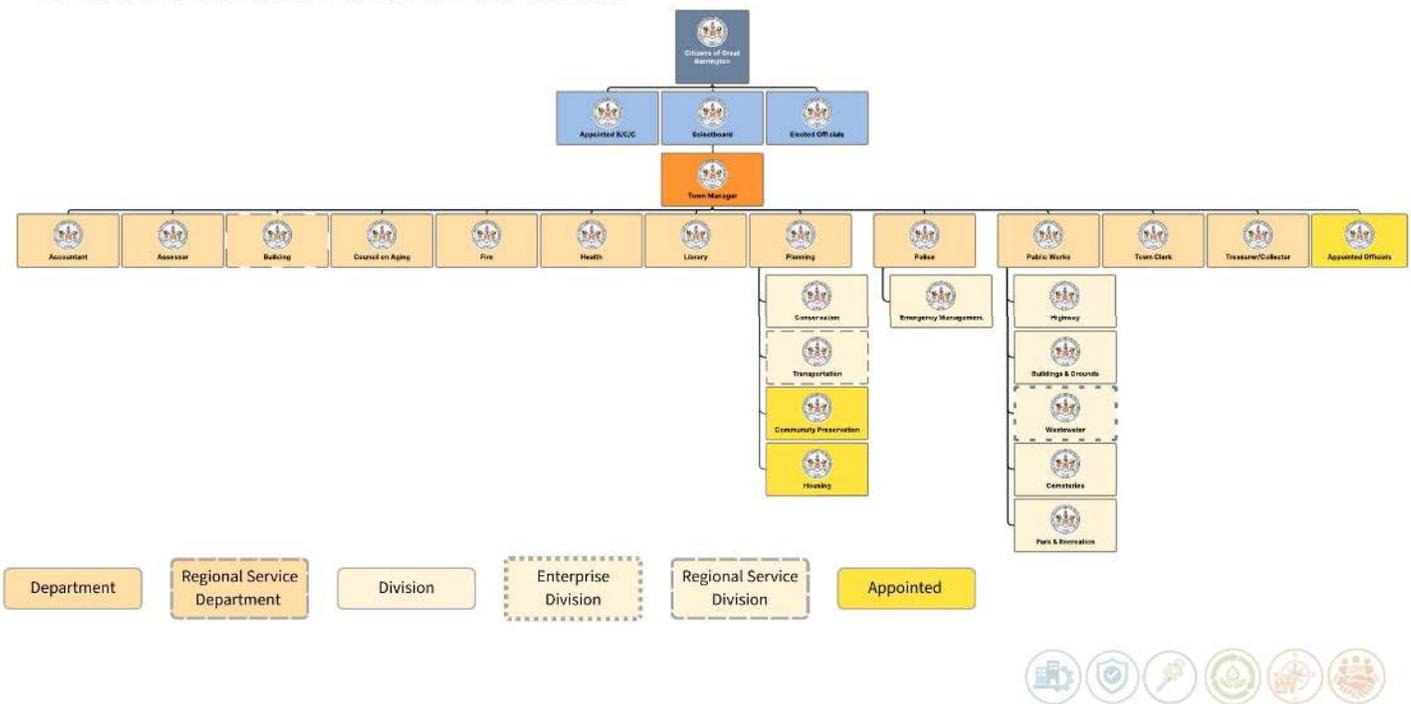


OPERATING BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2027

The Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget presents the Town of Great Barrington’s annual financial plan for municipal operations within the General Fund. This section outlines the appropriations necessary to support the delivery of core governmental services, fulfill statutory obligations, and implement policy direction established by the Selectboard and Town Meeting.

The Operating Budget funds the ongoing cost of municipal service delivery, including public safety, public works, financial administration, elections, regulatory and inspectional services, technology infrastructure, and other essential operations. In addition to departmental appropriations, centralized obligations classified as “Other Services” represent 31.12% of the total General Operating Fund budget, encompassing Technology, Planning, Building Inspection, Veterans Services, Debt Service, Retirement, Insurance, and other town-wide financial commitments.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Organizational Structure and Governance Framework

The Town of Great Barrington operates under a Selectboard - Town Manager form of government, as established by the Town Charter and Massachusetts General Laws. The organizational structure depicted in the accompanying chart illustrates the lines of authority, accountability, and operational responsibility that guide municipal service delivery.

At the highest level, authority resides with the Citizens of Great Barrington, who elect officials and approve appropriations at Town Meeting. The Selectboard, as the Town's chief elected policy-making body, establishes strategic direction, adopts policy, and appoints the Town Manager.

The Town Manager serves as the chief administrative officer and is responsible for the professional management of all municipal operations. The Town Manager implements Selectboard policy, oversees department heads, prepares the annual operating and capital budgets, and ensures the lawful and efficient administration of Town affairs.

Departmental Structure

As reflected in the organizational chart:

- Core municipal departments report to the Town Manager, including Finance, Assessing, Building, Council on Aging, Fire, Health, Library, Planning, Police, Public Works, Town Clerk, and Treasurer/Collector.
- Several departments include divisions or specialized operational units, such as:
 - Highway, Buildings & Grounds, Cemeteries, Parks & Recreation, and Wastewater within Public Works
 - Conservation, Transportation, Community Preservation, and Housing within Planning
 - Emergency Management coordinated alongside public safety functions

The chart also distinguishes between Department-level operations, Divisions within departments, Regional service components, Enterprise operations and Appointed versus elected functions.

This structure reflects both statutory requirements and operational efficiencies, including areas where services are regionalized or enterprise funded.

Governance and Accountability

The organizational framework ensures, clear reporting relationships, defined operational responsibility, segregation between policy-setting and administrative execution and transparency in financial and managerial oversight.

Elected officials and appointed boards and commissions maintain regulatory and advisory authority in accordance with state law and local bylaws. However, the centralized administrative model provides coordinated management, consistent financial controls, and uniform implementation of policy decisions.

Relationship to the Operating Budget

The Operating Budget directly reflects this organizational structure. Appropriations are organized by department and division consistent with reporting authority and management responsibility.

This structure reinforces:

- Accountability for service delivery
- Clear alignment between department goals and Strategic Priorities
- Transparent allocation of resources

- Coordinated multi-department implementation of community objectives

By presenting the organizational framework alongside the Operating Budget, the Town provides a comprehensive view of how governance, administration, and financial planning intersect to support municipal operations.

Budget Development Framework

The FY2027 Operating Budget was developed through a structured and policy-driven process designed to ensure that financial decisions reflect adopted community priorities rather than incremental or historical spending patterns.

At the core of this framework is alignment with the Selectboard’s six Strategic Priority Areas.



These priorities establish the Town's policy direction across key focus areas, including municipal service delivery, infrastructure and assets, sustainability and environment, public health and safety, housing, and economic development.

Department Heads were required not only to submit line-item budget requests, but also to demonstrate how FY2026 accomplishments contributed measurable progress within one or more Strategic Priority Areas, and FY2027 goals directly advance those same adopted priorities.

This alignment requirement ensures that operating expenditures are not evaluated in isolation, but rather as tools to implement community goals. It also strengthens accountability by connecting financial appropriations to policy outcomes and measurable service impacts.

Departmental Review and Justification Standards

The development of the FY2027 Operating Budget included a comprehensive, data-driven, and policy-based review process designed to ensure that every appropriation reflects operational necessity, fiscal responsibility, and alignment with the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities.

The budget process began with formal guidance issued to all Department Heads outlining expectations for submission standards, documentation requirements, and evaluation criteria. Departments were instructed that budget requests would not be considered as incremental adjustments to prior-year spending, but rather as policy-aligned operating plans supported by measurable justification.

Each Department Head was required to submit a detailed operating budget request that included:

- Multi-year expenditure history and trend analysis, identifying patterns in spending and variances from prior appropriations;
- Narrative justification for any proposed increase, clearly distinguishing between inflationary adjustments, contractual obligations, service enhancements, or compliance requirements;
- Identification of statutory or legally mandated costs, including regulatory compliance and collective bargaining obligations;
- Staffing analysis, including position counts, workload considerations, and service delivery impacts;
- Operational impact statements describing the consequences of either reduced funding or unfunded requests;

A central component of the review process was the requirement that departments demonstrate how both past performance and future goals align with the Selectboard's six Strategic Priority Areas. Departments were required to explicitly identify:

- Which Strategic Priority Area their accomplishment supported;
- What measurable progress was achieved;
- How the requested funding for FY2027 advances an adopted policy objective; and
- Whether the request maintains, strengthens, or expands service delivery within that priority area.

Requests lacking clear alignment to an adopted Strategic Priority or operational necessity were subject to further scrutiny and prioritization.

This framework ensures that the Operating Budget functions as a policy implementation tool, not merely a financial document, and that resources are directed toward advancing community-defined objectives.

Following submission, each departmental request underwent a structured administrative and financial analysis led by the Town Manager's Office in coordination with the Finance team. This evaluation included:

- Verification of wage and benefit projections;
- Review of collective bargaining obligations and contractual increases;
- Analysis of health insurance, retirement, and other benefit cost drivers;
- Multi-year impact assessment to identify structural obligations extending beyond FY2027;
- Comparison of requested increases against historical spending patterns;
- Identification of cost containment opportunities and operational efficiencies;
- Review of internal control implications and risk exposure;
- Assessment of potential service delivery impacts.

Special attention was given to requests that:

- Created ongoing structural costs;
- Represented service expansion rather than service maintenance;
- Relied on one-time or non-recurring funding sources;
- Reflected atypical growth trends; or
- Increased long-term fiscal risk.

Where appropriate, adjustments were made to align requests with revenue capacity and long-term financial sustainability.

Given the constraints of Proposition 2½ and the continued growth of major cost drivers including education assessments, employee benefits, retirement contributions, insurance, and vendor contracts every departmental request was evaluated within the broader context of structural balance.

Departments were encouraged to identify efficiencies, modernize processes, leverage technology, and improve internal controls to reduce reliance on reactive fiscal measures. The goal of the review process was not solely to reduce expenditures, but to ensure that every recommended appropriation is defensible, necessary, and aligned with both strategic direction and fiscal capacity.

The results of this structured review are reflected throughout the Operating Budget chapter. Each department section includes:

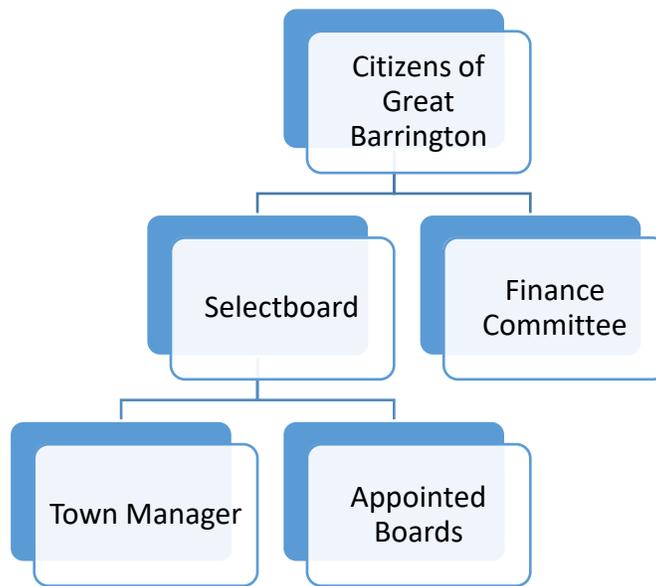
- Clear articulation of purpose and service delivery;
- Measurable accomplishments tied to Strategic Priorities;
- Defined goals aligned with adopted policy areas;
- Line-item explanations for recommended adjustments.

This approach strengthens transparency for the Selectboard, Finance Committee, Town Meeting, and residents by clearly connecting financial decisions to community outcomes and long-term planning objectives.

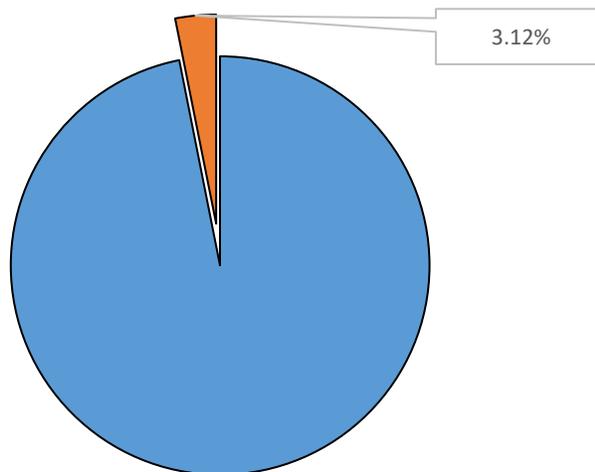
TOWN MANAGER DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Town Manager serves as the chief administrative officer of the Town of Great Barrington and is appointed by the Selectboard to ensure the effective and efficient management of all municipal operations and services. In this role, the Town Manager is responsible for faithfully administering all Town affairs under the authority of the Charter, applicable General Laws, local bylaws, and the policies of the Selectboard.



% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Town Manager Department comprises of 3.21% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Town Manager provides centralized executive leadership and professional management for the Town's municipal government. Acting as the chief administrative officer, the Town Manager ensures that all Town departments and services operate efficiently, lawfully, and in alignment with the policies and priorities established by the Selectboard and Town Meeting.

The Town Manager's services include overall coordination of municipal operations; implementation of Town bylaws, Charter provisions, and Selectboard policies; and oversight of department heads to ensure consistent, high-quality service delivery to residents, businesses, and visitors.

The Town Manager is responsible for comprehensive financial management services, including preparation and administration of the annual operating and capital budgets; long-range financial planning; revenue forecasting; debt management; and oversight of procurement, contracts, grants, and financial controls to safeguard public funds and maintain fiscal stability.

The Town Manager provides personnel and labor relations services, including the appointment, supervision, and evaluation of department heads; administration of personnel policies and collective bargaining agreements; workforce planning; and promotion of a safe, equitable, and effective municipal workplace.

The Town Manager delivers policy support and advisory services to the Selectboard and other boards and committees by conducting research, preparing reports, making professional recommendations, and supporting informed decision-making. The role also includes coordination and regulatory compliance of all Selectboard issued licenses, as well as Town Meeting preparation and implementation of approved actions.

The Town Manager serves as the Town's primary public liaison and intergovernmental representative, responding to citizen inquiries and concerns, facilitating community engagement, and representing the Town in regional, state, and intermunicipal initiatives. The office also oversees communications, risk management, insurance, property management, and emergency coordination functions essential to municipal continuity and resilience.

Through these services, the Town Manager ensures accountable governance, operational continuity, fiscal responsibility, and responsive public service delivery on behalf of the Town.



Please visit the department webpage for more information
www.townofgbma.gov/318/Town-Manager

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ Maintained continuity of municipal operations during a Town Manager vacancy, ensuring uninterrupted administrative oversight, fiscal management, emergency coordination, risk management, and support to Town boards, staff, and the public.
- ✓ Supported leadership transition and organizational stability, including ensuring a smooth onboarding process for the new Town Manager.
- ✓ Facilitated discussions with department leadership to establish and affirm Organizational Shared Commitments guiding decision-making, collaboration, and public service.
- ✓ Advanced strategic planning and governance alignment by continuing implementation of the Priority Planning process, strengthening coordination between the Selectboard and administration to align budgeting and operational decisions with community goals.
- ✓ Provided comprehensive personnel and labor relations oversight, advancing workforce planning, and continuing collective bargaining negotiations with Fire, while initiating successor contracts for Patrol, Library, and Public Works.
- ✓ Strengthened fiscal oversight and internal controls, implementing clearer budget monitoring and expenditure tracking practices to improve accountability, transparency, and informed decision-making.
- ✓ Reorganized capital planning and borrowing practices to ensure projects are properly authorized, financed, and sequenced prior to execution, reducing fiscal and legal risk.
- ✓ Enhanced public communication and community outreach, improving the clarity and tone of press releases, public notices, meeting materials, and resident communications, including outreach related to the Housatonic Water Reimbursement program.
- ✓ Represented Great Barrington in regional, state, and intermunicipal forums, advancing shared services discussions, transportation and housing coordination, emergency services collaboration, and advocating for the Town's interests.
- ✓ Coordinated grant planning and compliance efforts, aligning Town priorities with state and federal funding opportunities and strengthening intergovernmental collaboration.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Strengthen capital planning, borrowing, and financial controls by ensuring all capital projects are fully authorized, financed, properly sequenced, and tracked through closeout to reduce fiscal and legal risk.
2. Refine budget development and monitoring practices to improve transparency, forecasting, and decision-making for the Select Board and Finance Committee.
3. Provide timely policy analysis and implementation support for Select Board priorities, including tax policy considerations, housing initiatives, and complex regulatory matters.
4. Stabilize essential municipal service costs by securing longer-term contracts for critical vendor services, including Southern Berkshire Ambulance, to support public health, safety, and reliable service delivery.
5. Advance and monitor Select Board Strategic Priorities, using benchmarking and progress tracking to align departmental efforts with adopted goals.
6. Support workforce stability and labor relations, including collective bargaining, personnel compliance, and reasonable accommodation administration, while balancing fiscal constraints and service needs.
7. Formalize internal policies, procedures, and institutional knowledge to reduce reliance on informal practices, strengthen continuity, and mitigate risks associated with staff turnover.

Long-Term:

1. Establish sustainable long-range financial and capital planning frameworks, including multi-year financial forecasts and debt management practices that clearly identify structural cost drivers and long-term liabilities.
2. Advance coordinated land use and community planning initiatives that balance housing, economic development, environmental protection, and infrastructure capacity.
3. Strengthen predictability and transparency in development review, through closer coordination with planning, zoning, and regulatory boards.
4. Expand intermunicipal and regional collaboration to improve service delivery, reduce costs, and enhance grant competitiveness.
5. Position Great Barrington as a proactive regional leader on transportation, housing, emergency services, and infrastructure challenges.
6. Enhance emergency preparedness and organizational resilience, strengthening risk management, continuity planning, and the Town's ability to respond effectively to unforeseen events.

01122 SELECTBOARD/TOWN MANAGER - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW**Personnel**

Account	Account Name	Summary
51105	Selectboard	This is the salary for the board members, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51108	Town Manager	This is the salary with contractual 2% increase for FY27.
51113	Administration	Wages for 2 employees is within this line, and the increases reflect the absorption of half of the Human Resources Director duties to the Executive Assistant position, and the increased duties overseeing Short Term Rentals and other support by the Admin/IT Mgmt Coordinator.
51114	Committee Clerks	A 2% increase is proposed for FY27 similar to all Town employees.
51116	Parking Clerk Stipend	Previously, this stipend was housed within the Collector/Treasurer Budget, however it is appropriate to be within Town Manager as parking violations typically occur on public ways.
51200	Intern	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.
51201	Social Media/Public Relations	A reduction is being recommended as the costs associated with the services do not meet the budgeted expenses.
51420	Longevity Pay	This line item reflect the accurate expenses associated with the one eligible employee in accordance with the Personnel Policy.
51900	Contingency	There are no changes proposed for this line.
51910	Bilingual Language Stipends	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52000	Contracted Services	A slight increase is proposed for any unanticipated contractual services and being more reflective of true costs over each Fiscal Year.
52300	Publications	There are no changes proposed for this line.
53013	Procurement Audit	This line was a one time cost for FY26, and not needed for FY27
53020	Legal Fees	Previously all legal services were combined into one line, however counsel services for HWW have been teased out to track associated costs over each fiscal year. As this line never adjusted for HWW, the true costs associated with general legal remains at \$100,000.
53022	Legal Fees - HWW	Legal Fees for HWW created a need to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund in FY26. With potential ongoing future costs, this line was created in the general operating budget.
53430	Postage/Postage Machine	Previously within the Collector/Treasurer Budget, this line supports all town departments therefore should be within the general umbrella that supports such.
53450	Advertising	There are no changes proposed for this line.
54200	Office Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this line.
54230	Copy Paper	There are no changes proposed for this line.

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET**TOWN MANAGER DEPARTMENT****GENERAL FUND**

57100	Travel/Training	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57300	Dues & Memberships	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57600	Court Judgments	This line is being closed out prior to the end of FY26, therefore zeroed out.

Selectboard/Town Manager: 01122

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51105	Selectboard				\$ 22,050	\$ 24,500	\$ 8,167	\$ 24,990	\$ 24,990
51108	Town Manager	1	1		123,819	160,000	28,517	163,200	\$ 163,200
51113	Administration	2	2		91,192	117,500	46,788	141,500	\$ 141,000
51114	Committee Clerks				5,446	6,000	1,950	6,000	\$ 6,000
51116	Parking Clerk Stipend				-	-	-	1,500	\$ 1,500
51200	Intern				-	-	-		
51201	Social Media/Public Relations				3,302	15,400	1,430	10,000	\$ 10,000
51420	Longevity Pay				-	-	-	300	\$ 300
51900	Contingency				188	10,000	-	10,000	\$ 10,000
51910	Bilingual Lanuage Stipends				-	-	-		
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	3	3	0	\$ 245,997	\$ 333,400	\$ 86,851	\$ 357,490	\$ 356,990
52000	Contracted Services				\$ 14,226	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,075	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
52300	Publications				-	250	-	250	\$ 250
53013	Procurement Audit				-	-	-		
53020	Legal Fees				175,022	100,000	37,152	100,000	\$ 100,000
53022	Legal Fees - HWW				-	-	19,281	50,000	\$ 50,000
53430	Postage/Postage Machine				-	-	-	29,000	\$ 29,000
53450	Advertising				7,062	7,500	5,589	7,500	\$ 7,500
54200	Office Supplies				3,038	3,000	277	3,000	\$ 3,000
54230	Copy Paper				2,471	4,000	405	4,000	\$ 4,000
57100	Travel/Training				2,876	5,000	-	5,000	\$ 5,000
57300	Dues & Memberships				3,538	4,000	2,213	4,000	\$ 4,000
57600	Court Judgments				-	-	4,710,670		
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 208,235	\$ 126,750	\$ 4,781,661	\$ 207,750	\$ 207,750
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 454,232	\$ 460,150	\$ 4,868,512	\$ 565,240	\$ 564,740

Liz Hartsgrrove, Town Manager

Date

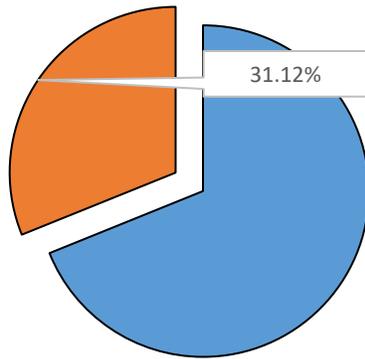
\$ Increase/Decrease \$ 105,090 \$ 104,590
% Increase/Decrease 22.84% 22.73%

FINANCE COMMITTEE

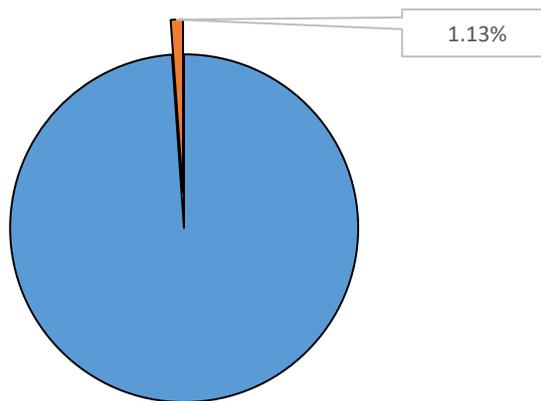
Within the FY2027 budget, a category of costs called "Other Services" has been separated from the departmental operating budgets. Within this category, the following costs are included:

- Finance Committee;
- Technology;
- Planning Board;
- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



The Finance Committee comprises of 1.13% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Finance Committee budget contains the Reserve Fund. The Finance Committee's Reserve Fund provides a limited, contingency funding source to address unforeseen or unavoidable expenditures that arise during the fiscal year and were not reasonably anticipated at the time the annual budget was adopted. The Reserve Fund enables the Town to respond promptly to emergency situations, critical operational needs, and time-sensitive financial obligations without disrupting departmental budgets or requiring immediate Town Meeting action.

Use of the Reserve Fund is governed by Massachusetts General Laws and local bylaws, and expenditures require approval of the Finance Committee. The fund is intended to support sound fiscal management by preserving service continuity, mitigating financial risk, and maintaining budgetary stability while ensuring appropriate oversight and accountability.

The Reserve Fund is not intended to support recurring operating expenses or planned expenditures, but rather to provide flexibility for exceptional circumstances such as emergency repairs, unanticipated legal or regulatory costs, or other urgent financial needs that, if left unaddressed, could negatively impact public safety, municipal operations, or the Town's financial position.

Through careful management and prudent use, the Finance Committee's Reserve Fund supports responsible fiscal stewardship, protects the Town's financial integrity, and enhances the Town's ability to respond effectively to unexpected challenges during the fiscal year.

Please visit the Committee's webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/290/Finance-Committee

01131 FINANCE COMMITTEE - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

There are no personnel expenses directly associated and within this account.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
57300	Dues & Memberships	This line funds the annual dues for the <i>MA Association of Town Finance Committees</i> , and there is no adjustment to this line being recommended.
57800	Reserve Fund	Reserve funds are used for unforeseen and unavoidable costs such as emergency repairs, snow and ice overruns, public safety incidents, unanticipated legal expenses, insurance deductibles, or other costs that arise after the budget is adopted. Increasing the reserve fund from \$150,000 to \$200,000 reflects the growing cost of any mid-year obligation and provides the Finance Committee with adequate flexibility to respond without destabilizing departmental budgets or requiring reactive fiscal measures.

Finance Committee: 01131

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
57300	Dues & Memberships				\$ 196	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
57800	Reserve Fund				-	150,000	-	200,000	\$ 200,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 196	\$ 150,200	\$ 200	\$ 200,200	\$ 200,200
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 196	\$ 150,200	\$ 200	\$ 200,200	\$ 200,200

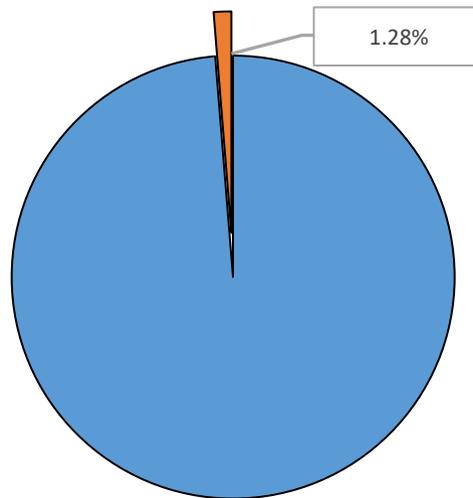
<hr/>	<hr/>	\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Liz Hartsgrove, Town Manager	Date	% Increase/Decrease	33.29%	33.29%

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Accounting Department safeguards the financial integrity of the Town by maintaining accurate, timely, and transparent financial records; ensuring compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal requirements; and supporting informed decision-making through sound fiscal oversight, reliable reporting, and strong internal controls in service to Town leadership, departments, and the public.

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Accounting Department, in total, comprises of 1.28% of the overall General Fund budget.

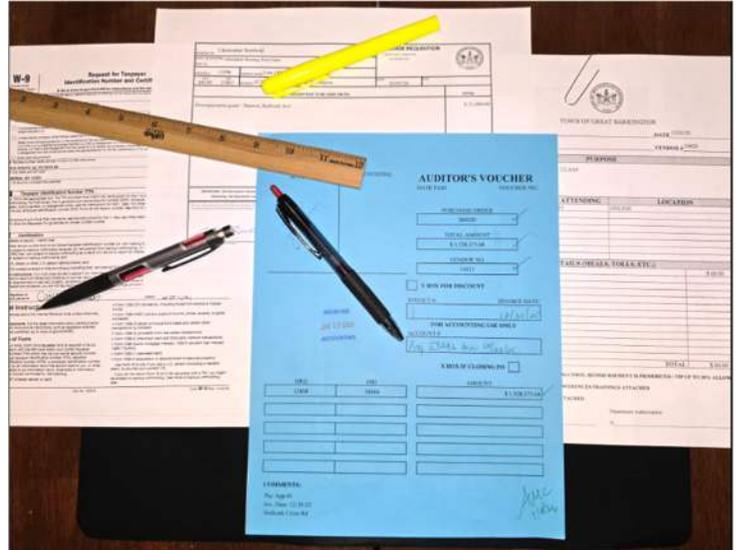
DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Delivering accurate, timely, and transparent financial services with integrity, accountability, and professionalism, the Accounting Department is responsible for maintaining the Town’s general ledger and financial accounting records and for ensuring the accurate, complete, and timely recording of all municipal financial activity. The Department provides fiscal oversight and internal controls to support compliance with Massachusetts General Laws and guidance issued by the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services (DLS).

The Town Accountant is responsible for the certification and processing of accounts payable and other disbursements; the reconciliation of cash, receivables, payables, and general ledger accounts; and the auditing

of departmental cash balances. The Town Accountant provides assistance to the Town Manager for preparation of the annual budget. The Accounting Department monitors appropriations, expenditures, and encumbrances in accordance with MGL Chapter 44 and notifies departments and Town leadership of potential over-expenditures.

The Accounting Department prepares and distributes monthly financial reports to the Town Manager, Department Heads, Finance Committee, and Selectboard, detailing appropriations, expenditures, encumbrances, and available balances. The Department prepares year-end financial statements and schedules, including the Balance Sheet and Schedule A, supports the preparation of the Tax Recapitulation Sheet, and provides required documentation to DLS for the certification of Free Cash. The Department also coordinates the Town's annual audit and supports compliance with GAAP and applicable DLS accounting and reporting standards.



Through accurate accounting, timely reporting, and adherence to statutory and professional standards, the Accounting Department supports sound financial management, informed decision-making, and the stewardship of public funds.

Our services include:

- Maintaining the Town's general ledger and financial accounting systems
- Processing and certifying accounts payable and other municipal disbursements
- Reconciling cash, receivables, payables, and general ledger accounts
- Monitoring appropriations, expenditures, and encumbrances in compliance with MGL Chapter 44
- Preparing monthly financial reports for Town officials and governing bodies
- Assisting the Town Manager to prepare the Town's annual budget
- Preparing year-end financial statements, including the Balance Sheet and Schedule A
- Supporting the Tax Recapitulation process and Free Cash certification with DLS
- Coordinating the annual audit and respond to audit findings
- Ensuring compliance with GAAP, DLS guidance, and applicable statutes

Please visit the department webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/270/Accounting

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ Goal: Maintained timely and accurate monthly financial reporting to Town Manager, Department Heads, Finance Committee, and Selectboard, including appropriation, expenditure, encumbrance, and available balance reports.

The Accounting Department successfully issued comprehensive monthly financial reports to Town leadership and governing bodies, including appropriations, expenditures, encumbrances, and available balances. These reports supported ongoing budget monitoring and enabled early identification of potential over-expenditures, helping departments remain within appropriations and supporting fiscal discipline.

Key Metrics or Indicators:

- Monthly financial reports issued: 12
- Reports distributed to: Town Manager, Department Heads, Finance Committee and Selectboard
- Budget variances identified and communicated: Ongoing throughout the fiscal year

Value Delivered: Improved transparency, informed decision-making, and proactive budget management without additional staffing or system costs.

- ✓ Goal: Prepared year-end financial statements and schedules, including the Balance Sheet and Schedule A, in accordance with GAAP and DLS requirements.

The Accounting Department prepared all required year-end financial statements and supporting schedules, including the Balance Sheet and Schedule A, in accordance with GAAP and DLS guidance. Accurate and timely year-end reporting ensures compliance with statutory requirements and supports the Town's overall financial stability.

Key Metrics or Indicators:

- Balance Sheet and Schedule A prepared and submitted: Completed
- GAAP compliance: Maintained
- Adjustments required by auditors: Routine only; no material corrections

Value Delivered: Maintained regulatory compliance and preserved the Town's ability to certify Free Cash and support future financial planning.

- ✓ Goal: Supported the Tax Recapitulation process and submission of required reporting to DLS for Free Cash certification.

The Accounting Department coordinated with the Town Assessor and the Town Collector/Treasurer to support the preparation of the Tax Recapitulation Sheet and submission of required documentation to DLS. This coordination ensured timely review and certification of Free Cash.

Key Metrics or Indicators:

- Recap schedules prepared and submitted: Completed
- Free Cash certification: Completed
- Interdepartmental coordination: Ongoing

Value Delivered: Free Cash certification enables the Town to use certified Free Cash for appropriations, reserve funding, and financial flexibility.

- ✓ Goal: Coordinated and supported the Town's annual audit and provided timely responses to independent auditor requests.

The Accounting Department served as the primary liaison for the Town's independent auditors, responding to audit requests, and addressing inquiries. The FY24 audit was completed without material findings, demonstrating effective internal controls and financial oversight.

Key Metrics or Indicators:

- Audit schedules prepared: Completed for FY24 and in the early stages of FY25
- Material weaknesses or significant deficiencies: None reported
- Management letter items: None reported

Value Delivered: Maintained public trust, reduced audit risk, and avoided costs associated with corrective actions or repeat audit work.

- ✓ Goal: Continued to review and strengthen internal controls and financial procedures across departments.

The Accounting Department reviewed and updated selected internal controls and financial procedures, focusing on areas with the greatest operational risk and workload impact. Progress was made despite staffing constraints and increased reporting demands; full implementation will continue in the coming fiscal year.

Key Metrics or Indicators:

- Procedures reviewed or updated: Targeted high-risk areas
- Audit findings related to internal controls: None
- Implementation status: Ongoing

Value Delivered: Strengthened financial safeguards and reduced risk while prioritizing statutory and operational obligations within existing resources.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Maintain timely, accurate monthly and year-end financial reporting in compliance with GAAP, MGL Chapter 44, and DLS guidance. This objective directly supports the Town's goal to provide efficient, transparent, and high-quality municipal services by ensuring that financial information used by Town leadership, boards, and departments is reliable, timely, and clearly presented. Accurate monthly

reporting and compliant year-end statements enhance transparency, support informed decision-making, and allow departments to manage appropriations responsibly. This objective aligns with fiscal policy by reinforcing statutory compliance, maintaining financial integrity, and supporting the timely certification of Free Cash. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**

2. Further strengthen internal controls and standardize accounting procedures across departments. Strengthening internal controls and standardizing procedures supports the Strategic Priority intent to streamline operations and support staff success. Clear, consistent financial processes reduce risk, improve efficiency, and provide departments with well-defined guidance, particularly during staff transitions. This objective also supports employee retention and professional development by promoting accountability, reducing institutional knowledge gaps, and creating a stable operational environment consistent with sound municipal fiscal policy. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**
3. Improve financial reporting tools and processes to enhance clarity, transparency, and usability for decision-makers. This objective aligns with the Town's focus on transparency, communication, and effective use of tools to improve service delivery. Enhancing the clarity and accessibility of financial reports supports the Strategic Priority intent to leverage technology and improve the customer experience for internal users, including Department Heads, committees, commissions and boards. Improved reporting tools support fiscal policy goals by promoting transparency, improving budget monitoring, and strengthening oversight of public resources. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**

Long-Term:

1. Support long-term financial planning through enhanced balance sheet analysis in partnership with the Town Manager. This objective supports the Town's long-term service delivery goals by providing the financial foundation necessary for sustainable operations and capital planning. Enhanced balance sheet analysis and coordination across finance functions contribute to responsible stewardship of public funds, support reserve and Free Cash policies, and help ensure the Town's ability to maintain service levels over time. This aligns with fiscal policy by emphasizing financial stability, risk management, and long-range planning. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Maintain strong audit outcomes and continued compliance with evolving DLS and statutory requirements. Strong audit outcomes and ongoing compliance reinforce public trust and support the Town's commitment to efficient, transparent, and high-quality municipal services. Proactive compliance with DLS guidance and statutory requirements reduces the risk of management findings, protects the Town's financial reputation, and supports staff effectiveness. This objective aligns with fiscal policy by ensuring accountability, safeguarding assets, and maintaining eligibility for certifications and approvals critical to municipal financial health. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**

01135 TOWN ACCOUNTANT - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51107	Town Accountant/Financial Coordinator	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51113	Assistant Accountant	This is a salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51300	Overtime	Similar to previous years, it is not being proposed to fund this line however it should remain to account for any overtime generated by the Assistant Accountant position who is eligible for such payment if worked over 40 hours in a single work week.
51420	Longevity	The FY26 budget had longevity for an employee no longer with the organization, therefore this line item is at zero for FY27.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
53010	Audit/Accounting Services	This line is to fund the required annual auditing contracted services. The recommended FY27 budget reflects the estimated cost of a new 3-year contract as our current contract is in its final year. The Town will need to negotiate a new 3-yr contract for FY27-29.
53070	Contractual Services	Similar to previous years, it is not being proposed to fund this line.
54200	Office Supplies	This line funds typical office supplies for this department, including supplies for the budget books each Fiscal Year.
57100	Travel/Training	Over time this line has been zeroed out, however training is essential for this department to ensure the town's accounting services remain relevant. The Town Manager is strongly recommending an increase in training as the Assistant Accountant position is currently vacant at the time of publication, and it is anticipated that additional onboarding and certifications will be necessary.
57300	Dues & Memberships	It is being recommended that this line be increased to cover membership costs for the Assistant Accountant as well.

Town Accountant: 01135

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51107	Town Accountant/Financial Coordinato	1	1	1	\$ 114,352	\$ 119,030	\$ 48,343	\$ 125,000	\$ 127,500
51113	Assistant Accountant	1	1	1	55,515	57,185	22,328	57,185	\$ 62,000
51300	Overtime				997	-	-		
51420	Longevity				-	300	300		
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	2	2	2	\$ 170,864	\$ 176,515	\$ 70,972	\$ 182,185	\$ 189,500
53010	Audit/Accounting Services				\$ 26,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 38,000	\$ 35,000
53070	Contractual Services				-	-	-		
54200	Office Supplies				1,423	500	-	500	\$ 500
57100	Travel/Training				-	-	-	1,000	\$ 2,000
57300	Dues & Memberships				95	95	95	95	\$ 200
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 27,518	\$ 35,595	\$ 33,095	\$ 39,595	\$ 37,700
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 198,381	\$ 212,110	\$ 104,067	\$ 221,780	\$ 227,200

Allison M. Crespo, Town Accountant /
Financial Services Coordinator

Date

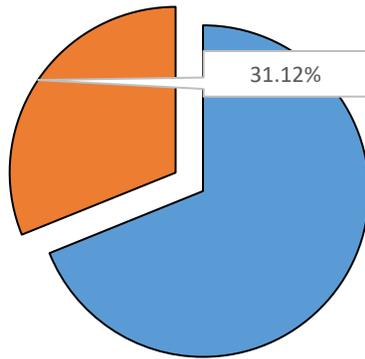
\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ 9,670	\$ 15,090
% Increase/Decrease	4.56%	7.11%

TECHNOLOGY

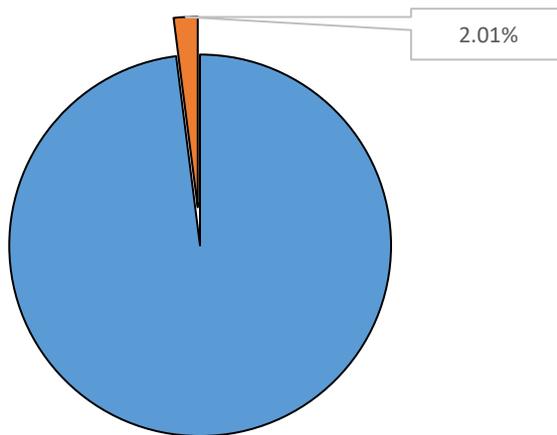
Within the FY2027 budget, a category of costs called "Other Services" has been separated from the departmental operating budgets. Within this category, the following costs are included:

- Finance Committee;
- Technology;
- Planning Board;
- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



Technology comprises of 2.01% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Information Technology services for the Town of Great Barrington are delivered through a hybrid model, combining a contracted technology vendor with internal support provided through the Town Manager's Office. This approach ensures access to specialized technical expertise while maintaining centralized oversight, cost control, and responsiveness to departmental needs.

The Town contracts with an external IT vendor to provide professional technical services, including network management, system administration, cybersecurity support, infrastructure maintenance, and specialized troubleshooting. The vendor supports the Town's technology environment to ensure system reliability, security, and continuity of operations.

Internal IT support within the Town Manager's Office provides day-to-day coordination, oversight, and administration of technology services. This includes managing vendor contracts, coordinating service requests, supporting departments, prioritizing technology needs, overseeing software licensing, and ensuring alignment between technology services, operational requirements, and budgetary constraints.

The Information Technology function centrally manages and funds Town-wide enterprise and departmental software systems, including the financial management system (MUNIS), short-term rental administration software, Inspectional Services permitting systems, the Town website, and telecommunications and data services. Centralization promotes consistency, fiscal transparency, and coordinated system management across departments.

The IT function also oversees public-facing digital services, internal communications systems, and data infrastructure, supporting public access, transparency, and efficient municipal operations.

Through this combined vendor-supported and internally managed model, the Town ensures reliable, secure, and cost-effective technology services while maintaining accountability, flexibility, and alignment with Town priorities.



01136 TECHNOLOGY - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW**Personnel**

Account	Account Name	Summary
51107	IT Coordinator Stipend	As the Town contracts out the full scale service of IT, this line provides a stipend to an existing town employee designated to manage and oversee the coordination. As the town continues to advance its goal to bring more services online, the recommended expense for FY27 reflects the accurate cost analysis required by the demands.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52400	Repairs & Maintenance	This line funds the costs associated with maintaining existing technology equipment.
52700	Contracted Services	This is a contractual obligation with our Informational Technology vendor who provides the ongoing and secure daily support of services as well as assisting with projects such as upgrades to public wifi, installation of enhanced or improved technology at public buildings.
53000	Software Licenses	Reflecting the expected increases in expenses, the proposed budget for this line supports all of the continuous IT related software licenses such as MUNIS, website host, virtual meeting software, Microsoft Suite and other services.
53030	Data Services	There is no change being recommended to this line which covers Internet, broadband charges reflective of Town Hall, Libraries, Town Bldgs, Police & Fire departments and Housatonic community center.
53400	Telephone	A slight decrease is recommended to reflect actual expenses for this line that covers all landline and cell telephone, fax line expenses for all town employees in the general fund.
54200	Office Supplies	This line is zeroed out, with no changes being recommended.

Technology: 01136

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51107	IT Coordinator Stipend				\$ 6,500	\$ 6,695	\$ 2,668	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,695	\$ 2,668	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
52400	Repairs & Maintenance				\$ 6,412	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 6,412
52700	Contracted Services				33,176	37,000	31,236	37,000	\$ 37,000
53000	Software Licenses				187,378	217,500	177,551	230,000	\$ 230,000
53030	Data Services				26,090	30,000	11,851	30,000	\$ 30,000
53400	Telephone				39,227	50,000	14,752	50,000	\$ 45,000
54200	Office Supplies				-	-	-		
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 292,284	\$ 349,500	\$ 235,389	\$ 367,000	\$ 348,412
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 298,784	\$ 356,195	\$ 238,057	\$ 377,000	\$ 358,412

Liz Hartsgrove, Town Manager

Date

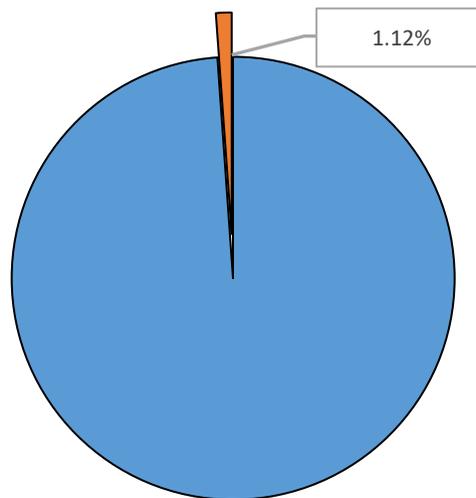
\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ 20,805	\$ 2,217
% Increase/Decrease	5.84%	0.62%

ASSESSORS' DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

To ensure that all real & personal property are assessed fairly & correctly in accordance with MGL.

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Assessors' Department, in total, comprises of 1.12% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

To assess all real & personal property at its full & fair cash value. Provide Inspection services. Provide property card information. Process abatements & exemptions for Real Estate, Personal Property & Motor Vehicle.

Please visit the department webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/291/Assessor

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ The Assessor's Office completed a comprehensive review and correction of real estate and personal property tax bills, addressing errors and inconsistencies to ensure assessments were accurate, equitable, and defensible. These corrective actions improved billing reliability, reduced the risk of abatements, and strengthened confidence in the Town's tax administration processes.

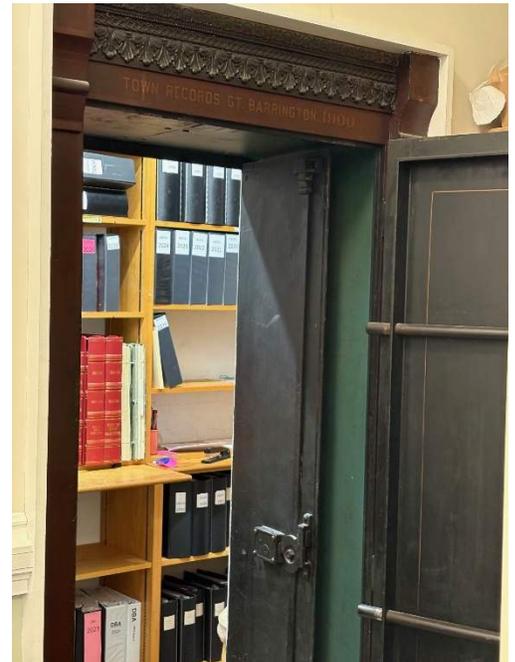
- ✓ Through enhanced data review and cross-referencing of property records, the Assessor's Office identified approximately 30 previously unclassified second homes over the past two years. This work improved the accuracy of property classifications, ensured appropriate application of tax policy, and helped protect the Town's tax base by aligning assessments with actual property use.
- ✓ The Assessor's Office brought the Town's website and GIS property maps up to date, significantly improving the accuracy and accessibility of assessment and parcel data for residents, businesses, developers, and staff. These updates enhanced transparency, supported internal planning and permitting functions, and reduced staff time responding to routine public information requests.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Continue to Correct PP & RE Bills. Munis currently does not read Personal Property accounts correctly, which makes it difficult to make changes to ownership and mailing addresses. The Goal is to switch Munis to read them correctly moving forward. Mixed use properties for Real Estate do not calculate correctly in Munis, this is something that also needs fixing. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Upgrade Cama system. The Cama system holds all the information for properties (parcels). It includes Bedroom count, Bathrooms, square footage, class codes, permit information, floor plan and much more important information. Cama systems build the property record card. The cama system is where assessors pull reports for sales, permits, and value changes. The Cama system we currently have is dated. Pulling reports is difficult and the system often kicks users out. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**



Long-Term:

1. Get a car for inspections. Assessors' due inspections throughout the year. Some inspections are done by permits (new growth), sales and upon request. If the town provided the Assessor with a vehicle, mileage would not have to be paid out. More inspections could be done. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**

- 2. Increase # of Inspections. Assessors are required to try and inspect homes every 10 years. Many homes in Great Barrington are overdue for inspections. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**

- 3. Improve Sketches. All property record cards should have a floor plan of the building. The floor plan shows the square footage of the building, the layout and how many floors the building has. Many parcels(properties) in our cama system do not have floor plans. This can make the assessment of the property incorrect. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**

- 4. Improve photos on property cards. Property record cards often have a picture of the front of the building. Department of revenue encourages towns to get photos. Great Barrington has many properties without a photo. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**



01141 ASSESSORS - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51106	Principal Assessor	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51109	Board of Assessors	This is a stipend for the members of the Board. This line has not increased in at least 6 Fiscal Years; therefore the Town Manager is supporting the recommendation to fund the service appropriately in relation to the work involved for this board.
51113	Administrative Assessor	This is a salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51114	Fire District Stipend	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.
51420	Longevity	The FY26 budget had longevity for an employee no longer with the organization, therefore the FY27 budget has been adjusted to reflect the accurate expenses associated with the one eligible employee.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
53010	Contracted Services	This line typically covers assistance for field support with evaluations not associated with a larger and more complete re-evaluation that is conducted every three years.
54200	Office Supplies	This line funds typical office supplies for this department, and it is being recommended that more services be shifted to digitalization therefore the Town Manager is reducing this line item in support for that initiative.
57100	Travel/Training	Training is essential for this department to ensure property assessments remain relevant, and staff are trained accordingly. The Town Manager is recommending an increase in training to support the necessary and ongoing onboarding and certifications for the Town Assessor.
57300	Dues & Memberships	It is recommended that this line be increased to cover membership costs for the Assistant Assessor as well.

Assessors: 01141

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51106	Principal Assessor	1	1	1	\$ 97,997	\$ 100,550	\$ 36,055	\$ 85,000	\$ 84,660
51109	Board of Assessors				600	1,200	-	2,400	\$ 2,400
51113	Administrative Assessor	1	1	1	62,905	64,550	25,818	64,550	\$ 65,841
51114	Fire District Stipend				-	-	-		
51420	Longevity Pay				850	1,150	850	850	\$ 850
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	2	2	2	\$ 162,352	\$ 167,450	\$ 62,722	\$ 152,800	\$ 153,751
53010	Contracted Services				\$ 71,045	\$ 32,640	\$ 39,540	\$ 48,060	\$ 40,000
54200	Office Supplies				891	1,500	309	800	\$ 800
57100	Travel/Training				295	1,000	2,288	4,000	\$ 4,000
57300	Dues & Memberships				135	250	268	160	\$ 160
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 72,367	\$ 35,390	\$ 42,405	\$ 53,020	\$ 44,960
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 234,719	\$ 202,840	\$ 105,127	\$ 205,820	\$ 198,711

Emily Schilling, Principal Assessor

Date

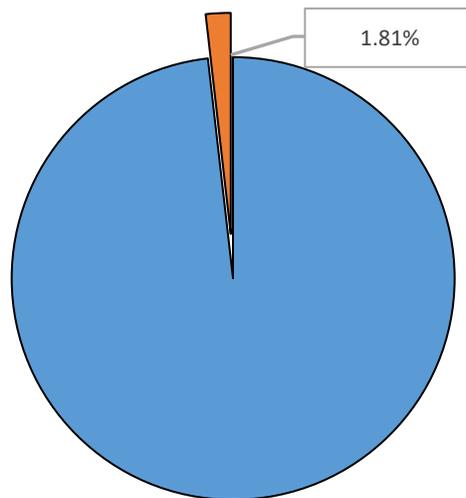
\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ 2,980	\$ (4,129)
% Increase/Decrease	1.47%	-2.04%

TREASURER/COLLECTOR DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Treasurer/Collector Office is the custodian of all municipal funds. Taxpayers look to the Treasurer/Collector Office to safeguard their money and follow financial best practices. The Treasurer/Collector Office is responsible for cash management, financial oversight, debt management, financial reporting, payroll and benefit administration for all municipal employees and community engagement to ensure transparency in financial operations.

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Treasurer/Collector Department, in total, comprises of 1.81% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Treasurer/Collector Office strives to provide Town of Great Barrington residents with efficient and professional collection, management and investment of all municipal funds, as well as accurate and timely payroll and benefit administration for its employees to allow seamless operation of all municipal services. The Treasurer serves as the Town's cash manager. In this role, the Treasurer receives all revenue from all departments and outside sources, maintains all bank accounts and records of the Town's cash position. Reconciliation of cash is done internally and with the Town Accountant on a monthly basis. The Treasurer is responsible for the investment and disbursement of funds and overseeing the Town's cash flow.

The Treasurer is legally authorized by Town Meeting to borrow funds on behalf of the Town for purposes deemed legal under Massachusetts General Law 44:7 and 44:8 or by other legislation. They facilitate & manage municipal borrowings working with Bond Counsel, the Department of Revenue and the Town's Fiscal Advisor.

The Collector of taxes is responsible for the collection of taxes as committed to their office by the Board of Assessors. All revenues are turned over to the Treasurer on a weekly basis. The Collector is responsible for the reconciliation of receipts and the receivable balances with the Town Accountant's general ledger. We pride ourselves in treating all taxpayers with equity and taking all necessary steps, allowable by law to collect on all past due accounts.

Our services include:

- Receives all Town Funds
- Handles short and long-term borrowing
- Manages all delinquent and tax title accounts
- Payroll and benefits administration
- Processes all real estate, personal property, motor vehicle and sewer bills



Please visit the department webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/339/Treasurer-Collector

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ Treasurer/Collector became Certified Massachusetts Municipal Collector
- ✓ Wrote/Implemented policies and procedures to streamline investments, bond payments, departmental turnovers, credit card use and payroll.
- ✓ Maintained 98.8% collection rate.
- ✓ Implemented tougher collection measures for tax title accounts resulting in the payoff of over \$150,000 in delinquent taxes.
- ✓ Implemented a new health insurance plan option and Health Savings Account option creating a cost savings for the Town and its employees.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Become Certified Massachusetts Municipal Treasurer. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. More staff development opportunities for staff. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**
3. Streamline benefits and payroll process/payroll policies. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Sustainability & Environment, Public Health & Safety, Housing, Economic Development, Municipal Service Delivery)**
4. On-boarding and off boarding guidelines/check list **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Sustainability & Environment, Public Health & Safety, Housing, Economic Development, Municipal Service Delivery)**
5. Complete benefits audit. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**

Long-Term:

1. Maintain at least 98% collection rate **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Sustainability & Environment, Public Health & Safety, Housing, Economic Development, Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Move all tax title accounts into collection software to streamline tax title collections. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**

01146 COLLECTOR/TREASURER - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51106	Collector/Treasurer	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51107	Assistant Collector	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51108	Assistant Treasurer	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51111	Compensation & Benefits Coord	The Human Resources Director Position has been eliminated, and this position has been created from using wages from that eliminated position to create this needed position, and the recommended salary is aligned with other similar positions pay scale.
51114	Parking Clerk Stipend	This line has been shifted to the Town Manager's budget as the duties relate to parking violations occurring on a public way.
51124	Fire District Stipend	There are no changes proposed for this line.
51420	Longevity Pay	This line item reflects the accurate expenses associated with the eligible employees in accordance with the Personnel Policy.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
53000	Tax Title Litigation	It is recommended that this line be slightly increased to cover anticipated costs.
53010	Contracted Services	An increase is recommended due to rising costs for valuation services.
53430	Postage/Postage Machine	This line has been shifted to the Town Manager's budget as this is a cost associated with all town departments.
53800	Financial Services	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.
54200	Office Supplies	It is recommended that there should be a slight increase in office supplies to reflect true costs.
54202	Office Equipment	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57100	Travel/Training	It is recommended this line be increased to provide staff access to training and conferences for support to remain up to date.
57300	Dues & Memberships	There are no changes proposed for this line.

Collector/Treasurer: 01146

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51106	Collector/Treasurer	1	1	1	\$ 89,467	\$ 92,151	\$ 36,719	\$ 92,151	\$ 93,994
51107	Assistant Collector	1	1	1	59,014	59,899	24,420	59,899	\$ 62,512
51108	Assistant Treasurer	1	1	1	51,675	59,899	24,420	59,899	\$ 62,512
51111	Compensation & Benefits Coord	0		1	-	-	-	60,000	\$ 60,000
51113	Financial Clerk				82	-	-	500	\$ 500
51114	Parking Clerk Stipend				1,200	1,200	-	-	
51124	Fire District Stipend				5,500	5,665	2,833	5,665	\$ 5,665
51420	Longevity Pay				600	600	600	1,000	\$ 1,000
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	3	3	4	\$ 207,537	\$ 219,414	\$ 88,992	\$ 279,114	\$ 286,182
53000	Tax Title Litigation				\$ 9,703	\$ 14,100	\$ 10,987	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
53010	Contracted Services				11,675	9,100	1,148	10,000	\$ 10,000
53430	Postage/Postage Machine				26,237	29,500	9,983	-	
53800	Financial Services				3,110	1,000	235	2,000	\$ 2,000
54200	Office Supplies				2,515	2,000	1,215	3,000	\$ 3,000
54202	Office Equipment				866	2,082	1,610	3,000	\$ 2,082
57100	Travel/Training				2,397	3,000	2,465	3,000	\$ 3,000
57300	Dues & Memberships				190	200	-	200	\$ 200
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 56,692	\$ 60,982	\$ 27,643	\$ 36,200	\$ 35,282
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 264,229	\$ 280,396	\$ 116,635	\$ 315,314	\$ 321,464

Alicia Dulin, Treasurer/Collector

Date

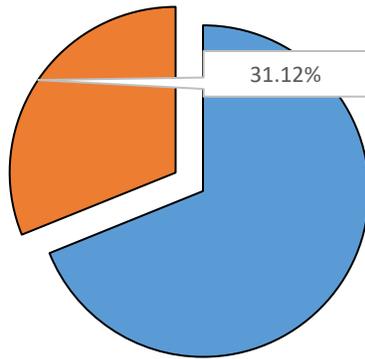
\$ Increase/Decrease \$ 34,918 \$ 41,068
% Increase/Decrease 12.45% 14.65%

HUMAN RESOURCES

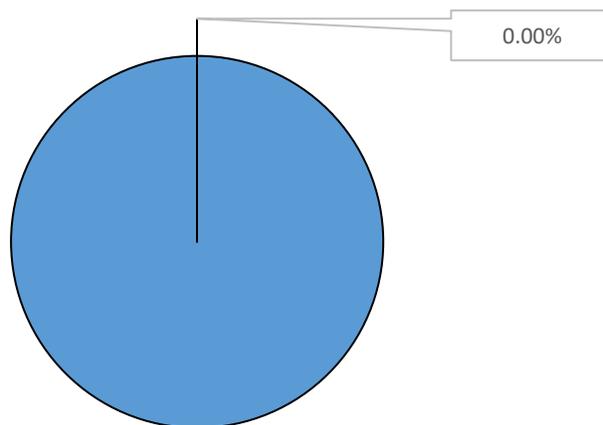
Within the FY2027 budget, a category of costs called "Other Services" has been separated from the departmental operating budgets. Within this category, the following costs are included:

- Finance Committee;
- Technology;
- Planning Board;
- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



Human Resources comprises of 0.0% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Human Resources was previously funded with one (1) FTE, however after a vacancy, it was decided to consolidate and absorb duties within existing departments and utilize a portion of the vacant position wages to fund a Compensation & Benefits Coordinator position within the Collector/Treasurer office.

Therefore, the Human Resources Department has been zeroed out for FY27.

01152 HUMAN RESOURCES - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51106	Human Resources Manager	This line has been zeroed out.
51910	Bilingual Language Stipends	This line has been zeroed out.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
54200	Office Supplies	This line has been zeroed out.
57100	Travel/Training	This line has been zeroed out.
57300	Dues & Memberships	This line has been zeroed out.

Human Resources: 01152

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51106	Human Resources Manager	1	0	0	\$ 76,648	\$ 79,808	\$ 14,609	\$ -	\$ -
51910	Bilingual Language Stipends				1,000	1,000	380	-	\$ -
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	1	0	0	\$ 77,648	\$ 80,808	\$ 14,989	\$ -	\$ -
54200	Office Supplies				\$ 126	\$ 500	\$ -		\$ -
57100	Travel/Training				225	800	-		\$ -
57300	Dues & Memberships				249	400	-		\$ -
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 600	\$ 1,700	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 78,248	\$ 82,508	\$ 14,989	\$ -	\$ -

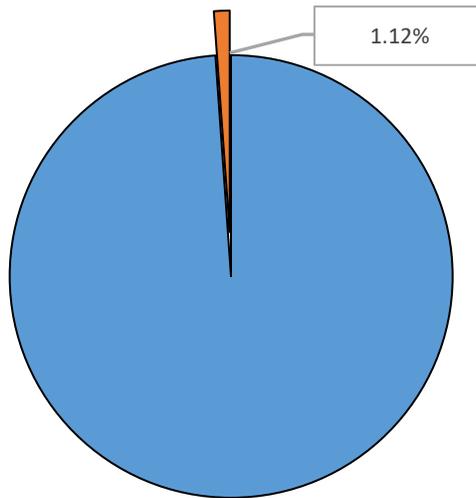
Liz Hartsgrove, Town Manager	Date	\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ (82,508)	\$ (82,508)
		% Increase/Decrease	-100.00%	-100.00%

TOWN CLERK DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Town Clerk's Office is the primary point of contact for the people of Great Barrington and the public in general. It is our goal to effectively and courteously provide answers and direction to the public. The Town Clerks Office is responsible for all vital records, overseeing and administering elections, and for issuing various licenses and permits. Providing service for the people of Great Barrington in a professional manner demonstrates our commitment to the goal of effective Government.

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Town Clerk Department, in total, comprises of 1.12% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Professional, ethical and efficient delivery of services is the main focus of the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk's Office serves as a central administrative and regulatory hub for the Town, providing essential services that support democratic governance, legal compliance, transparency, and public access to municipal information.

The Clerk's Office is responsible for the administration of all local, state, and federal elections, including voter registration, ballot preparation, election staffing, and compliance with applicable election laws. The office also issues and records a wide range of permits, licenses, and certificates, including business certificates (DBAs),

transfer station permits, raffle permits, tag sales, underground storage tank permits, burial permits, and vital records such as birth, death, and marriage certificates. Dog licensing and related regulatory filings are also administered through the office.

Each year, the Clerk's Office conducts the annual census, also known as the street listing, which is required by state law and supports voter registration accuracy and jury pool formation. The office administers public records requests in accordance with Massachusetts law, ensuring timely access to public information while maintaining appropriate records management and confidentiality standards.

The Clerk's Office plays a key role in supporting compliance with the Open Meeting Law by managing statutory requirements, posting meeting agendas and approved meeting minutes for all Town boards, committees, and commissions, and assisting with procedural guidance as needed. The office also administers the Conflict of Interest Law training requirements, supporting ethics compliance across Town government.



In addition to its regulatory and statutory functions, the Clerk's Office maintains and updates the Town's website, ensuring residents and the public have access to accurate, current information regarding Town services, meetings, and governance.

Through these responsibilities, the Town Clerk's Office provides reliable, transparent, and legally compliant services that support the effective operation of Town government and public trust.

Please visit the department webpage for more information
www.townofgbma.gov/277/Town-Clerk

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ It was a goal of the Clerk's Office to provide and maintain quality services while staying within the reduced budget. This goal was accomplished by minimizing and reducing the use of office supplies and by establishing connections with other Clerks and mentors.
- ✓ It has been a goal of the Town Clerk to increase compensation for the Assistant Town Clerk position. This was accomplished within the reduced budget limitations by using funds from the OT for Elections/Town Meeting Line and the Town Clerks salary line.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Prioritize training to ensure proper compliance with changing rules and requirements. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. It is the goal of the Clerk's Office to reduce the number of physical paper copies being made. **(SP: Sustainability & Environment)**

Long-Term:

1. To begin the process of expanding the preservation of historically significant documents. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets)**

01161 TOWN CLERK - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51106	Town Clerk	Currently the Town Clerk is the lowest paid Department head, and responsible for all of the town's elections, town meetings, and custodian of all town records and vitals. Therefore, after a cost analysis was conducted, it is strongly recommended increasing from \$70,040 to \$75,586, a salary comparable to similar graded positions with the organization with equitable responsibilities.
51108	Election Workers	An increase is recommended as there will be three elections within FY27.
51109	Registrar	There is a decrease in this line item due to a miscalculation in previous years including the Town Clerk.
51113	Assistant Town Clerk	Currently the Assistant Town Clerk is the lowest paid non-union employee, and assists with the responsibility for all of the town's elections, town meetings, and custodian of all town records and vitals. Therefore, after a cost analysis was conducted, it is strongly recommended increasing from \$47,560 to \$56,133, a salary comparable to similar graded positions with the organization with equitable responsibilities.
51420	Longevity Pay	This line item reflect the accurate expenses associated with the one eligible employee in accordance with the Personnel Policy.
51910	OT for Elections/Town Meeting	As there will be three elections in FY27, this line is being increased to accommodate the associated Overtime costs for the Town Clerk staff and the required Police Details.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs	There are no changes proposed for this line.
52470	Publications (Code)	There are no changes proposed for this line.
52700	Records Preservation	It is recommended an increase towards reoccurring records preservation efforts, not associated with traditional archival documents.
54200	Office Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this line.
55300	Elections/Town Meeting	As there will be three elections in FY27 and possibly multiple Town Meetings, therefore this line is being increased to accommodate the additional expenses for these essential democratic functions.
55800	Other Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57100	Travel/Training	An increase is recommended to include the Assistant Town Clerk with Training opportunities.
57300	Dues & Memberships	There are no changes proposed for this line.

Town Clerk: 01161

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51106	Town Clerk	1	1	1	\$ 67,756	\$ 70,040	\$ 27,909	\$ 75,586	\$ 75,586
51108	Election Workers				9,333	9,200	1,914	14,700	\$ 14,700
51109	Registrar				1,452	2,175	616	1,584	\$ 1,584
51113	Assistant Town Clerk	1	1	1	46,172	47,560	19,100	56,133	\$ 56,133
51420	Longevity Pay				300	300	300	300	\$ 300
51910	OT for Elections/Town Meeting				342	1,200	-	1,200	\$ 10,000
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	2	2	2	\$ 125,354	\$ 130,475	\$ 49,839	\$ 149,503	\$ 158,303
52450	Equipment Maint & Repairs				\$ 4,127	\$ 4,750	\$ 3,830	\$ 4,750	\$ 4,750
52470	Publications (Code)				3,060	4,500	3,580	4,500	\$ 4,500
52700	Records Preservation				-	2,000	-	2,591	\$ 3,000
54200	Office Supplies				2,921	2,600	296	2,600	\$ 2,600
55300	Elections				5,905	8,235	2,692	8,235	\$ 10,000
55800	Other Supplies				1,945	1,900	566	1,900	\$ 1,900
57100	Travel/Training				2,454	2,500	1,419	2,500	\$ 3,000
57300	Dues & Memberships				395	450	100	450	\$ 450
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 20,806	\$ 26,935	\$ 12,483	\$ 27,526	\$ 30,200
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 146,160	\$ 157,410	\$ 62,322	\$ 177,029	\$ 188,503

Josh Risen, Town Clerk

Date

\$ Increase/Decrease

\$ 19,619

\$ 31,093

% Increase/Decrease

12.46%

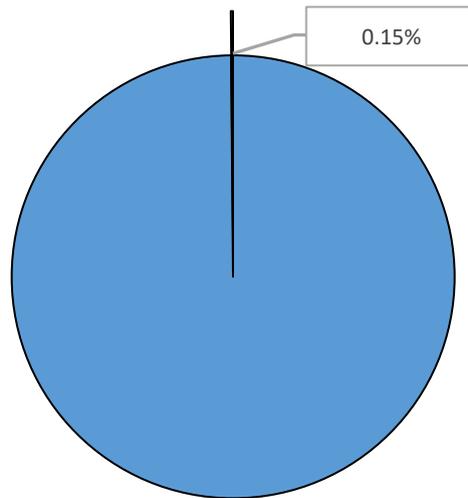
19.75%

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Conservation Commission administers state and local laws and regulations that safeguard wetlands and river resources, floodplains, and scenic hills and ridge lines. The Commission also stewards town properties for conservation purposes.

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Conservation Department, in total, comprises of 0.15% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Conservation Agent is the Town's primary employee charged with guiding the Commission in its work, working with applicants including property owners and developers, and with fellow staff in development review and conservation planning.

The 1957 Conservation Commission Act authorized each city and town in Massachusetts to establish a locally appointed municipal agency to plan for natural resource protection, acquire important land and water areas, and manage these properties for conservation and passive recreation. The Great Barrington Conservation Commission locally administers the Wetlands Protection Act ("WPA") (MGL Ch 131, S40), the Rivers Protection Act (Acts of 1996, Ch. 258), the Great Barrington Wetlands Protection By-laws (Ch. 168), and the Great Barrington Scenic Mountains Act (MGL Ch. 131, § 39A and local Ch. 217) This is intended to protect public and private water supply, groundwater supply, flood control, storm damage protection, prevention of pollution, protection of land containing shellfish, protection of fisheries, and protection of wildlife habitat. The

Commission reviews review project plans, including construction, renovations, alterations, additions, pruning, tree cutting, land clearing, river clean up, etc. The Commission also holds conservation restrictions and are stewards of the Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest and the McAllister Wildlife Refuge.

Please visit the department webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/255/Conservation-Commission

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ Despite the profound loss of longtime Conservation Agent Shep Evans in July, whose leadership and decades of service to Berkshire County's land conservation efforts left a lasting legacy, the Conservation Department successfully maintained core regulatory and advisory functions during a period of transition. The Department ensured uninterrupted review and enforcement of conservation matters, preserving institutional knowledge and regulatory integrity while honoring Shep's contributions to the community.
- ✓ In the fall, the Town successfully onboarded a part-time Conservation Agent, enabling the Department to continue processing enforcement orders, Notices of Intent, and Requests for Determination in a timely and professional manner.
- ✓ The Conservation Agent also actively participated on the Development Review Team, providing critical environmental review and guidance on proposed projects to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal conservation regulations.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six areas of focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Regulatory Review **(SP: Sustainability & Environment, Municipal Service Delivery)**

Long-Term:

1. Open Space Planning **(SP: Sustainability & Environment)**

01171 CONSERVATION - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51112	Conservation Agent	This is the salary for an existing part time position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51113	Board Clerk	This is a stipend for board clerk who takes the minutes for the meeting.
51420	Longevity	The FY26 budget had longevity for an employee no longer with the organization, therefore the FY27 budget has been zeroed out, as the current employee is does not have the years of service to be eligible for this benefit.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52470	Land Maintenance/Trails	This line has not been funded for over two years, and while the Town Manager sees this as essential in future years to reinstate, it is an item that did not elevate for the FY27 funding recommendations.
54200	Office Supplies	This line funds typical office supplies for this department. No changes to this line is being recommended.
57100	Training	To support the Selectboard goals of professional development, it is essential to allow staff the option within their departmental budgets to be able to take trainings associated with their roles, to improve their skills sets and be able to learn from other similar services locally, regionally, on a state or even federal level. Therefore it is being recommended a modest \$275 to support the 0.5 FTE position.
57300	Dues & Memberships	There are no changes being recommended to this line.

Conservation: 01171

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51112	Conservation Agent	1	0.5	0.5	\$ 44,348	\$ 25,680	\$ 4,358	\$ 26,194	\$ 26,194
51113	Board Clerk				780	800	140	800	\$ 800
51420	Longevity				300	300	-		
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	1	0.5	0.5	\$ 45,428	\$ 26,780	\$ 4,498	\$ 26,994	\$ 26,994
52470	Land Maintenance/Trails				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
54200	Office Supplies				347	500	-	500	\$ 500
57100	Training				-	-	-		\$ 275
57300	Dues & Memberships				-	275	221	275	\$ 275
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 347	\$ 775	\$ 221	\$ 775	\$ 1,050
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 45,775	\$ 27,555	\$ 4,719	\$ 27,769	\$ 28,044

Christopher Rembold, Assistant Town Manager /
Director of Planning and Community
Development

Date

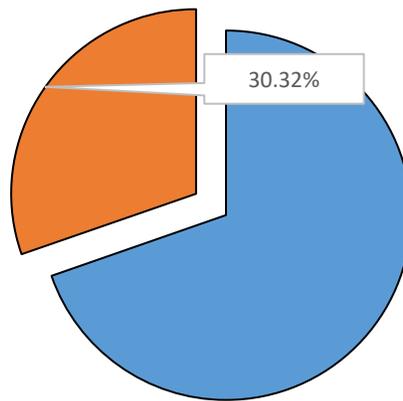
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PLANNING BOARD

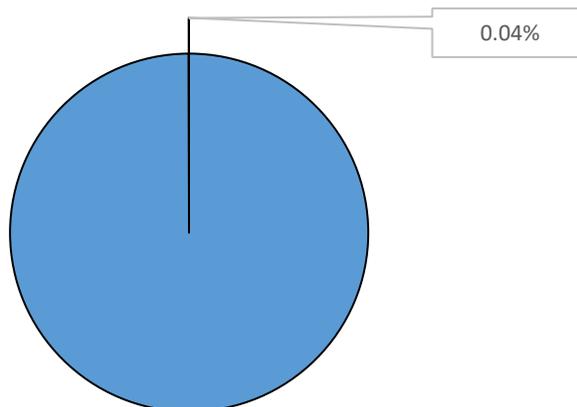
Within the FY2027 budget, a category of costs called "Other Services" has been separated from the departmental operating budgets. Within this category, the following costs are included:

- Finance Committee;
- Technology;
- Planning Board;
- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 30.32% of the overall General Fund budget.



Planning Board comprises of 0.04% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Planning Board is responsible for guiding land use planning and development in the Town of Great Barrington in accordance with state law, local bylaws, and adopted community planning documents. The Board reviews and acts on development applications, zoning matters, and planning initiatives to promote orderly growth, protect community character, and balance economic development, housing needs, environmental protection, and infrastructure capacity.

Core responsibilities include review of site plans, special permits, subdivisions, zoning amendments, and long-range planning efforts. The Planning Board also provides recommendations to Town Meeting and other boards on land use policies, zoning regulations, and planning initiatives that shape the Town's physical development and future growth.

The department budget supports recording secretary services essential to the effective operation of the Planning Board. These services include preparation of meeting agendas, attendance at meetings, accurate recording and preparation of meeting minutes, maintenance of official records, coordination of public notices, and administrative support to ensure compliance with Open Meeting Law and public transparency requirements.

Recording secretary services provide continuity, procedural consistency, and reliable documentation of Planning Board actions, supporting both public accountability and the legal integrity of the Board's decisions.

Through these combined regulatory, planning, and administrative services, the Planning Board supports thoughtful development, transparent decision-making, and long-term community planning for Great Barrington.

Please visit the Board's webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/210/Planning-Board

01175 PLANNING BOARD - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW**Personnel**

Account	Account Name	Summary
51113	Board Clerk	A 2% increase is proposed for FY27, similar to all Town employees.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
53100	Training	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.
54200	Office Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.
57300	Dues/Subscriptions	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.

Planning Board: 01175

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51113	Board Clerk				\$ 6,357	\$ 6,360	\$ 2,567	\$ 6,360	\$ 6,487
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ 6,357	\$ 6,360	\$ 2,567	\$ 6,360	\$ 6,487
53100	Training				\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -		
54200	Office Supplies				-	-	-		
57300	Dues/Subscriptions				30	-	-		
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 130	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 6,487	\$ 6,360	\$ 2,567	\$ 6,360	\$ 6,487

 Christopher Rembold, Assistant Town Manager /
 Director of Planning and Community
 Development

 Date

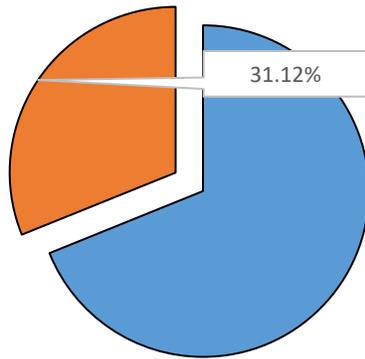
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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

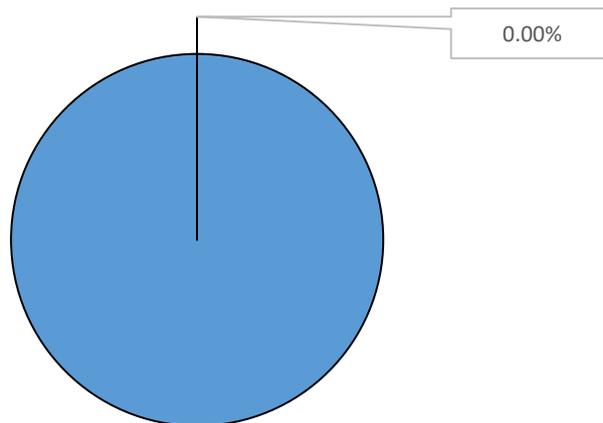
Within the FY2027 budget, a category of costs called "Other Services" has been separated from the departmental operating budgets. Within this category, the following costs are included:

- Finance Committee;
- Technology;
- Planning Board;
- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



Zoning Board of Apperals comprises of 0.0% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is an elected five-member board, with up to two alternate members, that reviews and decides on requests from individuals or businesses who appeal permit decisions or zoning enforcement action under the Town's Zoning Bylaw. The ZBA also hears applications for variances and, in certain circumstances, special permits, providing a formal mechanism for relief from strict application of zoning provisions where the use or structure preexists a zoning regulation, and ensuring fair and consistent application of land use regulations in accordance with Massachusetts law.

Expenses to support any cost associated with this board is paid from the Planning Department Budget.

Please visit the Committee's webpage for more information
www.townofgbma.gov/264/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals

01176 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51113	Board Clerk	This line has been zeroed out since at least FY25.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
53100	Training	This line has been zeroed out since at least FY25.
54200	Office Supplies	This line has been zeroed out since at least FY25.
55860	Subscriptions	This line has been zeroed out since at least FY25.

Zoning Board of Appeals: 01176

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51113	Board Clerk				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
53100	Training				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
54200	Office Supplies				-	-	-		
55860	Subscriptions				-	-	-		
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

 Christopher Rembold, Assistant Town Manager /
 Director of Planning and Community
 Development

 Date

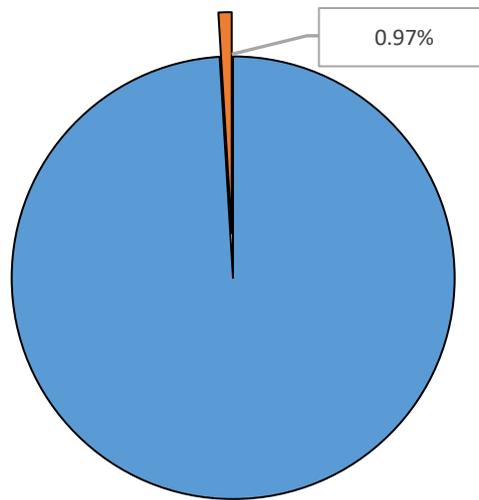
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PLANNING/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Planning Department works cooperatively with all departments and Town boards to implement the Town's land use, conservation, development and public policy initiatives to foster sustainable community and economic development, and to protect and enhance the environment and the quality of life for all residents.

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Planning/Community Development Department, in total, comprises of .97% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Planning Department uses a cooperative and collaborative approach with staff, residents, businesses, and developers.

The Planning Department provides expertise and support to all staff and to all Boards and Commissions on planning, zoning, housing, and development matters, particularly to the Planning Board. The Department also provides guidance and staff support to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Community Preservation Committee, Selectboard, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other boards as needed.

The Department also: supports homeowners and businesses in need of planning and regulatory assistance; regular planning and development discussion amongst staff via the Development Review Team; guides applicants and Boards in interpreting and applying regulations; coordinates review of special permits and site plans; provides administrative oversight of the microtransit program, the South County Connector; implements and oversees special projects and grant programs including CDBG, MVP, and CPA; cooperates with regional and state partners on projects of regional interest and seeking innovative and efficient planning techniques.

Please visit the department webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/396/Planning-Department

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ OSRP; Ried Cleaners; Housatonic fiber optic; Prosperity Way

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Long-Term:

1. Master Plan Update. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Sustainability & Environment, Public Health & Safety, Housing, Economic Development, Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Affordable housing planning and production. **(SP: Housing)**



01177 PLANNING/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51107	Asst Town Mgr/Comm Dev Drctr	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51112	Affordable Housing Stipend	This is a stipend for the estimated costs associated with the Assistant Town Manager's duties in relation to AHT support. There are no changes proposed for this line.
51420	Longevity Pay	This line item reflects the accurate expenses associated with the one eligible employee in accordance with the Personnel Policy.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
54200	Office Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this line.
56380	BRPC Annual Assessment	There is a slight increase in the Town's assessment from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. All municipalities in the County are required to pay an annual assessment.
56410	Contracted Services	There are no changes proposed for this line.
56411	Economic Development	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57100	Travel/Training	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57300	Dues & Memberships	There are no changes proposed for this line.

Planning/Community Development: 01177

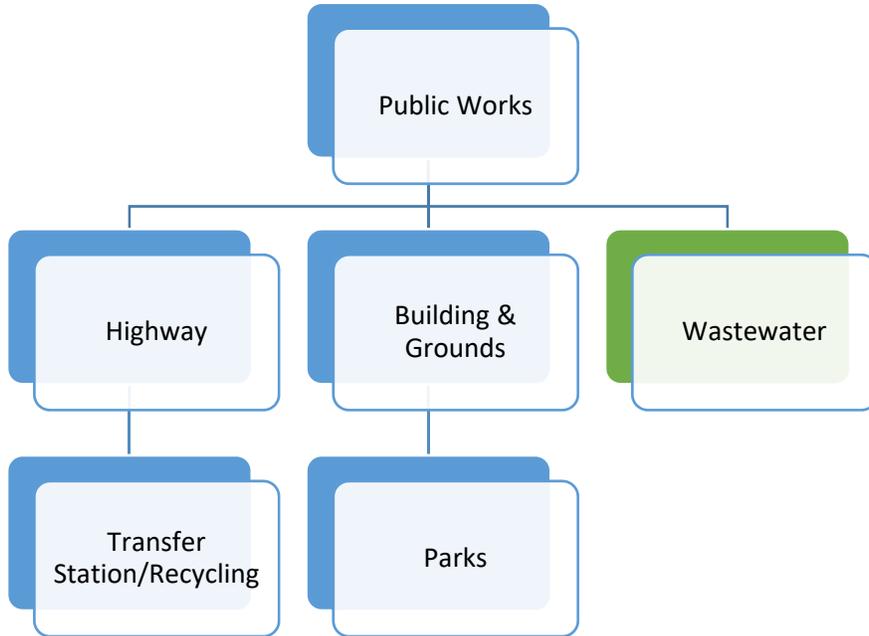
Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51107	Asst Town Mgr/Comm Dev Drctr	1	1	1	\$ 133,900	\$ 137,920	\$ 54,956	\$ 137,920	\$ 140,678
51112	Affordable Housing Stipend				1,920	2,000	-	2,000	\$ 2,000
51420	Longevity Pay				600	600	600	600	\$ 600
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	1	1	1	\$ 136,420	\$ 140,520	\$ 55,556	\$ 140,520	\$ 143,278
54200	Office Supplies				\$ 231	\$ 400	\$ 15	\$ 400	\$ 400
56380	BRPC Annual Assessment				6,258	6,425	6,415	6,575	\$ 6,575
56410	Contracted Services				8,080	2,500	-	2,500	\$ 2,500
56411	Economic Development				15,329	17,500	1,500	17,500	\$ 17,500
57100	Travel/Training				1,493	1,000	368	1,000	\$ 1,000
57300	Dues & Memberships				702	750	30	750	\$ 750
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 32,094	\$ 28,575	\$ 8,329	\$ 28,725	\$ 28,725
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 168,514	\$ 169,095	\$ 63,884	\$ 169,245	\$ 172,003

 Christopher Rembold, Assistant Town Manager /
 Director of Planning and Community
 Development

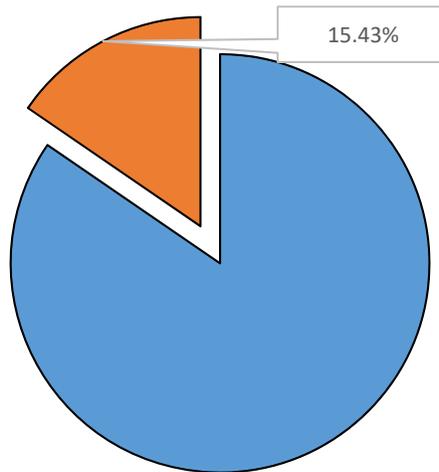
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 % Increase/Decrease 0.09% 1.72%

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

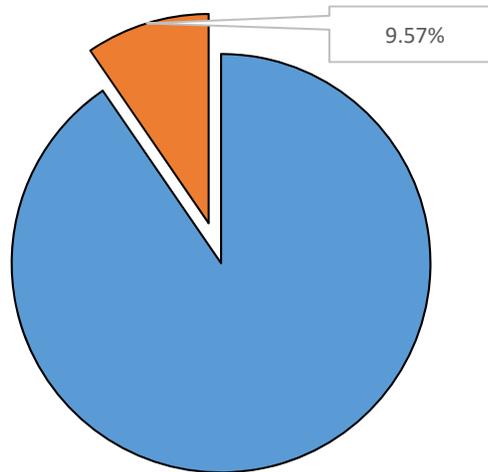


% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Public Works Department in total, with Divisions, comprises of 15.43% of the overall General Fund budget.

*Wastewater Enterprise Fund is separate from General Fund.



The Department of Public Works, with Highway Division, comprises of 9.57% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Department of Public Works (DPW) includes the Divisions of Highway, Wastewater, Public Grounds (cemeteries, parks, and areas surrounding public buildings), Public Buildings (facilities). The Department also manages Solid Waste Transfer and Recycling, and engineering design projects for the Town. Collectively these departments maintain all aspects of the Town's infrastructure, big and small, from buildings, roads, sewers, and bridges, to park benches, trees, and flower beds.

Please visit the department webpage for more information
www.townofgbma.gov/279/Department-of-Public-Works

HIGHWAY DIVISION

DIVISION DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Highway is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 70+ miles road maintenance, including plowing and other winter road maintenance, pavement repairs, roadside mowing and clearing, street sweeping, litter removal, line painting (70+ miles of roadway, plus 50+ crosswalks), traffic sign maintenance, re-establishing drainage ditches, reconstructing catch basins, servicing and maintaining all equipment, and overseeing all roadway capital improvement projects. The Highway Division is also responsible for operating the transfer station and manages landfill closure requirements. They are also conduct unscheduled work, responding to emergency calls for automobile accidents, fallen trees, flooding, and winter maintenance. The department is on call "24/7" to ensure that Town property is safe and operational.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard’s Strategic Priorities)

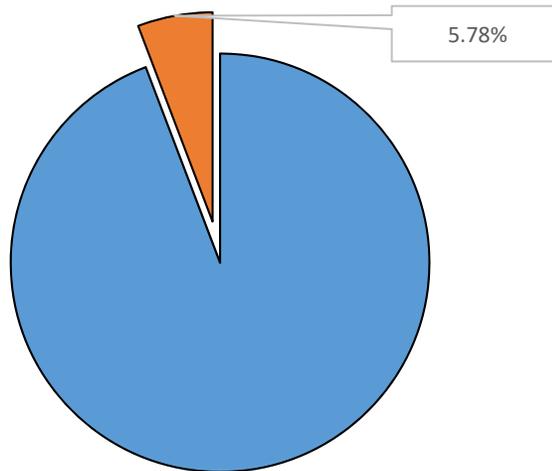
Short-Term:

1. Develop and implement regular roadway maintenance schedules that will prevent deterioration, which leads to more difficult and costly repairs. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Public Health & Safety, Municipal Service Delivery)**

BUILDING & GROUNDS DIVISION

DIVISION PURPOSE STATEMENT

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Building & Grounds Division comprises of 5.78% of the overall General Fund budget.

DIVISION DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

They are charged with maintaining all of the public buildings in Town including: Town Hall, Mason and Ramsdell Libraries, Claire W. Teague Senior Center, Southern Berkshire District Court, Police Station, Great Barrington and Housatonic Fire Stations, and Housatonic Community Center. This includes regular cleaning, up-keep, and repairs of the interior and exterior of each building and the surrounding grounds, as well as maintenance of

various types and models of utilities systems such as, heating, air conditioning, fuel, and alarm systems. They also conduct weekly maintenance and repairs to vehicles and equipment.

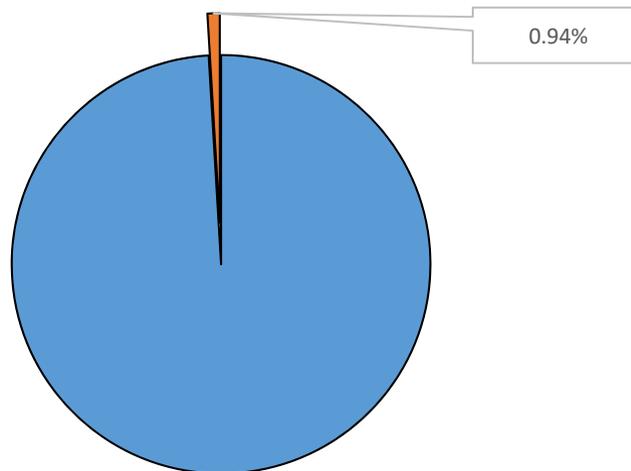
The Buildings and Grounds team is also responsible for approximately 91 acres across 6 cemeteries, 26 Town parks and green spaces, this translates to over 80 acres of mowing, trimming, seasonal clean-up, and regular trash removal. In addition to year round facilities maintenance, the Buildings and Grounds team manages building emergencies and respond to fire and security alarms around the clock. They provide support to the Highway Department during winter maintenance, and construct picnic tables for town parks.

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ During FY26 the buildings and grounds team continued to focus on standardizing maintenance schedules and methods, and developing systems to improve efficiency, and ensure the longevity and reliability of Town facilities, property, and equipment. The ultimate goal is to preserve historic buildings and valuable green spaces as cost effectively as possible.

PARKS & RECREATION DIVISION

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget

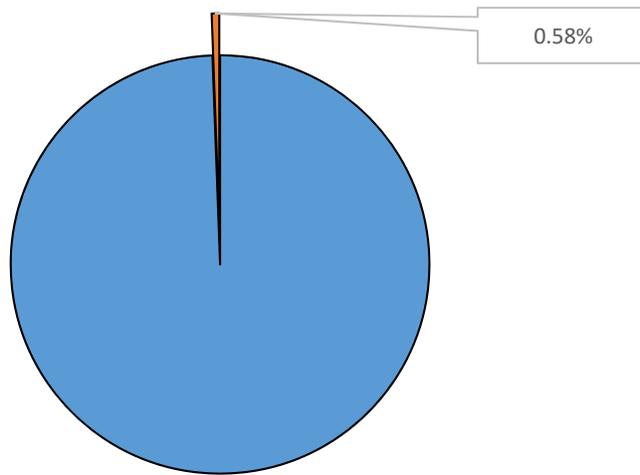


The Parks & Recreation Division comprises of 0.94% of the overall General Fund budget.

TRANSFER STATION & RECYCLING DIVISION

DIVISION PURPOSE STATEMENT

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Transfer Station & Recycling Division comprises of 0.58% of the overall General Fund budget.

01422 HIGHWAY - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51110	DPW Superintendent	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51113	Administrative Assistant	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51115	Tree Warden	This line is a stipend for a community volunteer and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51120	Highway Superintendent	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51134	Mechanic	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51135	Working Foreman	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51136	Laborer/Driver	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51137	Highway Division	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51138	Recycling Center Staff	There are no changes proposed for this line
51139	Equipment Operators	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51300	Snow & Ice Overtime	2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51301	Highway Overtime	2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51420	Longevity Pay	This line item reflects the accurate expenses associated with eligible employees in accordance with the Personnel Policy and Collective Bargaining.
51910	Cell Phone Stipend	There are no changes proposed for this line

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52110	Street Lights	There are no changes proposed for this line
52115	Sewer/Water	There are no changes proposed for this line
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs	A gradual increase is recommended to bring this line up to true costs associated with maintenance and repairs.
52490	Street & Bridge Maint/Repairs	A slight increase is recommended over FY26.
52700	Contracted Services	A decrease in this line is recommended to reflect true costs associated with the operating needs vs project specific that should be included in capital requests.

52701	Trash & Recycle Hauling	This line has been shifted to the Transfer Station budget, as they are costs associated with that service.
52702	Hazardous Waste Collection	This line has been shifted to the Transfer Station budget, as they are costs associated with that service.
52740	Clothing & Uniforms	There are no changes proposed for this line
53050	Landfill Monitoring	This line has been shifted to the Transfer Station budget, as they are costs associated with that service.
53085	Police Details	A decrease in this line is recommended to reflect true costs associated with the operating needs vs project specific that should be included in capital requests.
53810	Tree Services	An increase is recommended due to procured costs for contracted services.
54200	Office Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this line
54810	Gas & Diesel	There are no changes proposed for this line
55300	Public Works Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this line
55700	Snow & Ice Supplies	As this is a deficit spending budget, there are no changes proposed for this line due to fluctuations from year to year.
55805	Safety Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this line
57100	Travel/Training	An increase is recommended to provide staff the necessary training, including CDLs, OSHA etc.
57300	Dues & Memberships	There is a modest increase recommended to reflect true cost associated with this line.
58541	Highway Garage Remediation	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51110	DPW Superintendent	1	1	1	\$ 120,500	\$ 118,655	\$ 50,328	\$ 126,305	\$ 128,831
51113	Administrative Assistant	1	1	1	45,400	45,297	25,504	120,000	\$ 62,000
51115	Tree Warden				7,800	8,275	2,600	8,482	\$ 8,441
51120	Highway Superintendent	1	1	1	97,498	94,020	39,919	97,192	\$ 99,136
51134	Mechanic	1	1	1	45,193	72,106	28,548	72,106	\$ 73,548
51135	Working Foreman	1	1	1	73,515	77,256	40,078	77,256	\$ 78,801
51136	Laborer/Driver	3	3	3	153,821	190,158	39,332	190,158	\$ 193,961
51137	Highway Division				-	-	-	-	
51138	Recycling Center Staff	0	0	0	17,092	-	1,480	-	\$ -
51139	Equipment Operators	3	3	3	134,379	212,505	64,279	212,505	\$ 216,755
51300	Snow & Ice Overtime				74,639	71,500	-	71,500	\$ 72,930
51301	Highway Overtime				12,270	20,567	2,790	20,567	\$ 20,978
51420	Longevity Pay				3,200	3,200	3,252	2,450	\$ 3,200
51910	Cell Phone Stipend				1,800	2,000	142	1,400	\$ 2,000
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	11	11	11	\$ 787,107	\$ 915,539	\$ 298,253	\$ 999,921	\$ 960,581
52110	Street Lights				\$ 110,479	\$ 80,000	\$ 35,025	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
52115	Sewer/Water				280	-	-	-	-
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs				192,537	100,000	42,124	125,000	\$ 115,000
52490	Street & Bridge Maint/Repairs				283,379	195,000	35,451	235,000	\$ 200,000
52700	Contracted Services				45,711	80,000	5,800	60,000	\$ 60,000
52701	Trash & Recycle Hauling				82,745	-	3,273	-	-
52702	Hazardous Waste Collection				5,808	-	-	-	-
52740	Clothing & Uniforms				28,029	30,000	12,415	30,000	\$ 30,000
53050	Landfill Monitoring				36,811	-	4,961	-	\$ 4,961
53085	Police Details				57,385	25,000	32,761	25,000	\$ 15,000
53810	Tree Services				78,751	95,000	13,435	95,000	\$ 95,000
54200	Office Supplies				2,484	2,500	1,120	17,400	\$ 2,500
54810	Gas & Diesel				105,557	120,000	29,509	120,000	\$ 120,000
55300	Public Works Supplies				25,208	30,000	7,346	30,000	\$ 30,000
55700	Snow & Ice Supplies				274,682	150,000	9,000	150,000	\$ 150,000
55805	Safety Supplies				3,174	4,000	-	4,000	\$ 4,000
57100	Travel/Training				5,621	3,000	52	6,000	\$ 6,000
57300	Dues & Memberships				747	500	491	1,000	\$ 800
58541	Highway Garage Remediation				-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 1,339,387	\$ 915,000	\$ 232,764	\$ 978,400	\$ 913,261
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 2,126,495	\$ 1,830,539	\$ 531,017	\$ 1,978,321	\$ 1,873,842

Joe Aberdale, Superintendent of Public Works

Date

\$ Increase/Decrease \$ 147,782 \$ 43,303
 % Increase/Decrease 8.07% 2.37%

01192 BUILDING & GROUNDS - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51106	Crew Leader	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51115	HCC Custodian	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line
51135	Working Foreman	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51137	Laborers/Operators	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51200	Intern	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line
51301	Overtime	2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51420	Longevity	This line item reflects the accurate expenses associated with eligible employees in accordance with the Personnel Policy and Collective Bargaining.
51910	Cell Phone Stipend	There are no changes proposed for this line

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52010	Cemetery Contractual Services	There are no changes proposed for this line
52020	Custodial Contractual Services	This line was shifted from Council on Aging to Building & Grounds to consolidate similar services under one department to assure delivery and standards for building care are consistently managed.
52110	Electricity	Increases are recommended due to rising utility rates.
52120	Gas/Oil - Heating	Increases are recommended due to rising utility rates.
52310	Water/Sewer	Increases are recommended due to rising utility rates.
52405	Buildings Repairs	This line was combined within "Building and Grounds Repairs" however the two categories were split apart to identify true costs associated with each individual service.
52410	Buildings & Grounds Repairs	This line has been zeroed out.
52415	Grounds Repairs	This line was combined within "Building and Grounds Repairs" however the two categories were split apart to identify true costs associated with each individual service.
52450	Equipment Maintenance/Repairs	There are no changes proposed for this line
52700	Contracted Services	There are no changes proposed for this line
52740	Clothing & Uniforms	There are no changes proposed for this line
52920	Trash Removal	A slight increase is recommended to allow for additional pickup if needed for various high traffic locations.

54300	Park/Cemetery Supplies	An increase is recommended to reflect true costs associated with needed supplies.
54500	Custodial Supplies	An increase is recommended to reflect true costs associated with needed supplies as well as possible increase for any additional services needed at various buildings.
54601	New Trees	There are no changes proposed for this line
55200	Courthouse Bldg Maintenance	There are no changes proposed for this line
55805	Safety Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this line
57100	Travel/Training	A slight increase is recommended to support access to training for the staff including OSHA, equipment safety courses, etc.

Buildings and Grounds: 01192

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51106	Crew Leader	1	1	1	\$ 60,126	\$ 64,657	\$ 24,390	\$ 64,657	\$ 65,950
51115	HCC Custodian				-	-	-	-	
51135	Working Foreman	1	1	1	73,515	76,885	31,972	76,885	\$ 78,423
51137	Laborers/Operators	5	5	5	274,111	269,311	116,002	309,311	\$ 315,497
51200	Intern				7,506	-	-		
51301	Overtime				21,246	12,500	858	20,000	\$ 12,500
51420	Longevity				1,150	1,850	1,550	1,400	\$ 1,850
51910	Cell Phone Stipend				600	1,200	-	1,200	\$ 1,200
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	7	7	7	\$ 438,253	\$ 426,403	\$ 174,772	\$ 473,453	\$ 475,420
52010	Cemetery Contractual Services				\$ 1,232	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,950	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
52020	Custodial Contractual Services				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
52110	Electricity				84,201	118,750	52,438	122,313	\$ 122,313
52120	Gas/Oil - Heating				91,955	110,000	6,814	113,300	\$ 113,300
52310	Water/Sewer				13,125	22,000	3,089	22,660	\$ 22,660
52405	Buildings Repairs				-	200,000	32,066	200,000	\$ 200,000
52410	Buildings & Grounds Repairs				238,837	-	-		
52415	Grounds Repairs				-	50,000	11,795	50,000	\$ 50,000
52450	Equipment Maintenance/Repairs				29,234	7,500	765	7,500	\$ 7,500
52700	Contracted Services				32,790	-	358	-	
52740	Clothing & Uniforms				883	-	-	-	\$ 883
52920	Trash Removal				-	7,500	-	7,875	\$ 8,000
54300	Park/Cemetery Supplies				30,499	18,000	5,393	18,000	\$ 25,000
54500	Custodial Supplies				14,997	10,000	3,867	12,000	\$ 18,000
54601	New Trees				329	-	-	2,000	
55200	Courthouse Bldg Maintenance				14,195	15,000	4,791		\$ 15,000
55805	Safety Supplies				925	4,450	-	4,450	\$ 4,450
57100	Travel/Training				-	2,500	-	3,500	\$ 4,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 553,203	\$ 568,200	\$ 123,327	\$ 576,098	\$ 603,606
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 991,456	\$ 994,603	\$ 298,100	\$ 1,049,551	\$ 1,079,026

Joe Aberdale, Superintendent of Public Works

Date

\$ Increase/Decrease

\$ 54,948

\$ 84,423

% Increase/Decrease

5.52%

8.49%

01650 PARKS & RECREATION - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51113	Board Admin Stipend	There are no changes proposed for this line

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
53830	Parks Camera Operations	There are no changes proposed for this line
54201	Parks Improvements	An increase of \$10,000 is recommended to ensure equipment is maintained throughout the course of the year.
57803	Lake Management	An increase to the management of the lake is recommended, in addition to a Service Enhancement Grant funded through Free Cash for an intern to oversee the management and water quality.
57805	Lifeguards	This is a contracted service, which the recommended budget, a decrease from prior Fiscal years, meets the obligation.
57810	Waste Management	An increase from \$6,125 to \$7,000 is recommended to allow possible increased costs associated with this service or provide flexibility to increase additional pickup.
57835	Parks Programs	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line

Parks & Recreation: 01650

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51113	Board Admin Stipend				\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
53830	Parks Camera Operations				-	7,500	-	7,500	\$ 7,500
54201	Parks Improvements				\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 15,000
57803	Lake Management				9,920	5,250	-	15,500	\$ 10,000
57805	Lifeguards				41,757	92,000	60,383	61,258	\$ 61,258
57810	Waste Management				6,145	7,850	4,960	8,635	\$ 7,000
57835	Parks Programs				-	-	-	32,678	\$ -
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 62,822	\$ 117,600	\$ 65,343	\$ 130,571	\$ 100,758
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 64,822	\$ 119,600	\$ 65,343	\$ 132,571	\$ 102,758

Joe Aberdale, Superintendent of Public Works

Date

\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ 12,971	\$ (16,842)
% Increase/Decrease	10.85%	-14.08%

01425 TRANSFER STATION - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51110	DPW Superintendent 2.5%	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51120	Highway Superintendent 7.5%	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51138	Recycling Center Staff	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
	Town Clerk Stiped	The Town Clerk staff oversee the issuing and reconciling of Transfer Station Stickers, however have not been compensated for this service not associated with traditional Town Clerk duties. This stipend will financially recognize the administrative support provided.
	Asst. Town Clerk Stiped	The Town Clerk staff oversee the issuing and reconciling of Transfer Station Stickers, however have not been compensated for this service not associated with traditional Town Clerk duties. This stipend will financially recognize the administrative support provided.
51301	Highway Overtime	There are no changes proposed for this line

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52000	Contracted Services	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs	There are no changes proposed for this line
52701	Trash & Recycle Hauling	The increase reflects contractual obligations for trash hauling.
52702	Hazardous Waste Collection	This line was previously within Highway, but is associated with services at the Transfer Station. An increase is recommended to allow for a possible additional collection date for residents.
53050	Landfill & Transfer Station Eng	There are no changes proposed for this line
53825	Kiosk Annual Operation	There are no changes proposed for this line
54300	Transfer Station Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line

DPW - Transfer Station: 01425

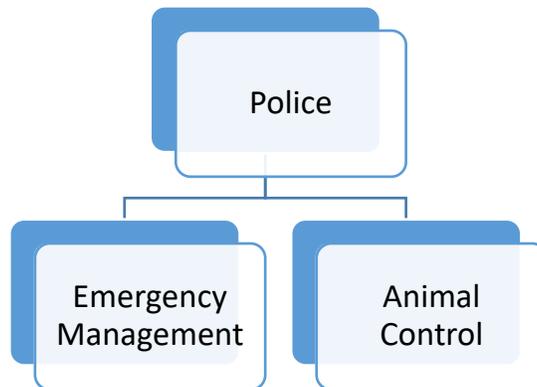
Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51110	DPW Superintendent 2.5%				\$ -	\$ 3,042	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
51120	Highway Superintendent 7.5%				-	7,623	-	-	\$ -
51138	Recycling Center Staff	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	18,756	3,722	20,808	\$ 21,225
	Town Clerk Stiped								\$ 5,000
	Asst. Town Clerk Stiped								\$ 5,000
51301	Highway Overtime				-	1,500	-	9,446	\$ 1,500
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0.5	0.5	0.5	\$ -	\$ 30,921	\$ 3,722	\$ 30,254	\$ 32,725
52000	Contracted Services				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs				-	5,000	-	5,000	\$ 5,000
52701	Trash & Recycle Hauling				-	75,000	25,930	\$ 82,745	\$ 82,748
52702	Hazardous Waste Collection				-	7,500	8,803	9,000	\$ 9,000
53050	Landfill & Transfer Station Eng				-	35,000	783	35,000	\$ 35,000
53825	Kiosk Annual Operation				-	3,500	-	3,500	\$ 3,500
54300	Transfer Station Supplies				-	-	-		
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ -	\$ 126,000	\$ 35,516	\$ 135,245	\$ 135,248
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ -	\$ 156,921	\$ 39,238	\$ 165,499	\$ 167,973

<hr/>	<hr/>	\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ 8,578	\$ 11,052
Joe Aberdale, Superintendent of Public Works	Date	% Increase/Decrease	5%	7.04%

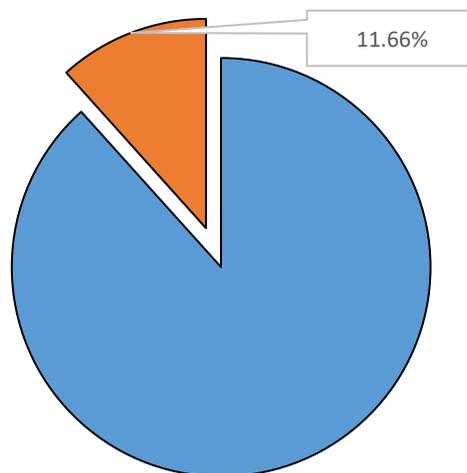
POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

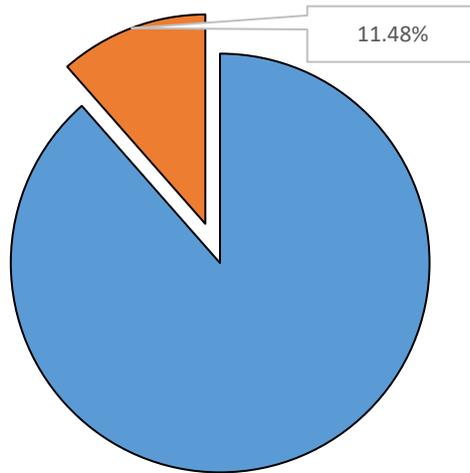
The Police Department enhances the quality of life in the Town of Great Barrington by complying with best practices in law enforcement, including accountability of its employees, and by developing partnerships with the community and the other entities of government in a manner that promotes preservation of life and property, maintains peaceful public order, controls and expedites traffic, provides a safe environment, works with youth and tourists, assures timely response to victims of crime, fosters close cooperation with neighboring law enforcement agencies and assures the enforcement of law with respect for human dignity.



% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Police Department with Divisions comprises of 11.66% of the overall General Fund budget.



The Police Department without Divisions, comprises of 11.48% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Great Barrington Police Department provides effective law enforcement and community caretaking through best practices with skilled officers.

The Great Barrington Police Department provides comprehensive law enforcement and public safety services to the residents, businesses, and visitors of the Town of Great Barrington. The department is responsible for protecting life and property through the enforcement of local bylaws and state laws, the prevention and investigation of crime, traffic safety enforcement, and the preservation of public order. The department operates on a 24-hour basis and responds to both emergency and non-emergency calls for service throughout the community.

The department’s primary operations include uniformed patrol, criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, emergency response, and community-oriented policing. Patrol officers provide proactive and responsive coverage, conduct preventative patrols, respond to calls for service, and engage with community members to identify and address public safety concerns. Investigative functions include follow-up investigations, evidence collection and management, case preparation, and coordination with the District Attorney’s Office and other law enforcement agencies.

The Police Department places a strong emphasis on community engagement, problem-solving, and alternative response strategies. Officers work closely with residents, business owners, schools, and community organizations to build trust, provide education, and collaboratively address quality-of-life and public safety issues.

A key component of this approach is the department's Co-Responder Program, which pairs police officers with a licensed mental health clinician to respond to calls involving behavioral health crises, substance use, and other mental health-related concerns. The clinician provides on-scene assessment, crisis intervention, de-escalation, and referrals to appropriate services, improving outcomes for individuals in crisis while reducing repeat calls for service and unnecessary emergency room transports.

Traffic safety is a significant component of departmental operations. Officers conduct traffic enforcement, motor vehicle crash investigations, and targeted safety initiatives to promote safe roadways for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. The department also provides traffic control and public safety support for special events, construction projects, and emergency situations.

The department operates a Police Drone (Unmanned Aircraft Systems – UAS) Unit to support public safety operations. The Drone Unit assists with search and rescue operations, missing person investigations, accident reconstruction, situational awareness during critical incidents, and the assessment of hazardous or inaccessible areas. Drone operations enhance officer safety and operational efficiency while complying with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations and department policies.

The department also maintains a Comfort Dog Program to support community engagement and improve interactions during traumatic incidents, crisis situations, and outreach efforts. The comfort dog is utilized to reduce anxiety, support victims of crime, assist children and vulnerable populations, and promote de-escalation during emotionally charged encounters.

Administrative and support functions include records management, public records compliance, evidence and property control, accreditation and policy management, and fiscal oversight. These functions also encompass the identification, application, administration, and reporting of state and federal grants that support departmental operations and special programs. Grant funding is used to enhance public safety initiatives, offset local costs, and support programs such as training, equipment acquisition, technology improvements, and other specialized services. The department ensures that all grant funds are administered in compliance with applicable requirements and reporting standards.

The department works in coordination with regional, state, and federal partners to support mutual aid, emergency preparedness, and coordinated public safety responses.

Through these combined operations and programs, the Great Barrington Police Department remains committed to providing professional, impartial, and effective law enforcement services while maintaining transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility to the community.

Please visit the department webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/160/Police-Department

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ Successfully attained Re-Accreditation in October by The Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC)
- ✓ 100% of Officers received 40 hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training (20% is state recommended).
- ✓ Successful Re-Launch of the Mental Health Co-Responder Program after a gap due to funding.
- ✓ Continued our commitment to community outreach at events.
- ✓ Successfully secured \$159k in grants to help fund our mission.



Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

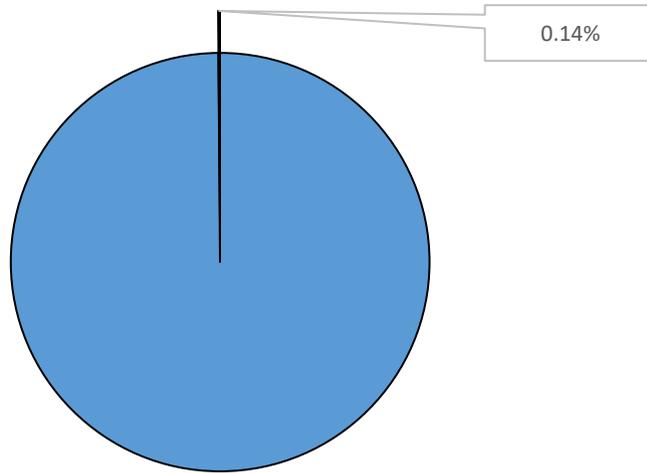
Short-Term:

1. Continue to apply and be awarded Grant Funding to assist with continued equipment, tools, training and other valuable resources for the officers and community safety. **(SP: Public Health & Safety, Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Investigative Training and Personnel to meet the growing demand in the role technology plays in crimes. Our seniors and youth continue to be vulnerable to scams and illegal activity through numerous tech platforms. **(SP: Public Health & Safety, Municipal Service Delivery)**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

DIVISION PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Emergency Management Division is responsible for protecting lives and property by being active and engaged with our state, federal and local partners, before, during and after a critical incident or natural disaster/weather related incident.



The Emergency Management Division comprises of 0.14% of the overall General Fund budget.

DIVISION DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Chief of Police serves as The Emergency Management Director and is responsible for the development and maintenance of emergency plans, training and coordination with local, state and federal partners to serve the community during an emergency. This division works closely with Town DPW and Fire Dept as well as Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and The Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee (SBREPC) working towards successful outcomes of our shared missions.

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ Successfully assisted the SBREPC with relocating all emergency supplies from Bard College at Simons Rock to the new site for a regional shelter at Berkshire South.
- ✓ Active participant with our partners with regular meetings, trainings and tabletop exercises.
- ✓ Successfully re-launched the new CodeRED platform and increased the number of resident subscribers.



Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Training an assistant EMD and other PD command staff members **(SP: Public Health & Safety, Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Add a mobile Generator to equipment for emergency use at various locations. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Public Health & Safety)**

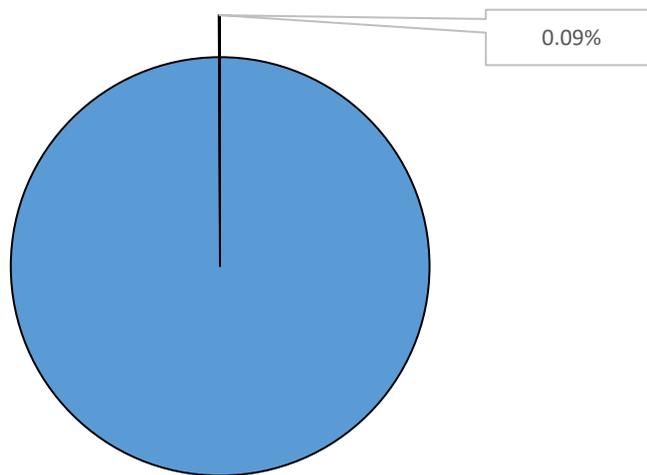
Long-Term:

1. Obtain funding to have generators at each town building **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Public Health & Safety)**

ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION

DIVISION PURPOSE STATEMENT

Animal Control is under the direction of the Police Department. The primary function is to ensure the safety and welfare of both animals and humans. They aim to protect residents and animal populations, maintain order, prevent and address situations where animals might pose risks or suffer harm. Animal control officers enforce animal-related laws and ordinances.



The Animal Control Officer Division comprises of 0.09% of the overall General Fund budget.

DIVISION DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Animal Control Officer(s) will respond to various calls from residents for loose, barking/nuisance, missing dogs and cats. They assist residents with wildlife and problem animal control issues by providing proper contacts to local PAC agents and MA Wildlife. ACO(s) assist the Town Clerk in licensing dogs by requiring residents to both license and vaccinate dogs. The ACO is required to notify all parties and issue citations for various violations of the Animal Control Bylaws. If required, they will appear in district court as needed for ACO citations that are not paid or have been appealed for various violations of the Animal Control Bylaws.

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ Fully trained 2 officers in Animal Control: Officer Troiano and Officer Reel were fully certified.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard’s Strategic Priorities)

Long-Term:

1. Maintain certified ACO who respond to the animal control requests
(SP: Public Health & Safety)



01210 POLICE - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51117	Police Chief	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51118	Deputy Chief (Captain)	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51120	Sergeants	This is the salary for existing positions, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51121	Patrol Officers	This is the salary for existing positions, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51122	Co-responder	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51123	Police Specials	This is the salary for existing positions, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51125	Administrative Assistant	This is the salary for existing positions, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51128	Community Outreach Officer	This existing line is being proposed with an 2% increase for FY27.
51131	Parking Control Officer	This existing line is being proposed with an 2% increase for FY27.
51300	Overtime	This existing line is being proposed with an 2% increase for FY27.
51302	Officer in Charge Pay	This existing line is being proposed with an 2% increase for FY27.
51410	Holiday Pay	This existing line is being proposed with an 2% increase for FY27.
51420	Longevity Pay	This line item reflects the accurate expenses associated with eligible employees in accordance with the Personnel Policy and Collective Bargaining.
51900	Education/Tuition	This existing line associated with contractual obligations. No changes are being proposed.
51910	Accreditation Stipend	No changes are being proposed.
51920	Uniform Allowance	A modest increase is being proposed to reflect inflation of expenses.
51930	Training	An increase is being proposed to reflect true costs of this line.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs	This line covers maintenance for program related equipment within Police services that are non-Building/grounds related. An increase is being proposed to cover increased costs associated with inflation.
52900	Care of Prisoners	An increase is proposed to reflect true costs of this line.
53095	Interpreter Services	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.

53810	Events	An increase is being proposed to allow the Police Department to enhance Community Engagement through events including participation in National Night Out.
53820	Assessment Center (Sergeant)	An assessment was conducted in FY26, therefore this line is not necessary to fund FY27.
54200	Office Supplies	An increase is being proposed to reflect true costs of this line.
54201	Office Equipment	An increase is being proposed to reflect true costs of this line.
54202	Additional Equipment	An increase is being proposed to reflect true costs of needed equipment with anticipated inflation increases.
54800	Vehicular Supplies	An increase is being proposed to reflect true costs of needed equipment with anticipated inflation increases.
55840	Uniforms	A modest increase of \$1,000 is being proposed in anticipation of inflation increases.
55850	Crime Prevention/Ammunition	An increase is being proposed to reflect true costs of needed equipment with anticipated inflation increases.
55860	Subscriptions	An increase is being proposed to reflect true costs of this line.
57100	Travel/Training	To support the Selectboard goals of professional development, it is essential to allow staff the option within their departmental budgets to be able to take trainings associated with their roles, to improve their skills sets and be able to learn from other similar services locally, regionally, on a state or even federal level. Therefore it is recommended increasing this line to \$20,000 to allow flexibility and training support for the 20.5 FTE within this department.
57300	Dues & Memberships	There are no changes proposed for this line

Police Department: 01210

Account	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027	
	FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation	
51117	Police Chief	1	1	1	\$ 128,710	\$ 131,496	\$ 53,499	\$ 131,496	\$ 134,126
51118	Deputy Chief (Captain)	1	1	1	-	120,575	46,197	120,575	\$ 120,575
51120	Sergeants	2	2	2	295,481	252,521	80,663	272,583	\$ 278,035
51121	Patrol Officers	15	15	15	1,063,276	1,136,664	465,553	1,116,603	\$ 1,138,935
51122	Co-responder				-	-	-		
51123	Police Specials				-	-	-		
51125	Administrative Assistant	1	1	1	60,783	61,898	24,664	61,898	\$ 63,136
51128	Community Outreach Officer				6,287	5,000	5,139	5,000	\$ 5,000
51131	Parking Control Officer	0.5	0.5	0.5	17,899	20,000	6,739	20,000	\$ 20,000
51300	Overtime				226,564	195,000	120,596	195,000	\$ 198,900
51302	Officer in Charge Pay				132	-	-		
51410	Holiday Pay				79,932	58,000	21,339	58,000	\$ 58,000
51420	Longevity Pay				5,100	5,950	5,950	5,950	\$ 5,950
51900	Education/Tuition				10,447	10,500	3,720	10,500	\$ 10,500
51910	Accreditation Stipend				4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	\$ 4,000
51920	Uniform Allowance				19,125	21,850	-	21,850	\$ 21,850
51930	Training				84,951	65,000	15,403	65,000	\$ 85,000
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	20.5	20.5	20.5	\$ 2,002,686	\$ 2,088,454	\$ 853,464	\$ 2,088,455	\$ 2,144,006
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs				\$ 3,667	\$ 1,056	\$ 585	\$ 2,555	\$ 3,000
52900	Care of Prisoners				1,119	750	648	1,150	\$ 1,200
53095	Interpreter Services				-	-	-		
53810	Events				1,205	1,000	66	1,000	\$ 5,000
53820	Assessment Center (Sergeant)				-	6,400	-		
54200	Office Supplies				6,825	5,080	2,617	6,080	\$ 6,500
54201	Office Equipment				1,867	2,000	-	2,000	\$ 3,000
54202	Additional Equipment				1,368	2,300	1,360	2,300	\$ 2,500
54800	Vehicular Supplies				23,860	20,000	8,061	21,500	\$ 25,000
55840	Uniforms				15,576	15,000	3,139	16,000	\$ 16,000
55850	Crime Prevention/Ammunition				23,975	17,500	3,883	18,500	\$ 25,000
55860	Subscriptions				11,475	9,000	9,641	9,000	\$ 12,000
57100	Travel/Training				16,407	20,000	10,265	20,000	\$ 20,000
57300	Dues & Memberships				2,623	4,000	2,690	4,000	\$ 4,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 109,968	\$ 104,086	\$ 42,955	\$ 104,085	\$ 123,200
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 2,112,654	\$ 2,192,540	\$ 896,418	\$ 2,192,540	\$ 2,267,206

Adam Carlotto, Interim Chief of Police

Date

\$ Increase/Decrease

\$ (0)

\$ 74,666

% Increase/Decrease

0.00%

3.41%

01230 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51107	EMD & Assist. EMD Stipend	There are no changes proposed for this line.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs	There are no changes proposed for this line.
52700	Contracted Services	There are no changes proposed for this line.
54200	Office Supplies	A modest increase of \$150 is proposed for supplies directly associated with this service and reflects true costs.
58500	Additional Equipment	There are no changes proposed for this line.

Emergency Management: 01230

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51107	EMD & Assist. EMD Stipend				\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,011	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,011	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs				\$ 5,781	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,250	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
52700	Contracted Services				9,461	10,611	6,303	10,611	\$ 10,611
54200	Office Supplies				439	350	56	350	\$ 500
58500	Additional Equipment				1,871	2,000	1,419	2,000	\$ 2,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 17,552	\$ 19,461	\$ 13,028	\$ 19,461	\$ 19,611
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 22,552	\$ 24,461	\$ 15,040	\$ 24,461	\$ 24,611

Adam Carlotto, Interim Chief of Police

Date

\$ Increase/Decrease	\$	-	\$	150
% Increase/Decrease		0.00%		0.61%

01292 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51107	Animal Control Officer	There are no changes proposed for this line.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
53000	Professional Services	An increase is proposed due to increases in kennel boarding fees.
55800	Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57100	Travel/Training	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57300	Dues and Membership	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.

Animal Control Officer: 01292

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51107	Animal Control Officer				\$ 6,769	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,065	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ 6,769	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,065	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
53000	Professional Services				\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000
55800	Supplies				-	500	-	500	\$ 500
57100	Travel/Training				-	2,500	-	2,500	\$ 2,500
57300	Dues and Membership				-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 6,769	\$ 12,000	\$ 3,065	\$ 12,000	\$ 16,000

Adam Carlotto, Interim Chief of Police

Date

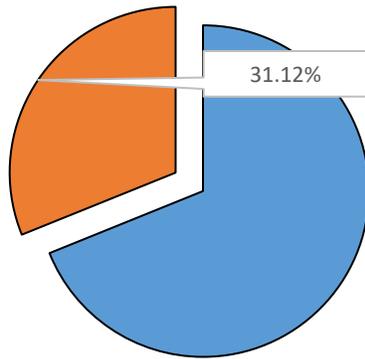
\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ -	\$ 4,000
% Increase/Decrease	0.00%	33.33%

BUILDING INSPECTOR

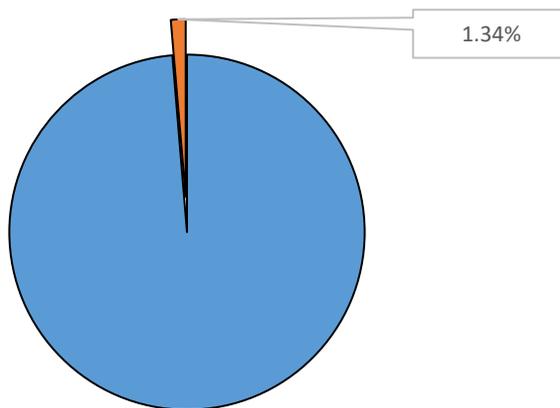
Within the FY2027 budget, a category of costs called "Other Services" has been separated from the departmental operating budgets. Within this category, the following costs are included:

- Finance Committee;
- Technology;
- Planning Board;
- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



Building Inspector Services comprises of 1.34% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Starting October 1, 2024 the Building Department became a shared service in the Towns of Lee, Lenox, Great Barrington & Stockbridge.

The Building Department provides efficient and streamlined permitting services for properties in Great Barrington. The office issues permits, performs inspections, provides inspection information, and maintains records and reports. The office provides zoning interpretation, determines applicability, and inspects and certifies existing buildings.

The Building Inspector and his staff maintain a rapport with local business owners, builders, contractors, and residents, with emphasis on areas of Main Street, sidewalk signage, and the abatement of vacant structures. The office provides a critique of all buildings and various other permit submittals for compliance with all city and state regulations, with a public safety focus. This department also coordinates inspection reviews with appropriate town officials.

The office is tasked with enforcement of the State Building Code 780 CMR, The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521 CMR, and any other state statutes, rules, regulations, or ordinances and bylaws that empower the Building Inspector.

Please visit the department webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/161/Building-Department

01241 BUILDING INSPECTOR - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW**Personnel**

Account	Account Name	Summary
51107	Building Inspector	Due to the regionalization of this service, the costs are reflected in the Contracted Services within Expenses.
51108	Assistant Inspector	Due to the regionalization of this service, the costs are reflected in the Contracted Services within Expenses.
51113	Clerk	Due to the regionalization of this service, the costs are reflected in the Contracted Services within Expenses.
51420	Longevity Pay	Due to the regionalization of this service, the costs are reflected in the Contracted Services within Expenses.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52000	Contracted Services	There are no changes proposed for this line.
52411	Property Security/Safety	There are no changes proposed for this line.
52450	Vehicle Maintenance	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.
54200	Office Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.
57100	Travel/Training	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.
57300	Dues & Memberships	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.

Building Inspector: 01241

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51107	Building Inspector	1			\$ 123,890	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 123,890	
51108	Assistant Inspector	3			222,012	-	-	222,012	
51113	Clerk	0			-	-	-		
51420	Longevity Pay				-	-	-		
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	4	0	0	\$ 345,902	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
52000	Contracted Services				53,666	235,000	40,732	235,000	\$ 235,000
52411	Property Security/Safety				-	2,400	-	2,400	\$ 2,400
52450	Vehicle Maintenance				-	-	-		
54200	Office Supplies				1,932	-	-		
57100	Travel/Training				16,712	-	-		
57300	Dues & Memberships				320	-	-		
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 72,630	\$ 237,400	\$ 40,732	\$ 237,400	\$ 237,400
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 418,532	\$ 237,400	\$ 40,732	\$ 237,400	\$ 237,400

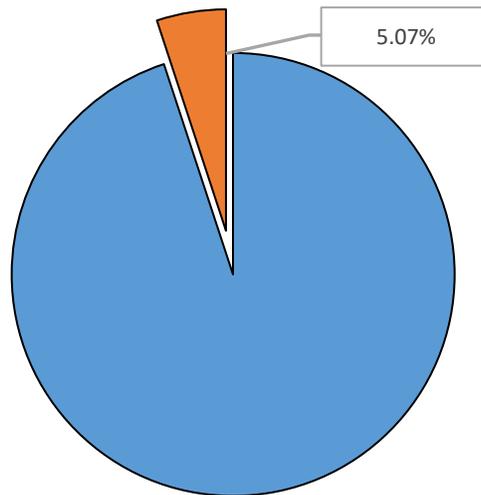
<hr/>	<hr/>	\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ -	\$ -
Liz Hartsgrove, Town Manager	Date	% Increase/Decrease	0.00%	0.00%

FIRE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Fire Department provides life safety and critical infrastructure protection for the Town of Great Barrington through fire prevention and education, training for and responding to emergency incidents.

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Fire Department comprises, in total, of 5.07% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Members of the Great Barrington Fire Department are held to a very high standard by the public, but the highest standard of service is the one we have set for ourselves. The membership of the fire department expects unyielding professionalism and personal accountability from everyone, in every aspect of our performance. These values represent the most distinguishing factors related to our commitment to excellent public service.

The Fire Department is responsible for protecting life, property, and the environment through a comprehensive approach that includes emergency response, fire prevention, and regulatory enforcement. The Department provides fire suppression services, emergency medical services, technical rescue operations, hazardous materials incident mitigation, and coordinated disaster response for the community.

In addition to emergency operations, the Fire Department plays a critical role in fire prevention and public safety through the enforcement of state fire codes and regulations. The Department conducts plans review and fire

safety inspections to ensure compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 148 and 527 CMR 1.00, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code. These activities are essential to reducing fire risk, improving building safety, and ensuring safe occupancy of residential, commercial, and institutional properties.

The Department maintains required records, incident reports, and regulatory documentation to support compliance, accountability, and effective operational planning. Through a combination of emergency response readiness, prevention efforts, and regulatory oversight, the Fire Department provides essential public safety services that safeguard residents, businesses, and visitors while supporting the Town's overall emergency preparedness and resilience.

Please visit the department webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/332/Fire-Department

Division Descriptions

Administration

The Administration Division provides leadership, oversight, and organizational support necessary to ensure the Fire Department operates efficiently, safely, and in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and professional standards. This division is responsible for master planning and long-term strategic planning to guide departmental priorities, capital needs, staffing, and service delivery.

Administrative functions include records and personnel management, financial administration, budget development and oversight, payroll coordination, grant administration, scheduling, and human resource management. The division oversees recruitment, hiring, training coordination, and retention efforts to maintain a qualified and sustainable workforce. Administration also manages incident reporting review, regulatory documentation, and internal controls to support accountability and transparency.

In addition, the Administration Division plays a critical role in emergency incident management and overall departmental readiness. Responsibilities include training and education coordination, occupational safety and health oversight, risk management, and compliance with workplace safety standards. Through these functions, Administration ensures the Department remains operationally prepared, fiscally responsible, and aligned with the Town's broader public safety goals.



Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Division is responsible for reducing fire risk and enhancing life safety through code enforcement, inspections, plan review, and public education. This division enforces Massachusetts General Laws and applicable state fire codes as they relate to fire prevention, including 527 CMR 1.00, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code.

Fire Prevention conducts plan reviews for new construction, renovations, changes of use, and the installation or modification of fire protection systems to ensure compliance with state codes and approved standards. The division performs fire safety inspections of residential, commercial, and institutional properties to verify safe conditions, proper system operation, and adherence to regulatory requirements.

Public education is a core component of the Fire Prevention Division's mission. Through outreach, education programs, and community engagement, the division promotes fire safety awareness, injury prevention, and preparedness, supporting proactive risk reduction and safer community outcomes.

Operations

The Operations Division is responsible for the delivery of all emergency response services and oversees the Department's day-to-day operational readiness. This includes fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, and coordinated disaster response.

Operations manages emergency response strategies and tactics, ensuring personnel are trained, equipped, and prepared to respond effectively to a wide range of incidents. The division oversees communications, dispatch coordination, and the integration of technology that supports situational awareness, response efficiency, and responder safety.

The Operations Division also ensures the readiness and maintenance of apparatus, equipment, and response systems, while coordinating staffing and deployment to meet community needs. Through continuous training, operational planning, and evaluation, the division maintains a high level of service delivery and supports the Department's mission to protect life, property, and public safety.

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ In 2025 the department accomplished several goals related to emergency operations and incident safety and support. Part of the goals of the chief were to update the Operations Manual, Mutual Aid Run Cards and after suggestions from several members, to update our portable radio inventory as well as add an Incident Support Unit.
- ✓ The updating our portable radio inventory and building the Incident Support Unit have been completed whereas the Operations Manual and Mutual Aid Run Cards are still a work in progress.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Develop Strategic Plan **(SP: Public Health & Safety, Municipal Service Delivery)**

Long-Term:

1. Increase staffing of Headquarters **(SP: Public Health & Safety, Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Continue development of Operations Manual. **(SP: Public Health & Safety, Municipal Service Delivery)**

01220 FIRE - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51113	Clerical	This salary is for an existing position which is split between the Fire Department and Council on Aging, This line reflects 50% of the total amount that supports the position and includes a proposed 2% increase for FY27.
51117	Fire Chief	This is a salary for an existing position, which is strongly being recommended increasing to \$125,000, a salary comparable to similar graded positions with the organization with equitable responsibilities.
51127	Call Firefighters	This existing line is being proposed with an 2% increase for FY27.
51129	Firefighters	Contracts for FY26 – FY28 have yet to be settled and ratified, therefore this line item is a placeholder for anticipated costs of increases for the current FY, as well as anticipated 2% increase for FY27.
51300	Overtime	This existing line is being proposed with an 2% increase for FY27.
51410	Holiday Pay	This existing line is being proposed with an 2% increase for FY27.
51420	Longevity Pay	This line item reflects the accurate expenses associated with eligible employees in accordance with the Personnel Policy.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs	There are no changes being proposed for this line, which funds costs associated with maintenance and repairs to equipment for the Fire Department.
52700	Communications	There are no changes to this line item which funds the Communications software used for callouts and coordination of personnel.
53042	EMS Licensing	This pays for the EMS certification of 9 staff members. This certification is critical to ensure that first responders on site can attend an emergency until additional support arrives.
53074	Equipment Testing	There are no changes to this line item which funds the required testing of fire equipment.
53800	Hydrant Rentals	There is no recommended change to this line, which pays the town's contractual obligations to both water districts for use of the hydrants.
53815	Laundry Services	This line was a minor expense in FY25 and not funded in FY26. As this expense is within the Enhanced Service Grant recommendations to purchase a washer and dryer for personnel to properly care for day-wear uniforms.
54200	Office Supplies	There are no changes to this line item.
54800	Vehicular Supplies	This line was zeroed out since FY25, and no changes are being recommended for FY27.

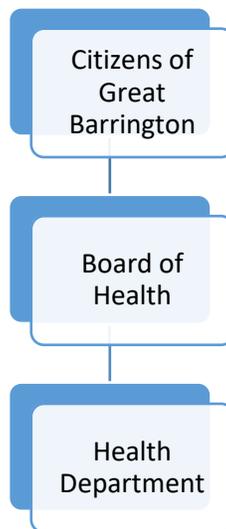
55810	Firefighting Supplies	There are no changes to this line item as it is a critical service needing full capacity for the Chief's ability to keep adequate supplies.
55811	Fire Prevention	This line was zeroed out since FY26, and no changes are being recommended for FY27.
55840	Uniforms	Adequate funding is recommended for uniforms within this departments, in anticipation of contractual obligations.
55860	Subscriptions	This line was zeroed out since FY26, and no changes are being recommended for FY27.
57100	Travel/Training	An increase is recommended to cover necessary training and travel for this department.
57300	Dues & Memberships	An increase is recommended to cover necessary dues and memberships for this department.

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51113	Clerical	0.5	0.5	0.5	\$ 24,136	\$ 24,666	\$ 4,116	\$ 24,666	\$ 25,159
51117	Fire Chief	1	1	1	110,762	113,516	50,328	113,516	\$ 125,000
51127	Call Firefighters				98,472	160,000	27,395	160,000	\$ 163,200
51129	Firefighters	4	4	4	284,790	282,859	116,173	282,859	\$ 288,516
51300	Overtime				80,553	65,000	17,328	65,000	\$ 66,300
51410	Holiday Pay				20,289	16,250	3,298	16,250	\$ 16,575
51420	Longevity Pay				900	900	900	900	\$ 900
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	5.5	5.5	5.5	\$ 619,903	\$ 663,191	\$ 219,539	\$ 663,191	\$ 685,651
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs				\$ 58,624	\$ 72,000	\$ 8,234	\$ 72,000	\$ 72,000
52700	Communications				4,130	4,000	-	4,000	\$ 4,000
53042	EMS Licensing				460	1,000	-	1,000	\$ 1,000
53074	Equipment Testing				12,475	17,000	381	17,000	\$ 17,000
53800	Hydrant Rentals				122,556	116,478	41,882	116,478	\$ 116,478
53815	Laundry Services				165	-	-	-	-
54200	Office Supplies				2,173	1,000	61	1,000	\$ 1,000
54800	Vehicular Supplies				-	-	-	-	-
55810	Firefighting Supplies				13,126	20,000	6,940	20,000	\$ 20,000
55811	Fire Prevention				1,066	-	-	-	-
55840	Uniforms				1,879	4,000	255	4,000	\$ 4,000
55860	Subscriptions				1,084	-	-	-	-
57100	Travel/Training				9,446	9,000	873	9,000	\$ 10,000
57300	Dues & Memberships				1,605	2,000	1,290	2,000	\$ 2,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 228,789	\$ 246,478	\$ 59,917	\$ 246,478	\$ 247,478
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 848,692	\$ 909,669	\$ 279,456	\$ 909,669	\$ 933,129

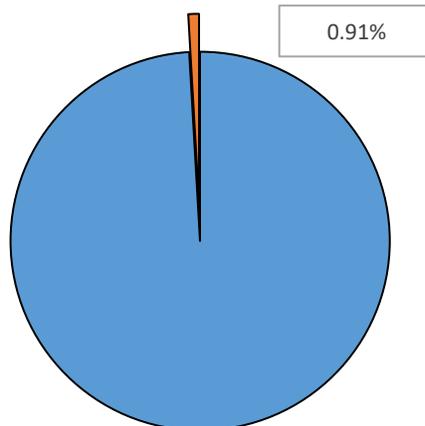
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Health Department is here to ensure the minimum standards of public health are met within the Town of Great Barrington. The Health Department Staff are Agents of the Board of Health who enforce State and Local regulations on their behalf. While out in the community we act as educators and ambassadors of the Town. Our role is to first inform the business or resident of the requirements and then provide practical guidance on the implementation of the Minimum Standards of Sanitization. Our primary focus is to fairly enforce State and Local public health regulations and therefore maintain clean waterways, healthy homes and camps, and a safe dining experience in our town.



% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Health Department, in total, comprises of 0.91% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

We strive to maintain the minimum public health standards as set by either the Great Barrington Board of Health and the State Department of Public Health. It is our job to fairly enforce these regulations and codes.

The Health Department provides timely permitting services to businesses, fair and educational inspectional services to ensure regulatory compliance, and polite customer service to all. We believe that enhancing availability and access to supportive public health services helps all residents quality of life. Therefore, The Health Agent and Inspector participate in regional organizing to bolster public health resources in our municipality. We also ensure livestock and stables meet State and Local Regulations through the work of the Animal Inspector. The Health Department acts on behalf of the three-member elected Board of Health. The Board of Health sets annual priorities and goals and it is the role of the Health Department staff to achieve or report on these annual priorities. The Health Agent works closely with the BOH Chair to organize and prepare for the monthly Board of Health meetings.

Please visit the department webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/340/Health-Department

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ In 2025, the Health Department prioritized increased engagement at the state and regional level by actively participating in public health infrastructure organizations, including the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association and the Western Massachusetts Public Health Association. By the end of 2025, this effort resulted in election to the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association Governing Board, active membership in the Western Massachusetts Public Health Association, appointment by the Department of Public Health Commissioner to both the Special Commission on Public Health and the Commission for Local Public Health, and participation in the Massachusetts Health Officers Association taskforce focused on developing workforce standards and training for local public health officials. These roles have expanded the Health Department's understanding of statewide public health systems and strengthened Great Barrington's voice in regional and state-level public health planning and policy development.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Assist the Board of Health in Developing Local Public Health Nuisance Regulations **(SP: Public Health & Safety)**
2. Improve Sharps Kiosk Usage. **(SP: Public Health & Safety)**

Long-Term:

1. Health Inspector Sustainability (SP: Municipal Service Delivery)



01511 HEALTH - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51129	Health Agent	This is a salary for an existing position, which is strongly being recommended increasing from \$71,800 to \$80,000, a salary comparable to similar graded positions with the organization with equitable responsibilities.
51130	Health Inspector	This is a salary for an existing position, which is strongly being recommended increasing from \$58,801 to \$63,000, a salary comparable to similar graded positions with the organization with equitable responsibilities.
51131	Animal Inspector	This is a stipend for services conducted by current staff.
51420	Longevity	This line item reflect the accurate expenses associated with the one eligible employee in accordance with the Personnel Policy.

Expenses

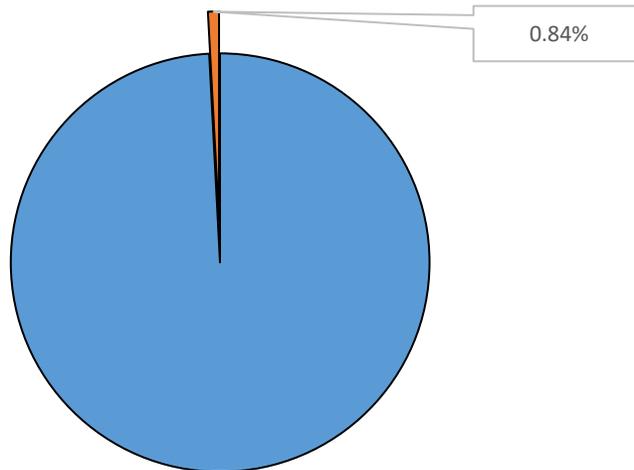
Account	Account Name	Summary
52700	Contracted Services	This line funds the Public Nurse services for flu clinics and other services outlined in contracted services.
57100	Travel/Training	It is recommended that an increase in this line be funded to adequately support both full-time health staff members to attend necessary training that will, in return, better serve the community.
57300	Dues & Memberships	This is a zero-line item, with no recommended changes proposed.
57800	Supplies	A slight increase is being recommended for this line to reflect true costs of services within supplies, which the needle exchange program expenses is paid from.

COUNCIL ON AGING DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

Our purpose is to provide recreation, nutrition, education and entitlement assistance to our seniors and build an inclusive, intergenerational community of friends and neighbors.

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Council on Aging Department, without funds that supplement Transportation, comprises of .84% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Council on Aging (COA) plays a central role in supporting the health, independence, and overall well-being of Great Barrington’s senior population through direct services, community partnerships, and inclusive programming.

The COA Director provides leadership and oversight of all senior services and programs, maintaining strong working relationships with a broad network of community partners and service providers that support seniors’ basic needs, housing stability, health, nutrition, and social connection. These partnerships include, but are not limited to, Elder Services, the Brown Bag Program, Great Barrington Housing Authority, Construct, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, Volunteers in Medicine, Community Health Programs (CHP), the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative, local food pantries, and the Massachusetts Council on Aging.

The Director maintains regular communication and collaboration with other Councils on Aging throughout Berkshire County and participates in monthly TRIAD meetings to address senior safety, wellness, and community concerns. The Director also attends monthly COA Board meetings and ensures alignment between policy direction, programming, and service delivery.

A core responsibility of the department is the development and delivery of programming that actively engages seniors and fosters connection, wellness, and lifelong learning. This includes exercise and wellness classes, arts and cultural programming, educational offerings, and congregate meals, which provide both nutritional support and important social interaction.

The Director provides ongoing staff training and conducts regular staff and kitchen volunteer meetings to ensure high-quality, consistent service delivery. Clear and consistent communication with Town employees, Senior Tax Work-Off participants, and volunteers ensures all individuals supporting the Senior Center are well-informed and able to respond effectively to the needs of seniors.

In addition to program oversight, the Director works directly with seniors on an individual basis to assist with navigating and completing applications for fuel assistance, transitional assistance, RMV services, housing programs, and other essential supports. The Director also serves as a point of contact for family members and community residents who are concerned about the physical or mental well-being of seniors, helping connect them with appropriate resources and services.

The COA maintains an equipment lending programming offering those that need it: wheel chairs, canes, walkers, trifold, commodes and shower chairs dependent upon availability. These items are on a first come first serve basis and when the senior is done with the piece of equipment it is returned to the center to be available for the next senior's needs.

The COA extends outreach beyond the Senior Center by coordinating monthly Brown Bag food distributions, delivering donated bread from Big Y, and distributing newsletters to residents of Flag Rock, ensuring access to food and information for seniors who may face mobility or transportation barriers.

The Administrative Assistant supports the department's daily operations and communications by managing vouchers, maintaining and updating the COA website and the department's page on the Town's website, assisting with the creation and distribution of the monthly printed and Mailchimp newsletters, updating information in the My Senior Center kiosk, and helping facilitate smooth transitions between programs and classes through space setup and coordination.

The Outreach Coordinator serves as a primary point of contact for seniors, handling incoming calls during scheduled hours, managing lunch and program reservations, and making reminder calls for appointments and services such as the monthly foot nurse, SHINE counseling, and technology assistance. This role is critical to ensuring seniors remain informed, engaged, and able to access services reliably.

Together, the COA staff and volunteers provide coordinated, compassionate, and responsive services that support seniors' independence, promote community connection, and enhance quality of life for older residents of Great Barrington.

Please visit the department webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/252/Council-on-Aging

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ 90s Celebration ~ we had our annual celebration of our citizens who are 90 and over. With a list from the Town Clerk's office (via the current census) we invited over 80. The attendance for the event reached 69 which was a record of us and we had several guests of honor that had never visited us before. This year Elder Services prepared the meal which saved us the cost of making the lunch. It was lovely to have seniors sitting together that had gone to grammar school together. It was a perfect event. Many of the events we have here ensure that our seniors have a high quality of life which community gatherings accomplish.



- ✓ One of the goals for this year was to create intergenerational programming. We had an opportunity to welcome a group of six of our Great Barrington Police Department to help with one of our annual cookouts. It was wonderful for the seniors to connect with our newest generation of police officers. We had 52 people present out in our backyard.



- ✓ One of the goals for this year was to bring Extra Special Teas to the senior center more than once a year. We have had 3 events with them this year. I feel this is an important collaboration for us as well as these lovely individuals.

- ✓ Recognizing that meal-based programming significantly increases participation, the department expanded its food service offerings, resulting in a 100–200% increase in attendance. The department successfully secured MCOA grant funding to purchase a commercial salad bar and refrigerator/freezer, expanding food storage capacity and enabling a greater number of meals to be prepared in-house for seniors.
- ✓ To improve operational efficiency, the department, in collaboration with the COA Board, identified the need for on-site laundry capabilities and purchased an apartment-sized washer and dryer. This improvement allows laundry to be completed on site during non-program hours, resulting in more efficient use of staff time and improved daily upkeep of the Senior Center.
- ✓ Increased daily attendance through expanded programming, enhanced meal offerings, and targeted outreach, resulting in greater utilization of the Senior Center and stronger community engagement.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Produce more vegetables in our raised beds this year for our in-house lunches. **(SP: Sustainability & Environment, Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Obtain additional 'guest chefs' to prepare meals in house. **(SP: Sustainability & Environment, Municipal Service Delivery)**

Long-Term:

1. Increase number of 55 yr to 65 yr old seniors **(SP: Sustainability & Environment, Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Obtain a vehicle to transport seniors to art/cultural events to enrich their lives. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**

01541 COUNCIL ON AGING - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51106	COA Director	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51109	Van Drivers	100% of this line funds South County Connector driver salaries budget.
51113	Administrative Assistant	This salary is for an existing position which is split between the Fire Department and Council on Aging, This line reflects 50% of the total amount that supports the position and includes a proposed 2% increase for FY27.
51115	Custodian	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.
51128	Outreach Salaries	The FY26 budget had longevity for an employee no longer with the organization, therefore the FY27 budget has been adjusted to reflect the accurate expenses associated with the one eligible employee.
51420	Longevity Pay	This line item reflect the accurate expenses associated with the one eligible employee in accordance with the Personnel Policy.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs	This line covers maintenance for program related equipment within the Council on Aging that are non-Building/grounds related. No changes to this line item is being proposed.
52700	Transportation	100% of this line is used for the South County Connector – repairs, vehicle service, fuel and other related expenses.
53810	Activities	As the senior population continues to increase, as well as costs associated with running activities, it is being recommended that this line be increased from \$7,176 to \$8,500 to allow some additional flexibility.
54200	Office Supplies	As the senior population continues to increase, it is being recommended that this line be increased from \$1,250 to \$1,500 to allow the staff to do more with the office related support services.
57100	Travel/Training	It is being recommended this line item is increased to \$1,500 to provide COA staff access to trainings and conferences in order so that services remain up to date in supporting the multiple generations within this age membership of the community.
57300	Dues & Memberships	It is recommended that this line be slightly increased to cover dues and membership costs.

Council on Aging: 01541

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51106	COA Director	1	1	1	\$ 72,073	\$ 73,951	\$ 29,580	\$ 73,951	\$ 80,000
51109	Van Drivers - TRANSIT				94,962	85,000	35,993	85,000	\$ 85,000
51113	Administrative Assistant	0.5	0.5	0.5	26,967	27,539	7,227	27,539	\$ 28,090
51115	Custodian				8,712	10,538	1,668	-	
51128	Outreach Salaries				17,456	19,335	5,568	19,335	\$ 25,000
51420	Longevity Pay				300	300	300	300	
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	1.5	1.5	1.5	\$ 220,470	\$ 216,663	\$ 80,336	\$ 206,125	\$ 218,090
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs				\$ 2,894	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,214	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
52700	Transportation				10,291	10,000	1,906	10,000	\$ 10,000
53810	Activities				4,839	7,176	2,038	7,176	\$ 8,500
54200	Office Supplies				740	2,000	467	2,000	\$ 2,000
57100	Travel/Training				1,173	1,250	1,288	1,300	\$ 1,500
57300	Dues & Memberships				727	728	727	727	\$ 800
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 20,665	\$ 24,154	\$ 7,640	\$ 24,203	\$ 25,800
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 241,135	\$ 240,817	\$ 87,976	\$ 230,328	\$ 243,890

Joan Peters, COA Director

Date

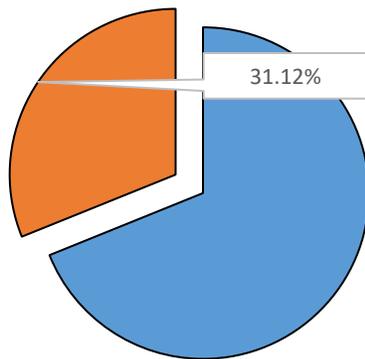
\$ Increase/Decrease \$ (10,489) \$ 3,073
% Increase/Decrease -4.36% 1.28%

COMMUNITY SERVICES

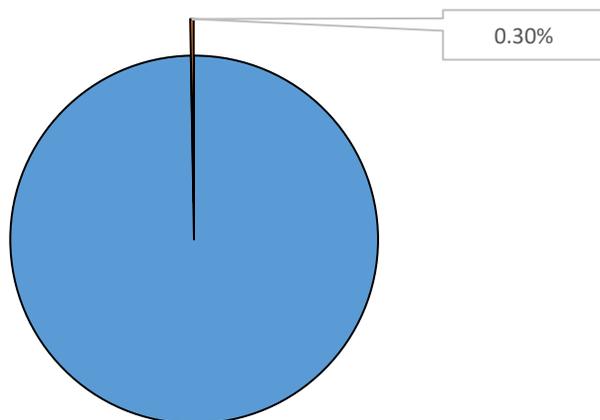
Within the FY2027 budget, a category of costs called "Other Services" has been separated from the departmental operating budgets. Within this category, the following costs are included:

- Finance Committee;
- Technology;
- Planning Board;
- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



Community Service comprises of 0.30% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Community Service, or Human Service, budgets in municipalities support local nonprofit organizations and service providers that deliver essential programs addressing community needs beyond direct municipal operations. These funds typically assist services such as food insecurity relief, housing stability, elder and youth services, mental health and substance-use supports, domestic violence prevention, disability services, and other social supports, helping ensure residents have access to critical resources while leveraging community-based expertise and partnerships.

Funding decisions are guided by the values and priorities of the community, focusing on equity, well-being, and ensuring residents have access to essential social supports through trusted local partnerships.

01528 COMMUNITY SERVICES - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

There are no personnel expenses directly associated within this account.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52710	American Legion Lease	There are no changes proposed for this line.
52711	VFW Lease	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57800	Human Services	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.

Community Services: 01528

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
52710	American Legion Lease				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000
52711	VFW Lease				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
57800	Human Services				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000

Liz Hartsgrove, Town Manager

Date

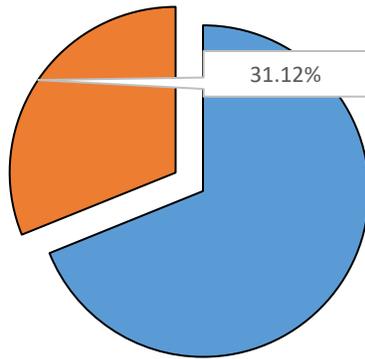
\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000
% Increase/Decrease	0.00%	0.00%

VETERAN SERVICES

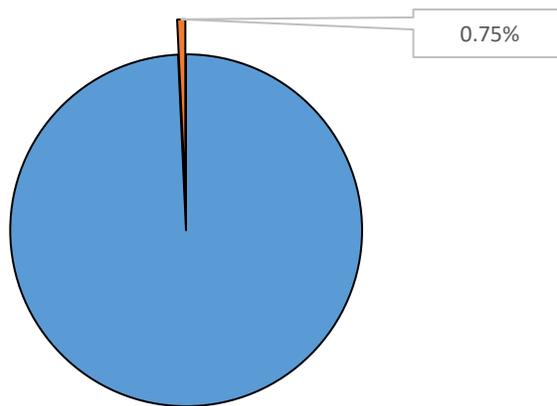
Within the FY2027 budget, a category of costs called "Other Services" has been separated from the departmental operating budgets. Within this category, the following costs are included:

- Finance Committee;
- Technology;
- Planning Board;
- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



Veteran Services comprises of 0.75% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Veterans' Services for the Town of Great Barrington are provided through a **regional Veterans Agent**, with the Town funding its proportional share of the position. The Veterans Agent delivers direct assistance, advocacy, and benefits administration to veterans and their families residing in Great Barrington and participating communities.

The Veterans Agent supports eligible veterans by providing information, referrals, and assistance with state and federal benefits, including financial assistance, healthcare access, housing support, employment resources, and educational benefits. Services also include support for surviving spouses and dependents, as well as guidance on burial benefits and memorial services.

Core responsibilities include administration of benefits under Massachusetts General Laws, coordination with the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and other service providers, and advocacy on behalf of veterans to ensure they receive all benefits and services to which they are entitled.

The Veterans Agent also provides outreach and case management services, helping veterans and families navigate complex systems, complete required applications, and address emergent needs. Regional service delivery allows for professional expertise, consistent service levels, and cost-effective administration while ensuring local access and responsiveness for Great Barrington residents.

Through participation in the regional Veterans Services program, the Town supports veterans and their families with compassionate, knowledgeable, and legally compliant services while efficiently leveraging shared resources across communities.

Please visit the department webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/613/Veterans-Services

01543 VETERAN AFFAIRS - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW**Personnel**

Technically, there are no direct Town related personnel expenses associated within this account.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52710	American Legion Lease	This line has been relocated to "Community Services" as it is not associated with state and federal mandated services and functions overseen by the Veterans Agent.
52715	VFW Lease	This line has been relocated to "Community Services" as it is not associated with state and federal mandated services and functions overseen by the Veterans Agent.
54300	Gravestone Honors	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57700	Veterans' Benefits	A shift of \$5000 has been taken from this line and placed with the District assessment that funds the wages for the Veterans Agent. This shift does not reduce any benefits to veterans, as the budget has enough cushion to provide a needed increase to the Agent and costs associated with the services.
57701	Veterans' District	As outlined above, this line has \$5000 reallocated funds to provide the Agent needed increases to the District's operations.

Veterans' Affairs: 01543

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
52710	American Legion Lease				\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 5,750	\$ -	
52715	VFW Lease				30,000	30,000	15,000	-	
54300	Gravestone Honors				5,340	5,500	-	5,500	\$ 5,500
57700	Veterans' Benefits				45,535	70,000	13,890	65,000	\$ 65,000
57701	Veterans' District				52,929	56,242	56,241	61,242	\$ 61,242
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 156,804	\$ 184,742	\$ 90,881	\$ 131,742	\$ 131,742
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 156,804	\$ 184,742	\$ 90,881	\$ 131,742	\$ 131,742

Liz Hartsgrove, Town Manager

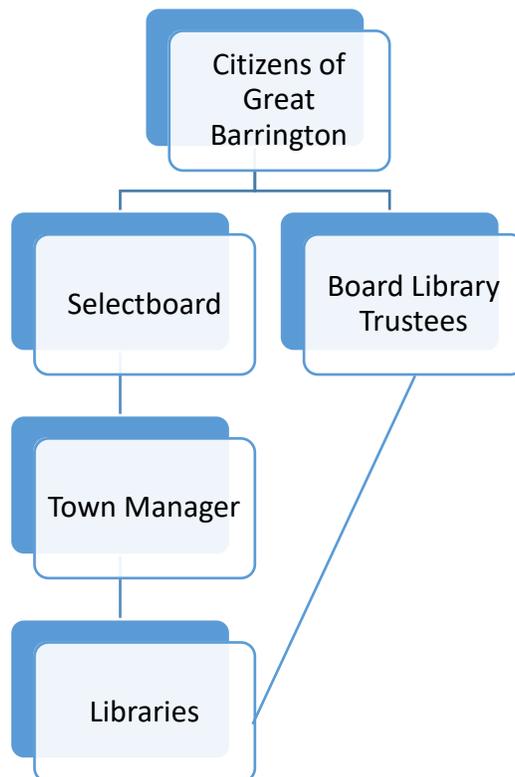
Date

\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ (53,000)	\$ (53,000)
% Increase/Decrease	-28.69%	-28.69%

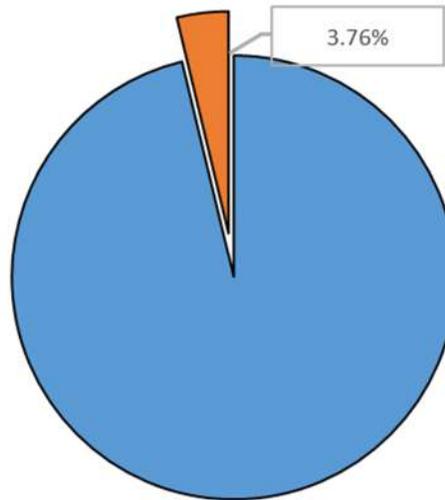
LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

Great Barrington Libraries are dedicated to providing welcoming spaces, quality resources, and lifelong learning opportunities to all members of the community without judgment or qualification. In both Downtown and Housatonic locations, the Libraries provide comfortable areas for study and work; technology and the support needed to use it; and access to a collection of physical and digital reading materials, research databases, tools, toys, and entertainment. The Libraries foster socioeconomic equity, community cohesion, and personal fulfillment. Services are delivered in a personalized and confidential manner ensuring that each patron feels respected, supported, and empowered.



% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Libraries Department, in total, comprises of 3.76% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Library staff evaluate, select, purchase, process, and catalog a wide variety of materials intended to engage, inform, and entertain. From July 1 through December 31 of the current fiscal year 1,619 new physical items were cataloged. Over the same period, 314 new ebooks and e-audiobooks were also made available. The total number of physical items housed by the libraries exceeds 82,000.

We assist patrons daily in finding accurate information, and maintain a variety of spaces for quiet study, connection, and collaboration. All are welcome to spend time at the libraries. Together, GB Libraries are open 7 days and 68 hours per week, but many resources are available to patrons 24 hours a day from their homes.

Through a regional network of over 150 libraries the collection available to local patrons is vastly expanded. GBL imported over 14,000 items for its patrons in FY25 and shared over 13,000 with our neighbors. Special patron research requests are fulfilled via the network, statewide, or nationally. An archives room is maintained and available for patron research with guidance from trained staff.

The libraries offer a wide range of technology services, including assistance with devices, printing and copying, and access to computers and Wi-Fi. Patrons also have access to a large collection of tools, toys, and equipment that can be checked out for home use. Currently, there are 142 items available in the Library of Things. Meeting space is available at Mason Library. Shared resources foster financial and ecological sustainability for individuals and communities.

Databases and digital resources provide valuable information across many areas, including genealogy, health and medicine, careers and vocations, world and local history, cultural studies, and homework help. Local, regional, and national newspapers are available in print and online.

Programs for all ages are curated to educate and inspire. For children, programs are designed to foster a lifetime love of learning and reading, supporting family literacy from birth. Adults will find programs that support cultural interests, business, financial and technology learning, and self-development opportunities.

The Libraries work under the standards established by the American Library Association and the rules of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Please visit the department webpage for more information
www.townofgbma.gov/391/Library

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ Work towards the renovation of Ramsdell with an eye towards the needs of the community over the next 30 years, and preservation of the treasured historical aspects of the building. GB was accepted into the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program in January 2025. The Building Committee was formed and hired an Owner's Project Manager and architectural team. After dozens of meetings with the design team, OPM, RBC, Trustees, Selectboard, Finance Committee, and a public event, the Level of Design was submitted on 12/19/25.
- ✓ Obtain needed technology for meetings and programs. In FY26 Trustee funds were used to purchase a TV, speaker, and OWL.
- ✓ Ensure Library furnishings are appropriate and ergonomic. Tween space created at Mason with funding from the Friends of GB Libraries. Teen space created at Ramsdell. Carpets at Mason are due to be cleaned in January 2026.
- ✓ Improve Communication to the public about Library resources available to them. A new museum pass service was contracted making it easier for patrons to make reservations from home. A new website manager was brought on board, saving money and making changes more feasible. Email newsletters increased from quarterly to monthly. We began printing program calendars for both libraries.



- ✓ Update policies. Collection Policy updated and Program Policy created. Policy maintenance is continuous.
- ✓ Foster beneficial partnerships. Cooperation with CHP, Berkshire Museum, Triplex Cinemas, Berkshire Busk, and People's Pantry benefited the community while sharing costs.
- ✓ Develop relationships with underserved populations. Status: Spanish collection is growing. Grant-provided books in Spanish were provided to Family Resource Center and People's Pantry. About 40 ESL students toured Mason to learn about resources available to them. Spanish and English family literacy calendars were printed and distributed.
- ✓ Increase cross-cultural understanding. Collection development is diverse and inclusive. Databases include the Life in America series: Black Life, Asian Life, Hispanic Life, and Indigenous Life. Special collections, programs, and displays highlight diverse populations such as women in history and LGBTQ stories.



Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Continue to help increase the quality of life in our community by providing valuable resources, services and programs. **(SP: Public Health & Safety)**
2. Use new and existing partnerships to offer innovative programming and services that allow local institutions, businesses, and individuals to grow at a minimal cost to all involved. **(SP: Economic Development)**
3. Encourage literacy in all its forms by sharing quality resources and materials that satisfy the needs and interests of all members of the community. **(SP: Sustainability & Environment)**

Long-Term:

1. Continue work towards Ramsdell renovation by progressing with the planning process and providing accurate information to the public. Conduct outreach and receive feedback.. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets)**

2. Improve the website to be more useful for the public by updating to a more intuitive format, adding a calendar, and adding information in Spanish. **(SP: Public Health & Safety)**
3. Improve staff recruitment and retention by improving working conditions, training, wages, opportunities for advancement, and recognition. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**
4. Ensure library materials are available to homebound patrons by creating a delivery service. **(SP: Public Health & Safety)**
5. Updated computers, laptops, and Chromebooks are needed for patrons and staff. Implement the MBI grant to cover part of what is needed. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets)**
6. Seek LSTA funding to digitize historical newspapers and provide patrons with at home access. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets)**

01610 LIBRARIES - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51143	Head Librarian	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51145	Assistant Librarians	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51146	Library Clerks - FT	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51148	Library Clerks - PT	This is the salary for an existing position, and 2% increase is proposed for FY27.
51420	Longevity Pay	This line item reflects the accurate expenses associated with the two eligible employees in accordance with the Personnel Policy and Collective Bargaining.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52450	Equipment Maint/Repairs	This line covers maintenance for program related equipment within the Library that are non-building/grounds related. A slight reduction is being proposed as the expenses of this line have not exceeded the amount for previous 2 fiscal years.
54200	Office Supplies	This line previously included library supplies with office supplies, however those are two separate categories of expenses. Therefore, this line reflects the true costs for actual office supplies needed between the two branches.
54220	Library Supplies	This is a new line within Library, which funds the costs for supplies that support actual library services such as book wrappings, and other supplies.
55800	Nonprint Materials	An increase is being proposed to fund non-printed materials such as e-audiobooks.
55801	Subscriptions	This line funds services including subscriptions for newspapers and magazines (print and digital), research databases such as Ancestry.com, academic and reference platforms, digital learning tools, streaming media services and professional journals, therefore an increase is recommended for this line from \$29,000 to \$35,000.
55860	Books/E books	As e-books is expected to increase in popularity which costs nearly twice as much as printed books, therefore it is recommended an increase in this line to allow more flexibility between printed and ebooks as reader preferences adjust.
55861	Programming Supplies	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57100	Travel/Training	This department has 10.5 FTE with a very minimal training budget, therefore it is strongly recommended this line item be increased from \$500 to \$3,000 to

		provide staff access to trainings and conferences in order so that services remain up to date in supporting the multiple generations of the community.
57300	Dues & Memberships	It is recommended that this line be slightly increased to cover dues and membership costs.

Libraries: 01610

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51143	Head Librarian	1	1	1	\$ 74,458	\$ 76,385	\$ 30,555	\$ 76,385	\$ 80,000
51145	Assistant Librarians	2	2	2	110,016	113,468	36,625	113,462	\$ 115,731
51146	Library Clerks - FT	5	5	5	206,157	227,754	90,779	226,987	\$ 231,527
51148	Library Clerks - PT	2.5	2.5	2.5	77,463	96,225	31,222	98,202	\$ 100,166
51420	Longevity Pay				1,300	1,300	900	900	\$ 900
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	10.5	10.5	10.5	\$ 469,395	\$ 515,132	\$ 190,081	\$ 515,936	\$ 528,324
52400	Equipment Maint/Repairs				\$ 1,322	\$ 3,000	\$ 550	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
54200	Office Supplies				9,154	10,000	2,799	6,000	\$ 6,000
54220	Library Supplies				-	-	-	3,500	\$ 3,500
55800	Nonprint Materials				28,854	28,000	7,213	31,000	\$ 31,000
55801	Subscriptions				27,403	25,000	7,951	29,000	\$ 35,000
55860	Books/E books				68,743	64,250	17,441	68,500	\$ 70,000
55861	Programming Supplies				2,800	3,000	984	3,000	\$ 3,000
57100	Travel/Training				530	500	316	1,000	\$ 3,000
57300	Dues & Memberships				362	500	369	750	\$ 750
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 139,169	\$ 134,250	\$ 37,622	\$ 144,550	\$ 154,050
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 608,564	\$ 649,382	\$ 227,704	\$ 660,486	\$ 682,374

Dawn Jardine, Library Director

Date

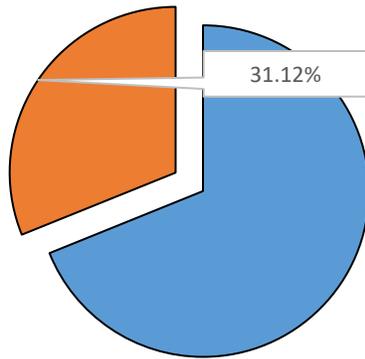
\$ Increase/Decrease \$ 11,104 \$ 32,992
% Increase/Decrease 1.71% 5.08%

VARIOUS BOARDS

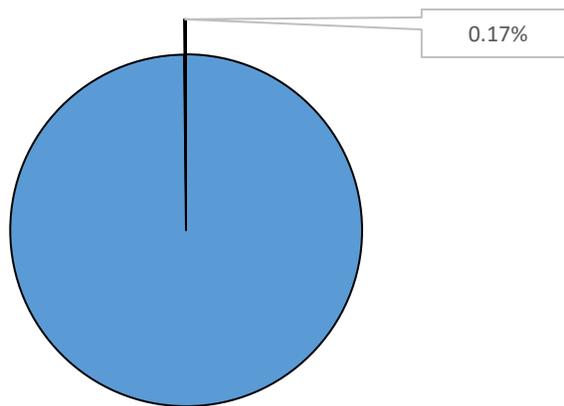
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- Finance Committee;
- Technology;
- Planning Board;
- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



The Various Boards budget comprises of 0.17% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Town supports several appointed boards and commissions that provide advisory, regulatory, and stewardship services essential to preserving Great Barrington's historical, cultural, agricultural, and community assets. These boards operate in accordance with state law, local bylaws, and Town policies, and are supported administratively through the municipal budget.

Historical Commission

The Historical Commission works to identify, preserve, and protect the Town's historic and archaeological resources. The Commission advises Town boards and departments on matters affecting historic properties and supports efforts to document and safeguard the Town's historical heritage.

Please visit the Commission's webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/323/Historical-Commission

Historic Districts Commission

The Historic Districts Commission administers local historic district regulations, reviewing proposed exterior changes to properties within designated historic districts to ensure alterations are compatible with historic character while allowing reasonable property use.

Please visit the Commission's webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/315/Historic-District-Commission

Agricultural Commission

The Agricultural Commission supports and promotes agricultural activities within the Town, advises on matters affecting farming, open space, and rural character, and works to strengthen the local agricultural economy and land stewardship practices.

Please visit the Commission's webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/179/Agricultural-Commission

W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Committee

The W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Committee advises the Town on matters related to the preservation, interpretation, and public awareness of the W.E.B. Du Bois legacy and associated historic resources, supporting educational initiatives, cultural programming, and partnerships that advance community understanding of the Town's historical significance.

Please visit the Committee's webpage for more information

www.townofgbma.gov/256/WEB-Du-Bois-Legacy-Committee

Collectively, these boards and commissions contribute to informed decision-making, community identity, cultural preservation, and stewardship of local resources. Budgeted support ensures compliance with public meeting requirements, recordkeeping, and administrative coordination necessary for effective and transparent operations.

01691 BOARDS & COMMISSIONS - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW**Personnel**

There are no personnel expenses directly associated and within this account.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52400	Historical Commission	An increase is recommended as it reflects the true cost of the service being conducted by this Commission.
52700	Historic Districts Commission	A decrease is recommended as it reflects the true cost of the service being conducted by this Commission.
57800	Agricultural Commission	An increase is recommended as it reflects the true cost of the service being conducted by this Commission.
57810	W.E.B Du Bois Legacy Committee	An increase is recommended, to support the Committee's annual event efforts.
57830	Transportation Committee	There are no changes proposed for this zeroed line.

Boards & Commissions: 01691

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
52400	Historical Commission				\$ 8,024	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
52700	Historic Districts Commission				5,000	10,000	-	7,500	\$ 7,500
57800	Agricultural Commission				2,000	1,000	-	2,000	\$ 2,000
57810	Du Bois Committee				5,000	5,000	-	8,000	\$ 8,000
57830	Transportation Committee				-	-	-		
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 20,024	\$ 21,000	\$ -	\$ 25,500	\$ 25,500
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 20,024	\$ 21,000	\$ -	\$ 25,500	\$ 25,500

Liz Hartsgrove, Town Manager

Date

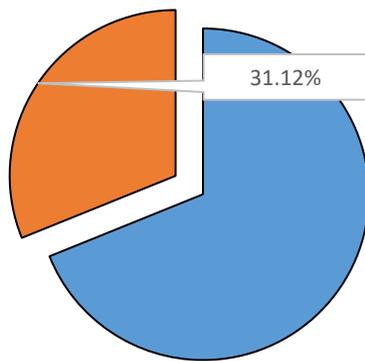
\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
% Increase/Decrease	21.43%	21.43%

CELEBRATIONS

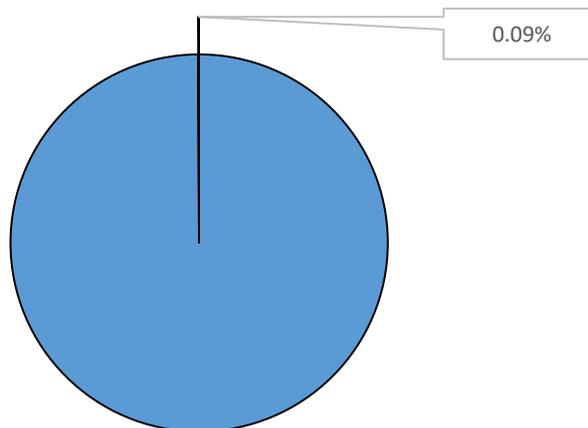
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- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



The Celebrations budget comprises of 0.09% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Celebrations funding supports community events and activities that enhance civic life, foster community connection, and provide accessible cultural programming for residents and visitors. The majority of this account supports the Bandstand Concert Series, a free summer concert program held in the park behind Great Barrington Town Hall, featuring family-friendly musical performances across a wide range of genres, as well as Saturday morning children’s programming such as puppet shows and sing-along activities.

The Bandstand Concert Series is coordinated by a volunteer organizer who receives an annual \$1,000 stipend for recruiting performers, developing and managing the concert schedule, producing and distributing promotional materials, soliciting and managing donations that significantly offset Town costs, and coordinating with Town staff to ensure timely payment to performers. Performer compensation is funded through a dedicated allocation, which is supplemented, often in equal or greater measure, by donations from local businesses and concert attendees.

Remaining funds within the Celebrations account support miscellaneous Town-sponsored activities and events, including community traditions such as the W.E.B. Du Bois Festival, as well as occasional honorariums and event-related expenses. This account provides the Town with flexibility to support meaningful civic events that reflect community values and strengthen public engagement throughout the year.

01693 CELEBRATIONS - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51910	Stipend	There are no changes to this line item.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
57800	Celebrations	Aligned with the Selectboard Priorities, an increase is recommended to this line to enhance support for various celebrations and events in town.
57810	Band Programs	An increase is recommended to support local artists with free concert series, as well as possibly expand upon the program to Housatonic.

Celebrations & Events: 01693

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51910	Stipend				\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
57800	Celebrations				\$ 4,696	\$ 1,000	\$ 593	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
57810	Band Programs				\$ 6,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 11,196	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,093	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 12,196	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,593	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000

\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
% Increase/Decrease	128.57%	128.57%

Liz Hartsgrove, Town Manager

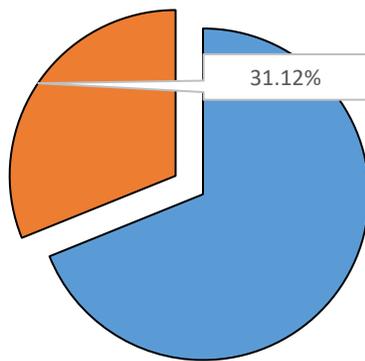
Date

DEBT SERVICE

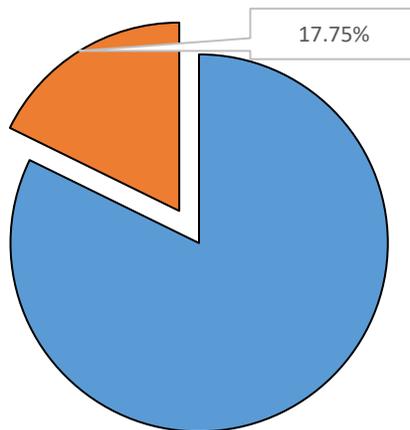
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- Planning Board;
- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



The Debt Service budget comprises of 17.75% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Debt Service budget provides for the repayment of principal and interest on the Town's outstanding long-term debt issued to finance voter-approved capital projects. These projects support essential municipal infrastructure and facilities, including public safety, public buildings, utilities, and other long-lived assets that benefit the community over multiple generations.

Debt Service reflects the Town's commitment to responsible capital financing by spreading the cost of major investments over their useful life, rather than relying on one-time revenues or short-term funding sources. All debt is issued in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Town Meeting authorizations, and Select Board approvals, and is managed to remain within statutory debt limits and affordability guidelines.

The Town actively manages its debt portfolio to balance capital needs with long-term financial sustainability. This includes careful sequencing of projects, monitoring of debt levels, and consideration of future operating impacts to ensure debt service obligations remain predictable and manageable within the overall budget.

Debt Service is a fixed obligation of the Town and is prioritized to protect the Town's financial stability, creditworthiness, and ability to respond to future capital needs. Prudent debt management supports the Town's bond rating, helps control borrowing costs, and ensures continued access to capital markets for future infrastructure investments.

Through disciplined planning and oversight, the Debt Service budget supports the maintenance and improvement of critical municipal assets while safeguarding the Town's long-term fiscal health.

01752 DEBT - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

There are no personnel expenses directly associated and within this account.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
59100	Long Term Principal	This line requires an increase in the appropriation to meet the Town’s annual debt service obligations for principal payments on outstanding long-term bonds and notes, in accordance with established amortization schedules.
59120	Long Term Interest	An increase is required for this line as it provides funding for interest due on the Town’s outstanding long-term debt obligations during the fiscal year.
59130	Short Term Interest/Paydowns	An increase is required to fund the required appropriation for interest expense and required principal reductions on short-term borrowing, including bond anticipation notes (BANs), issued in support of authorized capital financing.
59150	Debt Issuance Costs	There are no changes proposed for this line.

Debt Service: 01752

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027	FY2027	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation	Level-Service Budget Request	Level-Funded Budget Request	Town Manager Recommended	Selectboard & Finance Committee Recommended	TOWN MEETING VOTE _/_/_
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
59100	Long Term Principal				\$ 2,101,050	\$ 2,358,435	\$ 698,432	\$ 2,575,000	\$ 2,575,000					
59120	Long Term Interest				864,462	1,005,250	230,721	953,600	\$ 953,600					
59130	Short Term Interest/Paydowns				37,337	210,000	-	219,575	\$ 219,575					
59150	Debt Issuance Costs				2,025	25,000	9,159	25,250	\$ 25,250					
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 3,004,874	\$ 3,598,685	\$ 938,312	\$ 3,773,425	\$ 3,773,425	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 3,004,874	\$ 3,598,685	\$ 938,312	\$ 3,773,425	\$ 3,773,425	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

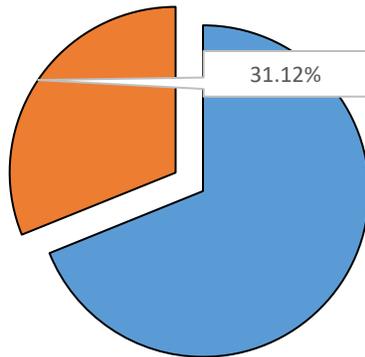
						\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ 174,740	\$ 174,740	\$ (3,598,685)	\$ (3,598,685)	\$ (3,598,685)	\$ (3,598,685)	\$ (3,598,685)
						% Increase/Decrease	4.86%	4.86%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%
Allison M. Crespo, Town Accountant /		Date											
Financial Services Coordinator													

RETIREMENT

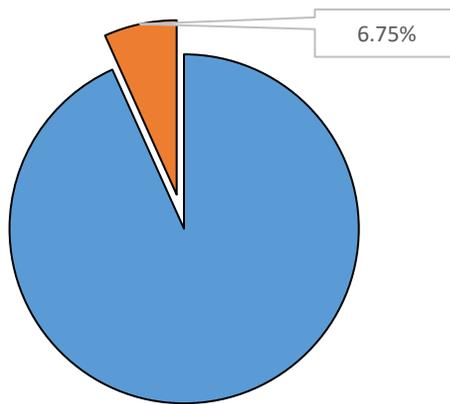
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- Planning Board;
- Building Inspector;
- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



The Retirement budget comprises of 6.75% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Retirement budget provides for the Town's required contributions and obligations related to employee and retiree benefits, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, collective bargaining agreements, and actuarial funding requirements. Great Barrington participates in the Berkshire Regional Retirement System, a public pension system serving multiple municipal employers in southwestern Massachusetts, which administers retirement benefits on behalf of the Town and its eligible employees.

The Retirement budget includes three primary components:

Medicare

Medicare represents the Town's required employer contributions to the federal Medicare program for eligible employees. These contributions are mandated by federal law and support Medicare coverage upon employee eligibility.

Retirement Contribution

Funds the Town's required annual contribution to the Berkshire Regional Retirement System. The contribution is based on actuarial valuations and funding schedules designed to support the long-term sustainability of pension benefits for current and future retirees. Participation in the regional system pools liability across participating employers while ensuring statutory compliance and professional plan administration.

Contractual Obligations.

Contractual Obligations includes deferred compensation related payments required by employment contracts ensuring the Town fulfills negotiated commitments to employees and retirees.

Together, these components ensure that the Town meets its legal, contractual, and actuarial obligations for employee and retiree benefits. Funding retirement obligations responsibly supports the Town's financial integrity, aids in employee recruitment and retention, and upholds commitments made to municipal employees who have served the community.

01911 RETIREMENT - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

Personnel

There are no personnel expenses directly associated and within this account.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
51750	Medicare	This line reflects the final assessment for funding this obligation.
51760	Retirement Contribution	This line reflects the final assessment for funding this obligation.
51765	Contractual Obligations	This line funds deferred compensation for contractual employees (Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Police Chief). For FY27, the Fire Chief will also be a contractual employee, requiring an increase in this line.

Retirement: 01911

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027	x				
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation	FY2027	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027	FY2027
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					
51750	Medicare				\$ 95,242	\$ 100,000	\$ 43,136	\$ 116,221	\$ 116,221					
51760	Retirement Contribution				1,163,106	1,195,285	578,991	1,104,036	\$ 1,104,036					
51765	Contractual Obligations				-	-	-	35,000	\$ 45,000					
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 1,258,349	\$ 1,295,285	\$ 622,126	\$ 1,255,257	\$ 1,265,257					
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 1,258,349	\$ 1,295,285	\$ 622,126	\$ 1,255,257	\$ 1,265,257					

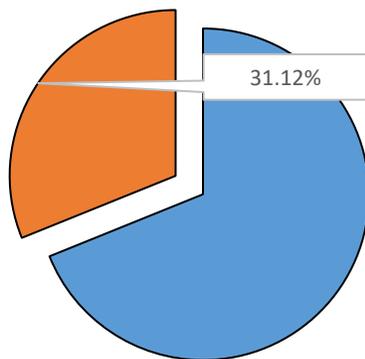
Account	Account Name	Date	\$ Increase/Decrease	% Increase/Decrease	FY2027	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027	FY2027	TOWN MEETING VOTE _/_/_
Alicia Dulin, Treasurer/Collector			\$ (40,028)	-3.09%	\$ (1,295,285)	\$ (1,295,285)	\$ (1,295,285)	\$ (1,295,285)	\$ (1,295,285)	\$ (1,295,285)

INSURANCE

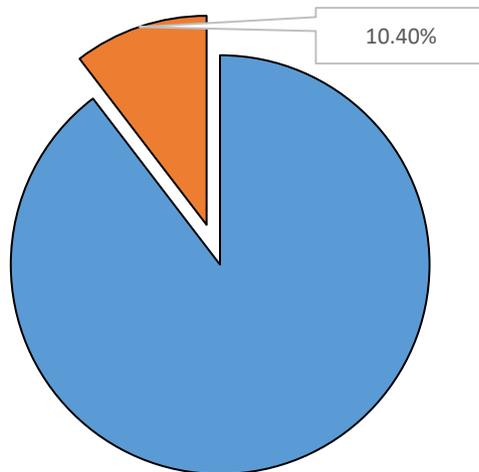
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- Human Resources;
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



The Insurance budget comprises of 10.40% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Insurance budget provides centralized funding for the Town's required employee benefits, risk management programs, and insurance coverage necessary to protect municipal employees, assets, and operations. These costs are largely non-discretionary and ensure compliance with state and federal requirements while safeguarding the Town against financial risk.

Workers' Compensation

Funds statutorily required coverage for employees who are injured or become ill in the course of employment. This coverage provides medical care, wage replacement, and related benefits, while protecting the Town from direct liability.

Unemployment Insurance (Fees)

Covers the Town's required unemployment insurance costs and administrative fees associated with former employees who are eligible for unemployment benefits under state law.

Health & Life Insurance

Provides employer contributions toward health insurance and life insurance benefits for eligible employees, retirees, and dependents, in accordance with collective bargaining agreements, employment contracts, and adopted benefit plans.

Insurance Deductibles

Funds deductible payments associated with insurance claims, allowing the Town to manage risk through appropriate deductible levels while maintaining adequate coverage and controlling premium costs.

General Insurance

Covers insurance policies that protect Town property, equipment, vehicles, and general liability exposures, including buildings, infrastructure, and municipal operations.

Public Safety Insurance

Provides specialized insurance coverage required for Police, Fire, and emergency services operations, including liability and coverage tailored to the unique risks associated with public safety functions.

Medical Services

Supports required medical evaluations, examinations, and related services associated with employment, workplace injuries, fitness-for-duty requirements, and regulatory compliance.

Allocation from Wastewater

Reflects the portion of insurance costs allocated to the Wastewater enterprise fund, ensuring that insurance expenses are appropriately distributed between the general operating budget and enterprise operations in accordance with cost allocation practices.

Together, these insurance-related services support employee well-being, protect Town assets, manage financial risk, and ensure continuity of municipal operations while maintaining compliance with legal, contractual, and regulatory obligations.

01945 INSURANCE - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW**Personnel**

There are no personnel expenses directly associated and within this account.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
51710	Workers Compensation	There are no changes proposed for this line.
51720	Unemployment Insurance (Fees)	There are no changes proposed for this line.
51740	Health & Life Insurance	This is the final assessment provided by Regional Health
51741	Insurance Deductibles	There are no changes proposed for this line.
57400	General Insurance	There is a 3% increase being proposed for this line, as recommended by our provider.
57425	Public Safety Insurance	The proposed increase to \$102,000 is recommended to cover public safety officers for circumstances occurring while in line of duty.
57500	Medical Services	There is a slight decrease being adjusted on this line that covers the cost of pre-employment health screenings, and drug testing.
59610	Allocation from Wastewater	This line is adjusted for the anticipated increases within Insurance associated with the Enterprise Team.

Insurance: 01945

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027	FY2027	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation	Level-Service Budget Request	Level-Funded Budget Request	Town Manager Recommended	Selectboard & Finance Committee Recommended	TOWN MEETING VOTE _/_/_
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	0	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
51710	Workers Compensation				\$ 45,319	\$ 53,550	\$ 36,729	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000					
51720	Unemployment Insurance (Fees)				1,165	2,000	-	2,000	2,000					
51740	Health & Life Insurance				1,715,975	1,914,338	579,444	2,050,915	2,050,915					
51741	Insurance Deductibles				6,013	10,000	-	10,000	10,000					
57400	General Insurance				146,030	163,200	138,009	168,096	168,096					
57425	Public Safety Insurance				96,990	102,000	95,336	102,000	102,000					
57500	Medical Services				9,623	12,000	2,089	11,000	11,000					
59610	Allocation from Wastewater				(292,824)	(351,053)	-	(364,541)	(364,541)					
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 1,728,291	\$ 1,906,035	\$ 851,607	\$ 2,029,470	\$ 2,029,470	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 1,728,291	\$ 1,906,035	\$ 851,607	\$ 2,029,470	\$ 2,029,470	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

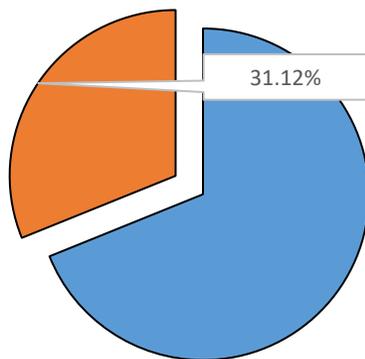
Alicia Dulin, Treasurer/Collector	Date			\$ Increase/Decrease	\$ 123,435	\$ 123,435	\$ (1,906,035)	\$ (1,906,035)	\$ (1,906,035)	\$ (1,906,035)	\$ (1,906,035)	\$ (1,906,035)	\$ (1,906,035)
				% Increase/Decrease	6.48%	6.48%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%

INSURANCE

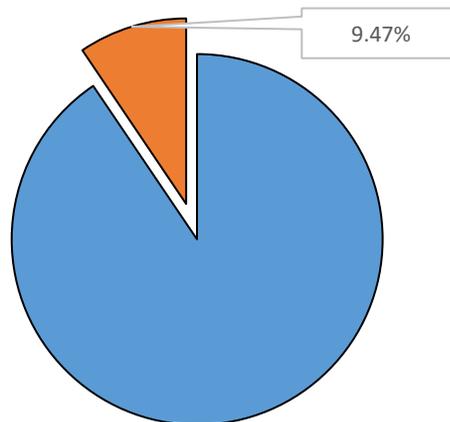
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- Veterans Services;
- Various Boards;
- Community Services;
- Celebrations;
- Debt Service;
- Retirement; and
- Insurance;

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The total amount of all categories within Other Services comprises of 31.12% of the overall General Fund budget.



The Insurance budget comprises of 9.74% of the overall General Fund budget.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Insurance budget provides centralized funding for the Town's required employee benefits, risk management programs, and insurance coverage necessary to protect municipal employees, assets, and operations. These costs are largely non-discretionary and ensure compliance with state and federal requirements while safeguarding the Town against financial risk.

Workers' Compensation

Funds statutorily required coverage for employees who are injured or become ill in the course of employment. This coverage provides medical care, wage replacement, and related benefits, while protecting the Town from direct liability.

Unemployment Insurance (Fees)

Covers the Town's required unemployment insurance costs and administrative fees associated with former employees who are eligible for unemployment benefits under state law.

Health & Life Insurance

Provides employer contributions toward health insurance and life insurance benefits for eligible employees, retirees, and dependents, in accordance with collective bargaining agreements, employment contracts, and adopted benefit plans.

Insurance Deductibles

Funds deductible payments associated with insurance claims, allowing the Town to manage risk through appropriate deductible levels while maintaining adequate coverage and controlling premium costs.

General Insurance

Covers insurance policies that protect Town property, equipment, vehicles, and general liability exposures, including buildings, infrastructure, and municipal operations.

Public Safety Insurance

Provides specialized insurance coverage required for Police, Fire, and emergency services operations, including liability and coverage tailored to the unique risks associated with public safety functions.

Medical Services

Supports required medical evaluations, examinations, and related services associated with employment, workplace injuries, fitness-for-duty requirements, and regulatory compliance.

Allocation from Wastewater

Reflects the portion of insurance costs allocated to the Wastewater enterprise fund, ensuring that insurance expenses are appropriately distributed between the general operating budget and enterprise operations in accordance with cost allocation practices.

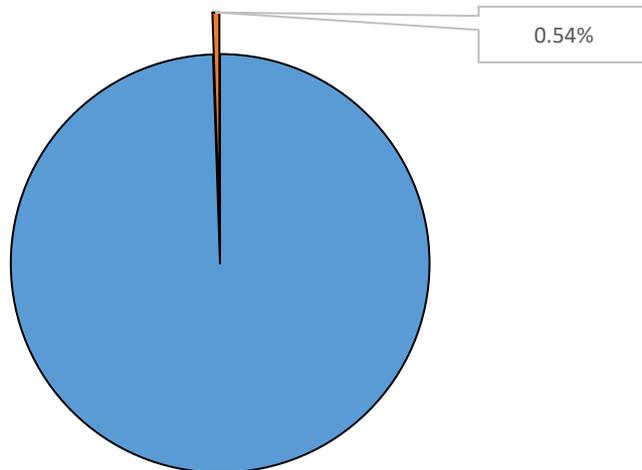
Together, these insurance-related services support employee well-being, protect Town assets, manage financial risk, and ensure continuity of municipal operations while maintaining compliance with legal, contractual, and regulatory obligations.

TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Transportation Department is to enhance the quality of life in the Town of Great Barrington by providing safe, efficient, and accessible public transportation services; by adhering to best practices in transit operations, including accountability and stewardship of public resources; and by building partnerships with the community and regional entities in a manner that ensures reliable access to healthcare, employment, education, and community life for seniors, persons with disabilities, workers, and the general public, while promoting independence, public health, and economic vitality. is to provide recreation, nutrition, education and entitlement assistance to our seniors and build an inclusive, intergenerational community of friends and neighbors.

% of the FY27 Total General Fund Budget



The Transit Department, in total, comprises of 0.54% of the overall General Fund budget.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

We deliver safe, reliable, and accessible transportation that connects residents to necessary life connections and community life, that supports mobility, independence, and quality of life for residents of Great Barrington and our region.

The department plans, schedules, and delivers on-demand and deviated fixed route transit services that connect individuals to necessary life connections including healthcare, employment, education, shopping, and community activities.

The department oversees daily transit operations, dispatch and scheduling, vehicle operations, and customer service, while maintaining accurate records, reports, and performance data required for local, state, and federal oversight. Services are designed to meet the needs of the general public, with particular emphasis on seniors, persons with disabilities, veterans, and residents with limited transportation options.

Transportation Department staff work closely with riders, municipal officials, regional partners, human service agencies, and neighboring transit providers to ensure coordinated, efficient, and responsive service delivery. The department emphasizes safety, professionalism, accountability, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and all applicable state and federal transportation regulations.

The department is responsible for stewardship of public transportation resources, including fleet oversight, fare collection, driver training, and service monitoring, with a focus on continuous improvement and customer-centered service.

Our essential duties include:

- On-demand and scheduled public transportation services within and between member communities
- ADA-compliant transportation services
- Senior and disability transportation programs
- Dispatch, trip scheduling, and customer assistance
- Fleet operations, vehicle safety inspections, and maintenance coordination
- Fare collection, fare policy development, and revenue tracking
- Data collection, reporting, and compliance with MassDOT and FTA requirements
- Coordination with community partners, employers, and human service organizations
- Public information, outreach, and rider education

Please visit the department webpage for more information:

www.socoride.org



FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ **Stabilize Management and Leadership:** A Director of Public Transportation role was created/filled to lead and oversee the department, including to create a tiered structure of leadership under which all team members can be supported and excel. Under the Director, there is one FT Operations Manager, and then three FT Operations Team Leaders. Together these leaders oversee the drivers and specific aspects of the organization such as fleet management, team training, and grant compliance. Completed; ongoing.
- ✓ **Diversify Funding Sources:** created a partnership with Volunteers in Medicine to provide medical-related intercity transportation, with revenues being reinvested into local on-demand service. Completed; ongoing.
- ✓ **Enhance transparency of operational and service performance data through development of a public-facing Operations Dashboard.** Completed; ongoing updates to the RTAC.
- ✓ **Increase ridership by 20% year-over-year (FY2025: 25,792; FY2026 Goal: 30,950):** As of December 31, the department had provided 9,534 rides (38.39% below goal). Since November 2025, ridership has been steadily increasing, with more demand than we can handle, as stabilization and service reliability efforts continue. Status: ongoing
- ✓ **Maintain >95% average On Time Performance (<10 minutes late) and <1.5% average Excessively Late (<15 minutes late).** Status: ongoing
- ✓ **Procure new software to enhance efficiency (>3 riders per revenue hour), improve system performance (increase ridership), reduce rider rejection rate, increase rider satisfaction, and reduce overall cost per ride.** We are close to completing this milestone.



Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Adjust staff compensation to better reflect regional & industry standards and increase retention and talent acquisition. Will improve rider experience. **(SP: Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Increase ridership by 50% during FY2027, using our expanded fleet of accessible electric vehicles. **(SP: Public Health & Safety, Sustainability & Environment, Municipal Service Delivery)**
3. Expand service to New York State, providing greater connectivity for Great Barrington residents and unlocking new funding streams to increase amount of service delivered to MA residents at a lower cost. **(SP: Public Health & Safety, Sustainability & Environment, Municipal Service Delivery)**

Long-Term:

1. Secure grant funding to construct an operations, maintenance and administration facility. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Public Health & Safety, Sustainability & Environment, Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Pioneering new rural transit paradigms & sharing results with other MA transit providers. For example, Pittsfield FLEX & Sheffield FLEX services, and cross-state partnerships. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Public Health & Safety, Sustainability & Environment, Economic Development, Municipal Service Delivery)**

TRANSIT - FY27 BUDGET REVIEW

The only General Fund Operating budget lines for Transit originate from the Council on Aging Department budget, Org 01541, lines 51109 (Van Drivers) and 52700 (Elderly Transportation).

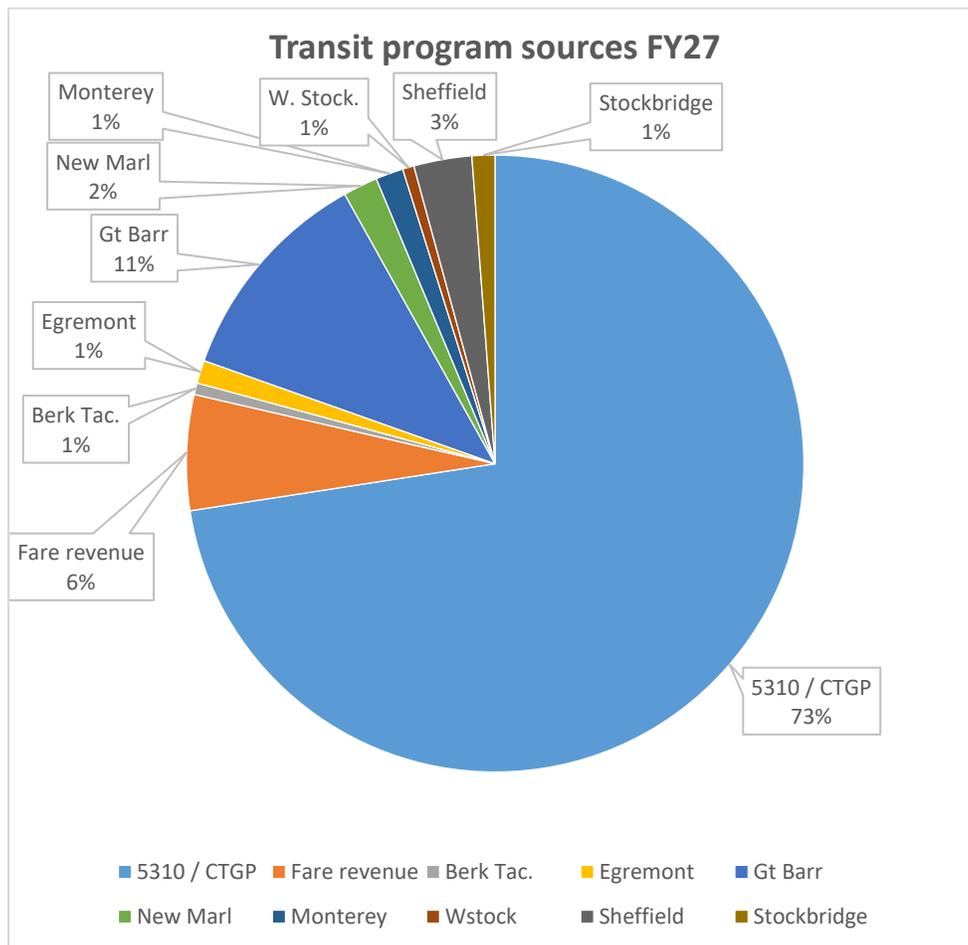
Personnel

Account	Account Name	Summary
51109	Van Drivers	This line supports the South County Connector driver salaries budget.

Expenses

Account	Account Name	Summary
52700	Transportation	100% of this line is used for vehicle repairs, service, fuel and etc.

The remaining funds supporting the Transit Department budget are funded from Fare Revenue, MassDOT grants (5310/CTGP), assessments from participating member Towns, other public grants (e.g. Massachusetts Councils on Aging), and other grants (e.g. Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Southern Berkshire Rural Health Network).



TRANSIT

Account (Obj)	Account Name	Positions			FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	Town Manager Recommendation
		FY25	FY26	FY27 Req.	Town Meeting Vote (Town Operating Budget Only)	Actuals thru 12/31/25	Requested (Town Operating Budget Only)	
TOWN	GREAT BARRINGTON OPERATING BUDGET							
	Van Drivers (COA - 2 F/T)	2	2	2	\$ 85,000		\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000
	Van Driver F/T Benefits				2 F/T - Insurance Line		2 F/T	
	FUNDED FROM OTHER SOURCES INCLUDING GRANTS AND PARTNER TOWNS							
OTHER FUNDING SOURCES	Director of Public Transportation	1	1	1	\$ 87,500		\$ 89,250	\$ 89,250
	MCOA-Funded Service Planning Stipend				\$ -		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
	Full-Time Benefits (Insurance, Medicare, Pension)				\$ 11,342		\$ 12,014	\$ 12,014
	Transit Systems Specialist	0	0.5	0.5	\$ 27,960		\$ 28,520	\$ 28,520
	Part-Time Fringe Benefits				\$ 405		\$ 573	\$ 573
	Transit Operations Manager	1	1	1	\$ 62,000		\$ 63,240	\$ 63,240
	Full-Time Benefits (PTO, Insurance, Medicare, Pension)				\$ 16,700		\$ 18,095	\$ 18,095
	Operations Team Leaders	1	3	3	\$ 159,000		\$ 162,180	\$ 162,180
	Full-Time Benefits (PTO, Insurance, Medicare, Pension)				\$ 80,584		\$ 83,613	\$ 83,613
	Van Drivers (COA - Supplemental)	2	0	0	\$ 4,565		\$ 6,356	\$ 6,356
	COA Van Drivers PTO				\$ 6,890		\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400
	P/T MCOA-Funded Vehicle Operators	0.5	1	3.25	\$ 44,990		\$ 148,923	\$ 148,923
	Part-Time Fringe Benefits				\$ 405		\$ 2,159	\$ 2,159
	P/T Transit Team Members	2	2	2.75	\$ 89,856		\$ 126,012	\$ 126,012
	Part-Time Fringe Benefits				\$ 1,303		\$ 1,827	\$ 1,827
	Holiday Pay				\$ 4,400		\$ 5,020	\$ 5,020
	Shift Differential				\$ 8,320		\$ 8,320	\$ 8,320
	Team Trainer Stipend				\$ 1,000		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Volunteer Driver Coordinator				\$ 8,000		\$ -	\$ -
	Safety Coordinator				\$ 1,000		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Vehicle Maintenance Coordinator				\$ 1,000		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Reporting & Compliance Coordinator				\$ 1,000		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	9.5	10.5	13.5	\$ 692,221	\$ -	\$ 856,502	\$ 856,502
TOWN	GREAT BARRINGTON OPERATING BUDGET							
	Transportation (COA - Maint./Repairs)				\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
	FUNDED FROM OTHER SOURCES INCLUDING GRANTS AND PARTNER TOWNS							
OTHER FUNDING SOURCES	Fuel				\$ 32,000		\$ 35,100	\$ 35,100
	Maintenance & Repairs				\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
	MCOA-Funded Maintenance & Repairs				\$ 4,604		\$ 11,214	\$ 11,214
	Office Rent				\$ 36,000		\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000
	Operations Software				\$ 23,100		\$ 28,800	\$ 28,800
	MCOA-Funded Ops. Software (2 vehicles)				\$ -		\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200
	Staff Scheduling Software				\$ 1,440		\$ 1,440	\$ 1,440
	MCOA-Funded Staff Scheduling Software				\$ -		\$ 504	\$ 504
	Planning Software				\$ -		\$ 700	\$ 700
	Staff Recognition				\$ 1,200		\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
	Vehicle Equipment				\$ 4,000		\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
	Vehicle Insurance				\$ 3,600		\$ 3,800	\$ 3,800
	New Driver Training				\$ 6,525		\$ 6,525	\$ 6,525
	Recertification Trainings				\$ 2,175		\$ 2,550	\$ 2,550
	Pre-Employment Testing				\$ 800		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Vehicle Communications				\$ 6,130		\$ 4,775	\$ 4,775
	Driver Vests & Equipment				\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Office Supplies				\$ 1,200		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Dues & Memberships				\$ 500		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
		TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 139,274	\$ -	\$ 164,408
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 831,495	\$ -	\$ 1,020,910	\$ 1,020,910

Tate Coleman, Director of Public Transportation

Date

\$ 189,415 \$ 189,415
22.78% 22.78%

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Wastewater Department provides the citizens of the town with an environmentally safe, efficient, and effective means of disposing sanitary waste. The department continuously performs preventative maintenance on the Wastewater Plant and sewer collection systems to ensure there is no disruption of sanitary services while maintaining compliance with the USEPA and MassDEP issued permits.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Wastewater Division is dedicated to providing quick response time on sewer issues while ensuring the Wastewater Treatment Plant produces the highest quality effluent possible discharging into the Housatonic River waterway.

The Wastewater Department is an enterprise-funded division under the Department of Public Works which manages Wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems, including the operation and maintenance of a 3.2mgd Wastewater Treatment Plant, 6 sewage pump stations and 35 miles of sewer lines.

This division includes:

Wastewater Plant Operations

The Wastewater Superintendent and Chief Operator are responsible for managing the wastewater facility, administrative leadership, fiscal responsibility, oversight of daily operations and job assignments. The determination of treatment plant process conditions using laboratory data, meter, and gauge readings are utilized to adjust process controls. There are numerous processes at the facility that require oversight:

Influent Pump Station, Duperon system, Grit Collection, Primary settling basins, Aeration tanks, Clarifiers, Effluent contact tanks, Chemical processes for Phosphate reduction, Seasonal disinfection, Dewatering process, and Thickener process. Routine draining, cleaning and inspection of multiple processes/tanks are performed throughout the year by the wastewater staff to ensure there is no interruption to the wastewater process and that the highest quality effluent is leaving the facility.

Laboratory

The laboratory is responsible for conducting a multitude of permit required and process control tests. The results are utilized to make process adjustments such as biological, process flow control, and chemical feed to



ensure compliance with the MassDEP and USEPA discharge permits. Other testing includes pH of septage from hauling companies to prevent the introduction of toxic waste into the waste stream.

Collection System Management

The sewer crew conduct regular preventative maintenance using the sewer jetter which clears residue from sewer lines, this has been proven to significantly decrease the instances of sewer line blockages. Some responsibilities include but are not limited to minor sewer manhole repairs, Dig Safe sewer main mark outs, emergency sewer blockage response, utilizing the sewer camera to determine sewer line issues and pump station management.

The Wastewater Superintendent and staff strive to provide quick response to sewer issues and sewer related questions.

Our Services include:

- Sewer tie-in permits
- Inspection of new service connections
- Sewer re-evaluations
- Dig Safe mark outs
- Emergency sewer issue response

FY26 Accomplishments

- ✓ Grit Classifier repair work was completed by the Wastewater staff and an outside contractor. The Grit Classifier is an integral part of the wastewater treatment process. This piece of equipment removes grit and stones from the waste stream which effectively increases the longevity of downstream equipment, decreases costly repairs and the need for equipment replacement.
- ✓ The upgrade of 4 sewage pump stations: Cone Ave, Risingdale, South, Fairgrounds broke ground in 2023 and is on the cusp of completion. With the use of newer technology, old pumps and motors were replaced with more energy efficient ones. The new Sultz pumps are submersible and rated to handle larger solids, which decreases the chance of plug ups due to “flushable” wipes. Submersible pumps also decrease the need for confined space entry which increases employee safety.
- ✓ Working together the Wastewater staff installed an actuating valve between Town water and Plant water. This valve installation was a replacement for a failed valve and will once again enable the Wastewater plant to use its discharge effluent as recycled water for use throughout the Wastewater facility and in turn lowering the monthly water bill. Wastewater effluent is used for the Dewatering presses, Sewer Jetter, chemical dilution and carry water, pump seals, ½ inch and 1 ½ inch hoses which are used for tank cleaning. Replacing this valve enables a reliable backup during power outages which in turn will protect wastewater equipment and prevent equipment failure.

Fiscal Year 2027 Goals and Objectives

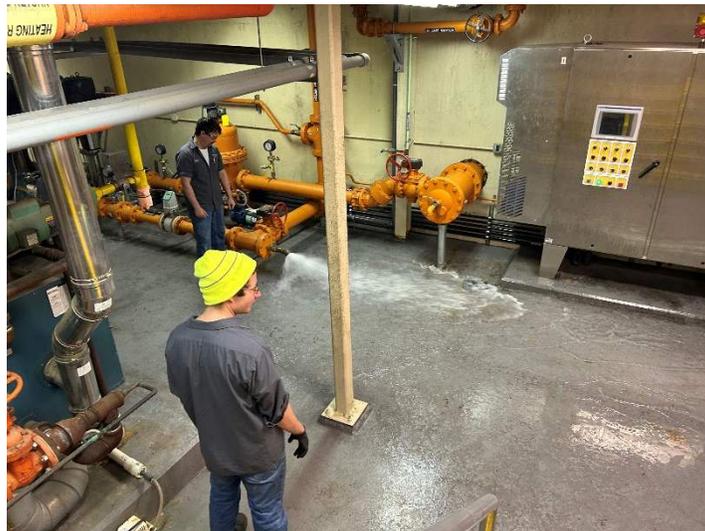
(All Goals relate to the six Areas of Focus within the Selectboard's Strategic Priorities)

Short-Term:

1. Painting inside pump stations to complete the 4 pump station upgrade. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Sustainability & Environment)**
2. Replace/repair Grinder pump bearings and seals. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Sustainability & Environment)**
3. Bisulfite Analyzer replacement. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Public Health & Safety, Sustainability & Environment)**

Long-Term:

1. Sludge Box Area repair **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Public Health & Safety, Sustainability & Environment, Municipal Service Delivery)**
2. Gasoline Tank level gauge repair/replacement. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Public Health & Safety, Sustainability & Environment, Municipal Service Delivery)**
3. Pearl St pump station upgrade. **(SP: Infrastructure & Assets, Public Health & Safety, Sustainability & Environment, Municipal Service Delivery)**



Wastewater: 60442

Account	Account Name	Positions			FY2025	FY2026	FY2026	FY2027	FY2027
		FY26	FY27 REQ	FY27 APRV	Year-end Actuals	Town Meeting Vote	Actuals thru 12/08/25	DH Budget Request	Town Manager Recommendation
51133	Superintendent	1	1	1	\$ 97,302	\$ 101,643	\$ 40,501	\$ 101,643	\$ 103,676
51134	Mechanic	1	1	1	9,652	69,698	925	69,698	71,092
51136	Laborers	1	1	1	56,940	58,652	23,371	58,652	59,825
51137	Laborers/Drivers	1	1	1	58,882	60,657	24,272	60,657	61,870
51139	Equipment Operator	1	1	1	71,441	67,359	29,528	67,359	68,706
51140	Plant Operator	1	1	1	73,518	75,732	30,177	75,732	77,247
51141	Assistant Plant Operator	1	1	1	69,134	71,201	28,371	71,201	72,625
51200	Clerical	0.5	0.5	0.5	17,843	22,010	158	22,010	22,450
51300	Overtime				32,604	39,750	11,261	39,750	40,545
51420	Longevity Pay				1,750	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
51910	Stipends				1,200	1,400	-	1,400	1,400
	TOTAL PERSONNEL:	7.5	7.5	7.5	\$ 490,266	\$ 570,802	\$ 191,265	\$ 570,802	\$ 582,136
52110	Electricity				\$ 144,795	\$ 215,000	\$ 73,717	\$ 215,000	\$ 215,000
52120	Gas/Oil - Heating				21,554	30,000	407	30,000	30,000
52310	Water				3,826	7,000	4,949	7,000	7,000
52400	Repairs & Maintenance				92,513	100,000	67,419	98,500	98,500
52740	Uniforms Rental				9,096	9,300	3,770	9,300	9,300
52800	Contracted Hauling				209,904	211,000	92,259	232,100	232,100
52801	Contracted Services				32,562	55,000	11,010	55,000	55,000
52900	Collection System				85,884	65,000	6,748	65,000	85,000
53050	Engineering/Architecture				8,970	15,000	11,530	15,000	15,000
53085	Police Details				17,949	18,000	4,527	10,000	18,000
53410	Telephone				1,818	4,250	554	4,250	4,250
53430	Postage				4,000	4,000	2,000	4,000	4,000
54200	Office Supplies				1,326	3,000	1,624	3,000	3,000
54800	Vehicular Supplies				2,342	6,000	787	6,000	6,000
54810	Gasoline/Diesel				9,406	15,000	2,022	15,000	15,000
55800	Chemicals/Supplies				107,614	148,000	66,003	148,000	148,000
55840	Safety Equipment				4,486	6,000	815	6,000	6,000
57100	Travel/Training				2,130	8,000	753	8,000	8,000
57400	General Insurance				43,775	50,500	46,093	50,500	50,500
57401	Workers Compensation				12,022	10,605	12,243	10,605	10,605
57402	Health/Life Insurance				49,075	120,206	-	110,000	110,000
57403	Medicare				8,391	10,000	-	8,300	8,300
57404	Retirement				91,000	94,515	57,762	103,044	103,044
57406	Unfunded EE Benefits				5,100	5,500	-	5,500	5,500
57407	Allocation to General Fund				292,824	351,053	-	351,053	364,541
57800	Wastewater Reserve Fund				-	75,000	-	75,000	75,000
59100	Maturing Debt				679,083	732,360	116,568	898,875	898,875
59120	Interest on Debt				241,999	214,970	112,564	292,125	292,125
59130	Short Term Interest				346	15,000	-	28,025	28,025
59150	Debt Issuance Costs				31,183	52,500	6,829	56,250	56,250
	TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 2,214,973	\$ 2,651,759	\$ 702,952	\$ 2,920,427	\$ 2,961,915
	TOTAL BUDGET:				\$ 2,705,240	\$ 3,222,561	\$ 894,217	\$ 3,491,229	\$ 3,544,051

Joe Aberdale, Superintendent of Public Works

Date

\$ Increase/Decrease 268,668 \$ 321,490
% Increase/Decrease 8.34% 9.98%