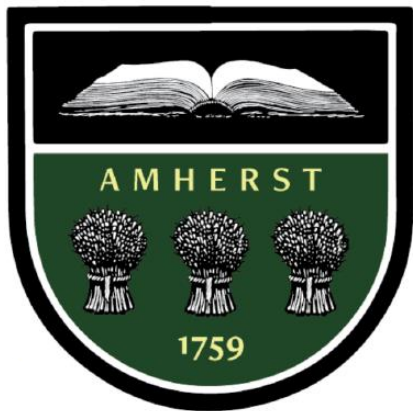


Town of Amherst, Massachusetts  
Fiscal Year 2024  
Proposed Budget

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024



To our Staff, Partners, and  
Community Members



A word cloud of thank-you phrases in various languages and scripts, centered around the large red words "THANK YOU".

**THANK YOU**

**GRACIAS**  
**ARIGATO**  
**SHUKURIA**  
**JUSPAXAR**

**BIYAN SHUKRIA**  
**BOLZIN MERCI**

Other words include: DANKSCHEEN, TASHAKKUR ATU, SUKSAMA, EKHMET, GRAZIE, MEHRBANI, PALDIES, MERASTAWHY, GOZAIMASHITA, EFCHARISTO, KOMAPSUMNIDA, MAAKE, LAH, YAQHANYELAY, WABEEJA, MAITEKA, HUI, YUSPAGARATAM, UNALCHEESH, DENKAUJA, NENACHALHYA, HATUR GU, EKOJU, SIKOMO, TINGKI, SPASSIBO, SNACHALHYA, NUHUN, CHALTU, DHANYABAD, ANHIA, ATTO, MERASTAWHY, GAEJTHO, TAVTAPUCH, MEDAWAGSE, BAIKA, FAKAAUE, MINMONCHAR, MAKETA.

“The FY24 Budget Proposal accelerates progress in key initiatives - like climate action, public safety, and racial equity – and addresses the clear need for greater investment in our roads.”



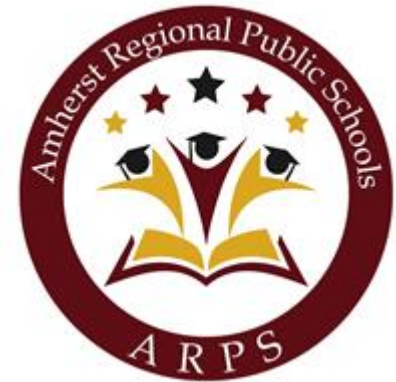
*(Photo of Town Manager, Paul Bockelman)*

# FY24 Budget: Five Components

- Municipal budget (which includes the Town's four enterprise funds);
- Elementary School budget;
- Library budget;
- Amherst-Pelham Regional School District budget (considered separately);
- Capital Improvement Program.

Also...

- Community Preservation Act (CPA) budget; and,
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget.



# Budget Summary



Budget	FY23 Recap	FY24 Proposed	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Municipal	\$ 26,157,973	\$ 26,942,712	\$ 784,739	3.0%
Amherst Schools	\$ 25,177,763	\$ 25,933,095	\$ 755,332	3.0%
Regional Schools	\$ 17,254,803	\$ 17,772,447	\$ 517,644	3.0%
Libraries (tax support)	\$ 2,149,058	\$ 2,213,530	\$ 64,472	3.0%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 70,739,597</b>	<b>\$ 72,861,784</b>	<b>\$ 2,122,187</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

Budget	FY23 Recap	FY24 Proposed	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Capital	\$ 7,293,664	\$ 7,287,398	\$ (6,266)	-0.1%
Retirement, OPEB, etc..	\$ 7,483,932	\$ 8,139,529	\$ 655,597	8.8%
Assessments, Other	\$ 4,902,071	\$ 5,169,206	\$ 267,135	5.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 90,419,264</b>	<b>\$ 93,457,917</b>	<b>\$ 3,038,653</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

# Budget Highlights



Proposed FY24 Budget: \$93,457,917

- Modest operating budget increase of 3.0% for Town, Schools, Library
  - School Committee voted a budget \$84,000 higher – not being proposed
- Boosts capital spending to 10.5% of the tax levy
- Maintains discipline in meeting long-term OPEB and Pension obligations
- Overall budget increase of 3.4% from FY23 adopted budget (including FY23 supplemental budget)

# Budget Highlights (continued)



## Infrastructure

- \$2,494,366 for roads and sidewalks (including Chapter 90 Funds)
  - Largest single year investment in the Town's history
- \$40,000 added for tree planting, removal, and care
- \$230,000 added for field maintenance equipment

# Budget Highlights (continued)



## Climate Action

- \$775,000 to purchase/lease two new electric school buses including charging infrastructure (\$200,000 to be offset with reimbursement from grant)
- \$225,000 to purchase three hybrid cruisers
- \$200,000 for energy efficiency and sustainability improvements in capital plan
- \$22,000 for sustainability operating budget (ValleyBike, memberships, and professional development)



# Budget Highlights (continued)

## Community Health & Safety

- Maintains funding for CRESS (10 FTE)
- \$20,000 for overtime and communication expenses for CRESS
- \$725,000 borrowing authorization to replace Fire Department pumper truck
- \$450,000 for a new Fire Department ambulance
- \$8,000 to establish a second lead dispatch position in the Police Department
- \$25,000 for Public Health Department to provide administrative support and for the Town's Mosquito Control District assessment



# Budget Highlights (continued)



## Racial Equity & Social Justice

- Maintains funding for Diversity Equity and Inclusion (2 FTE)
- \$6,000 to support training and community engagement
- \$5,000 to pilot childcare reimbursement program for elected officials

# Budget Highlights (continued)



## Housing Affordability

- \$1.8 million allocated from Community Preservation Act for FY24 to support community housing including two new projects that will produce dozens of new affordable units

# Budget Highlights (continued)



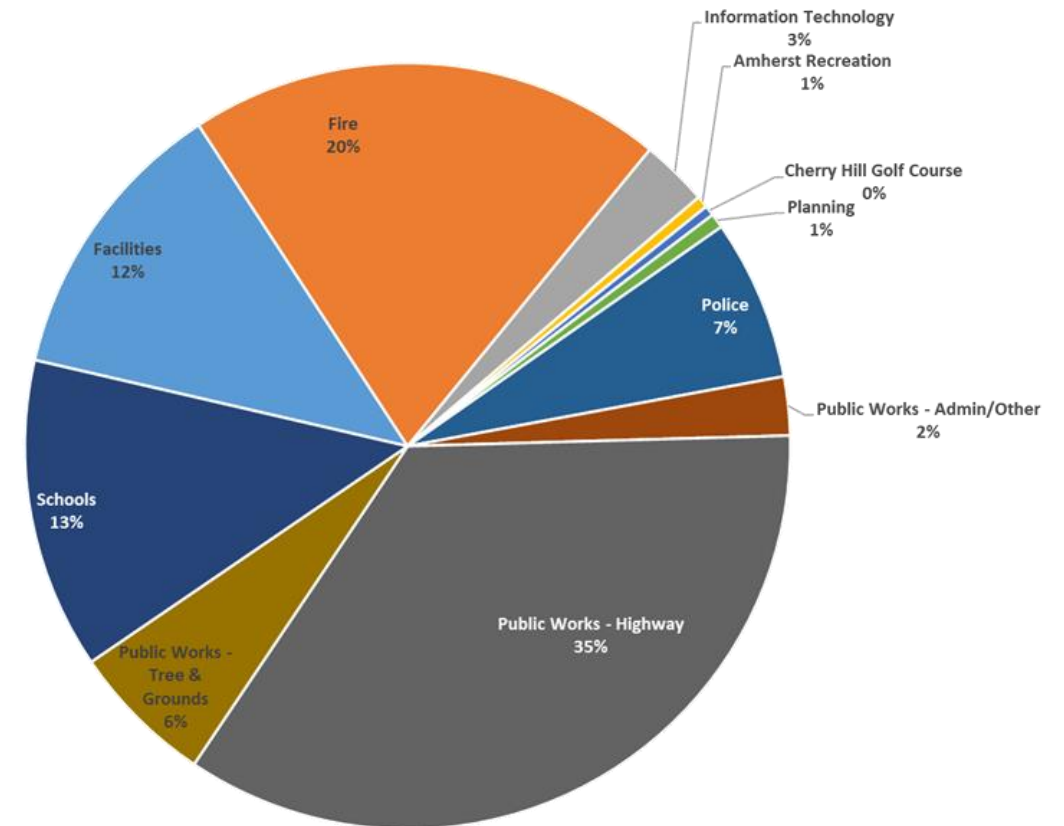
## Enterprise Funds

- Higher costs driven largely by increases in wages, benefits, utilities, fuel related expenses, and capital/debt
- \$400,000 debt authorization request in Sewer Fund to replace Pump Station #4
- \$70,000 capital request in Solid Waste to replace Transfer Station Scale

# FY24 Capital Improvement Program



- Increases allocation to 10.5% of levy
- Incorporates plan for four building projects
- Addresses deferred maintenance of existing infrastructure
- Historic investment in roads and sidewalks
- All projects evaluated through the lens of impact on climate change



# Prudent Planning & Strategic Thinking



## Solid Financial Position

Reserves (including capital) at \$16,758,008 or 18.5% of the FY23 budget  
Strong AA+ bond rating



## Maintains Core Services

3.0% increase funds current operations  
10.5% of the tax levy dedicated to maintain critical Town infrastructure and equipment



## Forward Thinking

Strategic use of ARPA funds to support the community and advance Town Council goals  
Five year operating and capital plans. Inventory of all capital assets

# Five Year Outlook



	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	\$	%	FY 25	\$	FY 26	\$	FY 27	\$	FY 28	\$
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	RECAP	PROPOSED	Chg	Chg	PROJ	Chg	PROJ	Chg	PROJ	Chg	PROJ	Chg
<b>REVENUES</b>														
<b>PROPERTY TAX</b>														
Base Levy	54,963,386	57,197,439	59,375,443	61,808,386	2,432,943	4.1%	64,003,596	2,195,210	66,253,686	2,250,090	68,560,028	2,306,342	70,924,029	2,364,001
2.5% Allowable Increase	1,374,085	1,429,936	1,484,386	1,545,210	60,824	4.1%	1,600,090	54,880	1,656,342	56,252	1,714,001	57,659	1,773,101	59,100
Estimated New Growth	747,810	735,892	948,557	650,000	(298,557)	-31.5%	650,000	-	650,000	-	650,000	-	650,000	-
General Override														
Levy Limit	<b>57,085,280</b>	<b>59,363,267</b>	<b>61,808,386</b>	<b>64,003,596</b>	<b>2,195,210</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>66,253,686</b>	<b>2,250,090</b>	<b>68,560,028</b>	<b>2,306,342</b>	<b>70,924,029</b>	<b>2,364,001</b>	<b>73,347,129</b>	<b>2,423,101</b>
Debt Exclusion							735,000	735,000	805,000	70,000	1,935,627	1,130,627	2,659,377	723,750
Maximum Allowable Levy	57,085,280	59,363,267	61,808,386	64,003,596	2,195,210	3.6%	66,988,686	2,985,090	69,365,028	2,376,342	72,859,656	3,494,628	76,006,506	3,146,851
Excess Levy Capacity	(292,039)	(157,233)	(83,203)	-	83,203	-100.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal PROPERTY TAX</b>	<b>56,793,241</b>	<b>59,206,034</b>	<b>61,725,183</b>	<b>64,003,596</b>	<b>2,278,413</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>66,988,686</b>	<b>2,985,090</b>	<b>69,365,028</b>	<b>2,376,342</b>	<b>72,859,656</b>	<b>3,494,628</b>	<b>76,006,506</b>	<b>3,146,851</b>
<b>LOCAL RECEIPTS</b>														
Motor Vehicle Excise	1,703,776	1,971,770	1,550,000	1,650,000	100,000	6.5%	1,691,250	41,250	1,733,531	42,281	1,776,870	43,338	1,821,291	44,422
Hotel/Motel and Meals Excise	374,782	676,061	620,000	680,000	60,000	9.7%	700,400	20,400	721,412	21,012	735,840	14,428	750,557	14,717
Cannabis Tax	208,554	134,328	-	100,000	100,000	0.0%	100,000	-	100,000	-	100,000	-	100,000	-
Penalties and Interest	269,147	440,697	245,200	254,900	9,700	4.0%	254,900	-	254,900	-	254,900	-	254,900	-
PILOT	822,213	822,182	822,208	822,208	-	0.0%	822,208	-	822,208	-	822,208	-	822,208	-
Fees	236,218	243,318	-	-	-	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rentals	122,409	131,295	113,746	139,599	25,853	22.7%	143,787	4,188	148,101	4,314	151,063	2,962	154,084	3,021
Departmental Revenue	840,954	963,964	782,725	843,678	60,953	7.8%	868,988	25,310	895,058	26,070	912,959	17,901	931,218	18,259
Licenses and Permits	848,249	1,339,497	825,587	978,392	152,805	18.5%	1,007,744	29,352	1,027,899	20,155	1,048,457	20,558	1,069,426	20,969
Special Assessments	996,192	946,554	1,089,140	1,278,074	188,934	17.3%	1,278,074	-	1,278,074	-	1,278,074	-	1,278,074	-
Fines and Forfeits	89,365	56,584	60,600	60,600	-	0.0%	60,600	-	60,600	-	60,600	-	60,600	-
Investment Income	129,922	117,058	90,000	120,000	30,000	33.3%	120,000	-	120,000	-	120,000	-	120,000	-
Miscellaneous(see notes section)	291,810	346,547	210,000	220,000	10,000	4.8%	226,600	6,600	233,398	6,798	238,066	4,668	242,827	4,761
<b>Subtotal LOCAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>6,933,589</b>	<b>8,189,855</b>	<b>6,409,206</b>	<b>7,147,451</b>	<b>738,245</b>	<b>11.52%</b>	<b>7,274,551</b>	<b>127,100</b>	<b>7,395,180</b>	<b>120,629</b>	<b>7,499,036</b>	<b>103,856</b>	<b>7,605,186</b>	<b>106,149</b>
<b>STATE AID</b>														
Chapter 70	6,122,223	6,153,573	6,217,473	6,249,123	31,650	0.5%	6,274,119	24,996	6,299,216	25,096	6,324,413	25,197	6,349,710	25,298
Charter Assessment Reimbursement	72,179	161,600	314,322	324,548	10,226	3.3%	324,548	-	324,548	-	324,548	-	324,548	-
Unrestricted General Govt Aid	8,939,803	9,281,670	9,752,342	9,947,389	195,047	2.0%	10,146,337	198,948	10,349,264	202,927	10,556,249	206,985	10,767,374	211,125
Veterans Benefits	108,815	111,977	115,974	113,611	(2,363)	-2.0%	113,611	-	113,611	-	113,611	-	113,611	-
Exempt Vets, Blind, Surv. Spouses, Elderly	28,430	41,126	33,871	31,638	(2,233)	-6.6%	31,638	-	31,638	-	31,638	-	31,638	-
State Owned Land	194,105	231,203	296,770	326,399	29,629	10.0%	326,399	-	326,399	-	326,399	-	326,399	-
Offset Receipts														
School Lunch	-	-	-	-	-	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Choice Tuition	-	-	596,810	688,493	91,683	15.4%	688,493	-	688,493	-	688,493	-	688,493	-
Public Libraries	-	-	124,030	147,484	23,454	18.9%	147,484	-	147,484	-	147,484	-	147,484	-
<b>Subtotal STATE AID</b>	<b>15,465,555</b>	<b>15,981,149</b>	<b>17,451,592</b>	<b>17,828,685</b>	<b>377,093</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>18,052,629</b>	<b>223,944</b>	<b>18,280,652</b>	<b>228,023</b>	<b>18,512,835</b>	<b>232,182</b>	<b>18,749,257</b>	<b>236,423</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>														
Ambulance Fund	1,862,547	2,000,000	2,710,200	2,834,516	124,316	4.6%	2,636,000	(198,516)	2,950,000	314,000	2,500,000	(450,000)	2,950,000	450,000
Community Preservation Act (debt service only)	449,888	388,148	488,720	443,460	(45,260)	-9.3%	520,250	76,790	523,150	2,900	472,200	(50,950)	457,300	(14,900)
Enterprise Fund Reimbursements	920,679	803,190	959,362	925,209	(34,153)	-3.6%	952,965	27,756	981,554	28,589	1,011,001	29,447	1,041,331	30,330
Overlay Surplus	-	-	-	-	-	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	836,522	175,000	275,000	100,000	57.1%	75,000	(200,000)	75,000	-	-	(75,000)	-	-
Free Cash	-	2,242,000	-	-	-	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stabilization Fund	-	-	500,000	-	(500,000)	-100.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	<b>3,233,114</b>	<b>6,269,860</b>	<b>4,833,282</b>	<b>4,478,185</b>	<b>(355,097)</b>	<b>-7.3%</b>	<b>4,184,215</b>	<b>(293,970)</b>	<b>4,529,704</b>	<b>345,489</b>	<b>3,983,201</b>	<b>(546,503)</b>	<b>4,448,631</b>	<b>465,430</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>82,425,499</b>	<b>89,646,898</b>	<b>90,419,263</b>	<b>93,457,917</b>	<b>3,038,654</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>96,500,082</b>	<b>3,042,165</b>	<b>99,570,565</b>	<b>3,070,484</b>	<b>102,854,727</b>	<b>3,284,162</b>	<b>106,809,580</b>	<b>3,954,853</b>

# Five Year Outlook



	FY 21 ACTUAL	FY 22 ACTUAL	FY 23 RECAP	FY 24 PROPOSED	\$ Chg	% Chg	FY 25 PROJ	\$ Chg	FY 26 PROJ	\$ Chg	FY 27 PROJ	\$ Chg	FY 28 PROJ	\$ Chg
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>														
<b>OPERATING BUDGET</b>														
Town	22,846,436	24,107,485	26,157,973	26,942,712	784,739	3.0%	27,616,280	673,568	28,306,687	690,407	29,014,354	707,667	29,739,713	725,359
Elementary Schools	23,241,919	24,196,451	25,177,763	25,933,095	755,332	3.0%	26,581,422	648,327	27,245,958	664,536	27,927,107	681,149	28,625,285	698,178
A-P Regional School District (Assessment)	16,404,120	16,368,035	17,254,803	17,772,447	517,644	3.0%	18,216,758	444,311	18,672,177	455,419	19,138,982	466,804	19,617,456	478,475
Jones Library (Tax Support)	2,043,301	2,086,027	2,149,058	2,213,530	64,472	3.0%	2,268,868	55,338	2,325,590	56,722	2,383,730	58,140	2,443,323	59,593
<b>Subtotal OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>64,535,776</b>	<b>66,757,997</b>	<b>70,739,597</b>	<b>72,861,784</b>	<b>2,122,187</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>74,683,329</b>	<b>1,821,545</b>	<b>76,550,412</b>	<b>1,867,083</b>	<b>78,464,172</b>	<b>1,913,760</b>	<b>80,425,776</b>	<b>1,961,604</b>
<b>CAPITAL BUDGET</b>														
Debt Service - Debt Exclusion							735,000	735,000	805,000	70,000	1,935,627	1,130,627	2,659,377	723,750
Debt Service - OTHER NOT TAX FUNDED (CPA/Oth	449,888	524,202	563,720	518,460	(45,260)	-8.0%	595,250	76,790	598,150	2,900	472,200	(125,950)	457,300	(14,900)
Debt Assessment - Region	342,141	328,979	388,331	372,018	(16,313)		545,083	173,065	749,919	204,836	800,000	50,081	800,000	-
Debt Service - Current	975,774	403,450	931,914	289,570	(642,344)	-68.9%	1,854,403	1,564,833	1,762,122	(92,281)	1,815,592	53,470	1,730,812	(84,780)
Debt Service - Projected	5,713		30,000	50,000	20,000	66.7%	50,000	-	1,151,800	1,101,800	1,196,990	45,190	2,385,783	1,188,793
Cash Capital (Tax Support)	1,406,651	4,147,178	4,369,499	5,522,834	1,153,335	26.4%	4,040,395	(1,482,439)	3,056,537	(983,858)	3,144,055	87,518	2,282,208	(861,847)
<b>Subtotal Tax Funded Capital</b>	<b>3,180,167</b>	<b>5,403,809</b>	<b>6,283,464</b>	<b>6,752,882</b>	<b>469,418</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>7,820,131</b>	<b>1,067,249</b>	<b>8,123,528</b>	<b>303,397</b>	<b>9,364,464</b>	<b>1,240,936</b>	<b>10,315,480</b>	<b>951,016</b>
<i>Tax Capital Less Debt Exclusion, CPA, Other</i>	2,730,279	4,879,607	5,719,744	6,234,422			6,489,881		6,720,378		6,956,637		7,198,803	
<b>% Net Tax Levy</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10.50%</b>			<b>10.50%</b>		<b>10.50%</b>		<b>10.50%</b>		<b>10.50%</b>	
Cash Capital (Prior FY vote in Current FY )														
Cash Capital (Reserves)		2,242,000	600,000	200,000	(400,000)			(200,000)		-		-		-
Cash Capital (Ambulance Fund)			410,200	334,516	(75,684)		136,000	(198,516)	450,000	314,000	-	(450,000)	450,000	450,000
<b>Subtotal CAPITAL</b>	<b>3,180,167</b>	<b>7,645,809</b>	<b>7,293,664</b>	<b>7,287,398</b>	<b>(6,266)</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>7,956,131</b>	<b>668,733</b>	<b>8,573,528</b>	<b>617,397</b>	<b>9,364,464</b>	<b>790,936</b>	<b>10,765,480</b>	<b>1,401,016</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>														
Assessment - Retirement System	6,164,861	6,582,912	6,983,932	7,589,529	605,597	8.7%	8,044,901	455,372	8,527,595	482,694	9,039,250	511,656	9,581,605	542,355
Assessment - Regional Lockup Facility	35,928	-	-	-	-	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OPEB	250,000	750,000	500,000	550,000	50,000	10.0%	550,000	-	550,000	-	550,000	-	550,000	-
Reserve Fund														
<b>Subtotal MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>6,450,789</b>	<b>7,332,912</b>	<b>7,483,932</b>	<b>8,139,529</b>	<b>655,597</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>8,594,901</b>	<b>455,372</b>	<b>9,077,595</b>	<b>482,694</b>	<b>9,589,250</b>	<b>511,656</b>	<b>10,131,605</b>	<b>542,355</b>
<b>Total APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>74,166,732</b>	<b>81,736,718</b>	<b>85,517,193</b>	<b>88,288,711</b>	<b>2,771,518</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>91,234,360</b>	<b>2,945,649</b>	<b>94,201,534</b>	<b>2,967,174</b>	<b>97,417,887</b>	<b>3,216,352</b>	<b>101,322,862</b>	<b>3,904,975</b>
<b>UNAPPROPRIATED USES</b>														
Reserve for Abatements & Exemptions			614,648	640,036	25,388	4.1%	662,537	22,501	685,600	23,063	709,240	23,640	733,471	24,231
State Assessments (Cherry Sheet)	3,079,248	3,246,302	3,549,590	3,676,200	126,610	3.6%	3,786,486	110,286	3,900,081	113,595	4,017,083	117,002	4,137,595	120,512
Cherry Sheet Offsets			720,840	835,977	115,137	16.0%	835,977	-	835,977	-	835,977	-	835,977	-
Other Amounts to be Raised	16,412	16,572	16,993	16,993	-	0.0%	16,993	-	16,993	-	16,993	-	16,993	-
<b>Subtotal UNAPPROPRIATED USES</b>	<b>3,095,660</b>	<b>3,262,874</b>	<b>4,902,071</b>	<b>5,169,206</b>	<b>267,135</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>5,301,993</b>	<b>132,787</b>	<b>5,438,651</b>	<b>136,658</b>	<b>5,579,293</b>	<b>140,642</b>	<b>5,724,037</b>	<b>144,743</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET PLAN</b>	<b>77,262,392</b>	<b>84,999,592</b>	<b>90,419,264</b>	<b>93,457,917</b>	<b>3,038,653</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>96,536,353</b>	<b>3,078,436</b>	<b>99,640,185</b>	<b>3,103,832</b>	<b>102,997,180</b>	<b>3,356,995</b>	<b>107,046,899</b>	<b>4,049,719</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (SHORTFALL)</b>	<b>5,163,107</b>	<b>4,647,306</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>-</b>			<b>(36,271)</b>		<b>(69,620)</b>		<b>(142,453)</b>		<b>(237,319)</b>	



# Looking Forward

- Working to secure annual – non-tax - funding for EMS/Fire which will allow the Town to incorporate four new positions into the operating budget and purchase a new ambulance in FY24
- Working to set-aside \$100,000 annually in non-tax funds to promote safe and healthy housing
- Reviewing options to allocate remaining ARPA funds for upcoming capital needs (such as the School roof projects) to help relieve pressure on the capital budget
- Internal working group will focus on long-term financial sustainability in the schools. The group will study and make recommendations on:
  - Funding levels; Cost saving measures; Facility planning
  - Recommendations to be submitted by December 31, 2023
- Economic Development Task Force in partnership with Institutional Partners



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# Thank you!

- Questions

