

Town of Lexington



FY2026 Preliminary Budget & Financing Plan

Budget Summit III

January 30, 2024



Town of Lexington FY2026 Preliminary Budget

FY2026 Revenue Allocation Summary

(in thousands)	Summit II		Summit III		
1 Total Revenues	\$	310,900	\$	311,154	
2 Less: FY2025 School Budget	\$	140,508	\$	140,508	
3 Less: FY2025 Municipal Budget (inc.Community Center)	\$	49,311	\$	49,311	
4 Less: Shared Expenses	\$	81,487	\$	80,977	
5 Less: Set-Asides	\$	32,894	\$	32,894	
6 Total Base Budget	\$	304,200	\$	303,690	\$ Change
7 Total New Revenue to be Allocated	\$	6,700	\$	7,464	\$ 764
8 School Alloc./ FY2026 Total	\$	4,959	74.0%	\$ 5,525	74.0%
9 Muni Alloc. / FY2026 Total	\$	1,740	26.0%	\$ 1,939	26.0%

	Summit II	Revenue Allocation	%Inc vs PY	Initial Budget Request	%Inc vs PY	Surplus/ (Shortfall)
10 FY2026 School budget	\$	145,467	3.5%	\$ 147,500	5.0%	\$ (2,033)
11 FY2026 Municipal budget	\$	51,051	3.5%	\$ 51,742	4.9%	\$ (691)

	Summit III	Revenue Allocation	%Inc vs PY	Updated Budget Request	%Inc vs PY	Surplus/ (Shortfall)
12 FY2026 School budget	\$	146,033	3.9%	\$ 146,033	3.9%	\$ —
13 FY2026 Municipal budget	\$	51,249	3.9%	\$ 51,249	3.9%	\$ —



Town of Lexington
FY2026 Preliminary Budget

Summary of Revenue Allocation Changes from Summit II

Original	Revised	Variance	Description
\$310,899,763	\$311,154,210	\$ 254,447	Updated State Aid (+\$142K); Available Funds (+\$77K); refined Indirects (+\$35K)
\$ 254,447			Total Revenue Increase/ (Decrease)

\$ 3,747,035	\$ 3,606,312	\$ (140,723)	Updated Minuteman assessment, per preliminary budget
\$ 41,412,958	\$ 41,147,189	\$ (265,769)	Updated Health Benefits assuming 11% premium increase
\$ 6,035,947	\$ 5,983,068	\$ (52,879)	Updated debt service projections
\$ 15,239,743	\$ 15,189,172	\$ (50,571)	Revisions to Facilities shared service budget (inc \$20K PIR)
\$ (509,943)			Change in Shared Expenses Increase/ (Decrease)

\$ 764,390 **Net Positive Impact on Revenue Allocation**

74% \$ **565,648** Additional School Allocation
 26% \$ **198,741** Additional Town Allocation



Town of Lexington FY2026 Preliminary Budget

The FY2026 budgets proposed by the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools provide for a Balanced Town Budget

Revenue Summary	FY2025 Recap	FY2026 Projected	\$ Change	% Change
Tax Levy	\$ 239,807,037	\$ 249,002,213	\$ 9,195,176	3.8%
State Aid	\$ 20,451,907	\$ 21,022,716	\$ 570,809	2.8%
Local Receipts	\$ 16,209,388	\$ 17,039,873	\$ 830,485	5.1%
Available Funds*	\$ 17,280,345	\$ 24,514,859	\$ 7,234,514	41.9%
Revenue Offsets	\$ (1,953,708)	\$ (2,360,640)	\$ (406,932)	20.8%
Enterprise Funds (Indirect)	\$ 1,873,817	\$ 1,935,189	\$ 61,372	3.3%
Total General Fund	\$ 293,575,390	\$ 311,154,210	\$ 17,578,820	6.0%

Expenditure Summary	FY2025 Appropriated	FY2026 Recommended Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Lexington Public Schools	\$ 140,508,367	\$ 146,033,333	\$ 5,524,966	3.9%
Minuteman High School	\$ 3,406,395	\$ 3,606,312	\$ 199,917	5.9%
Shared Expenses	\$ 72,296,815	\$ 77,370,757	\$ 5,073,942	7.0%
Municipal Departments	\$ 49,271,323	\$ 50,995,275	\$ 1,723,953	3.5%
Cash Capital-Tax Levy and Available Funds	\$ 16,875,899	\$ 21,524,216	\$ 4,648,317	27.5%
Other**	\$ 11,216,591	\$ 11,624,317	\$ 407,726	3.6%
Total - General Fund Only	\$ 293,575,390	\$ 311,154,210	\$ 17,578,820	6.0%

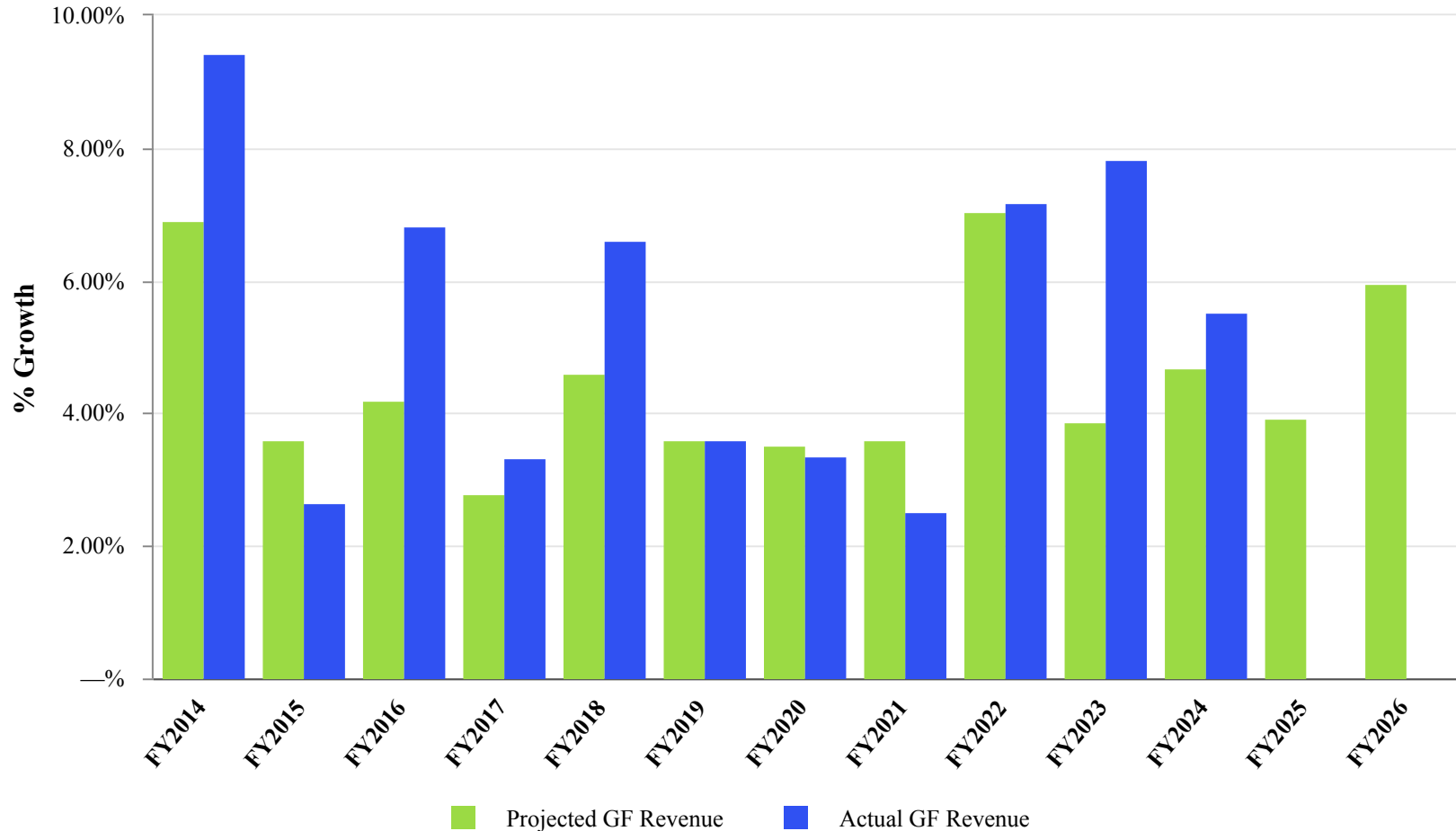
* Available Funds reflects one-time revenue sources, primarily Free Cash.

** Other expenses are primarily set-asides into reserves including the Capital Stabilization Fund, OPEB Trust, and SPED Reserve.



Town of Lexington
FY2026 Preliminary Budget

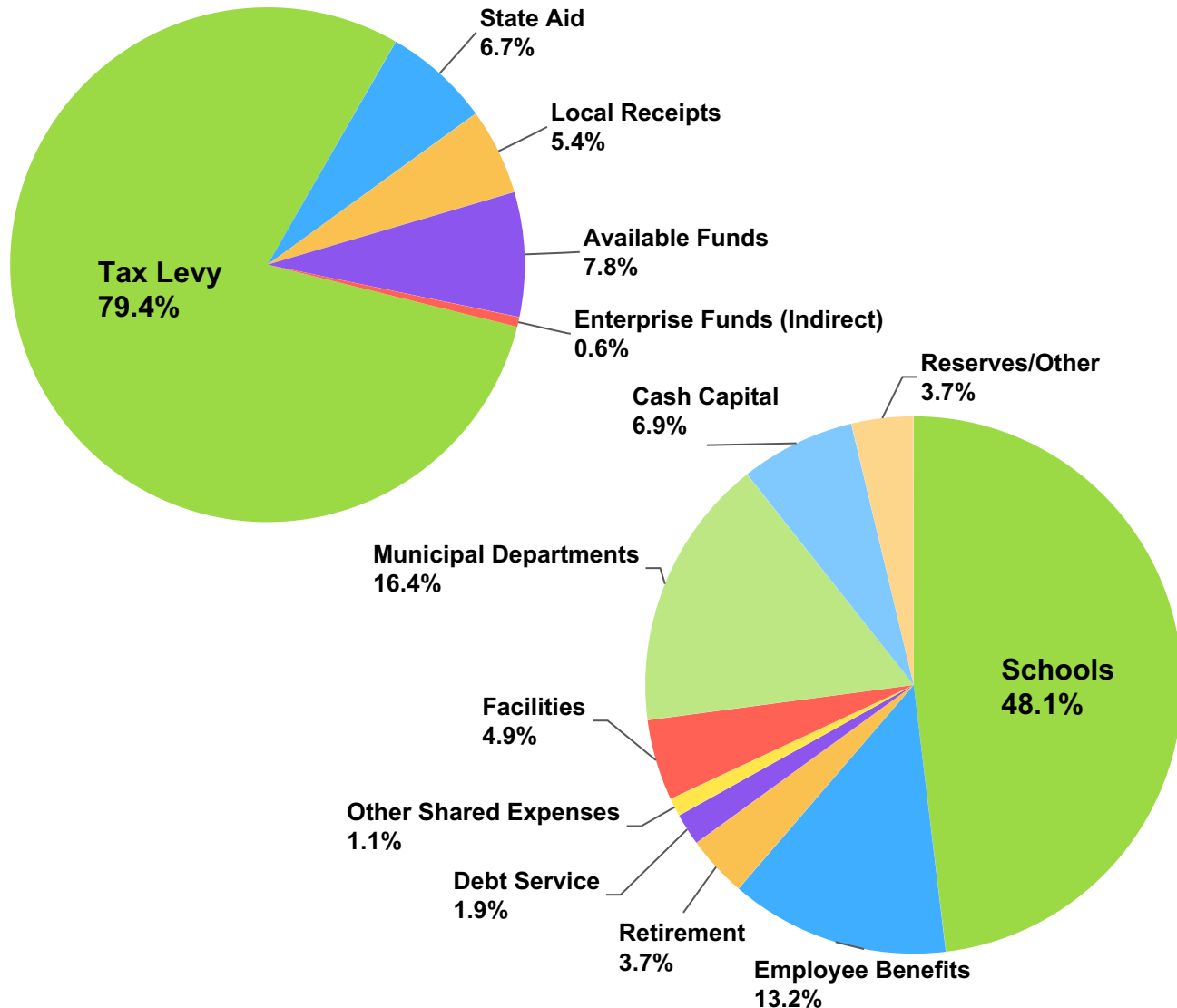
General Fund Revenue Projections





Town of Lexington FY2026 Preliminary Budget

FY2026 Balanced Budget



FY2026 Revenue Summary	
Tax Levy	\$ 249,002,213
State Aid	\$ 21,022,716
Local Receipts	\$ 17,039,873
Available Funds	\$ 24,514,859
Revenue Offsets	\$ (2,360,640)
Enterprise Funds (Indirects)	\$ 1,935,189
Total	\$ 311,154,211

FY2026 Expense Summary	
Schools	\$ 149,639,645
Employee Benefits	\$ 41,147,189
Debt Service	\$ 5,983,068
Retirement	\$ 11,521,504
Other Shared Expenses	\$ 3,417,696
Facilities	\$ 15,189,172
Municipal Departments	\$ 51,107,404
Cash Capital	\$ 21,524,216
Reserves/Other	\$ 11,624,317
Total	\$ 311,154,211



Town of Lexington

FY2026 Preliminary Budget

FY2026 Municipal Department Budget Summary

Municipal Budgets	FY2025 Appropriated	FY2026 Recommended Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Public Facilities*	\$ 14,565,854	\$ 15,189,172	\$ 623,318	4.3%
Municipal Departments:				
Public Works	\$ 13,085,106	\$ 13,971,800	\$ 886,693	6.8%
Police	\$ 9,536,323	\$ 9,745,978	\$ 209,655	2.2%
Fire	\$ 9,289,900	\$ 9,458,988	\$ 169,088	1.8%
Library	\$ 3,460,565	\$ 3,691,461	\$ 230,896	6.7%
Human Services	\$ 1,513,939	\$ 1,703,597	\$ 189,658	12.5%
Health	\$ 545,148	\$ 561,024	\$ 15,876	2.9%
Land Use Department	\$ 2,442,606	\$ 2,465,236	\$ 22,630	0.9%
Select Board	\$ 1,388,634	\$ 1,439,529	\$ 50,895	3.7%
Town Manager	\$ 1,664,840	\$ 1,609,722	\$ (55,119)	(3.3)%
Salary Adjustment Account	\$ 294,179	\$ —	\$ (294,179)	(100.0)%
Town Committees	\$ 72,910	\$ 73,120	\$ 210	0.3%
Finance	\$ 2,172,178	\$ 2,206,218	\$ 34,040	1.6%
Town Clerk	\$ 680,819	\$ 692,479	\$ 11,660	1.7%
Innovation & Technology	\$ 3,124,175	\$ 3,376,124	\$ 251,949	8.1%
Total Municipal Departments	\$ 49,271,322	\$ 50,995,276	\$ 1,723,952	3.5%

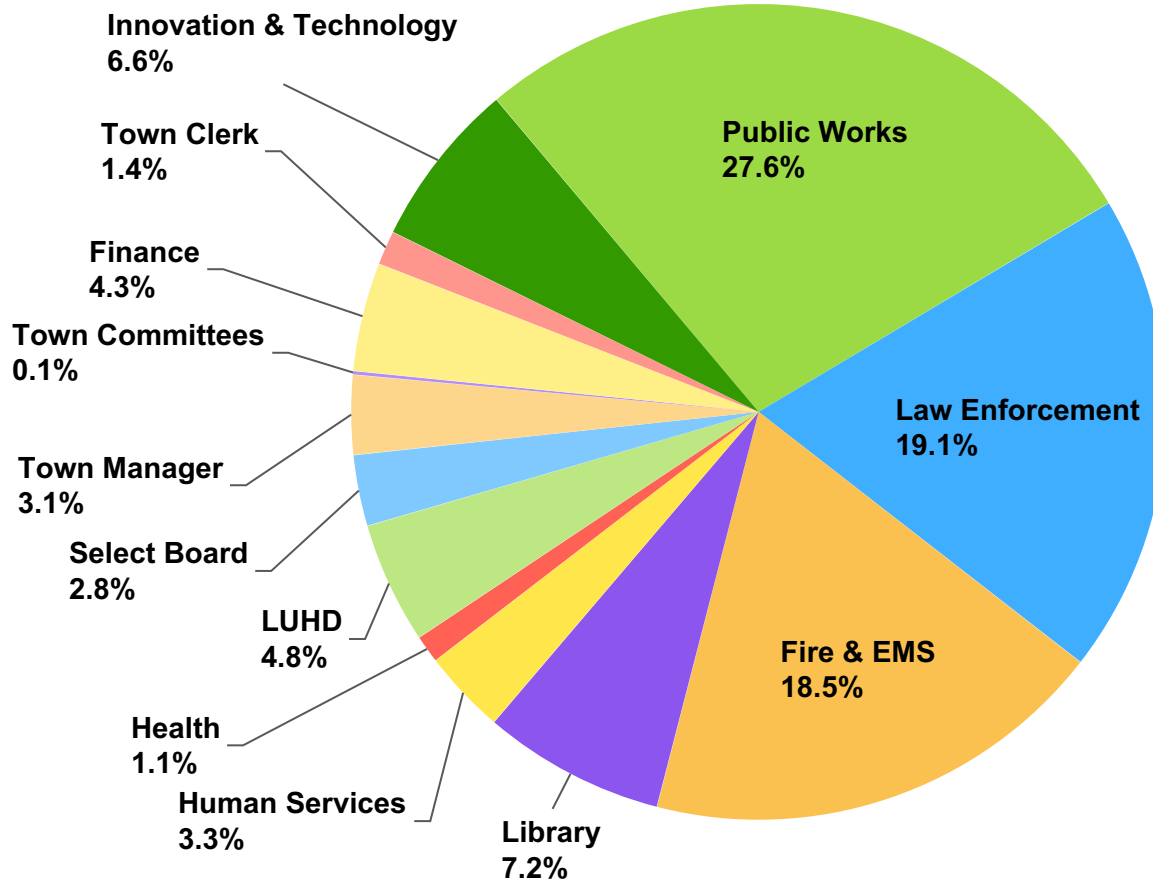
*Public Facilities is a shared service

Total does not include \$112K Shared Exp.for Refuse & Recycling Collection for School & Muni. Buildings 7



Town of Lexington *FY2026 Preliminary Budget*

FY2026 Municipal Department Budget Highlights



FY2026 Budget Summary	
Public Works	\$ 14,083,928
Law Enforcement	\$ 9,745,978
Fire & EMS	\$ 9,458,988
Library	\$ 3,691,461
Human Services	\$ 1,703,597
Health	\$ 561,024
LUHD	\$ 2,465,236
Select Board	\$ 1,439,529
Town Manager	\$ 1,609,722
Town Committees	\$ 73,120
Finance	\$ 2,206,218
Town Clerk	\$ 692,479
Innovation & Technology	\$ 3,376,124
Total	\$ 51,107,404



Town of Lexington

FY2026 Preliminary Budget

Balancing the FY2026 Municipal Budget

Municipal Budgets	FY2026 Initial Request	FY2026 Delete	FY2026 Add	FY2026 Recommended Budget
Public Facilities*	\$ 15,169,172	\$ —	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,189,172
Municipal Departments:				
Public Works	\$ 13,971,800			\$ 13,971,800
Police	\$ 9,745,978			\$ 9,745,978
Fire	\$ 9,458,988			\$ 9,458,988
Library	\$ 3,691,461			\$ 3,691,461
Human Services	\$ 1,703,597			\$ 1,703,597
Health	\$ 561,024			\$ 561,024
Land Use Department	\$ 2,465,236			\$ 2,465,236
Select Board	\$ 1,439,529			\$ 1,439,529
Town Manager	\$ 1,657,335	\$ (47,613)		\$ 1,609,722
Salary Adjustment Account	\$ —			\$ —
Town Committees	\$ 73,120			\$ 73,120
Finance	\$ 2,206,218			\$ 2,206,218
Town Clerk	\$ 692,479			\$ 692,479
Innovation & Technology	\$ 3,376,124			\$ 3,376,124
Total Municipal Departments	\$ 51,042,889	\$ (47,613)	\$ —	\$ 50,995,276

*Public Facilities is a shared service.

Total does not include \$112K Shared Exp.for Refuse & Recycling Collection for School & Muni. Buildings



Town of Lexington *FY2026 Preliminary Budget*

FY2026 Municipal Department Budget Highlights

- The Municipal Budget includes contractual increases for three of the Town's large service agreements:
 - **Townwide Composting Program:** This budget will maintain this program for 4,000 households in FY2026 at the cost of \$396,000, of which \$165,000 will be funded with ARPA funds.
 - **Public Transportation:** This budget includes new contractual rates for the Lexpress Bus Service, which includes replacement of the bus fleet. The new 5-year contract has been awarded and will begin during FY2026.
 - **Public Access Television:** This budget allocates \$200,000 of tax levy support to maintain current levels of service, up from \$100,000 in FY2025. This amount of General Fund support is expected to increase in future budget cycles.
- Set Asides include **\$24K for funding for a Solar Study** to assess suitability of solar installations in municipal parking lots and **\$200K for pruning and/or removal of Street Trees** that have been identified as dead or unhealthy by a recent street tree inventory.



*Town of Lexington
FY2026 Preliminary Budget*

Town Manager's Recommended FY2026 Program Improvements

Program	Department Requests	Recommended	Not Recommended
Total General Fund Requests	\$2,057,838	\$244,000	\$1,813,838
Non-General Fund			
Water/Sewer Enterprise	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$—
Recreation Enterprise	\$180,000	\$80,000	\$100,000
Tourism Revolving Fund	\$42,475	\$—	\$42,475
Total Non-General Fund	\$272,475	\$130,000	\$142,475
Combined Requests Total	\$2,330,313	\$374,000	\$1,956,313

General Fund Recommended PIRs include:

- \$20K for Solar Panel inspections and maintenance at school and municipal buildings
- \$200K for Street Tree Pruning & Removal (one-time from Free Cash)
- \$24K for a Solar Assessment of parking lots (one-time from Free Cash)

Non General Fund Recommended PIRs include:

- \$50K for a Water & Sewer Rate Study
- \$80K for drainage improvements at Pine Meadows Golf Course



Town of Lexington
FY2026 Preliminary Budget

Revenues Set-Aside for Designated Expenses - FY2026

		Tax Levy	Free Cash	Other	Total
1	Set-Aside for Unanticipated Current Fiscal Year Needs	\$ —	\$ 200,000	\$ —	\$ 200,000
2	Unallocated	\$ —	\$ 1,603,333	\$ —	\$ 1,603,333
3	Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)	\$ —	\$ 2,079,721	\$ —	\$ 2,079,721
4	Cash Capital	\$ 750,000	\$ 17,792,946	\$ 18,043	\$ 18,560,989
5	Appropriate into Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 6,563,050	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 6,563,050
6	One-time Municipal Expenses (tree maintenance)	\$ —	\$ 200,000	\$ —	\$ 200,000
7	Special Education Reserve Fund	\$ —	\$ 700,000	\$ —	\$ 700,000
6	Street Improvement Program	\$ 2,726,806	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,726,806
7	Municipal Building Envelope and Systems	\$ 236,421	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 236,421
8	Warrant Articles	\$ —	\$ 24,000	\$ —	\$ 24,000
9	Subtotal	\$10,276,277	\$ 22,600,000	\$ 18,043	\$ 32,894,320
10	Contribution to Pension Fund	\$ —	\$ 400,000	\$ —	\$ 400,000
11	Grand Total	\$10,276,277	\$ 23,000,000	\$ 18,043	\$ 33,294,320



Town of Lexington
FY2026 Preliminary Budget

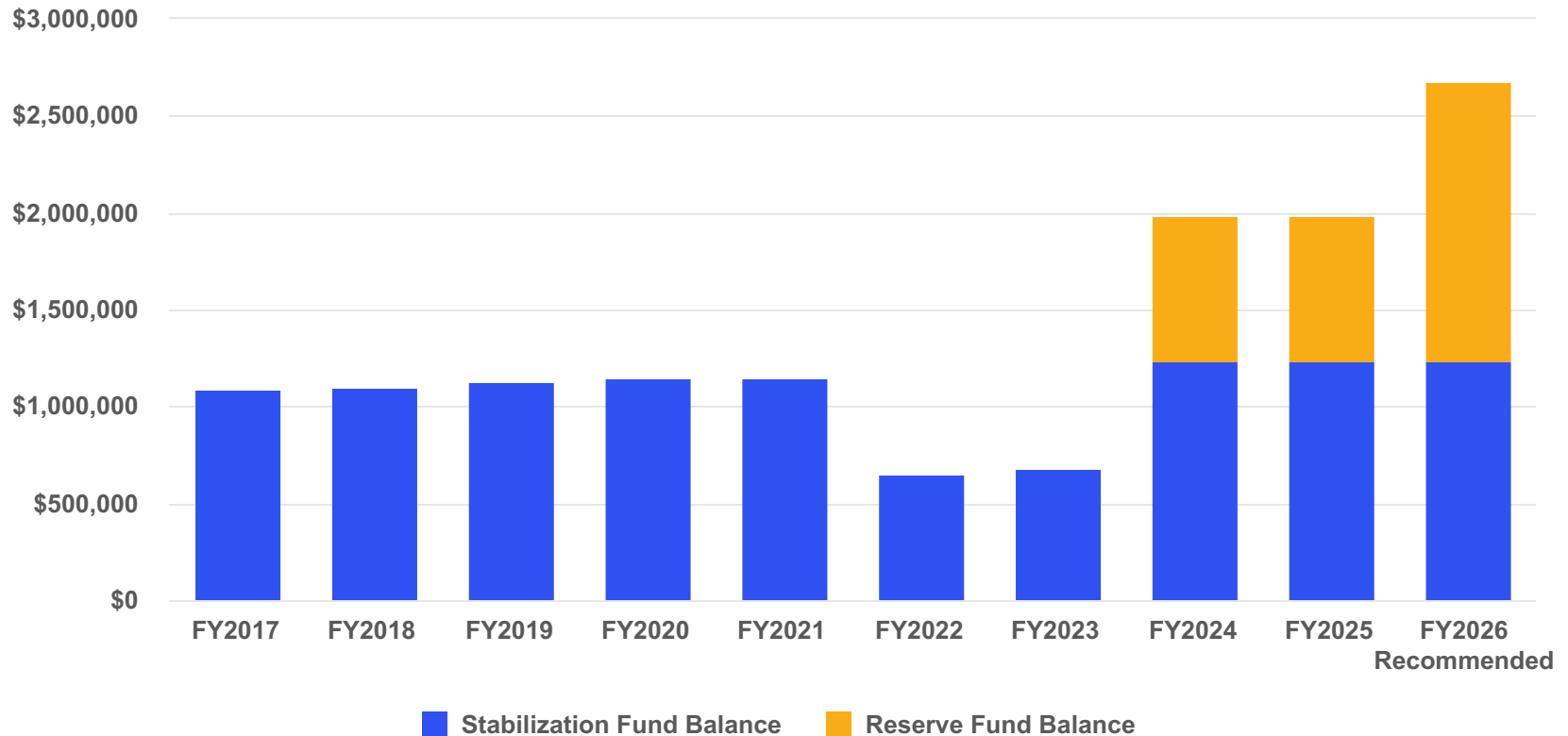
Appropriate Into Reserve Funds

Lexington Pension Fund	\$11,521,504
– Current Balance (11/30/2024)	\$257.39 million
Post-Employment Benefits Fund	\$2,087,029
– Current Balance (12/31/2024)	\$37.93 million
Capital Stabilization Fund	\$6,563,050
– Current Balance (12/31/2024)	\$41.84 million
Special Education Reserve Fund	\$700,000
– Current Balance (12/31/2024)	\$750,000



Town of Lexington
FY2026 Preliminary Budget

Special Education - Stabilization Fund & Reserve Fund*

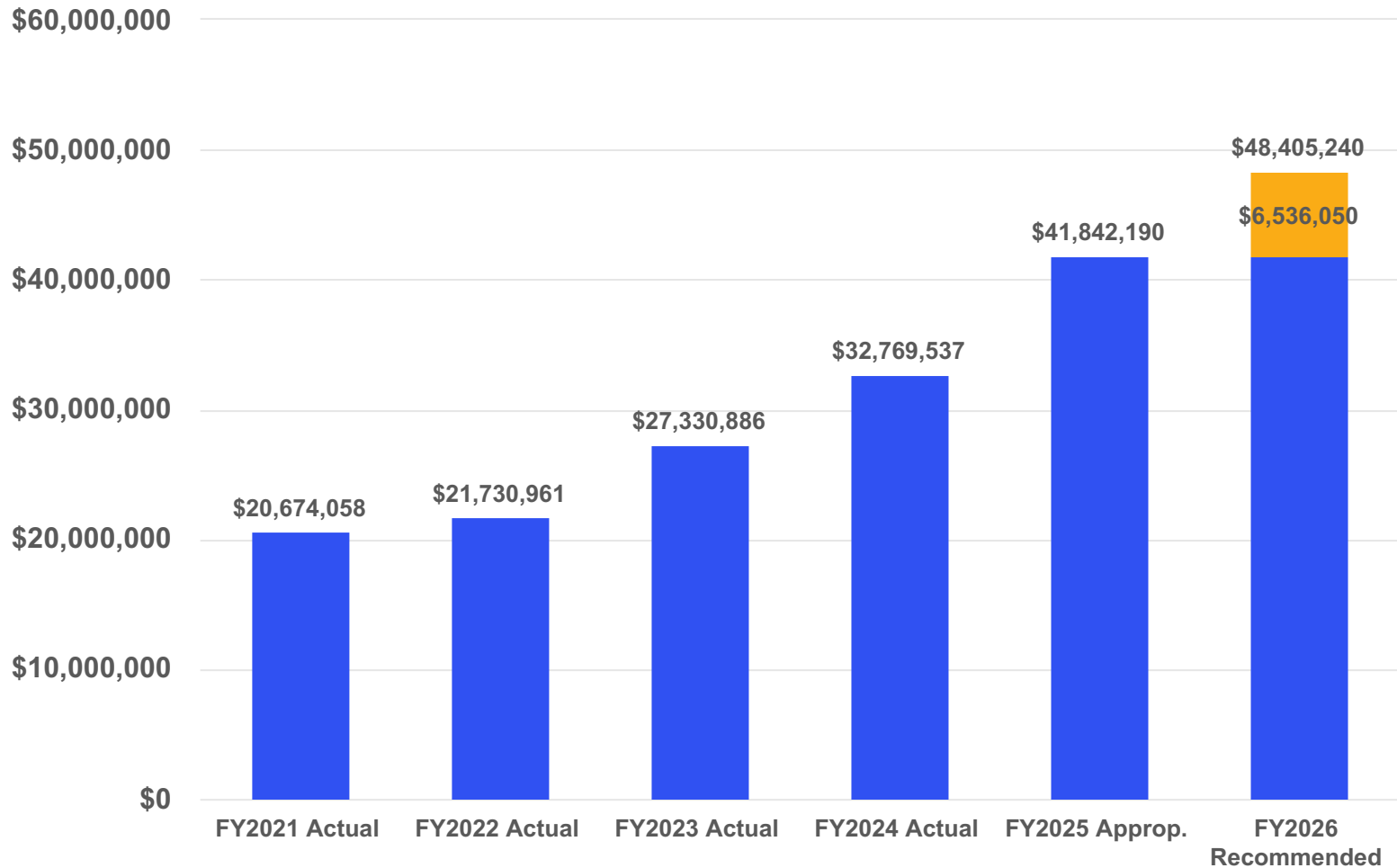


The Special Education Reserve Fund was established in at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.



*Town of Lexington
FY2026 Preliminary Budget*

Capital Stabilization Fund Balance History





Town of Lexington FY2026 Preliminary Budget

Recommended Capital Budget - FY2026

Capital Requests Summary					
	Free Cash/ Tax Levy	Other Funding Sources	Debt	Total	Other**
General Fund	\$21,506,173	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 21,506,173	\$ —
Excluded Debt Projects	\$ —	\$ —	\$654,000,000	\$654,000,000	\$ —
Other Funding & Chapter 90	\$ —	\$ 18,043	\$ —	\$ 18,043	\$ 964,592
Water Enterprise	\$ —	\$ 2,634,440	\$ —	\$ 2,634,440	\$ —
Sewer Enterprise	\$ —	\$ 1,409,931	\$ —	\$ 1,409,931	\$ —
Recreation Enterprise	\$ —	\$ 70,000	\$ —	\$ 70,000	\$ —
Compost Revolving Fund	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Community Preservation Act*	\$ —	\$ 7,495,844	\$ —	\$ 7,495,844	\$ —
Total (all Funds)	\$21,506,173	\$11,628,258	\$654,000,000	\$687,134,431	\$ 964,592

*Includes both Town and non-Town CPA funded projects.

**Other represents Chapter 90 Aid for street improvements. This item does not require a Town Meeting appropriation.

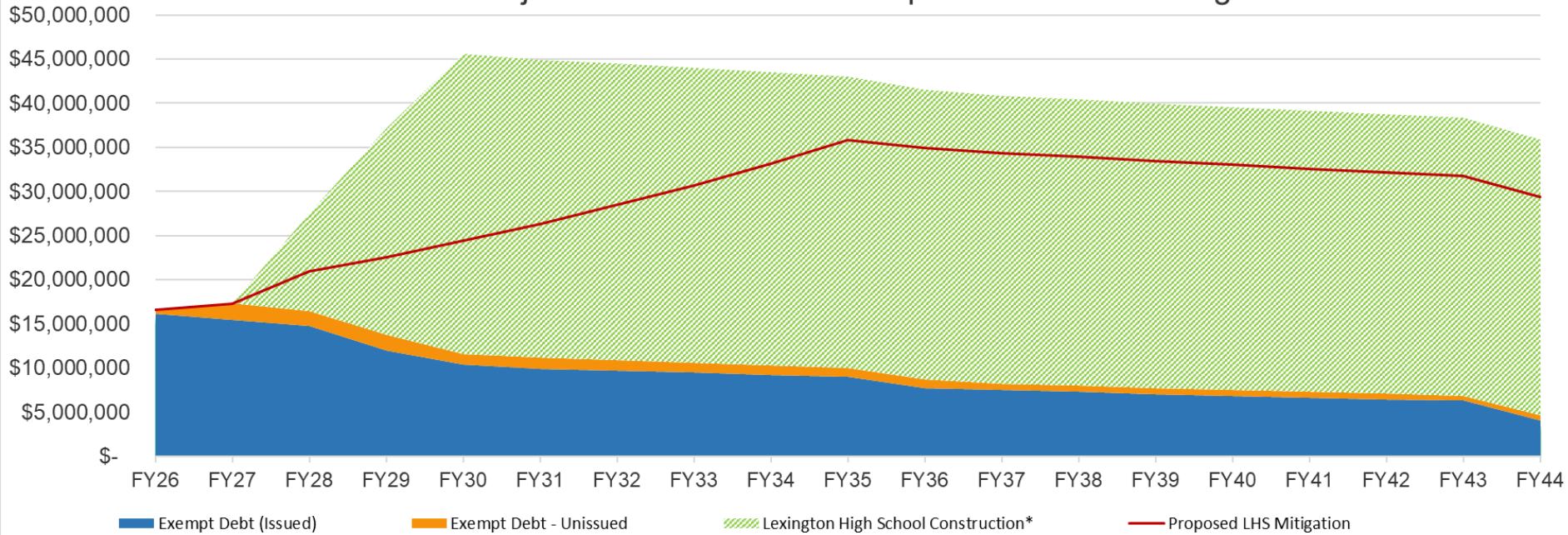
For FY2026 \$4.31 million of Capital Projects are recommended to be deferred :

- Cemetery Columbarium Construction - \$450K
- Harrington Fields - \$2.98 million
- Public Parking Lot Construction - \$528K
- New Sidewalk Installation (partial deferred) - \$250K
- Network Core Equipment - \$100K



Town of Lexington FY2026 Preliminary Budget

Projected Debt Service: Exempt Debt and CSF Mitigation

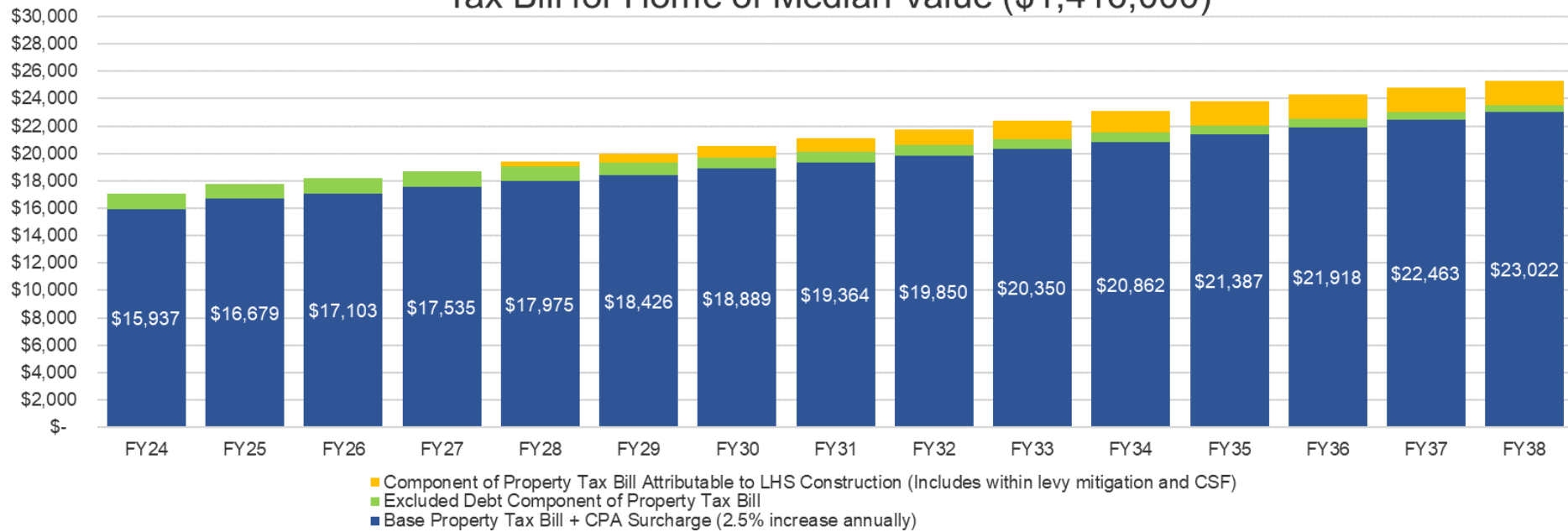


Authorized Exempt Debt:	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35	FY36
Exempt Debt (Issued)	\$ 16,591,920	\$ 16,100,441	\$ 15,462,795	\$ 14,701,017	\$ 12,014,897	\$ 10,350,771	\$ 9,931,409	\$ 9,688,701	\$ 9,443,280	\$ 9,220,095	\$ 8,957,663	\$ 7,697,233
Exempt Debt - Unissued	\$ 66,692	\$ 474,250	\$ 1,814,848	\$ 1,761,463	\$ 1,708,078	\$ 1,246,360	\$ 1,211,350	\$ 1,176,340	\$ 1,141,330	\$ 1,106,320	\$ 1,071,310	\$ 998,300
Lexington High School Construction*			\$ -	\$ 11,068,363	\$ 23,447,452	\$ 33,974,150	\$ 33,782,755	\$ 33,591,361	\$ 33,399,966	\$ 33,208,572	\$ 33,017,177	\$ 32,825,783
Less: Debt Service Paid Within Levy			\$ -	\$ (6,563,050)	\$ (6,563,050)	\$ (6,563,050)	\$ (6,563,050)	\$ (6,563,050)	\$ (6,563,050)	\$ (6,563,050)	\$ (6,563,050)	\$ (6,563,050)
Total Projected Exempt Debt Service	\$ 16,658,612	\$ 16,574,691	\$ 17,277,644	\$ 20,967,793	\$ 30,607,378	\$ 39,008,231	\$ 38,362,464	\$ 37,893,352	\$ 37,421,526	\$ 36,971,937	\$ 36,483,100	\$ 34,958,265
Less: Debt Service Mitigation from CSF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (66,753)	\$ (8,034,254)	\$ (14,629,258)	\$ (12,033,173)	\$ (9,457,718)	\$ (6,711,041)	\$ (3,804,613)	\$ (662,390)	\$ -
Total Mitigated Debt Service All Projects	\$ 16,658,612	\$ 16,574,691	\$ 17,277,644	\$ 20,901,040	\$ 22,573,123	\$ 24,378,973	\$ 26,329,291	\$ 28,435,634	\$ 30,710,485	\$ 33,167,324	\$ 35,820,710	\$ 34,958,265



Town of Lexington FY2026 Preliminary Budget

Tax Bill for Home of Median Value (\$1,416,000)



	Actual*	Projected**													
	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35	FY36	FY37	FY38

A) Base Property Tax Bill + CPA Surcharge (2.5% increase annually)	\$ 15,937	\$ 16,679	\$ 17,103	\$ 17,535	\$ 17,975	\$ 18,426	\$ 18,889	\$ 19,364	\$ 19,850	\$ 20,350	\$ 20,862	\$ 21,387	\$ 21,918	\$ 22,463	\$ 23,022
B) Component of Property Tax Bill Attributable to Existing Excluded Debt	\$ 1,110	\$ 1,121	\$ 1,120	\$ 1,168	\$ 1,112	\$ 927	\$ 784	\$ 753	\$ 734	\$ 715	\$ 698	\$ 678	\$ 588	\$ 556	\$ 542
C) Component of Property Tax Bill Attributable to LHS Construction (Includes within levy mitigation and CSF)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 598	\$ 864	\$ 1,026	\$ 1,187	\$ 1,360	\$ 1,543	\$ 1,743	\$ 1,774	\$ 1,762	\$ 1,749
Total Excluded Debt	\$ 1,110	\$ 1,121	\$ 1,120	\$ 1,168	\$ 1,412	\$ 1,525	\$ 1,647	\$ 1,779	\$ 1,921	\$ 2,075	\$ 2,241	\$ 2,420	\$ 2,362	\$ 2,318	\$ 2,290
D) Total Tax Bill for Home of Average Value	\$ 17,047	\$ 17,801	\$ 18,223	\$ 18,703	\$ 19,387	\$ 19,951	\$ 20,536	\$ 21,143	\$ 21,772	\$ 22,425	\$ 23,103	\$ 23,807	\$ 24,280	\$ 24,781	\$ 25,312
E) \$ Change from Prior Year (Total Property Tax Bill)		\$ 753	\$ 422	\$ 480	\$ 684	\$ 564	\$ 585	\$ 607	\$ 629	\$ 653	\$ 678	\$ 704	\$ 473	\$ 501	\$ 532
F) % Change from Prior Year (Total Property Tax Bill)		4.4%	2.4%	2.6%	3.7%	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%



Town of Lexington *FY2026 Preliminary Budget*

FY2026 Capital Highlights

- **New Lexington High School** - Construction funds for a new Lexington High School. Current cost estimates approximate the cost at **\$654,000,000**. This project will be requested at the Fall 2025 Special Town Meeting and will require a successful Debt Exclusion vote.
- **Central Administration Building Demolition** - This request for **\$3,550,000** is to demolish the Central Administration Building at 146 Maple Street.
- **Park Improvements - Athletic Fields** - **\$3,197,904** for athletic fields at 146 Maple Street. The design for this new field complex is currently underway and will consider natural grass and synthetic field surfaces, parking, lighting and other amenities.
- **Lincoln Park Field Improvements** - This request for **\$1,950,000** will conduct an end-of-life synthetic turf replacement and reconstruction of athletic Field #3 at Lincoln Park.
- **Replacement Pumper Truck** - This request for **\$1,100,000** is to replace the department's 2004 reserve pumper truck.
- **Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) Funding** - This request for **\$3,000,000** is to fund the Lexington Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) from the Town's Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds.



Town of Lexington
FY2026 Preliminary Budget

Affordable Housing Trust

	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Estimated*	FY2026 Budgeted
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ —	\$ 952,900	\$ 4,284,463
Income:			
T.M. Appropriations from CPA	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,000,000
Transfers from Available Funds	\$ 565,371	\$ 129,749	\$ 133,641
Interest Earned	\$ 57,461	\$ 21,814	\$ 5,000
Fee Revenue & Other Income	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Total Income	\$ 2,122,833	\$ 3,351,563	\$ 3,138,641
Expenses:			
Affordable Housing Creation/Acquisition/Buy-down	\$ 1,150,000	TBD	TBD
Administrative Expenses	\$ 19,933	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Total Expenses	\$ 1,169,933	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 952,900	\$ 4,284,463	\$ 8,356,004

*FY2025 Estimates are as of 12/31/2024

Project Name	FY2026 Projection	FY2027 Projection	FY2028 Projection	FY2029 Projection	FY2030 Projection	Total
Total LexHAB Requests	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 3,840,000	\$ 882,000	\$ 926,100	\$ 972,405	\$ 10,420,505
Lexington Housing Authority	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 3,200,000
MBTA/SRD Buy-down	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 8,150,000
Resident Support	\$ 200,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 230,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,140,000
AH Creation/Acquisition	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	TBD	TBD	\$ 3,500,000
Administrative Expenses	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 600,000
Total Projected Funding Requests	\$ 8,150,000	\$ 8,560,000	\$ 3,462,000	\$ 3,366,100	\$ 3,472,405	\$ 27,010,505



Town of Lexington *FY2026 Preliminary Budget*

Building Shuffle Update

FY2025 ATM Appropriation:

- **173 Bedford Street Renovation - \$6.0 million** (abatement and construction are currently out to bid)

FY2026 Proposed Budget:

- **Central Administration Building Demolition - \$3.55 million**
- **Harrington Fields Construction - \$3.2 million** (original request \$6.2 million); \$1.2 million CPA; \$2.0 million Gen Fund (discuss deferral of Gen Fund)

Proposed Updated Timeline:

- **March - September 2025** - Renovation of 173 Bedford St.
- **October 2025** - Central Admin moves to 173 Bedford St.
- **November/December 2025** - Fall STM & Debt Exclusion Referendum for LHS project (possible appropriation for Harrington Fields; or propose for 2026 ATM with CPA).
- **November - Spring 2026** - Demolition of CA building & Site Work at 146 Maple St.
- **July - Fall 2026** - Construction of new Harrington Fields
- **Late Summer/ Fall 2027** - Center Rec Fields come offline/ Harrington Fields open for play (up to a year later than originally anticipated)



Town of Lexington *FY2026 Preliminary Budget*

Policy Discussions

- **Capital Planning for Municipal Capital with CPA Funds** - balancing municipal between uses (Historic Resources, Affordable Housing, Open Space & Recreation)
- **Funding of Recreation Capital Needs if CPA or Enterprise funds are not available**
- **Continue to Set Aside Tax Levy/ New Levy Growth Into the Capital Stabilization Fund** - there is an implied trade-off between managing tax increases/LHS impact and maintaining a level service budget
- **Future Deferral of Capital Projects in the 5-year Capital Plan to manage debt**
- **Potential New Fee Revenue:**
 - **Stormwater Enterprise** - if the new EPA permit requires significant investment in stormwater management this may be necessary to comply
 - **Composting & Bulky/White Good Removal** - may be necessary if the cost of existing services continues to increase or to add new services such as composting
- **Changes in Current Levels of Municipal and School Services** - are there current services the community can accept forgoing to avoid an override or other change above
- **Operating Override** - past guidance has been to balance the budget without an operating override; should staff continue with this assumption



Town of Lexington FY2026 Preliminary Budget

Items Open/ In Process

- **Free Cash** - Current FY2023 estimate of \$23,000,000 has not yet been certified by the Department of Revenue. Adjustments will be reflected in cash capital/debt service.
- **Minuteman Assessment** - Budget to be voted by Minuteman School Committee.
- **Health Insurance Premiums** - Are estimated at an 11% increase over FY2025, final amounts may differ.
- **Final Cost Estimates for Lexington High School** - The current cost estimate for LHS construction is \$654 million. This estimate will continue to be refined through schematic design and a final estimate will be available prior to Fall 2025 Special Town Meeting and the debt exclusion referendum.
- **Final Design for Harrington Fields** - Community engagement and the design for fields at Harrington School are underway; final recommended project scope and cost estimate are to-be-determined.
- **Other** - Additional changes may be identified through the budget deliberation process.



Town of Lexington FY2026 Preliminary Budget

Next Steps

- **January 31, 2025- February 7, 2025** - Municipal and School staff to respond to questions on operating and capital budgets; ongoing budget deliberations
- **February 14, 2025** - Select Board to vote FY2026 recommended budget
- **On or Before February 25, 2025** - The final recommended budget will be distributed electronically to the Select Board, Appropriation Committee, Capital Expenditures Committee and Town Meeting Members. Printed copies to follow the week of March 3rd.
- **March 24, 2025** - Town Meeting Begins
- **On or Before March 26, 2025** - Town Meeting may consider financial articles