

The following is a draft warrant, subject to change until such time as it is legally posted.

**FY2027 WARRANT  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**TO:** S. Clyde Ross, a Resident of the Town of Farmington in the County of Franklin and State of Maine.

**GREETING:** In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Farmington, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Community Center at 127 Middle Street in said Town on Monday, the ELEVENTH DAY OF MAY, 2026, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on Articles 1 through 34, all the Articles being set out below, to wit:

**FIRST** - To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

NOTE: an asterisk (\*) indicates a six-month budget. This budget included \$.45/hr COLA for all employees. There is no additional COLA applied for FY2027.

**SECOND** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,021,477	\$373,437	\$795,674
Selectmen Recommended	1,021,477	373,437	795,674
Budget Committee Recommended	1,030,353	367,889	795,674
Town Meeting Approved	1,030,353	373,437	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

	<u>Approp 2025</u>	<u>Approp FY2026*</u>	<u>Request FY2027</u>	<u>Bdg Comm Recmnd</u>	<u>Selectmen Recmnd</u>
1. Administration	\$332,260	\$119,320	\$242,385	\$242,385	\$242,385
2. Assessor	163,617	61,678	127,685	127,685	127,685
3. Treasurer / Clerk	410,895	152,604	309,095	309,095	309,095
4. Municipal Building	81,906	27,050	86,664	86,664	86,664
5. Committees & Events	5,750	2,200	3,760	3,760	3,760
6. General Assistance	35,925	10,585	26,085	26,085	26,085
7. Conservation Comm	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,030,353</b>	<b>\$373,437</b>	<b>\$795,674</b>	<b>\$795,674</b>	<b>\$795,674</b>

The Administration Budget covers salaries and wages for the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Executive Assistant, and half of the Planning Assistant position. It includes a scheduled merit increase for one employee. Operating expenses include office supplies, equipment, and professional services such as Town Report printing, public notices, and routine legal services. The \$89,875 decrease in this cost center compared to 2025 is primarily due to moving payroll taxes, retirement, health insurance, worker's compensation, landline phones, the IT management contract and townwide software systems to Fixed Assessments. Dues also show a decrease of \$7,600 due to transferring AVCOG dues to TIF.

The Assessor's Department budget includes salaries and wages for the full-time Assessor, half of the Assessing/Counter Clerk's wages, and expenses for office supplies, software licenses, GIS mapping, and association dues. It includes planned merit increases for two employees, one of which was effective in the FY2026 budget. The \$35,932 decrease compared to 2025 is primarily due to moving payroll taxes, retirement, health insurance, worker's compensation, landline phones, the IT management contract and townwide software systems to Fixed Assessments.

The Town Clerk/HR & Treasurer budget includes salaries for the Town Clerk and Treasurer, as well as wages for the AP Counter Clerk and half of the Assessing/Counter Clerk position. It includes planned merit increases for four employees, two of which were effective in the FY2026 budget. The budget also provides funding for election administration, financial software, the annual audit, tax bill printing, legal services related to liens and foreclosures, and payroll and benefits processing for all Town departments. The \$101,800 decrease compared to 2025 is primarily due to moving payroll taxes, retirement, health insurance, worker's compensation, landline phones, the IT

management contract and townwide software systems to Fixed Assessments. There are increases to postage and lien costs totaling \$4,500 due to the need to lien two years of taxes in this budget and an increase in the filing fees at the registry of deeds.

The Municipal Building budget covers all routine maintenance and daily operating costs of the Town Office, including utilities, waste removal, and mechanical and plumbing services. It also includes wages for the part-time Custodian, reflecting a planned merit increase which was applied in FY 2026. The \$4,758 increase compared to 2025 is primarily due to the increase in heating fuel and electricity costs.

The Committees and Events budget includes Memorial Day Flags, the Planning Board, and Special Projects—a discretionary account that allows the Selectmen to authorize expenditures for appropriate projects, promotions, and events. The \$1,990 decrease compared to 2025 is due to a donation for the Wall That Heals having been included in the 2025 budget.

The General Assistance program provides essential support to eligible applicants and covers related administrative expenses, including required training, the mandated 24-hour GA cell phone, and office supplies. This budget has decreased \$10,000 compared to 2025 which reflects average expenditure over the last four years. Program costs for direct services are partially offset by a state reimbursement equal to 70% of eligible expenditures; *administrative expenses are not reimbursable*.

**THIRD** – To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **CODE ENFORCEMENT** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$215,754	\$94,434	\$187,810
Selectmen Recommended	215,754	94,434	187,810
Budget Committee Recommended	210,404	94,334	187,810
Approved	215,754	94,434	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

This budget request supports the operating costs for 2.5 staff positions responsible for Code Administration, Planning, and Community Development. It includes salaries and wages for the Code Enforcement Officer, the Code Assistant/LPI, and half of the Planning Assistant. It includes a scheduled merit increase for one employee, and the addition of a Professional Services line to cover the annual stipend for the backup LPI (to cover vacations for the full-time LPI). This is offset by an increase of \$8,500 in plumbing permit revenues. The \$27,944 decrease compared to 2025 is primarily due to moving payroll taxes, retirement, health insurance, worker’s compensation, landline phones, the IT management contract and townwide software systems to Fixed Assessments.

**FOURTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **POLICE DEPARTMENT** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,884,440	\$693,527	\$1,431,020
Selectmen Recommended	1,884,440	665,287	1,431,020
Budget Committee Recommended	1,910,190	662,687	1,431,020
Town Meeting Approved	1,884,440	665,287	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

The Police Department budget includes contractual obligations for union personnel and training and development and planned merit increases for several employees. There are 13 full-time sworn staff, including the Chief and Deputy Chief, two part-time sworn officers, one full-time Office Manager and a part-time dispatcher. The budget provides continuous 24/7 police coverage and funds Animal Control, Parking Enforcement, and School Crossing Guard services. It also supports facility and vehicle maintenance, specialized equipment, and the K-9 program. The \$453,420 decrease compared to 2025 is primarily due to moving payroll taxes, retirement, health insurance, worker’s compensation, landline phones, the IT management contract and townwide software systems to Fixed Assessments and decreases to travel and training ammunition which is in good supply. These decreases are diminished by an increase to the wages line in

anticipation of a new union contract and the addition of a part-time patrol position covering one shift per pay period.

**FIFTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,035,524	\$392,260	\$822,508
Selectmen Recommended	1,035,524	392,260	822,508
Budget Committee Recommended	999,794	392,260	822,508
Town Meeting Approved	1,035,524	392,260	

STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget funds salaries and wages for the Fire Chief, 75% of the Fire/Public Works Administrative Assistant, eight full-time firefighters, and a call force and per-diem staff. It includes increased per-diem hours to reduce full-time overtime. It also includes scheduled merit increases for several employees. Operating expenses cover fire and EMS services, including equipment, software, training, vehicle and equipment maintenance, and required firefighter health assessments. The budget also provides for the operation and maintenance of the Farmington Falls Fire Station. The \$213,016 decrease compared to 2025 is primarily due to moving payroll taxes, retirement, health insurance, worker's compensation, landline phones, the IT management contract and townwide software systems to Fixed Assessments. Overtime and contract services also decreased. These decreases are somewhat diminished by increases in safety equipment (turnout gear), motor fuel and building maintenance (bi-annual filter replacements).

**SIXTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,768,951	\$701,098	\$1,533,048
Selectmen Recommended	1,768,951	701,098	1,533,048
Budget Committee Recommended	1,784,891	700,498	1,533,048
Town Meeting Approved	1,768,951	701,098	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

The Public Works Department budget supports the maintenance of the Town's 120 miles of roads and drainage infrastructure, and funds salaries and wages for eleven full-time and one part-time employees, including merit increases for several full-time staff. It also covers operating expenses for the Public Works Facility, all cemeteries, the line-stripping contract, street sign replacements, and required staff training and licensing. The \$235,903 decrease compared to 2025 is primarily due to moving payroll taxes, retirement, health insurance, worker's compensation, landline phones, the IT management contract and townwide software systems to Fixed Assessments. There were also significant decreases to street signs, road maintenance, and line striping due to supplies on hand and bringing some work in-house. On the downside there were increases in electricity, motor fuel and heating fuel due to the current market, and a large increase of \$70,000 to vehicle maintenance due to the demands of an aging fleet and rising costs.

**SEVENTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **RECYCLING DEPARTMENT** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$190,908	\$87,175	\$209,930
Selectmen Recommended	190,908	87,175	209,930
Budget Committee Recommended	190,908	87,175	209,930
Town Meeting Approved	190,908	87,175	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

This budget covers all operating expenses for the transfer station and two part-time employees. It also covers all costs associated with maintaining the facility and equipment. The \$19,022 increase compared to 2025 is due increases in disposal and brush chipping costs.

**EIGHTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PARKS AND RECREATION AND COMMUNITY CENTER DEPARTMENTS** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$483,333	\$156,897	\$338,337
Selectmen Recommended	483,333	156,897	338,337
Budget Committee Recommended	482,326	156,507	338,337
Approved	483,333	156,897	

	<u>Approp 2025</u>	<u>Approp FY2026*</u>	<u>Request FY2027</u>	<u>Bdg Comm Recmnd</u>	<u>Selectmen Recmnd</u>
Parks and Recreation	\$305,175	\$86,025	\$182,350	\$182,350	\$182,350
Community Center	\$178,158	\$70,872	\$155,987	\$155,987	\$155,987
TOTAL	\$483,333	\$156,897	\$338,337	\$338,337	\$338,337

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

The Parks and Recreation budget funds the operation and maintenance of all recreational facilities and grounds, including all structures at Hippach Field, Walton Mill Park, Russell Mills Park and various smaller parks and playgrounds. It covers salaries and wages for the full-time Director, half of the full-time Maintenance position, and seasonal part-time staff. The Community Center budget includes all building operating and maintenance expenses, as well as salaries and wages for the full-time Assistant Director, half of the full-time Maintenance position, and several part-time clerical and event support staff. It also includes scheduled merit increases for all three full-time staff.

The \$144,995 decrease compared to 2025 is primarily due to moving payroll taxes, retirement, health insurance, worker's compensation, landline phones, the IT management contract and townwide software systems to Fixed Assessments. Both budgets are reduced significantly due to the transfer of all paid program staff and program-related expenses to a new special revenue account established in FY2026. Program revenues, including registration and jersey fees, will also move to this account, ensuring these activities are self-funded and outside the tax levy. Any remaining balance will be carried forward annually.

The decreases are diminished by increases in motor fuel, electricity and heating fuel, the addition of the copier contract in FY2026 and the purchase of an AED for Hippach Field.

**NINTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **FIXED ASSESSMENTS** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$181,255	\$868,920	\$1,712,400
Selectmen Recommended	181,255	846,300	1,712,400
Budget Committee Recommended	181,255	846,300	1,712,400
Town Meeting Approved	181,255	846,300	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

	<u>Appropriated 2025</u>	<u>Appropriated FY2026*</u>	<u>Requested FY2027</u>
1. Insurance	\$181,255	\$ 97,600	\$180,700
2. FICA	0	138,235	292,600
3. PFML	0	2,000	12,300
4. Retirement	0	178,645	368,400
5. Health Insurance	0	351,100	730,300
6. Workers Comp	0	54,680	78,200
7. Telephone (landlines)	0	6,190	12,400
8. IT Network Management	0	6,550	19,600
9. Application Software	0	11,300	17,900
TOTAL	\$181,255	\$846,300	\$1,712,400

In 2025, this budget included only the Insurance line and appeared under the Other Protections article. Starting in FY2026, town-wide expenses previously allocated across individual departments have been consolidated into the Fixed Assessments category.

This change does not affect the overall FY2027 appropriation; it simply centralizes these costs within a single cost center.

Fixed Assessments now include payroll taxes and benefits, Workers' Compensation, the Town's landline contract (with long-distance and cellular charges remaining in departmental budgets), IT management services, and subscription costs for Office 365, Power DMS, email security, server backup, and antivirus protection. These expenses are outside departmental control and historically required significant staff time to allocate. Aside from payroll-related items, distributing these costs by department is largely arbitrary and often results in posting errors that require additional correction.

In 2025, \$1,426,145 was budgeted for employee-related fixed assessments, \$12,973 for landline service, \$33,788 for IT management, and \$14,523 for town-wide software, totaling \$1,487,429. The FY2027 request reflects a 2.9% increase in these costs.

**TENTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **OTHER PROTECTIONS** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$716,095	\$274,590	\$562,100
Selectmen Recommended	716,095	274,590	562,100
Budget Committee Recommended	716,095	273,290	562,100
Town Meeting Approved	716,095	274,590	

STATEMENT OF FACT:	<u>Appropriated 2025</u>	<u>Appropriated FY2026*</u>	<u>Requested FY2027</u>
1. Streetlights	\$77,600	\$ 38,600	\$80,600
2. Fire Hydrants	395,200	200,600	404,200
3. Ambulance	62,040	35,390	77,300
TOTAL	<u>\$716,095</u>	<u>\$274,590</u>	<u>\$562,100</u>

The Street Light budget covers electricity costs for approximately 400 streetlights in Farmington. The Fire Hydrants budget increase is due to a 1.5% Water District increase in January of 2026 and predicted in January of 2027, with hydrant charges set by the Maine Public Utilities Commission based on the Water Company's operating expenses. The Ambulance subsidy is governed by a contract with MaineHealth EMS and reflects a 9% increase. The decrease relative to 2025 is the result of Insurances being moved to the Fixed Assessments in Article NINTH.

**ELEVENTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to be transferred to the **Capital Reserve Funds** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Admin Computer & Office Equip Capital	\$ 1,200	\$ 0	\$ 700
Assessor Compr & Office Equip Capital	700	0	0
Treasurer/Clerk Comp & Office Equip Capital	2,000	0	1,500
Vital Records Books Preservation	3,000	0	0
Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve	10,000	0	5,000
Municipal Buildings Equipment & Grounds	6,000	0	0
CEO Computer & Equip Capital	2,000	0	1,600
Revaluation Capital Reserve	35,000	0	25,000
Police Dept Building Capital Reserve	20,800	0	15,000
Police Dt Equipment Capital Reserve	14,500	0	14,500
Police Dept Vehicle Capital Reserve	136,000	0	105,000
Police K-9 Reserve	1,250	0	500
Police Department Grounds & Lots	2,500	0	2,500
Police Academy	10,000	0	0
Fire Dept Rescue Equipment Capital	8,000	7,500	4,000
Fire Dept Apparatus Capital Reserve	150,000	0	150,000
Fire Dept Computer & Equip Capital	2,800	0	500
Fire Dept Facility Capital Reserve	5,000	0	5,000
Public Works Computer Capital Reserve	1,500	0	1,500
Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve	200,000	0	175,000
Public Works Facilities Capital Reserve	50,000	0	10,000

Public Works Roads Capital Reserve	800,000	293,350	800,000
Public Works Sidewalks Capital Reserve	20,000	0	20,000
Public Works Emergency Rds Cap Reserve	14,550	0	10,000
Municipal Landfill Capital Reserve	10,000	0	0
Recycling Equipment Capital Reserve	5,000	0	5,000
Cemetery Infr/Headstone Capital Reserve	5,000	0	5,000
Hippach Field and Parks Capital Reserve	5,000	0	5,000
Hippach Field Lights	0	0	1,000
Parks Vehicle and Equip Capital Reserve	5,000	0	5,000
Parks Playground Capital Reserve	5,000	0	5,000
Parks Land Improvement Capital Reserve	6,000	0	6,000
Parks Computer & Equip Capital Reserve	1,000	0	2,100
Community Center Capital Reserve	25,000	0	25,000
Community Center Rec Equip Capital	1,000	0	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,564,800</b>	<b>\$300,850</b>	<b>\$1,406,900</b>

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,564,800	\$300,850	\$1,406,900
Selectmen Recommended	\$1,564,800	\$300,850	\$1,406,900
Budget Committee Recommended	\$1,574,800	\$300,850	\$1,406,900
Approved	\$1,564,800	\$300,850	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

This budget covers annual set-aside for computer, vehicle and equipment replacements, and major maintenance of facilities. The Revaluation reserve covers the annual set-aside needed to prefund the next Revaluation project in approximately 10 years. In order to limit the impact on the mil rate, capital has been decreased wherever possible. Some annual recurring savings designed to prefund future needs have been decreased or eliminated based on the current balances in those accounts. The Public Works Vehicle budget includes savings for one half of the cost of a new plow truck, delaying the next replacement until FY28 when the remainder will be funded. The only increase is in Parks & Rec Computers and equipment where \$1,100 was added to allow for replacement of two computers this year. See the 5-year Capital Plan for specific details.

**TWELFTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **DEBT SERVICE** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$90,567	\$49,974	\$112,407
Selectmen Recommended	90,567	49,974	112,407
Budget Committee Recommended	90,567	49,974	112,407
Town Meeting Approved	90,567	49,974	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Recommend</u>
	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Fire Engine 1	\$54,800	\$ 0	\$53,800	\$53,800
Police Building	35,767	34,267	0	0
Community Center	0	15,707	\$58,607	\$58,607
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$90,567</b>	<b>\$49,974</b>	<b>\$112,407</b>	<b>\$112,407</b>

The amount in this Article reflects the debt service (principal and interest) for bonds for Fire Engine 1 and the Community Center. The Police Building was paid off in May 2026.

**THIRTEENTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **LEGAL RESERVE ACCOUNT** for the purpose of funding costs associated with actual or potential litigation for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$5,000	\$0	\$ 5,000
Selectmen Recommended	5,000	0	10,000
Budget Committee Recommended	5,000	0	5,000
Town Meeting Approved	5,000	0	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

The various administrative accounts contain funding to cover routine legal costs related to tax liens, personnel issues, contracts, general liability, zoning, etc. Those amounts are not adequate to cover ongoing litigation and unforeseen legal expenses. The Legal Reserve Account provides for such expenditures. The Selectmen voted to add an additional \$5,000 beyond the normal annual set aside to cover the costs of two large abatement disputes from 2024.

**FOURTEENTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) RESERVE ACCOUNT** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
Selectmen Recommended	1,500	0	1,500
Budget Committee Recommended	1,500	0	1,500
Town Meeting Approved	1,500	0	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

The ADA Reserve Account is used to improve accessibility to public facilities for people with disabilities. It currently has a balance of \$18,372.

**FIFTEENTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FARMINGTON LIBRARY** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$299,270	\$153,215	\$318,623
Selectmen Recommended	299,270	153,215	318,623
Budget Committee Recommended	299,270	153,215	318,623
Town Meeting Approved	299,270	153,215	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

The amount requested provides funding for staff (including a 2.5% COLA applied in FY2026), building operations and maintenance, and books, materials, and technology.

**SIXTEENTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **GAY CEMETERY** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Selectmen Recommended	1,000	1,000	1,000
Budget Committee Recommended	1,000	1,000	1,000
Town Meeting Approved	1,000	1,000	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:** The Gay Cemetery, named after the Gay family, is located on South Strong Road. It is a 100-plot cemetery (including 16 veteran graves) maintained by the Gay Cemetery Association.

**SEVENTEENTH** - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FRANKLIN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER** for the year FY2027.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$22,776	\$0	\$23,536
Selectmen Recommended	22,776	0	23,536
Budget Committee Recommended	22,776	0	23,536
Town Meeting Approved	22,776	0	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

The State of Maine mandates that all municipalities designate a shelter that will accept stray animals. Farmington contracts with the Franklin County Animal Shelter for this service. This budget reflects a per capita increase of \$.10 over 2025.

**EIGHTEENTH** - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate 100% of the refund of snowmobile registrations received annually from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for the **SHIRETOWN RIDERS, NORTHERN LITES, AND NEW**

**SHARON SNOW RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUBS**, to be distributed to the clubs on the basis of mileage of trails each maintains in Farmington.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$12,700	\$12,000	\$12,000
Selectmen Recommended	12,700	12,000	12,000
Budget Committee Recommended	12,700	12,000	12,000
Town Meeting Approved	12,700	12,000	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

Based on the trail mileages, funds are distributed as follows: Shiretown Riders - 58%, Northern Lites - 21%, and New Sharon Snow Riders - 21%. NOTE – the request is an estimate of the snowmobile revenue for the year. Regardless, the amount actually received will be returned to the clubs if this article passes.

**NINETEENTH** – To see if the Town will vote to reduce the amounts authorized to be raised in taxes in Articles 2 through 18 by **\$3,645,300**, based on estimates for non-tax municipal revenues.

<u>Estimates</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Excise Taxes	\$1,154,500	\$ 653,300	\$1,204,500
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	143,350	63,698	144,250
Intergovernmental	1,969,200	719,000	2,000,500
Charges for Services	97,000	37,775	73,550
Other Revenues	191,200	105,100	222,500

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	\$3,555,250	\$1,578,873	\$3,645,300
Selectmen Recommended	\$3,555,250	\$1,578,873	\$3,645,300
Budget Committee Recommended	\$3,555,250	N/A	N/A
Approved	\$3,555,250	\$1,578,873	

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

Revenue estimates are based on state projections and four-year internal trends. The transfer of Program Fees to the Recreation Programs account reduces General Fund revenue but is fully offset by the corresponding removal of program-related expenses from the Parks budget. Significant increases include Local Road Assistance (LRAP), bank interest, Excise Tax, CEO licenses and permits, and bulky waste collection fees.

**TWENTIETH** - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to reallocate budgeted amounts from budget lines that have unexpended appropriations to other budget lines, as they deem necessary, to avoid individual budget lines being over-expended. Approval of this warrant article does not increase the overall appropriations approved for the Town.

**TWENTY-FIRST** - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Unassigned Fund Balance those funds deemed necessary by the Board of Selectmen to reduce the amount of property taxes to be collected to fund the FY2027 budget in an effort to stabilize the tax rate in a manner consistent with prudent fiscal management.

**STATEMENT OF FACT:**

The Town’s auditing firm estimates the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) at the end of 2023 to be \$3,250,000. Following voter approval at the November 2025 Special Town Meeting, up to \$700,000 was authorized to reduce the mil rate, lowering the estimated balance to \$2,500,000. Audits for 2023 and 2024 are still pending, but no reduction is expected for 2024, as expenditures did not exceed revenues. The 2025 ledger also remains open, so the actual amount used from the \$700,000 cannot yet be confirmed. Auditors recommend maintaining a minimum UFB sufficient to cover three months of expenditures, approximately \$3,800,000. Approval of this Article would allow the Selectmen to allocate UFB, if necessary, to reduce the property tax commitment while preserving adequate reserves. However, using UFB during the FY2027 budget is not advisable.

**TWENTY-SECOND** - To see what amount, if any, of the FY2027 Spectrum Contract Franchise Fee and equipment and facilities fund the Town will vote to appropriate for the **CABLE FRANCHISE FEE RESERVE FUND** for the benefit of Spectrum Cable subscribers, to be expended or allocated at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026*</u>	<u>FY2027</u>
Amount Requested	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Selectmen Recommended	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Budget Committee Recommended	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Town Meeting Approved	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Cable Television Franchise granted to Spectrum by the Town of Farmington requires Spectrum to pay the Town 5% of its gross annual revenues as compensation for the rights and privileges granted by the Agreement. In 2025, that amount was \$31,543. In FY 2026 that amount was \$24,809. This payment is used to support the operations of the Public, Educational, and Governmental channel, Mount Blue TV (Channel 11). The Franchise Agreement also allows for a \$7,500 annual payment for Mount Blue TV's equipment and facilities. The full franchise fee for FY2027 is expected to be an amount roughly equal to or slightly less than that received in 2025.

**TWENTY-THIRD** - To see if the Town will vote to make the first half of the property taxes due and payable on November 2, 2026, or 45 days from the tax commitment, whichever is later and to make the second half of the property taxes due and payable on May 3, 2027 and, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 505(4), charge interest on overdue portion of taxes at the rate of **7%** per annum after the due date.

**TWENTY-FOURTH** - To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 506-A, to pay interest on refunds of overpaid or abated taxes at the rate of 4.00% per annum after November 2, 2026, or 45 days from the tax commitment, whichever is later.

**TWENTY-FIFTH** - To see if the Town will vote to accept prepayment of taxes to the Tax Collector prior to the date of commitment and to pay no interest thereon.

**TWENTY-SIXTH** - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell by bid or auction or on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interest of the Town, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture as are no longer necessary for Town operations.

**TWENTY-SEVENTH** - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to replace and/or purchase additional services or equipment for the Town at such times as the Board of Selectmen deems necessary or in the best interest of the Town, but only at such times as sufficient funds are available in reserve accounts to pay for such equipment or services.

**TWENTY-EIGHTH** - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend, without further action by Town Meeting, money from the State, federal or other governmental units or private sources that become available during the year, and to authorize the Selectmen to accept, on behalf of the Town, any and all unconditional gifts of any type of property.

State funds include the following categories: Maine Emergency Management Agency funds, General Assistance Reimbursements, Municipal Revenue Sharing, Urban/Rural Initiative Program funds for road improvements, State Aid to Education, Snowmobile Registration Reimbursements, Tree Growth Program Reimbursements, Education Tax Relief Block Grant, Veterans' Exemption Reimbursement, Maine State Housing Authority, Public Library State Aid per Capita and Library Stipend, Property Tax Relief Funds, Homestead Act Funds, State grants, and other State funds.

Federal funds include the following categories: Community Development Block Grant funds, Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, Housing and Urban Development funds, Economic Development Administration funds, USDA Rural Development funds, federal grants, and other federal funds.

**TWENTY-NINTH** - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and execute multi-year contracts, including but not limited to, contracts or agreements in the following areas: auditing, tax assessing, solid waste disposal, equipment purchasing, leasing, and maintenance and collective bargaining agreements.

**THIRTIETH** - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reserve Account for purposes consistent with the Downtown Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Downtown Omnibus Development Program established in October 2013 and subsequently amended.

**THIRTY-FIRST** - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the Franklin Printing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reserve Account for purposes consistent with the Franklin Printing Municipal Development Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program established in June 1998 and subsequently amended.

**THIRTY-SECOND** - Shall the Town vote to (i) approve a capital purchase of a Pierce Fire Apparatus (Ladder) to replace the current 2007 Pierce ladder truck; (ii) appropriate up to \$745,000.00 to finance all or a portion of the cost of the Ladder; and (iii) authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and enter into an agreement to borrow, on behalf of the Town, an amount not to exceed \$1,582,183.00 to finance all or a portion of the cost of the Ladder and to issue therefor one or more general obligation bonds of the Town, and notes in anticipation thereof, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$2,327,183.00, and to delegate to the Town's Manager and Finance Director the discretion to fix the date(s), maturity(ies), denomination(s), interest rate(s), place(s) of payment, form(s) and other details of the same, including their redemption with or without premium?

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total Town Indebtedness:

A. Outstanding principal balance of bonds previously issued:	\$1,032,667.00
B. Bonds authorized and unissued:	\$ 0.00
C. Anticipated amount of bonds to be issued:	\$1,582,183.00

Costs: At an *estimated* net interest rate of 4.83% for a 15-year maturity, the estimated cost of the bonds authorized by this Article will be:

Total Principal:	\$1,582,183.00
Interest:	<u>\$ 678,085.70</u>
Total Debt Service:	\$2,260,268.70

Validity: The validity of the bonds authorized by this Article and the voter's ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service for the bonds authorized by this Article varies from the above estimates, the ratification by the voters is nonetheless conclusive and the validity of the bonds is not affected by reason of the variance.

  
Tammy Bureau, Finance Director

**THIRTY-THIRD** Shall the following modifications (in underlined, italicized, bold) to the section entitled 11-14.9.E. Application and Permit/License Fees in the current Adult Use and Medical Marijuana Stores, Cultivation Facilities, Manufacturing Facilities, and Testing Facilities Ordinance be adopted:

**Application and Permit/License Fees**

All applications must be submitted with a \$250 fee, except for exchange conversions under §11-14.8, for which the fee is \$100. If an application is approved, the following permit/license fees must be paid before the Town will issue a permit/license:

Marijuana Store: Permit/License Fee:	\$1,250
Adult Use Marijuana Manufacturing Facility: Permit/License Fee:	\$1,250
Medical Marijuana Manufacturing Facility – Tier I (≤40 lbs.): Permit/License Fee:	\$300
Medical Marijuana Manufacturing Facility – Tier II (≤200 lbs.): Permit/License Fee:	\$500
Medical Marijuana Manufacturing Facility (Tiers I&II) Using Inherently Hazardous Substances:	\$700
Marijuana Testing Facility: Permit/License Fee:	\$500

**Marijuana Cultivation:**

Tier 1: Up to thirty (30) mature plants (and an unlimited number of immature plants and seedlings) or up to 500 SF of plant canopy:

By plant count: Permit/License Fee: ~~\$5~~ **\$2.50**/mature plant for an outdoor cultivation and ~~\$10~~ **\$5**/mature plant for an indoor or indoor/outdoor cultivation.

By canopy, 0-500 SF: Permit/Licensing Fee: ~~\$250~~ **\$125**/indoor or indoor/outdoor, ~~\$125~~ **\$62.50**/outdoor.

Tier 2: 501-2,000 SF of mature plant canopy: Permit/License Fee: ~~\$1,500~~ **\$750**/indoor or indoor/outdoor cultivation, ~~\$750~~ **\$375**/outdoor cultivation.

Tier 3: 2,001-7,000 SF of mature plant canopy: Permit/License Fee: ~~\$5,000~~ **\$2,500**/indoor or indoor/outdoor cultivation, ~~\$2,500~~ **\$1,250** /outdoor cultivation.

Tier 4: 7,001-20,000 SF of mature plant canopy: Permit/License Fee: ~~\$15,000~~ **\$7,500**/indoor or indoor/outdoor, ~~\$7,500~~ **\$3,750**/outdoor.

For each approved increase of 7,000 SF, the additional fee is: ~~\$2,500~~ **\$1,250** for outdoor cultivation, and ~~\$5,000~~ **\$2,500** for indoor or indoor/outdoor cultivation.

Nursery Cultivation: Cultivation of not more than 1,000 SF of plant canopy in compliance with 28-B M.R.S. §501.3: Permit/License Fee: ~~\$175~~ **\$87.50** (Plant canopies of individual Nursery Cultivations are permanently capped at 1,000 SF.)

Every two (2) years, Tier 4 renewal applicants may seek a 7,000 SF plant canopy increase if in compliance with applicable State law.

Renewal applicants for Marijuana Cultivation permits/licenses may seek an increase to a higher tier if they comply with the requirements in this section. Applicants for Marijuana Cultivation permits/licenses may not hold more than three (3) such permits/licenses or a total combined plant canopy in excess of 30,000 SF.

**THIRTY-FOURTH** - Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and enter into an agreement to borrow, on behalf of the Town, an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 to finance the Town's additional contribution to the Sandy River Bridge & Trail Project, which will construct a new multi-use pedestrian and snowmobile bridge over the Sandy River to connect the 14-mile Whistle Stop Trail directly into downtown Farmington, or act on anything relative thereto, and to delegate to the Town's Manager and Finance Director the discretion to fix the date(s), maturity(ies), denomination(s), interest rate(s), place(s) of payment, form(s) and other details of the same, including their redemption with or without premium?

STATEMENT OF FACT: This one-time borrowing of up to \$500,000 represents the Town's final requested contribution to the project. It is needed to close the remaining funding gap, leverage the \$2.041 million congressional earmark and other committed state, federal, and private funds (a \$4.2 million project), and allow the project to proceed to construction. The borrowing will be structured so as not to raise the mil rate. Without this authorization, the project cannot be completed as currently planned. The Town previously committed \$200,000 in TIF funds in 2024.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total Town Indebtedness:

A. Outstanding principal balance of bonds previously issued:	\$1,032,667.00
B. Bonds authorized and unissued:	\$ 0.00
C. Anticipated amount of bonds to be issued:	\$ 500,000.00

Costs: At an *estimated* net interest rate of 4.5% for a 10-year maturity, the estimated cost of the borrowing authorized by this Article will be:

Total Principal:	\$500,000.00
Interest:	<u>\$131,894.11</u>
Total Debt Service:	\$631,894.11


Validity: The validity of the bonds authorized by this Article and the voter's ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service for the bonds authorized by this Article varies from the above estimates, the ratification by the voters is nonetheless conclusive and the validity of the bonds is not affected by reason of the variance.

  
Tammy Bureau, Finance Director

The Registrar of Voters will be in session at the Community Center on May 11, 2026, at the time of the meeting to add new names to the voting list or make changes to the voting list.

Given under our hands at Farmington, Maine, this twenty-eighth day of April, A.D. 2026.


**TOWN OF FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

  
Matthew W. Smith, Chairman

  
Richard M. Morton, Vice Chairman

  
Dennis E. O'Neil, Secretary

  
Randall D. Gauvin

  
H. Scott Landry, Jr.

**ORIGINAL:**



**OFFICER'S RETURN**

I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Farmington of the time and place of the Town Meeting by posting an attested copy of the within warrant at the **FARMINGTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING** at \_\_\_\_\_; at the **WEST FARMINGTON POST OFFICE** at \_\_\_\_\_; at the **FARMINGTON POST OFFICE** at \_\_\_\_\_; at the **FARMINGTON FALLS POST OFFICE** at \_\_\_\_\_; and at the **FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER** at \_\_\_\_\_, all being conspicuous public places within the Town of Farmington on April \_\_\_\_, 2026, which is a least 7 days prior to the day of said meeting.

Dated at Farmington, Maine this \_\_\_\_ day of April 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
S. Clyde Ross  
Resident of Farmington  
True copy:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Dunham  
Town Clerk