,754	$ 3,619	$ 14,423	$ 1,100,796	$ 391,014	$ 1,491,810	61	4.3%
Woburn	$ 2,987,089	$ 8,305	$ 33,102	$ 3,028,496	$ 897,410	$ 3,925,906	140	9.9%
Total	$ 19,901,349	$ 84,000	$ 334,803	$ 20,320,152	$ 9,076,663	$ 29,396,815	1416	100%
				cross check	$ 9,076,663			

Total FY27 Operating Budget Request		$ 39,439,737	
Expenditures Net school Spending	$ 36,620,934		
Transportation	$ 2,484,000		
Capital Projects Fund	$ -		
E&D	$ -		
Supplementary Requests	$ 334,803		
Bond Anticipitory	$ 9,076,663	$ 9,076,663	
Total FY27 Request		$ 48,516,400	$ 48,516,400
Available Revenues			
Chapter 70 Funds	$ 16,719,585		
Transportation Fund	$ 1,600,000	1.6 mil from transportation	
E&D Transp	$ 800,000	E&D to offset transportation increase	
E&D Operating	$ -		
Total Revenues		$ 19,119,585	
Total Assessment		$ 29,396,815	
	cross check	$ 29,396,815	

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School
Comparison of Assessments

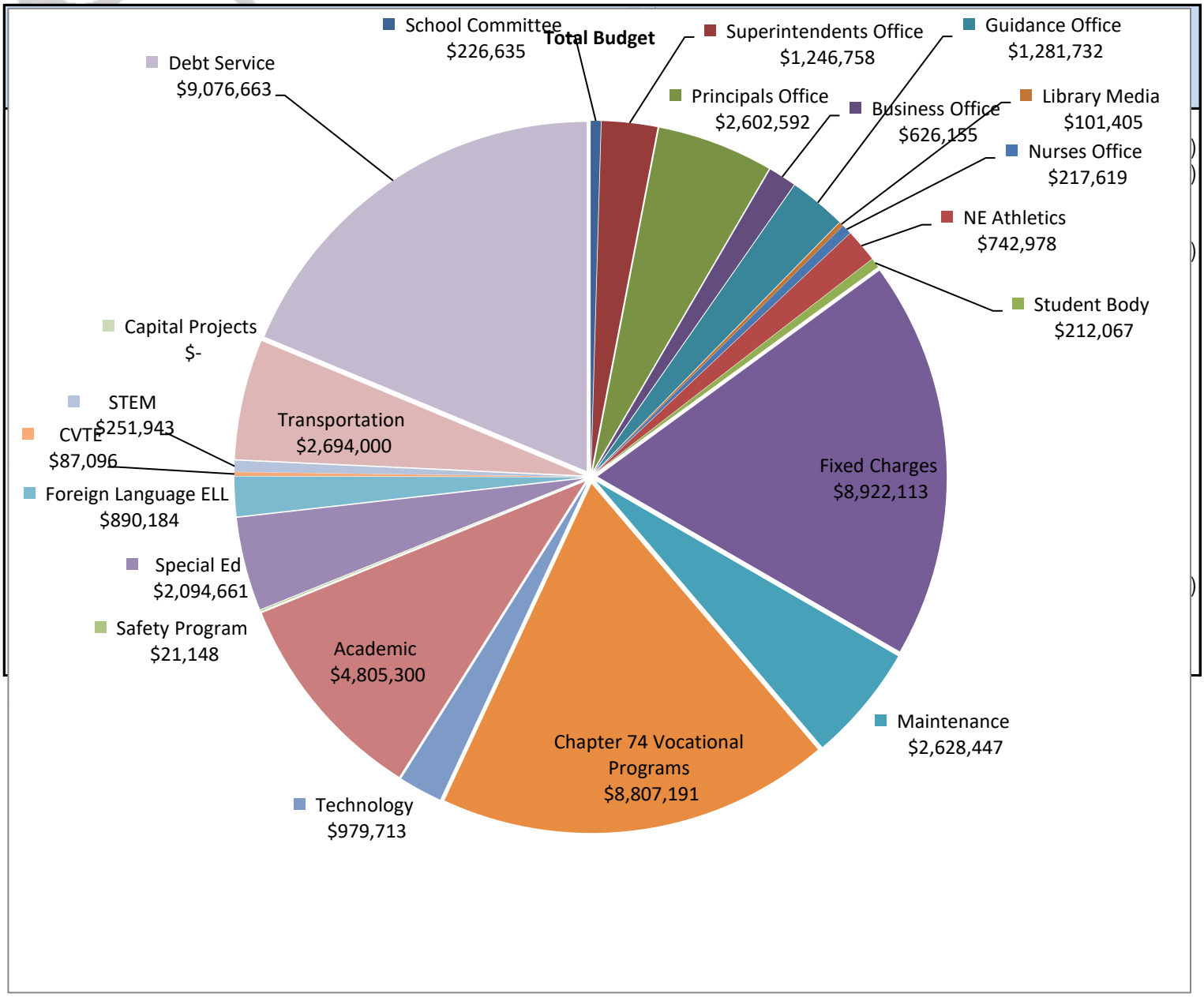
	Operating Budget FY 2026	Operating Budget FY2027	Variance Operating	Total Budget w Capital FY2026	Total Budget w Capital FY2027	Variance $	Variance %
Gross Budget	**$ 34,144,463**	**$ 39,439,737**	**$ 5,295,274**	**$ 43,361,038**	**$ 48,516,400**	**$ 5,155,362**	**11.89%**
Less Revenues							
Chapter 70 Aid	$ 16,193,577	$ 16,719,585	$ 526,008	$ 16,193,577	$ 16,719,585	$ 526,008	3.25%
Transportation	$ 1,400,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 200,000	$ 1,400,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 200,000	14.29%
Other Sources (E&D + Capital)	$ 900,000	$ 800,000	$ (100,000)	$ 900,000	$ 800,000	$ (100,000)	-11.11%
Total Revenues	$ 18,493,577	$ 19,119,585	$ 626,008	$ 18,493,577	$ 19,119,585	$ 626,008	3.39%
Net Assessments	$ 17,178,832	$20,320,152	$ 3,141,320	$ 24,867,461	$ 29,396,815	$ 4,529,354	18.21%
Chelsea	$ 1,083,216	$ 1,134,216	$ 51,000	$ 2,273,334	$ 2,685,454	$ 412,120	$ 1,551,238
Malden	$ 2,325,285	$ 2,807,655	$ 482,370	$ 3,251,977	$ 4,211,460	$ 959,483	$ 1,403,806
Melrose	$ 1,580,018	$ 1,585,598	$ 5,580	$ 1,951,636	$ 2,066,354	$ 114,718	$ 480,755
North Reading	$ 844,893	$ 754,369	$ (90,524)	$ 1,042,462	$ 978,721	$ (63,740)	$ 224,353
Reading	$ 1,055,796	$ 991,044	$ (64,752)	$ 1,295,702	$ 1,292,317	$ (3,384)	$ 301,273
Revere	$ 2,318,366	$ 2,645,726	$ 327,360	$ 3,616,676	$ 4,479,006	$ 862,330	$ 1,833,281
Saugus	$ 2,007,200	$ 2,300,207	$ 293,007	$ 2,557,570	$ 3,075,825	$ 518,255	$ 775,619
Stoneham	$ 1,333,163	$ 1,478,559	$ 145,397	$ 1,653,036	$ 1,940,084	$ 287,048	$ 461,525
Wakefield	$ 1,984,563	$ 2,174,385	$ 189,822	$ 2,445,557	$ 2,834,622	$ 389,065	$ 660,237
Winchester	$ 223,707	$ 319,102	$ 95,396	$ 275,451	$ 415,254	$ 139,802	$ 96,151
Winthrop	$ 982,769	$ 1,100,796	$ 118,027	$ 1,255,602	$ 1,491,810	$ 236,208	$ 391,014
Woburn	$ 2,632,230	$ 3,028,496	$ 396,266	$ 3,248,457	$ 3,925,906	$ 677,449	$ 897,410
Total	$ 18,371,206	$ 20,320,152	$ 1,948,946	$ 24,867,461	$ 29,396,815	$ 4,529,354	$ 9,076,663 total debt asmt

Enrollment	**Students Oct 1, 2024 (FY26)**	**Students Oct 1, 2025 (FY27)**	**Variance**	**Contribution %**	**Per Pupil Cost of Assessment**
Chelsea	253	242	-11	17.09%	$ 11,097
Malden	197	219	22	15.47%	$ 19,230
Melrose	79	75	-4	5.30%	$ 27,551
North Reading	42	35	-7	2.47%	$ 27,963
Reading	51	47	-4	3.32%	$ 27,496
Revere	276	286	10	20.20%	$ 15,661
Saugus	117	121	4	8.55%	$ 25,420
Stoneham	68	72	4	5.08%	$ 26,946
Wakefield	98	103	5	7.27%	$ 27,521
Winchester	11	15	4	1.06%	$ 27,684
Winthrop	58	61	3	4.31%	$ 24,456
Woburn	131	140	9	9.89%	$ 28,042
Total Enrollment	1381	1416	35	100.00%	

	FY26 Minimum	FY27 Minimum	Change	% increase	% of Total
Chelsea	$ 1,006,421	$ 1,062,641	$ 56,220.00	5.6%	5.34%
Malden	$ 2,265,488	$ 2,742,882	$ 477,394.00	21.1%	13.78%
Melrose	$ 1,556,039	$ 1,563,416	$ 7,377.00	0.5%	7.86%
North Reading	$ 832,144	$ 744,017	$ (88,127.00)	-10.6%	3.74%
Reading	$ 1,040,316	$ 977,143	$ (63,173.00)	-6.1%	4.91%
Revere	$ 2,234,590	$ 2,561,137	$ 326,547.00	14.6%	12.87%
Saugus	$ 1,971,686	$ 2,264,419	$ 292,733.00	14.8%	11.38%
Stoneham	$ 1,312,522	$ 1,457,264	$ 144,742.00	11.0%	7.32%
Wakefield	$ 1,954,816	$ 2,143,921	$ 189,105.00	9.7%	10.77%
Winchester	$ 220,368	$ 314,666	$ 94,298.00	42.8%	1.58%
Winthrop	$ 965,164	$ 1,082,754	$ 117,590.00	12.2%	5.44%
Woburn	$ 2,592,467	$ 2,987,089	$ 394,622.00	15.2%	15.01%
Total	$ 17,952,021	$ 19,901,349	$ 1,949,328	10.86%	100.00%

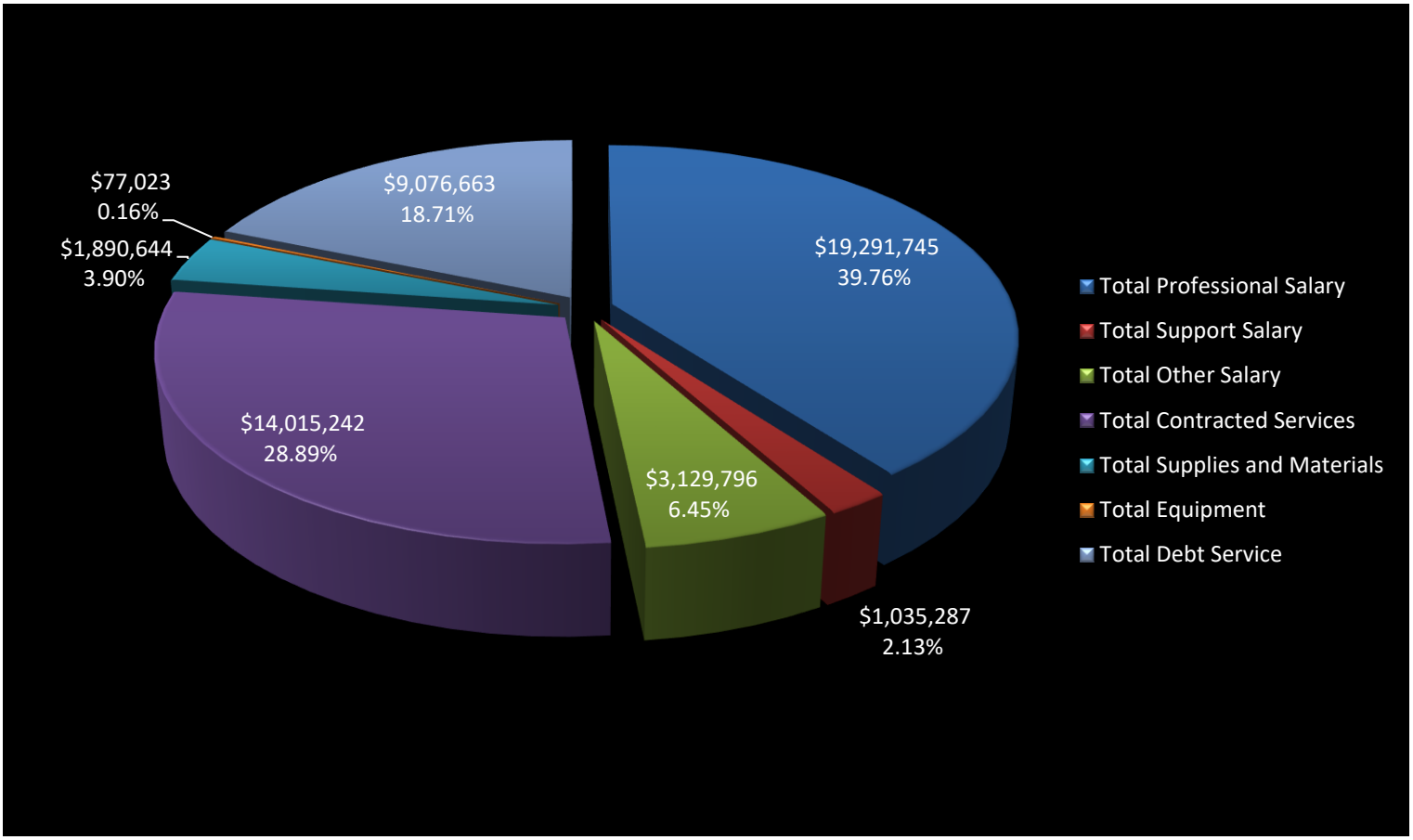
	Minimum Cont Increase	Debt Service Increase	Total Combined Minimum + Debt Increase	Total Assessment Increase	Difference
Chelsea	$ 56,220	$ 361,119.84	$ 417,340	$ 412,120.06	$ (5,219.78)
Malden	$ 477,394	$ 477,113.43	$ 954,507	$ 959,483.14	$ 4,975.70
Melrose	$ 7,377	$ 109,137.66	$ 116,515	$ 114,717.59	$ (1,797.06)
North Reading	$ (88,127)	$ 26,783.59	$ (61,343)	$ (63,740.20)	$ (2,396.79)
Reading	$ (63,173)	$ 61,368.26	$ (1,805)	$ (3,384.18)	$ (1,579.44)
Revere	$ 326,547	$ 534,970.51	$ 861,518	$ 862,330.03	$ 812.52
Saugus	$ 292,733	$ 225,248.13	$ 517,981	$ 518,254.84	$ 273.71
Stoneham	$ 144,742	$ 141,651.69	$ 286,394	$ 287,048.24	$ 654.55
Wakefield	$ 189,105	$ 199,243.26	$ 388,348	$ 389,065.41	$ 717.15
Winchester	$ 94,298	$ 44,406.84	$ 138,705	$ 139,802.40	$ 1,097.57
Winthrop	$ 117,590	$ 118,181.11	$ 235,771	$ 236,207.62	$ 436.51
Woburn	$ 394,622	$ 281,183.19	$ 675,805	$ 677,448.92	$ 1,643.73
	$ 1,949,328	$ 2,580,408	$ 4,529,736	$ 4,529,354	$ (381.63)

	FY26 Debt Service	FY27 Debt Service	Change
Chelsea	$ 1,190,118	$ 1,551,238	$ 361,120
Malden	$ 926,692	$ 1,403,806	$ 477,113
Melrose	$ 371,618	$ 480,755	$ 109,138
North Reading	$ 197,569	$ 224,353	$ 26,784
Reading	$ 239,905	$ 301,273	$ 61,368
Revere	$ 1,298,310	$ 1,833,281	$ 534,971
Saugus	$ 550,371	$ 775,619	$ 225,248
Stoneham	$ 319,874	$ 461,525	$ 141,652
Wakefield	$ 460,994	$ 660,237	$ 199,243
Winchester	$ 51,744	$ 96,151	$ 44,407
Winthrop	$ 272,833	$ 391,014	$ 118,181
Woburn	$ 616,227	$ 897,410	$ 281,183
Total	$ 6,496,255	$ 9,076,663	$ 2,580,408

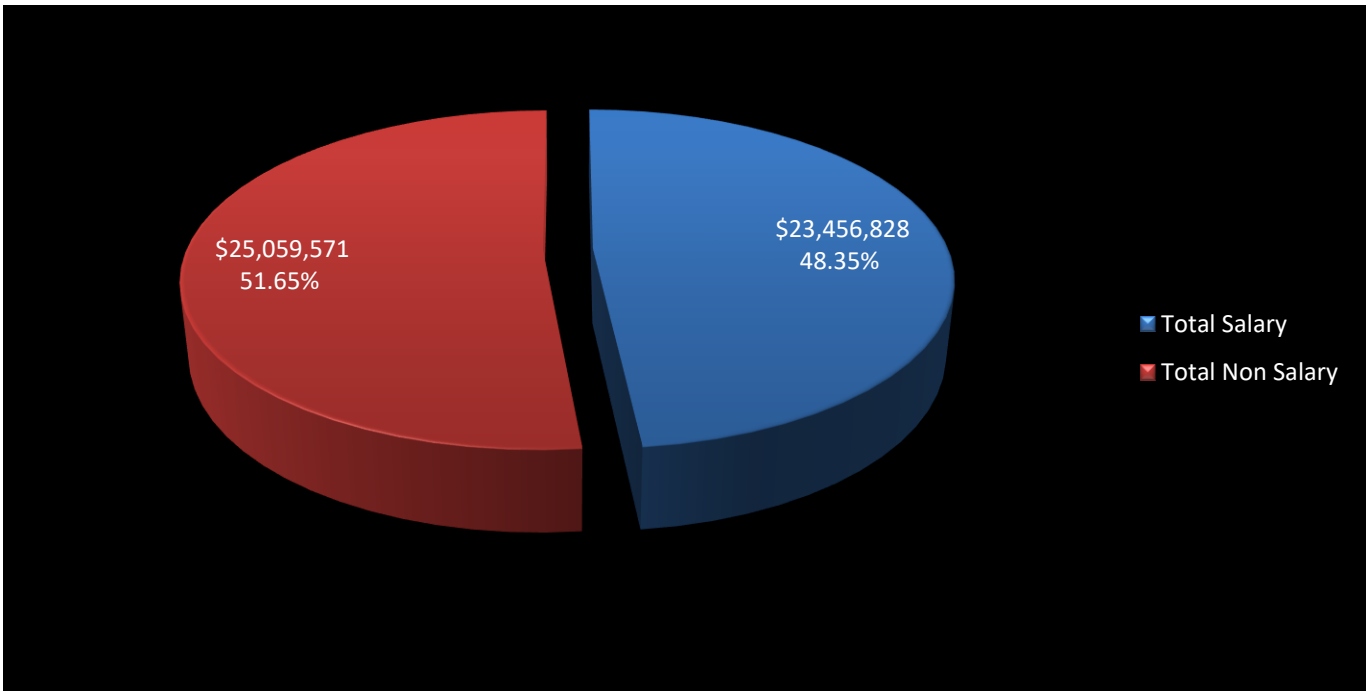

Total Budget
School Committee
$226,635
Superintendents Office
$1,246,758
Guidance Office
$1,281,732
Debt Service
$9,076,663
Principals Office
$2,602,592
Business Office
$626,155
Library Media
$101,405
Nurses Office
$217,619
NE Athletics
$742,978
Student Body
$212,067
Capital Projects
$-
STEM
$251,943
CVTE
$87,096
Transportation
$2,694,000
Fixed Charges
$8,922,113
Foreign Language ELL
$890,184
Special Ed
$2,094,661
Safety Program
$21,148
Academic
$4,805,300
Maintenance
$2,628,447
Chapter 74 Vocational Programs
$8,807,191
Technology
$979,713

Description	FY25 Expended	FY26 Budgeted Staff	FY26 Budget	FY27 Staff Request	FY27 Request	Change	% Change
School Committee	$ 184,447	2.0	$ 216,090	2.0	$ 226,635	$ 10,545	4.88%
Superintendents Office	$ 1,482,029	3.0	$ 1,333,817	3.0	$ 1,246,758	$ (87,059)	-6.53%
Principals Office	$ 2,029,231	17.0	$ 2,622,644	18.0	$ 2,602,592	$ (20,052)	-0.76%
Business Office	$ 529,770	6.0	$ 603,508	6.0	$ 626,155	$ 22,647	3.75%
Guidance Office	$ 1,159,034	12.0	$ 1,185,160	12.0	$ 1,281,732	$ 96,572	8.15%
Library Media	$ 87,173	3.0	$ 190,695	1.0	$ 101,405	$ (89,290)	-46.82%
Nurses Office	$ 124,728	2.0	$ 210,703	2.0	$ 217,619	$ 6,916	3.28%
NE Athletics	$ 666,919		$ 707,994		$ 742,978	$ 34,985	4.94%
Student Body	$ 193,820		$ 194,620		$ 212,067	$ 17,447	8.96%
Fixed Charges	$ 7,299,123		$ 8,216,538		$ 8,922,113	$ 705,576	8.59%
Maintenance	$ 2,492,715	12.0	$ 2,554,189	13.0	$ 2,628,447	$ 74,257	2.91%
Chapter 74 Vocational Programs	$ 7,458,129	67.5	$ 8,033,983	69.5	$ 8,807,191	$ 773,207	9.62%
Technology	$ 894,797	5.0	$ 955,256	5.0	$ 979,713	$ 24,457	2.56%
Academic	$ 4,401,110	44.5	$ 4,696,654	43.5	$ 4,805,300	$ 108,646	2.31%
Safety Program	$ 23,660		$ 21,148		$ 21,148	$ -	
Special Ed	$ 1,560,211	16.0	$ 1,688,381	20.0	$ 2,094,661	$ 406,280	24.06%
Foreign Language ELL	$ 627,967	7.0	$ 749,824	8.0	$ 890,184	$ 140,360	18.72%
CVTE	$ 74,549		$ 84,689		$ 87,096	$ 2,407	2.84%
STEM	$ 243,718	2.0	$ 255,239	2.0	$ 251,943	$ (3,296)	-1.29%
Transportation	$ 2,220,033		$ 2,343,650		$ 2,694,000	$ 350,350	14.95%
Capital Projects			$ -		$ -	$ -	
Debt Service	$ 5,211,350		$ 6,496,255		$ 9,076,663	$ 2,580,408	39.72%
Total Budget	$ 38,964,512	199.0	$ 43,361,038	205.0	$ 48,516,400	$ 5,155,361	11.89%

Description	FY25 Expended	FY26 Budgeted Staff	FY26 Budget	FY27 Staff Request	FY27 Request	Change	% Change
Total Professional Salary	$ 16,423,882	157.0	$ 18,152,282	161.0	$ 19,291,745	$ 1,139,463	6.28%
Total Support Salary	$ 919,011	13.0	$ 1,026,921	13.0	$ 1,035,287	$ 8,366	0.81%
Total Other Salary	$ 2,579,168	29.0	$ 2,838,082	31.0	$ 3,129,796	$ 291,714	10.28%
Total Contracted Services	$ 12,046,225		$ 13,061,949		$ 14,015,242	$ 953,293	7.30%
Total Supplies and Materials	$ 1,639,113		$ 1,538,376		$ 1,890,644	$ 352,268	22.90%
Total Equipment	$ 145,763		$ 247,173		$ 77,023	$ (170,150)	-68.84%
Total Debt Service	$ 5,211,350		$ 6,496,255		$ 9,076,663	$ 2,580,408	39.72%
Total Budget	$ 38,964,512	199.0	$ 43,361,038	205.0	$ 48,516,400	$ 5,155,361	11.89%



Description	FY25 Expended	FY26 Budgeted Staff	FY26 Budget	FY27 Staff Request	FY27 Request	Change	% Change
Total Salary	$ 19,922,061	199.0	$ 22,017,285	205.0	$ 23,456,828	$ 1,439,543	6.54%
Total Non Salary	$ 19,042,451		$ 21,343,753		$ 25,059,571	$ 3,715,818	17.41%
Total Budget	$ 38,964,512	199.0	$ 43,361,038	205.0	$ 48,516,400	$ 5,155,361	11.89%



Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School FY27 Budget

Presentation to FinCom

May 26, 2026

GOAL OF THE FY27 BUDGET

- The FY27 budget is designed to minimize the financial impact on our member communities while addressing the challenges created by limited increases in state funding and rising Net School Spending requirements.
- At the same time, the budget seeks to ensure sufficient funding to support student learning, maintain high educational standards, and continue providing a high-quality vocational and academic experience for all students.

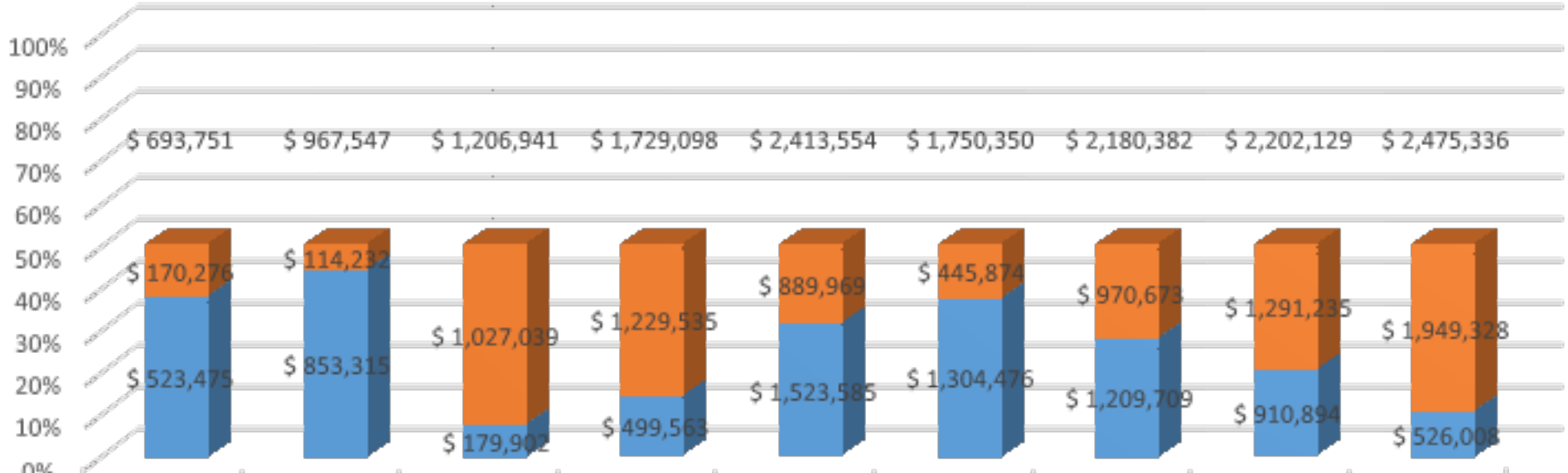
MINIMIZING FINANCIAL IMPACT

- Regionalization allows the District to provide high-quality educational services at a lower overall cost to our member communities, while ensuring equitable access to programs and opportunities for all students.
- While the target of 3% has been discussed in past budgets, due to the decrease in the chapter 70 allocation and net school spending requirements, we have had to adjust that target, as 3% is no longer feasible. Our new goal is to restrict assessment increases to the minimum allowable contribution by mandate and the debt service.
- In FY27 we were able to achieve that goal, and the District has taken multiple steps to reduce the financial burden on member communities wherever possible.

CHALLENGING FISCAL ENVIRONMENT

- FY27 presents another challenging fiscal environment for the District. The budget is affected by lower-than-anticipated Chapter 70 state aid and a significant increase in the required Net School Spending threshold.
- Under the DESE Net School Spending formula, which determines the minimum amount a district must spend on educational programs and services, Northeast Metro Tech is required to spend $2,475,336 more than in FY26 to meet the mandated threshold.
- Typically, increases in Net School Spending are largely offset by Chapter 70 state funding, allowing the District to limit additional financial contributions from member communities.
- However, in FY27 the Chapter 70 increase totaled $526,008, leaving a remaining funding gap of $1,949,328 that must be supported through increased contributions from the member municipalities.

Chapter 70 Trend-Heading in The Wrong Direction



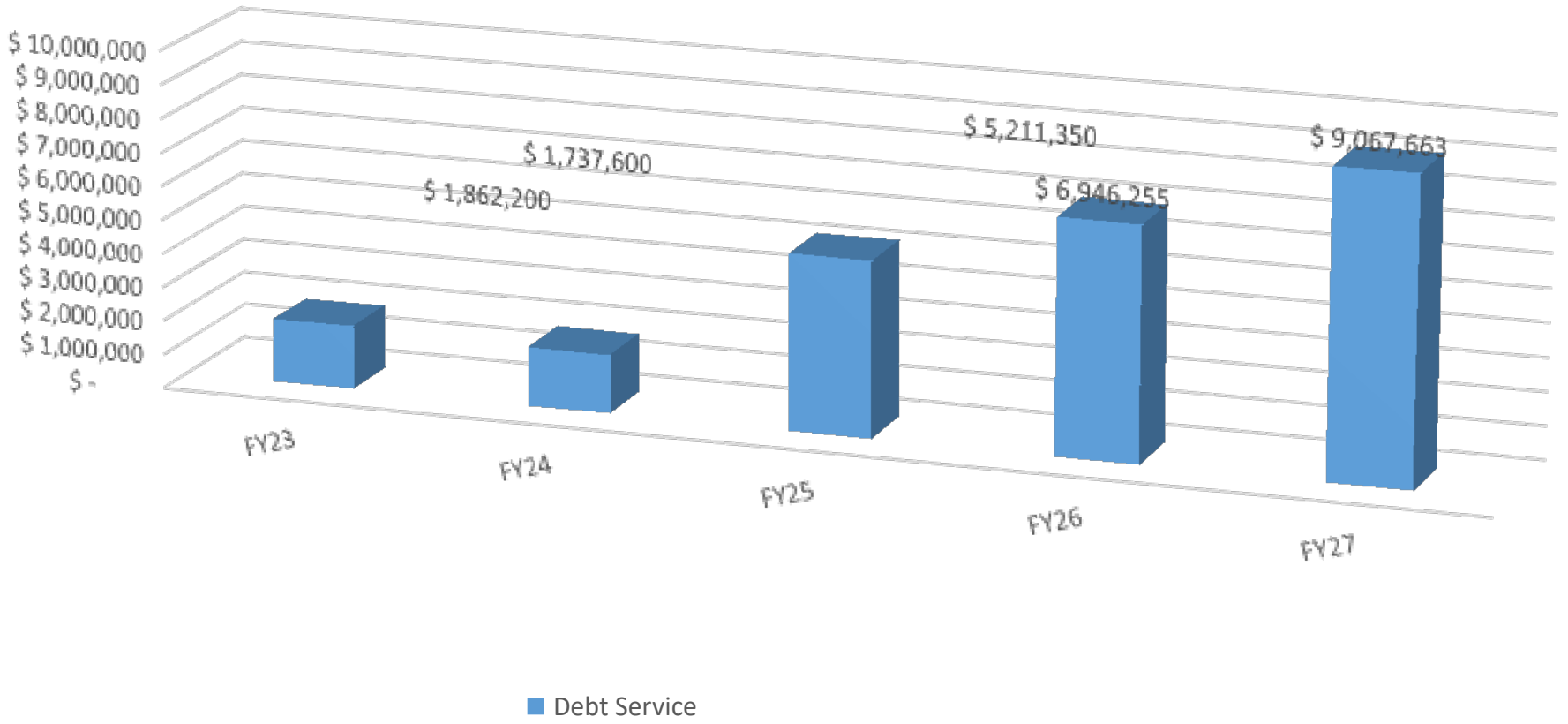
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Student Change	-3	10	29	10	26	-13	51	31	35
Change Net School Spending	$ 693,751	$ 967,547	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Required District Contribution Increase	$ 170,276	$ 114,232	$	$	$ 889,969	$ 445,874	$ 970,673	$	$
Chapter 70 Increase	$ 523,475	$ 853,315	$ 179,902	$ 499,563	$	$	$	$ 910,894	$ 526,008

Chapter 70 Increase Required District Contribution Increase Student Change

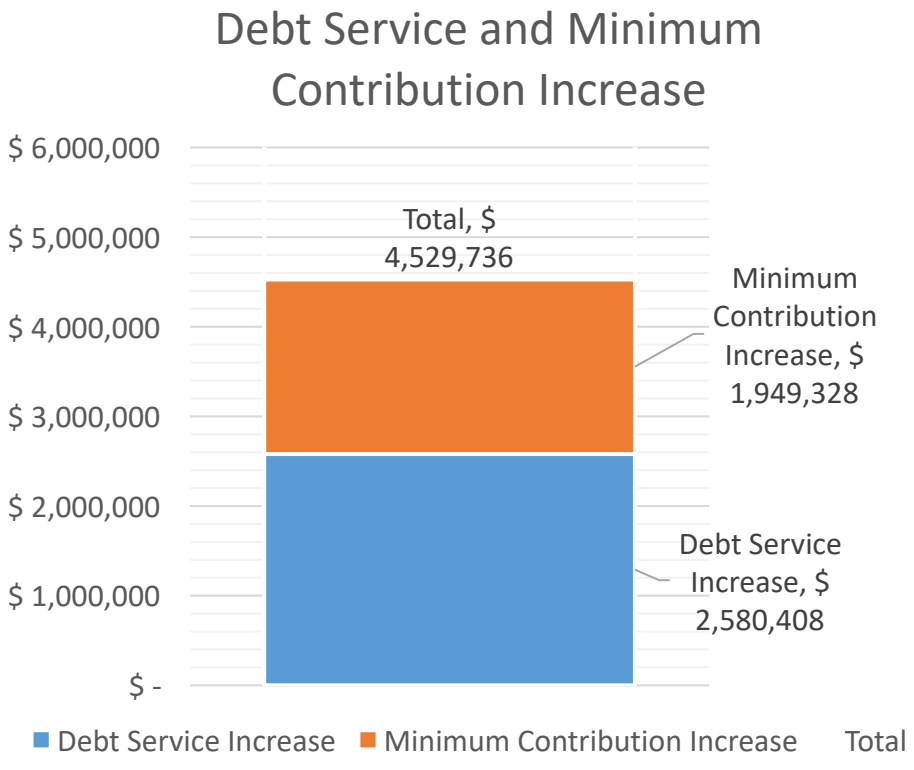
DEBT SERVICE PAYMENT NORMALIZATION

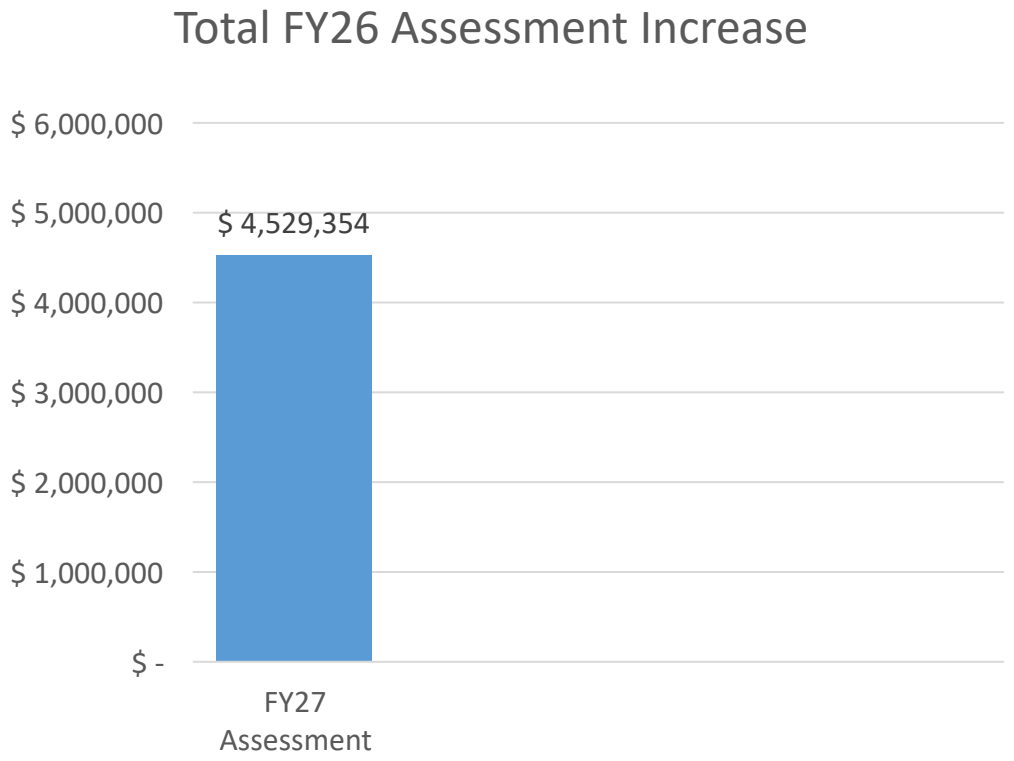
- We were able to reduce the debt service payment in FY26 to $6,496,255 as we utilized a one time payment of $2.7 million dollars from our Excess and Deficiency funds to reduce that burden to our members in anticipation for a difficult fiscal year.
- In FY27, the payment returns to its normal level.

ANALYZING FINANCIAL IMPACT-DEBT SERVICE

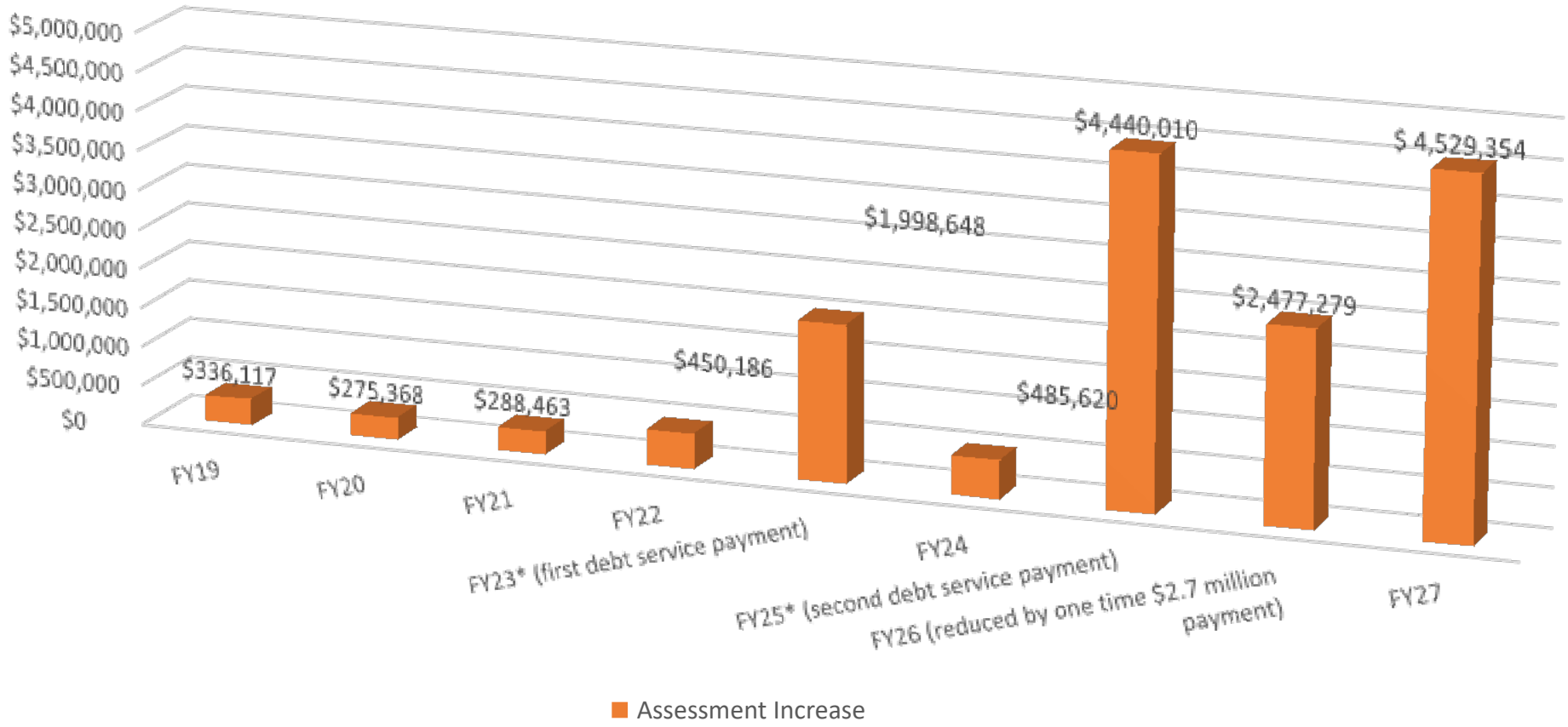


ANALYZING FINANCIAL IMPACT-DEBT SERVICE AND REQUIRED MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION INCREASE





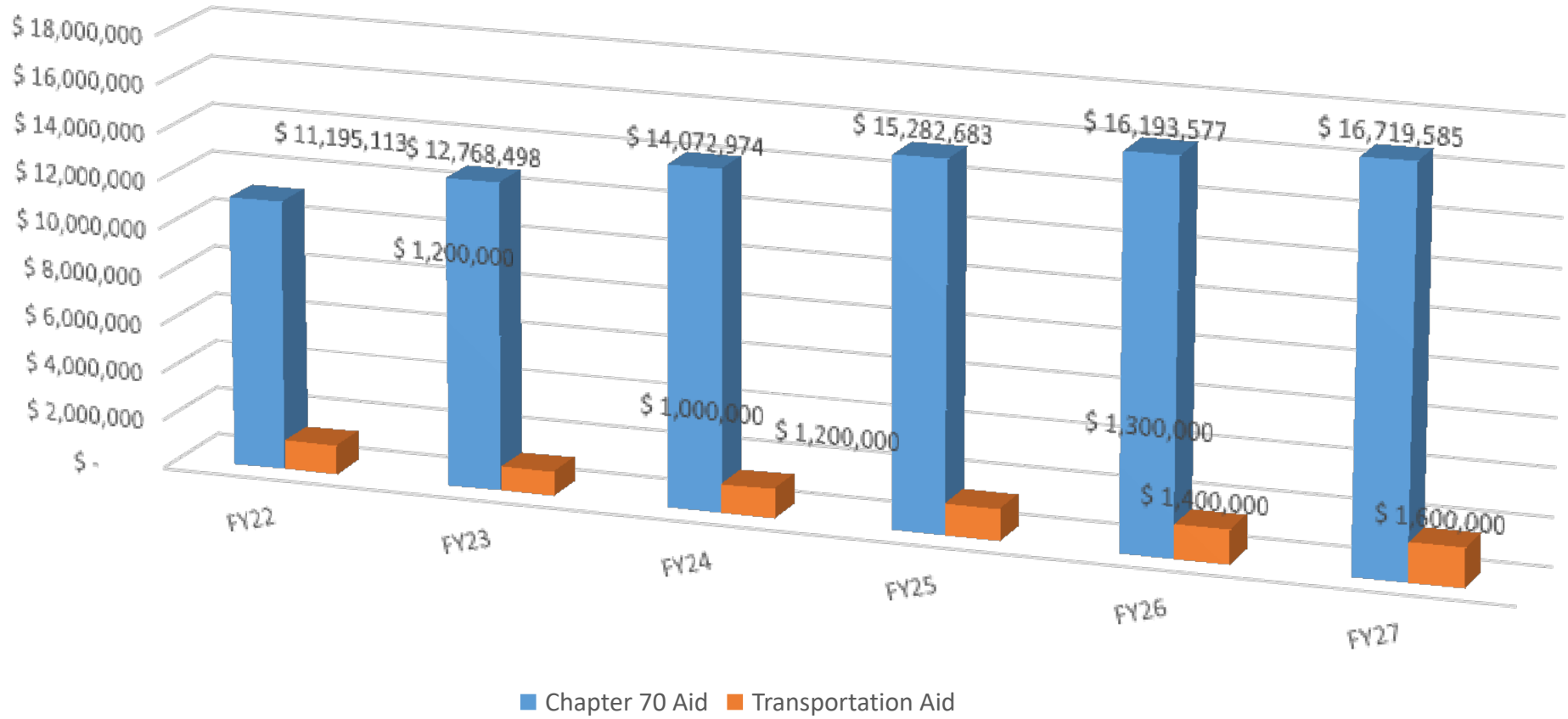
MINIMIZING FINANCIAL IMPACT: HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS



MINIMIZING FINANCIAL IMPACT: HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS

Year	Previous Assessment	Current Assessment	Assessment Increase	% Change
FY18	$13,858,182	$14,115,769	$257,587	1.86%
FY19	$14,115,769	$14,451,886	$336,117	2.38%
FY20	$14,451,886	$14,727,254	$275,368	1.91%
FY21	$14,727,254	$15,015,717	$288,463	1.96%
FY22	$15,015,717	$15,465,903	$450,186	3.00%
FY23	$15,465,903	$17,464,552	$1,998,648	12.92%*
FY24	$17,464,552	$17,950,172	$485,620	2.78%
FY25	$17,950,172	$22,390,182	$4,440,010	24.74%*
FY26	$22,390,182	$24,867,461	$2,477,279	11.06%
FY27	$24,867,461	$29,396,815	$4,529,354	18.21%

MINIMIZING FINANCIAL IMPACT: STATE FUNDING



MINIMIZING FINANCIAL IMPACT: REVENUE

- Based on our Chapter 70 formula calculation, Northeast Metro Tech is projected to receive $16,719,585 in aid for FY27. This amount is $526,008 higher than our aid in FY26.
- The District also anticipates receiving **$1,600,000 in transportation reimbursement**, representing an increase of **$200,000 over FY26**. We will receive those funds in this fiscal year that will be used to offset the FY27 budget.
- Additionally we intend to use $800,000 from our Excess and Deficiency funds (E&D), which will be used to directly reduce assessment costs, mainly reducing the transportation cost assessed to our members due to the increase of busses required to transport our students to the new facility.
- In total, we plan to use $2,400,000 of other funds to reduce the member assessment.

PROVIDING AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF FUNDING

FY27 presents the following fiscal challenges:

Meeting contractual salary obligations, including step and lane increases required under collective bargaining agreements

- Supporting new instructional staff needed to accommodate enrollment growth and expanded programming, including new teachers in Biotechnology, Construction Craft Laborer, Marketing, Medical Assisting, Reading, and Special Education
- Funding additional custodial and security staff necessary to operate and maintain the new school facility
- Addressing increased transportation costs, including the addition of a 24th bus to support growing student enrollment
- Funding rising health insurance and operational costs associated with maintaining the new building
- Providing adequate supplies and materials to support expanded vocational programs and the new facility

These investments ensure that Northeast Metro Tech can continue to provide high-quality vocational and academic programming while supporting the needs of a growing student population.

PROVIDING AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF FUNDING FY27 TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

Expense	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	FY26/FY27 Change	% Change
Total Salary	$20,551,718	$22,017,285	$23,456,828	$1,439,543	6.54%
Total Contracted Services	$12,061,541	$13,062,549	$14,015,842	$ 953,293	7.30%
Total Supplies	$1,393,072	$1,538,376	$1,890,644	$ 352,268	22.90%
Total Equipment	$138,132	$246,573	$76,423	$ -170,150	69.01%
Total Debt Service	$5,211,350	$6,496,255	$9,076,663	$ 2,580,408	39.72%
Total Budget	$39,355,813	$43,361,038	$48,516,400	$ 5,155,361	11.89%

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School's total operating expense with debt service for FY27 is projected to be $48,516,400; 11.89% or $5,155,361 over FY26 total operating budget of $43,361,038.

FY27 BUDGET OFFSET SUMMARY

Funding Summary	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget Final Request	FY26 Budget Final Request	Change
Northeast Metro Tech Total Operating Expense	$34,144,463	$36,864,783	$39,439,737	$2,574,954
Total Debt Service	$5,211,350	$6,496,255	$9,076,663	$2,580,408
Total Revenue Applied to Budget	$ 16,965,631	$18,493,577	$19,119,585	$626,008
Northeast Metro Tech Requested Assessment	$22,390,182	$24,867,461	$29,396,815	$4,529,354

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School's total assessment for FY27 is projected to be $29,396,815; 18.21% or $4,529,354 over FY26 total operating assessment of $24,867,461. This increase is mainly attributed to the increase in debt service payment of $2,580,408, and the increase of minimum required contribution.

TOTAL FY27 ASSESSMENT SUMMARY (INCLUDES DEBT SERVICE)

District	FY25 Assessment	FY26 Assessment	FY27 Assessment	Total Student Increase	FY26 to FY27 Increase	% Change
Chelsea	$ 2,039,983	$ 2,273,334	$ 2,685,454	-11	$ 412,120	18.1%
Malden	$ 2,778,419	$ 3,251,977	$ 4,211,460	22	$ 959,483	29.5%
Melrose	$ 1,619,030	$ 1,951,636	$ 2,066,354	-4	$ 114,718	5.9%
North Reading	$ 939,751	$ 1,042,462	$ 978,721	-7	$ (63,740)	-6.1%
Reading	$ 858,300	$ 1,295,702	$ 1,292,317	-4	$ (3,384)	-0.3%
Revere	$ 3,285,660	$ 3,616,676	$ 4,479,006	10	$ 862,330	23.8%
Saugus	$ 2,621,975	$ 2,557,570	$ 3,075,825	4	$ 518,255	20.3%
Stoneham	$ 1,650,461	$ 1,653,036	$ 1,940,084	4	$ 287,048	17.4%
Wakefield	$ 2,370,610	$ 2,445,557	$ 2,834,622	5	$ 389,065	15.9%
Winchester	$ 143,050	$ 275,451	$ 415,254	4	$ 139,802	50.8%

FY27 OPERATIONAL/DEBT SERVICE BREAKOUT

City/Town	Total FY27 Operating Assessment	Total FY27 Debt Service	Total FY27 Final Assessment
Chelsea	$ 1,134,216	$ 1,551,238	$ 2,685,454
Malden	$ 2,807,655	$ 1,403,806	$ 4,211,460
Melrose	$ 1,585,598	$ 480,755	$ 2,066,354
N. Reading	$ 754,369	$ 224,353	$ 978,721
Reading	$ 991,044	$ 301,273	$ 1,292,317
Revere	$ 2,645,726	$ 1,833,281	$ 4,479,006
Saugus	$ 2,300,207	$ 775,619	$ 3,075,825
Stoneham	$ 1,478,559	$ 461,525	$ 1,940,084
Wakefield	$ 2,174,385	$ 660,237	$ 2,834,622
Winchester	$ 319,102	$ 96,151	$ 415,254
Winthrop	$ 1,100,796	$ 391,014	$ 1,491,810
Woburn	$ 3,028,496	$ 897,410	$ 3,925,906
Total	$ 20,320,152	$ 9,076,663	$ 29,396,815

CITY OF MELROSE

Auditor's Office

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4110

To: Melrose City Council

From: Kerriann Golden, CFO/City Auditor

Date: May 28, 2026

Re: Fiscal Year 2027 School Appropriation

Please be advised that the number presented in the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating budget of $49,332,180 encompasses the anticipated increase in Chapter 70 of $332,180.

On April 14th, 2026, The Melrose School Committee voted a Fiscal Year 2027 School budget based on a City Appropriation of $49,000,000.

On April 16th, 2026, the Massachusetts House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee recommended an increase in Chapter 70 of $332,180 for Melrose.

The increase in Chapter 70 was included in the Fiscal 2027 appropriation to Melrose Public Schools and will be available to the school once both the City and State's budget is approved.

4/14/26 School Committee Appropriation	49,000,000.00
4/16/26 Chapter 70 increase recommendation	332,180.00
Total Fiscal 2027 School Appropriation	**49,332,180.00**

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Department of Public Works

Name of Department Head: Elena Proakis Ellis, Director

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The Melrose Department of Public Works provides quality services to the community in the areas of drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, recycling, parks, forestry, fleet, highway, cemetery, facilities, engineering, and administration, while promoting health, safety, sustainability, and fiscal responsibility through the teamwork and commitment of an honest and dependable workforce.

The DPW's budget is a combination of several components. The general fund operating budget is broken down into budgets for:

1) Administration and Engineering
2) Facilities Maintenance
3) Highway
4) Snow Removal
5) Sanitation
6) Parks and Forestry
7) Automotive
8) Wyoming Cemetery

In addition, the DPW manages three enterprise funds with independent budgets: Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste/Recycling.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2026, these are some of the items DPW has completed:

- Potholes filled: 189 locations
- Storms responded to: 42 inches of snow (not including salting operations, plowable storms only)
- Vehicles in fleet maintained: 144 pc. of equipment
- Tonnage of trash/recycling:
    - 4,633.70 tons of trash
    - 1,648.67 tons of recycling
- Parks/fields/open spaces maintained: 82 locations
- Total work orders resolved: 3,496 (908 facilities and 2,588 operations)
- Invoices processed: 1,235 purchase orders
- Recycled 230 mattresses as part of the mattress recycling drop-off program

The Department of Public Works also played a critical role in several large projects/events such as:

- Capital projects including paving, water main replacement, sewer main improvements, and drainage improvements

- Support of City events including school sports, elections, memorials, Earth Week, Victorian Fair, and private facility rentals
- Applied for and received multiple grants for infrastructure and environmental initiatives, including acceptance in to the Massachusetts State Building Association's Accelerated Repair Program for the Melrose High School Learning Commons Roof and roofing and other building improvements at the Franklin School.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

The DPW's priorities for FY27 include getting back up to full staffing levels by filling critical vacancies with quality staff, implementing important infrastructure and facilities projects that have been funded by grants and by the FY26 supplemental budget, and keeping up on essential services provided daily by the department.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

The DPW's FY27 budget is largely unchanged from the FY26 supplemental budget, with a return to full staffing and level-funding of many of our contractual and materials/supplies line items, except where contract pricing showed significant increases in competitively bid on-call contracts. Salary line items show step increases but do not yet reflect the outcome of ongoing contract negotiations with both our laborers and clerical unions.

Several staff members have been shifted between DPW Divisions to more accurately reflect the workload of the department and routine assignments of those roles. These moves resulted in no net change in our total number of employees funded through the general fund and through each of our enterprise funds.

Rising energy costs are reflected in our facilities budget and continue to be outside of the City's control. We continue to implement energy efficiency projects and look for savings wherever feasible, such as through demand management programs.

Finally, some of the capital line items (paving, sidewalks, facilities) from the FY26 supplemental budget have been maintained into FY27, allowing the department to continue implementing critical infrastructure repairs and replacements as needs arise and to plan for small projects in the coming year.

5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

Many line items within DPW's Facilities budget are directly related to school spending. These include items such as:

- Custodial and maintenance staff
- Contracted work such as cleaning and inspections within school buildings
- Maintenance and repairs of school facilities
- Capital repairs and upgrades of school buildings
- A portion of administrative staff time and resources to oversee all of the above

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

   The successful override has allowed DPW to fully fund our prior staffing levels, critical to providing essential services to the City, and has grown our ability to respond to capital needs. The DPW (including Engineering, Operations, and Facilities) submitted nearly 100 projects to the capital improvement plan program. These are necessary upgrades and repairs all over Melrose that require attention, such as paving, roof replacements, Melrose High School bathrooms, drainage improvements, etc. The DPW is better able to plan for and address these needs with adequate funding, allowing us to be more proactive and less reactive. Furthermore, the availability of free cash is allowing the DPW to get back into a cycle of vehicle replacements that is sorely needed, especially during winter operations when failing equipment can result in immediate safety hazards.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: IT Department

Name of Department Head: Tom Smulligan

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The IT Department plays a critical role in ensuring the continuity of day-to-day city and school operations by maintaining the health and reliability of our network and server infrastructure. This includes keeping all network equipment properly configured and operational, ensuring servers remain online and secure, and maintaining robust backup and disaster recovery systems across both municipal and school environments.

In addition to supporting ongoing operations, the department partners with city and school leadership to plan, design, and implement new technology systems. This includes providing guidance on new construction and renovation projects to ensure buildings are equipped to meet modern technological and connectivity needs.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

In Fiscal Year 2026, the IT Department made strong progress in improving technology, security, and instructional support across both the City and School District.

We upgraded public address systems at the High School and Roosevelt School, supported MCAS testing with updated Chromebooks and carts, and enhanced learning environments through High School Art and CAD lab upgrades, new projectors at MVMMS, and a district-wide staff Chromebook rollout. We also completed student Chromebook refreshes at Lincoln Elementary and High School.

From a security and infrastructure standpoint, we improved camera systems across multiple schools and upgraded door access controls at City Hall to strengthen building security and management.

At the same time, we faced several challenges. The retirement of our primary Munis operator required a transition of critical system knowledge. We also experienced ongoing school technology staffing shortages and implemented necessary network security and topology changes in our production environment.

Despite these challenges, the department continued to deliver key improvements that support education, operations, and public safety.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

For Fiscal Year 2027, the IT Department will focus on strengthening instructional technology, expanding security systems, and improving resiliency across municipal operations.

At the High School, we plan to upgrade interactive classroom displays to support modern teaching and collaboration. We will also continue phased Chromebook upgrades at the elementary level to ensure students have reliable, up-to-date devices.

From a facilities and safety perspective, we will expand door access control systems across additional buildings and continue upgrading school public address systems to enhance communication and emergency response.

To better serve our community, we will implement language line services across all city departments, improving accessibility for non-English-speaking residents.

On the infrastructure side, we will prioritize municipal phone system resiliency upgrades to ensure continuity of operations, along with firewall modernization and high availability enhancements to strengthen network reliability.

Finally, we will continue to advance our cybersecurity posture, including expanded adoption of FIDO2 authentication, to better protect city and school systems from evolving threats.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

For Fiscal Year 2027, the IT Department's budget reflects targeted investments in both capital improvements and physical security, with $525,000 allocated for capital projects and $325,000 dedicated to security enhancements.

These investments support continued modernization of critical infrastructure, including classroom technology, network systems, and communication platforms. The security funding allows us to expand physical protections such as door access control systems and camera coverage across city and school buildings, strengthening our ability to monitor, secure, and manage facilities effectively.

As a result, service delivery will benefit from improved system reliability, enhanced building security, and a more consistent technology environment across departments. These upgrades also help us to better support staff and students while reducing operational risk and improving response capabilities.

Overall, the FY27 budget enables the department to maintain current service levels while making strategic investments in infrastructure and physical security that support long-term operational stability and safety.

5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

The IT Department budget includes several costs that directly support the Melrose Public Schools and help ensure reliable day-to-day operations across the district. These costs include firewall protections, phone systems, student Chromebooks, teacher and staff devices, network infrastructure, projectors and interactive displays, PA systems, door control systems and maintenance, and broader security-related improvements.

These investments support both instructional technology and the underlying infrastructure needed to keep schools connected, secure, and operational. They also help ensure that staff and students have the tools and systems necessary to support teaching, learning, communication, and building safety.

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

The Proposition 2 1/2 override approved by Melrose voters in November has had a positive impact on the IT Department's FY27 budget by restoring and increasing our capital improvement funds.

This additional funding allows the department to continue addressing deferred technology needs and move forward with planned upgrades to infrastructure, instructional technology, and security systems. As a result, we are better positioned to maintain reliable service, improve system stability, and support both city and school operations more effectively throughout the year.

Overall, the override provides meaningful flexibility to invest in long-term technology needs that directly support operational continuity and modernization.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Office of Planning and Community Development

Name of Department Head: Lori Massa

1. Department Overview and Mission:

It is the mission of the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) to protect and enhance the quality of life in Melrose. To accomplish this mission OPCD provides long range planning, manages select capital improvement projects, recommends and implements zoning amendments, creates GIS maps and spatial analysis, applies for and administers grants and community development programs and implements special projects. Additionally, OPCD supports the administrative and technical work of several Boards and Commissions in the City and reviews all major land use proposals, including subdivision plans and conservation regulations. Details are in the accomplishment section below.

Long range plans that the Departments creates and implements:

- Melrose Forward Community and Master Plan 2017-2027
- Housing Production Plan 2022-April 13, 2027
- Open Space & Recreation Plan 2023-2033
- Wayfinding & Creative Placemaking Plan
- Net Zero Action Plan 2022-2027

Staff:

- Lori Massa, AICP, Planning Director
- Jane Pitts, Account Manager & GIS Analyst (shared with DPW & Assessing)
- Maya Noviski, Senior Planner
- Adam Forrester, Assistant Planner
- Ingrid Winkler, Conservation Agent
- James Horne, Energy Advocate – grant funded position
- Denise Gaffey, Project Manager for the Public Safety Building Construction Projects

Staff are members of committees:

- North Suburban Consortium (NSC) for HOME fund disbursement with 8 neighboring communities
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)
- MAPC Inner Core Committee
- MAPC Metro Mayors Coalition Housing Taskforce
- Local School Health and Safety Committee
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Capital Improvement Program

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Boards and Commissions

So far this fiscal year managed:

- Planning Board:
    - Handled 4 applications for approval including 62 residential units (9 affordable), commercial space and an Accessory Dwelling Unit that required Site Plan Approval;
    - Design Review Subcommittee review of signage, and follow-up of exterior material and conditions of approval for 6 other cases
    - Managing follow-up on conditions of approval for 9 previously approved projects under development including assisting with upcoming lotteries for affordable housing units.
    - These projects will increase our tax base, revitalize underutilized and vacant buildings, and help fill the local demand for more housing.
- Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):
    - 32 new cases including two 40B Comprehensive Permits
    - Managing follow-up on conditions of approval for three 40B Comprehensive Permits
- Conservation Commission handled cases for permitting, wetlands regulation enforcement, compliance and other activities including:
    - Working with the Police Department and DPW to reduce incidents of illegal dumping in certain areas where such dumping frequently occurs
    - Implementing a new technique for water quality treatment at Ell Pond with filters at inlets
    - Participated in community events including the Victorian Fair, educating those in the community on the important values of wetlands and Conservation land
    - Drafted a new policy regarding encroachments onto Conservation land
    - Reviewing and addressing encroachments by property owners onto adjacent Conservation land to ensure these areas remain protected
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board
    - Created and accepted Mission and Guidelines
    - Processed and accepted first grant application
    - Held a meeting with housing groups to discuss the Board's newly created guidelines
- Historic District Commission
    - 4 cases to review and make determinations on exterior changes within the Local Historic District – currently downtown from Emerson Street to Foster Street
    - Wrote the Preliminary Study Report and undergoing process to designate 244 Main Street as the Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District
- Historical Commission
    - Staffing the HC for cases that fall under the newly approved demolition review ordinance
    - Developing criteria for determinations and the application form
- Redevelopment Authority
    - Expended the remaining funds and taking steps to officially dissolve the board

Housing and Permitting

- Applied for and received designation for Melrose to be a Housing Choice Community
- Wrote Demolition Review Ordinance
- Requested and received Temporary Safe Harbor Status under the 40B law and updated the State's Subsidized Housing Inventory
- Put forth adoption and implementation of the 'Mullin Rule' for the City's land use boards/commissions
- Increased application fees for OPCD staffed Boards/Commissions and updated the City Codes, Rules and Regulations, and application forms
- Implemented and maintaining the City's Vacant Storefront Program
- Housing monitoring and data submission

- Submitted housing data to MAPC to meet regional goals
- Submitted housing data to the Census
- Monitor inclusionary affordable units for continued compliance and rent request approvals
- Managed the restrictions of a re-sale of an affordable condominium that was transferred from the NSC to the City as required by the agreements

Graphic Information Systems (GIS)

- Cemetery project advancement which includes substantial data cleaning and digitization into a database that links to a map that will be available online.
- Continue to maintain the City's GIS data and online map, which provides residents and staff spatial data, and connections with the building permit software, assessors' records and maps, and aerial images of the City.
- Submission of the annual report of parcel data to MassGIS, including updates to N911 address additions and changes.
- Maintained and updated the City's infrastructure layers, including water, sewer, stormwater, conservation areas, and FEMA-related data.
- Created maps for special projects such as the demolition review ordinance analysis, affordable unit locations for the Affordable Housing Trust and utilities and operations (snow and trash route) map updates.

Energy and Sustainability

- The Energy Advocate has held outreach events and individual coaching to homeowners, renters/landlords, and income-eligible residents to help them navigate and take advantage of Mass Save incentives for insulation, air sealing, weatherization, heat pump hot water heaters, and heating system upgrades.
- Help with the administration of the Melrose Community Power program to protect residents from astronomical increases in energy costs.
- Submitted the Green Communities Annual Report to continue this designation.
- Applied for grants related to energy efficiency and renewal energy projects as noted below.

Long Range Planning

- Continuing to advance the School Facilities Master Plan
- Surplus Municipal Land Study (Ripley School and Police Station) – in progress
- Working with the Engineering Department on updates to the Ell Pond stormwater management project, Mystic River Watershed Resilient Facilities Project (MVP) with Housing Authority, & Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning 2.0 project
- Working with the Mayor's Office and MAPC on the Memorial Hall operations plan

Grants and Project Management

- Completion of the majority of the MassWorks grant management for the reconstruction of the culvert by Ell Pond, which has been installed. Our request to extend the deadline to use the remaining funds of the grant was approved by the State so that the site restoration can be done once the private development is farther along.

- Design and construction management of the Milano Park Project with Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Earmark and the Redevelopment Authority Funds
- Housing Production Plan Implementation Zoning Work with a Community Planning One Stop Grant – hiring consultant and work will start soon.
- Applied for and received the Climate Leader Community TA Grant for designing the MVMMS and MHS heat pumps in auditorium/admin & solar on the DPW salt shed
- Applied for a Green Communities Grant for Phase 2 of the MVMMS BMS Control & Energy Advocacy Outreach Efforts
- Melrose's Community Development Revolving Programs – awarding applicants signage grants

3. **FY 27 Priorities:**
   - Housing Production Plan Implementation Zoning Work
   - Housing Production Plan Update – if funding awarded
   - Downtown Parking Study – if funding awarded
   - Towners Pond hydro-raking – if funding awarded
   - Implementing the recommendations of the study for the Riley School and Police Station Sites
   - Finalizing the School Facilities Master Plan
   - Continuing the review and follow-up of the applications to the Boards & Commissions
   - Cemetery Digitization Project Completion
   - Grant reporting and collaboration with DPW on the awarded grants for green infrastructure projects

4. **What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?**

The changes in OPCD's budget for FY27 are the expected salary increases and the movement of the energy initiative line item into professional services to better reflect the current use of the money now that the grant for the Energy Advocate and related outreach is in place.

5. **What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?**

The administration of the School Facilities Master Plan, grants for green capital projects for school buildings, and participation on the School Health and Safety Committee are current activities that support the Melrose Public Schools which occupy a portion of the staff time in the Office of Planning and Community Development.

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

The Override has allowed us to include visioning sessions with school staff for the School Facilities Master Plan, which will greatly enhance the quality of the recommendations of the study having this input on programing space deficiencies, the quality of the existing spaces, and learner/developmental impacts of space.

We are being fiscally conservative by not filling the role of the Sustainability Manager position, which has been vacant since 2023. We are trying to keep up with the related grant opportunities that allow for the

replacement of failing building systems with energy efficient systems that also have the financial benefits of utility cost reductions.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Health and Human Services

Name of Department Head: Anthony Chui

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The Melrose Health and Human Services (HHS) Department operates through a regional agreement with the Towns of Wakefield and Stoneham, sharing staff positions and coordinating joint programming. The Melrose Board of Health, made up of three members, meets monthly and as needed to set policy, adopt regulations, and enforce local and state public health laws.

In FY26, the department continued to strengthen its core public health responsibilities while expanding efforts to support social services and community well-being. Staff conducted restaurant inspections, issued permits, oversaw public and semi-public pools, and monitored farmers markets and temporary events. The department also managed environmental health functions that included dumpster compliance, nuisance complaints, rodent investigations, and closures of massage and bodywork establishments when required.

HHS addressed a wide range of housing and human services concerns, including routine housing inspections, hoarding situations, elder neglect or abuse referrals, and cases involving housing instability, such as residents navigating Section 8 and other voucher programs. These efforts were closely connected to ongoing case management and support services provided by the department's Human Services team. Animal Control services were also part of this work, responding to domestic animal concerns, investigating neglect or abuse-related complaints, and supporting community safety.

School nursing services are also part of the HHS Department and played a key role in supporting student health throughout the year. School nurses provided daily medical care, managed chronic conditions, responded to emergencies, and collaborated with families, school staff, and community partners to keep students healthy and ready to learn.

Mental health, behavioral health, and access to social services remained top priorities across all areas of work. To address these needs, the HHS Department worked in partnership with other city departments, community organizations, and dedicated volunteers to strengthen supports and improve the overall health of Melrose residents.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

The department made significant progress across public health, school health, and community services. Public Health Nurses convened a regional training for summer camp leadership to review Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations and enforcement requirements. They continued to offer regular blood pressure clinics and supported workforce development by serving as preceptors for nursing students.

As fiscal agent for the Public Health Excellence grant serving six communities, the department sustained professional development and continuing education for health inspection staff. School Nurses remained a vital resource for students, families, and school staff, providing daily support across physical health, mental health, behavioral health, and chronic disease management.

The department also conducted extensive research and analysis on kratom, supporting the Board of Health in its decision to prohibit local sales based on safety concerns and staff recommendations. Food safety work remained strong, with all required inspections completed and several new establishments opening during FY26.

The department also faced several challenges throughout the year. School Nurse shortages created periods when some schools were under-covered, requiring frequent coordination and flexibility to maintain essential services. Staff continued to manage rising service demands, including more complex environmental, housing, and human services cases.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

The department's priorities for FY27 focus on strengthening core public health services and expanding community outreach. A key goal is to increase opportunities for animal control and animal health education through the new regional Animal Control partnership, including more proactive enforcement and potential community events. The department will continue to maintain strong inspection and school nursing programs to ensure safety, compliance, and consistent support for students and families. Additional priorities include expanding the reach of the Youth Action Team to engage more young people in prevention and wellness initiatives and completing a comprehensive review and revision of all existing Board of Health regulations to ensure they remain current, effective, and aligned with community needs.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

The FY27 budget includes several important changes that strengthen the department's ability to meet growing community needs. Funding from the Proposition 2½ Override supports the addition of a floating School Nurse, which provides essential coverage across all school buildings. This improves service delivery by ensuring a nurse is always available on site to manage urgent medical needs, respond to multiple incidents at once, and maintain safe nurse-to-student ratios, especially in larger schools.

The budget also expands the department's capacity to address domestic animal issues through the addition of a Regional Animal Control Officer shared with Wakefield and Stoneham while still being cost-effective. This enhancement improves enforcement of existing regulations such as the leash law, strengthens follow-up on animal bite reports, and supports investigations of potential neglect or abuse. It also allows the department to take a more proactive role in community education and to explore new public outreach activities, including the possibility of hosting rabies clinics.

5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

The Health and Human Services budget includes several key costs that directly support the Melrose Public Schools. All School Nurse positions are funded through the Health Department, ensuring that each school has the medical support needed to keep students safe and able to learn. In addition to clinical care, School Nurses manage chronic conditions, respond to emergencies, support mental and behavioral health needs, and collaborate with families and staff.

The department also provides indirect support to the school community through substance use prevention and mental health initiatives. This includes analysis of Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, programming such as Screenagers, alcohol awareness campaigns, gambling-prevention materials, and other health education efforts that strengthen student well-being and complement the work of the schools.

6. What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?

The Proposition 2½ Override will help strengthen the Health and Human Services budget for FY27 and allowed the department to address two significant operational needs. First, the budget supports the addition of a full-time floating School Nurse to ensure consistent coverage across all school buildings. Due to the nature of student medical needs, the City is required to have a nurse on site to maintain safety. When a nurse is out, the nurse-to-student ratio increases sharply, especially in larger schools such as the middle and high school. The additional floating nurse will help maintain safe staffing levels, reduce the strain caused by unexpected absences, and ensure timely response when multiple medical incidents occur simultaneously.

The override also enhances the department's ability to respond to domestic animal issues through the addition of a Regional Animal Control Officer shared with Wakefield and Stoneham. This increased capacity strengthens enforcement of existing regulations such as the leash law, supports timely follow-up on animal bite reports, and allows for investigations related to possible neglect or abuse. With this added staff support, the department can also take a more proactive role in community education and explore opportunities for public-facing initiatives such as rabies clinics.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Inspectional Services

Name of Department Head: Albert Talarico

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The Inspectional Services Department consists of the Director, one Administrative Assistant, and three part-time inspectors (Building, Electrical, and Gas/Plumbing).

The Department's mission is to ensure public safety and protect the quality of life in Melrose through the enforcement of life safety codes, consumer protection laws, health regulations, and land use laws. We are committed to communicating clearly, educating the public, and providing professional, responsive service. We strive to uphold these standards with integrity while serving a diverse community.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Over the past year, we made significant improvements to our permitting system, Simplicity. We worked closely with the software provider to expand access and allow other departments to review and approve building permit applications.

We successfully integrated the Treasurer's Office, Office of Planning and Community Development, Fire Department, and Engineering Department into the permitting workflow at no additional cost. This enhancement improves the collection of outstanding taxes, reduces interdepartmental miscommunication, and ensures more thorough permit review prior to approval.

Overall, these changes have increased accountability, streamlined operations, and improved customer service.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

Continue to educate the public on the Department's role through improvements to the City website, while maintaining a high level of customer service.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

Due to prior budget constraints, several line items were reduced. We are requesting that these items be restored to their original levels.

- **Printing Services (reduced by 18.8%)**
  Reduced from $400 to $325 annually. Impact is minimal if limited to one year.

- **Books and Subscriptions (reduced by 30.6%)**
  Reduced from $1,000 to $750 annually. This is manageable unless new state code updates require the purchase of additional materials.
- **Weights & Measures Supplies (reduced by 33.3%)**
  Reduced from $1,500 to $1,000 annually. Minimal impact if limited to one year.
- **Education and Seminars (reduced by 50%)**
  Reduced from $2,600 to $1,300 annually. This reduction presents challenges, as inspectors are required to complete continuing education and maintain certifications. While manageable for one year, this is not sustainable long-term.

5. **What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?**

   None.

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

   The override has allowed us to maintain current staffing levels, which supports workload management, emergency response, customer service, and staff retention.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: 931 Capital Outlay

Name of Department Head: Kerriann Golden

Included in the operating budget is funding for projects/equipment that were identified as needs as part of the Capital Planning process and other one-time needs.

Fire EMS Equipment $109,000.00 Fire Department **Priority Group A**

This project requests funding to replace aging and end-of-life EMS equipment essential for resuscitation and life-saving operations. The request includes Lucas 3.1 CPR devices (Stryker) – one for each frontline apparatus. These devices provide automated, consistent chest compressions during cardiac arrest events, improving patient outcomes and reducing firefighter fatigue and injury risk.; AED-Pro units (Zoll) – assigned to Car 1, Car 2, S1, K1, Ladder 1, Engine 2, Engine 3, and one for each fire station (3), replacing all current AEDs which have reached end-of-life and are no longer supported.; Exterior AED mounting cabinets – weatherproof, alarmed cases to mount AEDs on the outside of each fire station, providing 24/7 public access to early defibrillation in cardiac emergencies.

This project updates department equipment to modern standards, improves interoperability with EMS provider Armstrong Ambulance, and expands community access to life-saving cardiac tools.

Fire Turnout Replacement Gear $58,500 *Fire Department* **Priority Group A**

This project seeks multi-year funding to replace firefighter turnout gear (coat and pant ensembles) that will reach end-of-life over the next four fiscal years. Turnout gear is a primary safety barrier protecting firefighters from flames, heat exposure, carcinogens, and environmental hazards. The current department gear is worn and stored across all three fire stations and deployed on every emergency response call. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards limit turnout gear to a 10-year life cycle, making replacement mandatory once gear exceeds that age. replacement mandatory once gear exceeds that age.

City Yard Gas Pump replacement - $50,000 **Priority Group B**

Infrastructure needs to be updated at the City Yard. The gas pump is used by both city and school vehicles for refueling.

Police Vehicles - $83,000 – 1 Cruiser - **Priority Group A**

Updating of 1 line cruiser. The goal for this line item is to work towards maintaining a budget for a set replacement cycle. The cruiser being replaced is a 2019 Ford Interceptor.

Masonry Work - $250,000 – Priority **Group A**

-Various masonry projects around the city, including City Hall and Winthrop School Masonry projects identified on the CIP, inclusive of retaining walls and stairs.

ARC electrical Study for City and School Buildings - $225,000 – **Priority Group B**

Comprehensive engineering analysis of all facilities electrical power system.

Milano Improvements - $75,000 **- Group B**

Repairs to the Milano center exterior. The other portion of this project will be funded through an earmark.

MVMMS Control Upgrade Phase 2: $100,000 -**Group B**

National Grid has identified the MVMMS HVAC system controls as a critical energy efficiency project. The first phase has already been funded with FY26 supplemental funds, and this would be funding of phase 2.

Hoover All Purpose Room (APR) - $75,000 – **Group B**

The project will consist of asbestos abatement as well as installation of new flooring, replacement or cleaning of window treatments and repainting of the walls. The other portion will be funded through an earmark.

The following items were not identified in the CIP, however have been identified as needs once the CIP was complete.

Furniture and Fixtures - $100,000 City Departments

This funding would provide funding to replace broken furniture in some of our public meeting spaces (City Council Chamber, Cassidy Conference room) as well as update furniture needs within departments.

Furniture and Fixtures - $100,000 School Department

This funding would allow for broken furniture to be updated in school buildings as well as add smaller items throughout schools (bulletin boards, library carts).

School IT - $325,000 School Department

Identified upgrades district wide to building security including Fob accessed doors and cameras. Projector upgrades at the high school.

Parks - $200,000 School Playground (School/Parks Department)

Replace the playground at Winthrop School.

Final Rank	Department Priority	Project Title	Estimated Cost
Priority Group A Projects			
1	Parks - 1	Ell Pond Park & Fields Improvements	$ 10,300,000.00
2	Fire - 3	Fire SCBA Equipment	$ 41,400.00
3	DPW - 3	DPW Fleet Replacements	$ 2,700,000.00
4	Fire - 2	Fire EMS Equipment	$ 109,000.00
5	DPW - 6	MHS Learning Commons Roof Replacement	$ 4,000,000.00
6	DPW - 1	Curbside Yard Waste Truck Replacement	$ 350,000.00
7	Police - 1	Police Cruiser Replacement	$ 415,000.00
8	DPW - 5	Franklin School Replace Roof	$ 3,000,000.00
9	Police - 2	Police Taser Acquisition	$ 300,000.00
10	DPW - 4	Franklin School Replace Windows/Doors	$ 3,000,000.00
11	Fire - 1	Replacement of Fire Apparatus	$ 2,845,000.00
12	Fire - 7	Fire Turnout Gear Replacement	$ 301,500.00
13	DPW - 2	Winthrop/MHS/City Hall Exterior Masonry Project	$ 400,000.00
14	Mem Hall - 2	Memorial Hall Main Hall Interior Restoration	$ 1,000,000.00
15	OPCD - 1	City Master Plan Update	$ 100,000.00
16	DPW - 7	Drinking Water Lead Service Line Removal Project	$ 1,000,000.00
17	Mem Hall - 1	Memorial Hall Stage Lights Replacement	$ 100,000.00
18	DPW - 9	Lebanon St. TIP Project Design and Bidding	$ 500,000.00
19	DPW - 16	School Asbestos Tile Remediation/Removal	$ 400,000.00
20	DPW - 12	Lebanon/ Sylvan Drainage Improvements - Construction	$ 1,500,000.00
Priority Group B Projects			
21	DPW - 15	Hoover ARP Abatement and Renovations	$ 150,000.00
22	DPW - 8	City Hall Main Street Stairs Structural Repairs/Replacement	$ 300,000.00
23	Fire - 4	Utility/Bucket Truck	$ 218,773.00
24	OPCD - 2	Housing Production Plan	$ 75,000.00
25	DPW - 18	Annual Water Main Improvements Project	$ 5,000,000.00
26	Parks - 2	Fencing replacements - Fields/Parks	$ 150,000.00
27	Mem Hall - 3	Memorial Hall Envelope - Stairs	$ 3,500,000.00
28	DPW - 17	MHS Hot Water Heater Removal/Additions	$ 100,000.00
29	Parks - 3	Mt. Hood Clubhouse Windows	$ 75,000.00
30	DPW - 14	Winthrop School Renovation (or other Master Plan recommendation)	TBD
31	DPW - 13	Remove/Replace wall outside of MHS on Melrose Street side	$ 25,000.00
32	DPW - 34	Citywide Sidewalk Repairs	$ 500,000.00
33	DPW - 24	Annual Road Program	$ 3,750,000.00
34	DPW - 11	City Yard gas pump replacement project	$ 50,000.00
35	DPW - 27	MVMMS Energy Controls Phase 2	$ 200,000.00
36	DPW - 28	City Hall back steps to alley	$ 50,000.00
37	DPW - 31	Milano Center Exterior Repairs	$ 150,000.00
38	DPW - 22	Lebanon TIP - Construction	$ 400,000.00
39	DPW - 10	Electrical Study, and Arc Flash Study/Labelling - All School and Municipal Buildings	TBD
40	DPW - 23	Drainage channel permitting and cleaning - Citywide	TBD
41	Fire - 6	CAD System	$ 105,000.00
42	DPW - 30	Lincoln/Roosevelt Fire Panel and End-Device Replacements	$ 300,000.00
43	DPW - 19	LED Upgrades - MHS, MVMMS, Hoover, Franklin	$ 600,000.00
44	DPW - 21	HVAC for Central Admin separate from MHS	$ 100,000.00

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: 942 Stabilization Funds

Name of Department Head: Kerriann Golden

Department #942 Stabilization Funds

Contract Stabilization - $400,000 – The request for this appropriation is for supplemental funding for contractual obligations that were not settled at the time the budget was set as well as contractual obligations that may arise during the Fiscal Year.

Annual appropriation to fund City Stabilization Fund in the amount of $50,000. Currently, the cash balance of this fund is $4,696,211.87. The goal for this fund is to have a target balance of 5% of the operating budget.

Annual appropriation to fund OPEB (Other Post Employee Benefits) trust in the amount of $50,000. Currently, the cash balance of this fund is $2,252,452. The net OPEB liability in FY2025 was $155,000,036

A special act was passed in 2005 that entitles retirees to an 85% contribution on health insurance premiums. Also, under our current PEC (Public Employee Committee) agreement, the city contributes 70% of the monthly cost of Medicare Part B premiums for retirees. This agreement is set to expire 6/30/27 and will be renegotiated. All benefits offered to employees and retirees are factored into the OPEB liability.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE HEALTH INSURANCE OF
ACTIVE AND RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF
MELROSE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 19 of chapter 32B of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, an employee who has retired or will retire from the service of the city of Melrose after the effective date of this act and is enrolled in an HMO type health plan offered by the city, the employee's spouse and dependents shall be entitled to an 85 per cent contribution from the city for the insurance premiums for as long as the retiree remains continuously enrolled in the plan notwithstanding any change in the health plan premiums paid by the city for active employees.

SECTION 2. If the commonwealth mandates an increase in the minimum percentage contribution that active employees shall pay toward their health insurance, the increase shall be paid by active employees, and the percentage paid by retirees shall not be affected.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved June 30, 2005.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: 399 Essex Agricultural and Lexington Minuteman

Name of Department Head: n/a

Essex Tech and Lexington Minutemen Technical

The Chapter 74 Nonresident Student Tuition Program provides students the opportunity to attend a school outside their district of residence to study a state-approved vocational technical education program that is not offered by their district of residence. Such programs are approved pursuant to M.G.L. c. 74 and 603 CMR 4.00 and are known as Chapter 74-approved programs.

Tuition for students who attend a school outside their resident district under this program is paid by the city or town of residence at a rate established by the DESE. Transportation for students who attend a school outside their resident district under this program is provided by the city or town of residence.

Students who seek admission to a school outside their district of residence must follow the admission process of the school to which they seek admission, including using the school-provided application for admission.

School Preference

While students may apply to any school which accepts applications from non-resident students, a district may, through its school committee, adopt a policy designating specific vocational schools as "preferred" vocational schools for purposes of the Chapter 74 Non-resident Student Tuition Program. This means that the district may direct students to apply to the preferred school(s) before applying to any other vocational school. If a student does not apply to a "preferred" vocational school, the superintendent may disapprove the application for nonresident tuition.

Enrollment/Acceptance

Essex Technical had a total of 6 new applicants — 3 were accepted and 2 were wait listed. There are 4 returning students for next year. Due to the timing of acceptances, the budget is based on an estimate of 8 students with transportation.

Minutemen Technical had no new applicants. There is one returning student for next year.

Please see the tuition rates below as set by DESE.

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of District and School Finance

FY27 Non-Resident Vocational Tuition Rates

LEA	District	FY26	FY27	Change	% Change
0770	Tantasqua	$13,636	$16,569	$2,934	21.5%
0801	Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical	$20,624	$19,744	-$881	-4.3%
0805	Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical	$20,218	$21,442	$1,224	6.1%
0806	Blue Hills Regional Vocational Technical	$21,668	$22,559	$891	4.1%
0810	Bristol-Plymouth Regional Vocational Technical	$16,445	$17,898	$1,454	8.8%
0815	Cape Cod Regional Vocational Technical	$21,693	$22,559	$866	4.0%
0817	Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical (vocational rate)	$17,311	$17,432	$120	0.7%
0817	Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical (agricultural rate	$19,647	$19,819	$172	0.9%
0818	Franklin County Regional Vocational Technical	$21,010	$22,010	$1,000	4.8%
0821	Greater Fall River Regional Vocational Technical	$20,435	$22,145	$1,709	8.4%
0823	Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical	$21,693	$22,559	$866	4.0%
0825	Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical	$21,693	$22,559	$866	4.0%
0828	Greater Lowell Regional Vocational Technical	$21,457	$22,223	$766	3.6%
0829	South Middlesex Regional Vocational Technical	$21,693	$22,559	$866	4.0%
0830	Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical**	$21,693	$22,559	$866	4.0%
0832	Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical	$20,073	$21,240	$1,167	5.8%
0851	Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational Technical	$20,502	$22,157	$1,655	8.1%
0852	Nashoba Valley Regional Vocational Technical	$18,954	$19,962	$1,008	5.3%
0853	Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational Technical	$21,693	$22,559	$866	4.0%
0855	Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical	$21,058	$22,328	$1,270	6.0%
0860	Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical	$20,986	$21,513	$527	2.5%
0871	Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical	$21,693	TBD	0	0.0%
0872	Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical	$17,543	$18,275	$731	4.2%
0873	South Shore Regional Vocational Technical	$20,868	$22,559	$1,691	8.1%
0876	Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational Technical	$19,476	$21,186	$1,710	8.8%
0878	Tri County Regional Vocational Technical	$18,969	$20,261	$1,293	6.8%
0879	Upper Cape Cod Regional Vocational Technical	$18,197	$19,549	$1,352	7.4%
0885	Whittier Regional Vocational Technical	$20,902	$21,184	$281	1.3%
0910	Bristol County Agricultural	$23,155	$23,502	$347	1.5%
0915	Norfolk County Agricultural	$27,540	$28,954	$1,414	5.1%

April 9, 2026

* Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School (ESNAT) is authorized to charge an incremental capital fee to it's agricultural non-resident tuition rate in accordance with Chapter 463 of the Acts of 2004. The Department calculates this rate each year using updated information provided by the district. The rate for FY27 is $2,114 per student.

**Minuteman is authorized to charge a capital fee in addition to their non-resident tuition rate in accordance with 603 CMR 4.03 (6)(b)(4). The Department calculates these rates each year using updated information provided by the district. The FY27 capital fee for Type A communities is $8,896 and the capital fee for Type B communities is $6,672.

City Council Meeting

June 1st, 2026

Cari Berman, Superintendent
&
Ken Kelley, Deputy Superintendent

FY27 Proposed Teaching and Learning Budget

DRIVERS

KEY PRIORITIES

Prioritize class size, restore team model at MVMMS (grades 6+7), HQIM and focused Tier2 interventions for core subjects.

MPS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Guide planning using four core pillars.

STRATEGIC SHIFT

Shift from reduction planning to strategic opportunity planning.

FY26 TO FY27 RESTORE

MPS OPERATING BUDGET - SC CATEGORIES					
	FY26 ORIGINAL	FY26 SUPPLEMENTAL	FY27 PROPOSED	POST OVERRIDE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS	STAFF ALLOCATION
Franklin/ECC	$2,122,157	$2,219,157	$2,322,846	1.0 FTE Teacher	1.0
Elementary	$16,030,819	$16,686,819	$17,230,011	1.0 FTE Teacher at Hoover 1.0 FTE Teacher at Roosevelt 1.0 FTE Teacher at Winthrop 1.0 FTE School Counselor at Lincoln 1.0 FTE Teacher (potential special ed./interv.) 0.5 FT Administrator (AP) at Lincoln 0.5 FT Administrator (AP) at Roosevelt	6.0
MVMMS	$7,774,386	$8,307,386	$18,036,829	8.0 FTE Secondary Teachers 1.0 FTE Administrator (STEM Director)	9.0
MHS	$8,554,988	$8,917,988			
Athletics/EC	$1,009,766	$1,009,766	$1,029,961		
Teaching and Learning	$728,761	$2,198,261	$1,087,842	High Quality Instructional Mat.	
Special Education	$9,052,012	$9,052,012	$9,715,118		
Administration/DW	$2,674,986	$3,375,286	$4,514,393	1.0 FTE Teacher (potential special educator)	1.0
Total	**$47,947,875**	**$51,766,675**	**$53,937,000**		**17.0**
Increase FY26 to FY27		**$3,818,800**	**$5,989,125**		

Addressing Key Priorities

Class Size
- Add a 1.0 FTE Teacher to the Franklin Elementary School
- Restore 3.0 FTE Teachers at the Elementary Schools
- Restore 8.0 FTE Teachers at the Secondary Level

Team Model at MVMMS
- Provide three teams to 6th grade students with the above mentioned staff
- Provide two teams to 7th grade students with the above mentioned staff

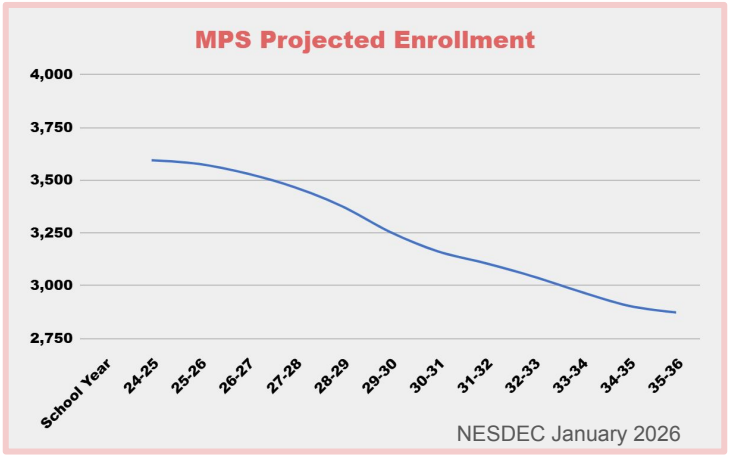
Purchase and Implementation of High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)
- Secondary STEM Director, 6-12
- Assistant Principals at Lincoln and Roosevelt
- Provision of classroom materials, diagnostic tools, and professional development for educators

Providing Intervention
- 1.0 FTE Elementary School Counselor (based at Lincoln and supporting elementary schools, as needed)
- 2.0 FTE Held for positions of interventionists and/or special education
- Recent hiring of 2 Reading Specialists from the additional funding for FY26

FY26 TO FY27 Class size projections (April 2026)

	PROJECTED MPS 26-27 ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT					
GRADE	K	1	2	3	4	5
PROJ. CLASSROOMS	13	12	13	14	13	13
ENROLLMENT	239	254	262	307	270	297
AVE. CLASS SIZE	18.4	21.2	20.2	21.9	20.8	22.8

	PROJECTED MPS 26-27 SECONDARY ENROLLMENT						
GRADE	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
ENROLLMENT	298	267	263	300	262	251	252



FY26 TO FY27 DESE SERIES

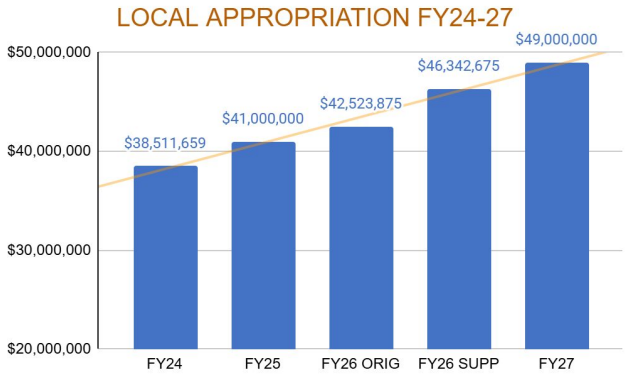
DESE SERIES CATEGORY SUMMARY						
		FY26	FY26 SUPP	FY27	VARIANCE FY26-FY27	% INC/DEC
1000 SERIES: ADMINISTRATION	ADMIN	$1,112,038	$1,149,653	$1,170,576	$58,538	5%
2000 SERIES: INSTRUCTION	TEACHING AND LEARNING	$37,904,271	$41,670,436	$43,214,833	$5,310,562	14%
3000 SERIES: OTHER STUDENT SVCS						
HEALTH		$7,000	$7,000	$7,000	$0	0%
TRANSPORTATION		$2,340,936	$2,344,913	$2,414,667	$73,732	3%
ATHLETICS		$1,009,766	$1,009,766	$1,029,961	$20,195	2%
4000 SERIES: OPERATIONS/MAINT.	UTILITIES/TECH	$261,181	$272,224	$340,650	$79,469	30%
5000 SERIES: CROSSING/INSUR.	INSURANCE	$207,200	$207,200	$220,650	$13,450	6%
9000 SERIES: PROG. WITH OTHER SCHOOLS	TUITIONS	$5,105,483	$5,105,483	$5,538,662	$433,179	8%
	TOTAL	**$47,947,875**	**$51,766,675**	**$53,937,000**	**$5,989,125**	**12%**
			$3,818,800	$2,170,325		

FY27 - RECENT LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS

CITY LOCAL CONTRIBUTION

This is the most recent 4 FYs showing the City's appropriation to the schools

YEAR	*APPROPRIATION*	*%*	**% FY24-27**
FY24	$38,511,659		
FY25	$41,000,000	6.5%	
FY26 ORIG	$42,523,875	3.7%	
FY26 SUPP	$46,342,675	9.0%	
FY27	$49,000,000	5.4%	**27.2%**



FY27 MPS TEACHING AND LEARNING

FY27 BUDGET

	Total Salaries	Non Salary Expenses	Total Budget
Hoover	$ 2,807,792.43	$ 17,340.00	$ 2,825,132.43
Horace Mann	$ 2,510,256.74	$ 16,320.00	$ 2,526,576.74
Lincoln	$ 4,433,235.73	$ 33,354.00	$ 4,466,589.73
Roosevelt	$ 4,251,578.71	$ 19,380.00	$ 4,270,958.71
Winthrop	$ 3,118,312.99	$ 22,440.00	$ 3,140,752.99
Franklin Budget	$ 2,306,781.05	$ 16,065.00	$ 2,322,846.05
Franklin non-budget	$ 1,456,784.38	$ 6,200.00	$ 1,462,984.38
Middle School	$ 8,733,045.85	$ 59,160.00	$ 8,792,205.85
High School	$ 9,063,960.52	$ 180,662.80	$ 9,244,623.32
Special Education	$ 1,060,601.42	$ 8,654,516.18	$ 9,715,117.60
Teaching and Learning	$ 372,052.36	$ 715,790.00	$ 1,087,842.36
Administration	$ 1,227,448.51	$ 51,210.00	$ 1,278,658.51
Systemwide	$ 2,504,866.62	$ 730,867.75	$ 3,235,734.37
Athletics		$ 1,029,961.35	$ 1,029,961.35
TOTAL	$ 42,389,932.93	$ 11,547,067.07	$ 53,937,000.006

RECOMMENDED MPS FY27 SC Categories	
Franklin/ECC	$ 2,322,846.05
Elementary	$ 17,230,010.59
Secondary	$ 18,036,829.17
Athletics/EC	$ 1,029,961.35
Teaching and Learning	$ 1,087,842.36
Special Education	$ 9,715,117.60
Administration/DW	$ 4,514,392.88
Total	$ 53,937,000.00

FY27 MPS: THE PATH FORWARD

Transparency

- Budget listening sessions last winter
- FY27 line item budget shared in March
- MPS School Committee approved April 14, 2026 on schedule
- Referred to City Council for consideration as part of overall City FY27 budget

Items in Motion

- Current negotiations with 3 CBAs
- MA State legislature deliberating FY27 between HWM and SWM
- **CH70 $13,578,856 + City and State projecting increase in CH70 funding of $332,180, increasing total School appropriation consideration to $49,332,180**







City of Melrose

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FY27 BUDGET

Who is DPW?

Melrose DPW Mission Statement:

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Who is DPW?

- Four Main Divisions:
  - Administration
  - Engineering/Water & Sewer Billing
  - Facilities
  - Operations





DPW Administration & Finance



- Public Relations
- Accounts Payable/Receivable
- Payroll
- Environmental/Outreach Coordinator
- Rentals Coordinator



DPW Engineering & Water/Sewer Billing

- Capital Projects – Planning, Design, and Construction
- Permits and Inspections
- Development Reviews
- Records and Plans/GIS
- Water and Sewer Billing



DPW Facilities Division

- Custodial Services – Schools and Municipal Buildings
- Building Maintenance and Repairs
- Building Capital Projects



DPW Operations Division



- Highway
- Parks and Forestry
- Fleet
- Cemetery
- Sanitation (Partially Enterprise Funded)
- Water and Sewer (Enterprise Funded)
- Snow and Ice

DPW Staffing



- 70 full-time employees
- 1 part-time employee
- 4 partially funded by DPW in other departments
- 2 PM custodians funded from Education Stations budget
- Positions eliminated in FY26 have been restored
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Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., DPW Director

- **James Troup**, Asst. Director Admin & Finance
- **Matt Spinale**, Operations Manager
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- **Scott Enos**, Facilities Manager







On the Move…

- **New Employees Hired:**
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  - Parks Equipment Operator, **Jade Butler**
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- **Promotions:**
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  - Four other vacancies have pending offers



Some Operational Accomplishments in FY26

Through early-May:

- 3,496 work orders resolved
  - 908 Facilities
  - 2,588 Operations
- 525 potholes filled
- Handled 42” of snow
- 1,235 purchase orders

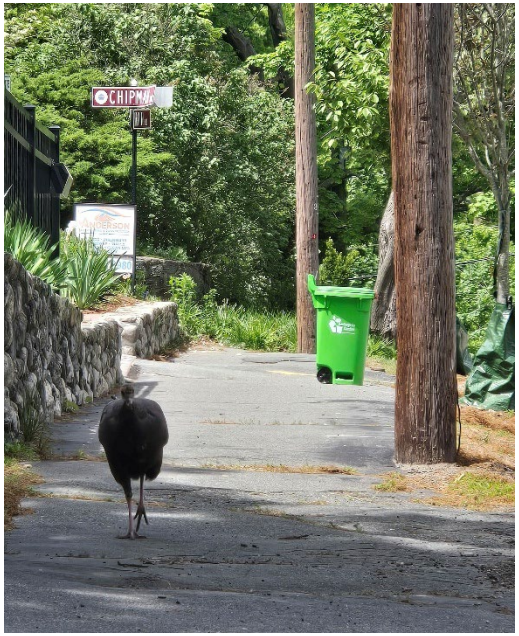




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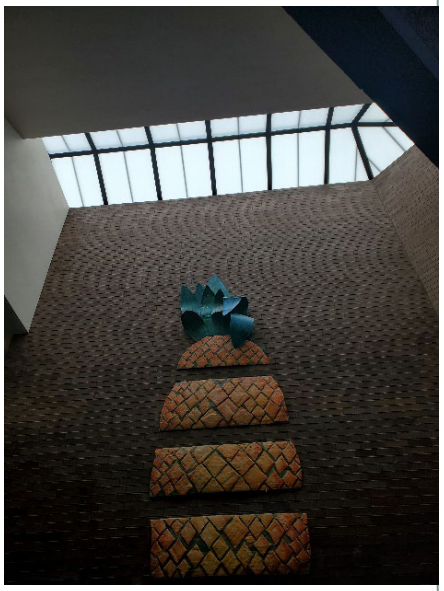
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- Completed construction of Franklin Roof E, MHS Skylights, MVMMS & Lincoln Heat Pump Chillers
- Renovated Franklin School All Purpose Room (asbestos removal, floors, ceiling, lighting, paint)
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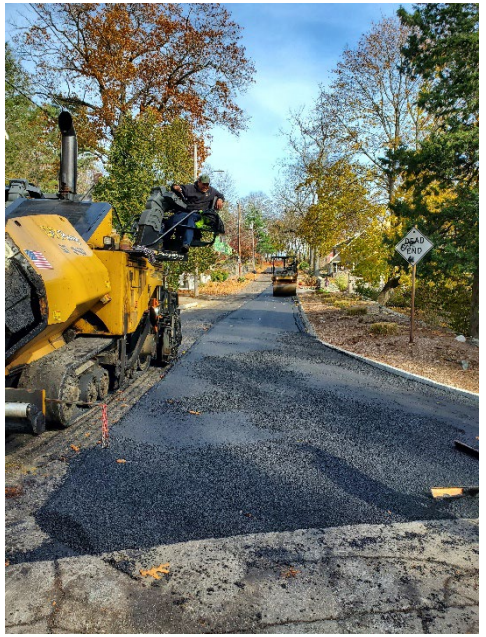




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- Paved Sewall Woods Road, Maple Road, Melrose Street (LFP to Main), Porter Street (Rowe to Harding)
- Added sidewalks on Swains Pond Avenue
- Replaced water mains on Crystal Street, Hurd Street, and Circuit Street
- Oversaw replacement of Ell Pond Drain beneath property at 687-691 Main Street





FY27 DPW Budget Requests

- **Total General Fund DPW Budget:** $11,702,429
- **Water Enterprise Budget:** $6,702,788
  (Increase of 4.1% from FY26)
- **Sewer Enterprise Budget:** $8,461,623
  (Increase of 1.2% from FY26)
- **Solid Waste Enterprise Budget:** $3,639,322
  (Increase of 3.1% from FY25)

Grand Total All DPW FY27 Budgets: $30,506,162

Tonight's DPW Council Agenda Items

Order ID #	Description	Value
2026-1208	FY27 General Fund DPW Budget	**$11,702,429**
2026-1206	FY27 Water Enterprise Operating Budget	**$6,702,788**
2026-1205	FY27 Sewer Enterprise Operating Budget	**$8,461,623**
2026-1207	FY27 Solid Waste Enterprise Operating Budget	**$3,639,322**
2026-1175	Free Cash – Ell Pond Park Design & Permitting	**$710,000**
2026=1176	Free Cash – Lebanon Street TIP 75% Design	**$400,000**
2026-1177	Free Cash – School Signage	**$20,000**
2026-1251	Sewer Retained Earnings Vactor Downpayment	**$150,000**
2026-1213	Proposed FY27 Water Rates	**N/A**
2026-1214	Proposed FY27 Sewer Rates	**N/A**

DPW General Fund Budget Breakdown

Code	DPW Division	FY27 Budget
401	Admin. and Engineering	$1,002,159
402	Facilities	$5,581,051
422	Highway	$2,137,826
423	Snow and Ice	$800,000
433	Sanitation (non-enterprise)	$246,481
475	Parks and Forestry	$1,086,999
485	Automotive-Fleet	$483,119
491	Wyoming Cemetery	$364,794
TOTAL		**$11,702,429**

DPW Items Restored in FY26 Supplemental Budget

- All DPW positions funded in FY25
- Summer help program
- Saturday weekly overtime at the City Yard
- Overtime for flower watering and parklets
- Roadway line painting
- Sidewalk repairs
- Seasonal Sunday municipal trash barrel pickup
- Adopt-a-Site program support

FY27 Budget Highlights

- Across all DPW Divisions
  - Union salaries include step increases but no COLAs (laborers and clerical negotiations wrapping up)
  - Most remaining items not restored in supplemental budget have been restored for FY27. For example, clothing and professional development lines in Admin/Engineering budget
  - Budgets reflect rising energy and fuel costs
  - No net change in total positions in general fund and W/S

FY27 Budget Highlights

- Facilities
  - Positions restored
  - OT increased to more closely align with actual needs
  - Library electricity reflects all electric building
  - $500,000 recurring capital added to building repairs line
  - $100,000 capital outlay for annual asbestos removal in schools

FY27 Budget Highlights

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  - Moved one position into Highway to perform more sidewalk work
  - Increased street light maintenance to match needs
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  - Moved one employee out of P&F
  - Removed last year's supplemental contractual labor for tree trims
  - Maintained $100,000 for new tree planting
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FY27 Budget Highlights





- Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds
  - MWRA Assessment Increases
  - Rising electrical costs
  - Increase of water meter lines to $25K in each fund to replace as needed
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- Solid Waste and Recycling Enterprise Fund
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Capital Items in FY27 Budget

- In DPW Budget:
  - $100,000 asbestos removal in schools
  - $1,230,000 in Highway: roads ($600K), sidewalks ($250K), drainage ($330K), traffic calming ($50K)
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Capital Items in FY27 Budget

- Capital Outlay presented previously by Finance:
  - DPW gas pump repairs - $50,000
  - Masonry stair and wall projects - $250,000
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- ***No water and sewer rate increases proposed for FY27 for both volumetric rates and base fees***
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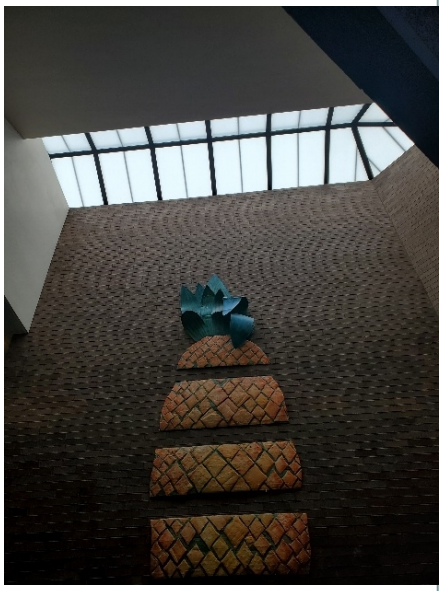
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Questions



PINE BANKS PARK



Resurfaced Track &Baseball Field
ADA Upgrades to Dog Park

Summary
2026 Report of the Trustees

Clerk's Certificate
Pine Banks Park

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pine Banks Park was held at 3:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, due notice of which was given to all members in advance thereof, at 350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts.

Present at the meeting were the following members:

C. Henry Kezer, of Melrose, Presiding, Hon Gary Christenson, Mayor of Malden, Hon Jennifer (Jen) Grigoraitis, Mayor of Melrose, Dana F. Brown, of Malden, Peter M. Carroll, of Malden, John W. Lynch, of Melrose and Richard C. Rudolph, at large.

A quorum was declared present and voting.

Section 6. of St. 1905, Chap. 393 states:

> The board shall annually in the month of January make a full report to the cities of Malden and Melrose of its receipts and expenditures, with its estimate of the amount required for maintenance for the ensuing year.

Section 7. of St. 1905, Chap. 393 states:

> The Cities of Malden and Melrose shall in their annual appropriation bills each appropriate and place at the disposal of said board one half of the amount determined by said board to be necessary for the maintenance of said property for that year, and set forth in its annual report as provided in section six.

Wherefore, the Annual Report of Pine Banks Park for January 2026, containing the Budget for the fiscal year 2027, and the report of the Superintendent of operations for Calendar 2025 was presented for the consideration of the board.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

VOTED: To adopt the report and budget, and submit the same to the Cities of Malden and Melrose for the purposes set forth in St. 1905, Chap. 393.

A true copy

May 19, 2026

C. Henry Kezer

C. Henry Kezer, Clerk

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES

BUREAU OF ACCOUNTS

Malden

CITY

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

Fiscal Year 2026

I. TAX RATE SUMMARY

Ia.	Total amount to be raised (from page 2, IIe)	$ 275,064,812.92
Ib.	Total estimated receipts and other revenue sources (from page 2, IIIe)	157,765,842.07
Ic.	Tax Levy (Ia minus Ib)	$ 117,298,970.85
Id.	Distribution of Tax Rates and levies	

CLASS	(b) Levy percentage (from LA5)	(c) Ic above times each percent in col (b)	(d) Valuation by class (from LA-5)	(e) Tax Rates (c) / (d) x 1000	(f) Levy by class (d) x (e) / 1000
Residential	80.395151	94,302,684.94	10,668,664,663.00		
Net of Exempt			8,272,369,916.00	11.40	94,305,017.04
Open Space	0.000000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Commercial	10.629284	12,468,040.61	729,904,930.00	17.08	12,466,776.20
Net of Exempt					
Industrial	4.472844	5,246,599.63	307,146,813.00	17.08	5,246,067.57
SUBTOTAL	***95.497279***		***11,705,716,406.00***		***112,017,860.81***
Personal	4.502721	5,281,645.66	309,198,480.00	17.08	5,281,110.04
TOTAL	***100.000000***		***12,014,914,886.00***		***117,298,970.85***

MUST EQUAL 1C

Signatures

Assessors

Nathaniel Cramer, Assessor , Malden , ncramer@cityofmalden.org 781-397-7100 | 11/5/2025 10:59 AM

Comment:

Robert Donnelly, Assessor , Malden , bdonnelly@cityofmalden.org 781-397-7100 | 11/5/2025 11:03 AM

Comment:

Documents

No documents have been uploaded.

Do Not Write Below This Line --- For Department of Revenue Use Only

Reviewed By: Susan Whouley

Date: 11/26/2025

Approved: Thomas Guilfoyle

Director of Accounts: Deborah A. Wagner

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES

BUREAU OF ACCOUNTS

Melrose

CITY

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

Fiscal Year 2026

I. TAX RATE SUMMARY

Ia.	Total amount to be raised (from page 2, IIe)	$ 153,156,526.11
Ib.	Total estimated receipts and other revenue sources (from page 2, IIIe)	57,379,485.00
Ic.	Tax Levy (Ia minus Ib)	$ 95,777,041.11
Id.	Distribution of Tax Rates and levies	

CLASS	(b) Levy percentage (from LA5)	(c) Ic above times each percent in col (b)	(d) Valuation by class (from LA-5)	(e) Tax Rates (c) / (d) x 1000	(f) Levy by class (d) x (e) / 1000
Residential	91.381093	87,522,106.61	7,643,650,879.00		
Net of Exempt			7,630,448,612.00	11.47	87,521,245.58
Open Space	0.000000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Commercial	4.398646	4,212,892.98	204,431,461.00	20.61	4,213,332.41
Net of Exempt					
Industrial	0.650430	622,962.96	30,229,400.00	20.61	623,027.93
SUBTOTAL	***96.430169***		***7,878,311,740.00***		***92,357,605.92***
Personal	3.569831	3,419,078.56	165,911,460.00	20.61	3,419,435.19
TOTAL	***100.000000***		***8,044,223,200.00***		***95,777,041.11***

MUST EQUAL 1C

Signatures

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Sarah MacLellan, Assessor , Melrose , smaclellan@cityofmelrose.org 781-979-4103 | 12/3/2025 11:36 AM

Comment:

Lee A Phalen, Assessor , Melrose , smaclellan@cityofmelrose.org 781-979-4103 | 12/3/2025 12:42 PM

Comment:

Cathy A Gulino, Assessor , Melrose , smaclellan@cityofmelrose.org 781-979-4103 | 12/3/2025 12:19 PM

Comment:

Documents

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Reviewed By: Susan Whouley

Date: 12/09/2025

Approved: Anthony Rassias

Director of Accounts: Deborah A. Wagner

Municipal Funding Formula **Fiscal 2027**

Pine Banks Park

Chapter 393 of 1905; as Amended by Chapter 162 of 1906

Total Assessed Valuation - All Classes		Smaller Assessed Value	
Real Property Excluding Municipal and		City of Melrose	$ 7,878,311,740.00
Tax Exempt Property		"1 Percent"	$ 78,783,117.40
Prior Fiscal Year	2026	"1/150th Part" of 1%	$ 525,220.78
City	Total Assessed Value	Maximum Budget Requisition	
City of Malden	$ 11,705,716,406	City of Melrose - 50%	$ 525,220.78
City of Melrose	$ 7,878,311,740	City of Malden - 50%	$ 525,220.78
		Total	$ 1,050,441.57

Statutory Excerpt: St. 1905 Chapter 393; amended by St. 1906 Chapter 162

Section 6.

Said Board of trustees shall have the absolute control and management of the property, and shall have power to make rules and regulations regarding its use and management, in such manner as it shall deem best.

The board shall annually in the month of January make a full report to the cities of Malden and Melrose of its receipts and expenditures, with its estimate of the amount required for maintenance for the ensuing year. Its expenditures in any year shall not exceed the sum of the appropriations for that year and the income at the disposal of said trustees by reason of any gifts received under the authority of section two of this act.

Section 7.

The cities of Malden and Melrose shall in their annual appropriation bills each appropriate and place at the disposal of said board one half of the amount determined by said board to be necessary for the maintenance of said property for that year, and set forth in its annual report as provided in section six.

If either of said cities shall in any year fail to make such appropriation, the said board shall upon the written request of said donors or their heirs or devisees who may then hold their estate, reconvey said property to said heirs or devisees free from all trusts;

but the amount required of each city by said board to work a forfeiture shall not in any year exceed one one hundred and fiftieth part of one per cent of the assessed valuation for the preceding year of the city having the smaller assessed valuation.

Said cities may, if in their judgment the proper maintenance or improvement of said property shall require it, appropriate in equal amounts and place at the disposal of said board sums in excess of the amount which said board is hereby authorized to require of said cities.

	Pine Banks Park - Budget Summary - Fiscal Year		2027	4:08 PM	27-Apr-26	Budg Code	
1	Compensation & Benefits Summary	Prior FY	**Budget**	$ increase	% increase	/City	Increase/City	Mald	Melr
2	Salaries & Wages	$ 270,106.89	$ 278,210.10	$8,103.20	3.00%	$139,105.05	$4,051.60		
3	Pensions, Benefits & Insurance	$ 195,730.11	$ 200,121.25	$4,276.40	2.18%	$100,060.63	$2,138.20		
4		---	---	---	---	---	---		
5	Total from Compensation Schedule	$ 465,837.00	$ 478,331.35	$12,494.34	2.68%	$239,165.67	$6,189.80		
6	Utilities	Budget	Budget	$ increase	% increase	/City	Increase/City		
7	Telephone	$ 11,000.00	$ 7,680.00	($3,320.00)	-30.18%	$3,840.00	($1,660.00)	52217	522000
8	Electric [1]	$ 40,000.00	$ 19,000.00	($21,000.00)	-52.50%	$9,500.00	($10,500.00)	52218	522500
9	Fuel/Heating Oil	$ 11,000.00	$ 9,000.00	($2,000.00)	-18.18%	$4,500.00	($1,000.00)	54311	530800
10		---	---	---	---	---	---		
11	Total	$ 62,000.00	$ 35,680.00	($26,320.00)	-42.45%	$17,840.00	($13,160.00)		
12	Insurance	Budget	Budget	$ increase	% increase	/City	Increase/City		
13	Liability	$ 10,500.00	$ 10,500.00	$0.00	0.00%	$5,250.00	$0.00	52418	543201
14	Auto Ins	$ 5,750.00	$ 5,750.00	$0.00	0.00%	$2,875.00	$0.00	52417	544330
15	D & O Liab.	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00	$0.00	0.00%	$1,250.00	$0.00		
16	Fire Ins[3]	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	$7,500.00	$0.00	52415	544320
17		---	---	---	---	---	---		
18	Total	$ 33,750.00	$ 33,750.00	$0.00	0.00%	$16,875.00	$0.00		
19	Vehicles	Budget	Budget	$ increase	% increase	/City	Increase/City		
20	Gasoline/Grease	$ 7,000.00	$ 7,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	$3,500.00	$0.00	54312	531000
21	Repair & Maint MVE	$ 6,000.00	$ 6,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	$3,000.00	$0.00	52250	527500
22		---	---	---	---	---	---		
23	Total	$ 13,000.00	$ 13,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	$6,500.00	$0.00		
24	Maintenance	Budget	Budget	$ increase	% increase	/City	Increase/City		
25	Repair & Maint Bldng	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	$5,000.00	$0.00	52252	527700
26	Field/Park Maint.	$ 110,000.00	$ 110,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	$55,000.00	$0.00	54319	535100
27		---	---	---	---	---	---		
28	Total	$ 120,000.00	$ 120,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	$60,000.00	$0.00		
29	Supplies & Materials	Budget	Budget	$ increase	% increase	/City	Increase/City		
30	Office Supplies	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,050.00	$50.00	5.00%	$525.00	$25.00	54310	530500
31	Clean/Disinfect	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,050.00	$50.00	5.00%	$525.00	$25.00	54325	532000
32	Paint	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,050.00	$50.00	5.00%	$525.00	$25.00	54332	533000
33	Hardware	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,050.00	$50.00	5.00%	$525.00	$25.00	54330	533500
34	Lumber	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,050.00	$50.00	5.00%	$525.00	$25.00	54334	537200
35	Misce Expenses	$ 6,600.00	$ 7,000.00	$400.00	6.06%	$3,500.00	$200.00	57247	528804
36		---	---	---	---	---	---		
37	Total	$ 11,600.00	$ 12,250.00	$650.00	5.60%	$6,125.00	$325.00		
38	Professional Services	Budget	Budget	$ increase	% increase	/City	Increase/City		
39	Audit & Accounting	$ 26,000.00	$ 32,850.00	$6,850.00	26.35%	$16,425.00	$3,425.00	5300	528600
40	Web Site/Scheduling Admin	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	$5,000.00	$0.00		529000
41				---	---	---	---		
42	Total	$ 36,000.00	$ 42,850.00	$6,850.00	19.03%	$21,425.00	$3,425.00		
43	Eqpmt/Captl Purch	Budget	Budget	$ increase	% increase	/City	Increase/City		
44	***Last Year & Continuing***								
45	Ballfield Project Amortization [2]	$ 202,588.36	$ 151,941.27	($50,647.09)	-25.00%	$75,970.64	($25,323.55)	58539	551044
46	Supplemental Facility Shed	$ 97,195.33	$ 97,195.33	$0.00	0.00%	$48,597.67	$0.00		
47	Resurfc Ballfld & Playgrnd Loan $1.25 MM	$ 153,656.30	$ 153,656.30	$0.00	0.00%	$76,828.15	$0.00		
48		---	---	---	---	---	---		
49	Total Last & Continuing	$ 453,439.99	$ 402,792.90	($50,647.09)	-11.17%	$201,396.45	($25,323.55)		
50									
51	***New Initiatives***								
52	Ventrac 2120M Sidewalk Snow Removal	$ 31,041.00	$0.00	($31,041.00)	-100.00%	$0.00	($15,520.50)		
53	Toro Groundsmaster® 3500-D Mower	$ 0.00	$45,815.00	$45,815.00	100.00%	$22,907.50	$22,907.50		
54	Buffalo Cyclone Mega 3 Debris Blower	$ 0.00	$10,443.35	$10,443.35	100.00%	$5,221.68	$5,221.68		
55		---	---	---	---	---	---		
56	Total New Initiatives	$ 31,041.00	$ 56,258.35	$25,217.35	81.24%	$28,129.18	$12,608.68		551020
57		---	---	---	---	---	---		
58	Total	$ 484,480.99	$ 459,051.25	($25,429.74)	-5.25%	$229,525.63	($12,714.87)		
59	Summary	Budget	Budget	$ increase	% increase	/City	Increase/City		
60	***Compensation and Benefits line 5***	$465,837.00	$478,331.35	$12,494.34	2.68%	$239,165.67	$6,189.80		
61									
62	Operating Expenses								
63	Utilities line 11	$62,000.00	$35,680.00	($26,320.00)	-42.45%	$17,840.00	($13,160.00)		
64	Insurance line 18	$33,750.00	$33,750.00	$0.00	0.00%	$16,875.00	$0.00		
65	Vehicles line 23	$13,000.00	$13,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	$6,500.00	$0.00		
66	Maintenance line 28	$120,000.00	$120,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	$60,000.00	$0.00		
67	Supplies & Materials line 37	$11,600.00	$12,250.00	$650.00	5.60%	$6,125.00	$325.00		
68	Professional Services line 42	$36,000.00	$42,850.00	$6,850.00	19.03%	$21,425.00	$3,425.00		
69		---	---	---	---	---	---		
70	***Operating Expenses lines 60 - 67***	$276,350.00	$257,530.00	($18,820.00)	-6.81%	$128,765.00	($9,410.00)		
71		---	---	---	---	---	---		
72	***Eqpmt/Captl Purch line 56***	$484,480.99	$459,051.25	($25,429.74)	-5.25%	$229,525.63	($12,714.87)		
73	***Total***	$1,226,667.99	$1,194,912.60	($31,755.40)	-2.59%	$597,456.30	($15,935.07)		
74	Statutory Mandate Amount	$ 1,009,446.33	$ 1,050,441.57	$40,995.23	4.06%	$525,220.78	$20,497.62		
75	Total Budget Amount	$ 1,226,667.99	$ 1,194,912.60	($31,755.40)	-2.59%	$597,456.30	($15,877.70)		
74	Amount Over/(Under) Mandate	$ 217,221.66	$ 144,471.03	($72,750.63)	-33.49%	$72,235.52	($36,375.31)		

[1] Heat Fieldhouse - new building

[2] Full Amortization Feb 2027

	Pine Banks Park - - - Fiscal Year			2027		4:08 PM	27-Apr-26
	Compensation & Benefits Summary	*Prior FY*	***Budget***	*$ increase*	*% increase*	*/City*	*Increase/City*
1	*Salaries & Wages*						
2	Superintendent [J]	$ 92,700.00	$ 95,481.00	$2,781.00	3.00%	$47,740.50	$1,390.50
3	Skilled Laborer	$ 53,500.59	$ 55,105.61	$1,605.02	3.00%	$27,552.80	$802.51
4	Skilled Laborer	$ 51,438.42	$ 52,981.57	$1,543.15	3.00%	$26,490.78	$771.58
5	Skilled Laborer (mechanic)	$ 50,677.35	$ 52,197.67	$1,520.32	3.00%	$26,098.83	$760.16
6	Skilled Laborer (part time)	$ 15,450.00	$ 15,913.50	$463.50	3.00%	$7,956.75	$231.75
7		- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
8	Total	$ 263,766.36	$ 271,679.35	$7,912.99	3.00%	$135,839.67	$3,956.50
9							
10	Reserve for Overtime	$ 6,340.54	$ 6,530.75	$190.21	3.00%	$3,265.38	$95.11
11							
12	Total Current Compensation	***$ 270,106.89***	***$ 278,210.10***	$8,103.20	3.00%	$139,105.05	$4,051.60
13	*Pensions, Benefits & Insurance*						
14	Pension Benefits						
15	Pensions Benefits Active Staff [J]	$ 71,637.00	$ 71,637.00	$0.00	0.00%	$35,818.50	$0.00
16	Pension Benefits to Retirees	$ 55,043.28	$ 55,043.28	$0.00	0.00%	$27,521.64	$0.00
17		- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
18	Total Pension Benefits	$ 126,680.28	$ 126,680.28	$0.00	0.00%	$63,340.14	$0.00
19							
20	Health Insurance						
21	Health Insurance Active Staff	$ 49,799.94	$ 52,411.34	$2,611.40	5.24%	$26,205.67	$1,305.70
22	Health Insurance Retirees	$ 14,520.48	$ 16,185.48	$1,665.00	11.47%	$8,092.74	$832.50
23		- - -	- - -				
24	Total Health Insurance	$ 64,320.42	$ 68,596.82	$4,276.40	6.65%	$34,298.41	$2,138.20
25							
26	Misce						
27	Employers % Life Insurance	$ 904.80	$ 904.80	$0.00	0.00%	$452.40	$0.00
28	Employers % Medicare Tax	$ 3,939.35	$ 3,939.35	$0.00	0.00%	$1,969.68	$0.00
29	Unemployment Insurance H	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$0.00	0.00%	$0.00	$0.00
30	Workingman's Compl	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$0.00	0.00%	$0.00	$0.00
31	Sick Leave Buyback	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$0.00	0.00%	$0.00	$0.00
32		- - -	- - -				
33	Total Miscellaneous	$ 4,844.15	$ 4,844.15	$0.00	0.00%	$2,422.08	$0.00
34		- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
35	*Total Pensions & Insurance* [J]	***$ 195,844.85***	***$ 200,121.25***	$4,276.40	2.18%	$100,060.63	$2,138.20
36	*Total Current Compensation*	$ 270,106.89	$ 278,210.10	$8,103.20	3.00%	$139,105.05	$4,051.60
37	*Total Pensions & Insurance J*	$ 195,844.85	$ 200,121.25	$4,276.40	2.18%	$100,060.63	$2,138.20
38	*Total Compensation*	**$ 465,951.74**	**$ 478,331.35**	$12,379.60	2.66%	**$239,165.67**	$6,189.80
39							

40	Reserve for Overtime Reconciliation.	
41	Year Round Budgeted Amount	$ 271,679.35
42	Per week (52)	$ 5,224.60
43	Reserve - 1.25 x One Week	$ 6,530.75

44

45 *Notes:*

46 Administered through and with current payments made through the City of Melrose HR Department.

47 Reimbursements from the City of Malden - estimated quarterly --> **$ 59,791.42**

48 Annualized Increase o/ prior yr --> **2.66%**

49 Active employee pension cost based on per capita cost over all Melrose Employees.

50 H Unemployment Insurance funded semi-annually and if a PB employee is laid off Malden will contribute 1/2 actual cost.

51 I Melrose self insures Workingman's Compensation and Malden will pay 1/2 of claims as they actually occur.

52 Cost might change if employees or retirees change their benefits during Open Enrollment with effective date of change July 1.

53 J Prior year costs adjusted due to Superintendent hired mid year at higher compensation.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Memorial Building 693

Name of Department Head: Kathy Pigott-Brodeur

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building , (Memorial Hall) mission "is to provide the city with a commemorative monument to the patriotism of service men and women from Melrose who died for their country". It is also a cultural center for the community. The building is used on a monthly basis for Veterans meetings, programs and ceremonies, as well as inaugural ceremonies for the city of Melrose.

Memorial Hall is a true community asset that, across multiple administrations, has been intentionally maintained as a facility for the community. Today Memorial Hall continues to serve local organizations and residents hosting a wide range of events including fundraisers, sports banquets, concerts, dance rehearsals, performances, and community celebrations.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

- Execution of 224 events (as of May 1, 2026) with an estimated attendance of 45,500 guests.
- 146 dates on hold for FY27
- FY 26 rental fees collected YTD as of May 1, 2026 is $147,260.10 with an additional $12,000 anticipated.
- Rental rates were updated to bring them closer to present day market rates of similar facilities resulting in higher revenue.
    - The Trustees voted to increase the FY27 rates as of July 1, 2026.
- Metropolitan Planning Council Association Technical Assistance Grant
    - MAPC is finalizing the plan which included a survey, workshops and general research of surrounding venues to help shape the future of Memorial Hall.
- Four part-time non-benefit eligible Memorial Hall Operation Assistants positions filled.
    - FY26 budget included a reduction of 15 total weekly hours for the custodial staff decreasing the combined allocation for the four positions from 57.5 per week to 42.5 hours per week.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

- Execution of a minimum of 224 events, programs and meetings
- Establish a plan and timeline for the GAR Room renovation project
- Upgrade of Stage Lighting System: The Mayor Requested an earmark in the Massachusetts State Budget, if approved, will allow the Stage lights to be upgraded. The lighting system has not been upgraded since at least 2008. The upgrade will allow us to host to professional music organizations and shows.

- Stage curtains replacement
- HVAC upgrades

4. **What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?**

   Professional services is increasing to account for necessary HVAC work.

5. **What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?**

   NONE; However Memorial Hall is rented throughout the year for Melrose Public Schools events such as Brawl in the Hall, talent shows, 8th Grade Civics Day and more.

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

   Not applicable

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Parks
Name of Department Head: Rob Carrillo

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1. Department Overview and Mission:

Park Department Mission:
The Melrose Parks Department is responsible for the management of the City's public outdoor spaces and recreational assets. With a staff of two, the department oversees an extensive network of facilities, including playgrounds, athletic fields, courts, a dog park, a community garden, a skate park, and numerous open spaces. The department also coordinates funding through its revolving permit fund and shared budget items.

The department serves a diverse range of community members, including residents, youth and adult recreation programs, public schools, high school and collegiate athletics, and external organizations. Through its permitting system, it supports both informal recreational use and organized activities, managing thousands of facility reservations annually.

Its core function is to ensure that Melrose residents have safe, accessible, and well-coordinated outdoor spaces for recreation, sports, and community engagement. By maintaining these assets, facilitating equitable access, and supporting partnerships through permits and programs such as Adopt-A-Site, the department enhances quality of life, promotes active lifestyles, and strengthens community connections.

Department Overview
• Staffing: 2 employees — Superintendent and Executive Secretary to the Park Commission

Budget Oversight:
o Management of Revolving Permit Fund and Parks Donation Fund
o Oversight of two shared line items with DPW (Playground Equipment and Adopt-A-Sites)

Facilities Managed:
o Mt. Hood Clubhouse
o 16 Playgrounds
o 31 Fields
o 8 Tennis Courts
o 11 Outdoor Basketball Courts
o 1 Dog Park
o 1 Community Garden
o 1 Skate Park
o 66 Adopt-A-Sites

o 45 Flag Sites
o Additional open spaces throughout Melrose

Permit Management:
o Oversaw 3,200+ facility use permits in FY26 across 175+ group rentals, including:

- Melrose High School
- Melrose Recreation Department
- Melrose Public Schools
- Local user groups
- College athletics programs
- External organizations

• Other Responsibilities:
o Management of 66 Adopt-A-Sites
o Oversight of the Mt. Hood Golf Course management contract

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2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Accomplishments:
• Lincoln School playground replacement
• Hoover School playground replacement
• Bench and memorial replacements throughout the city
• Adopt-A-Site sign replacements
• Installation of a new memorial sign at Mary Livermore Park in coordination with the Historical Commission (Vocational School)
• Welcomed new Park Commissioner Rob Kirsh
• Recognized outgoing Commissioner Bradley Freeman for his service
• Irrigation replacement at Knoll Fields funded by a DCR grant
•

Challenges:
• Weather-related impacts
• Grass growth and irrigation issues at fields
• Infield grading challenges
• Seasonal workforce fluctuations within the Green Team during peak periods
• Limited dedicated labor resources within the Parks Department
• Preparing fields for the spring season within the constraints of New England weather and available staffing

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3. FY 27 Priorities:

Identify and implement efficient collaboration strategies with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to support the maintenance of a large portfolio of outdoor facilities relative to available

staffing resources. This includes strengthening coordination through regular meetings, clear communication, work order processes, and service requests, while operating with limited personnel capacity within the Green Team and no staff directly assigned under Parks Management.

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4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

• Playground Equipment line increased to $20,000 annually
• Adopt-A-Site line item reinstated

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5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

• Fred Green Field turf maintenance (shared 50/50 between Parks and DPW)
• Playground repairs (Playground Equipment line)

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6. What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2½ Override approved by Melrose voters in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?

• Playground Equipment line increased to $20,000 annually

Secured funding through the Override Supplemental Budget for:

- o Common Playground renovation
- o Dunton Park renovation
- o Lighting installation at Lewis Monk Field
- o Infield repairs at Morelli Field
- o Infield repairs at Conant Park
- o Crystal Street tennis court resurfacing
- o Pickleball line overlay at Tremont Street Lyons Tennis Courts
- o Basketball court surfacing and hoop installation at Foss Park

• Adopt-A-Site line item reinstated
• $536,000 allocated for playground improvements (FY26 CIP)
• $125,000 allocated for court improvements (FY26 CIP)
• $352,300 allocated for baseball/softball improvements (FY26 CIP)

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Recreation

Name of Department Head: Frank Olivieri

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The Melrose Recreation Department provides a diverse range of programs and events for individuals of all ages and abilities within the community. Through these offerings, the department delivers valuable resources and opportunities that strengthen community connections while promoting social, cultural, and physical well-being.

Each year, the department serves more than 4,000 registered participants and welcomes an additional 2,000 attendees to its free community events, reflecting its commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and community engagement.

2. FY26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Key accomplishments include:

Extensive Programs:

- Offered more than 200 programs and events serving a wide range of ages, interests, and ability levels.

High Participation in Athletic Programs:

- Melrose Youth Basketball (600+ participants)
- Melrose Flag Football (250+ participants)
- Melrose Youth Field Hockey (100+ participants)
- Middle School Afterschool Athletics & Clubs (400+ participants)
    - Activities included tackle football, field hockey, volleyball, cross country, track and field, wrestling, and hiking
- Adult Athletics (300+ participants)

Enrichment Programming:

- Provided a variety of non-athletic programs, including filmmaking, LEGO robotics, babysitting training, mindfulness, financial literacy, vacation break camps, and many more.

Community Events:

- Hosted popular events such as the Fourth of July Celebration, Fishing Derby, and Melrose Tennis Open, contributing to strong community engagement.

Volunteer and Staffing Support:

- Programs and events were supported by more than 200 community volunteers and over 50 seasonal/part-time staff.

Financial Assistance:

- Awarded over 50 scholarships to families experiencing financial hardship, helping ensure equitable access to programs and services.

Challenges:

- Rising Operational Costs:
  Increases in benefits, materials, and supplies resulted in more than a $50,000 rise in expenses compared to the previous fiscal year.

- Reliance on Revolving Fund:
  For the second consecutive fiscal year, the Recreation Department operated entirely on the recreation revolving fund, receiving no support from the general fund. This was made possible through financial reserves generated from program revenue and conservative fiscal management over the past 20 years.

3. FY27 Priorities:

- Restore General Fund Support:
  Reestablishing general fund support for the Recreation Department is a key priority for FY27. Returning funding to near previous levels will enhance the department's ability to deliver high-quality programs and services while stabilizing the recreation revolving fund. This support will also help offset rising operational costs, including increases in employee benefits, program equipment, and supplies, ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

- Expand and Enhance Program Offerings:
  The department will continue to develop new and diverse programming while maintaining its most successful offerings. Through the release of four seasonal brochures each year, the Recreation Department aims to provide engaging, in-demand opportunities that reflect the evolving interests of the community. Expanding program variety will further strengthen community connections and support the health, wellness, and social engagement of Melrose residents.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

In FY27, the Recreation Department's budget reflects the restoration of general fund support after two years of operating solely on the revolving fund. This change improves financial stability and reduces reliance on reserves while helping to offset rising costs such as benefits, equipment, and supplies.

Service Delivery Impacts:

- Maintains and enhances program quality without significant fee increases
- Supports the addition of new and diverse program offerings
- Sustains scholarship opportunities and program accessibility
- Strengthens long-term financial sustainability and planning

5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

The Recreation Department supports the Melrose Public Schools (MPS) budget through the payment of indoor facility and gym rental fees. The department is charged the Melrose-based non-profit rate, consistent with other community user groups.

Annually, gym rental expenses average approximately $20,000, with an additional $13,000 allocated for custodial costs, totaling roughly $33,000 per year. These expenses are invoiced through DPW and subsequently reimbursed to MPS.

6. What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?

At this time, the Proposition 2½ Override has not yet had a direct impact on the Recreation Department's FY27 budget. However, the department is hopeful that the increased funding capacity will support the restoration of general fund funding, which would improve financial stability and enhance program and service delivery.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: Treasurer Collector

145- Treasurer/Collector
296 – Parking
916 – Medicare City Portion
711 – Municipal Debt
751 – Municipal Interest
752 – Projected Debt and Temporary Interest

Name of Department Head: Kathryn Armata

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The mission of the Treasurer Collector's office is to ensure timely collection of revenues, invest and disburse funds appropriately, and maintain fiscal responsibility while supporting the City's operational and borrowing needs. The Treasurer Collector department has six positions; three Collections Clerks, a Treasury/Parking Clerk, an Assistant Treasurer and the Treasurer Collector.

The Collectors are the outward facing team. They interact with clients, law firms, and processing companies. They are responsible for providing professional and courteous responses to inquiries, the processing of real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise tax, and water/sewer/trash payments. They also issue Municipal Lien Certificates. The team members each specialize in a specific type of billing but are crossed-trained across all collections to ensure ongoing operations when short staffed.

The Assistant Treasurer is responsible for cash management duties, and her client base is the City departments. The Assistant Treasurer books all cash receipts of the City, funds all vendor and payroll warrants, and processes the payroll warrants of the City and Schools. She also manages the annual tailings process (uncashed checks).

The Treasury side of the operation includes the Treasury/Parking Clerk who is responsible for managing the collection and dispute of parking tickets and processing deduction changes in the payroll system. The Treasury/Parking Clerk also serves as back up to the Assistant Treasurer for payroll processing and provides backup at the Collections window when there is a staffing shortage.

The department will be adding the position of Payroll Manager, which currently sits in the City Auditor's department, to the team in the near future. The transition is being made due to a recommendation included in the Department of Labor Services (DLS) review of financial operations conducted near the beginning of the Mayor's term.

In addition, the department is responsible for issuing and managing City debt, investment of City funds, managing relationships with banking and investment partners and our debt advisor and bond counsel, reconciliation of all bank and investment accounts, quarterly government filings, the liening of outstanding water bills to real estate bills, issuing W2's, and continuously working to enhance processes and procedures.

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Prior to the issuance of the Q3/Q4 actual billing our reports showed a significantly higher than usual receivables level on the Water/Sewer accounts. The Water/Sewer Clerk proactively reached out to every outstanding client via phone to remind them of the overdue amount and respond to any questions about payment plan options and the liening process. Overall, the calls were appreciated and approximately $300,000 was collected prior to going to lien. The effort was positive to the City from a collections viewpoint and to the clients who avoided additional fees, interest and possible escrow adjustments.

During the fiscal year, the Collections team added an on-line request portal to the options available on cityhallsystems.com. For a $2 fee, the portal allows clients to order tax payment information, bill copies and other requested research (forms are also available at the Collections window).

Over the last several months, a committee of the CFO/City Auditor, Assistant Auditor, City Solicitor and Treasurer Collector has been working to convert the City's Financial Policies to DLS suggested format. The process should be completed and the policies sent to the Mayor for approval around fiscal year end.

We transitioned the Veterans' monthly payments from physical checks to electronic payments and upgraded the card swipe at the Collectors window that is more user friendly to chip cards. Currently, we are collaborating with the Audit team to transition certain vendor payments to electronic form via a third-party provider. The project, which will be rolled out in phases, will enable us to meet the increasing vendor demand for electronic payment in a secure manner.

In December 2025, the City issued $30.655 million of 25 year General Obligation Bonds (GOs) and a $26 million Bond Anticipation note (BAN) to fund the first construction phase of the Public Safety Building project. The lead up to the offering required collaboration among many departments to complete the offering document and prepare for the review meeting with Standard & Poor's. The City was able to maintain its rating of AA+ and we were pleased with the market participation and results of the auction.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

The use of a third-party accounts payable partner will be a staged rollout to minimize the impact on day-to-day operations. The Treasury team is committed to supporting the Audit team in this effort.

There will be a large focus on hiring and training the new Payroll Manager over the next several months. The position is now vacant and duties being managed by the Assistant Auditor. We are meeting with her regularly to set up a smooth transition with a good starting knowledge base.

If it doesn't occur by year end, we will bid out the Deputy Collector duties as well as collections processor relationship. Although we are satisfied with our current business partner, it is good to review the relationship periodically to ensure we are getting the best service for a competitive price. There are a limited number of providers in this area of municipal services.

Preparing and executing on a successful second round of long-term financing for the Public Safety Building project will take place in the fall of 2026. The goal is to maintain or improve the City's rating of AA+ and obtain competitive market pricing.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

There are no significant changes to the Treasurer Collector (145) budget. The largest increase is in the Salary line of based on anticipated step-ups, the addition of the Payroll Manager, and an estimate for contractual changes. The Treasurer Collector budget consists primarily of payroll expenses and

equipment maintenance and processing costs. The postage line item takes into account the number of elections to be held in the fiscal year and other large volume mailings (such as excise tax bills). The driver for the $5,000 reduction in budget is the fact that there will only be two state elections in FY27. Printing costs will be lower due to a change in the Tax Title process that shifts some advertising costs to constable delivery fees in the Title Fees line.

The Parking budget (296) is budgeted to increase 3.4% primarily due to a salary step up and $2,000 increase in the professional services line item.

The debt budget (711) is slightly lower because payments on matured non-exempt bonds (that rolled off the schedule) were higher than the new issue exempt principal obligation being added to the payment schedule.

Interest (751) is $1.816 million higher than FY26 due to the addition of the $1.9 million exempt interest related to the FY26 debt issuance offset by interest on matured bonds that rolled off the schedule.

Projected Debt and Temporary Interest (752) is higher due to the maturing $26 million BAN being much larger the previous year's BAN maturity.

Medicare (916) – Medicare expense is calculated on total wages less FSA contributions, dental, health and life insurance premiums, and opt-outs of the City health plan. Currently, the City is negotiating multiple union contracts. We are conservatively budgeting a 5% increase to include estimated contract increases and the rehiring of certain roles made available by the Override.

5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

There are no direct costs of the Schools in the Treasurer Collector or Parking department budgets.

In FY27, the principal payments on School related debt will be $2,978,909.35 and interest costs will be $621,420.84. A significant amount of the payments (principal $1,888,909.35 and interest $89,199.56) is associated with the two exempt bonds for the Middle School that will be fully paid in FY29. The balance is spread over multiple projects undertaken over the years.

6. What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approve on your Department's Budget for FY 27?

Treasurer Collector -145 - The majority of the costs of the Department are for payroll, processing, and equipment maintenance. The Override did not impact the budget.

Parking - 296 – The Override had no impact on the budget.

Debt – 711,751,752 - The Override had no impact on the budget.

Medicare 916 – Increased payroll expenses associated with hires allowed by the Override will increase budgeted Medicare costs.

CITY OF MELROSE

Auditor's Office

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4110

To: Melrose City Council

From: Kerriann Golden, CFO/City Auditor

Date: June 5, 2026

Re: #652 Pine Banks Budget

Please see additional information regarding budget #652 Pine Banks. This is a statutory obligation for both the cities of Melrose and Malden. Please see the language below:

Statutory Excerpt: St. 1905 Chapter 393; amended by St. 1906 Chapter 162

Section 6.

Said Board of trustees shall have the absolute control and management of the property, and shall have power to make rules and regulations regarding its use and management, in such manner as it shall deem best.

The board shall annually in the month of January make a full report to the cities of Malden and Melrose of its receipts and expenditures, with its estimate of the amount required for maintenance for the ensuing year. Its expenditures in any year shall not exceed the sum of the appropriations for that year and the income at the disposal of said trustees by reason of any gifts received under the authority of section two of this act.

Section 7.

The cities of Malden and Melrose shall in their annual appropriation bills each appropriate and place at the disposal of said board one half of the amount determined by said board to be necessary for the maintenance of said property for that year, and set forth in its annual report as provided in section six.

If either of said cities shall in any year fail to make such appropriation, the said board shall upon the written request of said donors or their heirs or devisees who may then hold their estate, reconvey said property to said heirs or devisees free from all trusts;

but the amount required of each city by said board to work a forfeiture shall not in any year exceed one one hundred and fiftieth part of one per cent of the assessed valuation for the preceding year of the city having the smaller assessed valuation.

Said cities may, if in their judgment the proper maintenance or improvement of said property shall require it, appropriate in equal amounts and place at the disposal of said board sums in excess of the amount which said board is hereby authorized to require of said cities.

As far as support to Melrose Public Schools, Pine Banks is the home field for many of Melrose High School's athletic teams at the varsity and junior varsity levels including, soccer, baseball, cross-country, track, field hockey and softball. Both staff and maintenance costs of this facility are housed in the Pine Banks budget.

I wanted to provide some clarity on the reconciliation of the budget report provided by the Pine Banks Foundation (page 5) to Munis.

Pine Banks Budget Line		Amount
Line 75	Total City Column Pine Banks Report	597,456.30
Line 2	50% Staffing Cost (Malden's share is included)	139,105.00
Line 3	Less Pensions Benefits & Insurance (In budgets where costs reside)	(100,060.63)
	Total Pine Banks Budget	**636,500.67**

Line 2 – The full cost of employees are in Pine Banks budget #652.
Line 3 – All Benefit costs for employees are in the respective department (#911, #914 & #916)

The City of Malden is invoiced quarterly for the employee salary and benefit costs and these reimbursements are deposited in the general fund as a local receipt.

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

Department: FIRE – C221

Name of Department Head: JOHN J. WHITE

1. Department Overview and Mission:

The Melrose Fire Department (MFD) is a multi-disciplinary public safety agency dedicated to safeguarding the lives, property, and economic soul of our community. Established in the late 19th century, we have evolved from a traditional firefighting force into a modern, all-hazards response team. We serve every resident, business owner, and visitor within our city limits through a proactive model of "Total Life Safety".

Our impact is defined by three primary pillars:

- **Rapid Life-Saving Intervention:** By maintaining a 24/7/365 presence across strategically located fire stations, we ensure that every neighborhood has access to advanced life support and fire suppression within minutes.
- **Community Risk Reduction:** Through the work of our Fire Prevention Division, we don't just respond to emergencies – we prevent them. By enforcing rigorous safety codes, we lower the city's overall risk profile, protecting property values and ensuring a safer environment for our schools and local businesses.
- **Resilience and Readiness:** Whether facing a structure fire, a hazardous materials incident, or a complex rescue operation, our department provides the specialized technical expertise required to stabilize crises and return the community to normalcy as quickly as possible.

The fire department operates with a culture of courage and compassion. Our mission is to provide a sense of security to every resident, ensuring that when our neighbors are at their most vulnerable, they are met with the highest standard of professional excellence.

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2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

<u>Fiscal Year 2026 Key Accomplishments</u>

Our Service Demand: Sustained Operational Pressure

The Melrose Fire Department continues to experience a high baseline of emergency incidents, reflecting the growing needs of our community. While FY25 saw an unprecedented, record-breaking spike

in calls, current data shows that the department has reached a "new normal" of service demand that consistently exceeds historical averages.

Fiscal Year	Total Emergency Incidents	Operational Status
FY22 (Actual)	4,480	High Volume Baseline
FY23 (Actual)	4,582	+2.2% Increase
FY24 (Actual)	4,342	Consistent Demand
FY25 (Actual)	4,750	Record Peak (+9.4%)
FY26 (Projected)	4,410*	Sustained High Demand

*Projected based on 3,493 incidents recorded through April 16, 2026.

This sustained volume means that our primary response apparatuses are being deployed at a higher frequency than they were originally engineered for. This increased "run-time" directly contributes to the mechanical fatigues and rising maintenance costs detailed in our "Challenges" section. Despite this pressure, our crews continue to maintain rapid response times and provide high-quality clinical and fire-suppression outcomes for the residents of Melrose.

Modernizing City Infrastructure: The Tremont Street Station

In March 2026, we reached a historic milestone with the official start of construction on the new Tremont Street fire station. This project is more than a building; it is a critical modernization of our public safety infrastructure. During the early phases, the department successfully implemented a complex apparatus and staffing continuity plan, striving to maintain seamless and reliable response times to the West side.

Fiscal Stewardship & Grant Acquisition

In FY26, the department aggressively pursued and secured FY26 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant funding *(pending approval from the City Council)*. These funds will be used to acquire state-of-the-art Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) bottles and multi-gas meters. By leveraging state grants for this essential life-safety equipment, we were able to modernize our toolkit while offsetting costs that would have otherwise required City budget funding.

Strategic Training & Resourcefulness

We transformed local challenges into opportunities by utilizing the former Beebe School building for high-intensity, hands-on training. This allowed our members, along with mutual aid departments, to practice search-and-rescue and fire suppression in a realistic environment. Our continued partnership with the Moon Island (Boston Fire) training facility and mutual aid drills ensures that Melrose firefighters are prepared for the increasingly complex nature of 21st-Century emergencies.

Strengthening Community Resilience

The department remains a visible and trusted presence in Melrose. Through our involvement in the Victorian Fair, National Night Out, and Junior Police Academy, we reached thousands of residents with

life-saving fire prevention education. These engagements are a core part of our mission, as a "fire-safe" community begins with an informed and engaged public.

Fiscal Year 2026 Operational Challenges

Critical Fleet Vulnerability & Maintenance Deficits

The most pressing threat to our operational reliability remains the accelerating degradation of our aging apparatus. With several primary response vehicles operating well beyond their engineered service life, we have seen a direct correlation between vehicle age and emergency downtime. This challenge was significantly compounded by a $20,000 reduction in the Motor Vehicle Repair budget line this fiscal year. This funding gap is projected to create a "maintenance deficit", where emergency repairs are now consuming budgeted funds at a much faster rate. As a result, we face an increased risk of mechanical failure during high-intensity emergency responses. Sustained support for the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is not merely a request for equipment; it is a vital necessity to ensure that when a resident calls 911, the responding apparatus is reliable and ready to perform.

Modernizing Workforce Readiness for 21st-Century Hazards

The role of a Melrose Firefighter has expanded in complexity, requiring mastery of evolving threats such as Lithium-Ion battery fires and complex technical rescues. Current funding levels for training are struggling to keep pace with these expanding federal and state mandates.

To maintain our status as a premier emergency response agency, we require additional resources to move beyond "minimum compliance" and into "specialized excellence". Investing in advanced certifications and professional development is a direct investment in member safety and community survival. Without this support, the gap between traditional firefighting tactics and the demands of modern, complex incidents will continue to widen.

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3. FY 27 Priorities:

To fulfill our mission, the Melrose Fire Department has identified the following strategic initiatives for Fiscal Year 2027. These objectives are designed to stabilize our infrastructure, enhance responder safety, and ensure fiscal accountability.

High-Yield Fleet Recapitalization: We will focus on the phased procurement of next-generation apparatus through the City's CIP.

- Focus: By replacing units that have exceeded their 15-year frontline service life, we aim to reduce emergency maintenance expenditures and eliminate the risk of "out-of-service" gaps during peak call volume periods.

Operational Continuity & Station Transition: As construction on the Tremont Street station reaches its mid-point, the department will prioritize the seamless management of our temporary operational footprint.

- Focus: We will conduct ongoing response reviews to ensure that our relocated assets are meeting target arrival times. Our priority is maintaining 100% service reliability for the West Side and surrounding neighborhoods throughout the build process.

Sustained Professional Development & Regulatory Readiness: The department will continue to prioritize the rigorous training and certification programs necessary to meet expanding state and federal mandates and address the increasing complexity of modern incidents.

- Focus: Rather than static training, we are committed to the continuous evolution of our skills. In FY27, this includes advancing the mastery of specialized hazards such as Lithium-Ion battery fires and technical rescue.

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4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

-Strategic Reductions & Efficiencies

- **Change:** The FY27 budget includes a reduction in two lines – Professional Services and EMS Supplies – totaling $25,000.
- **Impact:** These decreases reflect a successful effort to align line-item funding with actual historical utilization. Because these reductions target underutilized funds, there is no projected negative impact on the department's ability to provide emergency services or maintain professional contracts in FY27.

-Shift in Operational Training and Interagency Readiness

- **Change:** The Overtime Training account remains level-funded at $11,500 for FY27. This account was first established in FY24 and has allowed the department to begin building a more sustainable and consistent approach to training participation and certification maintenance. As of May 2nd, approximately $21,000 has already been incurred between the Overtime Training account and the regular Overtime account to support required training activities.
- **Impact:** Additional funding was requested to better align the account with actual operational training costs and to help prevent recurring overtime deficits tied to mandatory training requirements. Many fire service certifications, interagency drills, and specialized training opportunities require overtime staffing in order to maintain minimum on-duty coverage.

  Continued investment in training remains important to maintaining firefighter readiness, regional coordination capabilities, and compliance with evolving fire service standards. Without additional funding, the department will need to more closely prioritize training participation and limit expanded professional development opportunities beyond required baseline training activities.

-Evolution of Fleet Risk

- **Change:** The department's operational posture has shifted due to the continued aging of frontline and reserve apparatus (2007 and 2010 Seagrave Engines). While these remain part of a pending Capital Improvement Program request, the "change" for FY27 is the transition of these vehicles into a high-failure stage of their lifecycle.
- **Impact:** The service delivery impact is an increase in fleet volatility. With a combined $148,000 already spent on recent repairs, these engines are spending more time "out-of-service". As maintenance needs continue to increase, frontline downtime places greater operational reliance on aged-out reserve apparatus. This creates additional pressure on fleet readiness, maintenance scheduling, and long-term service reliability.

-Summary of Impacts

While the department has successfully realized efficiencies in administrative and supply lines, the FY27 budget environment necessitates a shift in how we managed unfunded operational liabilities. The widening gap between budgeted training funds and certification costs, combined with the escalating maintenance needs of the fleet, represents a change in the department's overall risk profile. Addressing these gaps remains essential to sustaining the safety and readiness the community expects.

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5. What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?

N/A

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6. What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?

The proposition 2 ½ override approved in November served as a vital stabilization measure for the Fire Department's FY27 budget. While these funds did not facilitate the expansion of services, they were instrumental in averting significant structural deficits that would have otherwise necessitated deep service reductions.

Specific Impact: Prevention of Operational Degradation

Absent the override, the department would have been forced to implement a "reduction-based" budget. The impact of the override is best understood through the risks it successfully mitigated:

- **Staffing & Response Integrity:** The override prevented a reduction in personnel that would have compromised our ability to meet minimum safe staffing levels. Maintaining current staffing ensures that response times for fire suppression and emergency medical services remain within acceptable safety margins for the City of Melrose.
- **Apparatus Fleet Reliability:** A reduced budget would have deferred critical preventative maintenance and delayed the replacement cycle for frontline apparatus. The override ensures

that our fleet remains mechanically sound, reducing the risk of equipment failure during emergency scenes.

- **Safety & Compliance:** By stabilizing the budget, the department can continue to adhere to essential NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) safety standards and training requirements, protecting both our first responders and the community at large.

In summary, the override provided the fiscal floor necessary to sustain the department's core mission. It allowed for the preservation of essential services and the continued upkeep of the city's life-safety infrastructure, ensuring that emergency response capabilities remain consistent and reliable throughout FY27.

/s/ John J. White

Chief of Department

Fiscal Year 2027

Department Memo to City Council

April 30, 2026

Department: Police

Name of Department Head: Chief Kevin M. Faller

1. Department Overview and Mission:

MISSION: The mission of the Melrose Police Department is to provide quality policing through collaboration and mutual trust with the citizens of our community. We will do so with honor and integrity. We value the rights of all citizens, and we will enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in a fair, impartial, and procedurally just manner.

VISION: The Melrose Police Department will be a model agency prepared to meet future challenges by being a progressive and innovative police department. We will enhance the quality of life for all citizens by creating a partnership of trust and transparency with our community to promote positive change.

VALUES: The Melrose Police Department strives to establish our credibility and legitimacy through the embodiment of our core values: Honor, Integrity, Courage, and Accountability (HICA):

- *Honor*: Our promise to always do what is right. We hold our profession and the citizens we serve in the highest respect.
- *Integrity*: We are committed to honesty and ethical behavior in all our actions.
- *Courage*: We have a selfless devotion to our duty, and we will stand for justice in the face of danger.
- *Accountability*: We accept responsibility for our actions and understand the expectations of the community we serve.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION:

- Chief of Police
- Executive Office Manager
- Administrative Assistant (part time)
- 4 Lieutenants
- 10 Sergeants
- 35 Patrol Officers
- 2 civilian Parking Wardens (part time)

2. FY 26 Accomplishments/Challenges:

Accomplishments:

- On pace for 16,000 calls for service, 3,300 calls received via 911 emergency line, 2,300 reports filed, 2,000 MV citations issued, 4,000 parking tickets issued (excess of $100K in fines), 400 MV crash reports filed, 2,000 medical aid responses, and 400 criminal summons' and/or arrests.
- In FY26, MPD officers conducted some specialized training, to include:
    - Department wide in-service Training focused on law & procedure updates, domestic violence, officer wellness, critical incident & crime scene training, firearms qualification, and CPR/TAC Med/First Aid Training.
    - Department wide 911 training focused on crisis intervention, cultural diversity and mental health areas.
    - Department wide Active Shooter Training: October 2025 Beebe School.
    - Detective Bureau: Mass State Police Partnership Initiative spending a week with State Police Detectives responsible for homicide/suspicious death investigations, Background Investigation training for recruit applicants, interrogation/investigation & forensic training.
    - Traffic: 80-hour Crash Investigation course, additional training in Speed Measurement/LIDAR, SFTS, School Bus Enforcement.
    - Implementation and training of new evidence software for the department which improved the tracking and oversight of evidence.
    - School Resource Officers: Youth Crisis Intervention training, along with specialized juvenile law training.
    - MAWLE (MA Women in Law Enforcement) Conferences, Foundation Leadership for promotion eligible officers, REID Technique & Interview & Interrogation classes.
- Numerous letters and emails of appreciation from residents commending the work of our officers.
- Boston Bruins B Fit Challenge – raised over 13k for charity to support fallen First Responders at the TD Garden in Boston, Ma.
- Numerous community engagement events such as the Junior Police Academy, the "Bike Bus" for elementary schools, reading to students at various schools, MPD Podcast "Behind The Badge" on MMTV, a "mock crash" impaired driving investigation/demonstration to high school students, and various other events to engage the community as partners and enhance recruitment efforts.
- Construction of the new Police Station commenced in April 2026.

Challenges:

- Staffing:
    - 2 positions originally were removed from the FY26 budget
        - Both positions were restored into the budget after a successful override ballot in November 2025; however, it is not an immediate fix.
        - One recruit started in a Police Academy on 04/20/26 and the second recruit is scheduled to start in July 2026. It is a lengthy process that takes over 12 months for an officer to assume full time police roles and fill an

open spot. It is not as simple as restoring a position and expecting a replacement officer to start immediately. It is 3 plus months of the application process, background investigation, medical/psych evaluations, and successful passing of mandatory physical fitness tests required by the Commonwealth. After that, finding an open slot in a 6-month Academy is a challenge. After graduating a 6-month academy, 2-3 months of on-the-job field training under the mentorship of a veteran Field Training Officer is required before that officer fills an open spot to impact staffing and overtime.

- Each fiscal year we lose several officers, some of which are unexpected. Although we are budgeted for 50 sworn officers (all ranks including Chief), we have never had 50 working full time at any point since I became Chief in 2022. We are constantly trying to fill "open positions" due to retirements or transfers which limits what we can do as an organization, it impacts overtime costs and can be detrimental to morale and wellness.
- Budgeting for more personnel (example: 54) would mitigate the effects of consistently having "open positions" that take 12+ months to fill. Instead of perpetually having 3-4 open positions to reach "full staffing" of 50 during any fiscal year, by adding 3-4 more positions we would still have a few "open positions" each year, but at the same time we would likely have at least 50 working in an assignment at any given time. This would create a "fully staffed" department to allow for more officers on Patrol, decreased overtime costs, increased visibility and enforcement, and allow for more opportunities for our front-line patrol officers.
- In Massachusetts, towns with 50,000 residents or less, police department budgets typically account for roughly 10% to 20% of the total operating budget, often falling around 13-15% for smaller jurisdictions, according to national and regional data. Personnel costs, including salaries and benefits, usually represent approximately 90% of these police department budgets. Historically in Melrose, the overall police operating budget has accounted for roughly 6% of the overall city budget, which is well below average. FY27 appears to be projected at approximately only 5% of the overall city budget. Adding 3-4 more sworn full-time positions to the police operating budget would result in the current requested police budget accounting for roughly 5.2% of the city's overall budget, still well below national and local average. This small increase would have a positive impact on services we can provide and help with the retention of our officers. The city is growing and developing at a fast pace and calls for service will increase significantly over the next few years.
- Minimum staffing on the street is currently 3 Patrol Officers covering the entire city on any shift. Staffing is a challenge and will continue to be a challenge with the number of positions currently budgeted for.

3. FY 27 Priorities:

- Maintain staffing and successfully integrate 4 new officers who are currently in training or soon to be in training.
- Retention of Officers has been an increasing challenge across the Commonwealth. It is vital to maintain a positive culture within the department, create opportunities to grow, and compensate our personnel fairly within the marketplace to retain officers who have had increasing job opportunities available to them due to changes in the Civil service hiring process.
- New Police Station construction project: Ensure that it is done correctly, within the scope and budget, and meets the community and neighborhood residents' expectations.
- Explore a Deputy Chief position that is currently in the Superior Officers' contract which will allow for succession planning, professional growth, and improved services internally and externally through a re-alignment and examination of job descriptions and supervisory responsibilities.
- Enhance recruitment efforts and strategic planning to reduce the time needed to fill anticipated and unexpected vacancies.
- Continuing to work on the progress of 2 Capital Improvement Plan requests:
    - Purchase of tasers and training of all sworn personnel.
    - Cruiser fleet replacement and maintenance plan.
- Prepare to work collaboratively with both police unions in preparation for contract negotiations. Both police union contracts expire in June of 2027.
- Training and adhering to best practices in policies as we work towards accreditation.
- Continue to expand community engagement events.

4. What has changed in the Department's Budget for FY 27? As a result of these changes, what are the corresponding service delivery impacts?

- Re-insertion of 2 Patrol Officer salaried positions that were originally cut from the FY26 budget.
- "SALARIES" group line item (51) accounts for 95.5% of the overall FY27 police budget. Due to contractual pay raise obligations across 2 unions as well as the re-insertion of 2 police officer positions, this group line item (51) has increased 6.0% from FY26 to FY27. This is the main reason why the overall operating budget has shown an increase of 5.9% as well. Of note, both police unions took less contractual pay raises in the first 2 years of their contract (FY 25 and FY26) due to the fiscal situation at the time.
- Licensing for new Evidence Software purchased in FY26 from free cash resulted in an increase of $7,785 (computer support line item). The result is better accounting practices and oversight of evidence management which is of critical importance.
- Majority of other line items have been level funded from FY26 (some of which were reduced from FY25 to FY26).

- Several contractual vendor and membership dues have increased, thus causing a slight increase in those line items.

5. **What costs, if any, are housed in your department's budget to support the Melrose Public Schools?**

    - 2 Full time School Resource Officer salaried positions.

6. **What impacts, if any, has the Proposition 2 ½ Override Melrose voters approved in November had on your Department's Budget for FY 27?**

    - 2 Patrol Officer positions were cut in FY26. They have since been restored and fully funded in FY27.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin M Faller

Chief Kevin M. Faller

FISCAL YEAR 2026
FREE CASH REQUEST

MELROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT



PRESENTED BY: CHIEF JOHN J. WHITE

MAINTAINING FLEET READINESS

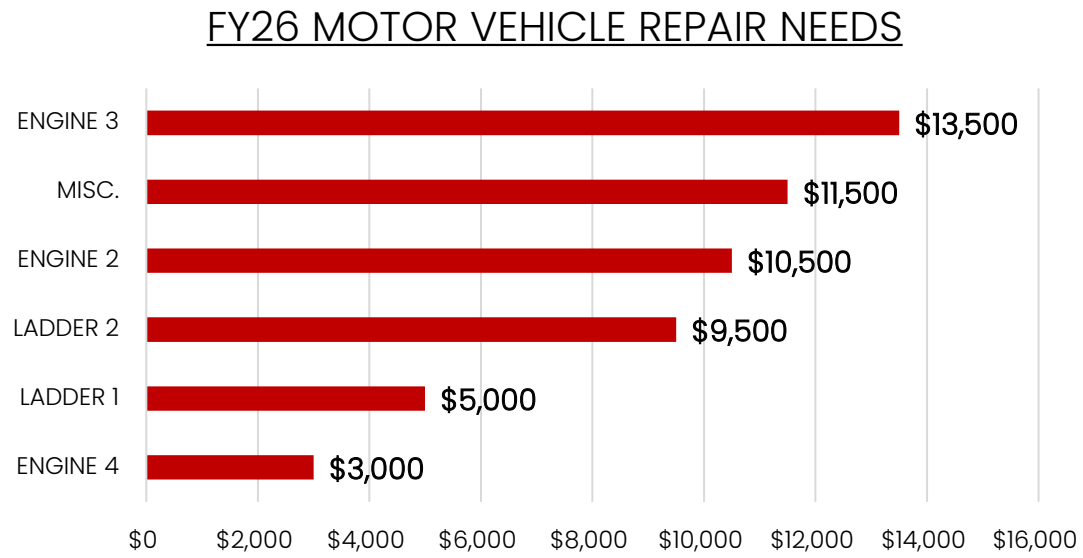
REQUEST: +$30,000

LINE: MV REPAIRS & MAINT. 012212-527500

THE **$30,000** FUNDING REQUEST IS BASED ON REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE COST ESTIMATES DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENTS FLEET MANAGER, LIEUTENANT MIKE BELL. THESE ESTIMATES ARE INTENDED TO ADDRESS MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR COSTS ACROSS THE MELROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT FLEET.

Total Planned Costs:	$53,000.00
Estimated Un-planned Costs:	$5,000.00
TOTAL FD MV REPAIR COSTS:	**$58,000.00**
Available Budget as of 3/31:	$28,873.26
Deficit:	($29,126.74)

THE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCOUNT HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN FUNDED AT **$100,000** ANNUALLY; HOWEVER, THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATION WAS REDUCED TO **$80,000** AS PART OF PRIOR CITY-WIDE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS, WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE CURRENT PROJECTED SHORTFALL. ASIDE FROM THAT, VEHICLE MAINTENANCE COSTS HAVE REMAINED HIGH DUE TO ONGOING REPAIR NEEDS OF AGED-OUT TRUCKS AND THE NECESSITY OF KEEPING FRONTLINE APPARATUS IN SAFE AND RELIABLE CONDITION. THIS REQUEST IS INTENDED TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS WITHOUT DISRUPTION TO CRITICAL SERVICES.





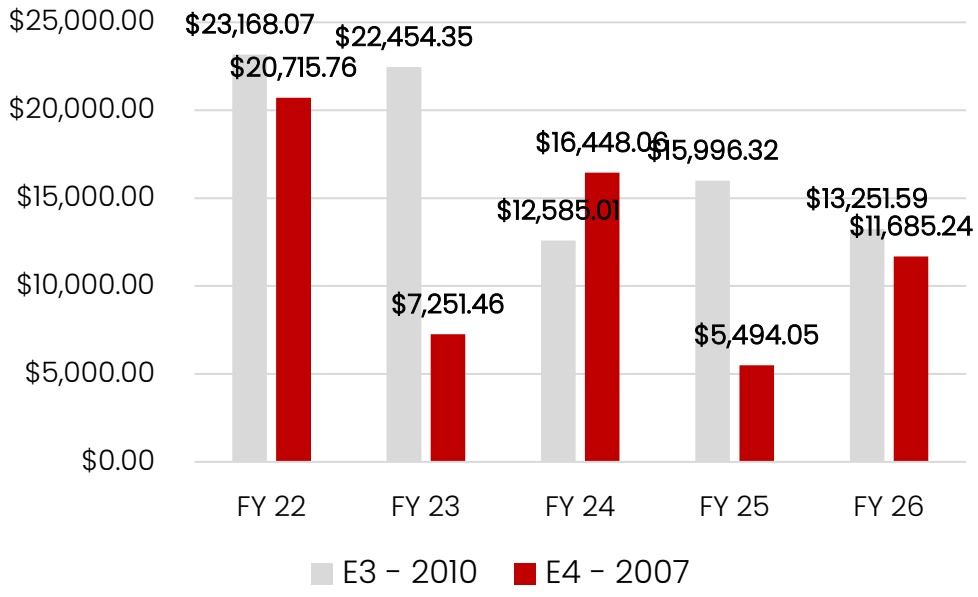


IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, ENGINE 3 AND ENGINE 4 HAVE INCURRED THE CITY ***$150,000+***.

DRIVEN BY SAFETY

LONG-TERM APPARATUS REPLACEMENT REMAINS A SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION. REQUEST THROUGH THE CITY'S CIP FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S 2007 (**19** YEARS) AND 2010 (**16** YEARS) SEAGRAVE ENGINES WERE NOT FUNDED IN FY27.

WHILE ANNUAL REPAIR COSTS FLUCTUATE, BOTH APPARATUS CONTINUE TO REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL MAINTENANCE INVESTMENTS DUE TO THEIR AGE AND CONTINUED FRONT-LINE AND RESERVE SERVICE DEMANDS.



NFPA STANDARD

THE STANDARDS FOR IN-SERVICE, AGED-OUT APPARATUS ARE OUTLINED IN NFPA 1910 AND THE ANNEX OF NFPA 1900. THE STANDARDS RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING LIFE-CYCLE AND RETIREMENT GUIDELINES:

THE "15/25 RULE"

- **15 YEARS:** RECOMMENDS THAT APPARATUS BE *REMOVED FROM FRONTLINE SERVICE* AND RELEGATED TO RESERVE STATUS.
- **25 YEARS:** RECOMMENDS *COMPLETELY REMOVING* THE APPARATUS FROM EMERGENCY SERVICE.

SPECIFIC SAFETY FEATURES OFTEN MISSING ON OLDER APPARATUS:

- IMPROVED OCCUPANT PROTECTION SYSTEMS
- ENHANCED SEAT BELT DESIGNS
- AIR BAG SYSTEMS
- VEHICLE STABILITY AND ROLLOVER PROTECTION
- IMPROVED WARNING AND VISIBILITY SYSTEMS
- BETTER SCENE LIGHTING
- MODERN BRAKING AND ELECTRONIC CONTROL SYSTEMS



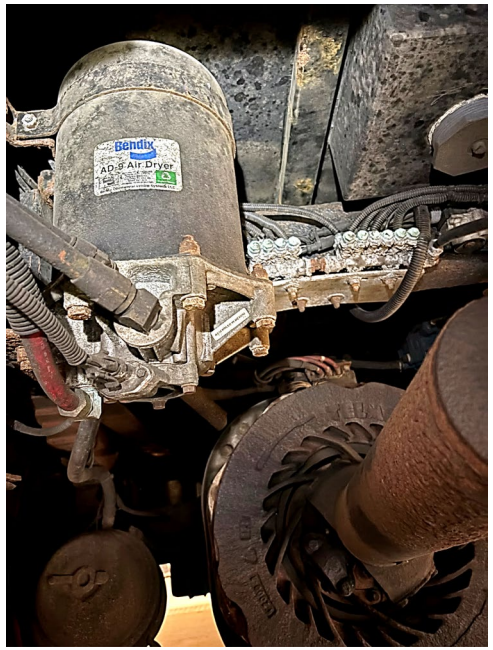
ENGINE 3 – 16 YRS OLD



ENGINE 4 – 19 YRS OLD

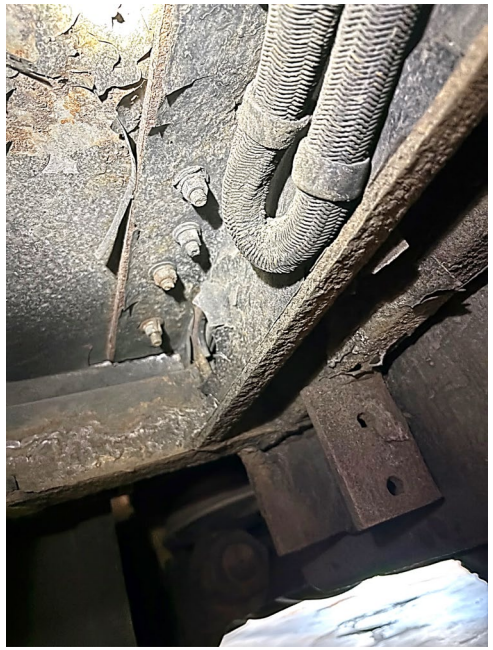
ENGINE 3
YEAR: 2010
AGE: 16









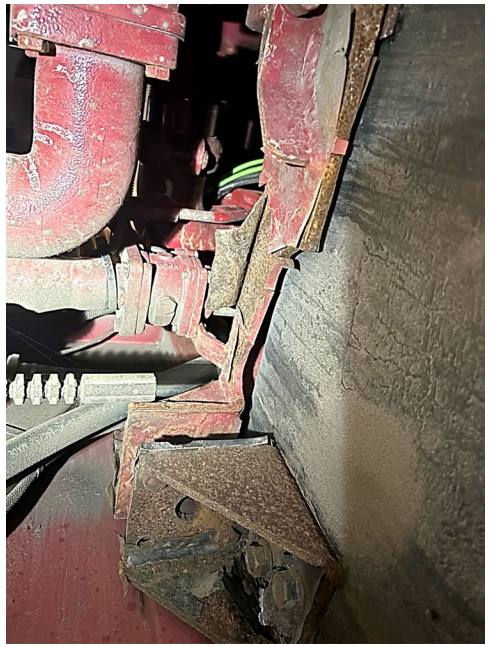




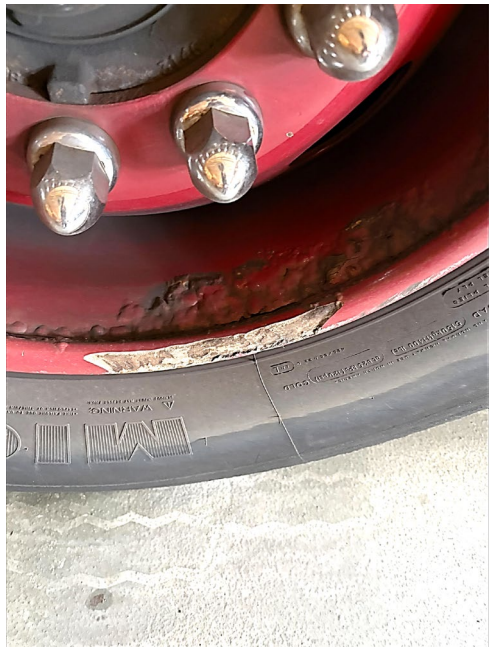


ENGINE 4
YEAR: 2007
AGE: 19







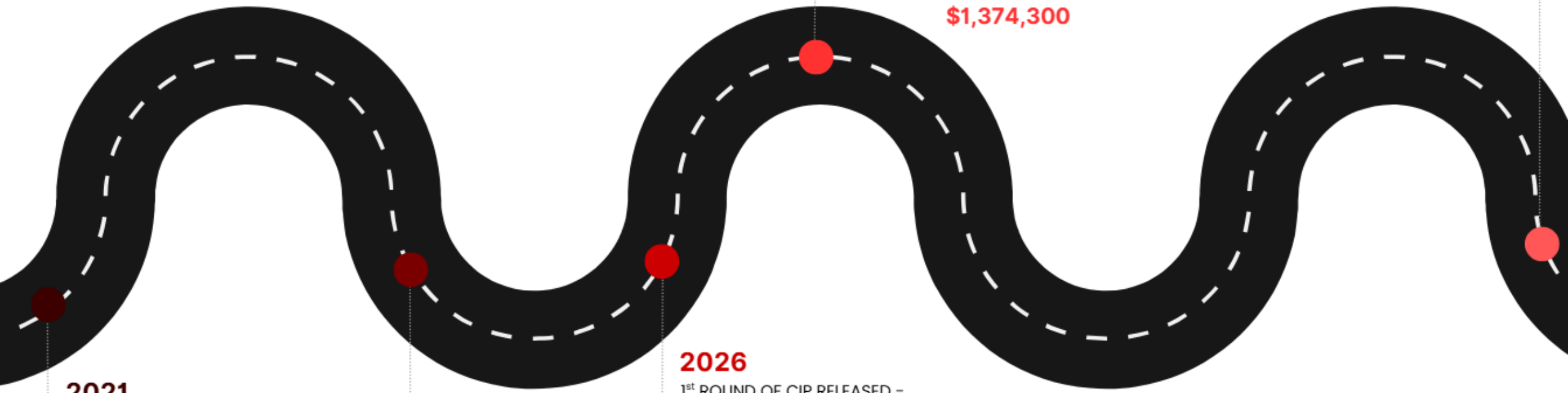








MELROSE FIRE APPARATUS REPLACEMENT TIMELINE



2021

CIP REQUEST FOR APPARATUS REPLACEMENT

$720,000

2025

CIP REQUEST FOR APPARATUS REPLACEMENT

$1,272,500

X 2

$2,545,000

2026

1st ROUND OF CIP RELEASED – APPARATUS REPLACEMENT **NOT FUNDED**.

PLAN & SECURE FUNDING FOR REFURBISHMENT OF ONE ENGINE.

2027

POTENTIAL FUNDING (CIP) ORDER APPARATUS

$1,374,300

2031

DELIVERY OF APPARATUS

E3: 21 YRS OLD

E4: 24 YRS OLD

1,400 DAYS UNTIL DELIVERY

(3.8 YEARS)

STAFFING DEMANDS & OVERTIME FUNDING

REQUEST: +$400,000

LINE: OVERTIME 012211-513000

WHY OVERTIME FUNDING IS NECESSARY

FIRE APPARATUS ARE STAFFED BASED ON OPERATIONAL & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. WHEN A FIREFIGHTER IS UNAVAILABLE, THAT POSITION MUST BE FILLED TO MAINTAIN MINIMUM STAFFING LEVELS.

WITHOUT ADEQUATE OVERTIME FUNDING

- ENGINE COMPANIES MAY OPERATE BELOW STAFFING STANDARDS
- APPARATUS MAY BE PLACED OUT OF SERVICE
- FEWER FIREFIGHTERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCY INCIDENTS
- MUTUAL AID RELIANCE INCREASES
- RESPONSE CAPABILITIES ARE REDUCED

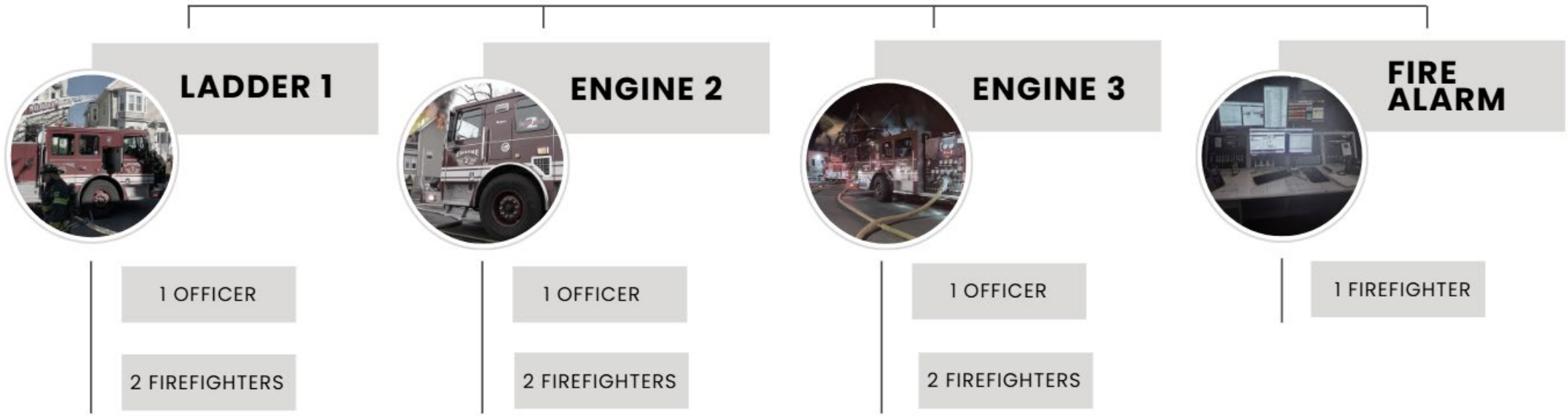




THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S OVERTIME COSTS ARE DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY THE NEED TO MAINTAIN MINIMUM STAFFING AND OPERATIONAL READINESS, NOT DISCRETIONARY SPENDING.

THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO ABSORB THE IMPACTS OF EMPLOYEE ABSENCES, VACANCIES, TRAINING, AND OTHER AUTHORIZED LEAVE THAT ARE INHERENT TO A 24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE ORGANIZATION. AS A RESULT, OVERTIME FUNDING IS ROUTINELY EXHUASTED, REQUIRING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS TO MAINTAIN STAFFING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES.

MELROSE FIRE LINE RESPONSE



SUPPORTING SAFE STAFFING LEVELS

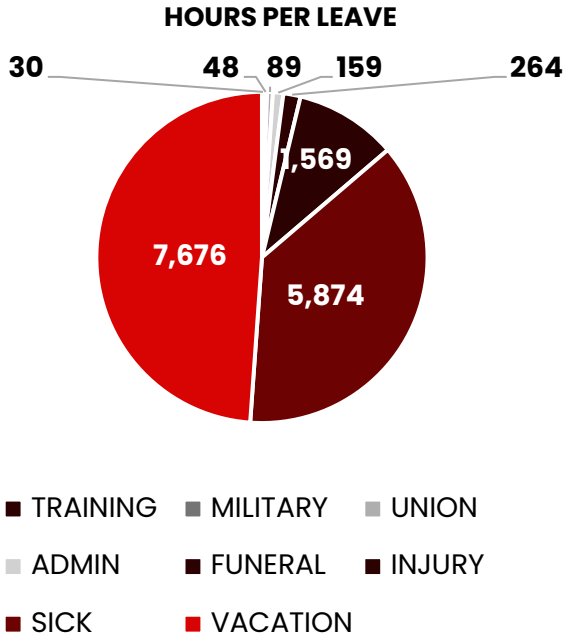
TOP 3 LEAVE REASONS: VACATION, SICK, & INJURY

FY24

TOTAL BUDGET SPENT: $5,239,298.79

OVERTIME SPENT: **$1,154,817.39**

PCT USED: 22%

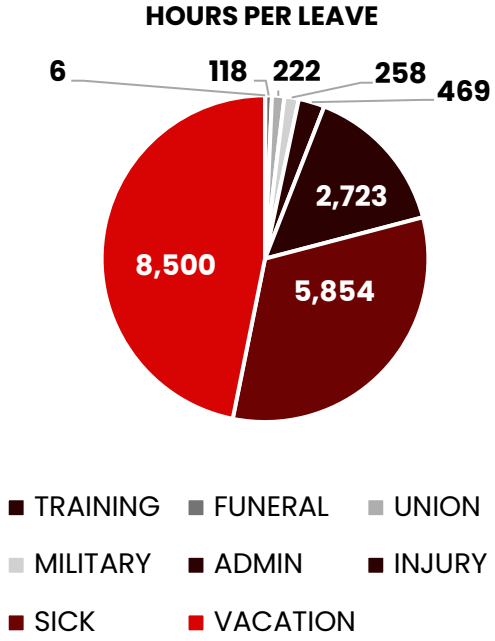


FY25

TOTAL BUDGET SPENT: $6,878,289.42

SPENT: **$1,635,358.72**

PCT USED: 23%

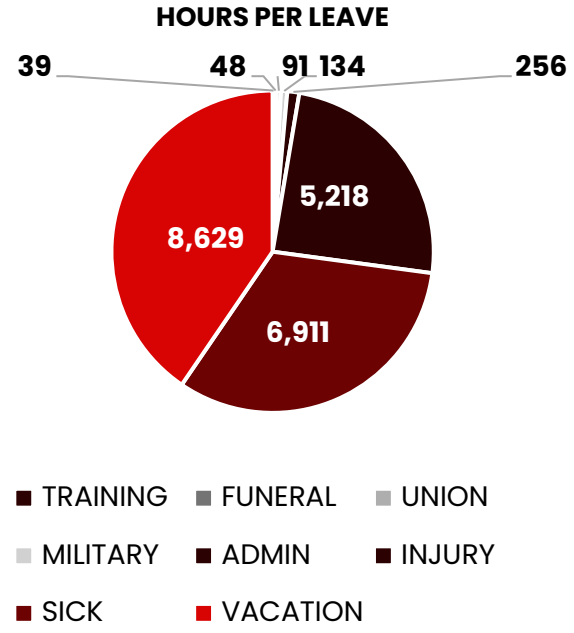


FY26

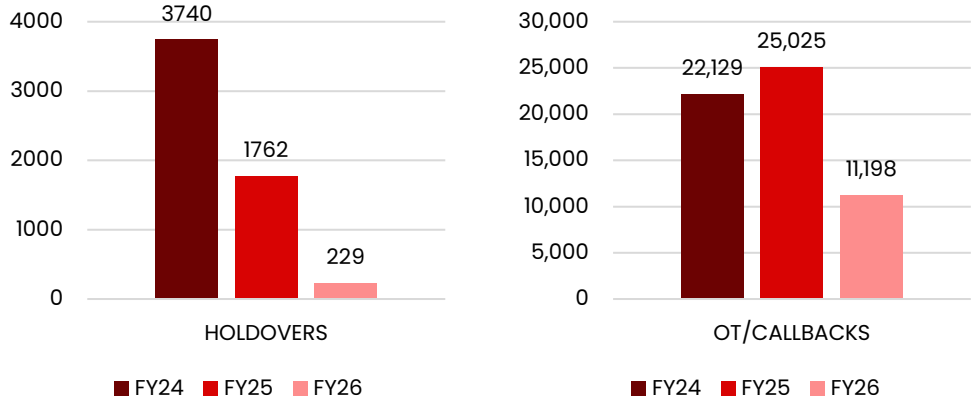
TOTAL BUDGET SPENT: $6,051,379.55

SPENT: **$804,989.96**

PCT USED: **13%**



ADEQUATE STAFFING & BACKFILL COVERAGE



WHILE OVERTIME AND HOLDOVER HOURS HAVE DECREASED COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS, THE PRIMARY DRIVER OF THIS FUNDING REQUEST IS NOT COST TRENDS, BUT OPERATIONAL SAFETY AND STAFFING STABILITY.

MAINTAINING ADEQUATE BACKFILL COVERAGE IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT OPEN POSITIONS, VACANCIES, AND UNPLANNED ABSENCES DO NOT RESULT IN APPARATUS BEING PLACED OUT OF SERVICE.

WHEN FRONTLINE UNITS ARE UNAVAILABLE DUE TO STAFFING GAPS, RESPONSE RELIABILITY IS REDUCED AND REMAINING CREWS ARE STRETCHED ACROSS INCREASED CALL VOLUME.



IF STAFFING FALLS BELOW REQUIRED LEVELS, RESPONSE EFFECTIVENESS AND FIREFIGHTER SAFETY CAN BE COMPROMISED. ADEQUATE STAFFING IS CRITICAL FOR:

- IMPROVING FIREFIGHTER SAFETY
- EFFECTIVE PROPERTY PROTECTION
- SEARCH & RESCUE OPERATIONS
- REDUCING FIREFIGHTER BURNOUT, FATIGUE, & INJURIES
- PATIENT CARE
- FASTER RESPONSE TIMES
- EFFICIENT VICTIM RESCUE
- BETTER COMMUNITY OUTCOMES









EVERY DAY, MELROSE RESIDENTS DEPEND ON A FULLY STAFFED FIRE DEPARTMENT TO RESPOND WHEN EMERGENCIES OCCUR.

FUNDING THIS REQUEST ENSURES THAT CRITICAL RESOURCES REMAIN AVAILABLE, RESPONSE CAPABILITIES ARE PRESERVED, AND PUBLIC SAFETY REMAINS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY.

MAINTAINING EMERGENCY RESPONSE READINESS

KEY POINTS:

- OVERTIME FUNDING ENSURES ALL FRONTLINE APPARATUS REMAIN STAFFED AND AVAILABLE.
- REDUCES THE RISK OF COMPANIES BEING PLACED OUT OF SERVICE DUE TO STAFFING SHORTAGES.
- MAINTAINS SAFE STAFFING LEVELS FOR EMERGENCY INCIDENTS.
- PROTECTS RESPONSE TIMES AND SERVICE DELIVERY TO RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND SCHOOLS.
- SUPPORTS OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY WHILE VACANCIES ARE FILLED.

FISCAL YEAR 2027
BUDGET PRESENTATION

MELROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PRESENTED BY: CHIEF JOHN J. WHITE







FY26 – FY27 OVERVIEW

FY26 PRESENTED CONTINUED FINANCIAL CHALLENGES THAT REQUIRED THE DEPARTMENT TO REMAIN DISCIPLINED AND STRATEGIC IN MANAGING OPERATIONAL NEEDS WHILE MAINTAINING UNINTERRUPTED EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY. THROUGH CAREFUL BUDGETING, PRIORITIZATION OF RESOURCES, AND THE DEDICATION OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL, THE DEPARTMENT SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATED THESE CONSTRAINTS WHILE CONTINUING TO MEET THE CITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY EXPECTATIONS.

AS THE DEPARTMENT ENTERS FY27, WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THE CITY'S SUPPORT AND THE FUNDING PROVIDED TO MAINTAIN CORE OPERATIONS AND ADDRESS SEVERAL IMPORTANT PRIORITIES. PLANNED FY27 INVESTMENTS INCLUDE EXPANDED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, CRITICAL LIFE SAFETY EQUIPMENT, AND CONTINUED EFFORTS TO SUPPORT FIREFIGHTER READINESS AND OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS.

INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC SAFETY

THE FY27 BUDGET REFLECTS TARGETED INVESTMENTS FOCUSED ON MAINTAINING OPERATIONAL READINESS, SUPPORTING PERSONNEL, AND SUSTAINING FRONTLINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES. THE DEPARTMENT'S OVERALL BUDGET INCREASED BY **2.6%**, WITH **7** OF **26** BUDGET LINES REFLECTING INCREASES TIED TO CRITICAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS.

ACCOUNTS:	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 REQUEST:	FY27 PROPOSED:	PCT CHANGE:
[51] SALARIES				
SALARY & WAGES	$5,201,301.00	$5,477,685.91	$5,328,184.00	2.4%
OVERTIME	$489,300.00	$1,518,599.16	$513,500.00	4.9%
[52] CONTRACTUAL				
LIFE/SAFETY EQUIPMENT	$5,996.18	$15,000.00	$15,000.00	37.6%
MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR & MAINT	$65,446.51	$100,000.00	$100,000.00	25.0%
[53] SUPPLIES & MATERIAL				
FIRE PREVENTION SUPPLIES	$2,380.20	$4,000.00	$4,000.00	33.3%
BATTERIES	$469.73	$2,000.00	$2,000.00	166.7%
CLEANING & DISINFECTANT SUP	$7,234.95	$7,500.00	$7,500.00	7.1%

KEY INCREASES INCLUDE FUNDING FOR SALARY/WAGES, AND OVERTIME ACCOUNTS TO SUPPORT STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S **49** EMPLOYEES.

INCREASED FUNDING WITHIN MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRS/ MAINTENANCE AND BATTERY ACCOUNTS WAS NECESSARY TO ADDRESS RISING MAINTENANCE DEMANDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S AGING APPARATUS FLEET. THESE INVESTMENTS HELP ENSURE THE CONTINUED RELIABILITY AND OPERATIONAL READINESS OF FRONTLINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES. OTHER INCREASES ARE BASED ON REGULAR ANNUAL COST INCREASES, SERVICE FEE ADJUSTMENTS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

THIS FUNDING SUPPORTS THE DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO RESPOND TO APPROXIMATELY **4,700** EMERGENCY CALLS ANNUALLY WHILE MAINTAINING UNINTERRUPTED EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES, FIREFIGHTER SAFETY, AND CONTINUED SERVICE DELIVERY TO THE COMMUNITY.

THE FY27 BUDGET INCLUDES DECREASES IN **2** OF **26** BUDGET LINES, TOTALING APPROXIMATELY **$25,000** IN REDUCTIONS. WHILE THE APPROVED BUDGET SUPPORTS THE DEPARTMENT'S CORE OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS, SEVERAL IMPORTANT OPERATIONAL NEEDS REMAIN AREAS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.

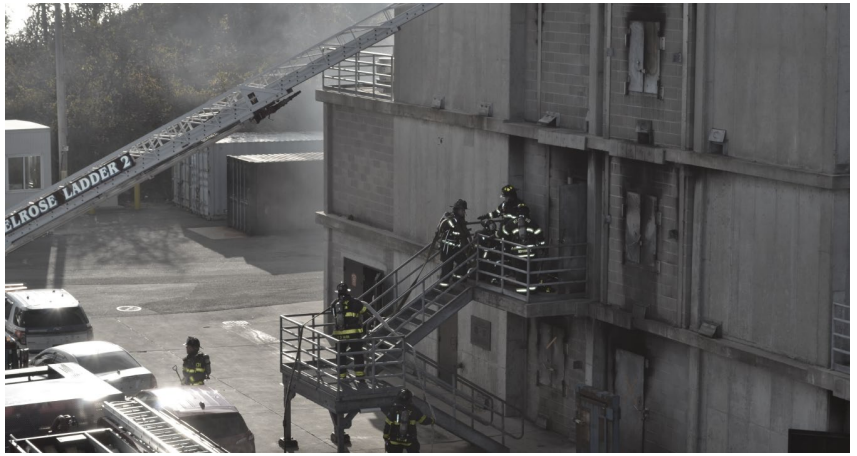
ACCOUNTS:	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 REQUEST:	FY27 PROPOSED:	PCT CHANGE:
[52] CONTRACTUAL				
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	$50,000.00	$50,000.00	$40,000.00	-20.0%
[53] SUPPLIES & MATERIAL				
EMS SUPPLIES	$25,000.00	$25,000.00	$10,000.00	-60.0%





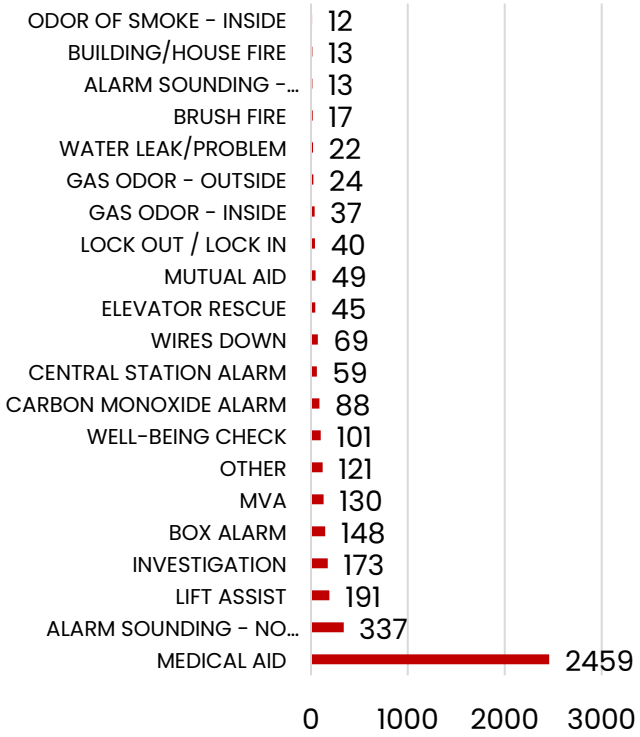
CONTINUING OPERATIONAL NEEDS

ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUESTED FOR THE OVERTIME TRAINING ACCOUNT WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE FY27 BUDGET. FUNDING WAS REQUESTED TO SUPPORT MANDATORY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND EXPANDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AS TRAINING DEMANDS WITHIN THE FIRE SERVICE CONTINUE TO INCREASE. THE DEPARTMENT WAS BUDGETED **$11,500** WITHIN THE TRAINING ACCOUNT FOR FY26 AND BETWEEN THE OVERTIME AND TRAINING LINES, THEY HAVE INCURRED APPROXIMATELY **$21,000** AS OF MAY 2026. THIS DEMONSTRATES THE CONTINUED OPERATIONAL DEMANDS FOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES.



FY26ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FY26 MELROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT CALL TYPES



HIGHEST CALL VOLUME BY MONTH
SEPTEMBER
404 CALLS

LOWEST CALL VOLUME BY MONTH
FEBRUARY
320 CALLS

HIGHEST CALL VOLUME BY SEASON
WINTER
1,315 CALLS

LOWEST CALL VOLUME BY SEASON
SPRING
834 CALLS

4,148
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CALLS

$12,375.87
FUNDING AWARDED THROUGH THE FY26 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT TO PURCHASE LIFE SAFETY EQUIPMENT (SCBA & METERS)

700+
RECORDED TRAINING HOURS

$6,051,379
CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURES DEDICATED ENTIRELY TO SUPPORTING THE MELROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

FORECASTING FOR THE FUTURE

THE MELROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO DELIVERING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

THE INVESTMENTS OUTLINED IN THIS BUDGET – IN OUR PERSONNEL, APPARATUS, & INFRASTRUCTURE – ARE NOT DISCRETIONARY. THEY ARE THE FOUNDATION OF A SAFE, RESPONSIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE DEPARTMENT.



FISCAL YEAR 2027
BUDGET PRESENTATION

MELROSE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

PRESENTED BY: CHIEF JOHN J. WHITE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: IMPACT BEYOND THE BUDGET

THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING THE CITY'S PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, RECOVERY, AND MITIGATION EFFORTS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER EMERGENCIES. PRIOR TO THE START OF FY26, OVERSIGHT OF THIS FUNCTION WAS ASSUMED BY THE MELROSE FIRE CHIEF, ENSURING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES REMAIN CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY NEEDS. THE DEPARTMENT'S FY27 BUDGET OF **$10,000** SUPPORTS ADMINISTRATIVE STIPENDS ASSOCIATED WITH MANAGING THIS CRITICAL FUNCTION.

DESPITE ITS MODEST BUDGET, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT VALUE THROUGH PLANNING, TRAINING, INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, GRANT MANAGEMENT, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVES THAT STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE.

MANY REQUIREMENTS REMAIN UNCERTAIN AND BUDGET REQUESTS HAVE BEEN INTENTIONALLY LIMITED AS WE ASSESS PRIORITIES FOR FY27 AND BEYOND.





PREPARING FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

THE STRONGEST EMERGENCY RESPONSE BEGINS LONG BEFORE AN INCIDENT OCCURS. CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN PLANNING, TRAINING, AND COORDINATION HELPS PROTECT OUR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

A STRATEGIC OVERVIEW OF THE ANNUAL PLANNING, TRAINING, AND COORDINATION, BY THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, REQUIRED TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY RESILIENT AND RESPONSE-READY:

- PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING AND TABLETOP EXERCISES
- PURSUE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CAPABILITIES
    - RECENT EMPG (EMERG. MGT. PERFORMANCE GRANT) SUBMITTAL FOR **$5,358.18**
- OVERSEE DISASTER RESPONSE, RECOVERY, AND MITIGATION ACTIVITIES
- MANAGE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND SITUATIONAL AWARENESS DURING SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENTS & EMERGENCIES
- MAINTAIN & UPDATE THE CITY'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
- SUPPORT PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING FOR MAJOR EVENTS, INCIDENTS, OR SPECIAL OPERATIONS
- ATTENDING REGIONAL & STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MEETINGS
    - MYSTIC REPC (MYSTIC REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE)
    - MEMA (MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY)

Final Study Report
May 22, 2026

Proposed
Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District



Melrose Historic District Commission & Melrose Historical Commission

Prepared for the City of Melrose Massachusetts Office Planning and Community Development

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Appendix C- Massachusetts Historic Commission Form B .....7 pages

Appendix D- Massachusetts Historical Commission Advisory Letter.....1 page

Appendix E- Melrose Planning Board Recommendation Letter.....1 page

Appendix F- City of Melrose, Historic Districts Ordinance..... 3 pages

SUMMARY SHEET

Contact Information

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Director, Office of Planning & Community Development
City of Melrose, 562 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176
781-979-4193 lmassa@CityofMelrose.org

Study Committee Members – Existing Melrose Historic District Commission

Members of the Melrose Historic District Commission:

- Michael Coleman, Chair
- Richard Curl
- Kevin Erb
- Ryan Murphy
- Lindsay Toghill
- Robert Tullis

Historical Commission

Members of the Melrose Historical Commission:

- Shane Egan, Chair
- Joseph Hunt, Vice Chair
- Rebecca Blumenthal, Secretary
- Darren Brown, Treasurer
- George Bibilos
- Cathy Giliberto
- Gentry Andrews

Date of Public Hearing & City Council Vote

- A public hearing was be held no sooner than 60 days following submission of the Preliminary Study Report to the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Melrose Planning Board. The date of the public hearing with the Melrose Historic District Committee as the Study Committee was May 12, 2026.
- The Melrose Historic District Commission voted to forward the Final version of the report to the Melrose City Council.
- The City Council will consider the matter on June 1, 2026.

Total Number of Properties Affected by the Proposed Local Historic District

The proposed Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District will affect:

• 1 property address, 244 Main Street Melrose MA
• 1 parcel, approximately 18,516 square feet or 0.425 acres of land
• 1 property owner
• 1 historic building, greater than 100 years old
• 1 detached outbuilding, 50 years or older

Conclusion of the Study Report

The building is worthy of preservation and designation as a single-parcel Local Historic District.

INTRODUCTION

In Massachusetts since 1955 and in Melrose since 1982, Local Historic Districts (LHDs) have been used to protect valued historic resources. As noted in Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 40 C, LHDs have three major purposes:
• to preserve and protect the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places significant in the Commonwealth and its cities and towns;
• to maintain and improve the settings of those buildings and places;
• and to encourage new designs compatible with existing buildings in the district.
MGL Chapter 40C is the framework under which cities and towns establish districts within their communities, outlining the process for identifying districts and gaining approval for their designation. Over Massachusetts 120 cities and towns have embraced this planning tool, thereby protecting thousands of the Commonwealth's most valued properties.

In Melrose, the northern section of downtown along Main Street (from West Emerson Street to just south of East Foster Street) has been designated an LHD. This Melrose Town Center Historic District includes Melrose City Hall, the adjacent Main Fire Station, Memorial Hall, the Coolidge School, the Baptist Church & Methodist Church, and several downtown commercial buildings. This area and the buildings within it were also added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The National Register is the federal government's official list of U.S. areas deemed to be worthy of preservation. The Register, and criteria for adding locations, was established following the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. In addition to Melrose's LHD, our city also contains five other National Register properties and shares two more with adjacent communities. Those National Register properties are:

- The Beebe Estate- the historic West Foster Street house, built in 1828, listed on the NRHP in 1981.
- Larrabee's Brick Block- the commercial and residential building at 500-504 Main Street, a relatively unaltered 19th century structure in the Town Center Historic District. It was built in 1880 by John Larrabee, and listed on the NRHP in 1984.
- Melrose Public Library- located at 69 West Emerson Street, an Andrew Carnegie library. It was built in 1904 with subsequent additions made, and listed on the NHRP in 1988.
- The Phineas Upham House- located at 255 Upham Street, a traditional Colonial Period Saltbox house. The Upham House was built in 1703 and listed on the NRHP in 1990.
- The Trinity Episcopal Church- located at 131 West Emerson St. The main church building was constructed in 1886, and listed on the NHRP in 1995.
- The Middlesex Fells Reservation Parkways- the series of roadways within and bordering on the Middlesex Fells Reservation. Shared with Malden, Medford, Stoneham and Winchester, it was listed on the NHRP in 2003.
- The Lynn Fells Parkway- part of the Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston, it runs from Stoneham in the west to Saugus in the east. It was listed on the NHRP in 2003.

Historic District Commissions oversee the Local Historic Districts. Their chief concerns are to avoid demolition of significant buildings and to review proposed publicly visible changes to those buildings and landscapes. LHDs do not halt change or development, but instead they

allow for a process of public review and thoughtful consideration of proposed changes, making certain that the changes are in keeping with the history and integrity of properties within the district. Just as important, Local Historic Districts benefit the whole city by preserving the city's architectural integrity and unique cultural heritage, and therefore foster community pride.

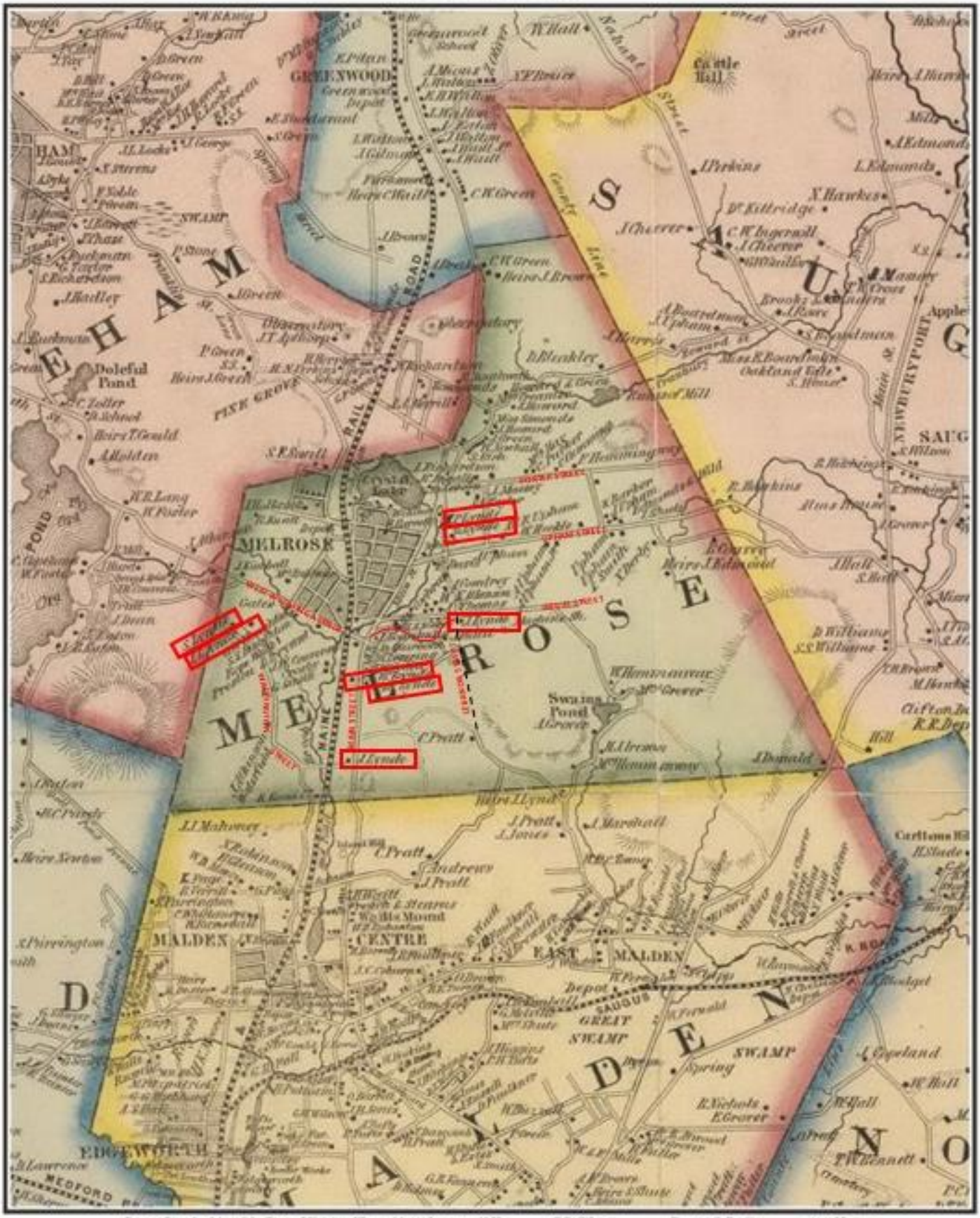
This Study Report presents a rationale for establishing a single-parcel local historic district at 244 Main Street, the Benjamin Lynde House, originally built by Capt. John Lynde in 1693 and rebuilt by Benjamin after a fire in 1819. The house is one of four (or possibly six) surviving structures of a larger number of early homes built by the Lynde family, one of the most significant early Melrose families who were settlers and farmers in what was then known as North Malden. (The family name is pronounced with a 'long I' as in "The students LINED up single file in the schoolyard.") The other three surviving houses verified to be Lynde houses are:

- The 1702 Joseph Lynde house, a largely intact First Period colonial, also still stands at 409 Lebanon Street (corner of Grove Street), where it faces and terminates the eastern end of Lynde Street as that street winds its way in a lazy S curve from its start at Main Street just north of Wyoming Avenue. This is MEL.50 in the MACRIS inventory.
- The 1829 Alvin Lynde house survives on the east side of Main Street across and uphill from the Benjamin Lynde House. This small house, known as "Little Mount Vernon" for its white porch and once-commanding view over Main Street (early 1930s houses were built in between its porch and Main Street), is undoubtably the inspiration for the road names of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Potomac Street. The rear of the house faces the corner of these two roads and it has a 106 Mt. Vernon address. This is MEL.74 in the MACRIS inventory.
- The c.1700 Jabez Lynde / Grundy House survives at 407 Washington Street, where it was built by Capt. John Lynde for his son Thomas at the same time and about 1,650 feet (100 rods) west of Capt. John's own house (see below). Originally this was a First Period style house. It has been remodeled and now appears to be a simplified early Victorian Vernacular farmhouse. According to Goss, *History of Melrose*, 1902, pp 75-76: "Originally it had a very large chimney and fireplace, wide front door through which huge fire logs were taken, and 3x4 diamond-paned windows, the glass secured by lead instead of putty." It is MEL.205 in the MACRIS inventory.

Two houses that are likely to be surviving Lynde family houses are:

- The house at 531 Lebanon Street, a five-bay center-entry "colonial" built in 1834. It has the same wide front door opening as the Jabez Lynde house once had. This is MEL. 236 in the MACRIS inventory. The name G. Lynde is assigned to a house in this location on the 1852 F.G. Sidney Melrose map. On the 1856 unattributed map, the G. Lynde house is shown and Lebanon Street is labeled Lynde. On the 1875 Beers Melrose Center map the house is labeled George Lynde, and he is shown owning all Lebanon Street frontage from Upham Street to East Emerson Street. A house belonging to A.P Lynde (A.W. Lynde on an 1889 map) appears on the northwest corner of Lebanon and East Emerson, with its barn on the northeast corner (now the hospital parking lot), but it seems they were demolished.
- An 1824 house at 350 Washington Street is possibly another 8th or 9th generation Lynde family house. It is labeled Estate of Aaron Lynde on an 1899 George H. Walker map, and it commands the south end of Lynde Avenue. This is MEL.248 in the MACRIS inventory.

Melrose 1852



Excerpt from the *Map of the City and Vicinity of Boston Massachusetts* 1852 F.G. Sidney Ramsey Collection www.old-maps.



Joseph Lynde House, 1702
on the corner of Lebanon Street and Grove Street



View showing relationship of the east end of Lynde Street to the Joseph Lynde House



Plaque on wall of Joseph Lynde House, Built 1702



Alvin Lynde House, "Little Mount Vernon," 1829
back side faces the corner of Mt. Vernon and Potomac Streets



View showing relationship of Alvin Lynde House and the Benjamin Lynde House



Plaque on wall of Alvin Lynde House, "Little Mount Vernon," 1829



Jabez Lynde / Grundy House, c. 1700
407 Washington Street, adjacent to the Saugus town line



The house as it appeared in 1974
from MACRIS MEL.205 inventory



Front of the Jabez Lynde / Grundy House
looking northeast



Rear of the
Jabez Lynde / Grundy House

POSSIBLE LYNDE HOUSES



531 Lebanon Street, contemporary street view



531 Lebanon Street, built 1834, MACRIS MEL.236



352 Washington Street, built 1824, MACRIS MEL.248



Showing relationship to the head of Lynde Avenue

Other Lynde family homes were unfortunately destroyed long ago, including two notable structures:

- The c.1700 house of Capt. John Lynde once stood near Washington Street on the west side of the railroad tracks close to what is now the Saugus town line (George Washington is said to have tied his horse to an elm tree in its front yard). This is the house built at the same time as the Jabez Lynde / Grundy house, 100 rods west and adjacent to the Saugus town line.
- The 1670 house of Ensign Thomas Lynde, the first English settler in Melrose, once stood at the corner of Main Street and Banks Place (once Goodyear Avenue) on what is now the parking lot of Hunt Photo. This house was documented in the 1933 Historic American Building Survey (H.A.B.S. number MASS-464).

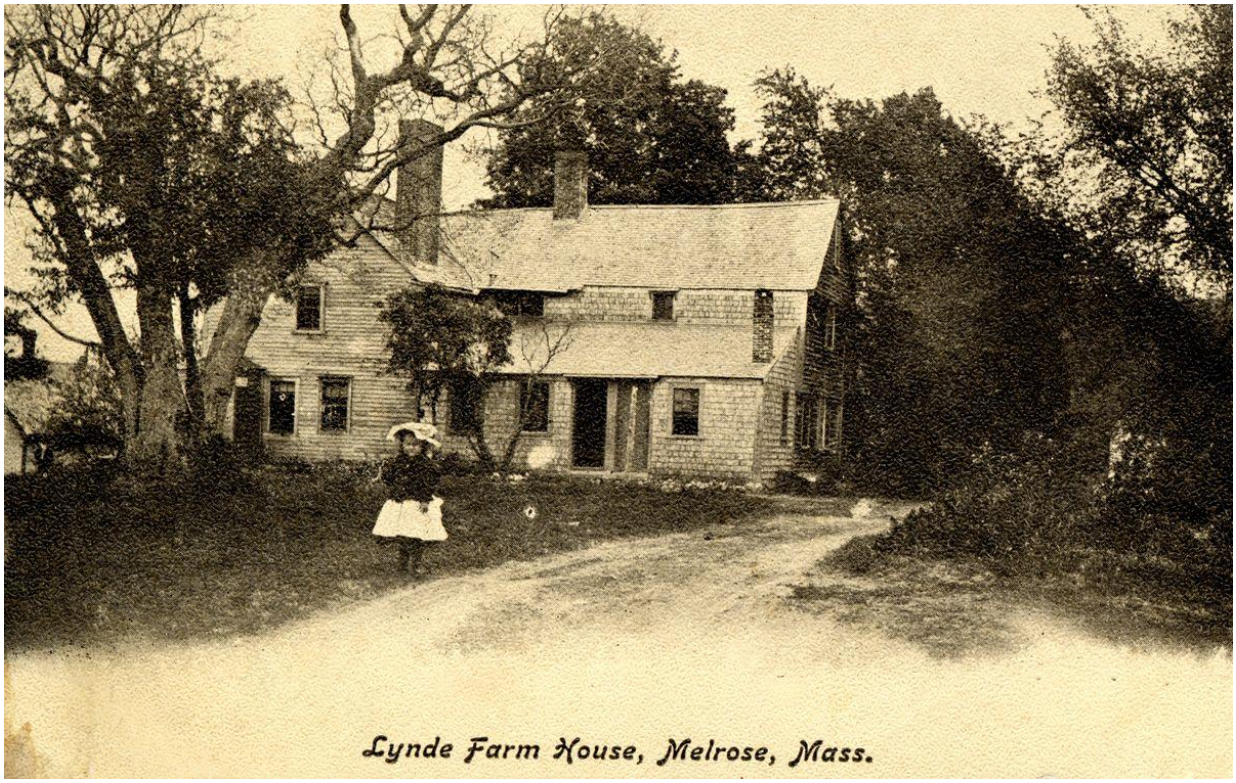
Our subject, the house at 244 Main Street, was the home of Benjamin Lynde, born October 2, 1758, who as a 16-year old Minuteman mustered with other North Malden farmers at what is now Gooch Park to join up with Captain Benjamin Blaney's company on April 19th, 1775 to head to Lexington, where the shot heard 'round the world would ring out to signal the start of the American Revolution.

Fortunately, Benjamin Lynde survived the war to return home and thrive. Later in life, he and his family lived through a fire in 1819 and the rebuilding of his home in 1820; that is the structure that is the subject of this study. Ultimately, he would live to the age of 70, passing away in 1829. The house stayed in the Lynde family throughout the 19th Century, long after Benjamin passed. Warren Lynde, born 1799, farmed the land until his death at the age of 89 in 1888, when it was taken over by Warren's son Henry Lynde.

It would be a shame to see this proud, historic home, a symbol of Melrose's history and participation in the American Revolution, potentially destroyed or altered. Establishing this single property as a Local Historic District recognizes and preserves it as a treasured asset.



Captain John Lynde House,
Built c.1700





Ensign Thomas Lynde House, 1702
formerly on the corner of Main Street and Goodyear Ave (Banks Place)



Front door of the
Ensign Thomas Lynde House



Plaque on stone, across Main Street
from location of Thomas Lynde House

METHODOLOGY

On November 18, 2025 the Melrose Historic District Commission (MHDC) unanimously voted to consider designating the property at 244 Main Street as a single parcel historic district and serve as the study committee. On December 1, 2025 the MHDC voted unanimously to support the creation of this single parcel historic district. The MHDC had conducted the initial research on the property in collaboration with the Historic District Commission in the preparation of a study report. This LHD would be referred to as the Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District. This property contains the two-story Lynde house and a one-story freestanding garage structure. The study committee then engaged in historical research on the Lynde family, architectural research on the structures and the land, and documentation of the existing conditions. Sources appear in the bibliography of this report.

A 90% draft of the Preliminary Report was presented back to the MHDC on January 13, 2026 and they voted unanimously to finish the Preliminary Report and forward it on to the Melrose Planning Board and the Massachusetts Historic Commission for their comments, which are due to the MHDC within 60 days. Research and community outreach continued during this time.

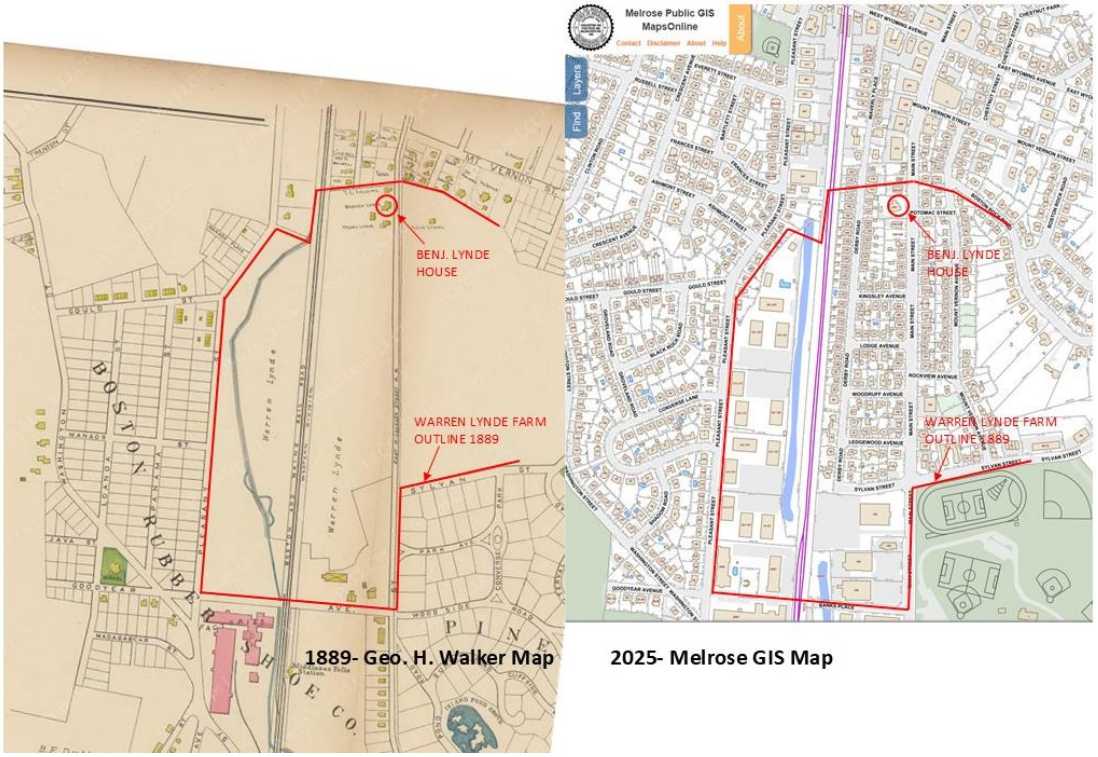
Single parcel LHDs are not uncommon in Massachusetts. According to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, "The city of Somerville has over 200 single building local historic districts. Other single building local historic districts have been established in Brookline, Huntington, Sharon, Somerville, Springfield, West Springfield and Wellesley." (Massachusetts Historical Commission, Revised 2021, *Establishing Local Historic Districts, 5.* Boston, MA.)

Often, the creation of a single parcel LHD is prompted when the sale of a building that is important to the historic and cultural fabric of a community is anticipated. This is the case for the subject property. It is up for sale along with the abutting property. The properties are marketed as a redevelopment site.

Many community members were alarmed by the real possibility of the demolition of the 244 Main Street house with it being marketed in this way and contacted their city councilors. The Melrose City Council approved a demolition review ordinance on December 1, 2025 that applies to structures built on or before the year 1899 and structures that are on or subject to the pending application for listing on the National Register. The review period is not to exceed twelve months from the Historical Commission's vote determining that a building is preferably preserved. The Council approved an amendment to the Administrative Code of the City of Melrose to expand the authority of the Historical Commission to include regulatory authority as is necessary for the demolition review ordinance to be enforced.

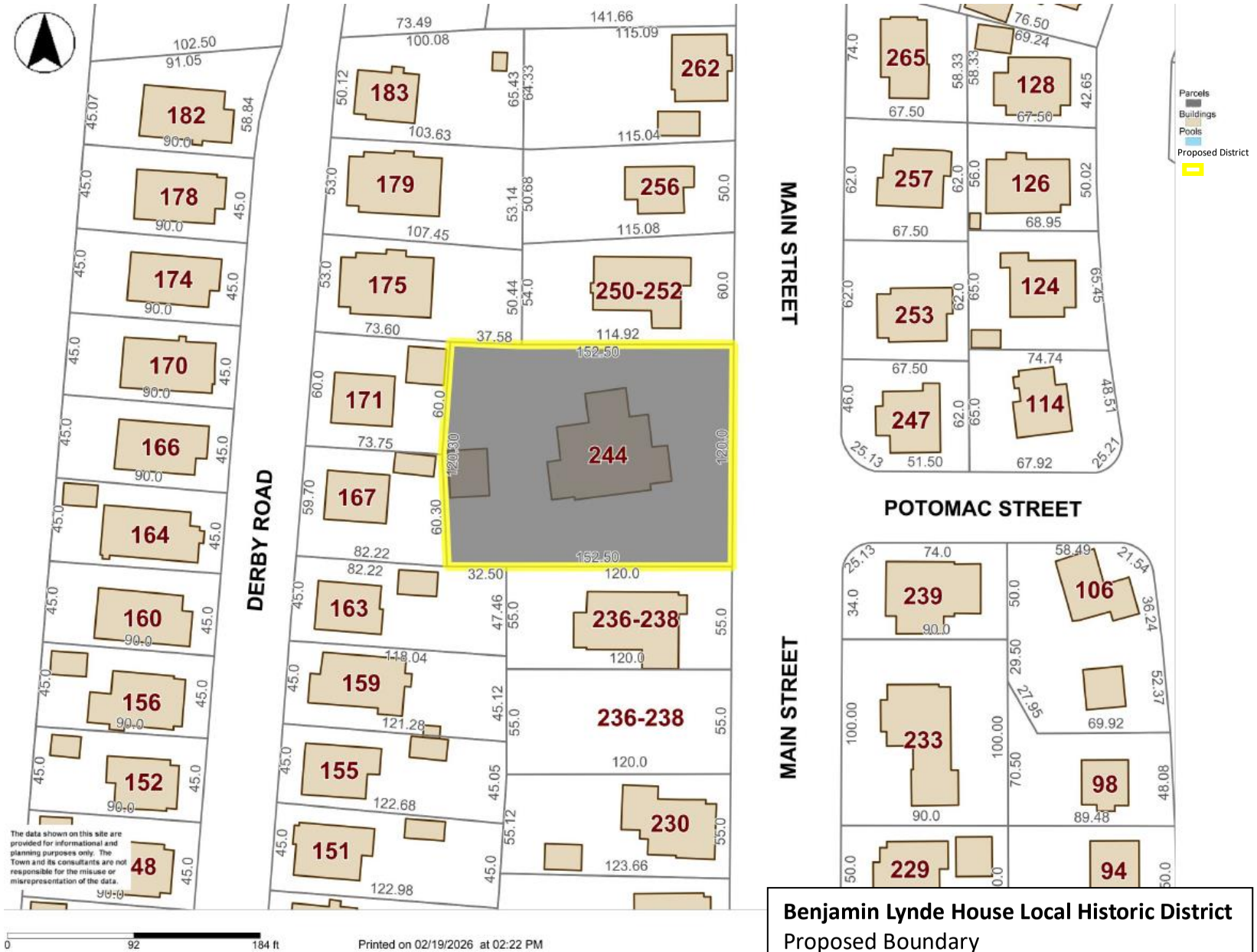
DISTRICT BOUNDARY

The proposed district boundary is comprised of the current lot lines of the land parcel at 244 Main Street. Study included a review of aerial photography, Melrose Public GIS Maps Online (mapsonline.net), and historic maps. Although the colonial-era Lynde farm included substantial land area on the east side of Main Street and the west side of the MBTA railroad tracks (once the Boston and Maine RR) and stretched southward from #262 Main Street all the way to Banks Place (once Goodyear Avenue), this farmland has been developed over time (some by the Lynde family itself) to include whole neighborhoods of houses, the Wyoming Cemetery, and some of Pine Banks Park. Farmyard buildings that were once immediately adjacent to the south and southwest of the Benjamin Lynde house, as shown in 1889 and 1899 George Walker Maps, no longer exist. Therefore, limiting the proposed LHD to a single parcel is considered sufficient to protect the Benjamin Lynde House and the important public view of it from Main Street without affecting the rights or options available to immediate abutters. That means only the current owners of the parcel and the included structures on that property will be affected by restrictions that will be in place when the district is approved. Joseph M. Kevane and Maureen Cremin are the current owners, as shown by massgis.maps.arcgis.com.



1889- Geo. H. Walker Map

2025- Melrose GIS Map



Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District
Proposed Boundary

PROPERTY INDEX

	Address	Parcel ID	Inventory No	Date of Construction	Historic Name	Architectural Style
1.	244 Main Street	C5 0 24	Mel.33	169 & 1819	Lynde, Benjamin House	Federal

LYNDE FAMILY GENEOLOGY AND HOUSES

Note: The information below is taken from various sources, including the "Early Settlers" section of *Ancient Melrose and Some, Information about its Old Homesteads, Families & Furnishings*, a pamphlet published by The Melrose Historical Society, 1915. This pamphlet was compiled by Levi S. Gould and Franklin P. Shumway, with excerpts ad libitum from E. H. Goss, Esq's *History of Melrose*. Information is also taken from Goss' *History of Melrose* itself, from Melrose newspapers, and from various genealogical and obituary sources. The information is presented more chronologically than in these sources' more narrative organization. The history of the Lynde family in Melrose is integral to the history of the city of Melrose. The Benjamin Lynde house at 244 Main Street lies at the heart of this history. It (or its immediate predecessor) is the oldest remaining Lynde home in Melrose, and the story of the generations who lived there is defined by service to the nation. The home lies witness to the changing landscape that surrounds it: agrarian life yielding to industrialization and urbanization.

GEN 1- **Deacon Thomas Lynde**, born in England 11 January 1593, became a freeman in 1634. He and his family arrived in Boston by 1634 as part of the Great Puritan Migration. He died 30 December 1691. He was among the early settlers in Charlestown. He bought a tract of then-waterfront land which was known through the time of the Revolution as Lynde's Point. Subsequently it was the site of the State Prison and is now Bunker Hill Community College. He was one of the Deputies to the General Court for several years, serving first in 1636. His brother was Simeon Lynde of Louisburg Square, Boston

As part of the 'great allotment,' the Lynde family received 13 parcels of land north of Charlestown "above the pondes." Part of this was 80 acres of land lying in Rockefeilde." Concerning this tract is a 1638 record in the Charlestown Archives stating "Inasmuch as it apprs yt [that] the Land in the great Lotts yt was laid out to Thomas Line [Lynde] & Richd Sprague prooves altogethr unusefull being nothing but Rockes wch was wholly besides or [our] intent, & only through oversight of the Surveyors wee Judge it to bee Just & equall yt they have allowance elswhere to theire satisfaction they leaveing the afforesd Rocks to lye Common." So by 1639 Deacon Thomas Lynde was granted better farm and hay field land by "Mount Prospect", on the north side of Waite's Mount on what was then known as the "Mystic Side" of Charlestown. This area stretching to the border of Reading (including present day Wakefield) was incorporated as Malden in 1649. This Lynde land grant would come to define much of the southern part of the town of Melrose, which was incorporated 1850. Deacon Thomas' house was built near today's entrance of the Forest Dale Cemetery on Forest Street on the Malden side of today's Malden-Melrose town line.

GEN 2- **Ensign Thomas Lynde**, eldest son of Deacon Thomas Lynde, born in England 7 Feb. 1615, died 15 Oct. 1693, aged 77 years, was the first settler of Melrose and the progenitor of the Lynde family in North Malden, later Melrose. Ensign Thomas Lynde was a prominent figure in his community. His fellow militiamen honored him with the title of Ensign.

Ensign Thomas Lynde may have lived for a while in the 'Forest Dale Cemetery' house built by his father, but soon after, about 1645, he built his homestead just south of Boston Rock (then known as Lynde's Hill) on the south side of the present Sylvan Street, near what is now the north-western entrance to Wyoming Cemetery. This was the first house built on Melrose territory. The home stood for over 200 years but only a cellar hole and well remained by 1900 (visible until the cemetery wall was built). A story was told among the Lynde descendants about this house. During a very severe winter in those early times, a long-continued snow storm completely buried the house from sight; relatives and neighbors went to the house on snowshoes and could only communicate with the snow-trapped family from the top of the chimney, through which they lowered provisions to avoid starvation.

The Lyndes were instrumental in the original 1653 routing of the 'Reading Road' through north Malden, passing by this home and to the east of Boston Rock.

In 1670 Ensign Thomas Lynde built a new home, assumed to be for his son Deacon Joseph Lynde, on the corner of Main Street and what is now known as Banks Place, earlier known as Goodyear Avenue. This house's address was 86 Main Street. Soon after, Ensign Thomas left his old home under Boston Rock and went to live with Joseph, where Thomas remained until his death in 1693. Also upon the completing the 86 Main Street house, Ensign Thomas petitioned the town in 1671 to move the 1653 Reading Road from running to the east of Boston Rock to instead run to its west past this new home and the more northern stretches of the Lynde land holdings towards Reading. Over the next generation of home building the Lynde family would define the landscape of southern Melrose along the route as it proceeded north along today's Main Street towards Wyoming Avenue before turning northeast up Lynde Avenue to join Lebanon Street north towards Wakefield.

Ensign Thomas' farm embraced a region as follows: Beginning at the southwestern corner and extending northerly along the line of Washington Street to near Wyoming Avenue; then easterly along the line of Wyoming Avenue to (or nearly to) Lebanon Street, then southerly, embracing the territory of Boston Rock, Wyoming Cemetery, Pine Banks Park, and Forest Dale Cemetery, to Forest Street in Malden; then westerly to Washington Street, embracing "Island Hill," between Main Street and the later 1845 Boston and Maine Railroad, which in early days was surrounded by the meadows of Three Mile Brook. (By Ensign Thomas' will, dated Oct. 3, 1693, on file in the Probate Court at East Cambridge, he divided his farm between his sons Deacon Joseph and Capt. John; giving Joseph the southern portion and the house at 86 Main Street, and giving John the northern portion.)

Deacon Joseph Lynde's son, Colonel Joseph Lynde enlarged and modernized the home in the mid-1700s and imported many fixtures from England during his renovation. In 1915 the still-

standing farm was described as “beautifully situated in the valley between ranges of hills, its spacious mansions, shaded by tall ancestral elms, its well-tilled acres, large and commodious barns well-filled with the products of their farm, flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, all indicated one of the good old-fashioned New England homesteads.” In 1881 this Lynde farm, along with 175 acres, was sold to Elijah Converse of Malden. The Boston Rubber Company was subsequently built just south of this home, and to its east over 100 acres now form the Pine Banks Park.

The 86 Main Street Ensign Thomas Lynde House was the oldest home in Melrose until its destruction in 1956. As the Melrose Free Press noted, this demolition to make way for a supermarket parking lot (now the parking lot for Hunt Photo) destroyed a historic landmark that was built 100 years before the Revolution and had housed seven generations of the Lyndes.

GEN 3- **Thomas Lynde**, first son of Ensign Thomas, born 25 March 1647, died c. 1681.
He does not figure into our story of Melrose houses.

GEN 3- **Capt. John Lynde**, second son of Ensign Thomas, b. 25 October 25 1648, d. 17 Sept 1723.
Capt. John then occupied the original house at the foot of Boston Rock near the entrance to the Wyoming Cemetery. In 1693 Capt. John Lynde left the Boston Rock homestead and built a new house at what is now 244 Main Street on his inherited northern farm land. (This 1693 house burned extensively in 1819, see Benjamin Lynde below.) The old Boston Rock homestead, first built by Ensign Thomas Lynde, was abandoned. By the time of the Revolution, Lynde descendants had resided in this home for 80 years.

GEN 3- **Deacon Joseph Lynde**, third son of Ensign Thomas, born 13 Dec. 1652, died 2 January 1735. He served as a Selectman for 15 years and as a Legislator for several years in the decades preceding the Revolution. He is the person who enlarged and modernized the 86 Main Street home in the mid-1700s. It is Deacon Joseph’s genealogical line leads to Benjamin.

GEN 4- **Ensign Joseph Lynde**, first son of Deacon Joseph, b. 2 Sept 1690, d. 16 March 1763.
He lived in the house at 244 Main Street.

GEN 5- **Joseph Lynde III**, first son of Ensign Joseph, b. 4 July 1716, d. 4 July 1798.
He both was born and died on the Fourth of July. When he was born, the date meant nothing to colonists. When he died, it was the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

GEN 6- **Lieut. Benjamin Lynde**, second son of Joseph Lynde III, born Oct. 2, 1758, died Sept 26, 1829 (Joseph III’s first son, Joseph IV, was b. 10 February 1746, d. 20 January 1805.)
It is from the 1693 home at 244 Main Street that Benjamin Lynde, at age 16 years / 6 months, answered the call to take up arms in the early hours of April 19, 1775, marching with his militia against British forces retreating from Lexington and Concord. Lieutenant Benjamin Lynde inherited the home at 244 Main Street from his father Joseph III in 1798 with 60 acres of land encompassing much of the ‘hill pasture’ of Boston Rock as well as 15 acres called “Island Hill”, a rise of ground surrounded by reedy marsh on the Melrose-Malden line since leveled by industry and development. (Although now level ground, this hillock is still marked by the bend in an otherwise straight stretch of Main Street near the Melrose-Malden line and by the name of an avenue stretching through the apartment complex at Oak Grove.)

The 244 Main Street house of Joseph Lynde III, with its contents, burned on the night of April 10, 1819, the family barely escaping with their lives. It is thought that the northwest 50 percent of the house burned and that the foundation, some of the frame, and the front two rooms were incorporated into the present Federal Style "capacious mansion," built the following year (1820) by Benjamin Lynde, now age 62. This is the house that is the subject of our proposed single-parcel Local Historic District.

GEN 7- **Warren Lynde**, born May 15, 1799, died in 1888 at the age of 89 years. Son of Benjamin. Warren inherited this home from his father in 1829 and his tenure farming this property stretched nearly throughout the entire 19th century until his passing in 1888. It appears on 1900s maps as Warren's residence. When he inherited the Benjamin Lynde house, there were barely 35 homes in the area then known as North Malden. Within 20 years the railway would cut across ancestral Lynde lands. Melrose incorporated as a town in 1850 and during Warren's final decade the population of Melrose nearly doubled to 8500. He passed the home and farm to his son Henry Lynde who continued to operate a thriving truck farm business until he sold it to a Dr. Murphy in 1921.

The Lyndes of 244 Main St. had a long-history of service to the nation. Captain John Lynde who built the 1693 home served as Selectmen in Malden for many years and fought with Major Willard in the 1676 King Philip's War and was Captain of the Malden military company around 1700. Seventy-five years later young Benjamin Lynde marched with Captain Blaney's company in defense of Concord and Lexington on April 19, 1775. Benjamin Lynde's grandson, also named Benjamin enlisted in the Union Army in 1862 at the age of 30 and died one year later in Baton Rouge, Louisiana of battlefield disease following the brutal Siege of Port Hudson that secured Union control of the Mississippi River. The long tradition of military service embodied in the Lynde family continued in one of the final generations of Lyndes to call 244 Main Street home. Frank Warren Lynde was born at the Benjamin Lynde house in 1876 and managed the Lynde family farm in his youth with his father Henry. His son Dick was an airplane instructor who was killed in Pensacola while training for service in Europe in WWII.)

Lynde homes built subsequent to the Benjamin Lynde House at 244 Main Street:
The expanding Lynde family continued to build homes across North Malden. In 1700 Captain John Lynde also built another First Period home for his son, also named John, b. 19 November 1680, d. before 16 September 1750, on the west side of what would become the Boston and Maine (now MBTA) train tracks that cut through Melrose in 1845. This house burned in the early 1900s.

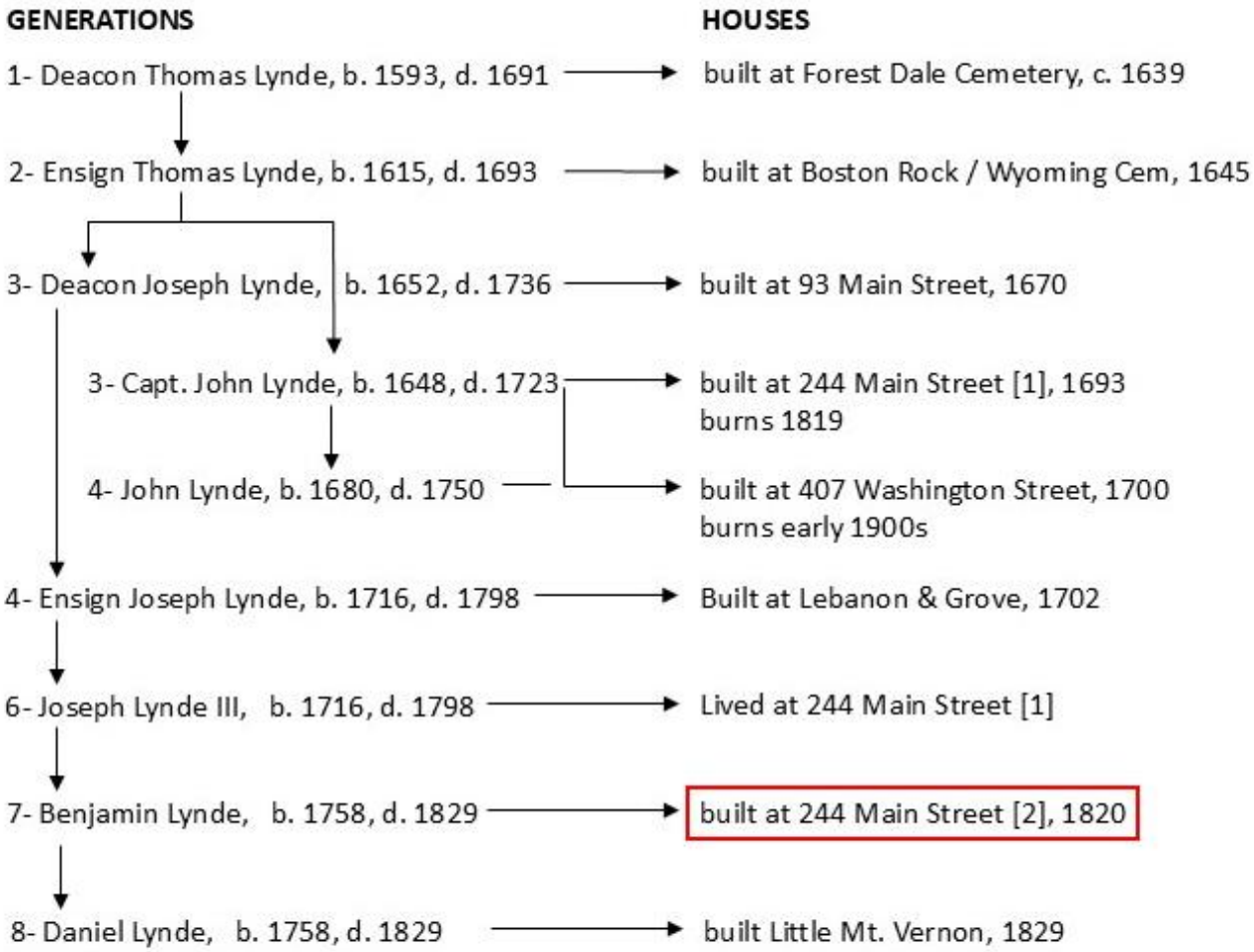
At the same time he built a house for his son Thomas at what is now 407 Washington Street. It was the last house before reaching the Stoneham line on the rough cart path between this home and 86 Main Street that would become Washington Street and a main road to Stoneham. It passed to Jabez Lynde, born January 10, 1744; then to Jonathan Lynde, born January 15, 1785, died 1869, and then to his grandson Franklin G. Lynde. It is labeled S. Lynde on an 1852 map.

Another Lynde homestead was built in 1702 along the Reading Road. This Joseph Lynde House at 409 Lebanon St. was named after Benjamin Lynde's brother who lived there until his death in 1798. Here lived Lynde descendants for more than 250 years. It stands at the end of Lynde St.

by a small park once known as Louisburg Square in honor of ancestor Simeon Lynde. In 1856 the 30 acres of farmland associated with this house, situated between Grove and Upham Street and east of Lebanon Street, were bought, surveyed and developed as house lots and The Common park, forming much of today's East Side neighborhood.

In 1829, just across the street from the Benjamin Lynde house, Benjamin's son Daniel Lynde, b. 27 April 1795, d. 19 September 1857, built a charming Greek Revival home that still looks across its hill towards 244 Main St. Known as "little Mt. Vernon" (106 Mt. Vernon Avenue) this home lent its name to the neighborhood that grew up around it in the late 19th and 20th centuries. This home is known as the Alvin Lynde house for Daniel's son Alvin, b. 4 November 1833, d. 23 February 1899, who lived there for 65 years until his death. Alvin Lynde was one of the best-known residents of Melrose in his lifetime, having served as station agent for the Boston and Maine railroad at Wyoming Station for 38 years.

An effort to more clearly organize this information about early Lynde generations and their houses is diagrammed below.



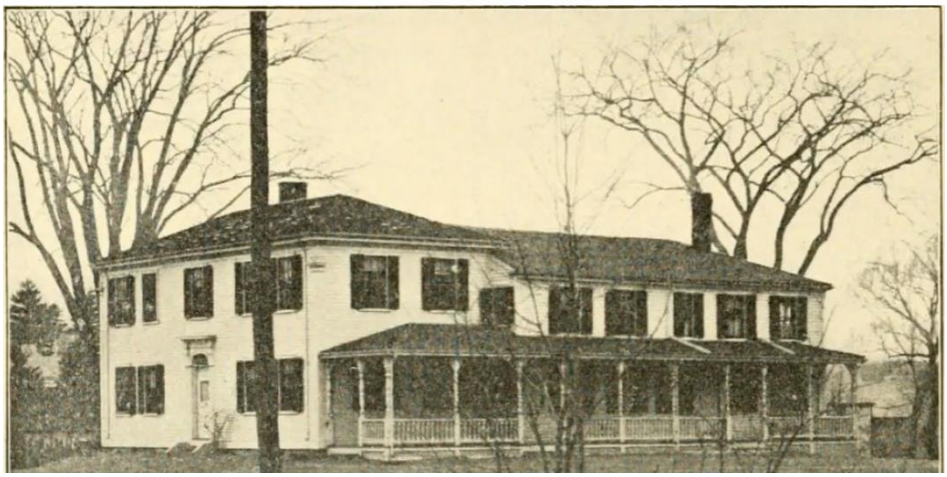
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT

The Benjamin Lynde House as it stands today at 244 Main Street, Melrose (December 2025) is a center-entry, five-bay, wood framed & sheathed building that, due to its construction date of 1820 and its visible characteristics, falls squarely into the Federal Style of American domestic architecture. Dates for the time period encompassing Federal architecture are typically given as 1780 – 1840, and it is referred to as a refined American neoclassical style, an evolution from the Colonial and Georgian, referencing Roman and Adamesque design in Europe, and inspired by America's hard-won independence from England and its new-found political culture as a constitutional federal republic. Federal style buildings often have massing of simple cubic forms (with additions of secondary cubic forms), bi-laterally symmetrical facades that feature classical details like columns pilasters, swags and urns, entrances with fanlights, and larger windows (than in colonial buildings) to increase daylight in the interior rooms. They often have elegant and light interiors, sometimes with oval/circular rooms and fine moldings.

This committee has not visited the interiors of the Benjamin Lynde house, so we cannot describe them. It is rumored that the front two rooms may be 1693 survivors of the fire. Before describing the house's exterior architectural characteristics, we should make clear that the committee has not had the opportunity to measure the building; all dimensions and geometry noted below is approximated from photographs. The committee hopes to be able to measure the building and visit the interiors in the future to facilitate more accurate documentation.

The exterior of the Benjamin Lynde house conforms to typical Federal style characteristics. The massing of the primary component of the house (assumed to be the oldest part) is a rectangle approximately 41 feet across (E-W) by 24 feet deep (N-S) in plan. It is two stories tall with a shallow hip roof having an approximate pitch of 5 on 12 (5" rise in every 12" run). The building sits on a foundation wall of local stone (probably granite) capped by wood water table trim approximately 8" tall. Its top horizontal trim (like an architrave) is approximately 6" tall and consists of a flat component capped by a profiled bed molding directly under the projecting square-edged eave. The height of the walls from bottom of water table to underside of eave is approximately 18 feet to 19 feet tall. The front facade is sheathed with wood clapboards with approximately 3" exposed to the weather. This tight-spacing of the clapboards contributes significantly to the "old" appearance of the house. The sides and rear of the house have more widely spaced clapboards, approximately 4" exposed to weather on many walls.

The main facade has cornerboards of approximately 9" width. About 2 feet below the bottom of the eave, the two front cornerboards have a double line of horizontal, square-edged 3/4" x 2" applied trim that wrap the corners onto the sides. It is not entirely clear what these double-trim elements are, but they appear in some old photos of the house. In any event, they impart to the cornerboards the appearance of pilasters, as if they could be the abacus/echinus and astragal of a simplified classical order's capital. Perhaps they are strapping that once supported a more accurate and elaborated capital. Such elaborated capitals seem to be shown in a c. 1900 photo, although the details are fuzzy. The clapboards are painted a moss-green, although the paint has faded and peeled and is in somewhat poor condition. All other trim (cornerboards, window casings, eaves, etc.) are painted a slightly lighter shade of the same moss green. Old photographs of the house seem to show that it was once painted white.



c.1900 Photo- from “History of Melrose” by Eldrige H. Goss



1947 Photo- The Melrose Camera Club, photo at Melrose Public Library



2025 Photo- Melrose Historical Commission

The main facade has a bi-laterally symmetrical arrangement of five windows side-to-side, one window in the center flanked by a pair of more closely-set windows to each side. On the first floor, the location of the central window is occupied by the front door. The windows are double-hung, six-over-six, with exterior jamb and head casings of approximately 4 ½" width consisting of a flat component framed by a profiled bed molding. The sills are approximately 2½" to 3" thick and have a square-edged profile. The windows, from inside face of casings and sill, measure approximately 2'-7" wide x 4'-10" tall. The glass within the sash muntins shows no evidence of waviness or hand blown circular patterns that would indicate that any glass pieces are particularly old. Modern screen panels have been added in front of the lower sash such that the sash can be raised in good weather without allowing flies to come inside. These screen panels appear not to be mechanically fixed in place. Old photos show shutters on the windows; no shutters exist today.

The front door in the center of the ground level of the main facade is reached by walking northward along a sloping walkway with two steps, mounting a granite stepping stone, and then a single step up to a wood entry porch. This entry porch is covered with a small hip roof whose square-edged eave and simple architrave are supported by two square free-standing columns, one at each outside corner of the porch and roof. The column faces are approximately 8" wide on each side. The columns have simple moldings that form Doric or Tuscan style bases and capitals. These columns have the same or similar profiles as those supporting the east side porch. The roofed entry porch appears to have been added to the house more recently; a 1947 photo shows the house without an entry porch. The columns supporting the east side porch also appear to have been modified, old photos show round lathe-turned porch columns. Perhaps the front entry porch was added and the east side porch columns were revised at the same time.

Without the entry porch, the front doorway seems to have had a classical entry hood, supported on two brackets or triglyphs, which surmounted a half-ellipse fanlight above the door. The current entry porch roof replaced or hides the door hood (it may still be extant behind the roof). The elliptical fanlight is still visible.

The main facade faces almost directly due south, at an approximate 98 degree angle to Main Street. This slight angle deviation from the 90 degree perpendicular imparts a "presence" to the primary view of the house from Main Street. The angled view corridor from Main Street to the main/front/south facade of the house is important to its contextual appearance. This view corridor, and the open space in front of and to the S.S.E. of the house that makes it possible, should be protected. As should the direct views of the side/east of the house from Main Street and the open space to the east that makes such "drive-by" views possible.

Secondary components of the Benjamin Lynde house's massing appear to be additions to the 41 foot x 24 foot primary 'main house' component. The most prominent of these are a two-bay, single-story covered porch on the east side of the main house, and a two-bay wing or ell on the northeast side of the primary house. As just noted, the porch's three east-side free-standing columns appear to have been modified along with the entry porch, as they match the entry porch's columns almost exactly. They are slightly wider/fatter, and they may therefore contain the older round/lathe-turned posts hidden within their current square column profile. The balusters of the handrail around the porch are round and lathe-turned, and appear similar to those shown in old photos. The porch has an almost-flat roof, while old photos show it to have a sloped roof with a hip-return at its south end.



South /Front Facade- 2025 photo by Rob Tullis, Melrose Hist. Dist. Comm.



East Facades facing Main Street- 2025 photo by Rob Tullis, Melrose Hist. Dist. Comm.

Adjacent to the porch and extending northward from it along Main Street is an ell that currently has two window bays on its first and second floors. Old photos show this "east ell" as five window bays long. The eave of the east ell's roof is lower than that of the main house, as are its windows. It appears therefore that the east ell has lower floor levels than those in the main house. Old photos also show the porch structure, with lathe-turned posts, extending northward in front of the east wall of the ell all the way to its north end. None of this extended porch exists today.

In c.1925 the northernmost three bays were detached from the ell, moved two house lots north to 256 Main Street, and re-fashioned into a separate house. At that time the posts that support the covered entry porch at the 256 Main Street house were either salvaged from the long porch on the east side of the Benjamin Lynde House, or those posts were duplicated. A photo from the 1992 MACRIS MEL.440 inventory form shows these lathe-turned posts in place. They were replaced by square-boxed posts in 2002, when the owner of the house, while turning into her driveway in her SUV was hit from behind by a truck traveling south on Main Street and driven forcefully into the front entry posts, fracturing them (the owner and her infant in the SUV were not injured). This northernmost three bay structure was apparently the kitchen of Warren Lynde, who inherited the Benjamin Lynde house in 1829 and lived there until his death in 1888. Perhaps, wary of the fire that burned the original 1693 house (and likely started in its kitchen), Warren located his kitchen as far north from the core of the house as he could; a literal instance of being "once burned and twice shy."

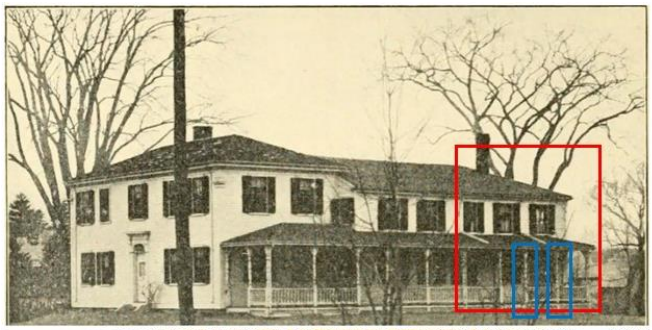


Photo of 244 Main Street c. 1902
(Elbridge Goss, History of Melrose)

From MACRIS inventory form MEL.440, dated 1992:
This simple colonial house was originally the kitchen at the northerly end of the Warren/Benjamin Lynde house known as No. 244 Main Street, Melrose, and was detached and moved here about 1925. The columns on the front porch are copies of those originally on the long porch on the east side of the Warren/Benjamin Lynde house. The projecting living room window is a recent change. [Those columns have been replaced after 1992.]

Benjamin Lynde, born on October 2, 1758, inherited the house that originally stood at 244 Main Street and which was destroyed by fire in 1819. The house was rebuilt on the same spot in 1820. Benjamin farmed a large area south of this; house. When Benjamin died in 1829 his son Warren inherited the property and continued to operate the farm. Warren died in 1888. Later occupants decided to reduce the size of the house, and removed the kitchen on the rear to the subject address - 256 Main Street.



Photo of 244 Main Street 2025
(Melrose Historical Commission)



The Warren Lynde Kitchen
256 Main Street, photo c. 1992
(MACRIS inventory form, MEL.440)

Entry columns are replicas (or salvaged) of those on original 1820's porch

THE WARREN LYNDE KITCHEN

To the north of the remaining two-bay portion of the ell stands a smaller one-story addition whose east-facing facade is set back from the ell by about 10 feet and contains a door centered between two single windows. While it may never have been used as a shed, for identification purposes we will call it the "north shed." Both the east ell and this north shed have clapboards with approximately 4" exposed to the weather.

To the west of the main house component is a flat-roofed, one-story “sun room” addition. This addition is not evident in the c. 1900 photo but is shown in the 1947 photo. It is symmetrically opposite (around the center of the south/main facade) the east porch, and it may have once been its equivalent that eventually got “closed in” with multiple windows, or it may have been built with those windows. Its south-facing wall has three side-by-side-by-side windows (shaded with a metal awning) and its west-facing wall has two pairs of three side-by-side-by-side windows set a bit apart where a central structural post would be. Because the land topography drops off to the southwest of the front facade and rises to the north of the house, and the sun room’s floor appears to be level with that of the main house, the sun room sits up above the surrounding grade with a taller amount of stone foundation wall showing. Access is made from the driveway (to the west of the sunroom) through a full-height door in the west foundation wall, presumed to be into a basement beneath the sun room (and likely the entire main house).

North of the main house component is another addition. This “north addition” may consist of more than one generation of building. It sits hard against what was likely the north/rear of the main house and is concealed from the Main Street view by the east ell. This north addition essentially nestles into the inside corner formed by the main house and east ell. It extends westward approximately 5 feet past the west wall of the main house. Wrapping around the northwest corner of this addition is an open deck. This addition, also sheathed in clapboards and featuring double-hung, six-over-six windows, is assumed to have been built later than the east ell.

To the west of the house is a freestanding, one-story, hip-roofed garage, approximately 21 feet wide E-W by 25 feet deep N-S, with two side-by-side garage doors across its south facade and two windows on its east facade. Judging by its “drop” or “dutch lap” siding and its side-hinged garage doors, this structure probably dates from the 1920s or 1930s, not long after it became common to keep personal automobiles at one’s own home. (Early 20th century community garage buildings were built along Tremont Street and elsewhere in Melrose at the time when cars were not kept at home.)



Views of the southwest corner of the main house showing sun room and garage
Photos by Rob Tullis Melrose, Hist. Dist. Comm.

Farmyard buildings that were once immediately adjacent to the south and southwest of the Benjamin Lynde house, as shown in 1889 and 1899 George Walker maps, no longer exist. One of these two buildings, the one closest to Main Street, is labeled Henry Lynde on the 1889 map. It appears to have been located on what is now the vacant 236 Main Street lot and does not appear on the 1899 map. A barn appears on both maps and appears to have been located west of the current house at 238 Main Street, in what is now the backyard of the house at 163 Derby Street. Should any demolition or excavation be done in the vicinity of these two former farm buildings, it should be sensitive to possible archeological evidence that may be uncovered.

To review, the nicknames used here to describe the components of the existing Benjamin Lynde House and its additions are shown in this diagrammed aerial photo.



SIGNIFICANCE

The Benjamin Lynde House at 244 Main Street Melrose is significant for a number of reasons:

- It is one of only a few remaining homesteads of the Lynde Family, the first English settlers of what is now Melrose, and whose family legacy is closely tied to the history of the town and the land.
- It is one of the few remaining farm houses whose relationship to the land define and remind us of the agricultural history of this part of Massachusetts, and its evolution from agrarian to industrial to urban and suburban uses.
- Its construction and situation influenced the network of colonial roadways that linked Charlestown northward to Malden, Melrose, Wakefield, and Reading and thus influenced and directed that evolution. Main Street might not be where it is today if not for this house and the Benjamin Lynde farm.
- Its 1693 version was the house from which 16 year old Benjamin Lynde left on April 19th 1775 to muster with other North Malden farmers to march to Lexington and Concord and pursue the British army on its retreat to Boston.
- It contains the remnants of the earlier 1693 First Period Colonial home that burned in 1819. It remains to be seen how much of the foundation and two front rooms survive from 1693.
- It is a well-preserved and authentic 1820 Federal Style house, built by Benjamin Lynde, and exhibits many hallmarks of that style and time period.

The Melrose Historic District Commission and the Melrose Historical Commission therefore feel that it is worthy of preservation and of designation as a single-parcel Local Historic District.

While these Commissions hope to gain access to the interior of the house in the near future and make forensic observations as to the age and originality of the various components of the house, we predict that, should complete preservation not be possible and certain components be deemed less worthy of protection than others, the following is a ranking of the house components from most significant to least significant:

1.	Main House Block, approximately 41 x 24 feet, 2 stories	Most Significant
2.	East Porch, approximately 19 x 12 feet, one story	Very Significant
3.	East Ell, approximately 18 x 14 feet, 2 stories	Very Significant
4.	North 'Shed,' approximately 15 x 11 feet, 1 story	Somewhat Significant
5.	West 'Sunroom,' approximately 19 x 12 feet	Somewhat Significant
6.	North Additions (probably more than one) 17 x 35 feet	Low Significance
7.	North and Northwest Deck	Not Significant
8.	Freestanding Garage	Not Significant

ORDINANCE

Melrose's existing historic district ordinance would apply to this proposed local historic district, which is attached as Appendix F. Section 131-4.1 would be added to include the Benjamin Lynde House Historic District in the Ordinance.

§131-4.1 Benjamin Lynde House Historic District

A. There is hereby established, under the provisions of MGL c. 40C, a historic district to be known as the "Benjamin Lynde House Historic District," shown on a plan titled "Proposed Benjamin Lynde House Historic District" dated _____, showing in a boundary around the property at 244 Main Street, parcel ID C5 0 24, said plan having been approved and signed by the City Engineer, placed on file at the offices of the City Clerk and the Director of Inspectional Services, recorded in South Middlesex District Registry of Deeds and included herewith as part of this chapter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

On May 12, 2026, the Historic District Commission held a public hearing on the creation of a single-building Local Historic District for the Benjamin Lynde House at 244 Main Street, and public comments were heard. Approximately a half-dozen Melrose residents spoke, all in favor of creation of the District. The comments noted the importance of the Lynde family and this house in Melrose's history, the good exterior condition of the current 1820 house and its level of authenticity as a representative of Federal Style architecture, Benjamin Lynde's role in the American Revolutionary war, and even the international importance of "the shot heard 'round the world." That it was, in fact, heard round the world, and that American independence and the sacrifice made for it in 1775 still have significance not only to Americans but to those in other countries today.

One comment, submitted in writing, noted that it is important to recognize that members of the Lynde family held slaves and to recognize the role of enslaved people in the history of colonial settling of America and early Melrose. At least four members of the Lynde family held slaves (as per Elbridge Goss). Deacon Thomas Lynde, his son Deacon Joseph, his son Ensign Joseph, and Jabez Lynde each had one to three slaves. Slaves were also held by some of the other Melrose settler families, the Vintons, Spragues, Greens, and Barretts (that we know of). Slavery was abolished in Massachusetts through two court cases (Brom & Bett vs. John Ashley in 1781 and the Quock Walker case in 1783) following principles outlined in the Commonwealth's Constitution of 1780 which stated "all men are born free and equal." While slavery was not formally declared illegal in America until ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865, by 1790 Massachusetts was the only state with zero slaves recorded in the federal census (Wikipedia). It appears that no slaves were held by Benjamin Lynde, nor was slavery associated with the construction of the 1820 house.

APPENDIX A- SOURCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY

This Final Study Report was principally authored and compiled by Robert Tullis, Melrose Historic District Commission. Assistance with identifying resources was provided by Shane Egan, Melrose Historical Commission. Assistance with genealogical research was provided by Rebecca Blumenthal, Melrose Historical Commission. Compilation of Form B was provided by Ward Hamilton, MSc Historic Preservation. Please note, the City of Melrose's Office of Planning and Community Development submitted a letter regarding the considerations for recommendation for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

MAPS-

1795 Plan of Malden,
surveyed by Peter Tufts Jr, as published by Melrose Historical Society, 1915.

1852 Excerpt from Map of the City and Vicinity of Boston Massachusetts, F.G. Sidney, Rumsey Collection. https://shop.old-maps.com/massachusetts/towns/boston-ma-vicinity-1852-town/melrose-massachusetts-1852-old-town-map-custom-print-boston-vicinity/

1856 Melrose Map, unattributed, Old Maps collection.
https://shop.old-maps.com/massachusetts/towns/middlesex-co-ma-1856-town/melrose-melrose-massachusetts-1856-old-town-map-custom-print-middlesex-co/

1875 Melrose Map, from County Atlas of Middlesex Massachusetts, J.B. Beers, Ward Maps LLC.
https://wardmaps.com/products/melrose-massachusetts-1875

1875 Melrose Center, County Atlas of Middlesex Massachusetts, J.B. Beers, Ward Maps LLC.
https://wardmaps.com/products/melrose-massachusetts-1876

1889 [South] Part of Melrose Map, George H. Walker Map, Ward Maps LLC.
https://wardmaps.com/products/melrose-massachusetts-1889#:~:text=Publisher:%20Geo.

1899

1909 Melrose Map, Walker Lith. & Pub. Co., Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center.
https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:x059c926k

2025 Melrose GIS Map
https://www.mapsonline.net/peopleforms/mo4/index.php?site_id=1794

Sanborn Maps
https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?searchType=advanced?CITY=Melrose&stateID=23

BUILDING INFORMATION AND INVENTORIES-

MACRIS (Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System) database and inventory forms
https://maps.mhc-macris.net/

HISTORY BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS-

Goss, Elbridge Henry (1902), *The History of Melrose, County of Middlesex, Massachusetts,* Published by the City of Melrose MA, A.W. Dunton & Co. printers. Library of Congress Internet: https://archive.org/details/historyofmelrose02goss/page/n5/mode/2up

Gould, Levi S. and Shumway, Franklin P., *Ancient Melrose and Some, Information about its Old Homesteads, Families & Furnishings*, The Melrose Historical Society, 1915.

NEWSPAPERS-

Melrose newspaper archives online (primarily used for tracking down obituaries) including the:

- Melrose Reporter,
- Melrose Journal, and
- Melrose Free Press

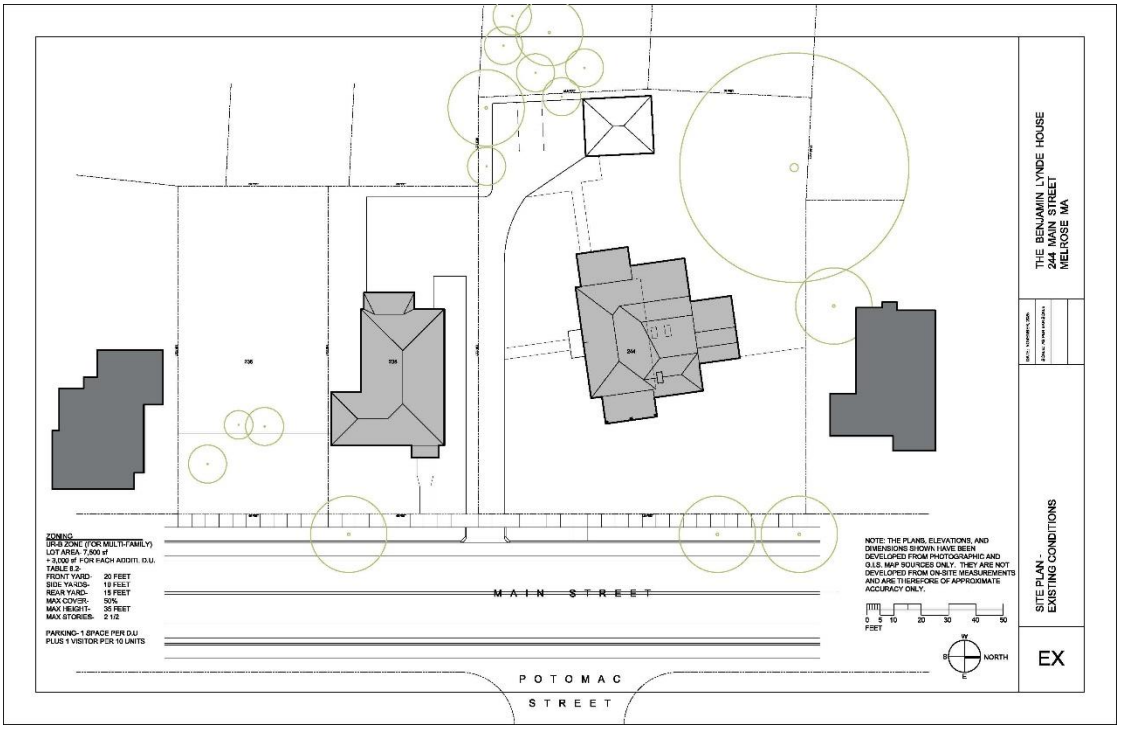
INTERNET-

Geneology websites (used for, birth and death dates, family tree information):

- Family Search.org, https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/
- WikiTree.com, https://wikitree.com
- Geni.com, https://www.geni.com/people/
- Find a Grave, https://www.findagrave.com/

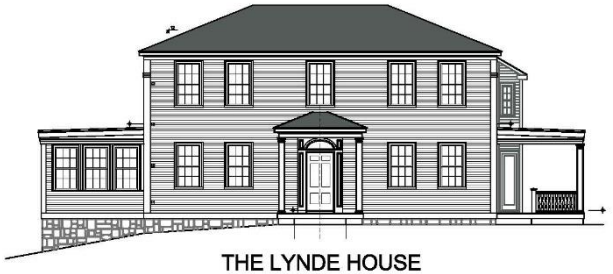
APPENDIX B- PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS

These drawings shown here were prepared by Robert Tullis using AutoCAD LT software. They were drawn from photographic information, cross-referenced with a Google Earth satellite view and with the Melrose GIS map for overall lot size and house footprint size. However, these drawings do NOT benefit from any on-site measurements and therefore their dimensional accuracy is approximate only. See following two pages for larger images.





EX
SITE PLAN -
EXISTING CONDITIONS
DATE: NOVEMBER 2025
SCALE: AS PER BAR SCALE
THE BENJAMIN LYNDE HOUSE
244 MAIN STREET
MELROSE MA
NOTE: THE PLANS, ELEVATIONS, AND DIMENSIONS SHOWN HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED FROM PHOTOGRAPHIC AND G.I.S. MAP SOURCES ONLY. THEY ARE NOT DEVELOPED FROM ON-SITE MEASUREMENTS AND ARE THEREFORE OF APPROXIMATE ACCURACY ONLY.
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
FEET
NORTH
W
E
S
ZONING
UR-3 ZONE (FOR MULTI-FAMILY)
LOT AREA- 7,500 sf
+ 3,000 sf FOR EACH ADDITL D.U.
TABLE 6.2-
FRONT YARD- 20 FEET
SIDE YARDS- 10 FEET
REAR YARD- 15 FEET
MAX COVER- 50%
MAX HEIGHT- 35 FEET
MAX STORIES- 2 1/2
PARKING- 1 SPACE PER D.U
PLUS 1 VISITOR PER 10 UNITS
MAIN STREET
POTOMAC STREET
244
238
236



THE LYNDE HOUSE
FRONT / SOUTH ELEVATION



THE LYNDE HOUSE
SIDE / EAST ELEVATION



FRONT / SOUTH ELEVATION
(1909 appearance with existing porch posts)



THE LYNDE HOUSE
VIEW FROM MAIN STREET

NOTE: THE PLANS, ELEVATIONS, AND DIMENSIONS SHOWN HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED FROM PHOTOGRAPHIC AND G.I.S. MAP SOURCES ONLY. THEY ARE NOT DEVELOPED FROM ON-SITE MEASUREMENTS AND ARE THERREFORE OF APPROXIMATE ACCURACY ONLY.

0 5 10 20 30 40 50
FEET

THE BENJAMIN LYNDE HOUSE
244 MAIN STREET
MELROSE MA

DATE: NOVEMBER, 2009
SCALE: AS PER BAR SCALE

BUILDING ELEVATIONS -
EXISTING CONDITIONS & 1909 APPEARANCE

EX

APPENDIX C- MASSACHUSETTS HISTORIC COMMISSION FORM B

FORM B – BUILDING

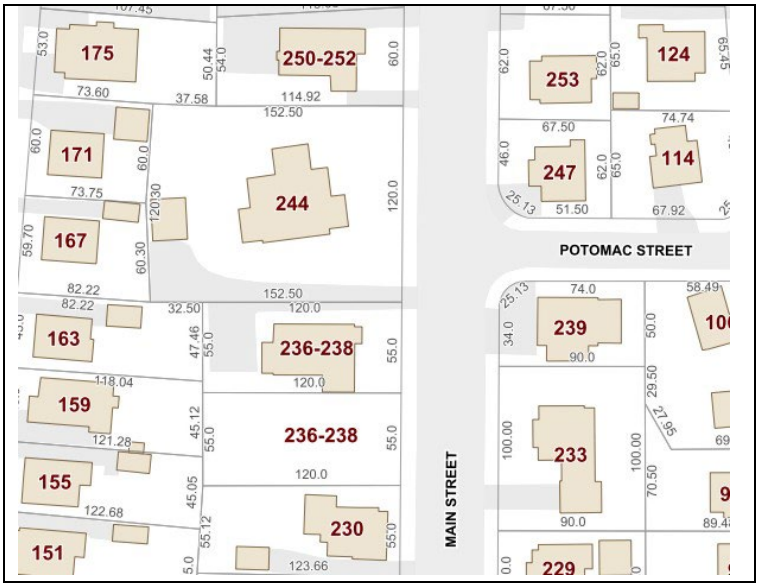
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
C5 0 24	Boston North	MEL	33

Photograph



Locus Map



Town/City: Melrose

Place: *(neighborhood or village)*: Wyoming

Address: 244 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176

Historic Name: Bejamin Lynde House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: 1820

Source: See Bibliography

Style/Form: Adamesque Federal Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood

Roof: Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

See enclosed Architectural Description

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:

See enclosed Architectural Description

Condition: Good

Moved: **no** ☒ **yes** ☐ **Date:** N/A

Acreage: 0.4256

Setting: Residential

Recorded by: Rob Tullis and Ward Hamilton

Organization: Melrose Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year)*: 01/2026

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Benjamin Lynde House is a center-entry, five-bay, wood framed and sheathed building that, due to its construction date of 1820 and its visible characteristics, falls squarely into the Adamesque Federal Style of American domestic architecture. Dates for the time period encompassing Federal architecture are typically given as 1780 – 1840, and it is referred to as a refined American neoclassical style, an evolution from the Colonial and Georgian, referencing Roman and Adamesque design in Europe, and inspired by America's hard-won independence from England and its new-found political culture as a constitutional federal republic. Federal style buildings often have massing of simple cubic forms (with additions of secondary cubic forms), bi-laterally symmetrical facades that feature classical details like columns pilasters, swags and urns, entrances with fanlights, and larger windows (than in colonial buildings) to increase daylight in the interior rooms. They often have elegant and light interiors, sometimes with oval/circular rooms and fine moldings.

The exterior of the Benjamin Lynde house conforms to typical Federal style characteristics. The massing of the primary component of the house (assumed to be the oldest part) is a rectangle approximately 41 feet across (E-W) by 24 feet deep (N-S) in plan. It is two stories tall with a shallow hip roof having an approximate pitch of 5 on 12 (5" rise in every 12" run). The building sits on a foundation wall of local stone (probably granite) capped by wood water table trim approximately 8" tall. Its top horizontal trim (like an architrave) is approximately 6" tall and consists of a flat component capped by a profiled bed molding directly under the projecting square-edged eaves. The height of the walls from bottom of water table to underside of eave is approximately 18 feet to 19 feet tall. The front facade is sheathed with wood clapboards with approximately 3" exposed to the weather. This tight spacing of the clapboards contributes significantly to the "old" appearance of the house. The sides and rear of the house have more widely spaced clapboards, approximately 4" exposed to weather on many walls.

The main facade has cornerboards of approximately 9" width. About 2 feet below the bottom of the eave, the two front cornerboards have a double line of horizontal, square-edged 3/4" x 2" applied trim that wrap the corners onto the sides. It is not entirely clear what these double trim elements are, but they appear in some old photos of the house. In any event, they impart to the cornerboards the appearance of pilasters, as if they could be the abacus/echinus and astragal of a simplified classical order's capital. Perhaps they are strapping that once supported a more accurate and elaborated capital. Such elaborated capitals seem to be shown in a circa 1900 photo, although the details are fuzzy. The clapboards are painted moss-green, although the paint has faded and peeled and is in somewhat poor condition. All other trim (cornerboards, window casings, eaves, etc.) are painted a slightly lighter shade of the same moss green. Old photographs of the house seem to show that it was once painted white.

The main facade has a bi-laterally symmetrical arrangement of five windows side-to-side, one window in the center flanked by a pair of more closely-set windows to each side. On the first floor, the location of the central window is occupied by the front door. The windows are double-hung, six-over-six, with exterior jamb and head casings of approximately 4 ½" width consisting of a flat component framed by a profiled bed molding. The sills are approximately 2½" to 3" thick and have a square-edged profile. The windows, from inside face of casings and sill, measure approximately 2'-7" wide x 4'-10" tall. The glass within the sash muntin bars shows no evidence of waviness or hand-blown circular patterns that would indicate that any glass pieces are particularly old. Modern screen panels have been added in front of the lower sash such that the sash can be raised in good weather without allowing flies to come inside. These screen panels appear not to be mechanically fixed in place. Old photos show shutters on the windows; no shutters exist today.

The front door in the center of the ground level of the main facade is reached by walking northward along a sloping walkway with two steps, mounting a granite steppingstone, and then a single step up to a wood entry porch. This entry porch is covered with a small hip roof whose square-edged eaves and simple architrave are supported by two square free-standing columns, one at each outside corner of the porch and roof. The column faces are approximately 8" wide on each side. The columns have simple moldings that form Doric or Tuscan style bases and capitals. These columns have the same or similar profiles as those supporting the east side porch. The roofed entry porch appears to have been added to the house more recently; a 1947 photo shows the house without an entry porch. The columns supporting the east side porch also appear to have been modified, old photos show round lathe-turned porch columns. Perhaps the front entry porch was added and the east side porch columns were

Continuation sheet 1

revised at the same time. Without the entry porch, the front doorway seems to have had a classical entry hood, supported on two brackets or triglyphs, which surmounted a half-ellipse fanlight above the door. The current entry porch roof replaced or hides the door hood (it may still be extant behind the roof). The elliptical fanlight is still visible.

The main facade faces almost directly due south, at an approximate 98 degree angle to Main Street. This slight angle deviation from the 90 degree perpendicular imparts a “presence” to the primary view of the house from Main Street. The angled view corridor from Main Street to the main/front/south facade of the house is important to its contextual appearance. This view corridor, and the open space in front of and to the S.S.E. of the house that makes it possible, should be protected. As should the direct views of the side/east of the house from Main Street and the open space to the east that makes such “drive-by” views possible.

Secondary components of the Benjamin Lynde House’s massing appear to be additions to the 41 foot x 24 foot primary ‘main house’ component. The most prominent of these are a two-bay, single-story covered porch on the east side of the main house, and a two-bay wing or ell on the northeast side of the primary house. As just noted, the porch’s three east-side free-standing columns appear to have been modified along with the entry porch, as they match the entry porch’s columns almost exactly. They are slightly wider and they may therefore contain the older round/lathe-turned posts hidden within their current square column profile. The balusters of the handrail around the porch are round and lathe-turned, similar to those shown in old photos. The porch has an almost-flat roof, while old photos show it to have a sloped roof with a hip-return at its south end.

Adjacent to the porch and extending northward from it along Main Street is an ell that currently has two-window bays on its first and second floors. Old photos show this “east ell” as five window bays long; we are assuming that the final/northernmost three window bays of this ell were demolished. The eave of the east ell’s roof is lower than that of the main house, as are its windows. It appears therefore that the east ell has lower floor levels than those in the main house. Old photos also show the porch structure extending northward in front of the east wall of the ell all the way to its north end. None of this extended porch exists today. To the north of the remaining two-bay portion of the ell stands a smaller one-story addition whose east-facing facade is set back from the ell by about 10 feet and contains a door centered between two single windows. While it may never have been used as a shed, for identification purposes we will call it the “north shed.” Both the east ell and this north shed have clapboards with approximately 4” exposed to the weather.

To the west of the main house component is a flat-roofed, one-story “sunroom” addition. This addition is not evident in the circa 1900 photo but is shown in the 1947 photo. It is symmetrically opposite (around the center of the south/main facade) the east porch, and it may have once been its equivalent that eventually got “closed in” with multiple windows, or it may have been built with those windows. Its south-facing wall has three side-by-side-by-side windows (shaded with a metal awning) and its west-facing wall has two pairs of three side-by-side-by-side windows set a bit apart where a central structural post would be. Because the land topography drops off to the southwest of the front facade and rises to the north of the house, and the sunroom’s floor appears to be level with that of the main house, the sunroom sits up above the surrounding grade with a taller amount of stone foundation wall showing. Access is made from the driveway (to the west of the sunroom) through a full-height door in the west foundation wall, presumed to be into a basement beneath the sunroom (and likely the entire main house).

North of the main house component is another addition. This “north addition” may consist of more than one generation of building construction. It sits hard against what was likely the north/rear of the main house and is concealed from the Main Street view by the east ell. This north addition essentially nestles into the inside corner formed by the main house and east ell. It extends westward approximately 5 feet past the west wall of the main house. Wrapping around the northwest corner of this addition is an open deck. This addition, also sheathed in clapboards and featuring double-hung, six-over-six windows, is assumed to have been built later than the east ell.

To the west of the house is a freestanding, one-story, hip-roofed garage, approximately 21 feet wide E-W by 25 feet deep N-S, with two side-by-side garage doors across its south facade and two windows on its east facade. Judging by its “drop” or “dutch lap” siding and its side-hinged garage doors, this structure probably dates from the 1920s or 1930s, not long after it became common to keep personal automobiles at one’s own home.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

The Benjamin Lynde House was originally built by Capt. John Lynde in 1693 and rebuilt by Benjamin after a fire in 1819. The house is one of three surviving structures of a group of colonial homes built by the Lynde family, one of the most significant early Melrose families who were settlers and farmers in what was then known as North Malden. The 1702 Joseph Lynde house also still stands at 409 Lebanon Street (corner of Grove Street), where it faces and terminates the eastern end of Lynde Street as that street winds its way in a lazy S curve from its start at Main Street just north of Wyoming Avenue. The 1829 Alvin Lynde house survives on the east side of Main Street across and uphill from the Benjamin Lynde House. This small house, known as “Little Mount Vernon” for its white porch and once commanding view over Main Street (early twentieth century houses were built in between its porch and Main Street), is undoubtably the inspiration for the road names of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Potomac Street. The rear of the Alvin Lynde House faces the corner of these two roads.

Other Lynde family homes were unfortunately destroyed long ago, including two notable structures. The circa 1700 house of Capt. John Lynde once stood near Washington Street on the west side of the railroad tracks adjacent to what is now the Saugus town line (George Washington is said to have tied his horse to an elm tree in its front yard). Also, the 1670 house of Ensign Thomas Lynde, the first English settler in Melrose, once stood at the corner of Main Street and Banks Place (once Goodyear Avenue) on what is now the parking lot of Hunt Photo. This house was documented in the 1933 Historic American Building Survey (H.A.B.S. number MASS-464).

The house at 244 Main Street was the home of Benjamin Lynde who, as a 16-year old Minuteman mustered with other North Malden farmers at what is now Gooch Park to join up with Captain Benjamin Blaney’s company on April 19th, 1775, to head to Lexington, where the shot heard 'round the world would ring out to signal the start of the American Revolution. Fortunately, Benjamin Lynde survived the war to return home and thrive. Later in life, he and his family lived through a fire and rebuilding of his home in 1819. Ultimately, he would live to the age of 70, passing away in 1829. The house stayed in the Lynde family throughout the nineteenth century, long after Benjamin passed.

The history of the Lynde family in Melrose is integral to the history of the city of Melrose and the Benjamin Lynde house at 244 Main Street lies at the heart of this history. It (or its immediate predecessor) is the oldest remaining Lynde home in Melrose, and the story of the generations who lived there is defined by service to the nation. The home has born witness to the changing landscape that surrounds it: agrarian life yielding to industrialization and urbanization.

Thomas Lynde was born in England on January 11, 1593, and became a freeman in 1634. He and his family arrived in Boston by 1634 as part of the Great Puritan Migration. He died on December 30, 1691. He was among the early settlers in Charlestown. He bought a tract of then waterfront land which was known through the time of the Revolution as Lynde's Point, subsequently the site of the State Prison and now Bunker Hill Community College. He was one of the Deputies to the General Court for several years, serving first in 1636. His brother was Simeon Lynde of Louisburg Square in Boston. As part of the ‘great allotment,’ the Lynde family received 13 parcels of land north of Charlestown “above the pondes.” Part of this was 80 acres of land lying in Rockefeilde.”

Concerning this tract is a 1638 record in the Charlestown Archives stating “Inasmuch as it apprs yt [that] the Land in the great Lots yt was laid out to Thomas Line [Lynde] & Richd Sprague prooves altogethr unusefull being nothing but Rockes wch was wholly besides or [our] intent, & only through oversight of the Surveyors wee Judge it to bee Just & equall yt they have allowance elswhere to theire satisfaction they leaveing the afforesd Rocks to lye Common." By 1639, Thomas Lynde was granted better farm and hay field land by “Mount Prospect”, on the north side of Waite’s Mount on what was then known as the “Mystic Side” of Charlestown. This area, stretching to the border of Reading (including present day Wakefield), was incorporated as Malden in 1649. This Lynde land grant would come to define much of the southern part of the town of Melrose, which was incorporated in 1850. Thomas Lynde’s house was built near the current entrance to the Forest Dale Cemetery on Forest Street on the Malden side of the Malden-Melrose line.

John Lynde (25 Oct 1648 – 17 Sep 1723) was the second son of Thomas and occupied the original house at the foot of Boston Rock near the entrance to the Wyoming Cemetery. In 1693, John Lynde left the Boston Rock homestead and built a new house at what is now 244 Main Street on his inherited northern farm land. This 1693 house burned extensively in 1819. The old Boston Rock homestead, first built by Thomas Lynde, was abandoned. By the time of the Revolution, Lynde descendants had resided in

this home for 80 years. Joseph Lynde (2 Sep 1690 - 16 Mar 1763) also lived in the house at 244 Main Street. His son, Joseph Lynde III (4 Jul 1716 - 4 Jul 1798) was both born and died on the Fourth of July. When he was born, the date meant nothing to colonists; when he died, it was the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Benjamin Lynde, second son of Joseph Lynde III (02 Oct 1758 - 26 Sep 1829) was born in North Malden and it was from the 1693 home at 244 Main Street that he, at age 16 years / 6 months, answered the call to take up arms in the early hours of April 19, 1775, marching with his militia against British forces retreating from Lexington and Concord. Benjamin Lynde inherited the home at 244 Main Street from his father Joseph III in 1798 with 60 acres of land encompassing much of the 'hill pasture' of Boston Rock as well as 15 acres called "Island Hill," a rise of ground surrounded by reedy marsh on the Melrose-Malden line since leveled by industry and development. Although now level ground, this hillock is still marked by the bend in an otherwise straight stretch of Main Street near the Melrose-Malden line and by the name of an avenue stretching through the apartment complex at Oak Grove.

The 244 Main Street house of Joseph Lynde III, with its contents, burned on the night of April 10, 1819, the family barely escaping with their lives. It is thought that the northwest 50 percent of the house burned and that the foundation, some of the frame, and the front two rooms were incorporated into the present Adamesque Federal Style "capacious mansion," built the following year by Benjamin Lynde, then aged 62 years. This is the house that is the subject of the building inventory form.

Warren Lynde, born May 15, 1799, died in 1888 at the age of 89 years. Son of Benjamin, Warren inherited this home from his father in 1829 and his tenure farming this property stretched nearly throughout the entire nineteenth century until his passing in 1888. The building appears on 1900s maps as Warren's residence. When he inherited the Benjamin Lynde house, there were barely 35 homes in the area then known as North Malden. Within 20 years the railway would cut across the ancestral Lynde lands. Melrose was incorporated as a town in 1850 and during Warren's final decade the population of Melrose nearly doubled to 8500. He passed the home and farm to his son, Henry Lynde, who operated a thriving truck farm business until he sold it to a Dr. Murphy in 1921.

The Lyndes of 244 Main St. had a long history of service to the nation. Captain John Lynde, who built the 1693 home, served as Selectmen in Malden for many years and fought with Major Willard in the 1676 King Philip's War. He was captain of the Malden military company around 1700. Seventy-five years later, young Benjamin Lynde marched with Captain Blaney's company in defense of Concord and Lexington on April 19, 1775. Benjamin Lynde's grandson, also named Benjamin, enlisted in the Union Army in 1862 and, at the age of 30, died one year later in Baton Rouge of battlefield disease following the brutal Siege of Port Hudson. The long tradition of military service embodied in the Lynde family continued with one of the final generations of Lyndes to call 244 Main Street home. Frank Warren Lynde was born at the Benjamin Lynde house in 1876 and managed the Lynde family farm in his youth with his father, Henry. His son, Dick, was an airplane instructor who was killed in Pensacola while training for service in Europe during WWII.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Goss, Elbridge Henry. *History of Melrose, County of Middlesex, Massachusetts*. The City of Melrose, 1902.

Hurd, David Hamilton. *History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Volume 3*. J.W. Lewis & Co.: Philadelphia, 1890.

Secretary of the Commonwealth. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*. Wright & Potter Printing Co.: Boston, 1903.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district

☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☒ **B** ☒ **C** ☒ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Ward Hamilton, MSc Historic Preservation

The property is individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to its direct association with Benjamin Lynde, a veteran of the American Revolution, and its high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The Lynde family was among the first settlers of Melrose (formerly North Malden), having first built a house on this location in 1693 and thence engaging in agriculture there. Benjamin Lynde (1758-1829) was born on the site and, on April 19, 1775, marched with the Malden Militia to Concord and Lexington. He went on to serve further in the American Revolution. After the war, he married and raised his family there. After a fire devastated the homestead in 1819, he then built the existing building the following year. Benjamin Lynde lived in this home until his death in 1829. The property contributes to a potential single-building historic district representing the historic development of Melrose during the period of significance from approximately 1693-1829. The resource retains integrity of location, design, materials, and association consistent with the district's historic character.

The property is significant under *Criterion A* for its association with events and broad patterns of history, specifically the American Revolution and early agriculture, which played a significant role in the development of Melrose (formerly North Malden), Massachusetts.

The property is significant under *Criterion B* for its association with Benjamin Lynde, a person significant in the history of Melrose (formerly North Malden), Massachusetts, whose contributions to the American Revolution and early agriculture are directly linked to the property during its period of significance.

The property is significant under *Criterion C* as an example of Adamesque Federal-style architecture, retaining distinctive characteristics of its type, period, and method of construction.

The property is significant under *Criterion D* because it has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to the understanding of historic activities related to settlement in the area, given its proximity to the Wyoming Quarry archeological resource area. Further, as this specific site has been continuously inhabited since at least 1693, there is a high degree of likelihood that home burials occurred there during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Alterations to the building, while extensive, do not detract from the character-defining features that date to the circa 1820 period of significance. The property retains integrity of *location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling,* and *association* sufficiently enough to convey its historical significance according to the following criteria:

Setting – the character of the location and how the Benjamin Lynde House is situated in relationship to other features, such as the ca. 1820 streetscape and neighboring buildings of significance, is reflected in its setting.

Materials – the Benjamin Lynde House still retains most elements that were originally combined to construct the building, including much of the historic building fabric.

Design – the Benjamin Lynde House reflects the massing and character-defining features of the historic Adamesque Federal building style.

Location – the Benjamin Lynde House is located in the same location where the building was originally constructed in 1820 and has never been moved or relocated from another site.

Workmanship – evidence of the builder's craft skills and technology is immediately apparent in the character-defining features of the systems of the building envelope.

Feeling – the Benjamin Lynde House conveys an expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of the early nineteenth century time period when the building was constructed.

Association – a direct link between exists Benjamin Lynde, who built the house in 1820, and who was also a veteran of the American Revolution.

The Benjamin Lynde House is individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to its direct association with American Revolution veteran Benjamin Lynde, who constructed the building in 1820, and its high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Ward Hamilton, the author of this NRHP Criteria Statement Form, meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior's professional standards (36 CFR part 61) as an architectural historian qualified to perform identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment activities.

APPENDIX D- MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ADVISORY LETTER

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 11, 2026

Lori Massa, AICP
Director, Office of Planning & Community Development
City of Melrose
562 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176

RE: Preliminary Study Report for the Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District

Dear Ms. Massa:

I am pleased to inform you that the Massachusetts Historical Commission voted on March 11, 2026 to acknowledge receipt of the Preliminary Study Report for Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District and to provide the following advisory recommendations and comments:

> The Massachusetts Historical Commission encourages the City of Melrose to establish the Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District, or to seek alternative means available to assure the preservation of the Benjamin Lynde House.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael Steinitz
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Director, Preservation Planning Division
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Xc: Michael Coleman, Chair, Melrose Historic District Commission
Shane Egan, Chair, Melrose Historical Commission

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

APPENDIX E- MELROSE PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION LETTER

CITY OF MELROSE

PLANNING BOARD

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4190

GREGORY SAMPSON
Chair

March 12, 2026

The Melrose Historic District Commission
of the City of Melrose, Massachusetts

RE: Proposed Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District

To the Commissioners of the Melrose Historic District Commission:

At its meeting on March 9, 2026, the Planning Board reviewed and discussed the Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District Preliminary Study Report. Board Members agreed that the report was helpful in explaining the history of the house and property, and its significance to Melrose. Based on the information outlined in the report, the Board recommended that the property is designated as a Local Historic District.

Respectfully yours,
Gregory Sampson
Gregory Sampson
Planning Board Chair

Attachment: Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District Preliminary Study Report dated February 12, 202

cc: Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis
Lori Massa, OPCD Director & City Planner
Members of the Planning Board
Members of the Historic District Commission

APPENDIX F- CITY OF MELROSE, HISTORIC DISTRICTS ORDINANCE

May 22, 2026 Proposed for inclusion of the Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District

Chapter 131

HISTORIC DISTRICTS

§ 131-1.	**Short title; authority.**	**§ 131-4.1**	**Downtown Melrose Historic District.**
§ 131-2.	**Purpose.**	**131-4.2**	**Benjamin Lynde House Historic District.**
§ 131-3.	**Historic District Commission.**	**§ 131-5.**	**Jurisdiction of Commission.**

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Melrose 7-16-1979 by Ord. No. 19504B (Rev. Ords. 1989, §§ 2-331 to 2-337). Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 131-1. Short title; authority.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Historic Districts Ordinance" under authority of MGL c. 40C.

§ 131-2. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics or architecture of buildings and places significant in the history of the commonwealth and the City and through the maintenance and improvement of settings for such buildings and places and the encouragement of designs compatible therewith.

§ 131-3. Historic District Commission.

A. In accordance with the Historic Districts Act, MGL c. 40C, there is hereby established the Melrose Historic District Commission, which shall have all the powers and duties of a historic district commission under the General Laws. The position of Board member on the Historic District Commission shall be designated as a "Special Municipal Employee" as that term is defined in MGL Chapter 268A. **[Amended 3-7-2016 by Order No. 2016-103]**

B. All members and alternate members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council. The Commission shall consist of seven members, including one member, where possible, from two nominees submitted by the local historical societies; one member, where possible, from two nominees submitted by the Massachusetts chapter of the American Institute of Architects; one member, where possible, from two nominees submitted by the Boston Society of Landscape Architects; and one member, where possible, from two nominees submitted by the Eastern Middlesex Board of Realtors. The Commission shall also include a lawyer and one or more residents or owners or renters of property in the historic district to be administered by the Commission.

C. When the Commission is first established, two members shall be appointed for a term of one year, two shall be appointed for a term of two years and three shall be appointed for a term of three years, and their successors shall be appointed in a like manner for terms of three years. When the Commission is first established, one alternate member shall be appointed in like manner for a term of one year, one alternate member for a term of two years and one alternate member for a term of three years, and their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of three years. All vacancies shall be filled in like manner for the unexpired term.

D. All members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

E. The Commission shall elect annually a Chair and Vice Chair from its own number and a Secretary from within or without its own number.

F. The Historic District Commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the provision of the Historic Districts Act. The Commission may, subject to appropriation, employ clerical and technical assistants or consultants and incur other expenses appropriate to the carrying on of its work and may accept money gifts and expend the same for such purposes.

G. Meetings of the Historic District Commission shall be held at the call of the Chair and shall be called at the request of two members of the Commission and in such other manner as the Commission shall determine in its rules. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. When taking action under the provisions of the fourth paragraph of Section 11 of the Historic Districts Act[1] the Commission shall make its determination within 45 days after the filing of the application for a certificate of appropriateness or such further time as the applicant may, in writing, allow.

§ 131-4.1 Downtown Melrose Historic District.

A. There is hereby established, under the provisions of MGL c. 40C, a historic district to be known as the "Downtown Melrose Historic District," shown on a plan titled "Proposed Downtown Melrose Historic District" dated July 16, 1979, showing in general a boundary following rear property lines of properties bordering Main Street from the intersection of West and East Foster Streets to the south side of West and East Emerson Streets, said plan having been approved and signed by the City Engineer, placed on file at the offices of the City Clerk and the Director of Inspectional Services, recorded in South Middlesex District Registry of Deeds and included herewith as part of this chapter.[2] **[Amended 8-21-2017 by Ord. No. 2018-4]** The District is included, as was originally approved, on the plan titled "Melrose Local Historic Districts" dated June 1, 2026.

B. The establishment of the historic district under this section shall take effect when all the Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

§ 131-4.2 Benjamin Lynde House Historic District.

A. There is hereby established, under the provisions of MGL c. 40C, a historic district to be known as the "Benjamin Lynde House Historic District," shown on a plan titled "Melrose Local Historic Districts" dated June 1, 2026, showing in a boundary around the property at 244 Main Street, parcel ID C5 0 24, said plan having been placed on file at the offices of Planning, City Clerk and Inspectional Services, recorded in South Middlesex District Registry of Deeds and included herewith as part of this chapter.

B. The establishment of the historic district under this section shall take effect when the map showing the boundaries of the district is filed with the City Clerk and recorded in the Registry of Deeds.

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1. **Editor's Note: See MGL c. 40C, § 11.**
2. **Editor's Note: Said plan is included as an attachment to this chapter.**

§ 131-5. Jurisdiction of Commission.

A. The following categories of buildings or structures or exterior architectural features may be constructed or altered within a historic district without review by the Historic District Commission:

(1) Temporary structures or signs, subject, however, to such conditions as to duration of use, location, removal and similar matters as the Commission may reasonably specify.

(2) Terraces, walks, driveways, sidewalks and similar structures, or any one or more of them, provided that any such structure is substantially at grade level. This is not to be construed as to include parking lots.

(3) Storm doors and windows, screens, window air conditioners, antennas and similar appurtenances.

(4) Paint colors, except for paint proposed for masonry or any materials now not painted.

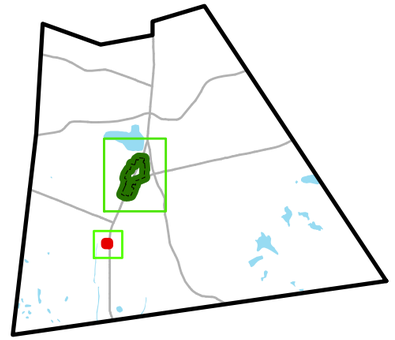
(5) Signs of not more than one square foot in area in connection with use of a residence for a customary home occupation or for professional purposes, provided that only one such sign is displayed in connection with each residence and if illuminated is illuminated only indirectly.

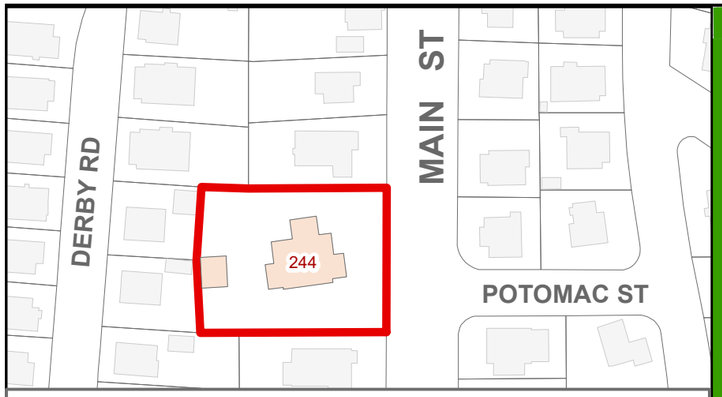
(6) The reconstruction, substantially similar in exterior design, of a building, structure or exterior architectural feature damaged or destroyed by fire, storm or other disaster, provided that such reconstruction is begun within one year thereafter and carried forward with due diligence.

B. The authority of the Commission shall be limited to exterior architectural features within the designated district which are subject to view from a public way.

CITY OF MELROSE

LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS





Benjamin Lynde House Historic District
Order No.
Approved

1 inch = 125 feet

N

ESSEX STREET
NELSON TERRACE
WINTHROP ST
W. FOSTER ST
MAIN STREET
UPHAM STREET
E. FOSTER ST.
E. EMERSON ST.

1
35-37
29-33
1
23-25
22
21
18
15
14
9
662
20
20
12-16
562
576
590
10-12
608-612
616
630
638
660
6
478
484-490
496-498
500-504
506
516
530
532-546
475-4781
3-5
497
503-509
511-521
527-535
543-547
11-13
561
585
645
643R
647
653-655
663-665
667-669
675

Melrose Downtown Historic District
Order No. 19504-B
Approved 7/16/1979

1 inch = 125 feet

FORM B – BUILDING

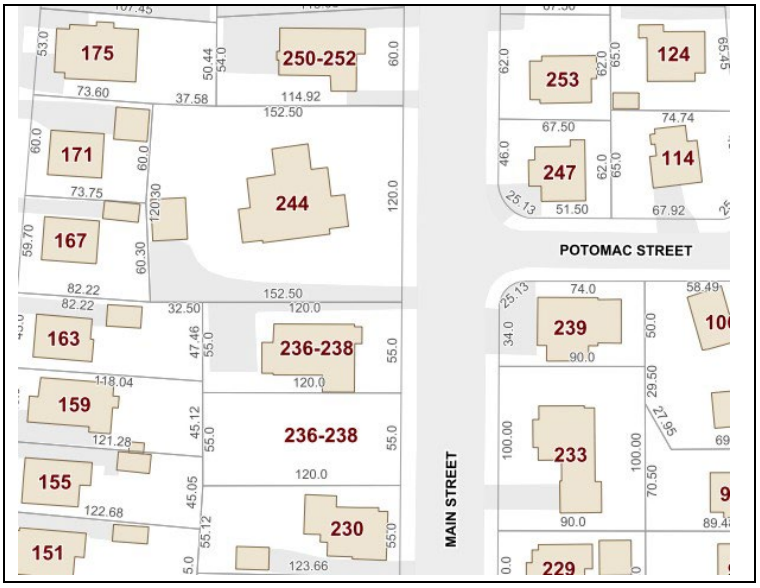
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
C5 0 24	Boston North	MEL	33

Photograph



Locus Map



Town/City: Melrose

Place: *(neighborhood or village)*: Wyoming

Address: 244 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176

Historic Name: Bejamin Lynde House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: 1820

Source: See Bibliography

Style/Form: Adamesque Federal Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood

Roof: Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

See enclosed Architectural Description

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:

See enclosed Architectural Description

Condition: Good

Moved: **no** ☒ **yes** ☐ **Date:** N/A

Acreage: 0.4256

Setting: Residential

Recorded by: Rob Tullis and Ward Hamilton

Organization: Melrose Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year)*: 01/2026

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Benjamin Lynde House is a center-entry, five-bay, wood framed and sheathed building that, due to its construction date of 1820 and its visible characteristics, falls squarely into the Adamesque Federal Style of American domestic architecture. Dates for the time period encompassing Federal architecture are typically given as 1780 – 1840, and it is referred to as a refined American neoclassical style, an evolution from the Colonial and Georgian, referencing Roman and Adamesque design in Europe, and inspired by America's hard-won independence from England and its new-found political culture as a constitutional federal republic. Federal style buildings often have massing of simple cubic forms (with additions of secondary cubic forms), bi-laterally symmetrical facades that feature classical details like columns pilasters, swags and urns, entrances with fanlights, and larger windows (than in colonial buildings) to increase daylight in the interior rooms. They often have elegant and light interiors, sometimes with oval/circular rooms and fine moldings.

The exterior of the Benjamin Lynde house conforms to typical Federal style characteristics. The massing of the primary component of the house (assumed to be the oldest part) is a rectangle approximately 41 feet across (E-W) by 24 feet deep (N-S) in plan. It is two stories tall with a shallow hip roof having an approximate pitch of 5 on 12 (5" rise in every 12" run). The building sits on a foundation wall of local stone (probably granite) capped by wood water table trim approximately 8" tall. Its top horizontal trim (like an architrave) is approximately 6" tall and consists of a flat component capped by a profiled bed molding directly under the projecting square-edged eaves. The height of the walls from bottom of water table to underside of eave is approximately 18 feet to 19 feet tall. The front facade is sheathed with wood clapboards with approximately 3" exposed to the weather. This tight spacing of the clapboards contributes significantly to the "old" appearance of the house. The sides and rear of the house have more widely spaced clapboards, approximately 4" exposed to weather on many walls.

The main facade has cornerboards of approximately 9" width. About 2 feet below the bottom of the eave, the two front cornerboards have a double line of horizontal, square-edged 3/4" x 2" applied trim that wrap the corners onto the sides. It is not entirely clear what these double trim elements are, but they appear in some old photos of the house. In any event, they impart to the cornerboards the appearance of pilasters, as if they could be the abacus/echinus and astragal of a simplified classical order's capital. Perhaps they are strapping that once supported a more accurate and elaborated capital. Such elaborated capitals seem to be shown in a circa 1900 photo, although the details are fuzzy. The clapboards are painted moss-green, although the paint has faded and peeled and is in somewhat poor condition. All other trim (cornerboards, window casings, eaves, etc.) are painted a slightly lighter shade of the same moss green. Old photographs of the house seem to show that it was once painted white.

The main facade has a bi-laterally symmetrical arrangement of five windows side-to-side, one window in the center flanked by a pair of more closely-set windows to each side. On the first floor, the location of the central window is occupied by the front door. The windows are double-hung, six-over-six, with exterior jamb and head casings of approximately 4 ½" width consisting of a flat component framed by a profiled bed molding. The sills are approximately 2½" to 3" thick and have a square-edged profile. The windows, from inside face of casings and sill, measure approximately 2'-7" wide x 4'-10" tall. The glass within the sash muntin bars shows no evidence of waviness or hand-blown circular patterns that would indicate that any glass pieces are particularly old. Modern screen panels have been added in front of the lower sash such that the sash can be raised in good weather without allowing flies to come inside. These screen panels appear not to be mechanically fixed in place. Old photos show shutters on the windows; no shutters exist today.

The front door in the center of the ground level of the main facade is reached by walking northward along a sloping walkway with two steps, mounting a granite steppingstone, and then a single step up to a wood entry porch. This entry porch is covered with a small hip roof whose square-edged eaves and simple architrave are supported by two square free-standing columns, one at each outside corner of the porch and roof. The column faces are approximately 8" wide on each side. The columns have simple moldings that form Doric or Tuscan style bases and capitals. These columns have the same or similar profiles as those supporting the east side porch. The roofed entry porch appears to have been added to the house more recently; a 1947 photo shows the house without an entry porch. The columns supporting the east side porch also appear to have been modified, old photos show round lathe-turned porch columns. Perhaps the front entry porch was added and the east side porch columns were

Continuation sheet 1

revised at the same time. Without the entry porch, the front doorway seems to have had a classical entry hood, supported on two brackets or triglyphs, which surmounted a half-ellipse fanlight above the door. The current entry porch roof replaced or hides the door hood (it may still be extant behind the roof). The elliptical fanlight is still visible.

The main facade faces almost directly due south, at an approximate 98 degree angle to Main Street. This slight angle deviation from the 90 degree perpendicular imparts a “presence” to the primary view of the house from Main Street. The angled view corridor from Main Street to the main/front/south facade of the house is important to its contextual appearance. This view corridor, and the open space in front of and to the S.S.E. of the house that makes it possible, should be protected. As should the direct views of the side/east of the house from Main Street and the open space to the east that makes such “drive-by” views possible.

Secondary components of the Benjamin Lynde House’s massing appear to be additions to the 41 foot x 24 foot primary ‘main house’ component. The most prominent of these are a two-bay, single-story covered porch on the east side of the main house, and a two-bay wing or ell on the northeast side of the primary house. As just noted, the porch’s three east-side free-standing columns appear to have been modified along with the entry porch, as they match the entry porch’s columns almost exactly. They are slightly wider and they may therefore contain the older round/lathe-turned posts hidden within their current square column profile. The balusters of the handrail around the porch are round and lathe-turned, similar to those shown in old photos. The porch has an almost-flat roof, while old photos show it to have a sloped roof with a hip-return at its south end.

Adjacent to the porch and extending northward from it along Main Street is an ell that currently has two-window bays on its first and second floors. Old photos show this “east ell” as five window bays long; we are assuming that the final/northernmost three window bays of this ell were demolished. The eave of the east ell’s roof is lower than that of the main house, as are its windows. It appears therefore that the east ell has lower floor levels than those in the main house. Old photos also show the porch structure extending northward in front of the east wall of the ell all the way to its north end. None of this extended porch exists today. To the north of the remaining two-bay portion of the ell stands a smaller one-story addition whose east-facing facade is set back from the ell by about 10 feet and contains a door centered between two single windows. While it may never have been used as a shed, for identification purposes we will call it the “north shed.” Both the east ell and this north shed have clapboards with approximately 4” exposed to the weather.

To the west of the main house component is a flat-roofed, one-story “sunroom” addition. This addition is not evident in the circa 1900 photo but is shown in the 1947 photo. It is symmetrically opposite (around the center of the south/main facade) the east porch, and it may have once been its equivalent that eventually got “closed in” with multiple windows, or it may have been built with those windows. Its south-facing wall has three side-by-side-by-side windows (shaded with a metal awning) and its west-facing wall has two pairs of three side-by-side-by-side windows set a bit apart where a central structural post would be. Because the land topography drops off to the southwest of the front facade and rises to the north of the house, and the sunroom’s floor appears to be level with that of the main house, the sunroom sits up above the surrounding grade with a taller amount of stone foundation wall showing. Access is made from the driveway (to the west of the sunroom) through a full-height door in the west foundation wall, presumed to be into a basement beneath the sunroom (and likely the entire main house).

North of the main house component is another addition. This “north addition” may consist of more than one generation of building construction. It sits hard against what was likely the north/rear of the main house and is concealed from the Main Street view by the east ell. This north addition essentially nestles into the inside corner formed by the main house and east ell. It extends westward approximately 5 feet past the west wall of the main house. Wrapping around the northwest corner of this addition is an open deck. This addition, also sheathed in clapboards and featuring double-hung, six-over-six windows, is assumed to have been built later than the east ell.

To the west of the house is a freestanding, one-story, hip-roofed garage, approximately 21 feet wide E-W by 25 feet deep N-S, with two side-by-side garage doors across its south facade and two windows on its east facade. Judging by its “drop” or “dutch lap” siding and its side-hinged garage doors, this structure probably dates from the 1920s or 1930s, not long after it became common to keep personal automobiles at one’s own home.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

The Benjamin Lynde House was originally built by Capt. John Lynde in 1693 and rebuilt by Benjamin after a fire in 1819. The house is one of three surviving structures of a group of colonial homes built by the Lynde family, one of the most significant early Melrose families who were settlers and farmers in what was then known as North Malden. The 1702 Joseph Lynde house also still stands at 409 Lebanon Street (corner of Grove Street), where it faces and terminates the eastern end of Lynde Street as that street winds its way in a lazy S curve from its start at Main Street just north of Wyoming Avenue. The 1829 Alvin Lynde house survives on the east side of Main Street across and uphill from the Benjamin Lynde House. This small house, known as “Little Mount Vernon” for its white porch and once commanding view over Main Street (early twentieth century houses were built in between its porch and Main Street), is undoubtably the inspiration for the road names of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Potomac Street. The rear of the Alvin Lynde House faces the corner of these two roads.

Other Lynde family homes were unfortunately destroyed long ago, including two notable structures. The circa 1700 house of Capt. John Lynde once stood near Washington Street on the west side of the railroad tracks adjacent to what is now the Saugus town line (George Washington is said to have tied his horse to an elm tree in its front yard). Also, the 1670 house of Ensign Thomas Lynde, the first English settler in Melrose, once stood at the corner of Main Street and Banks Place (once Goodyear Avenue) on what is now the parking lot of Hunt Photo. This house was documented in the 1933 Historic American Building Survey (H.A.B.S. number MASS-464).

The house at 244 Main Street was the home of Benjamin Lynde who, as a 16-year old Minuteman mustered with other North Malden farmers at what is now Gooch Park to join up with Captain Benjamin Blaney’s company on April 19th, 1775, to head to Lexington, where the shot heard 'round the world would ring out to signal the start of the American Revolution. Fortunately, Benjamin Lynde survived the war to return home and thrive. Later in life, he and his family lived through a fire and rebuilding of his home in 1819. Ultimately, he would live to the age of 70, passing away in 1829. The house stayed in the Lynde family throughout the nineteenth century, long after Benjamin passed.

The history of the Lynde family in Melrose is integral to the history of the city of Melrose and the Benjamin Lynde house at 244 Main Street lies at the heart of this history. It (or its immediate predecessor) is the oldest remaining Lynde home in Melrose, and the story of the generations who lived there is defined by service to the nation. The home has born witness to the changing landscape that surrounds it: agrarian life yielding to industrialization and urbanization.

Thomas Lynde was born in England on January 11, 1593, and became a freeman in 1634. He and his family arrived in Boston by 1634 as part of the Great Puritan Migration. He died on December 30, 1691. He was among the early settlers in Charlestown. He bought a tract of then waterfront land which was known through the time of the Revolution as Lynde's Point, subsequently the site of the State Prison and now Bunker Hill Community College. He was one of the Deputies to the General Court for several years, serving first in 1636. His brother was Simeon Lynde of Louisburg Square in Boston. As part of the ‘great allotment,’ the Lynde family received 13 parcels of land north of Charlestown “above the pondes.” Part of this was 80 acres of land lying in Rockefeilde.”

Concerning this tract is a 1638 record in the Charlestown Archives stating “Inasmuch as it apprs yt [that] the Land in the great Lots yt was laid out to Thomas Line [Lynde] & Richd Sprague prooves altogethr unusefull being nothing but Rockes wch was wholly besides or [our] intent, & only through oversight of the Surveyors wee Judge it to bee Just & equall yt they have allowance elswhere to theire satisfaction they leaveing the afforesd Rocks to lye Common." By 1639, Thomas Lynde was granted better farm and hay field land by “Mount Prospect”, on the north side of Waite’s Mount on what was then known as the “Mystic Side” of Charlestown. This area, stretching to the border of Reading (including present day Wakefield), was incorporated as Malden in 1649. This Lynde land grant would come to define much of the southern part of the town of Melrose, which was incorporated in 1850. Thomas Lynde’s house was built near the current entrance to the Forest Dale Cemetery on Forest Street on the Malden side of the Malden-Melrose line.

John Lynde (25 Oct 1648 – 17 Sep 1723) was the second son of Thomas and occupied the original house at the foot of Boston Rock near the entrance to the Wyoming Cemetery. In 1693, John Lynde left the Boston Rock homestead and built a new house at what is now 244 Main Street on his inherited northern farm land. This 1693 house burned extensively in 1819. The old Boston Rock homestead, first built by Thomas Lynde, was abandoned. By the time of the Revolution, Lynde descendants had resided in

this home for 80 years. Joseph Lynde (2 Sep 1690 - 16 Mar 1763) also lived in the house at 244 Main Street. His son, Joseph Lynde III (4 Jul 1716 - 4 Jul 1798) was both born and died on the Fourth of July. When he was born, the date meant nothing to colonists; when he died, it was the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Benjamin Lynde, second son of Joseph Lynde III (02 Oct 1758 - 26 Sep 1829) was born in North Malden and it was from the 1693 home at 244 Main Street that he, at age 16 years / 6 months, answered the call to take up arms in the early hours of April 19, 1775, marching with his militia against British forces retreating from Lexington and Concord. Benjamin Lynde inherited the home at 244 Main Street from his father Joseph III in 1798 with 60 acres of land encompassing much of the 'hill pasture' of Boston Rock as well as 15 acres called "Island Hill," a rise of ground surrounded by reedy marsh on the Melrose-Malden line since leveled by industry and development. Although now level ground, this hillock is still marked by the bend in an otherwise straight stretch of Main Street near the Melrose-Malden line and by the name of an avenue stretching through the apartment complex at Oak Grove.

The 244 Main Street house of Joseph Lynde III, with its contents, burned on the night of April 10, 1819, the family barely escaping with their lives. It is thought that the northwest 50 percent of the house burned and that the foundation, some of the frame, and the front two rooms were incorporated into the present Adamesque Federal Style "capacious mansion," built the following year by Benjamin Lynde, then aged 62 years. This is the house that is the subject of the building inventory form.

Warren Lynde, born May 15, 1799, died in 1888 at the age of 89 years. Son of Benjamin, Warren inherited this home from his father in 1829 and his tenure farming this property stretched nearly throughout the entire nineteenth century until his passing in 1888. The building appears on 1900s maps as Warren's residence. When he inherited the Benjamin Lynde house, there were barely 35 homes in the area then known as North Malden. Within 20 years the railway would cut across the ancestral Lynde lands. Melrose was incorporated as a town in 1850 and during Warren's final decade the population of Melrose nearly doubled to 8500. He passed the home and farm to his son, Henry Lynde, who operated a thriving truck farm business until he sold it to a Dr. Murphy in 1921.

The Lyndes of 244 Main St. had a long history of service to the nation. Captain John Lynde, who built the 1693 home, served as Selectmen in Malden for many years and fought with Major Willard in the 1676 King Philip's War. He was captain of the Malden military company around 1700. Seventy-five years later, young Benjamin Lynde marched with Captain Blaney's company in defense of Concord and Lexington on April 19, 1775. Benjamin Lynde's grandson, also named Benjamin, enlisted in the Union Army in 1862 and, at the age of 30, died one year later in Baton Rouge of battlefield disease following the brutal Siege of Port Hudson. The long tradition of military service embodied in the Lynde family continued with one of the final generations of Lyndes to call 244 Main Street home. Frank Warren Lynde was born at the Benjamin Lynde house in 1876 and managed the Lynde family farm in his youth with his father, Henry. His son, Dick, was an airplane instructor who was killed in Pensacola while training for service in Europe during WWII.

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Hurd, David Hamilton. *History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Volume 3*. J.W. Lewis & Co.: Philadelphia, 1890.

Secretary of the Commonwealth. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*. Wright & Potter Printing Co.: Boston, 1903.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district

☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☒ **B** ☒ **C** ☒ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Ward Hamilton, MSc Historic Preservation

The property is individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to its direct association with Benjamin Lynde, a veteran of the American Revolution, and its high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The Lynde family was among the first settlers of Melrose (formerly North Malden), having first built a house on this location in 1693 and thence engaging in agriculture there. Benjamin Lynde (1758-1829) was born on the site and, on April 19, 1775, marched with the Malden Militia to Concord and Lexington. He went on to serve further in the American Revolution. After the war, he married and raised his family there. After a fire devastated the homestead in 1819, he then built the existing building the following year. Benjamin Lynde lived in this home until his death in 1829. The property contributes to a potential single-building historic district representing the historic development of Melrose during the period of significance from approximately 1693-1829. The resource retains integrity of location, design, materials, and association consistent with the district's historic character.

The property is significant under *Criterion A* for its association with events and broad patterns of history, specifically the American Revolution and early agriculture, which played a significant role in the development of Melrose (formerly North Malden), Massachusetts.

The property is significant under *Criterion B* for its association with Benjamin Lynde, a person significant in the history of Melrose (formerly North Malden), Massachusetts, whose contributions to the American Revolution and early agriculture are directly linked to the property during its period of significance.

The property is significant under *Criterion C* as an example of Adamesque Federal-style architecture, retaining distinctive characteristics of its type, period, and method of construction.

The property is significant under *Criterion D* because it has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to the understanding of historic activities related to settlement in the area, given its proximity to the Wyoming Quarry archeological resource area. Further, as this specific site has been continuously inhabited since at least 1693, there is a high degree of likelihood that home burials occurred there during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Alterations to the building, while extensive, do not detract from the character-defining features that date to the circa 1820 period of significance. The property retains integrity of *location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling,* and *association* sufficiently enough to convey its historical significance according to the following criteria:

Setting – the character of the location and how the Benjamin Lynde House is situated in relationship to other features, such as the ca. 1820 streetscape and neighboring buildings of significance, is reflected in its setting.

Materials – the Benjamin Lynde House still retains most elements that were originally combined to construct the building, including much of the historic building fabric.

Design – the Benjamin Lynde House reflects the massing and character-defining features of the historic Adamesque Federal building style.

Location – the Benjamin Lynde House is located in the same location where the building was originally constructed in 1820 and has never been moved or relocated from another site.

Workmanship – evidence of the builder's craft skills and technology is immediately apparent in the character-defining features of the systems of the building envelope.

Feeling – the Benjamin Lynde House conveys an expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of the early nineteenth century time period when the building was constructed.

Association – a direct link between exists Benjamin Lynde, who built the house in 1820, and who was also a veteran of the American Revolution.

The Benjamin Lynde House is individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to its direct association with American Revolution veteran Benjamin Lynde, who constructed the building in 1820, and its high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Ward Hamilton, the author of this NRHP Criteria Statement Form, meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior's professional standards (36 CFR part 61) as an architectural historian qualified to perform identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment activities.

From: Ward Hamilton <oldemohawkinc@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2026 12:46 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Cc: Massa, Lori <lmassa@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: ID # 2026-1291: Vote to establish the Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the city's domain. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you believe that this message is spam, please use the "Report Spam" button in Outlook to report it.

Good afternoon, President Freeman and members of the Melrose City Council. The purpose of this communication is to urge you to vote in favor of establishing the Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District in Melrose. Local Historic Districts (LHDs) p

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You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Good afternoon, President Freeman and members of the Melrose City Council.

The purpose of this communication is to urge you to vote in favor of establishing the Benjamin Lynde House Local Historic District in Melrose. Local Historic Districts (LHDs) protect buildings by regulating visible exterior alterations, preventing unnecessary demolitions, and requiring architectural compatibility for new construction. Established under the Commonwealth's Historic Districts Act, G.L. c. 40C, LHDs act as local zoning overlays governed by an appointed Local Historic District Commission.

As you know, the Melrose Historic District Commission conducted a study to determine the feasibility of creating a single building LHD for the Benjamin Lynde House. This study was reviewed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Melrose Planning Board, and the plan to create the LHD was endorsed by each. It was my honor to assist

Melrose HDC commissioner Rob Tullis in drafting an updated building inventory form (MHC Form B attached).

As part of that process, I drafted and submitted a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria Statement Form in an effort to have the Benjamin Lynde House listed on the NRHP. The building is eligible for inclusion due to its direct association with Benjamin Lynde, a veteran of the American Revolution, and because of its high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Lynde family was among the first settlers of Melrose, having built a house on the location in 1693 and thereafter engaging in agriculture here. Benjamin Lynde was born on the site in 1758 and, on April 19, 1775, marched with the Malden Militia to Concord and Lexington. He went on to serve further in the American Revolution and, after the war, married and raised his family there.

After a fire devastated the homestead in 1819, Benjamin Lynde then built the existing house the following year where he lived until his death in 1829. This property is a critical historical resource and represents the early development of Melrose during the period of significance from approximately 1693-1829. Further, the Benjamin Lynde House retains integrity of location, design, materials, and association. The attached document provides additional detail.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration - especially as this comes before you during your busiest time of the year. I appreciate fully all that you do for the City of Melrose.

Ward Hamilton

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From: JOANNE EUSTACE <sjpmj@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, June 1, 2026 12:47 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Benjamin Lynde House

Good morning

Just another email from a concerned Melrose resident stating I am NOT in favor of the 60 unit apartment going up where the beautiful historic Lynde house stands

Melrose has enough apartments being built at the present time and as I understand has reached its 40B requirement

Please consider keeping Melrose beautiful

Joanne Eustace

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Diana Cafarella <dianaeq@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, June 1, 2026 5:47 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: New business

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Dear City Council, My name is Diana Cafarella of 18 Bellevue Ave. I'm writing to the City Council as I have been following the developments regarding the Benjamin Lynde House at 244 Main St. I am a strong supporter of historic pre

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Dear City Council,

My name is Diana Cafarella of 18 Bellevue Ave. I'm writing to the City Council as I have been following the developments regarding the Benjamin Lynde House at 244 Main St.

I am a strong supporter of historic preservation in Melrose and see the value in expanding the historic district(s) here.

Fifty percent of our city, maybe more, was built before 1900. That isn't our burden. That is our blessing that makes our city unique from surrounding towns. Do you want to see where we have been? You can take a look for yourself. We, and generations before us, have successfully preserved our city with only minimal safeguards in place. It's miraculous actually. However, we are now at a precarious point in time in which major development is threatening our city. Boston is expanding outwards. People want to share in our city, and that is wonderful. But, a candid dialogue is needed about the parts of our city that are important to us. And, it's more than just that downtown strip of Main Street that is currently

“the historic district.” There are landmarks, neighborhoods, places that we can’t live without that make up the chapters of our history. 244 Main St is a perfect example of that, and it’s worthy of its own historic district.

I urge you to please give careful consideration to what more can be done proactively toward better historic preservation here in Melrose. I think we can all agree that’s part of our reason for loving our city.

Respectfully,

Diana Cafarella

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

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From: Ron Tauro <rontauro@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 6:58 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofmelrose.org>

Subject: Please Vote to Designate Benjamin Lynde House a Historic Commission

Hello. My name is Ronald Tauro. I've lived in Melrose since 2009 and moved to Derby Road in 2023. At the time my family moved, we thought we chose lifetime home with great neighbors, easy transportation access, and an open field behind our house which is perfect for our solar panel efficiency, growing a healthy lawn and decent privacy.

Since we heard news of the planned development for 236-244 main street, I am worried about the negatives impacts to my family's property and surrounding area.

First off. I want to acknowledge that with the rich historical history of Lynde House, it would be a shame to turn the building sideways and build around it.

Additionally, I am quite concerned of the impact of the planned development being so big and right up to my family's property line. Below are some of my concerns.

1. Loss of solar panel benefit. Such a big structure will cause significant shadows and decrease the hours of sun my panels can generate.

2. Loss of lawn and garden growing conditions. With lack of sun and excessive shade, I will lose control of how I can keep up my property.

3. Noise. I have a 9 year old child. With a 4 story building abutting my back year. My kid likely exposed to foul language of people talking on balconies and music played. A building of that size will also reflect train noise.

4. Smell. With four stories and balconies abutting my property, I am very concerned about my family frequently getting exposed to the smell of marijuana.

5. Fire safety. With such a tall building planned, I fear a fire would spread rapidly to abutting yards.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Lynde House is designated as a historic commission. It is one of the fes historical structures in melrose with so much history. I love melrose and hope to live the rest of my life here. Hopefully the city's history and character does not get lost in the process of development and can grow and flourish without pushing people out.

Ronald Tauro

159 Derby Road

Melrose, M617-504-8505

CITY OF MELROSE **Human Resources Department**

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
(P) 781-979-4146
(F) 781-979-4246

Polina Latta
Director
Platta@cityofmelrose.org

To: President Brad Freeman
Melrose City Council

From: Polina Latta, HR Director

Re: Transfer of funds to various accounts

Date: May 21, 2026

The Human Resources Department is requesting a transfer of funds from the Group Health budget, account number 019142-549201, in the amount of Sixty-Nine Thousand Dollars ($69,000) to the various accounts as set forth herein:

Workers Compensation Budget (#912)

- 019122-543100: $59,000 WC Medicals
- 019122-543102: $10,000 WC Benefits

The $10,000 WC Benefits are required to meet the City's obligation to continue to pay indemnity benefits to current recipients of WC benefits through the end of the fiscal year. The City of Melrose currently has three long term and four short term recipients of benefits.

If I can answer any additional questions about this order, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

CITY OF MELROSE

SOLDIERS & SAILORS
MEMORIAL BUILDING

590 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone (781) 979-4185
www.melrosememorialhall.com

KATHY PIGOTT-BRODEUR
Executive Director/Operations Manger
Kpbrodeur@cityofmelrose.org

MEMORANDUM

May 21, 2026

Kerri Golden, CFO
Melrose City Hall
562 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176

Dear Kerri:

As Operations Manager of Memorial Hall, I respectfully request a transfer of $7,000.00 from the Memorial Building Salaries account #016931-511000 to the Memorial Building Professional Services account #016932-529000. This is requested to pay the FY26 invoices for repairs to the HVAC system. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathy P-B

Kathy Pigott-Brodeur
Memorial Hall Executive Director/Operations Manager

cc: Lauren Grymek, Chief of Staff

.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Administration–Engineering–Water–Sewer–Facilities
Parks–Forestry–Highway–Sanitation–Cemetery–Fleet

CITY OF MELROSE

James Troup
Assistant Director – Administration & Finance

City Yard, 72 Tremont Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone – (781) 665-0142
E-mail: jtroup@cityofmelrose.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis
Melrose City Council

From: James Troup, DPW Deputy Director – Administration and Finance

cc: Kerriann Golden, CFO/Auditor
Lauren Grymek, Chief of Staff
Elena Proakis Ellis, DPW Director

Date: May 22, 2026

Re: FY26 Budget Transfer Request

Please accept the following request to transfer monies within the Department of Public Works Operating Budget to properly capture projected utility costs that exceed originally appropriated monies. We request this transfer as a matter of end-of-year housekeeping and to ensure that the group of Operating Budget accounts that include utilities does not end FY26 in deficit.

As part of the FY26 Budget process, we conservatively estimated utility increases due to rising delivery costs. These fixed costs were negotiated in our contract with Power Options. We also projected rising supply costs due increased demand at Schools and the fully electric Library. Using historical data available to us and as advised by our partners at Power Options, we submitted our request for this year's Operating Budget. FY26 costs will exceed our estimates. There are three key factors that have brought us to this situation. First, the actual supply cost increased to $1.75/kwH over last year (13% actual increase vs 4% projected increase.) Second, the Northeast suffered through an extended cold stretch between December and February which increased the demand for all City properties. Usage at all buildings was up, specifically at City Schools and at the City Library, which transitioned to fully electric for heat and power. We have monitored utility spending over the course of FY26 and have adjusted spending to stay within original appropriations.

The Operating Budget line items that will be subject to this internal transfer are shown below. Of note, most of the transfer only affects the Facilities Budget, which houses utility accounts. No other City Department will have their budgets affected by this request and we foresee no effect on regular services delivered by the Department of Public Works.

Org	Object	Description	Transfer Out
014012	529000	Administration/Engineering Professional Services	10,000.00
014012	535509	Administration/Engineering Safety Equipment	5,000.00
01402772	531825	Facilities School Contractual	75,000.00
014222	520200	Highway Traffic Signal Maintenance	7,500.00
014222	524000	Highway Hired Equipment	5,000.00
014222	527102	Highway Drain Maintenance	15,000.00
014222	529012	Highway Street Sweeping	2,500.00
014222	536210	Highway Road Structures	3,000.00
014222	537200	Highway Lumber	1,000.00
014752	535200	Parks and Forestry Supplies	6,000.00
		Total	**130,000.00**
Org	**Object**	**Description**	**Transfer In**
01402532	522510	LIBRARY ELECTRICITY	30,000.00
01402772	522524	ALL SCHOOL ELECTRICITY	75,000.00
01402772	522627	SCHOOL GAS & OIL HEAT	25,000.00
		Total	**130,000.00**

The Department of Public Works has worked with the CFO in identifying the above strategy and requests your approval to transfer $130,000 from various Operating Budget Accounts to Facilities Division Utility Accounts.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

CITY OF MELROSE **City Clerk's Department**

Tanji Cifuni
City Clerk
tcifuni@cityofmelrose.org

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176
Telephone: 781-979-4113

June 9, 2026

RE: ***Order #2026-1298 for a transfer request – Requesting an interdepartmental transfer of funds from the Elections Salaries PT line item (011621-512000) in the amount of $24,437 to the Printing Line item 011622-521000***

At this time, the Print line item is in the red due to the cost of printing for two different ballots for the Local election last year.

I was not aware when I submitted the budget for FY26, that I would need to increase the line item for printing significantly to cover the Early Voting Ballot image casting and print as well as the Election Day image casting and print.

Below is a snapshot of what was submitted in FY24, FY25 and FY26.

	FY26	***FY25***	***FY24***
Orig Budget $	13,000	9,200	30,000
Transfers In $	.00	.00	6,728
Rev Budget $	13,000	9,200	36,728
Actual $	27,706.89	16,966.64	37,425.89
Available $	(14,706.89)	(7766.64)	(697.89)
Percent Used	213.13	184.42	101.90

To date we have spent funds on the following of the elections printing line item:

Census Print	$5783.60
Election imaging and Printing	$21,776.57
Toner for Election office	$244.99
Edwards Printing (voters right tri fold)	$39.22
Edwards Printing (poster for City Hall Marquis for early voting)	$107.50

In addition, we need to pay for the printing of confirmation cards that are mailed out to residents who did not turn in their census (mandatory mailing by law and must be mailed out by first week in June)

I am requesting $10,000 to print and mail out the confirmation cards. I would like to note that we are in compliance, and the mailing has gone out to all residents that have not responded to the census.

Sincerely,
Tanji Cifuni