

TOWN OF DUNSTABLE

**ANNUAL TOWN
MEETING**

MAY 12, 2025

ARTICLE 1

REPORTS: TO HEAR AND ACT UPON THE REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONERS, AND TRUSTEES, OR TAKE ANY ACTION IN RELATION THERETO.

This article requests Town Meeting to accept the Town's Annual Report and allows for any Town boards or committees to report on their work over the year and to provide updates on items that may need Town Meeting action in the future.

ARTICLE 2

**UNPAID BILLS: TO SEE
IF THE TOWN WILL
VOTE TO
APPROPRIATE FROM
FREE CASH A SUM OF
MONEY FOR THE
PURPOSE OF PAYING
UNPAID BILLS OF
FY2024 OR OTHER
PRIOR FISCAL YEARS,
AS NEEDED, OR TAKE
ANY ACTION IN
RELATION THERETO.**

Article 2 requests Town Meeting to approve unpaid bills from prior fiscal years in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 64

The Town has the following bills from prior fiscal years that require payment:

Powerhouse Portable Restrooms: \$235.00

New England Fire and Sprinkler/BEF Alarms: \$603.48

New England Fire and Sprinkler/BEF Alarms: \$150.00

New England Fire and Sprinkler/BEF Alarms: \$150.00

New England Fire and Sprinkler/BEF Alarms: \$350.00

ARTICLE 3

TRANSFER TO WATER ENTERPRISE FUND: TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS TO THE WATER ENTERPRISE FUND A SUM OF MONEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING OPERATING EXPENSES AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS FOR FY2025, OR TAKE ANY ACTION IN RELATION THERETO.

This is a standard article to allow for a transfer of available funds to the Water Enterprise Fund to support operating expenses. For FY25, this article is not needed and therefore no action will be recommended on this article.

ARTICLE 4

**TRANSFER TO THE GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND:
TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO TRANSFER
FROM FREE CASH THE SUM OF \$50,000 TO THE
TOWN'S GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND, PURSUANT
TO MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 40,
SECTION 5B, OR TAKE ANY ACTION IN RELATION
THERE TO.**

This article requests approval to transfer \$50,000 from
Free Cash to the Town's General Stabilization Fund

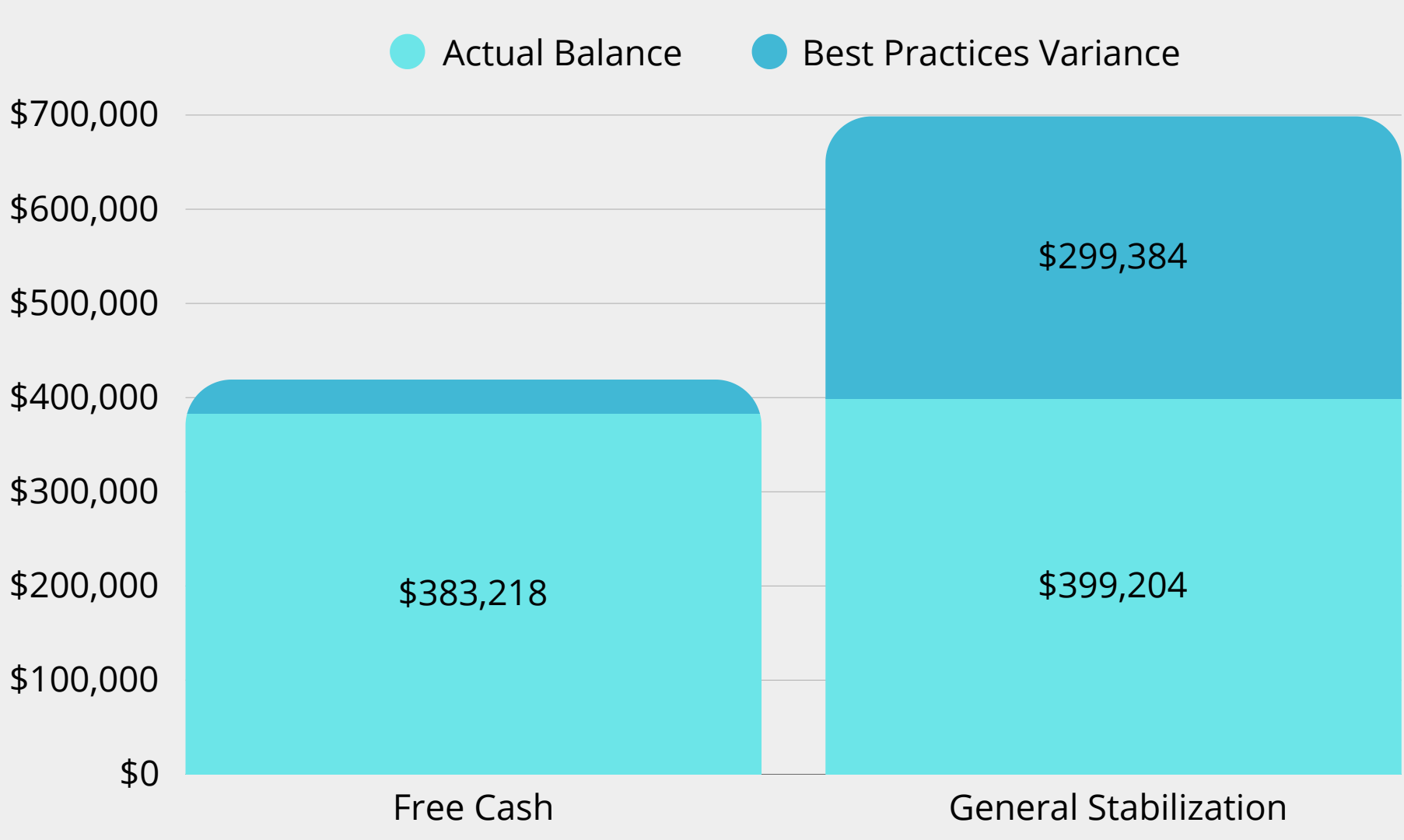
RESERVE FUND BALANCES VERSUS BEST PRACTICES

Balances based on FY26 Proposed Spending Plan

General Stabilization: **\$399,204**

Free Cash Balance: **\$383,218**

Total: **\$782,422**



Target General Stabilization Fund balance of 5% to 10% of operating budget

\$698,588 to \$1,397,176

Target Free Cash balance of 3% to 5% of operating budget

\$419,153 to \$698,588

Total from 8% to 15%

\$1,117,741 to 2,095,765

Variance from minimum best practices:

General Stabilization: **\$299,384**

Free Cash Balance: **\$35,935**

Total: **\$335,319**

ARTICLE 5

TRANSFER TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM STABILIZATION FUND:

**TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO
TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH THE SUM OF
\$50,000 TO THE TOWN'S CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM STABILIZATION
FUND, PURSUANT TO MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 40, SECTION 5B,
OR TAKE ANY ACTION IN RELATION
THERE TO.**

**This article requests a transfer of \$50,000 from
Free Cash to the newly established Capital
Improvement Program Stabilization Fund.**

WHY TRANSFER FUNDS TO CIP STABILIZATION FUND?

- Long-term Financial Planning
- Reduce Reliance on Debt
- Support Grant Matching Requirements
- Strengthens Budget Flexibility
- Address Unexpected Needs

WHY TRANSFER FUNDS TO CIP STABILIZATION FUND?



FY25 -FY30 Capital Plan

Police Station
Improvements

\$1,300,000

Engine 6 and Forestry
Truck for Fire Department

\$1,300,000

Fire Station

\$1,000,000

Road and Infrastructure
Improvements

\$10,000,000

TOWN FINANCIAL POLICIES

One-time revenues should be appropriated to reserve funds and used to fund one-time budget or capital costs

No less than \$25,000 will be appropriated to the General Stabilization Fund with the goal of reaching a balance of 8-10% of the operating budget

Free cash after supporting operating expenses will be distributed in the following manner: 5% to the General Stabilization Fund and no less than 30% used for short-term capital expenses

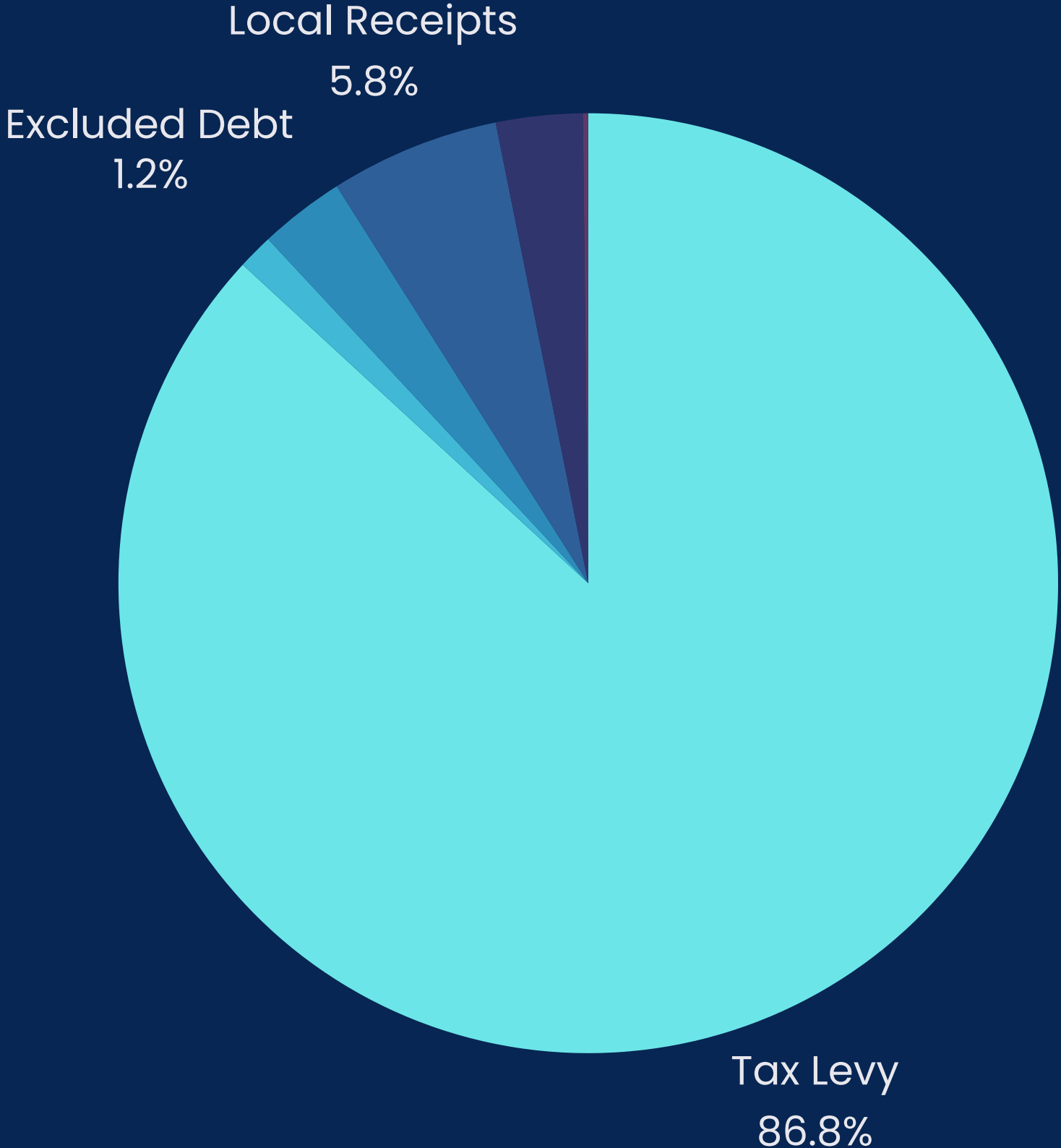
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE

**FY26 OPERATING
BUDGET**

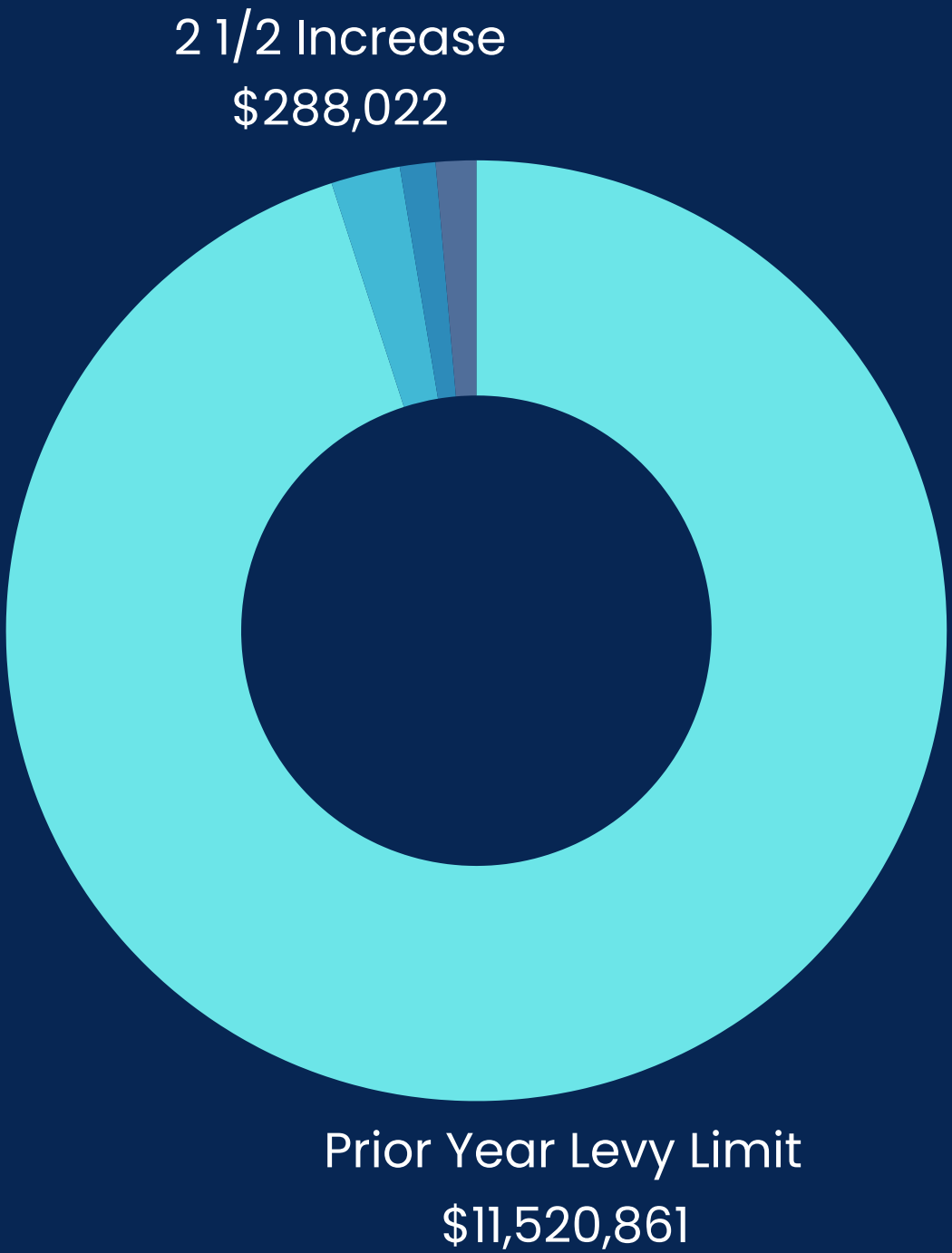
ARTICLE 6

FY26 REVENUE OVERVIEW

Revenue	Amount
Tax Levy	11,928,883
Excluded Debt	\$167,853
Cherry Sheet	\$403,149
Local Receipts	\$800,000
Free Cash	\$408,724
Overlay Surplus	\$25,000
Total	\$13,733,609



REAL ESTATE TAXES



	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%

Excluded

Debt Service



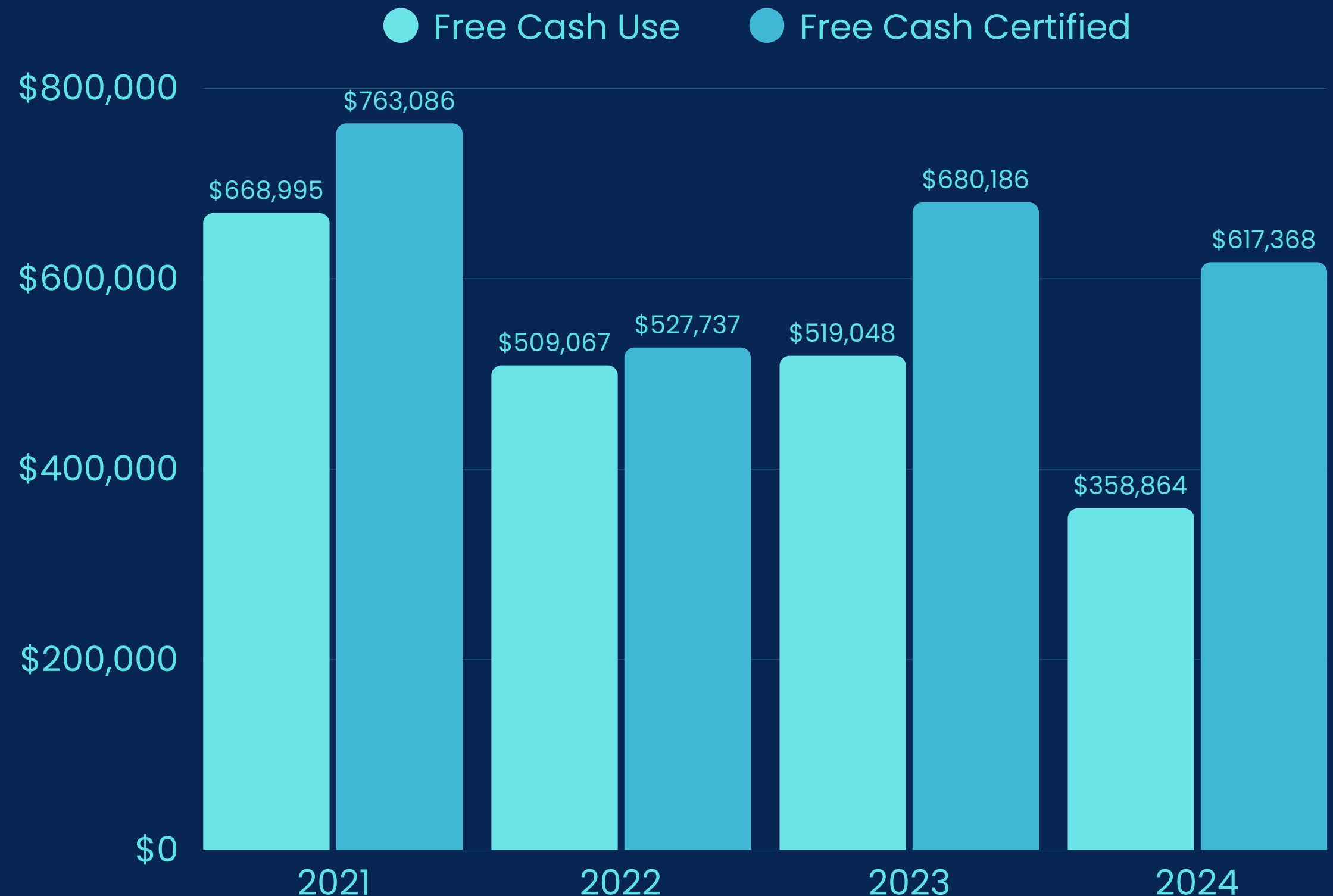
	Excluded Debt	Capital Exclusion
FY18	\$586,446	
FY19	\$561,136	
FY20	\$530,275	
FY21	\$489,288	
FY22	\$365,120	
FY23	\$475,253	\$188,974
FY24	\$326,394	
FY25	\$315,217	
FY26	\$167,853	

Historic Trends

FREE CASH

The FY26 budget 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



FREE CASH

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

	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%

REVENUE CHANGES

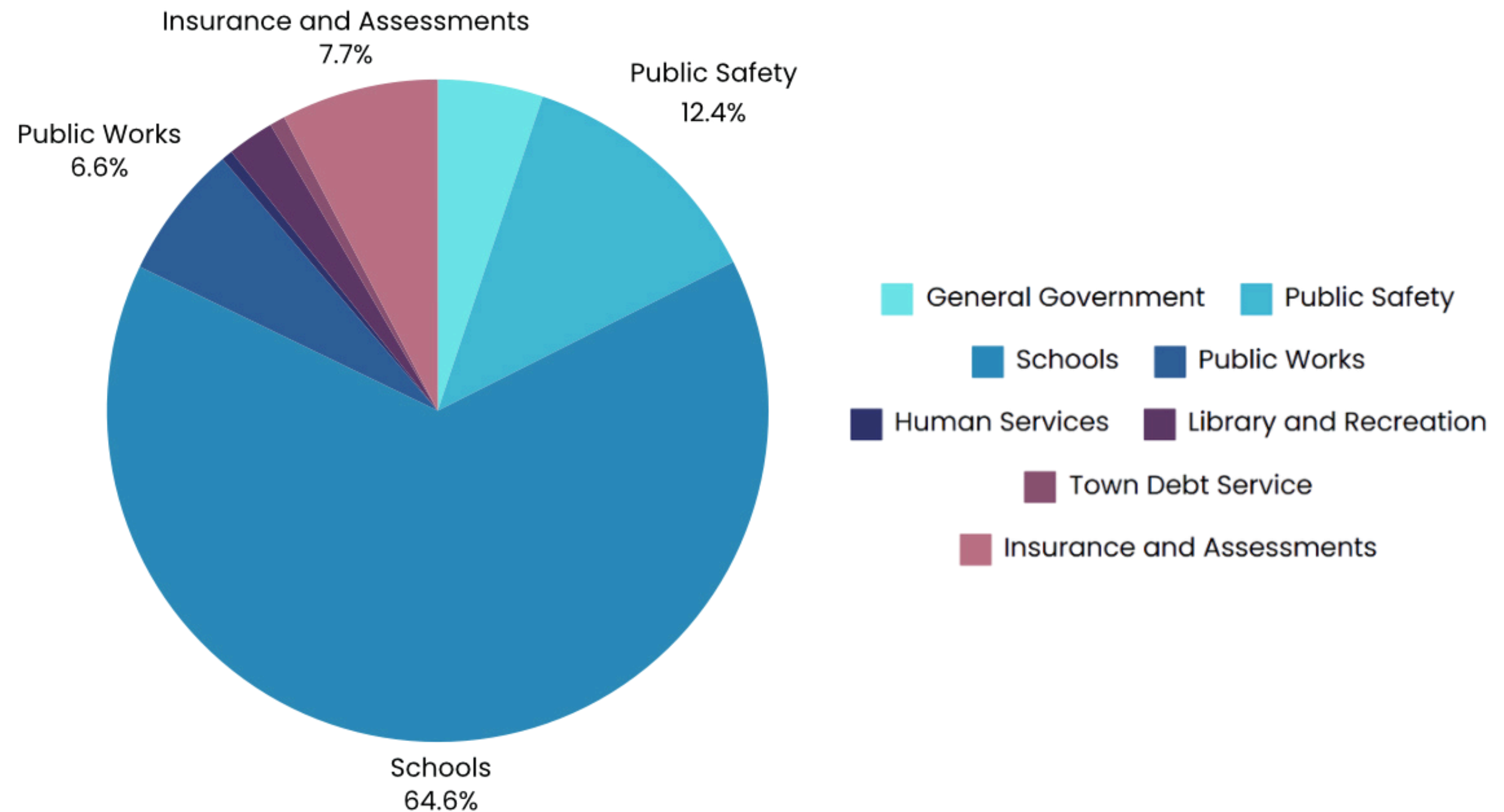
FY26 VERSUS FY25

- The statutory 2.5% increase on the Town's tax levy.
- Projected new growth of \$120,000; in FY25 the Town projected \$110,00 in new growth revenue.
- Local receipts projected to increase from \$750,000 to \$800,000.
- State aid based on the Governor's proposed budget.
- Decrease in free cash from budget revenue from \$358,724 to \$308,724.
- A reduction in excluded debt tax proceeds from \$315,217 in FY25 to \$167,853 in FY26 to fund previously approved excluded debt payments.
- \$25,000 from overlay surplus.

FY26 EXPENDITURES OVERVIEW

The Regional School Districts' Assessments amount to approximately 64% of the Town's overall budget totaling \$9,020,968

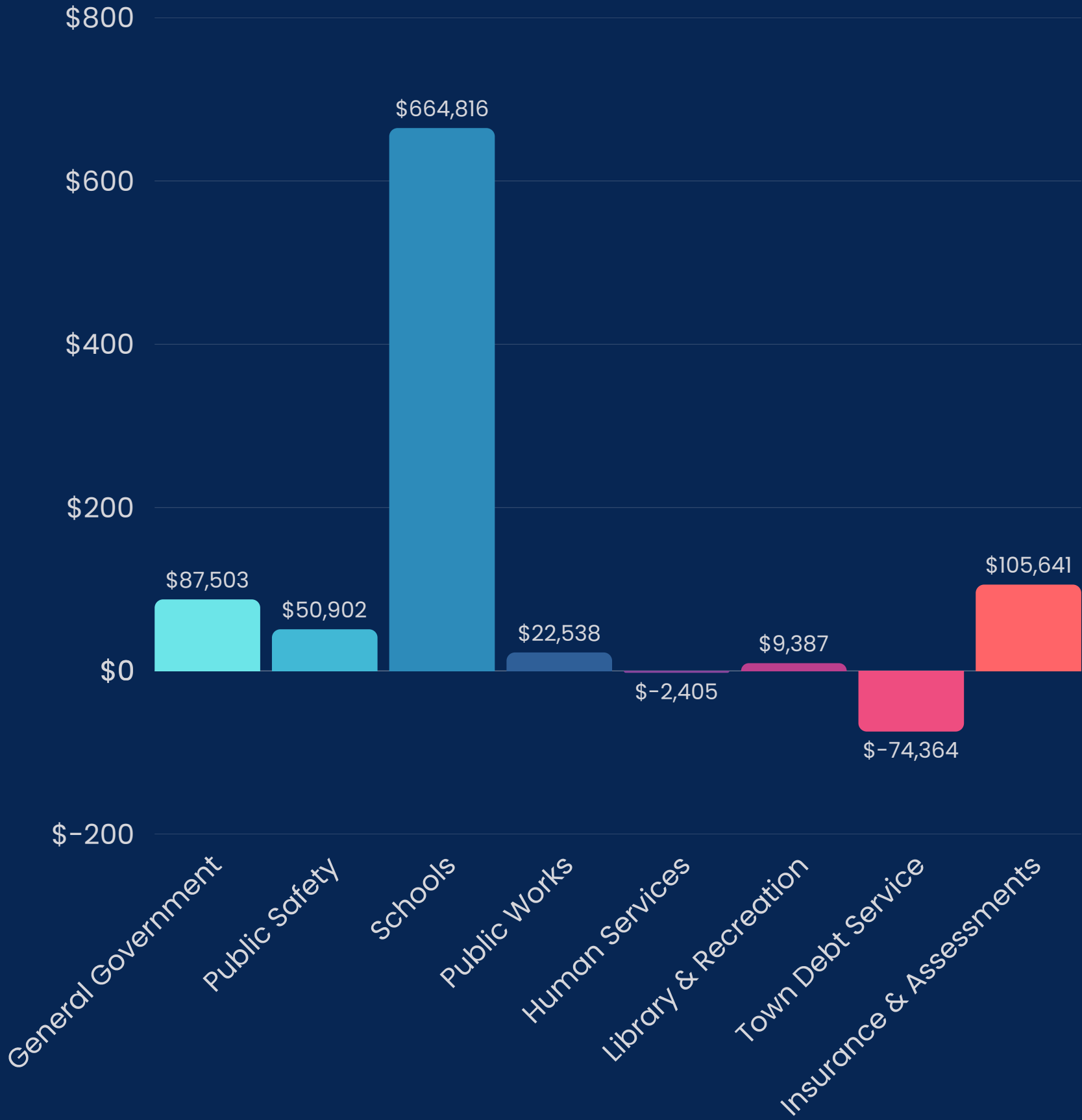
Town operations, debt, and capital makeup the remaining 36% at a total of \$5,070,797.



FY26 EXPENDITURES

Town

	FY25	FY26	Increase/Decrease	% Increase
General Government	\$631,255	\$718,758	\$87,503	13.86%
Public Safety	\$1,687,507	\$1,738,409	\$50,902	3.02%
Public Works	\$895,811	\$918,349	\$22,538	2.52%
Human Services	\$79,328	\$76,923	-\$2,405	-3.03%
Library & Recreation	\$310,494	\$319,881	\$9,387	3.02%
Town Debt Service	\$179,627	\$105,262	-\$74,364	-41.40%
Insurance & Assessments	\$967,574	\$1,073,215	\$105,641	10.92%
Total Town Budget	\$4,751,596	\$4,950,797	\$199,201	4.19%



Schools

GDRSD	\$8,177,586	\$8,822,894	\$645,308	7.89%
GLTHS	\$178,566	\$198,074	\$19,508	10.92%
Total Schools Budget	\$8,356,152	\$9,020,968	\$664,816	7.96%

Total

Total Town Budget	\$13,107,748	\$13,971,765	\$864,017	6.59%
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FY26 MAJOR BUDGET VARIANCES

Schools



Regional Schools Assessments: GDRSD overall assessment is increasing by 7.89% and the Greater Lowell Technical High School assessment is increasing by 10.92%

Town Employee Benefits



Health insurance rates increasing by 14.13%; only increased budget by 2%
Retirement assessment from the Middlesex County Retirement System is increasing by 24%

Town Salaries



Total municipal salaries are increasing by 4.93%
New contracts for the Town Administrator, Fire Chief, and Police Officers Union
Preparing for implementation of ongoing Compensation and Classification Study for administrative employees

FY26 MAJOR BUDGET VARIANCES

Debt Service



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. Excluded debt service tax revenue is projected to decrease by 46.75%

Decreasing Expenses



Veterans Affairs budget reduced by \$5,648 based on historic spending
Elections budget reduced by \$2,250 based on elections planned
Town Engineer budget reduced by \$2,000 based on historic spending
Town Reports budget decreased by \$700 based on historic spending

Increasing Expenses



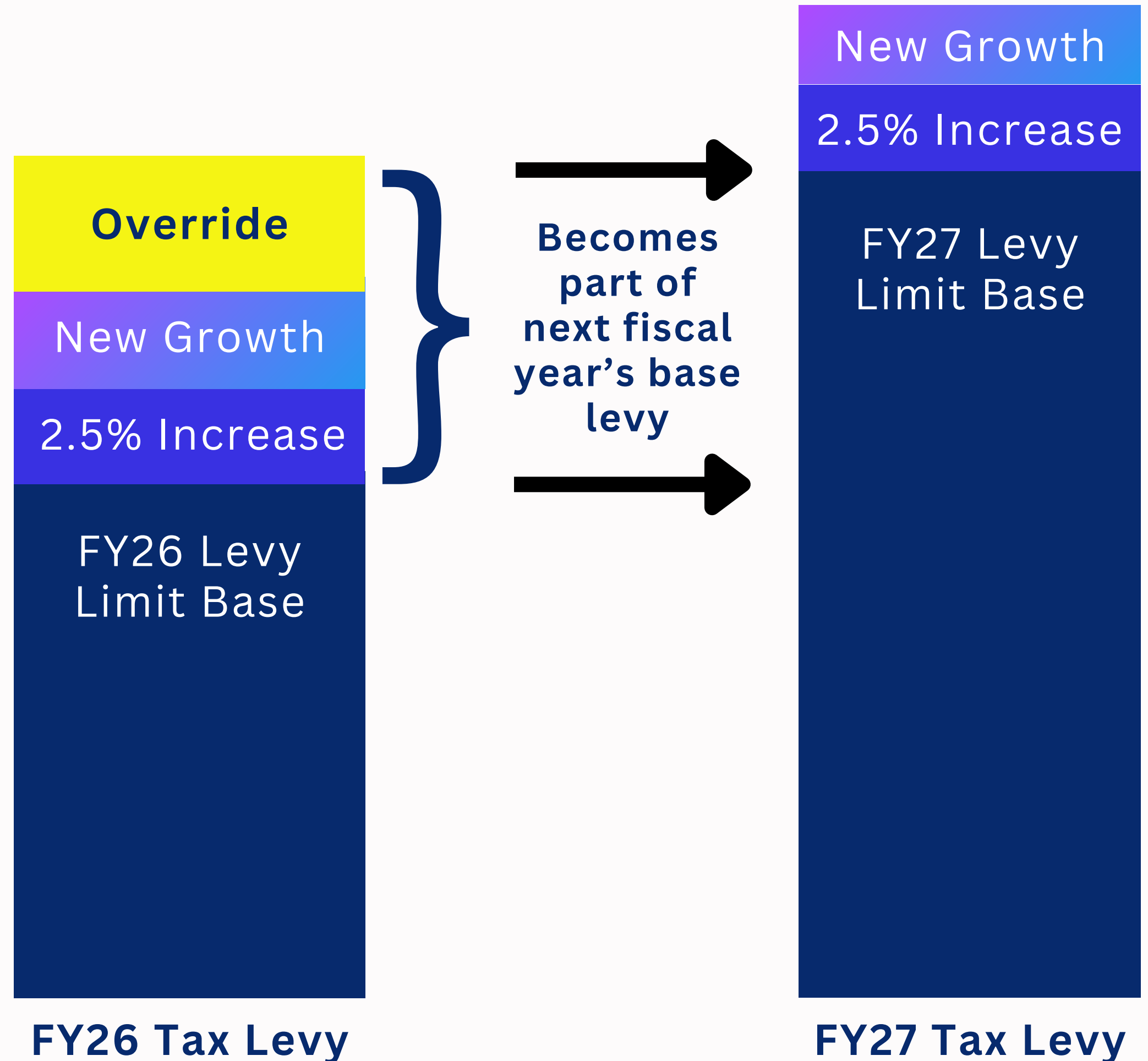
Liability insurance increased by 3.27%
Preparing for the Regional Dispatch Assessment in FY28 which equates to \$22,000
Vehicle, equipment and building repairs
Treasurer/Collector budget increased by \$23,921; offset with lower increase in health insurance
Technology budget increasing by \$2,500 to reflect actual costs

PROPOSITION 2 1/2

How it works

Permanent increases in the levy limit result from the following:

- Automatic 2.5 percent increase. Each year, a community's levy limit automatically increases by 2.5 percent over the previous year's levy limit. This does not require any action on the part of local officials; the Department of Revenue calculates this increase automatically.
- New Growth. A community is able to increase its levy limit each year to reflect new growth in the tax base. Assessors are required to submit information on growth in the tax base for approval by the Department of Revenue as part of the tax rate setting process.
- Overrides. A community can permanently increase its levy limit by successfully voting an override. The amount of the override becomes a permanent part of the levy limit base.



BUDGET SCENARIOS

There are two budget scenarios in Dunstable

Based on Groton Dunstable Regional School District level service budget, the Town of Dunstable's assessment (operating, capital, debt) will be \$8,822,894 or an increase of \$645,308.

This results in a total GDRSD FY26 budget increase of \$3,116,948 or 6.53%.

The level service GDRSD budget requires an override in both Towns of Dunstable and Groton.

Deficit Breakdown

Groton Dunstable Regional Deficit	-401,037
Town Deficit	-65,543
Greater Lowell Technical Deficit	-14,261

To fund the assessment to support the Groton Dunstable Regional School District level service budget, Dunstable requires an override in the amount of **\$480,841**

What does this mean ???

If the override to support a level service budget for Groton Dunstable Regional School District **passes**, the **Town will have a balanced budget.**

If the override to support a level service budget for GDRSD **fails**, the **Town will seek a smaller override.**

BUDGET SCENARIOS

The Town of Groton has committed to an increase of \$1.365 million to their Groton Dunstable Regional School District Assessment. Groton can fund this amount from their estimated tax levy without an override.

The regional school agreement stipulates that the member towns assessment is based on student enrollment on a 5-year rolling average.

Currently, the Town of Dunstable's assessment is based on 23% of the overall student enrollment. In recent years, Dunstable's proportional share has increased slightly year-over-year.

Based on Groton's commitment to a \$1.365 million increase in their assessment, the Town of Dunstable's proportional assessment (operating, capital, debt) will be \$8,620,884 or an increase of \$443,298.

To match the Groton Assessment proportionally, Dunstable requires an override in the amount of **\$278,831**

Deficit Breakdown

Groton Dunstable Regional Deficit	-201,053
Town Deficit	-63,592
Greater Lowell Technical Deficit	-14,185

**What does
this mean**



BUDGET SCENARIOS

If an override of \$278,831 **passes** in Dunstable to proportionally match the Town of Groton the results are as follows:

Budget Reductions

- Groton Dunstable Regional School District will need to reduce its requested budget by approximately **\$875,000**.
- Groton Dunstable Regional School District budget will increase by 4.7%

Reductions in Personnel

- Teachers
- Nurse
- Counselor
- Paraprofessionals
- Central Office

If an override of \$278,831 **fails** in Dunstable to proportionally match the Town of Groton the abovementioned reductions will be necessary and, additionally, **the Town of Dunstable will need to reduce the municipal budget by \$278,831 and call a Special Town Meeting before June 30 to pass a balanced budget before the new fiscal year.**

BUDGET SCENARIOS

The Town's Recommended FY26 Operating Budget is based on a **\$480,841** general override

If the override passes



The Town's budget will be balanced and will maintain current levels of services for municipal and schools.

Reminder

The Town is required to adopt a balanced budget for the next fiscal year. If the Town doesn't have a balanced budget following the results of these override requests, it will need to schedule a Special Town Meeting in advance of July 1 to propose a reduced and balanced budget.

If the override fails



But Groton passes the override



Town has a \$480,841 budget deficit in municipal budget



And override fails in Groton, too



Town still needs a \$278,831 general override for a balanced budget. This budget does not support a level service school budget and would require an \$875,000 school budget reduction requiring further personnel cuts.



If \$278,831 general override fails, Town has a deficit in the municipal budget in that amount.

Why?

Because Groton can afford a higher school assessment increase without an override than Dunstable and the Town is required to proportionally match Groton.

ESTIMATED FY26 TAX INCREASES

Based on FY25 Tax Rate: 13.75 on an Average Single Family Tax Bill

**2 1/2 Increase Plus New
Growth and Excluded
Debt**

**\$205.61
Estimated**

Overrides

**Level
Service
\$383.80
Estimated**

**Groton
Assessment
\$219.31
Estimated**

**Total FY26 Estimated
Tax Increase**

**Level Service
Groton Assessment**

**\$589.41
\$424.92**

MAGNITUDE OF DEFICIT

Groton Assessment
\$278,831 Deficit

Level Service Budget
\$480,841

	Library Budget \$204,935		Recreation \$11,400
	Per Diem Firefighters \$106,080		Highway Paving \$45,500
	Police Officer \$84,000		Highway Brush, Signs, Line Painting \$30,000
	Capital \$120,000		Town Administrator \$178,700
	Parks Budget \$62,500		Council on Aging \$17,754

IN THE HEADLINES

THE  SUN

Pepperell,
Townsend voters
reject overrides

Athol Daily News

Firefighter override passes
by narrow margin at Athol
Town Election

westford



2024 Spring election
results: Proposition 2
1/2 override fails

Local Headline News

VOTERS REJECT \$7.7M
OVERRIDE OF
PROPOSITION 2 1/2

WINTHROP TRANSCRIPT

Town Council
Approves Putting
\$4.95 Million School
Override on November
Ballot

THE  SUN

**Dracut deficit
deepens to \$3.6M**

FY25 Budget We are not alone

General Fund Override requests

42 communities

22 WINS
28 LOSSES

Debt exclusion requests

77 communities

121 WINS
21 LOSSES

Several communities had more than one election and/or question on the ballot

FY24 AND FY25 BUDGET

FY24 BUDGET REDUCTIONS



- Town requested a \$301,162 override which passed at Town Meeting but failed at the ballot by 6 votes
- In FY24, reductions were made to balance the budget after the failed override in Police, Fire, Highway, and Town Hall budgets

FY25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS



- The Groton Dunstable Regional School District laid off a total of 24 FTEs and cut approximately \$2.7 million from their requested FY25 budget
- These reductions resulted in a net increase of the GDRSD FY25 budget of under 1%

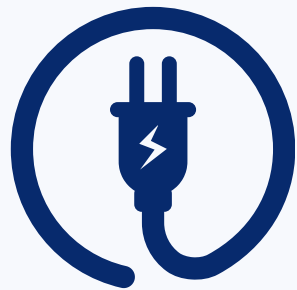
FUTURE PLANNING



Master Plan Implementation Committee, Land Use Committee, Economic Development Committee continue their work.



LIP Projects continue to move forward with the MUD proposal to file locally this week; the state issued the project eligibility letter for the Lowell Street site.



Town is implementing the new **Municipal Electricity Aggregation Program** for its residents in June offering a lower basic service rate than National Grid.



The exterior restoration of the **Union Building** continues to move forward. The project was bid and the Town has received proposals. Work to begin this summer.



NMCOG awarded the Town a technical assistance grant to conduct a **Route 113 Land Use Study and Vision**.



The Affordable Housing Committee and Affordable Housing Trust are discussing and reviewing options for future plans for the **Best Triangle parcels**.



Town continues to work with T-Mobile to advance their proposal to site **their telecommunications equipment** on the Town water tank.



Based on a fee survey of area communities the Town adjusted its **permit, license, and other fees** charged for town services. This will be an ongoing practice moving forward.

GOALS, PRIORITIES, AND POLICIES

Select Board Goals and Priorities

- ✓ Revenue generation and cost efficiencies
- ✓ Development and adoption of financial policies
- ✓ Align budget process with GDRSD and Town of Groton
- ✓ Development of more comprehensive budget document
- ✓ Development and improve upon financial forecast
- ✓ Development of comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan

Financial Policies

- One-time revenues should be appropriated to reserve funds and used to fund one-time budget or capital costs
- Free cash after supporting operating expenses will be distributed in the following manner: 5% to the General Stabilization Fund and no less than 30% used for short-term capital expenses
- No less than \$25,000 will be appropriated to the General Stabilization Fund with the goal of reaching a balance of 8-10% of the operating budget

ARTICLE 7

REVOLVING FUND EXPENDITURE LIMITS

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL
VOTE PURSUANT TO
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL
LAWS CHAPTER 44, SECTION
53E½, TO SET THE ANNUAL
EXPENDITURE LIMITS FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2026 FOR ALL
REVOLVING FUNDS
ESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL
BYLAWS, AS FOLLOWS, OR
TAKE ANY ACTION IN RELATION
THERETO

Article 7 is necessary to establish expenditure limits on Town Revolving Funds, of which there are six. Revolving funds separately account for specific revenues and earmarks them for expenditures for a particular purpose to support the activity or program that generated the revenues.

Cemetery	\$10,000
Recreation	\$15,000
COA Transport	\$3,500
Permit Application Fees	\$5,000
Approval Not Required Plans	\$15,000
Transfer Station	\$190,000

ARTICLE 8

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE A SUM OF MONEY FOR REMODELING, RECONSTRUCTING, AND MAKING REPAIRS TO EXISTING TOWN BUILDINGS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND THE PURCHASE OF NECESSARY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING ALL INCIDENTAL AND RELATED COSTS, OR TAKE ANY ACTION IN RELATION THERETO.

This article requests \$120,000 to support capital improvements for municipal departments

CAPITAL PLANNING

The FY25-FY30 Capital Improvement Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Capital Planning Committee. Below are capital projects in need of funding through the General Fund or other sources.

FY26 Approved Capital Projects

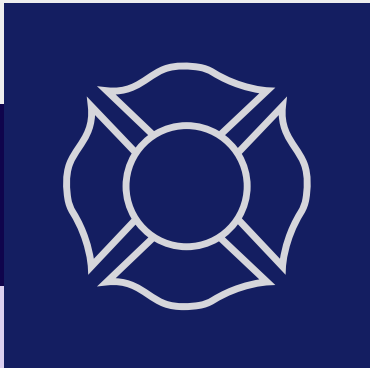


Police Cruiser

\$60,000

**Taser
Replacements**

\$19,500



Mobile Radios

\$20,000



Sander/Spreader

\$50,100



**Exterior/Emergency
Lighting**

\$5,500

ARTICLE 9

WATER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO TRANSFER FROM WATER RETAINED EARNINGS A SUM OF MONEY FOR DESIGN, REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND INSTALLATION OF VARIOUS WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED WORK, INCLUDING ALL INCIDENTAL AND RELATED COSTS, OR TAKE ANY ACTION IN RELATION THERETO.

This article requests \$35,000 from water retained earnings for water infrastructure improvements.

ARTICLE 10

Community Preservation Committee Recommendations



Article 10 is a standard article to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Act annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for debt service, community preservation projects, and potential administrative expenses.

This article is required to transfer not less than 10% of the annual CPA revenues for open space, not less than 10% for historic resources, and not less than 10% for community housing, and not more than 5% for administrative and operating expenses of the Community Preservation Committee. This article also includes the debt service payments due in FY26 for the purchase of the Ferrari Farm property and the Union Building Exterior Restoration project.

Article 11

Removal of Invasive Weeds at Lake Massapoag



TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO TRANSFER FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS, INCLUDING CPA FUNDS, A SUM OF MONEY FOR THE CONTINUED REMOVAL OF INVASIVE WEEDS IN LAKE MASSAPOAG, INCLUDING ALL INCIDENTAL AND RELATED COSTS, BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE, OR TAKE ANY ACTION IN RELATION THERETO.

This article requests \$3,500 of CPA funds to remove invasive weeds at Lake Massapoag

ARTICLES 12 AND 13

Larter Field

Article 12

Larter Field Improvements

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money for professional services to develop a field assessment, evaluation, and design improvements to Larter Field including all incidental and related costs, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 13

Larter Field Master Plan

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money for the development of a Capital and Master Plan for Larter Field including all incidental and related costs, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

ARTICLES 12 AND 13

Article 12

Larter Field Improvements

Larter Field has experienced multiple sinkholes with some areas of the field settling significantly. \$80,000 of CPA funds are being requested for professional services to conduct a field assessment, evaluation, and to design improvements to stabilize the field.



Article 13

Larter Field Master Plan

Building off the field assessment work, the Recreation Commission is requesting \$40,000 to support the creation of a Master Plan for Larter Field to seek community input on its future and to help guide future investments.



ARTICLE 14

WOODWARD'S MILL DAM IMPROVEMENTS

**TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO
TRANSFER FROM AVAILABLE
FUNDS, INCLUDING CPA FUNDS, A
SUM OF MONEY FOR REPAIRS TO
WOODWARD'S MILL DAM,
INCLUDING ALL INCIDENTAL AND
RELATED COSTS, BASED UPON THE
RECOMMENDATION OF THE
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION
COMMITTEE, OR TAKE ANY ACTION
IN RELATION THERETO.**



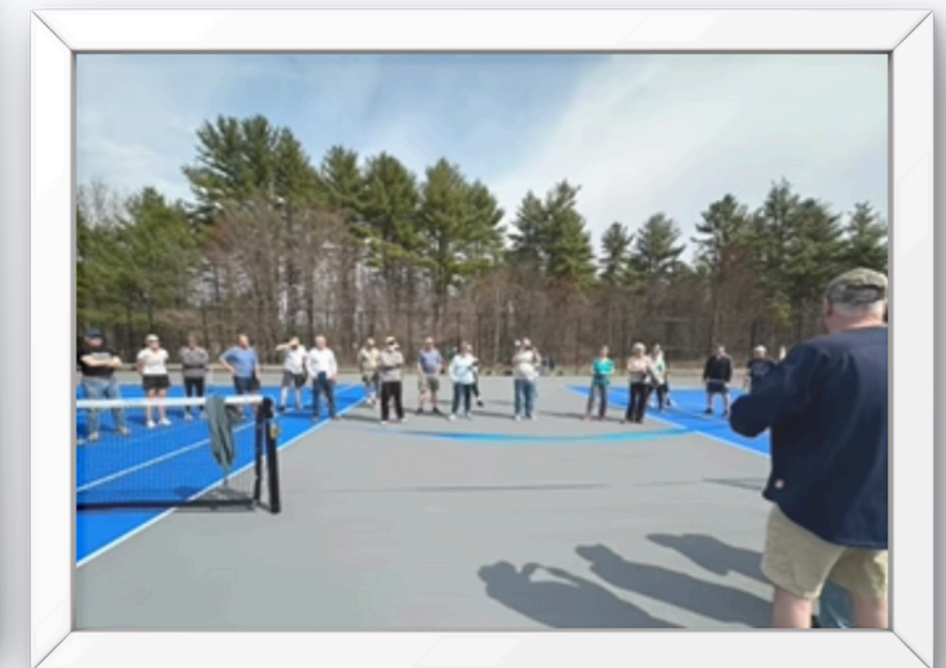
This article requests \$25,000 of CPA funds to make repairs to Woodward's Mill Dam.

ARTICLE 15

TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS AT LARTER FIELD

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO TRANSFER FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS, INCLUDING CPA FUNDS, A SUM OF MONEY FOR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS AT LARTER FIELD INCLUDING ALL INCIDENTAL AND RELATED COSTS, BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE, OR TAKE ANY ACTION IN RELATION THERETO.

To complete the construction of the tennis and pickleball courts at Larter Field there is a need for a supplemental appropriation of \$11,240 for additional work required that was not included in the original scope of work.



ARTICLE 16

**ESTABLISHMENT OF DUNSTABLE
COMMISSION ON ACCESSIBILITY
TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL ACCEPT
THE PROVISIONS OF
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS
CHAPTER 40, SECTION 8J RELATIVE
TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION ON
DISABILITY, TO BE CALLED THE
DUNSTABLE COMMISSION ON
ACCESSIBILITY, OR TAKE ANY
ACTION IN RELATION THERETO**

This article requests the Town to establish a local Commission on Disabilities, called the Dunstable Commission on Accessibility, to help ensure residents with disabilities are included in Town affairs, and that Dunstable is proactive in improving accessibility, compliance, and participation in programs and services.

ARTICLE 17

LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 21C, to authorize the Select Board to enter into lease purchase agreements for the lease and purchase of vehicles and certain capital for a period of time not in excess of the useful life of the property to be procured on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deem in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Select Board to take all actions necessary to administer and implement such agreement and to fund said lease purchase through an annual appropriation, or take any action in relation thereto.

This article requests authorization for the Town to acquire a new truck for the Highway Department through a lease-purchase agreement, which allows the Town to finance the cost over multiple years while maintaining ownership at the end of the lease term.

ARTICLE 18

CHAPTER 90 FUNDS

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO APPROPRIATE ANY SUMS OF MONEY RECEIVED BY THE TOWN UNDER PROVISIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 90 FOR THE PURPOSES AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 90, OR TAKE ANY ACTION IN RELATION THERETO.

This article requests authorization to appropriate Chapter 90 funds allocated by the Commonwealth to the Town of Dunstable for roadway and infrastructure improvements.

ARTICLE 19

VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION ANNUAL COST OF LIVING INCREASE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause Seventeenth F, which will allow the Town to provide for an increase in property tax exemptions for veterans equal to the cost of living as determined by the most recent Consumer Price Index for such year as determined by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, or take any action in relation thereto.

The HERO Act (Honoring, Empowering, and Recognizing Our Veterans) was adopted in 2022 and allows communities to adjust the veterans property tax exemptions annually based on the Consumer Price Index. Adoption of this adjustment ensures that the exemption keeps pace with inflation, providing continued tax relief to eligible veterans and their families.

ARTICLE 20

Municipal Charges Lien

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO ADOPT THE PROVISIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 40 SECTION 58, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE TOWN TO PLACE A LIEN ON REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWN FOR UNPAID MUNICIPAL CHARGES AND FEES; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN TO PLACE SUCH A MUNICIPAL CHARGES LIEN ON REAL PROPERTY FOR THE FOLLOWING UNPAID CHARGES AND FEES: PAYMENTS REQUIRED AS A CONDITION OF ANY SPECIAL PERMIT, VARIANCE, LICENSE, SITE ASSIGNMENT, SITE PLAN REVIEW, OR OTHER LAND USE APPROVAL THAT IS ISSUED BY ANY BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, OR OFFICER OF THE TOWN, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO UNPAID PEER REVIEW CHARGES, OR TAKE ANY ACTION IN RELATION THERETO.

This article requests acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40 Section 58 allowing the Town to secure payments for certain unpaid municipal fees and charges by placing a lien on the property and collecting the charge as part of the property tax bill.

ARTICLE 21

Amendment to Amend Section 15.2: Floodplain District of the Town's Bylaw

This article requests an update to Dunstable's Floodplain District Bylaw to align with FEMA's latest flood maps, ensuring compliance and better flood risk management.