

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC
MEETING POSTED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE
PROVISIONS OF MGL 30A
§18 – 25**

Note: All topic placements are estimated and may vary *tremendously* from projections

[illegible]

(Note: This listing of matters reflects those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Dunstable Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the following pole and wire locations petition filed by National Grid on **Wednesday March 26, 2024 at 5:05 p.m.** for the following: Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

No.# 30993844

River Street - National Grid to install 1 JO pole on River Street beginning at a point approximately 260 feet South of the centerline of the intersection of River Street and Chapman Street. Install 1 new 45/2 pole on River Street to power the new residential development. Dunstable, MA.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – River Street - Dunstable, Massachusetts.

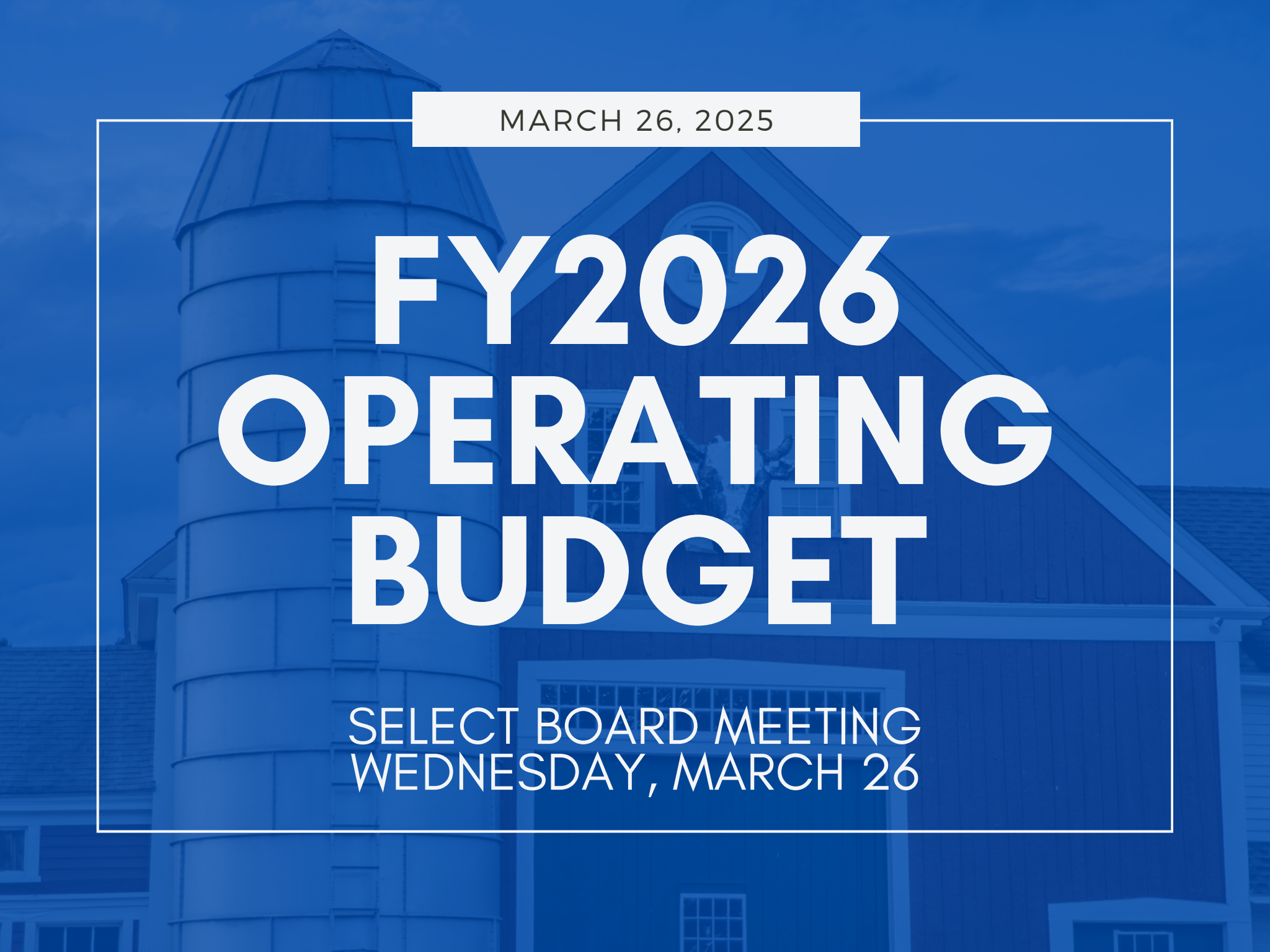
Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Persons with an interest in this public hearing are asked to appear at the Town Hall, 511 Main Street, Dunstable, MA on the date and time affixed to this notice.

Select Board

Dunstable, Massachusetts



MARCH 26, 2025

FY2026 OPERATING BUDGET

SELECT BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26



TODAY'S PRESENTATION

AGENDA

Budget Summary

Major Increases

Revenues

Expenditures

Deficits

Tax Impact

Town Meeting and

Elections

BUDGET SUMMARY

- Tax Levy for operating projected to increase by 3.54%
- Excluded debt service tax revenue is projected to decrease by 46.75%
- Total tax levy increase of 2.20%
- Cherry Sheet is based on the Governor's budget proposal and increases by 4.80%
- Local receipts projected to increase by 6.67%
- In total, revenue to be appropriated is increasing by 2.86% (includes Water Enterprise, CPA, Free Cash)

Total revenues to be appropriated to support general fund budget is estimated at \$13,733,609.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Operating and debt expenditures are increasing by a total of 6.59%.
A breakdown of the increases in each budget category is below:

- General Government increasing by 13.86%
- Public Safety increasing by 3.02%
- Schools increasing by 7.96%
- Public Works increasing by 2.52%
- Human Services decreasing by 3.03%
- Library and Recreation increasing by 3.02%
- Town Debt Service decreasing by 41.40%
- Insurance and Assessments increasing by 10.92%

For the first time in several years, as part of the FY26 budget plan, this budget plans for a \$50,000 free cash appropriation to the Town's General Stabilization Fund and \$50,000 free cash appropriation to the newly created CIP Stabilization Fund.



MAJOR CHANGES

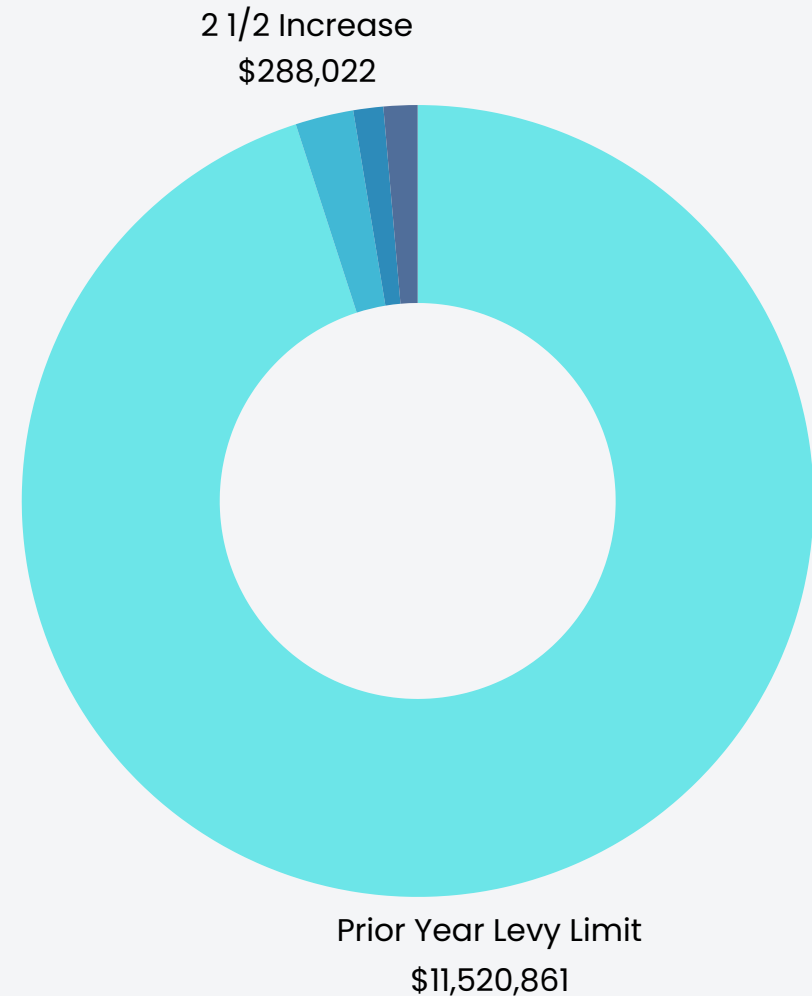
- Health insurance rates increased by 14.13%
- Pension assessment is increasing by 24%
- Liability insurance increased by 3.27%
- Preparing for the Regional Dispatch Assessment in FY29 which equates to \$22,000.
- The Groton Dunstable Regional School District budget assessment increased by 7.89%
- The Greater Lowell Technical High School budget assessment increased by 10.92%
- Total municipal operations and debt service budget is increasing by 4.19%.
- Total municipal salaries are increasing by 4.93%.
- Debt service expenses are based on FY26 debt schedule. All debt service is excluded which means that it is outside of the normal 2.5% levy limitations as voted and approved by the Town residents.

REVENUES

	FY26
Tax Levy	\$11,520,861
2 1/2 % Allowed Increase	\$288,022
New & Amended Growth	\$120,000
Excluded Debt	\$167,853
Cherry Sheet Receipts	\$403,149
Local Receipts	\$800,000
Free Cash for Operating Expenses	\$105,117
Free Cash for Town Articles	\$220,000
Free Cash for GDRSD Capital	\$83,607
Overlay Surplus	\$25,000
Total Revenue	\$13,733,609

PROPOSITION 2 1/2 AND TAX LEVY

	FY25 Actuals	FY26	\$ Increase	% Increase
Prior Year Levy Limit	\$11,095,321	\$11,520,861	\$425,540	3.84%
2 1/2 % Allowed Increase	\$277,383	\$288,022	\$10,639	3.84%
New & Amended Growth	\$148,157	\$120,000	-\$28,157	-19.00%
Excluded Debt	\$315,217	\$167,853	-\$147,364	-46.75%
Total	\$11,836,078	\$12,096,736	\$260,658	2.20%



STATE AID

RECEIPTS	FY2026 Governor's Local Aid Proposal
Unrestricted Gen Gov't Aid	309,515
Exemp: VBS and Elderly	8,546
State Owned Land	76,532
Public Libraries	8,556
Total Estimated Receipts:	403,149
CHARGES	
Air Pollution Districts	1,265
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	1,420
Total All Estimated Charges:	2,685

STATE AID – HISTORY

General Government	2022	2023	2024	2025
Unrestricted General Government Aid	270,317	284,914	294,031	302,852
Veterans Benefits	297	0	0	0
Exemp: VBS and Elderly	7,936	7,692	6,722	5,271
State Owned Land	48,710	62,523	74,661	76,532
Public Libraries	5,492	6,608	7,196	8,306
Total Estimated Receipts	332,752	361,737	382,610	392,961

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Air Pollution	1,140	1,148	1,203	1,236
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	2,060	2,700	1,120	1,420
Total Estimated Charges	3,200	3,848	2,323	2,656

FREE CASH

The FY26 budget also continues the Town's past practice of utilizing its free cash to balance its operating budget. The FY26 operating budget relies on a total of \$105,117.

The Town is also using free cash for the following purposes:

- \$83,607 for GDRSD Capital Improvements
- \$120,000 for Town Capital Improvements
- \$50,000 to transfer to the Town's General Stabilization Fund
- \$50,000 to transfer to the Town's Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund

All total, the Town is using \$408,724 in FY26 or 51.61% of its available free cash. The Town's Certified Free Cash available for use in FY26 is \$791,942.

FREE CASH – HISTORY

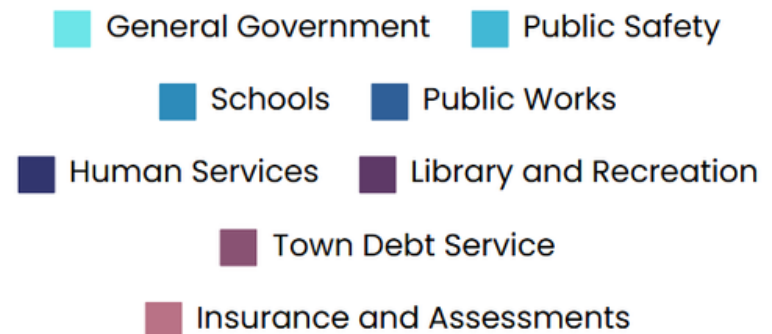
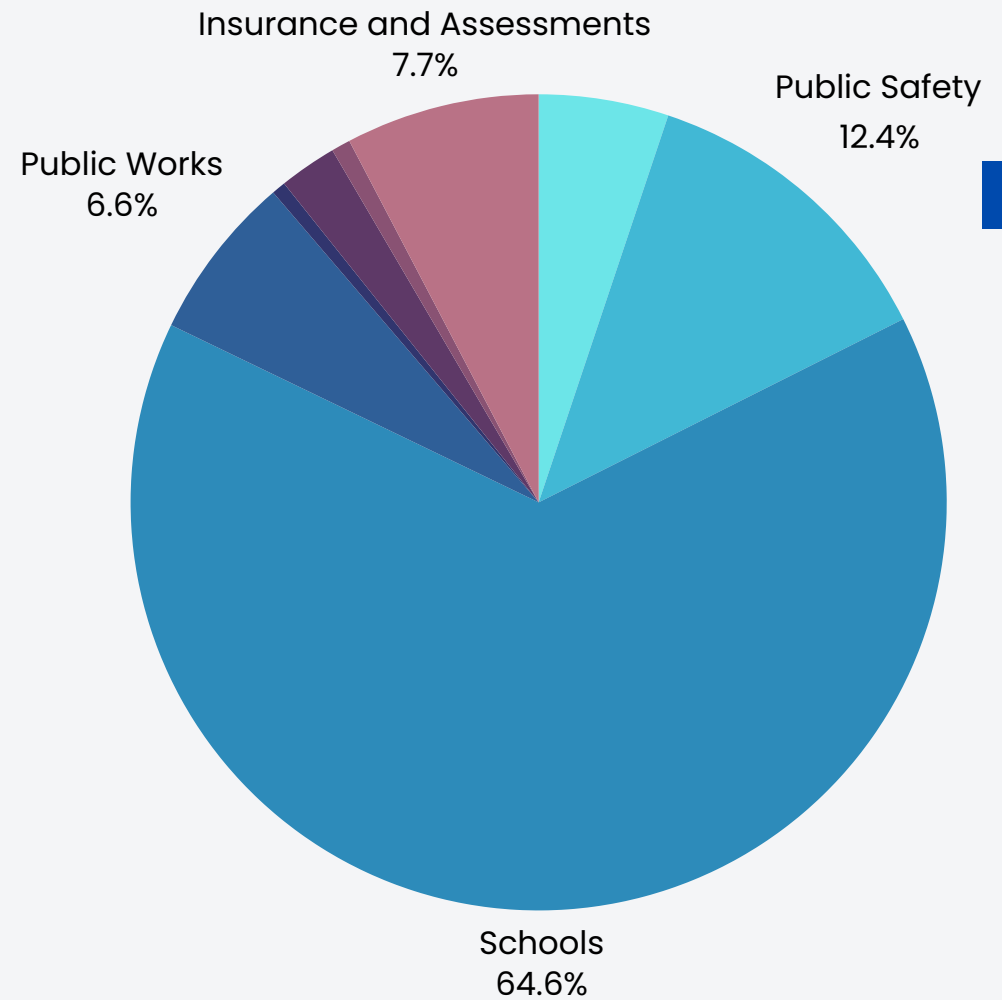
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Budget	\$11,537,330	\$12,265,143	\$13,010,740	\$13,114,504
Free Cash	\$763,086	\$527,737	\$680,186	\$617,368
Free Cash % Budget	6.6%	4.3%	5.2%	4.7%
Free Cash Use	\$668,995	\$509,067	\$519,048	\$358,864
Free Cash % Use	87.7%	96.5%	76.3%	58.1%



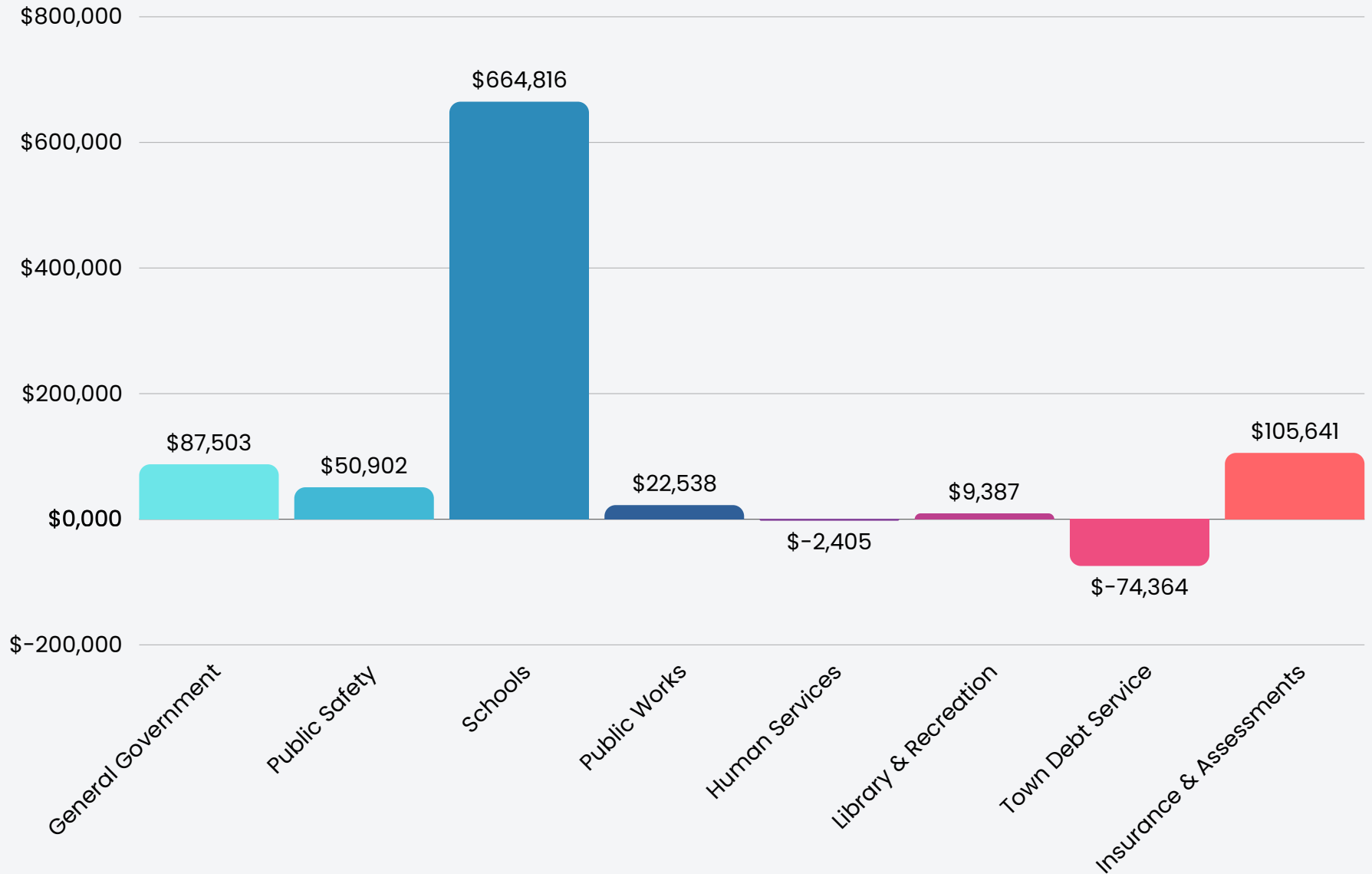
EXPENDITURES

	FY26
General Government	\$718,758
Public Safety	\$1,738,409
Schools – Level Service	\$9,020,968
Public Works	\$918,349
Human Services	\$76,923
Library & Recreation	\$319,881
Town Debt Service	\$105,262
Insurance & Assessments	\$1,073,215
Other	\$242,685
Total	\$14,214,450

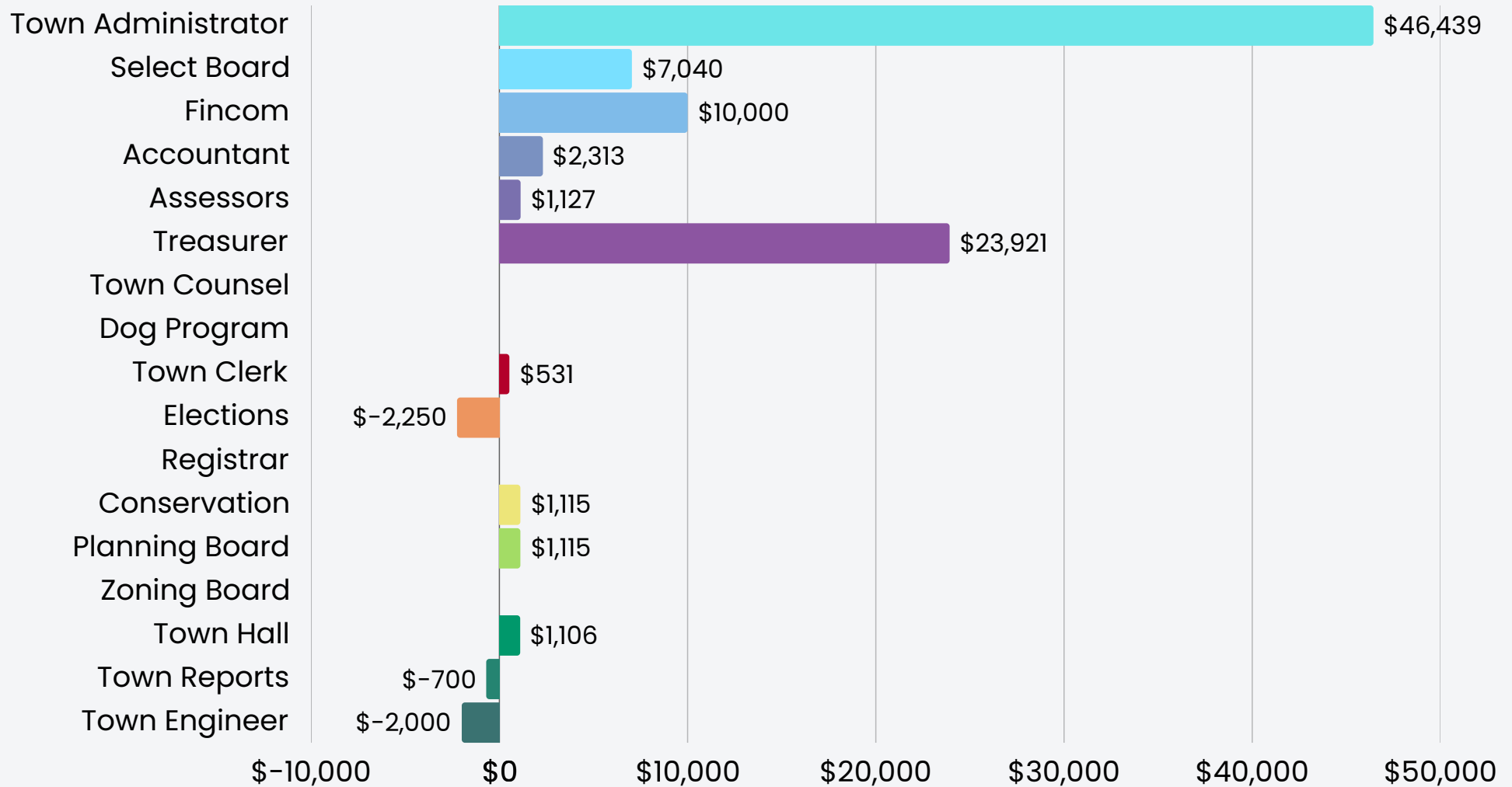
EXPENDITURES



BUDGET SPENDING CHANGES BY BUDGET CATEGORY

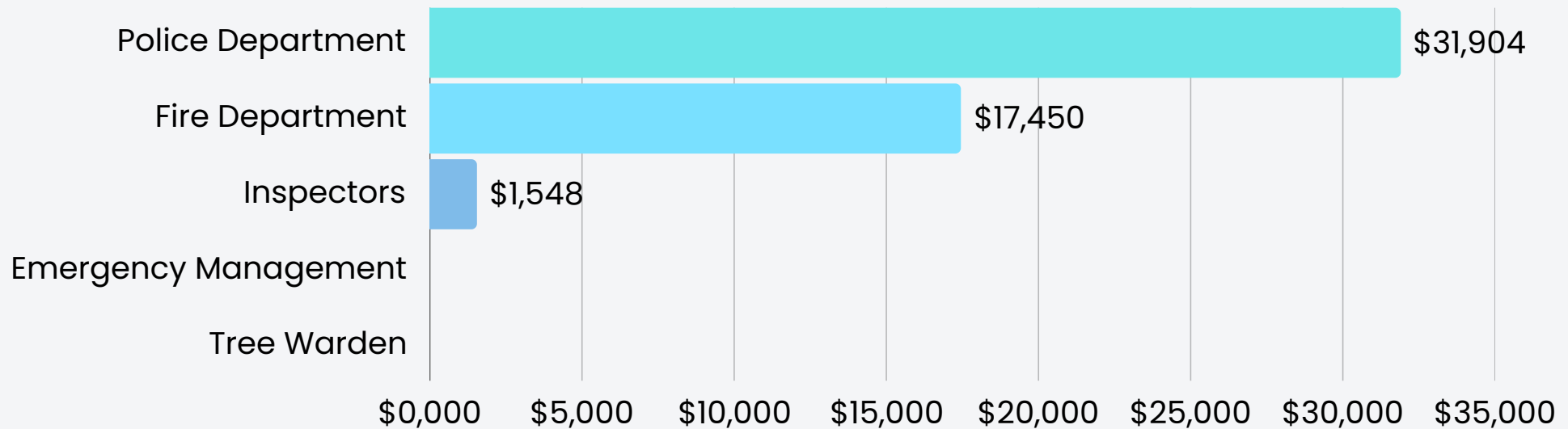


BUDGET SPENDING CHANGES – GENERAL GOVERNMENT

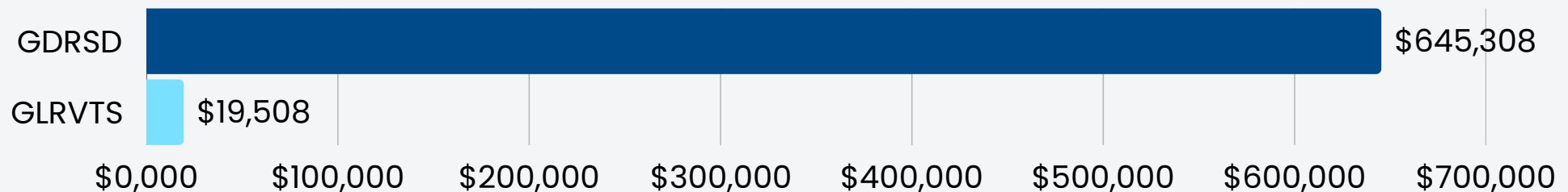


BUDGET SPENDING CHANGES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND SCHOOLS

PUBLIC SAFETY



SCHOOLS



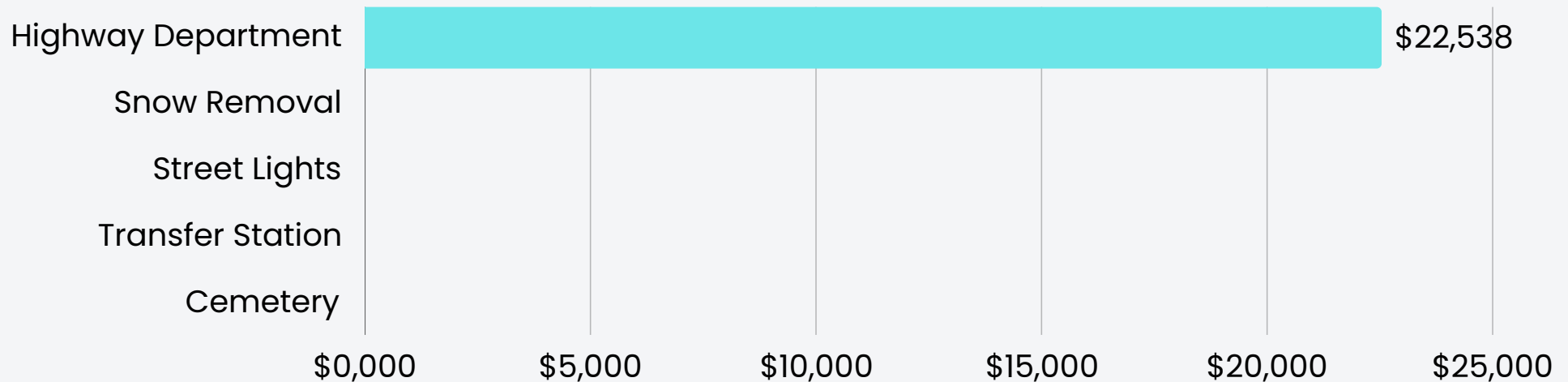
SCHOOLS BREAKDOWN

	GDRSD	% Increase	GLVTHS	% Increase
Total	8,822,894	7.89%	198,074	10.92%
Operating	8,702,863	9.30%	168,133	12.44%
Capital	83,607	-3.60%	29,941	3.14%
Debt	36,424	-71.70%		

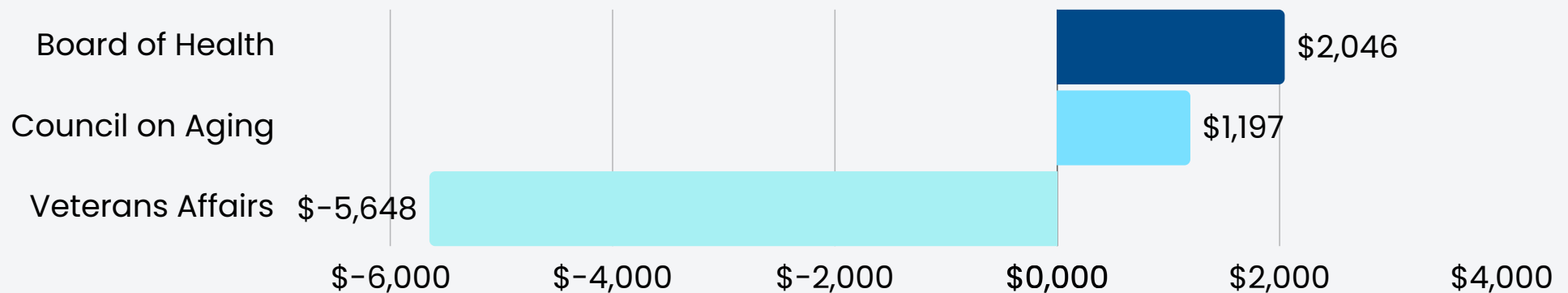
- Groton Dunstable Regional School District overall assessment is increasing by 7.89%
- The GDRSD's Assessment is increasing from \$8,177,586 to \$8,822,864.
- Greater Lowell Technical High School overall assessment is increasing by 10.92%
- The GLTHS Assessment is increasing from \$149,536 to \$168,133.

BUDGET SPENDING CHANGES – PUBLIC WORKS AND HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC WORKS

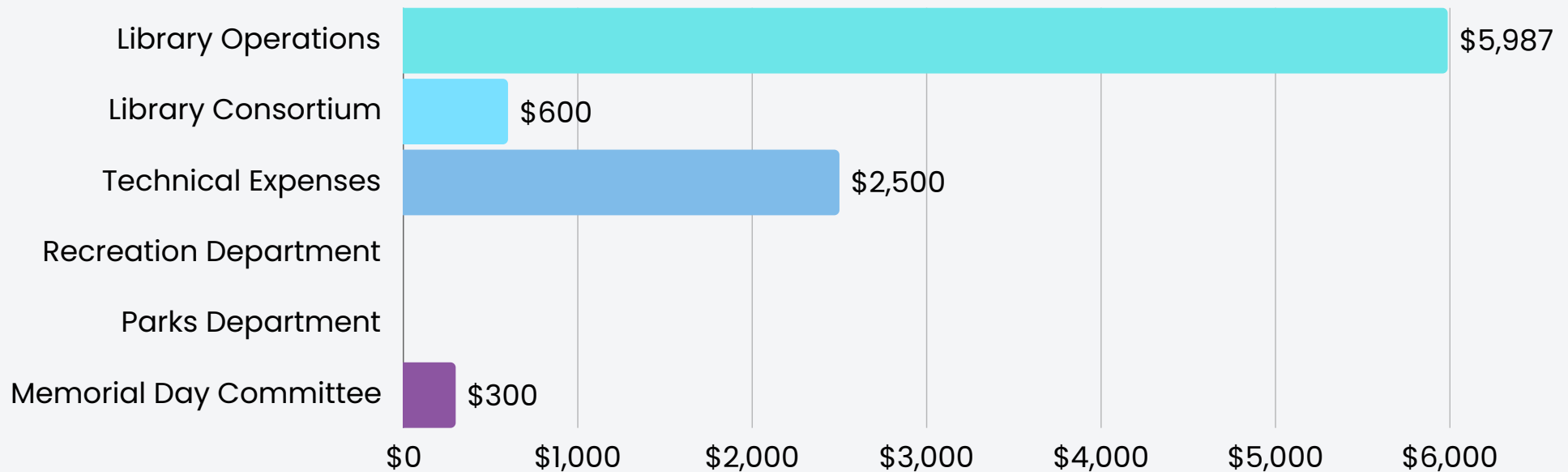


HUMAN SERVICES

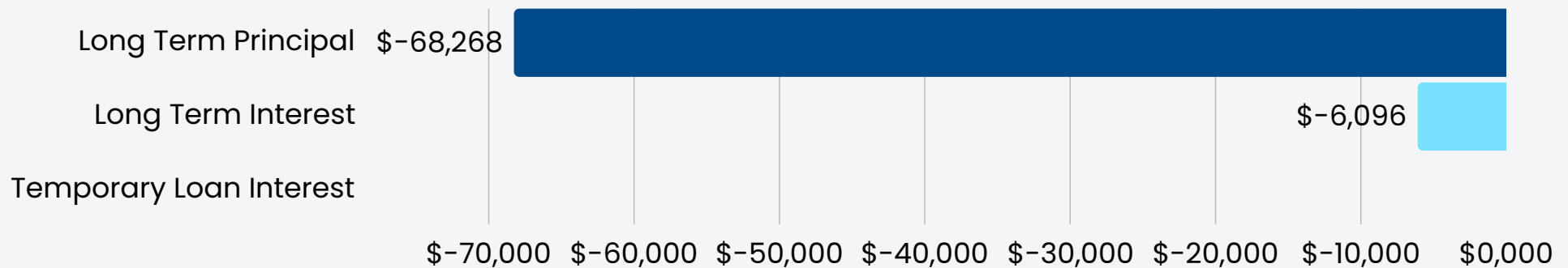


BUDGET SPENDING CHANGES – LIBRARY, RECREATION, AND PARKS, AND

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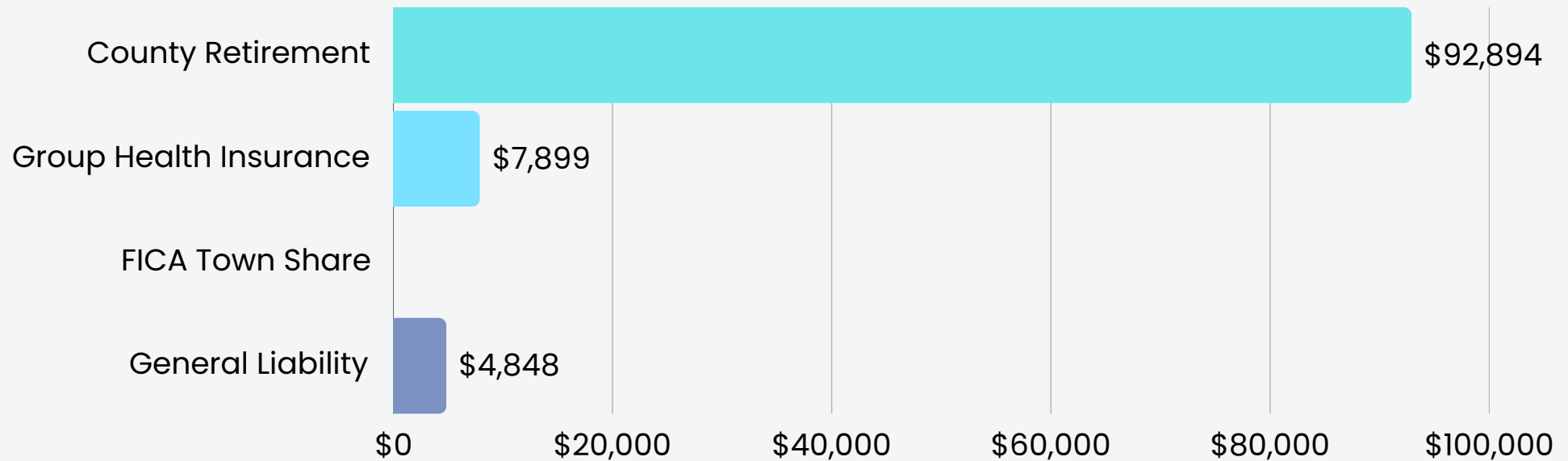


DEBT AND INTEREST



BUDGET SPENDING CHANGES – INSURANCE AND ASSESSMENTS

INSURANCE AND ASSESSMENTS



BUDGET DEFICITS



\$188,963

Groton Assessment



\$480,841

Level Service

TAX IMPACT: LEVEL SERVICE

Deficit (Level Service Assessment)	480,841
Proposed Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000:	0.56
Proposed New Tax Rate Per \$1,000 (Estimated New):	14.31
FY 2025 Average Single Family Assessed Value (Current):	685,358
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill (Current):	9,424
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill Impact (Estimated New):	383.80

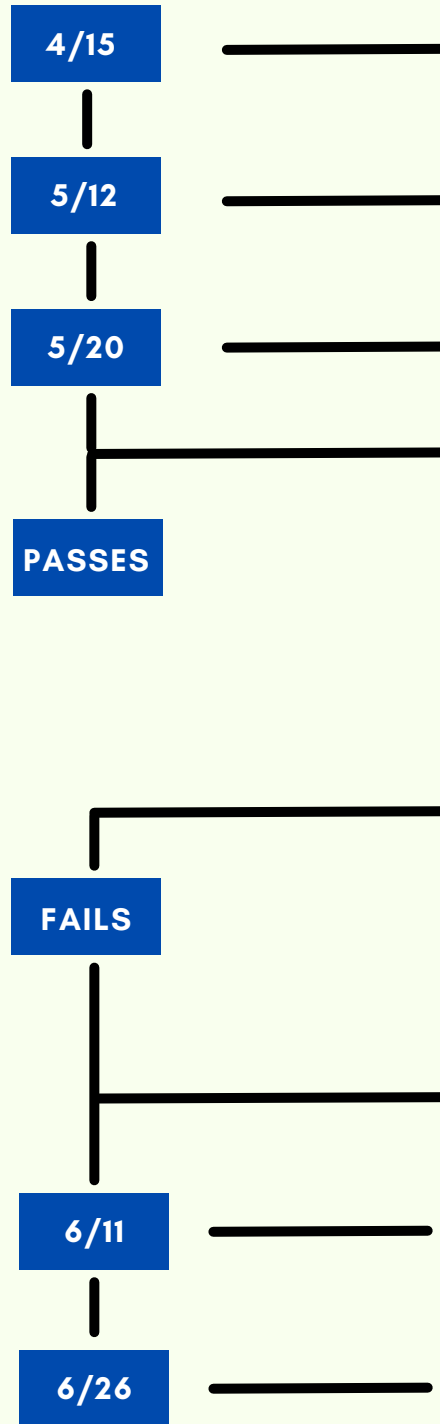
TAX IMPACT: GROTON ASSESSMENT

Deficit (Groton Assessment)	188,963
Proposed Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000:	0.22
Proposed New Tax Rate Per \$1,000 (Estimated New):	13.97
FY 2025 Average Single Family Assessed Value (Current):	685,358
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill (Current):	9,424
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill Impact (Estimated New):	150.78

TAX IMPACT: LEVY INCREASE W/O OVERRIDE: \$205.61



TOWN MEETING AND ELECTION FLOW CHART



Select Board places a question on the ballot of the Annual Town Election (May 20) and Special Town Election (June 10 tentative) for both override questions (level service and Groton assessment) calling a Special Town Election on June 10.

At Annual Town Meeting, both override budgets are presented.

At Annual Town Election, request an override for the level service budget only.

At a Special Town Election, request lower override to match Groton Assessment.

If Groton fails level service budget override, and smaller override passes, the Town will have a balanced budget.

If Groton passes level service budget override, even if smaller override passes, the Town will be in deficit by approximately \$300,000.

Schedule a meeting the day after the election and call for a Special Town Meeting on June 26

Special Town Meeting to adopt balanced budget