
TOWN OF DIGHTON FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET OVERVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS

MARCH 9, 2022

FISCAL YEAR 2023 (FY23) BUDGET – TIMELINE

- **Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Process**
 - **January 2022**– Budgets due to Town Administrator by end of the month; Financial Team reviews revenue projections
 - **February 2022** – Town Administrator meets with Departments, Board and Committee representatives; Education Budgets submitted
 - **March 2022** – Board of Selectmen review process begins
 - **April 2022** – Board of Selectmen finalizes review process and makes Budget and Warrant Recommendations
 - **April/May 2022** – Finance Committee meets to review proposed Budget and makes Budget and Warrant recommendations
 - **June 2022** – Proposed operating budget with recommendations presented to Annual Town Meeting

FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROPOSED REVENUES OVERVIEW

- Efforts to plan for FY23 have centered upon conservative, needs-based budgeting as we adapt to various fiscal challenges shaped by outside economic factors
- Major tenet of this year's budget proposal involves adapting to scaled back local receipt revenues based on current economic and revenue collection trends
 - **New Growth projection decreased by \$167,000 from FY22**
 - **\$68K drawback on Building Licensing and Permit Revenues**
 - **Reduced reliance on Ambulance Fund by \$290K; continue adhering to ambulance replacement schedule while ensuring a healthy retained revenue balance**

FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROPOSED EXPENSES OVERVIEW

- FY23 expenditures initially proposed to increase by \$1 million over FY22 levels, driven by cost increases that have always been viewed as largely outside of town's control:
 - **Proposed Education Budget increases of \$677K (based only on initial \$619K D-R assessment increase with no E/D applied)**
 - **\$100,000 increase in sanitation (trash/recycling pick-up and disposal) costs**
 - **1% increase in employee health insurance costs at \$96,000**
 - **One-time retirement separation costs for various long-time town employees**

PRIORITY TO ENSURE BUDGET/FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Important to immediately adapt to revenue and expense trends in order to address sustainability challenges in FY23, FY24 and beyond
- Proposed efforts seek to recalibrate, stabilize, and adapt to current revenue/economic trends
- Part of plan to prioritize forecast-driven budget planning to drive efforts forward—which will also help plan funding for capital needs
- Efforts to be further informed by the Financial Management Review currently being undertaken with the Department of Revenue
- Must look creatively at new opportunities to generate revenue and realize cost efficiencies when possible

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations currently \$42,843 less than those proposed in total departmental budget requests
 - Funding for transition planning in Treasurer/Collector's office, including for Fiscal Year 2022 close-out efforts;
 - Proposed adjustment in wages for Town Clerk and ACO, the latter of which currently makes less than minimum wage for hours worked;
 - \$3,000 in savings in Town Administrator's budget for not funding vacation buyback provision;
 - Proposed fuel increases in various departments;
 - Proposed increases to waste collection/recycling based on global market increases
 - Funding for COA to expand programming for services to Dighton seniors, along with maintaining adult supportive day programming as part of broader COA operations