

Town of Exeter
FY25 Operating Budget Articles
Articles 12, 13 and 14

Deliberative Session
February 1st, 2025



Town Budget and Warrant Process

- August – September: Planning Board reviews and adopts Capital Improvement Program. Town Departments prepare preliminary budget and submit to Town Manager.
- September: Town Manager submits preliminary budget to Select Board and Budget Recommendations Committee, along with capital improvement requests.
- October: Town receives annual health insurance rating and preliminary budget is adjusted.
- October – November: Budget Recommendations Committee and subcommittees (Police/Fire, General Government, Rec/Library/Human Services, DPW General, DPW Water/Sewer) meet with departments, review budgets, and make recommendations on budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP). All meetings are accessible to the public. Minutes and streamed meetings are available to the public.
- December: Select Board receives recommendations of BRC and discusses budget. Select Board finalizes budget for proposal to Deliberative Session and Town voters after January public hearing.
- January 21st, 2025 – 7:00 p.m. – FY25 Budget and Bond Hearings, All Warrant Articles.
- February 1st, 2025 - 9:00 a.m. – Town Deliberative Session, discussion of warrant articles. Amendments for articles that are able to be amended are discussed. Registered voters can participate. Exeter High School Auditorium, 1 Blue Hawk Drive.
- Tuesday, March 11th, 2025– Town vote on operating budgets and warrant articles. Talbot Gym, Linden Street, Exeter, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – voting on all Town and School articles.



FY25 Budget Format – Town Warrant

- Three separate operating budget warrant articles. General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund (2025 articles 12, 13 and 14).
- Warrant articles for operating budget in required format under RSA 40:13.
- Each operating budget (General, Water, Sewer) has its own default budget (should the budget article be voted down, default budget goes into effect).
- CIP financial articles (bonds, individual, and special warrant articles) stand alone for separate vote on warrant.
- Budget is submitted on NHDRA approved forms (MS636 and MSDTB).
- Warrant posted on or before January 27th, 2025.



Article 12 – 2025 Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$23,983,368. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$23,441,313, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Estimated Tax Impact: .27/1,000 assessed property value, \$27/100,000 assessed property value).

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.



Recent Town General Fund Operating Budget History

FY25 Budget - \$23,983,368

FY24 Budget - \$22,860,862

FY23 Budget - \$21,287,697

FY22 Budget - \$20,387,002

Town Tax Rate History

2024 - 4.20/1,000

2023 - 6.23/1,000

2022 - 5.96/1,000

Town makes up approximately 23% of total tax levy.



FY25 General Fund Budget Discussion

FY25 budget request is \$23,983,368, a 4.91% increase, or \$1,122,506 increase over the FY24 approved budget of \$22,860,862.

Budget includes all major Town operating departments:

- General Government (Executive, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legal, Transportation, Trustees of Trust Funds, Town Clerk/Elections, Town Moderator),
- Financial Administration (Finance, Tax, Assessing, Treasurer),
- Planning, Building, Economic Development, Boards/Committees (ZBA, Heritage, HDC, Concom),
- Police, Fire/EMS, Communications, Health,
- DPW General Fund (Administration, Highways/Streets, Snow Removal, Solid Waste, Street Lights, Stormwater),
- DPW Maintenance, DPW Town Buildings (Utilities, Maintenance, Projects), DPW Mechanics/Garage,
- Welfare/Human Services Agency Funding,
- Parks/Recreation,
- Other Culture/Recreation,
- Public Library,
- Debt Service & Capital (includes lease/purchases),
- Benefits and Taxes – Townwide expenses, Worker’s Compensation, Unemployment, Health Buyout.



FY25 General Fund Budget Notes

FY25 Highlights

- Largest three Town departments are Police, Fire/EMS, and DPW. These budgets make up approximately 64.2% of the total General Fund Operating Budget.
- Wages – Step adjustment of 3.0% for eligible non-union employees first pay period in July. Union contracts subject to approval as separate warrant articles.
- Benefits – Health insurance increase 18.7% for all plans. Employee contributions to health plans: Access Blue NE – Non-union 14%, SEIU 15% effective 1/1/24, Police 17% effective 7/1/24, Fire 15% effective 1/1/24.
- Retirement Costs – Group 1 – 13.53% of payroll through 6/30/25; 12.75% from 7/1/25 through 12/31/25, Group 2 Police 31.28% of payroll through 6/30/25; 30.95% from 7/1/25 through 12/31/25, Group 2 Fire 30.35% of payroll through 6/30/25; 29.15% from 7/1/25 through 12/31/25. Group 1 eligible for Social Security, Group 2 not eligible for social security.



FY25 General Fund Budget Notes (cont'd)

FY25 Budget

- Select Board – FY25 Budget reduced by \$6 to \$22,462.
- Town Manager – Assistant Town Manager position now budgeted 100% in Town Manager budget. Overall budget increase \$144,477 or 45.9%.
- Human Resources – New position request for Human Resources Director. Position being split from Assistant Town Manager. Overall budget increase \$9,938 or 4.8%.
- Legal Budget – Level fund budget same as FY24 - \$100,000.
- Information Technology – Increase in contracted services \$51,039 (reallocation from Police and Fire Departments); increase in internet services \$5,798; increase in computer software \$9,720, increase in network supplies \$11,315. Decrease in phone utilization \$8,500; decrease in email archiving \$5,850. Overall budget increase \$84,461 or 24.4%.
- Media Communications – Overall budget increase of \$7,835 or 11.9% (wages, benefits, expenses).



FY25 General Fund Budget Notes (cont'd)

FY25 Budget

- Town Clerk – Total budget \$421,841. Budget decrease due to changes in benefits of \$37,864 or -8.2% under FY24 budget.
- Elections/Registration – 1 election in FY25 versus 4 in FY24. Elections budget decrease \$3,089, or -12.5%.
- Finance – Increase in wages/benefits \$36,944 and \$15,401; reduction in audit fees of \$1,995; increase in bank fees \$1,000; reduction in contract services \$1,675; reduction in dues \$300; increase in mobile communications \$960; increase in software agreement \$950. Overall budget increase \$37,670 or 10.18%.
- Treasurer – Budget - \$9,545. Budget decrease \$147 or -1.52%.
- Tax Collection – Increase in wages and benefits \$11,405 and \$7,903. Increase in bank fees \$580; increase in education/training \$1,000; decrease in office equipment/leases \$300, increase in postage \$1,500 increase in tax billing services \$2,170. Overall increase \$14,603 or 12.1%.
- Assessing – Increase in contract assessor services - \$4,300; decrease in postage \$4,300; decrease in revaluation \$10,000. Assessing wage increases \$7,243. Assessing benefit increases \$5,178. Overall increase \$5,256 or 1.9%.



FY25 General Fund Budget Notes (cont'd)

FY25 Budget

- Planning – Wage/benefit increases of \$19,768 or 9.1%. Benefit increases \$3,416 or 7.2%. Increase in mobile communications \$605; increase in dues \$208. Overall budget increase \$24,012 or 7.97%.
- Economic Development – Wage/benefit increases of \$13,490. Reduction in office supplies \$499; increase in travel reimbursement \$50. Overall budget increase \$13,042 or 7.77%.
- Building & Code Enforcement – Decrease in contracted services \$10,000. Net decrease in wages/benefits due to benefit changes. Total budget decrease \$11,097 or -4.0% under FY24.
- Conservation Commission – FY25 budget \$9,796, increase of \$241 from FY24 budget of \$9,555.
- Zoning Board of Adjustment – FY25 budget \$4,271, reduction of \$105 under FY24.
- Historic District Commission – FY25 budget \$1,557, reduction of \$366 under FY24.
- Heritage Commission – FY25 budget \$1,544, increase of \$435 over FY24.



FY25 General Fund Budget Notes (cont'd)

FY25 Budget

- Police – FT wages increased by 4.2% or \$82,909. Overtime increase \$10,418 or 11.3%. Step increase for Police Association employees.
- Police benefits increase \$144,674 or 11.2%. Health insurance increase is \$110,159 of the total benefits increase.
- Police expenses - accreditation increase \$766, community relations decrease \$3,000; decrease in computer maintenance/service contract \$16,300, increase in dry cleaning \$1,600; increase in education training \$3,000; decrease in equipment purchase \$2,167, decrease in fuel \$3,512, increase in grant matching funding \$2,168, reduction in software agreement \$1,312; increase in uniforms \$2,530.
- Police overall budget increase \$239,192, or 6.1% over FY24.



FY25 General Fund Budget Notes (cont'd)

FY25 Budget

- Fire wages – increases \$61,477 or 2.5%; benefits increase \$38,209 or 2.7%.
- Fire expenses – 1-year reduction in protective equipment \$33,082; reduction in cistern maintenance \$900; reduction in community relations \$4,000; reduction in contract services \$17,020; increase in education training \$737; reduction in conference/room/meals \$500, overall expense reductions \$51,483 or 15.6%.
- Fire overall budget increase \$48,203, or 1.1% over FY24.
- Dispatch – wages increase \$18,881, or 6.9%. Health insurance increase \$8,917, or 8.5%.
- Dispatch – overall budget increase \$30,372, or 6.4% over FY24.
- Fire – Health budget – wage increases \$5,847, benefits increase \$949. Total budget increase \$12,993 or 10.0% over FY24.



FY25 General Fund Budget Notes (cont'd)

FY25 Budget

- DPW Admin/Engineering – Wage increases \$57,502 or 9.1%. Full year of new DPW Director and GIS Technician. Overall budget increase \$40,552, or 7.07%.
- DPW Highways & Streets – Wage increases \$13,514 or 1.7%. Benefits increases \$52,409 or 14.4%. Increase in fuel \$500; phone reimbursement \$400; safety equipment \$1,000;
- DPW Highway Road Paving – Increased to \$625,000, additional paving in 2025 to be funded through previously received state aid.
- DPW Highways & Streets – culvert replacement – level funding of \$5,000.
- DPW Highways & Streets – overall budget increase \$117,288, or 5.86%.
- DPW Snow/Ice – FY25 budget decrease \$25,185, or -8.00% under FY24.



FY25 General Fund Budget Notes (cont'd)

FY25 Budget

- DPW Solid Waste – Increase in disposal/recycling contract - \$112,180 or 9.4% over FY24.
- DPW Solid Waste – Increase in blue bags - \$42,000 or 53.8% over FY24.
- DPW Solid Waste – Increase in supplies - \$1,000 or 66.7% over FY24.
- DPW Solid Waste – Overall budget increase \$163,785, or 11.0% over FY24.
- DPW Streetlights – FY25 Budget reduced by \$22,000, or 13.02% from \$169,000 in FY24 to \$147,000. Reduction due to Town purchasing streetlights and replacing with LED.
- DPW Stormwater – Level funded budget - \$92,360.



FY25 General Fund Budget Notes (cont'd)

FY25 Budget

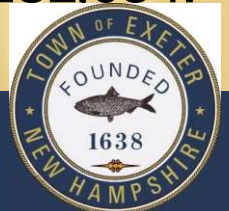
- DPW Maintenance – FT Wages increased by \$16,233 or 5.3% Benefits reduction of \$11,020 or -8.9%. Increase in contract services of \$23,500 or 50.5% Fire safety expense increase of \$9,000 or 60.0%. Overall budget increase \$34,113, or 6.34%.
- Town Buildings – Electricity, Natural Gas, Building Maintenance, Water/Sewer Bills. FY25 Budget - \$320,632, \$17,021 or 5.6% increase over FY24 Budget of \$303,611.
- Maintenance Projects – FY25 Budget level funded at \$100,000.
- DPW Garage – Increase in FT wages of \$2,590 or 1.5%. Increase in benefits of \$12,687 or 11.6%.
- DPW Garage overall budget increase of \$14,977, or 5.0%.



FY25 General Fund Budget Notes (cont'd)

FY25 Budget

- Welfare/Human Services – PT Wages Increase of \$6,868 for 1 PT Welfare/Human Services Administrator position – 12 months of funding, 29 hours per week. Direct Relief increased \$25,000. Overall budget increase \$33,664 or 23.4%.
- Human Services agency funding - \$100,000, increase of \$1,675 from FY24.
- Parks/Recreation – Recreation – Request includes PT Senior Coordinator position. FY25 Impact: \$32,125. Overall budget increase of \$74,481 or 17.0% over FY24.
- Parks/Recreation – Parks – FY25 wages reduced \$6,170 or -5.8%. FY25 benefits increased \$334 or 1.0%. Overall budget decrease \$5,536 or -2.2% under FY24.
- Other Culture/Recreation, Special Events – Increase in fireworks of \$2,000 to account for increased pricing and public safety details. Total FY25 Budget \$36,500.
- Library – FY25 budget increase \$95,945, or 8.1%. Total FY25 Budget \$1,281,634.



FY25 General Fund Budget Notes (cont'd)

FY25 Budget

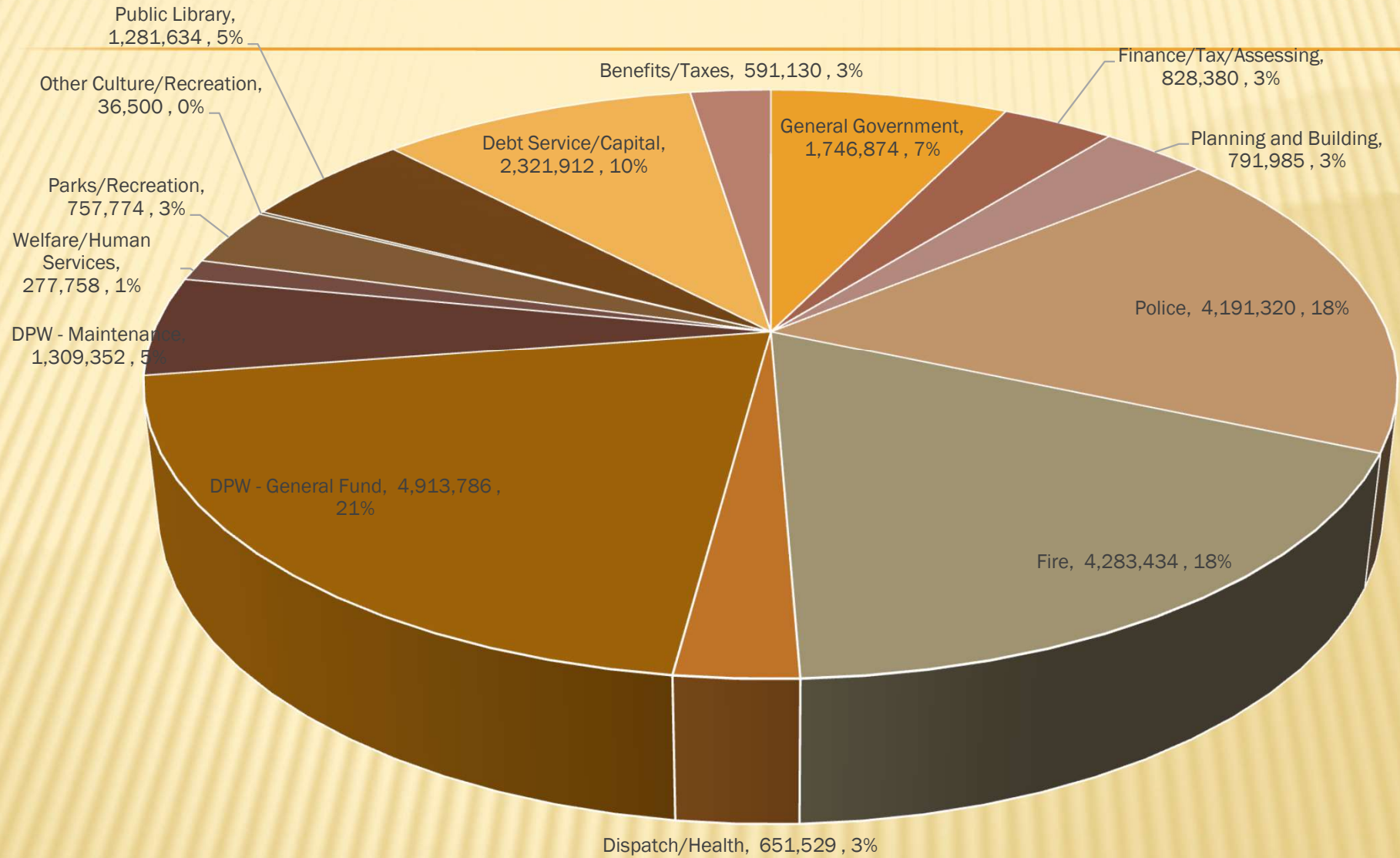
- General Fund Debt Service – Reduction of \$120,699, or -5.8% under FY24 Budget. Total Budget \$1,948,573. Projects include Solar Array, 10 Hampton Road Building Purchase, Intersection Improvements Program, Westside Drive Design and Construction, Library Renovation/Addition, Epping Road Water Tank, Lincoln Street Project Phase 2.
- General Government – Increase of \$30,000 to account for fire protection fee – general fund portion of support of fire suppression system supported by the public water system. FY25 budget \$130,000.
- General Fund Vehicle Replacement/Leases – FY25 Budget \$230,317, reduction of \$18,178 from FY24 Budget of \$248,495.
- General Fund Town-wide Expenses – Worker’s Compensation, Health Buyout, Unemployment, Property/Liability Insurance. Total FY25 Budget - \$591,130, increase of \$62,695 or 11.9% over FY24 Budget of \$528,434.



TOWN OF EXETER FY25 GENERAL FUND BUDGET COMPONENTS – ARTICLE 12

Function	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25/24 \$\$	FY25/24 %
General Government	1,295,456	1,541,800	1,746,874	205,074	13.30%
Finance/Tax Assessing	696,787	770,998	828,380	57,382	7.44%
Planning/Building/Economic Development	744,419	765,823	791,985	26,162	3.42%
Police	3,698,315	3,952,128	4,191,320	239,192	6.05%
Fire	4,081,513	4,235,231	4,283,434	48,203	1.14%
Dispatch/Health	588,980	608,164	651,529	43,365	7.13%
DPW - General Fund	4,589,058	4,639,346	4,913,786	274,440	5.92%
Maintenance/Town Buildings	1,284,329	1,243,241	1,309,352	66,111	5.32%
Welfare/Human Services	183,416	242,419	277,758	35,339	14.58%
Parks/Recreation	602,375	688,829	757,774	68,945	10.01%
Other Culture/Recreation	34,000	34,500	36,500	2,000	5.80%
Public Library	1,172,320	1,185,689	1,281,634	95,945	8.09%
Debt Service/Capital	1,733,763	2,424,260	2,321,912	(102,348)	-4.22%
Benefits/Taxes	<u>582,966</u>	<u>528,434</u>	<u>591,130</u>	<u>62,695</u>	<u>11.86%</u>
General Fund Total	21,287,697	22,860,862	23,983,368	1,122,506	4.91%

FY25 Proposed Budget



- General Government
 Finance/Tax/Assessing
 Planning and Building
 Police
 Fire
- Dispatch/Health
 DPW - General Fund
 DPW - Maintenance
 Welfare/Human Services
 Parks/Recreation
- Other Culture/Recreation
 Public Library
 Debt Service/Capital
 Benefits/Taxes

FY25 General Fund Revenue Categories and Estimates

Main sources of General Fund Revenue

- Motor vehicle registration fees
 - Meals & Rooms Tax local distribution
 - Building permits
 - Blue bag solid waste fees (offset solid waste/recycling costs)
 - Other Department income
 - Investment Income
 - Highway Block Grant Aid
 - Prior Year Fund Balance
-
- Total revenues applicable to budget FY25 - \$8,843,004
-
- Total Estimated Budget FY25 – \$23,983,368
-
- Total Taxes Estimated to be raised by FY25 operating budget: \$15,140,364
 - Total Taxes Raised by FY24 budget: \$14,066,720



FY25 Default Budget

- Default Budget goes into effect if Operating Budget is voted down
- Does not affect voting on separate warrant articles

What is the statutory definition of “default budget”?

"Default budget" means the amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the operating budget. “One-time expenditures” are appropriations not likely to recur in the succeeding budget.

- FY25 General Fund default budget: \$23,441,313, \$542,055 less than FY25 General Fund proposed budget.
- FY25 Water Fund default budget is \$4,613,401, \$12,044 more than FY25 Water Fund proposed budget.
- FY25 Sewer Fund default budget is \$8,074,074, \$73,653 less than the FY25 Sewer Fund proposed budget.



TOWN OF EXETER FY25 GENERAL FUND DEFAULT BUDGET COMPONENTS – ARTICLE 12

Function	FY25 Operating Budget	FY25 Default Budget	Operating vs. Default
General Government	1,746,874	1,553,341	(193,533)
Finance/Tax/Assessing	828,380	816,325	(12,055)
Planning/Building/Econ Dev	791,985	791,473	(512)
Police	4,191,320	4,197,359	6,039
Fire	4,283,434	4,323,990	40,556
Dispatch/Health	651,529	643,888	(7,641)
DPW – General Fund	4,913,786	4,740,022	(173,764)
DPW – Maintenance	1,309,352	1,261,220	(48,132)
Welfare/Human Services	277,758	275,979	(1,779)
Parks/Recreation	757,774	735,419	(22,355)
Other Culture/Recreation	36,500	34,500	(2,000)
Public Library	1,281,634	1,252,284	(29,350)
Debt Service/Capital	2,321,912	2,219,383	(102,529)
Benefits/Taxes	<u>591,130</u>	<u>596,130</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	23,983,368	23,441,313	(542,055)

General Fund 2025 Budget
Article 12, Town Warrant

FY25 Proposed Budget: \$23,983,368 – 4.91% over FY24 budget
FY25 Default Budget: \$23,441,313 – 2.54% over FY24 budget

FY25 Budget: \$23,983,368
Budget Increase over FY24 – 4.91%
Dollar increase over FY24: \$1,122,506

Operating Budget Tax Impact: \$.27/1,000*
Default Budget Tax Impact: \$.12/1,000*

*Overlay and Veterans Credits add 13 cents per 1,000 to final town tax rate.

Budget Tax Rate Projection Including Overlay/Veterans Credits: \$4.43/1,000
2024 Town Tax Rate: \$4.20/1,000

*Assumes 1% increase in net taxable valuation established September, 2024
Latest median assessment ratio 95% (approximate)*



Water Fund 2025 Budget
Article 13, Town Warrant

FY25 Proposed Budget: \$4,601,357 – -7.28% decrease under FY24 budget

FY25 Default Budget: \$4,613,401 – -7.04% decrease under FY24 budget

FY25 Budget: \$4,601,357

FY25 Budget Decrease under FY24: -7.28% decrease

Dollar decrease from FY24: \$361,417

Water Rate Impact of 2025 budget: n/a

Water Rate Impact of 2025 default budget: n/a

Water rates will be reviewed in 2025 for potential adjustments.



Water Fund 2025 Budget Article 13, Town Warrant

Major Programs

1. Administration – includes administrative personnel allocation of DPW and General Government, property insurance allocation, consulting engineers, public notices budget. FY25 wage/benefit increases \$57,391. Consulting services increase \$3,250, Property Insurance increase \$4,230. FY25 Budget: \$599,274.
2. Water Billing – includes water/sewer billing personnel, billing process costs, phone/internet support, town audit allocation. FY25 Budget: \$222,970.
3. Water Distribution – includes distribution system personnel (technicians), system maintenance, tank maintenance contracts, meter replacements, natural gas and electric costs of pump stations, pump station maintenance. FY25 Budget: \$930,425.
4. Water Treatment – includes operating and maintenance costs for the Surface and Groundwater Treatment Plants. Lagoon cleaning, equipment maintenance, lab supplies and equipment, software licenses, consulting - \$20,000 decrease; chemicals - increase \$30,860, natural gas and electricity to run plants. FY25 Budget: \$1,148,821.
5. Debt Service – Debt payments on major capital projects. Epping Road Water Tank, Salem Street Utilities Project, Lary Lane Groundwater Plant, Washington Street Water Line and Groundwater/Surface Water Assessment bond. Groundwater Source Development. Westside Drive Design/Construction. FY25 Budget: \$1,427,932.
6. Capital Outlay – Water system capital needs identified in CIP including filter/clarifier replacement and maintenance contract, Gilman well rehabilitation, Cross Road Tank Cleaning. Epping Road St Mixer replacement. FY25 Budget: \$271,935.



Sewer Fund 2025 Budget
Article 14, Town Warrant

FY25 Proposed Budget: \$8,147,727 – 8.78% increase over FY24 budget

FY25 Default Budget: \$8,074,074 – 7.79% increase from FY24 budget

FY25 Budget: \$8,147,727

FY25 Budget compared to FY24: 8.78% increase

Dollar change from FY24: \$657,296 increase

Sewer Rate Impact of 2025 budget: n/a.

Rates will be reviewed again in 2025 for a potential adjustment.



Sewer Fund Budget Article 14, Town Warrant

Major Programs

1. Administration – includes administrative personnel allocation of DPW and General Government. Includes allocation for consulting personnel and fixed assets. FY25 wage/benefit increases. FY25 Budget: \$630,909.
2. Sewer Billing – includes water/sewer billing personnel, billing process costs, town audit allocation. FY25 Budget: \$219,395.
3. Sewer Collection – includes collection system personnel (technicians), I and I abatement, pipe relining program, manhole maintenance, pump and control maintenance, electricity for pump and lift stations. FY25 Budget: \$729,473.
4. Sewer Treatment – includes operating and maintenance costs for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Six FT operators; equipment maintenance increase of \$30,000, reduction in industrial pre-treatment chemicals (\$3,000), reduction in solids handling (\$25,000). FY25 Budget: \$1,703,886.
5. Debt Service – Debt payments on major capital projects. WWTF, Lagoon Sludge Removal, Salem Street Utility Project, Lincoln Street improvements. Westside Drive Design/Construction. FY25 Budget: \$4,675,128.
6. Capital Outlay – Vactor Truck Lease/Purchase, Fine bubble aeration blower repair (\$50,000) Centrifuge 6,000 hour service (\$50,000). FY25 Budget: \$188,936.



Proposed 2025 Budgets

General Fund FY25 Proposed - \$23,938,368

General Fund FY25 Default - \$23,441,313

Percent % Operating Proposed over Default: 2.31%

Water Fund FY25 Proposed - \$4,601,357

Water Fund FY25 Default - \$4,613,401

Percent % Water Budget Proposed under Default: -.28%

Sewer Fund FY25 Proposed - \$8,147,727

Sewer Fund FY25 Default - \$8,074,074

Percent % Sewer Budget Proposed over Default: .91%



Deliberative Session – Saturday, February 1st, 2025, Exeter
High School, 9:00 a.m.

Town/School Elections
Tuesday, March 11th, 2025
Tuck Learning Center, Talbot Gym, 40 Linden Street
Polling Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

