

TOWN OF  
WESTFORD

## JANUARY 30, 2025 REVENUE OVERVIEW

## Summary:

Pre 1981, municipal budgets in Massachusetts were driven by expenditures. Local communities could raise taxes to the extent that the local authority appropriated. Then in 1982, Proposition 2 ½ (M.G.L. Ch. 59 ~ 21C) was enacted limiting the increase to the tax levy to 2.5%. Since that time, municipal budgets have been shaped by revenue limitations. There are six major revenue components that Westford uses to fund its annual operating budget; Property taxes, State Aid, Local Revenue, Enterprise Revenue, Other Available Funds, and Free Cash. Below is a brief analysis that displays the trends in revenue from Fiscal Year 2023 to Fiscal Year 2026.

\* These figures represent the levy limit, not the actual amount collected.

\*\*Amounts included are as appropriated at Town Meeting.

Revenue Source	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY25 Actual 12-31-24	FY26 Projected	Budget Increase \$\$	Budget Increase %
Property Taxes*	90,837,699	92,711,637	95,710,863	46,074,119	99,419,048	3,708,185	3.87%
Local Revenue	10,218,576	9,181,334	7,717,769	2,775,647	8,412,580	694,811	9.00%
State Aid	20,637,865	21,120,815	21,675,207	10,574,892	22,117,299	442,092	2.04%
Approp. From Free Cash**	2,257,539	5,133,955	2,661,448	2,661,448	3,152,741	491,293	18.46%
Free Cash Applied**	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>123,951,679</b>	<b>128,147,741</b>	<b>127,765,287</b>	<b>62,086,105</b>	<b>133,101,668</b>	<b>5,336,381</b>	<b>4.18%</b>
Enterprise Revenue	7,649,134	8,464,102	7,944,322	5,251,124	11,016,922	3,072,600	38.68%
Other Available Funds**	2,951,268	4,910,447	4,813,566	4,813,566	1,292,537	(3,521,029)	-73.15%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>134,552,082</b>	<b>141,522,290</b>	<b>140,523,175</b>	<b>72,150,796</b>	<b>145,411,127</b>	<b>4,887,952</b>	<b>3.48%</b>

DETAILED REVENUE SUMMARY						
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26 vs FY25	
General Fund	Actual	Actual	Budget	Projected	Budget Inc. \$	% Inc.
<b>Property Taxes*</b>	<b>90,837,699</b>	<b>92,711,637</b>	<b>95,710,863</b>	<b>99,419,048</b>	<b>3,708,185</b>	<b>3.87%</b>
<b>Local Revenue</b>	<b>10,218,576</b>	<b>9,181,334</b>	<b>7,717,769</b>	<b>8,412,580</b>	<b>694,811</b>	<b>9.00%</b>
Motor Vehicle Excise	3,940,849	4,352,952	4,063,458	4,380,000	316,542	7.79%
Other Excise (Local Options)	1,234,766	1,316,145	1,251,525	1,210,000	(41,525)	-3.32%
Penalties & Interest	351,322	230,883	225,500	225,000	(500)	-0.22%
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	71,956	66,146	66,000	67,650	1,650	2.50%
Fees	268,206	251,575	250,000	250,000	-	0.00%
Dept. Revenue - Cemeteries	39,000	44,300	30,750	32,830	2,080	6.76%
Other Dept. Revenue	1,978	4,100			-	
Licenses and Permits	1,255,298	1,350,522	1,035,250	1,376,052	340,802	32.92%
Special Assessments	5,460	9,590	5,087	5,188	101	1.99%
Fines and Forfeits	95,731	84,192	61,500	63,551	2,051	3.33%
Investment Income	454,419	847,270	469,694	594,000	124,306	26.47%
Miscellaneous Recurring	2,088,485	388,605	200,506	208,309	7,803	3.89%
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring	411,105	235,054	58,499		(58,499)	-100.00%
<b>State Aid</b>	<b>20,637,865</b>	<b>21,120,815</b>	<b>21,675,207</b>	<b>22,117,299</b>	<b>442,092</b>	<b>2.04%</b>
General Government Aid	2,491,974	2,543,891	2,617,223	2,674,793	57,570	2.20%
School Aid	17,655,537	17,886,329	18,388,536	18,686,191	297,655	1.62%
Tax Abatement Aid	29,287	143,532	103,284	181,018	77,734	75.26%
Offset Aid	461,067	547,063	566,164	575,297	9,133	1.61%
<b>Approp. From Free Cash**</b>	<b>2,257,539</b>	<b>5,133,955</b>	<b>2,661,448</b>	<b>3,152,741</b>	<b>(3,095,711)</b>	<b>-116.32%</b>
<b>Free Cash Applied**</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE</b>	<b>123,951,679</b>	<b>128,147,741</b>	<b>127,765,287</b>	<b>133,101,668</b>	<b>534,073</b>	<b>0.42%</b>
<b>Enterprise Revenue/Retained Earnings</b>	<b>7,649,134</b>	<b>8,464,102</b>	<b>7,944,322</b>	<b>11,016,922</b>	<b>3,072,600</b>	<b>38.68%</b>
Water Enterprise	4,362,892	4,927,542	5,020,758	6,033,633	1,012,875	20.17%
Recreation Enterprise	1,004,490	1,073,671	1,158,300	1,258,281	99,981	8.63%
Ambulance Enterprise	1,098,263	1,243,682	922,000	1,145,757	223,757	24.27%
Stormwater Enterprise	1,183,489	1,219,207	843,264	2,579,251	1,735,987	205.87%
<b>Other Available Funds**</b>	<b>2,951,268</b>	<b>4,910,447</b>	<b>4,813,566</b>	<b>1,292,537</b>	<b>(3,521,029)</b>	<b>-73.15%</b>
Premium on BANS/Bonds Non-Exempt	538	258			-	
Premium on BANS/Bonds Exempt	2,691	368			-	
Capital Stabilization Fund	580,000				-	
Overlay Surplus	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	0.00%
Community Preservation Funds	2,229,736	4,335,890	4,602,636	1,089,168	(3,513,468)	-76.34%
Other Available Funds	38,304	473,932	110,930	103,369	(7,561)	-6.82%
<b>TOTAL ENTERPRISE / OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>10,600,402</b>	<b>13,374,549</b>	<b>12,757,888</b>	<b>12,309,459</b>	<b>(448,429)</b>	<b>-3.51%</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES / AVAIL. FUNDS</b>	<b>134,552,082</b>	<b>141,522,290</b>	<b>140,523,175</b>	<b>145,411,127</b>	<b>85,644</b>	<b>0.06%</b>

## PROPERTY TAX

Property Tax is the primary source of revenue for the Town of Westford, which accounts for approximately 77% of General Fund revenue. Property taxes are levied on real property (land and buildings) and personal property (equipment).

Due to Proposition 2 ½, the levy limit increase for property taxes cannot exceed 2.5% unless the Select Board chooses to have an override question on the Town Meeting Warrant and Town Election. Both votes would require a majority vote in order to increase the tax levy above 2.5%. This amount does not include “New Growth” which are additional taxes added from new properties, nor does it pertain to debt exclusions. Debt exclusion dollars are raised to pay for debt service that voters have previously authorized. Below is the calculation for the FY26 projected levy limit:

FY25 LEVY LIMIT	94,191,906
PROP. 2 1/2 INCREASE	2,354,798
NEW GROWTH ESTIMATE	850,000
OVERRIDES	-
DEBT EXCLUSIONS	2,022,344
<b>TOTAL FY26 TAX LEVY</b>	<b>99,419,048</b>

Below is a table showing the tax levy calculation from Fiscal Years 2019 to 2025

TAX REVENUE:	FY19 TAX LEVY	FY20 TAX LEVY	FY21 TAX LEVY	FY22 TAX LEVY	FY23 TAX LEVY	FY24 TAX LEVY	FY25 TAX LEVY
Prior Year Base Tax Levy	73,355,974	75,930,116	78,898,206	82,208,606	85,134,705	88,155,336	91,227,164
Prop. 2 1/2 Increase	1,833,899	1,898,253	1,972,534	2,055,215	2,128,366	2,204,153	2,280,679
New Growth	740,243	1,069,837	1,334,726	870,884	892,263	856,873	684,063
Overrides	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Exclusions	2,887,409	2,964,409	2,997,311	2,993,991	2,687,412	1,485,882	1,553,001
Capital Outlay/Ammended Growth	-	-	-	-	-	10,802	-
Excess Levy Capacity	(538,179)	(30,531)	(21,424)	(12,786)	(5,047)	(1,409)	(34,044)
<b>Total Property Tax Levy</b>	<b>78,279,346</b>	<b>81,832,084</b>	<b>85,181,353</b>	<b>88,115,910</b>	<b>90,837,699</b>	<b>92,711,637</b>	<b>95,710,863</b>

**LOCAL REVENUE**

The summary below reflects the information submitted on page 3 of the recap.

**Motor Vehicle Excise** – Payments are due 30 days after bills are sent out. The majority of estimated collections will be received in March.

**Local Option Taxes** – An additional .75% meals tax and 2% hotel tax were approved at the March 26, 2011 Annual Town Meeting and instituted on July 1, 2011.

**Penalties & Interest** – Fees collected on late property tax and motor vehicle excise payments.

**Payments in Lieu of Taxes** – Revenue collected from tax exempt properties, with MIT being the largest contributor.

**Fees** – Revenue includes Demand Fees, Municipal Lien Certificates, Planning Board Fees, Police Detail Admin Fees, Fire Alarm Monitoring Fees, and Bulk Curbside Pickup Fees.

**Dept. Revenue – Cemeteries** – Grave openings.

**Other Dept. Revenue** – Rentals and other departmental revenue.

**Licenses & Permits** – Inspection permits were 78.6% of the FY24 Actual Permit Revenue. Licenses and Permits are dependent upon new growth.

**Special Assessments** – Street and sidewalk betterments. Budget amount coincides with assessments due for FY25.

**Fines and Forfeits** – Health and smoking, civil substance possession, motor vehicle, parking violations, court fines, and animal fines.

**Investment Income** – As the Federal Reserve is slowly starting to decrease interest rates as a result of slowing inflation, with the last decrease occurring in December 2024. CD's and T-Bills are earning about 4.25% interest as compared to about 4.50% a year ago.

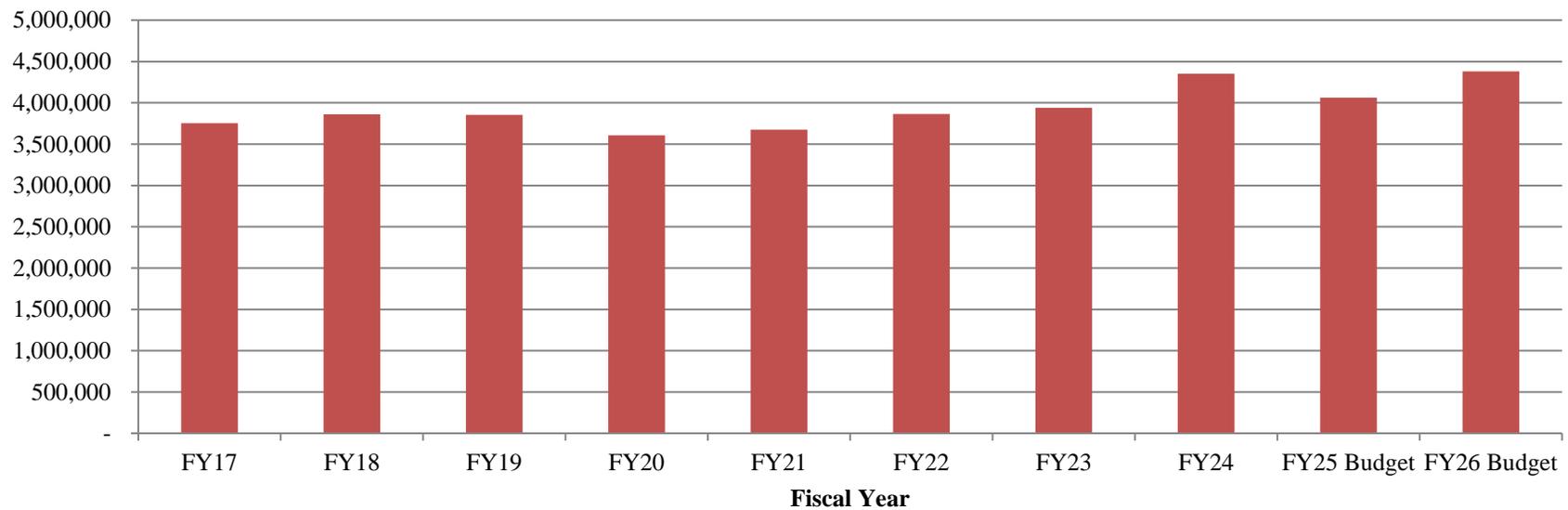
**Miscellaneous Recurring** – This category includes reimbursement for NVTHS School Resource Officer, CPE Program Receipts, and Medicaid Receipts. The Mass School Building Authority's advanced refunding for Stony Brook, Rita Miller, and Crisafulli schools ended in FY23 because the bond issue for the schools was paid in full.

**Miscellaneous Non-Recurring** – Sale of tax possession properties, sales of equipment, settlement proceeds, FEMA/MEMA reimbursements, and other revenue. These funds cannot be used to balance the following years' budget.

**Motor Vehicle Excise** – Excise tax commitments are billed based on calendar year and come from the Registry of Motor Vehicles in batches. The first commitment for calendar year 2025 will be in February. In FY22, the town issued 25,820 bills for a total of \$3,957,178. In FY23, the town issued 25,656 bills for a total of \$4,028,589. In FY24, the town issued 25,918 bills for a total of \$4,522,992. This figure represents an increase of 262 bills and an increased commitment of \$494,403. The actual amounts collected vary from the commitment because not every amount due is collected in a timely manner.

Fiscal Year	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget
<b>MV Excise</b>	3,755,588	3,861,840	3,853,028	3,607,964	3,676,793	3,866,078	3,940,849	4,352,952	4,063,458	4,380,000

**Motor Vehicle Excise FY17 to FY26**



**Local Options Excise** – The local options excise taxes were the most impacted General Fund revenue stream from the COVID-19 pandemic as people stayed in hotels sparingly and restaurants had to conform with state guidelines regarding seating capacity. We're happy to report that since the beginning of FY22, we have seen the meals excise tax increase to pre-pandemic levels and beyond. Part of this is due to an increase in inflation. In the first two quarters for FY25, we have collected hotel excise in the amount of \$431,784, which is \$35,619 more than the \$396,165 collected during the first two quarters of FY24. During that same period, Westford received meals excise of \$376,183 which is an increase of \$17,949 from the first two quarters of FY24. The total amount collected so far in FY25 is \$807,967, which should exceed the budgeted amount of \$1,251,525 for the year. The budget for local options in FY26 is \$1,210,000, which is a decrease of \$41,525 from FY25. Below is a table showing the history of hotel occupancy excise and meals excise revenue since FY17.

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>FY17 Actual</b>	<b>FY18 Actual</b>	<b>FY19 Actual</b>	<b>FY20 Actual</b>	<b>FY21 Actual</b>	<b>FY22 Actual</b>	<b>FY23 Actual</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Budget</b>	<b>FY25 Actual</b>	<b>FY26 Budget</b>
Q1	211,029	212,085	196,884	213,747	67,017	119,165	186,653	194,774	646,775	221,806	600,000
Q2	206,180	208,884	232,855	188,513	37,213	156,588	210,199	201,391		209,977	
Q3	126,198	130,118	187,578	121,351	40,755	72,815	117,964	119,073			
Q4	134,856	141,047	126,564	63,495	55,652	116,072	120,501	133,911			
<b>Total</b>	<b>678,263</b>	<b>692,134</b>	<b>743,881</b>	<b>587,105</b>	<b>200,638</b>	<b>464,640</b>	<b>635,317</b>	<b>649,148</b>	<b>646,775</b>	<b>431,784</b>	<b>600,000</b>
<b>Meals</b>											
Q1	144,042	148,057	156,170	156,007	96,207	153,461	160,237	175,976	604,750	182,495	610,000
Q2	131,687	136,032	142,526	141,855	112,192	152,971	149,825	182,257		193,688	
Q3	105,356	108,434	109,156	123,040	90,832	104,369	139,905	143,760			
Q4	108,936	112,415	118,012	65,109	103,113	140,882	149,483	165,002			
<b>Total</b>	<b>490,021</b>	<b>504,939</b>	<b>525,864</b>	<b>486,013</b>	<b>402,344</b>	<b>551,682</b>	<b>599,449</b>	<b>666,996</b>	<b>604,750</b>	<b>376,183</b>	<b>610,000</b>
<b>Total Excise</b>	<b>1,168,284</b>	<b>1,197,073</b>	<b>1,269,745</b>	<b>1,073,118</b>	<b>602,981</b>	<b>1,016,322</b>	<b>1,234,766</b>	<b>1,316,145</b>	<b>1,251,525</b>	<b>807,967</b>	<b>1,210,000</b>

**Penalties & Interest** – Mass General Law allows Collectors to assess penalties and interest to unpaid balances. Westford charges interest on all unpaid tax bills starting on the day after the due date according to provisions found in MGL Chapters 59 and 60. Interest is intended to be penal in nature. The rates are as follows:

Real Estate and Personal Property Tax - 14%

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax 12%

Tax Title 16%

In addition to interest, demand fees are also added to delinquent tax bill notices. MGL Ch. 60, Sec 15 allows communities to charge up to \$30 for a demand fee. Westford has set the demand fee at \$10.00. There are various other fees and charges provided by law according to type of tax and stage of collection. Most common are the fees associated with unpaid excise tax bills. If allowed to go all the way through every stage of collection the added fees can total as much as \$69.00. The budgetary benefit of fees collected is relatively minor. The fees do, however, motivate taxpayers to make their payments timely and that helps to keep Westford fiscally sound.

**Penalties & Interest - Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2026**

<b>FY17 Actual</b>	<b>FY18 Actual</b>	<b>FY19 Actual</b>	<b>FY20 Actual</b>	<b>FY21 Actual</b>	<b>FY22 Actual</b>	<b>FY23 Actual</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Budget</b>	<b>FY25 Actual 12-31-24</b>	<b>FY26 Budget</b>
203,018	171,672	208,189	250,100	328,622	304,807	351,322	230,883	225,500	71,985	225,000

**Payments in Lieu of Taxes** – The revenue received from PILOTS are from agreements that the Select Board has entered into with non-profits in Westford. The largest contributor on an annual basis is MIT. These payments are typically received in June.

**Payment in Lieu of Taxes - Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2026**

<b>FY17 Actual</b>	<b>FY18 Actual</b>	<b>FY19 Actual</b>	<b>FY20 Actual</b>	<b>FY21 Actual</b>	<b>FY22 Actual</b>	<b>FY23 Actual</b>	<b>FY24 Actual 12-31-23</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Budget</b>	<b>FY25 Actual 12-31-24</b>	<b>FY26 Budget</b>
64,131	65,345	88,152	89,526	87,726	73,802	71,956	-	66,146	66,000	7,161	67,650

**Fees** – The table below shows a brief history of different types of fees charged by the Town of Westford. Police administration fees are dependent upon the amount of utility work and new growth performed in town. The detail administration fees tend to increase during road construction season. The fire box alarm fees are billed annually each October. Other fees generally include copy fees, returned check fees, and other small amounts charged by departments. As of December 31, 2024, revenue generated through fees is tracking at 58% of the annual projection. Part of the reason is that the price of bulk stickers has increased from \$5 to \$15 effective July 1, 2024, so that is having a positive impact on revenue.

Description	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY25 Actual 12-31-24	FY26 Budget
DEMAND FEES	48,145	47,165	51,286	27,235	60,610	44,809	57,283	50,770	51,000	24,970	
REG MOTOR VEHICLE FEES	300	320	20	260	20	60	100	160	160	40	
CABLE FRANCHISE FEE	3,812	3,714	3,533	3,364	3,138	2,902	2,617	2,360	2,600	-	
MUNICIPAL LIEN CERTIFICATE FEE	39,200	30,550	29,954	50,562	53,600	39,155	21,750	20,800	20,800	11,825	
LATE FEES	4,125	8,575	4,475	1,325	3,575	2,923	5,000	2,175	2,200	375	
BUSINESS CERTIFICATES	3,230	4,870	4,790	4,510	3,800	3,360	2,840	3,630	3,600	900	
BIRTH CERTIFICATES	3,821	4,166	4,824	4,552	3,713	5,055	4,722	4,459	4,500	2,373	
DEATH CERTIFICATES	10,269	8,147	10,324	10,164	11,417	12,682	11,166	10,566	10,500	6,164	
BULK CURBSIDE PICKUP	13,415	17,459	18,040	19,225	25,876	24,555	18,255	15,085	17,000	12,365	
DEPARTMENTAL FEES	72,156	28,358	60,246	45,417	27,000	46,666	30,463	26,620	26,600	16,760	
DEPARTMENTAL FEES	19,075	7,000	6,781	6,300	7,000	5,200	3,200	2,800	2,800	2,100	
INSURANCE REPORT FEES	3,510	1,009									
DETAIL ADMINISTRATION FEES	45,074	41,935	40,100	49,037	20,262	28,699	38,554	31,368	32,000	25,912	
ALARM MONITORING FEES	34,800	34,800	32,600	33,000	37,400	29,800	27,000	26,000	26,000	8,400	
PROCESSING FEES						39,390					
DEPARTMENTAL/OTHER FEES	1,659	2,085	798	510	459	-	1,307	2,260	2,200	-	
DEPARTMENTAL/OTHER FEES	46,283	44,297	46,652	41,681	44,912	47,982	43,950	52,522	48,040	32,299	
<b>Total</b>	<b>348,874</b>	<b>284,450</b>	<b>314,422</b>	<b>297,142</b>	<b>302,780</b>	<b>333,237</b>	<b>268,206</b>	<b>251,575</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>144,484</b>	<b>250,000</b>

**Departmental Revenue - Cemeteries** – The Westford Cemetery Commission adopted a new [price structure](#) effective December 31, 2021. 60% of the purchase price of a burial lot or columbarium niche goes to the perpetual care non-expendable trust and 40% goes to the cemetery “sale of the lots” receipts reserved account. Below is a table displaying the fees charged for grave openings beginning in Fiscal Year 2017.

**Departmental Revenue - Cemeteries – Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2026**

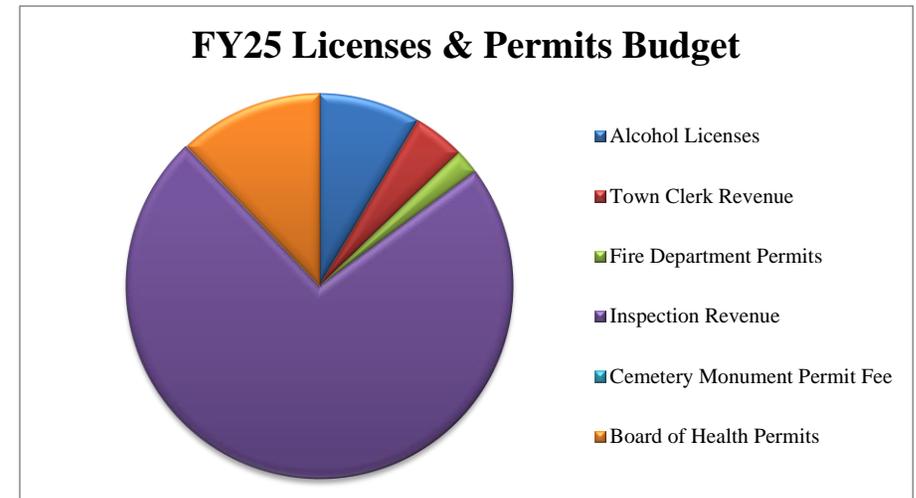
FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY25 Actual 12-31-24	FY26 Budget
30,950	27,825	36,000	30,075	43,500	37,700	39,000	44,300	30,750	29,700	32,830

**Other Departmental Revenue** – There has been very little revenue collected in these accounts for the past several years, with the lease agreement for the Day Field (community gardens) and the rental of fire department equipment being the only source of revenue.

**Other Departmental Revenue – Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2026**

Account	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY25 Actual 12-31-24	FY26 Budget
Rentals / Leases	200	0	0	1,000	1,000	4,473	1,978	4,100	0	1,000	0
Other	156	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>4,473</b>	<b>1,978</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>

**Licenses & Permits** – The majority of revenues from licenses and permits comes from inspection services (78.6% in FY24). The more construction being performed in town, the more inspection revenue received. Alcohol licenses are collected in December of each year. Dog licenses are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The majority of fire department permits come from fire alarm and smoke detector permits. Examples of Board of Health permits includes food, pool, tobacco, hauler (septic), installer (septic), stabling (horses), piggery, and beach permits. The Cemetery Commission charges \$20 as a monument permit fee for any type of headstone. The town is currently exceeding its target for the FY25 budget, collecting 52.8% of the budget 50.0% of the way through the year.



Account	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY25 Actual 12-31-24	FY26 Budget
Alcohol Licenses	95,175	96,550	96,675	93,100	55,950	88,900	87,950	88,475	87,900	33,300	
Dog Licenses	35,627	38,598	36,144	33,246	36,332	36,245	35,094	31,910	33,860	1,521	
Other Town Clerk Licenses & Permits	13,059	15,027	13,382	12,708	14,810	14,210	13,410	9,855	10,830	2,400	
Fire Department Permits	24,940	28,560	26,865	27,910	33,335	31,356	27,630	21,300	21,400	9,850	
Building Permits	503,599	793,861	770,970	465,963	462,712	467,887	730,643	795,436	560,000	338,703	
Electrical Permits	75,471	92,060	137,605	82,578	88,176	128,113	100,930	116,299	80,000	30,566	
Plumbing Permits	43,063	55,505	103,970	55,375	46,830	40,705	54,400	56,710	50,000	16,778	
Gas Permits	31,853	33,210	76,855	62,900	41,445	36,890	36,110	35,180	30,000	13,533	
Other Inspection Revenue	34,410	27,587	34,604	42,271	54,440	33,154	49,784	58,202	35,760	27,859	
Cemetery Monument Permit Fee	460	600	460	460	840	755	985	2,315	500	525	
Board of Health Permits	102,900	125,460	131,931	123,635	130,825	149,182	118,363	134,840	125,000	71,335	
<b>Total</b>	<b>960,556</b>	<b>1,307,018</b>	<b>1,429,462</b>	<b>1,000,146</b>	<b>965,695</b>	<b>1,027,398</b>	<b>1,255,298</b>	<b>1,350,522</b>	<b>1,035,250</b>	<b>546,369</b>	<b>1,376,052</b>

**Special Assessments** – Revenue collected from betterments and other projects through the tax collection process. Below is a table reviewing the history of special assessments collected.

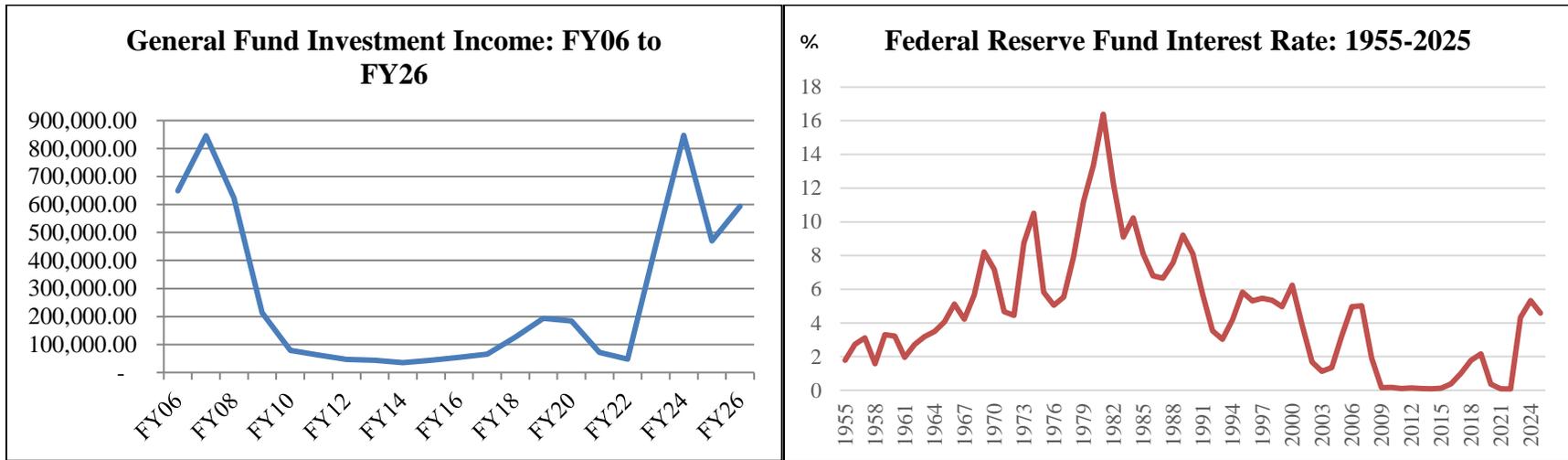
<b>Special Assessments – Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2026</b>										
<b>FY17 Actual</b>	<b>FY18 Actual</b>	<b>FY19 Actual</b>	<b>FY20 Actual</b>	<b>FY21 Actual</b>	<b>FY22 Actual</b>	<b>FY23 Actual</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Budget</b>	<b>FY25 Actual 12-31-24</b>	<b>FY26 Budget</b>
26,200	19,936	7,618	7,560	6,202	6,521	5,460	9,590	5,087	766	5,188

**Fines & Forfeits** – Most of the fines collected are due to police involvement. Court fines are reimbursed from Ayer District Court. We have collected \$45,565 in fines, which is 74.1% of the FY25 budget halfway through the year. We have collected \$35,730 in motor vehicle infractions compared to \$38,398 during the same time period last year.

	<b>FY17 Actual</b>	<b>FY18 Actual</b>	<b>FY19 Actual</b>	<b>FY20 Actual</b>	<b>FY21 Actual</b>	<b>FY22 Actual</b>	<b>FY23 Actual</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Budget</b>	<b>FY25 Actual 12-31-24</b>	<b>FY26 Budget</b>
Health & Smoking Fines		2,100	3,400	2,500	900	3,300	7,000	3,300	3,400	5,055	
Civil Substance Possession Fine	2,300	2,100	200	200	300	900	400	100	-	200	
Conservation Fines		100	-			-					
Motor Vehicle Infractions	40,273	25,465	38,810	37,444	52,277	42,422	79,676	68,115	53,000	35,730	
Parking Violations	5,671	5,267	6,239	10,861	5,479	6,521	7,900	11,652	5,000	4,570	
Court Fines	4,867	5,583	3,673	625	2,265	1,408	745	-			
Animal Fines	-	50	-	60			10	25	100	10	
Tree Warden Fines								1,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,111</b>	<b>40,664</b>	<b>52,321</b>	<b>51,690</b>	<b>61,221</b>	<b>54,551</b>	<b>95,731</b>	<b>84,192</b>	<b>61,500</b>	<b>45,565</b>	<b>63,551</b>

**Investment Income** – The budget for investment income in FY25 is \$469,694. Through November 30, 2024, we have earned \$268,863. For comparison purposes, during the first five months of FY23 we earned \$296,426. The net earnings are lower due to a combination of the Treasury beginning to reduce interest rates in conjunction with the Town continuing to spend the \$7.4m in American Rescue Plan Act funding over the past year. The rates we are earning today of 4.2% are comparable to the 5.25% we were earning in September of 2007.

The actual General Fund investment earned in FY20 was \$184,250, followed by \$71,538 in FY21, \$47,662 in FY22, \$454,419 in FY23, and \$847,270 in FY24.



The projected budget for FY26 is \$594,000, or about 70.2% of the total investment income generated in our most lucrative year of FY07 when the town earned \$846,064. We need to be cautious with projections as the Treasury is expected to keep reducing rates in and we will eventually see a downtick in investment income revenue. We do want to be cautious with future projections as overestimating will lead to a structural deficit.

**Miscellaneous Recurring Revenue** – The largest portion of this revenue was an advanced refunding from the Massachusetts School Building Authority that has paid for a portion of the Crisafulli, Miller, and Stony Brook Schools. \$19,266,355 in principal was transferred to the town in order to pay down the corresponding share of debt service for the three school projects that had a total cost of \$41,000,000. Each year, a portion of the principal was used to offset the debt payment for the schools, thus lowering the amount collected through debt exclusions until 2023 when the debt was paid off. These amounts are no longer included in the revenue projections for FY24 and beyond, so there is an overall decrease in local revenue.

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
<b>Principal</b>										
Middle School	573,251.00	596,181.00	624,843.00	653,507.00	682,169.00	713,698.00	745,227.00	776,755.00	811,150.00	848,411.00
Elementary Schools	531,923.00	557,374.00	580,280.00	608,275.00	636,271.00	664,267.00	692,263.00	725,349.00	758,436.00	791,522.00
<b>Total - Offset to DE1</b>	<b>1,105,174.00</b>	<b>1,153,555.00</b>	<b>1,205,123.00</b>	<b>1,261,782.00</b>	<b>1,318,440.00</b>	<b>1,377,965.00</b>	<b>1,437,490.00</b>	<b>1,502,104.00</b>	<b>1,569,586.00</b>	<b>1,639,933.00</b>
<b>Interest</b>	<b>553,155.80</b>	<b>511,490.74</b>	<b>466,617.46</b>	<b>418,412.54</b>	<b>366,427.12</b>	<b>311,052.64</b>	<b>251,800.14</b>	<b>188,550.58</b>	<b>121,106.12</b>	<b>24,844.98</b>

Other miscellaneous recurring revenue streams include payments from the federal government for Medicaid reimbursements for our students. In FY15, the town also participated in a new federal program that allows communities that provide ambulance services to receive additional Medicaid funds. In addition, the town assesses the Nashoba Valley Technical High School for the salary and fringe benefits of the school resource officer. The contracted agreement is the settlement the town reached with the developer of Cornerstone Square. The town has received five annual payments of \$40,000 each from FY18 to FY22, which are earmarked to reimburse the Capital Stabilization Fund after an appropriation was made in July 2017 from the Capital Stabilization account to fund a portion of the new joint dispatch center. Lastly, the Senior Center Refinancing is a one-time entry as recommended by the Department of Revenue. In FY18, the town refinanced the Senior Center debt excluded bond payment, and this is the mechanism to record the excess tax revenue raised that year. In FY25, the Bond Proceeds are excess premium that we received to offset the Blanchard Middle School MSBA Excluded Debt. The chart below shows the miscellaneous recurring revenue from FY17 to FY26.

Miscellaneous Recurring Revenue – Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2026											
	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY25 Actual 12-31-24	FY26 Budget
Medicaid Receipts	112,235	115,357	116,966	64,590	85,180	496,692	250,350	195,461	92,250	59,707	40,000
Medicaid Reimb - Ambulance	32,833	36,865	36,428	33,657	45,576	51,528	70,839	88,351			57,250
NVTHS SRO	83,500	86,418	86,983	93,330	96,716	98,799	102,518	104,793	108,256	-	111,059
Contracted Agreement		40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000					
Bond Proceeds	-	-	43,550	-	-	-	-	-	58,499	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>228,568</b>	<b>278,640</b>	<b>323,927</b>	<b>231,577</b>	<b>267,472</b>	<b>687,019</b>	<b>423,707</b>	<b>388,605</b>	<b>259,005</b>	<b>59,707</b>	<b>208,309</b>

**Miscellaneous Non-Recurring Revenue** – This is a category of local revenue that allows us to properly account for and classify one-time revenues that are unexpected, unplanned, or non-recurring. Since this revenue is not budgeted, any revenue in this category will help our free cash situation at the end of the fiscal year.

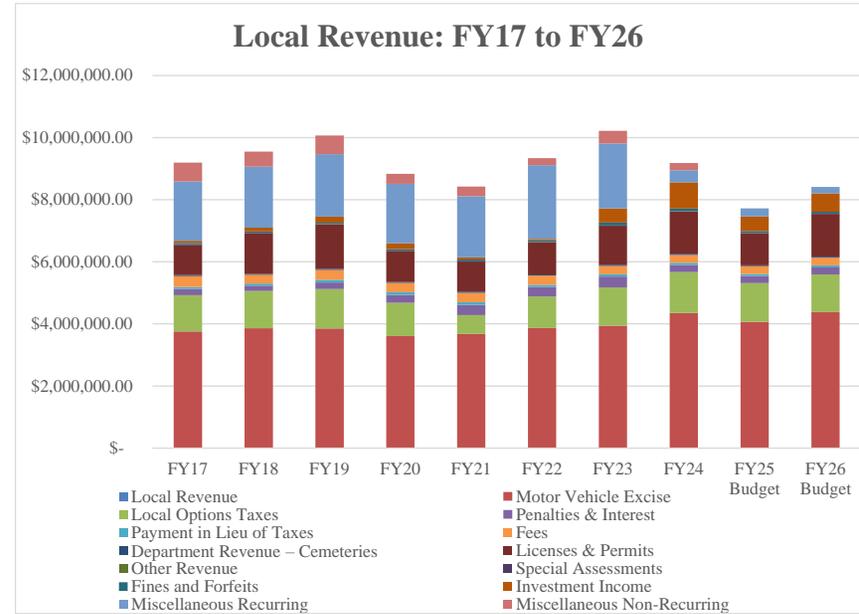
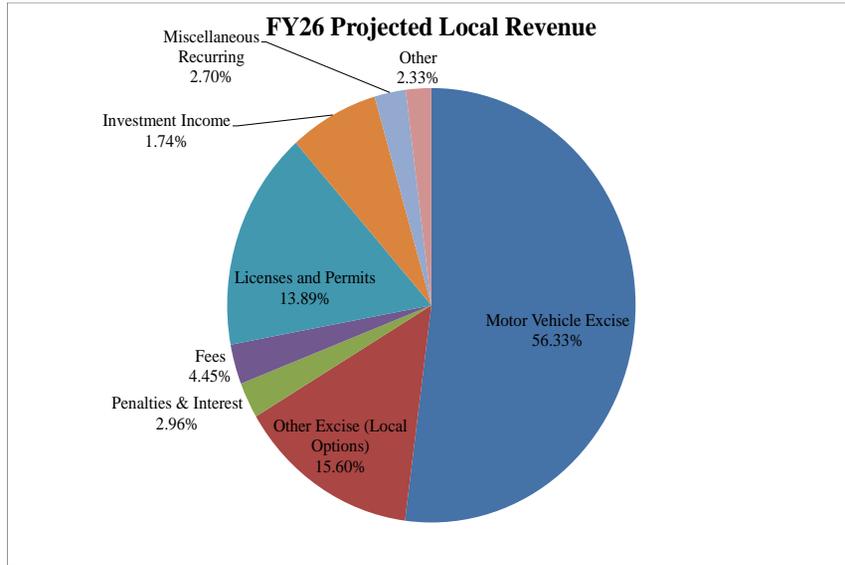
In FY17, the town received its first of four bi-annual payments from Newport Materials, with \$137,500 going towards the Settlement Proceeds account.

FY18 included the second and third payments from Newport Materials, totaling \$275,000. In FY19, we received the final payment of \$137,500 from Newport Materials. Tax title revenue has increased in FY19 partially due to a lender foreclosing on four development properties under the same owner and paying off the tax titles in August 2018. Tax title collections were also strong in FY21.

The largest revenue sources from FY22 through FY25 has been through tax title, with the exception of the rebates we received in FY25. The Town Manager's office has been working diligently with the Facilities Department to identify energy efficiency projects using time sensitive incentives from Nation Grid. For the first weatherization projects for Westford Academy and Rita Miller, the rebate check was issued to the Town of Westford rather than the contractor. The Town now needs an appropriation (currently under Article 5 at the March 22, 2025 Annual Town Meeting) to then reappropriate the funds to cover the shortfall in our Green Communities Grant.

Account	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25 Actual 12-31-24
Tax Title	290,091	69,729	235,854	177,262	218,006	143,332	344,209	132,588	8,842
Workers Comp Insurance Recovery	65,650	81,949	89,292	81,259	52,526	49,536	43,202	33,767	8,387
Restitution	1,400	1,000	1,513	-	5	75	3,045	3,231	1,146
Sale of Tax Possessions	-	4,765	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of Vehicles, Equipment	-	250	-	-	25,912	-	-	-	5,716
Settlement Proceeds	144,661	275,000	145,527	2,114	5,698	-	-	-	-
Health Program Reimbursement	2,034	6,792	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Otherwise Unclassified	104,078	43,973	33,617	58,943	13,823	30,045	20,649	65,467	178,591
FEMA Reimbursement	184	813	92,983	-	-	-	-	-	13,203
MEMA Reimbursement	-	-	-	526	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>608,097</b>	<b>484,270</b>	<b>598,786</b>	<b>319,578</b>	<b>315,970</b>	<b>222,988</b>	<b>411,105</b>	<b>235,054</b>	<b>215,885</b>

**Local Revenue Summary**



Local Revenue	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget
Motor Vehicle Excise	3,755,588	3,861,840	3,853,028	3,607,964	3,676,793	3,866,078	3,940,849	4,352,952	4,063,458	4,380,000
Local Options Taxes	1,168,284	1,197,073	1,269,745	1,073,118	602,981	1,016,322	1,234,766	1,316,145	1,251,525	1,210,000
Penalties & Interest	203,018	171,672	208,189	250,100	328,622	304,807	351,322	230,883	225,500	225,000
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	64,131	65,345	88,152	89,526	87,726	73,802	71,956	66,146	66,000	67,650
Fees	348,874	284,450	314,422	297,142	302,780	297,000	268,206	251,575	250,000	250,000
Department Revenue – Cemeteries	30,950	27,825	36,000	30,075	43,500	37,700	39,000	44,300	30,750	32,830
Licenses & Permits	960,556	1,307,018	1,429,462	1,000,146	965,695	1,027,398	1,255,298	1,350,522	1,035,250	1,376,052
Other Revenue	356	-	-	1,000	1,000	4,473	1,978	4,100	-	-
Special Assessments	26,200	19,936	7,618	7,560	6,202	6,521	5,460	9,590	5,087	5,188
Fines and Forfeits	53,111	40,664	52,321	51,690	61,221	54,551	95,731	84,192	61,500	63,551
Investment Income	65,674	126,200	193,455	184,250	71,538	47,662	454,419	847,270	469,694	594,000
Miscellaneous Recurring	1,908,762	1,963,507	2,012,945	1,920,867	1,958,127	2,377,711	2,088,485	388,605	259,005	208,309
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring	608,097	484,270	598,786	319,578	315,970	222,988	411,105	235,054	-	-
<b>Total Local Revenue</b>	<b>9,193,600</b>	<b>9,549,801</b>	<b>10,064,123</b>	<b>8,833,016</b>	<b>8,422,155</b>	<b>9,337,011</b>	<b>10,218,576</b>	<b>9,181,334</b>	<b>7,717,769</b>	<b>8,412,580</b>

**STATE AID** - In FY25, State Aid is projected to account for 17.33% of General Fund revenues.

**Chapter 70** –The Chapter 70 program is the major program of state aid to public elementary and secondary schools. The program also establishes minimum spending requirements for each municipality’s share of school costs. We received an additional \$474,864 in FY25, or a 2.66% increase. For FY26, the Governor’s budget has allocated an additional \$338,325, or 2.%. The minimum contribution per student is \$75. More information regarding Chapter 70 can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/chapter70>.

**Unrestricted Government Aid** – In FY10, Lottery and Additional Assistance funding were combined into one line item by the state. Proceeds from the state lottery are distributed to communities with the intention of having an equalizing effect. Those communities with a lower Equalized Property Valuations (EQV) receive a higher share of aid. The FY25 budget had a \$76,218 or 3.00% increase for Unrestricted Aid. The Governor’s budget earmarked an additional \$57,570, or a 2.2% increase for FY26. The state has committed to increasing the Unrestricted Aid based on the estimated growth in tax revenues.

**Veterans Benefits** – Under Chapter 115, Section 6 of Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. Ch. 115), the Commonwealth provides a uniform program of financial and medical assistance for indigent veterans and their dependents. Qualifying veterans and their dependents receive necessary financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, fuel, and medical care in accordance with a formula which considers the number of dependents and income from all sources. Benefits paid out in accordance with state guidelines are reimbursed 75%. The amounts Westford has received over the past few years has leveled off as our Veterans Service Officer continues to get our veterans the proper support from other agencies.

**Tax Exemption Aid for Veterans, Blind Persons, Surviving Spouses and the Elderly** – Chapter 59, Section 5 of M.G.L.s details the requirements for assistance. The town is partially reimbursed for these exemptions towards property taxes.

**State Owned Land** – Much like payment in lieu of taxes, the state pays the town an amount to make up for lost property tax revenue on state owned land.

**Charter Tuition Reimbursement** – Municipal and regional school districts pay tuition for resident pupils attending Commonwealth Charter Schools. Parents have a choice to send their children to charter schools and have the town pay the tuition. The state reimburses the town a portion of these costs.

**School Construction** – The state provides an offsetting revenue stream to pay for a portion of school building projects. The two projects recently reimbursed through this funding have been the Blanchard Middle School and Westford Academy addition. The note for the Blanchard M.S. was paid off in Fiscal Year 2011 and the note for Westford Academy was paid off in Fiscal Year 2021. The town no longer receives the \$1,557,026 since the Westford Academy debt is fully paid.

**Offset Items** – These items are amounts that constitute categorical aid, i.e., funds that must be spent for specific municipal and regional school district programs. These items can be spent without an appropriation in the local budget.

**Public Libraries** – The funding for Public Libraries includes three grant awards: The Library Incentive Grant (LIG) that encourages municipalities to maintain minimum levels of service, the Municipal Equalization Grant (MEG) to help compensate libraries with relatively less revenue, and the Nonresident Circulation Offset (NRC) that helps offset the cost of circulating materials to residents of other communities.

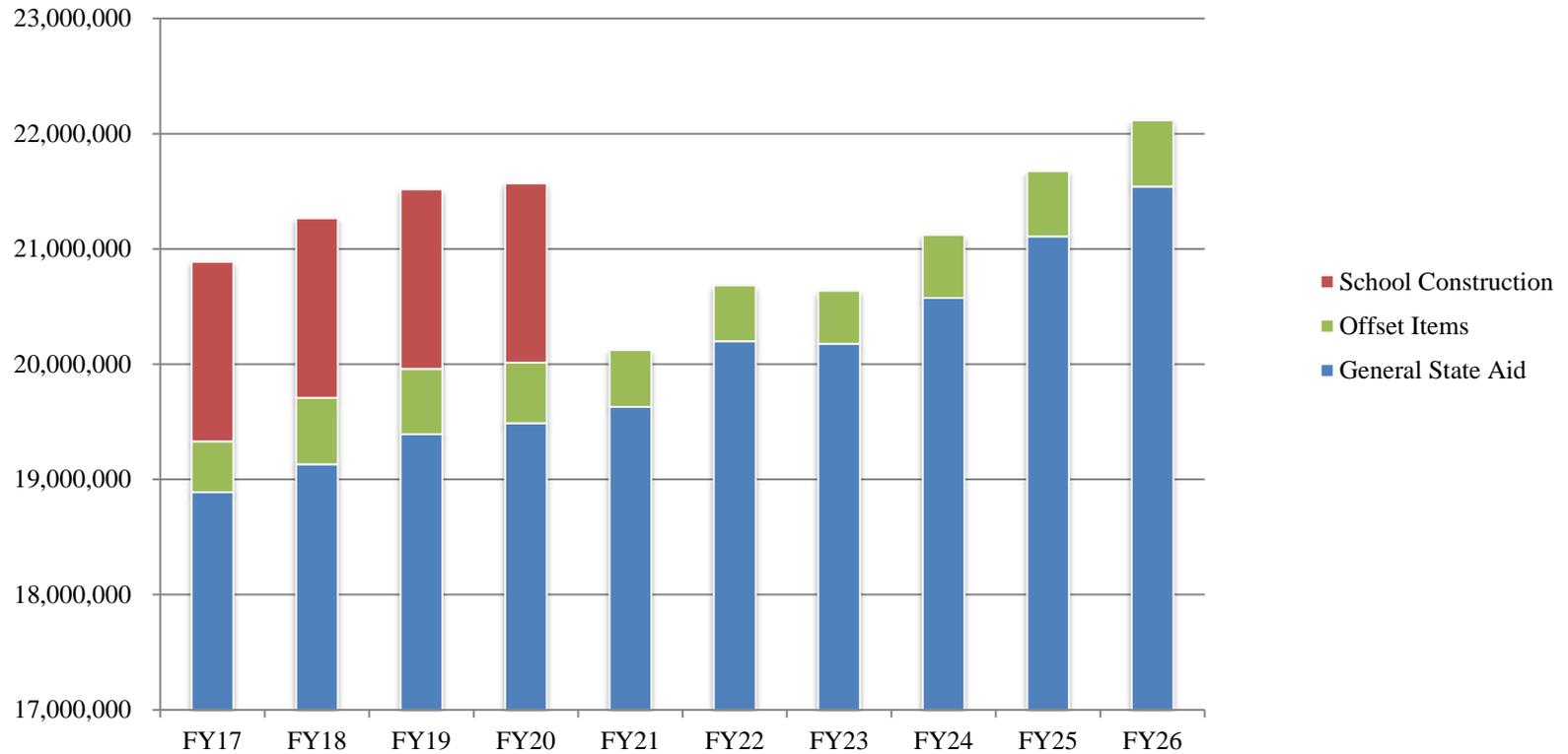
**School Choice** – To provide funding to school districts for accepting pupils from other districts.

The following table displays the history of state aid revenue from FY17 to FY26. The amounts listed for FY26 are the Governor Healy's budget proposal which was released on January 22, 2025. The figures in FY26 are subject to change as the state budget works its way through the legislature. Historically, we receive the final amounts at the end of July.

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
<b>Revenue</b>										
Chapter 70	16,706,565	16,853,055	17,010,375	17,144,235	17,144,235	17,281,815	17,551,275	17,830,755	18,305,619	18,643,944
Unrestricted Aid	2,043,382	2,123,074	2,197,382	2,256,711	2,256,711	2,335,696	2,461,824	2,540,602	2,616,820	2,674,390
Extended Polling Hours			3,528		11,147					
Veterans' Benefits	60,459	41,597	40,614	44,027	52,085	24,511	11,717	8,397	12,181	33,313
Exempt: Vets, Blind, Surv Spouses	58,543	69,191	113,854	21,084	21,084	236,537	17,570	135,135	91,103	147,705
State-Owned Land	227	227	227	240	248	269	347	391	403	403
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	18,451	42,682	26,149	21,224	140,877	97,826	104,262	55,574	82,917	42,247
Pupil Transportation				250		16,305				
Other Revenue From State					3,727	206,849	29,803	2,898		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>18,887,627</b>	<b>19,129,826</b>	<b>19,392,129</b>	<b>19,487,771</b>	<b>19,630,113</b>	<b>20,199,808</b>	<b>20,176,798</b>	<b>20,573,752</b>	<b>21,109,043</b>	<b>21,542,002</b>
School Construction	1,557,026	1,557,026	1,557,026	1,557,026	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,557,026</b>	<b>1,557,026</b>	<b>1,557,026</b>	<b>1,557,026</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Offset Items - Reserve for Direct Expenditure</b>										
Public Libraries	25,834	26,240	27,933	27,885	28,783	39,438	48,769	53,529	60,996	60,548
School Lunch Programs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Choice Receiving Tuition	416,682	552,174	538,445	496,773	463,085	443,764	412,298	493,534	505,168	514,749
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>442,516</b>	<b>578,414</b>	<b>566,378</b>	<b>524,658</b>	<b>491,868</b>	<b>483,202</b>	<b>461,067</b>	<b>547,063</b>	<b>566,164</b>	<b>575,297</b>
<b>Total State Aid</b>	<b>20,887,169</b>	<b>21,265,266</b>	<b>21,515,533</b>	<b>21,569,455</b>	<b>20,121,981</b>	<b>20,683,010</b>	<b>20,637,865</b>	<b>21,120,815</b>	<b>21,675,207</b>	<b>22,117,299</b>

STATE AID - In FY26, we budgeted an additional \$474,864 in Chapter 70 funding and a \$57,57 increase in Unrestricted Government Aid based on the Governor's FY25 initial budget released on January 22, 2025.

### State Aid - FY17 to FY26



Enterprise Revenue – Enterprise Funds are authorized under Massachusetts General Laws, Ch. 44, Sec. 53F1/2. Westford currently has four enterprise funds: Water, Ambulance, Recreation and Stormwater. The Stormwater Enterprise was the latest one established at the October 28, 2019 Special Town Meeting. Below is a summary of Enterprise Revenue from FY17 to FY26.

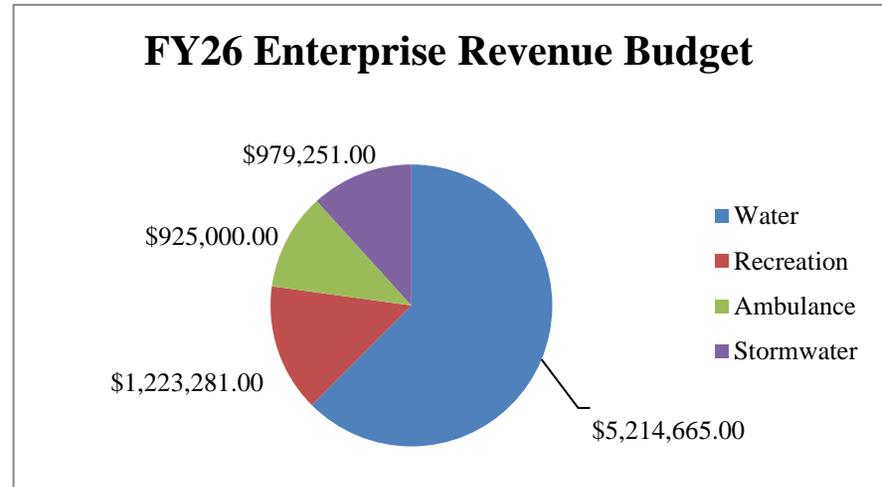
Enterprise	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY25 Actual 12-31-24	FY26 Budget
Water	4,088,502.55	4,030,118.31	4,696,291.26	4,726,414.99	4,617,448.10	4,350,871.29	4,329,444.48	4,896,089.28	4,812,375.00	3,113,931.17	5,214,665.00
Recreation	1,190,627.70	1,217,826.07	1,298,692.36	851,271.34	285,808.09	929,972.16	1,004,489.63	1,073,670.76	958,300.00	426,917.45	1,223,281.00
Ambulance	953,777.24	915,862.18	985,148.33	1,000,605.26	871,206.92	980,224.23	1,098,262.78	1,243,681.99	850,000.00	830,600.85	925,000.00
Stormwater					1,032,303.89	1,143,521.39	1,183,489.08	1,219,207.15	823,264.00	871,169.69	979,251.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,232,907.49</b>	<b>6,163,806.56</b>	<b>6,980,131.95</b>	<b>6,578,291.59</b>	<b>6,806,767.00</b>	<b>7,404,589.07</b>	<b>7,615,685.97</b>	<b>8,432,649.18</b>	<b>7,443,939.00</b>	<b>5,242,619.16</b>	<b>8,342,197.00</b>

Enterprises can either be self-supporting or receive financial assistance from the town. Below is a table displaying the General Fund subsidies provided to the various enterprises from FY17 to FY26. The Water Enterprise 6.5% rate increase will begin on July 1, 2025 to help pay for rising costs, including inflationary pressures and PFAS remediation. The Recreation Enterprise's Westford Partnership for Children after school program has been seeing increases in enrollment and revenue, but they have not yet met the same enrollment figures as prior to the pandemic. However, for the first time ever, there is no general subsidy for FY26. The Ambulance Enterprise has also seen an increase in revenue in FY25, as rates increased once again in October 2024. Lastly, the Stormwater Enterprise General Fund subsidy is remaining level funded from FY25 to FY26.

Enterprise General Fund Subsidies: FY17 to FY26										
	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Budget
Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recreation	110,969	148,133	93,237	45,938	47,153	149,896	34,705	263,227	35,927	-
Ambulance	427,533	494,403	540,823	526,801	437,078	666,324	589,944	605,371	786,441	605,337
Stormwater	0	0	0	0	600,000	392,188	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>538,502</b>	<b>642,536</b>	<b>634,060</b>	<b>572,739</b>	<b>1,084,231</b>	<b>1,208,408</b>	<b>1,224,649</b>	<b>1,468,598</b>	<b>1,422,368</b>	<b>1,205,337</b>

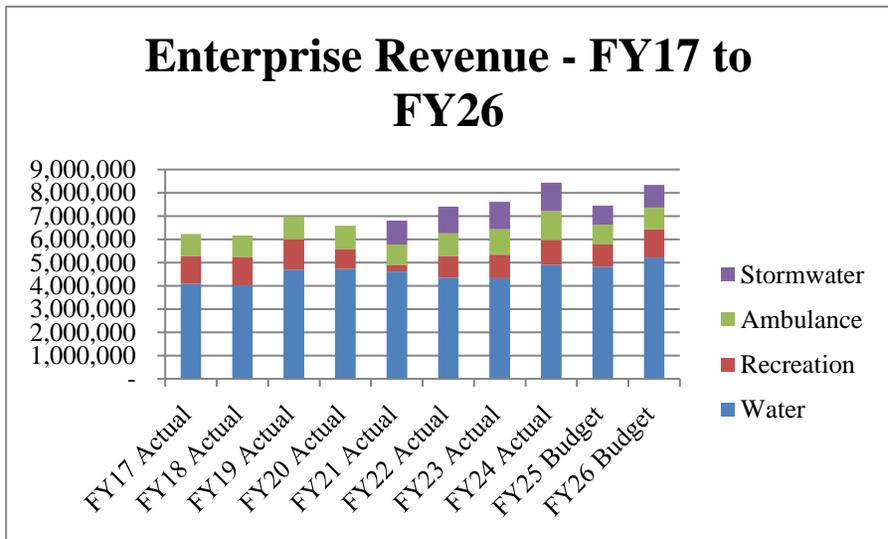
**Water Enterprise** – The Water Enterprise submitted a five-year plan during this year's budget process. The plan included a detailed operating budget and revenue projections. The Water Enterprise continues to be self-sustaining as they continue to update the town's infrastructure on an annual basis. At the April 26, 2024, Annual Town Meeting, the Town appropriated \$24.5m to build two PFAS Treatment Plants. The bids for the two plants are due back in February, so there is a placeholder on the warrant in case the bids are higher than expected.

**Recreation Enterprise** –In FY22, the Select Board voted to apply \$456,708 in ARPA funding to subsidize the budget as the Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) is once again offering after school care. In FY23, \$150,000 in Recreation Enterprise Retained Earnings and \$167,128 was applied to the budget. In FY24, we have adjusted the revenue projections so that we are not anticipating needing a supplemental appropriation to balance the budget. In FY25, the non-override budget subsidy decreases from \$263,227 to \$35,927 and we are applying \$200,000 in Recreation Enterprise Retained Earnings. In FY26, the \$1,223,281 in Revenue and \$180,000 from retained earnings will fund the budget without the need for a general fund subsidy.



**Ambulance Enterprise** – The Advanced Life Support program was implemented in August of 2010. Since that time, the Fire Department has been focused on developing the program by both training current employees and hiring paramedics when vacancies occur. Due to the increased number of calls for service and an increase in rate, revenue has increased over the past few years to \$1,098,263 in FY23 and a high of \$1,243,682 in FY24. Through the first six months of FY25, Ambulance Enterprise Revenue is \$830,601.

**Stormwater Enterprise** – The Stormwater Management Enterprise fees were initially assessed in October 2020. The fee per residence will range between \$37.50 to \$150.00 for the fiscal year, and the amount depends upon the impervious square footage on the property. Commercial properties will be charged depending upon how many Equivalent Residential Units (ERU’s) of impervious surface are located on their property. \$862,912 was collected by the end of December, 2024.



OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS – A complete list of special revenue funds can be found in the annual town report.

**Capital Stabilization Fund** - This fund was established at the October 20, 2008 Special Town Meeting. At the July 10, 2017 Special Town Meeting, it was voted to appropriate \$375,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to pay for the remaining costs associated with the combined dispatch center (\$325,000) and the schematic design for the Abbot Roof MSBA project (\$50,000). The town has since reimbursed the entire \$200,000 received from the Cornerstone Square mitigation back to the Capital Stabilization. At the October 16, 2021 Special Town Meeting, the town voted to appropriate \$470,000 from the proceeds of the sale of 63 Main Street to the Capital Stabilization Fund. Lastly, the town approved the appropriation \$580,000 from Capital Stabilization at the June 11, 2022 Town Meeting to build a fire training tower on Forge Village Road. The proceeds from the sale of 35 Town Farm Rd. are earmarked to reimburse the Capital Stabilization Fund. The current balance as of December 31, 2024 is \$568,024.

**Overlay Surplus** – Overlay is an annual account to cover anticipated abatements and exemptions of committed real and personal property taxes for that fiscal year. The overlay amount is determined by the Board of Assessors and may be raised in the tax rate without appropriation. Remaining balances in the overlay accounts are needed for pending abatements or outstanding Appellate Tax Board decisions. Excess overlay is determined, certified, and transferred by vote of the Board of Assessors to an Overlay Surplus Account. Overlay surplus may be appropriated for any lawful purpose or closed to the General Fund at the end of the year. For FY26, we are recommending to appropriate \$100,000 to pay for the Assessors property valuations and to offset the General Fund budget.

**Other Available Funds – Misc.** – See the below table for a *draft* list of FY26 appropriations:

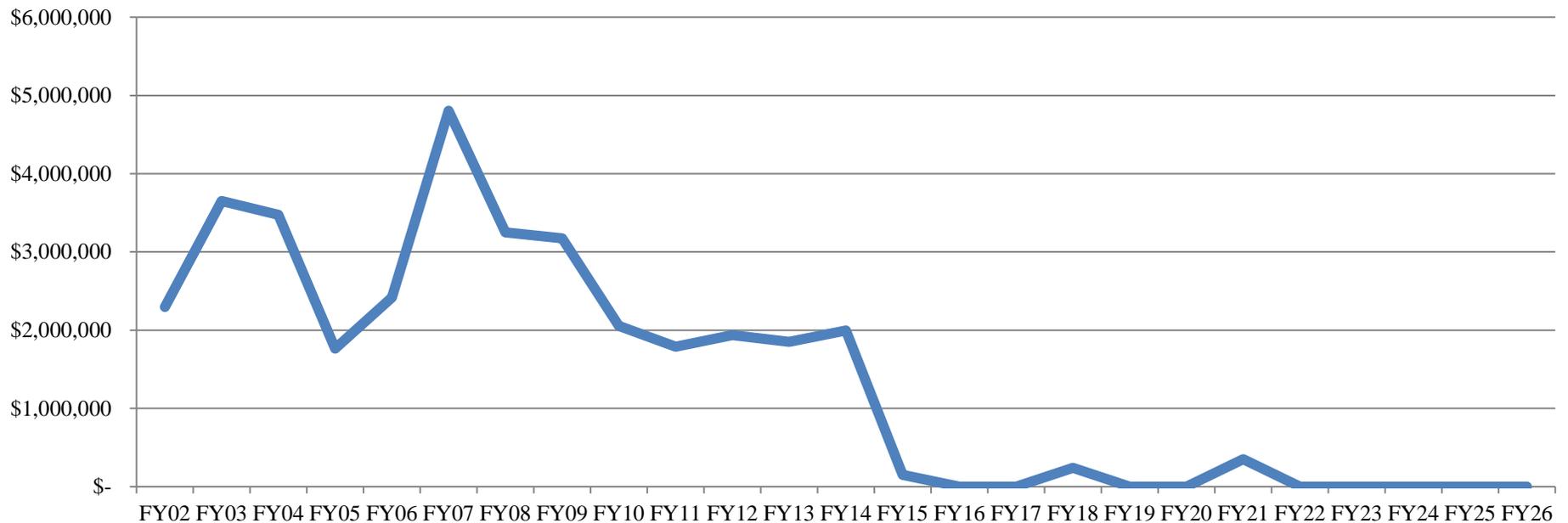
Fund	Amount	Purpose
Senior Center Fitness Revolving	\$3,000	To offset 541 Council on Aging budget
Personal Services Offsets	\$26,547	To fund the additional nurse hours and p/t help at Stony Brook Conservation Land
Roudenbush Revolving	\$13,000	To offset the debt service for the Roudenbush Building construction
Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust	\$10,000	To offset the operations of the Cemetery Department
Opioid Settlement Proceeds	\$25,000	To supplement the salary of the Community Wellness Coordinator
Overlay	\$100,000	To offset the FY26 budget

Community Preservation Funds – The Community Preservation Act (CPA) allows Westford to preserve the community character in the areas of open space, community housing, historical resources, and land for recreational use. Westford residents currently pay a 3% property tax surcharge to fund such projects. The Community Preservation Committee does not spend the revenue in the fiscal year that it is received. Rather, it is “banked” for the next fiscal year, which creates a healthy return on the investments.

<b>Revenue History</b>					
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Penalties / Interest</b>	<b>Other Taxes - CPA Surcharge</b>	<b>CPA - State Share</b>	<b>Earnings on Investments / Market Adjustments</b>	<b>Total</b>
2003	1,395.53	927,877.35	815,485.00	32,765.41	1,777,523.29
2004	2,724.99	1,010,454.76	924,436.00	76,600.82	2,014,216.57
2005	1,820.31	1,077,557.22	1,005,454.00	120,934.60	2,205,766.13
2006	1,433.27	1,139,232.16	1,078,627.00	116,414.27	2,335,706.70
2007	1,978.27	1,188,066.11	1,137,231.00	197,197.75	2,524,473.13
2008	2,348.42	1,220,210.29	1,190,322.00	289,460.41	2,702,341.12
2009	2,204.36	1,250,223.28	885,461.00	228,229.44	2,366,118.08
2010	2,527.72	1,284,730.99	485,429.00	175,070.12	1,947,757.83
2011	2,929.67	1,303,521.74	386,547.00	144,429.70	1,837,428.11
2012	2,355.58	1,361,387.74	385,895.00	106,484.46	1,856,122.78
2013	2,488.53	1,407,988.61	402,455.00	41,425.07	1,854,357.21
2014	2,915.23	1,456,660.02	818,612.00	63,390.85	2,341,578.10
2015	3,840.41	1,568,218.57	514,377.00	72,906.91	2,159,342.89
2016	4,048.90	1,644,891.63	513,583.00	96,236.22	2,258,759.75
2017	3,933.95	1,702,514.48	373,932.00	106,405.88	2,186,786.31
2018	4,115.34	1,755,479.40	324,179.00	146,892.05	2,230,665.79
2019	4,685.50	1,853,920.51	381,872.00	130,040.91	2,370,518.92
2020	5,406.12	1,965,218.56	500,852.00	190,616.28	2,662,092.96
2021	7,771.81	2,078,040.50	636,005.00	606,920.95	3,328,738.26
2022	6,922.01	2,164,286.25	1,015,749.00	(71,511.66)	3,115,445.60
2023	7,916.59	2,290,217.23	934,577.00	412,355.53	3,645,066.35
2024	4,800.35	2,338,409.64	517,403.00	556,840.09	3,417,453.08
2025 YTD	1,527.12	1,172,192.08	478,172.00	465,834.11	2,117,725.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,089.98</b>	<b>35,161,299.12</b>	<b>15,706,655.00</b>	<b>4,305,940.17</b>	<b>55,255,984.27</b>

**FREE CASH** – Free Cash, which is certified as of July 1 each year by the Commonwealth’s Department of Revenue (DOR), represents the portion of General Fund surplus revenue that is unrestricted and available for appropriation. These funds, once certified, are historically used to fund the capital plan, snow and ice deficit, and any expenditure shortfalls that may occur during the year due to unforeseen circumstances. Free Cash is generated when the actual operating expenses are less than the amount budgeted, or when actual revenues exceed the original estimates. Below is a graph showing the amount of Free Cash used to balance the budget each year. In FY15, the town used \$149,339.07 at the October 2014 Special Town Meeting to balance the budget. The town was successful in FY16 and FY17 in not applying Free Cash, but in FY18 we appropriated \$241,143 to close a funding gap that was caused from a large drop off in new growth. In FY21, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a decrease in state aid and local revenue, so \$352,712 in Free Cash was applied to fund the gap. Of the \$352,712 in Free Cash applied, \$110,460 was to fund the prior snow & ice deficit. For FY26, we are proposing a balanced budget without the use of Free Cash.

### Free Cash Applied to Balance Operating Budget



REVENUES:	FY17 Budget	FY18 Budget	FY19 Budget	FY20 Budget	FY21 Budget	FY22 Budget	FY23 Budget	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget
Tax Revenue	72,459,010	75,011,644	78,279,346	81,832,084	85,181,353	88,115,910	90,837,699	92,711,637	95,710,863	99,419,048
Local Revenue	7,903,253	8,102,955	8,280,007	8,465,701	7,956,260	7,738,424	8,266,131	7,463,398	7,717,769	8,412,580
State Aid	20,903,252	21,247,945	21,433,600	21,693,368	20,122,029	20,270,627	20,722,236	21,087,696	21,675,207	22,117,299
Free Cash - Appropriations	2,148,927	3,343,554	2,915,912	3,498,709	1,427,713	2,374,289	2,257,539	5,133,955	2,661,448	3,152,741
Free Cash - Offset Tax Rate	-	241,143	-	-	352,712	-	-	-	-	-
Available Funds	2,083,686	2,478,964	5,661,970	4,617,650	2,753,266	3,449,248	2,951,268	4,910,447	4,813,566	1,292,537
Enterprise Revenue	8,181,338	6,505,176	8,018,813	7,366,214	8,024,580	8,132,449	8,053,357	9,060,362	7,944,322	11,016,922
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>113,679,466</b>	<b>116,931,381</b>	<b>124,589,648</b>	<b>127,473,725</b>	<b>125,817,913</b>	<b>130,080,947</b>	<b>133,088,230</b>	<b>140,367,495</b>	<b>140,523,175</b>	<b>145,411,127</b>

**FY26 Projected Revenue**

