

The following is a draft warrant, subject to change until such time as it is legally posted.

**2025 WARRANT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

TO: S. Clyde Ross, a Resident of the Town of Farmington in the County of Franklin and State of Maine.

GREETING: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Farmington, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Community Center at 127 Middle Street in said Town on Monday, the TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF MARCH, 2025, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning to act upon Articles 1 and 2. The polls will open at 8:00 o'clock in the morning and close at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon to act upon Article Second.

And also, notify and warn the said Inhabitants to meet at the Community Center at 127 Middle Street in said Town on Monday, the TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF MARCH, 2025, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening, then and there to hear the results of the secret ballot on Articles 1 and 2 and to act on Articles 3 through 33, all the Articles being set out below, to wit:

FIRST - To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

SECOND - To choose by ballot, according to the provisions of Title 30-A, M.R.S. Section 2528 as amended, TWO Selectmen for a term of three years, one School Director for a term of one year to complete the remaining term, and two School Directors for a term of three years.

THIRD - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$992,411	\$1,021,477
Selectmen Recommended	992,411	1,021,477
Budget Committee Recommended	992,411	1,030,353
Town Meeting Approved	992,411	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

	<u>Appropriated 2024</u>	<u>Requested 2025</u>	<u>Budget Comm Recommend</u>	<u>Selectmen Recommend</u>
1. Administration	\$319,319	\$323,690	\$332,260	\$323,690
2. Assessor	167,039	163,617	163,617	163,617
3. Treasurer / Clerk	396,965	411,775	410,895	411,775
4. Committees & Events	3,950	3,750	5,750	3,750
5. Municipal Building	80,138	82,720	81,906	82,720
6. Tax Anticipation Note				0
7. General Assistance	25,000	35,925	35,925	35,925
8. Conservation Comm.	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	\$992,411	\$1,021,477	\$1,030,353	\$1,021,477

The Administration Budget includes personnel costs for the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Executive Assistant, and one-half of the Planning Assistant. This amount includes a contractual increase for the Manager of \$4,500, a COLA pay adjustment of 2.5% for the Executive Assistant, and a market wage adjustment of 3% for the Planning Assistant. The new PFML Mandate of .5% of payroll is included in this amount. Although health insurance premiums went up 9% in 2025 the Town implemented a new lower cost plan for the employee contribution limiting the increase to .35% for Admin. Also included are office supply and equipment costs, professional services such as the Town Report printing, public notice advertising and routine legal services. A savings is a 49% decrease in worker's compensation expense. The difference between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommendations is that the 2025 Compensation Study was

completed after the Budget Committee vote, the Board voted to move AVCOG fees to the Franklin TIF balance, and the Maine Municipal Association dues came in \$500 higher than originally requested, but prior to the Selectmen’s vote. The final request comes in \$8,570 less than the Budget Committee’s recommendation.

The Assessor’s Department includes personnel costs for a full-time Assessor, one half of the Assessing/Counter Clerk wages, office supplies, software licenses, and association dues. This amount includes COLA pay adjustments of 2.5%, and the new PFML Mandate of .5% of payroll. There is an overall decrease from last year due to the new employee waiving health insurance coverage.

The Town Clerk/HR & Treasurer Budget includes salaries for Town Clerk & Treasurer, and wages for AP Counter Clerk and half of the Assessing/Counter Clerk. This amount includes COLA pay adjustments of 2.5% for all but the Town Clerk position which has a market adjustment of 3.1%, and the new PFML Mandate of .5% of payroll. This budget includes funds for election costs, financial software, the annual audit and copy paper for all departments in the Municipal Building. There are savings due to a new lower cost health plan, fewer election worker hours needed in 2025 and a decrease in worker’s compensation. The difference between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommendations is that the 2025 Compensation Study was completed after the Budget Committee vote. The final request comes in \$880 more than the Budget Committee’s recommendation.

Committees and Events includes Memorial Day Flags (\$750), Planning Board (\$200), and Special Projects (\$2,800) which is a discretionary account for the Selectmen through which they may authorize expenditures for special projects, promotions, or events deemed appropriate. The difference between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommendations is that the Select Board voted to take a \$2,000 funding request for the Vietnam Travelling Wall from the Downtown TIF instead of the regular municipal budget. The final request comes in \$2,000 less than the Budget Committee’s recommendation.

The Municipal Buildings budget includes funds to maintain and operate the Town Office and various outbuildings and structures not covered by other departments. This includes the wages for the part-time Custodian position with a market adjustment of 7.1% (\$1,360 annually) and the new PFML Mandate of .5% of payroll. There is a \$5,000 increase to address masonry and structural repairs to the exterior of the building in 2025. The difference between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommendations is that the 2025 Compensation Study was completed after the Budget Committee vote. The final request comes in \$814 more than the Budget Committee’s recommendation.

The Tax Anticipation Note is no longer budgeted to fund Town operations until taxes are due. The Town borrows funds from the Sewer Department and repays them. A TAN would only be requested under an emergency situation where sewer funds are insufficient.

The General Assistance program provides for the basic needs of persons who apply and meet the qualifying requirements for assistance, as well as administrative costs such as training, GA cell phone (to provide 24-hr response as mandated) and office supplies. The 2024 appropriation was \$25,000. Expenditures totaled \$35,878 in 2023 and \$35,965 in 2024. The portion of this request allocated to services is \$35,000 with the remainder allocated to administrative expense. This budget is offset in the revenue line items by the state reimbursement of seventy percent (70%) of the cost of services provided, *not including administrative expenses*.

FOURTH – To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **CODE ENFORCEMENT** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$206,806	\$217,753
Selectmen Recommended	206,806	217,753
Budget Committee Recommended	206,806	212,404
Approved	206,806	

STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget request covers the operational expenses for two and one-half employees who oversee Code Administration, Planning, and Community Development functions. This amount includes market pay adjustments of 4.4% and 3%, respectively for the Planning Code Enforcement Officer and Planning Assistant respectively. New in 2025 the Codes Planning Assistant has been promoted to the Assistant Licensed Plumbing Inspector, which includes a wage increase of 10% for the additional duties and required certifications. This budget also includes the new PFML Mandate of .5% of payroll. This is offset by savings in workers' compensation. The difference between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommendations is that the 2025 Compensation Study was completed after the Budget Committee vote. The final request comes in \$5,350 more than the Budget Committee's recommendation, the bulk of which is due to the promotion of a single employee.

FIFTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **POLICE DEPARTMENT** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,884,740	\$1,884,440
Selectmen Recommended	1,884,740	1,884,440
Budget Committee Recommended	1,884,740	1,910,190
Town Meeting Approved	1,884,740	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Police Department budget includes negotiated contractual obligations for union members, 2.5% COLA Increases for non-union members and market wage adjustments for the Chief (8.5%), Deputy Chief (8.2%) and Parking Enforcement Officer/Animal Control Officer (9.7%) positions. The additional PFML Mandate of .5% of payroll is only applied to non-union positions in this budget. The Town will not be required to start deducting PFML for union positions until the contract renews in March of 2026. The 2025 budget allows for public safety protection 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. This includes expanded Animal Control services and hours for Parking Enforcement. Also included are expenses related to building, operations, vehicles, supplies, and maintenance, a set-aside for a new IT Services contract and the cost of a new cleaning services contract. Increases are offset by decreases in worker's compensation, health insurance elections, and motor fuel, as well as budgeting vacant positions at 75%. The difference between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommendations is that the 2025 Compensation Study and the reduction to vacant position salaries were completed after the Budget Committee vote. The final request comes in \$25,750 less than the Budget Committee's recommendation.

SIXTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$976,815	\$1,035,524
Selectmen Recommended	976,815	1,035,524
Budget Committee Recommended	976,815	999,794
Town Meeting Approved	976,815	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The increase in the Fire Department's request includes a 2.5% COLA pay adjustment for administrative personnel and market wage adjustments for full-time Firefighters. Firefighter pay is significantly low for full-time staff in Farmington, being approximately 20% lower than equivalent municipalities. This budget reflects an initial step in bringing those wages up to market with increases of between 11 and 14% depending on years of service. In 2024 the Town started splitting the duties of the Public Works Admin Assistant with Fire. For 2025 that position has been physically relocated to the Fire Department with the added duties of Emergency Management Coordinator, and 75% of the wages have been moved to this budget equating to \$61,900. This budget also includes increased hours for per diem staff who cover full-time shifts in lieu of a permanent employee earning overtime, and a change in the Safety Incentive program to reward full-time staff with time off instead of pay, shifting the monetary benefit to part-time staff only. The salary increases are almost completely offset by a decrease in worker's compensation of \$64,810. Also included are a set-aside for a new IT services contract and other operational expenses such as vehicle and equipment maintenance, motor fuel,

telephones and health assessments for firefighters. The difference between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommendations is that the 2025 Compensation Study was completed after the Budget Committee vote. The final request comes in \$35,730 more than the Budget Committee’s recommendation.

SEVENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PARKS AND RECREATION AND COMMUNITY CENTER DEPARTMENTS** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$453,451	\$483,333
Selectmen Recommended	453,451	483,333
Budget Committee Recommended	453,451	482,326
Approved	453,451	

	Appropriated <u>2024</u>	Requested <u>2025</u>	Budget Comm <u>Recommend</u>	Selectmen <u>Recommend</u>
Parks and Recreation	\$244,110	\$305,175	\$304,272	\$305,175
Community Center	<u>\$209,341</u>	<u>\$178,158</u>	<u>\$178,054</u>	<u>\$178,158</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$453,451</u>	<u>\$483,333</u>	<u>\$482,326</u>	<u>\$483,333</u>

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Parks and Recreation Budget includes operating expenses for all recreational activities, including personnel costs for the full-time Director, half of the full-time maintenance position, part-time seasonal positions, program directors, and coaches. The Director is new, hired January 27, 2025, at a lower salary than her predecessor. The part-time staff have had adjustments based on an increase in the minimum wage for 2025. This budget also includes an increase in overall part time hours due to the oversight of adding the hours for field hockey, lacrosse and yoga in the 2024 budget, as well as adding a Swim Instructor Aide, a Health and Wellness Mornings series, a Mini Sports Camp for the summer, and four Teen Night events. The cost of the additional programming is \$9,600 and is offset by an increase in the fees in the revenue budget. The Community Center budget includes personnel costs for one full-time Assistant Director and half of the full-time Maintenance position, as well as several part-time seasonal positions. The Assistant Director is new, hired January 27, 2025, at a similar salary to her predecessor. Hours were added for both the After School Program and Facility Events. There was a significant decrease in the heating oil budget due to declining fuel costs.

Both budgets include a 3.1% market wage adjustment for the full-time maintenance position, the new PFML Mandate of .5% of payroll and a decrease in worker’s compensation costs. Expenses that are not directly related to operation of the Community Center were transferred to the Parks and Recreation budget to more accurately represent the cost of the facility. This results in an increase to Parks and Recreation and a corresponding decrease to the Community Center. The difference between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommendations is that the 2025 Compensation Study was completed after the Budget Committee vote, and the cost to attend the MRPA Conference was added after their vote. The final request comes in \$1,007 more than the Budget Committee’s recommendation.

EIGHTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **OTHER PROTECTIONS** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$590,887	\$716,095
Selectmen Recommended	590,887	716,095
Budget Committee Recommended	590,887	716,095
Town Meeting Approved	590,887	

STATEMENT OF FACT:	Appropriated <u>2024</u>	Requested <u>2025</u>
1. Streetlights	\$70,000	\$ 77,600

2. Fire Hydrants	350,657	395,200
3. Insurances	120,000	181,255
4. Ambulance	<u>50,230</u>	<u>62,040</u>
TOTAL	\$590,887	\$716,095

The Street Light budget has decreased due the addition of 23 new LED lights downtown. The cost of Fire Hydrants has increased due to a 12% increase from the Water District. The hydrant cost is governed by the Maine Public Utilities Commission and is based on a percentage of the Water Company's total operating expenses. The Insurance category is based on anticipated premium costs in 2025. Included are employee cash handling bonds, blanket property and automobile coverages, public officials' liability, and unemployment insurance. These costs have risen by 17% year-over-year and the actual 2024 expenditure was \$138,019. The Ambulance subsidy is established by a contractual agreement with MaineHealth EMS (formerly NorthStar Ambulance) and increased 17% during the last negotiation, half of which will come due in July.

NINTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,872,713	\$1,768,951
Selectmen Recommended	1,872,713	1,768,951
Budget Committee Recommended	1,872,713	1,784,891
Town Meeting Approved	1,872,713	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Public Works Department budget covers the operational expenses required to maintain the Town's 120 miles of roads. The budget covers the personnel costs for eleven full-time and one part-time employees. Two positions, the Construction Foreman and the Mechanic, were eliminated in 2024 upon the foreman transferring to Wastewater and the mechanic retiring. It has been determined that the foreman position is not as necessary as previously thought, and mechanic duties are achieved by a \$1 stipend for an employee with an inspections license and contracting out heavy equipment repairs at the rate of \$85/hr to an on-call local mechanic. This budget is down considerably due to the elimination of those positions, transfer of 75% of the wages for the Public Works Administrative Assistant to the Fire Department, and reclassification of a Truck Driver position to a Laborer/Utility position at a considerably lower hourly rate. This budget includes a 2.5% COLA pay adjustment for the Director and most positions, as well as the new PFML Mandate of .5% of payroll. It also includes market wage adjustments for the Heavy Equipment Operator positions and one of the Truck Drivers with 10 years of experience. The Laborer position is also budgeted at 75% as it is currently vacant. There is a significant increase in Road Maintenance expenditures for regular repair and maintenance, largely due to the amount of storm damage experienced over the last three years, there is a place-holder for a new IT Services Contract, and the Line Striping and Cemetery Mowing contracts have increased almost \$20,000. Savings exist in worker's compensation, motor fuel and heating oil, as well as moving heavy equipment rentals to the capital budget with paving expenses. The difference between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommendations is that the 2025 Compensation Study was completed after the Budget Committee vote, and the Laborer hours were decreased after their vote. The final request comes in \$15,940 less than the Budget Committee's recommendation.

TENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **RECYCLING DEPARTMENT** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$192,315	\$190,908
Selectmen Recommended	192,315	190,908
Budget Committee Recommended	192,315	190,908
Town Meeting Approved	192,315	

STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget covers all operating expenses for the transfer station and two current part-time employees for 2025 with a 2.5% COLA wage adjustment. Labor

cost is down slightly due to a decrease in worker's compensation.

ELEVENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to be transferred to the Capital Reserve Funds.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Admin Computer & Office Equip Capital	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200
Assessor Compr & Office Equip Capital	500	700
Treasurer/Clerk Comp & Office Equip Capital	4,000	2,000
Vital Records Books Preservation	0	3,000
Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve	10,000	10,000
Municipal Buildings Equipment & Grounds	1,500	6,000
CEO Computer & Equip Capital	2,000	2,000
Revaluation Capital Reserve	30,000	35,000
Police Dept Building Capital Reserve	10,000	20,000
Police Dt Equipment Capital Reserve	10,000	14,500
Police Dept Vehicle Capital Reserve	124,000	136,000
Police K-9 Reserve	0	1,250
Police Department Grounds & Lots	0	2,500
Police Academy	0	10,000
Fire Dept Apparatus Capital Reserve	150,000	150,000
Fire Dept Rescue Equipment Capital	0	8,000
Fire Dept Computer & Equip Capital	1,800	2,800
Fire Dept Facility Capital Reserve	8,275	5,000
Public Works Computer Capital Reserve	0	1,500
Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve	115,000	200,000
Public Works Facilities Capital Reserve	50,000	50,000
Public Works Roads Capital Reserve	859,489	800,000
Public Works Sidewalks Capital Reserve	20,000	20,000
Public Works Emergency Rds Cap Reserve	10,000	14,550
Municipal Landfill Capital Reserve	10,000	10,000
Recycling Equipment Capital Reserve	0	5,000
Cemetery Infr/Headstone Capital Reserve	5,000	5,000
Hippach Field and Parks Capital Reserve	5,000	5,000
Parks Vehicle and Equip Capital Reserve	5,000	5,000
Parks Playground Capital Reserve	0	5,000
Parks Land Improvement Capital Reserve	6,000	6,000
Parks Computer & Equip Capital Reserve	1,500	1,000
Community Center Capital Reserve	25,000	25,000
Community Center Recreation Equip Capital	0	1,000
Total	<u>\$1,465,064</u>	<u>\$1,564,800</u>

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,849,145	\$1,564,800
Selectmen Recommended	\$1,849,145	\$1, 564,800
Budget Committee Recommended	\$1,849,145	\$1, 574,800
Approved	\$1,849,145	

STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget covers annual set-aside for computer, vehicle and equipment replacements, and major maintenance of facilities. The Revaluation reserve covers the annual set-aside needed to prefund the next Revaluation project in approximately 10 years. New requests include \$3,000 for preservation of Vital Records books (2 of 5 books over 3 years), an additional \$5,000 for the Municipal facility for exterior lighting and parking lot savings, \$1,250 to set aside for major medical expenses and retirement of the drug dog, an additional \$20,000 towards roof replacement and parking lot paving at the Police Station, \$5,000 set aside for future replacement of the loader at the Transfer Station, \$5,000 set aside for future playground replacement, and \$1,000 set aside for future replacement of Community Center recreation equipment (balls, mats, game tables, etc.). See the 5-year Capital Plan for specific details. The difference between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommendations is a \$10,000 request to fund a downtown security camera was moved to the Downtown TIF after vote.

TWELFTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **DEBT SERVICE** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$94,367	\$90,567
Selectmen Recommended	94,367	90,567
Budget Committee Recommended	94,367	90,567
Town Meeting Approved	94,367	

STATEMENT OF FACT:	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2025</u>
Engine 1	\$57,000	\$54,800	\$54,800
Police Building Debt	37,367	35,767	35,767
TOTAL	\$94,367	\$90,567	\$90,567

The amount indicated in this Article represents the debt service (principal and interest) for bonds for the police station renovations and Engine 1 debt. The police building debt will be paid off in 2026, and Engine 1 in 2029.

THIRTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **LEGAL RESERVE ACCOUNT** for the purpose of funding costs associated with actual or potential litigation for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$9,000	\$5,000
Selectmen Recommended	9,000	5,000
Budget Committee Recommended	9,000	5,000
Town Meeting Approved	9,000	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The various administrative accounts contain funding to cover routine legal costs related to tax liens, personnel issues, contracts, general liability, zoning, etc. Those amounts are not adequate to cover ongoing litigation and unforeseen legal expenses. The Legal Reserve Account provides for such expenditures. The amount shown is an annual set aside to build the reserve which was fully depleted in 2023.

FOURTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) RESERVE ACCOUNT** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,500	\$1,500
Selectmen Recommended	1,500	1,500
Budget Committee Recommended	1,500	1,500
Town Meeting Approved	1,500	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The ADA Reserve Account is used to improve accessibility to public facilities for people with disabilities. It currently has a balance of \$16,872.

FIFTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FARMINGTON LIBRARY** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$271,750	\$299,270
Selectmen Recommended	271,750	299,270
Budget Committee Recommended	271,750	299,270
Town Meeting Approved	271,750	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The amount requested represents approximately 75% of the Library's total projected budget for 2025 and is a 10.13% increase over the 2024 Town appropriation.

SIXTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **GAY CEMETERY** for the year 2024.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,000	\$1,000
Selectmen Recommended	1,000	1,000
Budget Committee Recommended	1,000	1,000
Town Meeting Approved	1,000	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Gay Cemetery, named after the Gay family, is located on South Strong Road. It is a 100-plot cemetery (including 16 veteran graves) maintained by the Gay Cemetery Association.

SEVENTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FRANKLIN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER** for the year 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$18,221	\$22,776
Selectmen Recommended	18,221	22,776
Budget Committee Recommended	18,221	22,776
Town Meeting Approved	18,221	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The State of Maine mandates that all municipalities designate a shelter that will accept stray animals. Farmington contracts with the Franklin County Animal Shelter for this service. The shelter currently assesses all participating communities at \$3.00 per capita based on the most recent US Census. This is a 25% increase over 2024.

EIGHTEENTH - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate 100% of the refund of snowmobile registrations received annually from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for the **SHIRETOWN RIDERS, NORTHERN LITES, AND NEW SHARON SNOW RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUBS**, to be distributed to the clubs on the basis of mileage of trails each maintains in Farmington.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$14,240	\$12,700
Selectmen Recommended	14,240	12,700
Budget Committee Recommended	14,240	12,700
Town Meeting Approved	14,240	

STATEMENT OF FACT: Based on the trail mileages, funds are distributed as follows: Shiretown Riders - 58%, Northern Lites - 21%, and New Sharon Snow Riders - 21%. NOTE – the 2025 request is an estimate of the snowmobile revenue for the year. Regardless, the amount actually received will be returned to the clubs if this article passes.

NINETEENTH - see if the Town will vote to reduce the amounts authorized to be raised in taxes in Articles 2 through 20 by **\$3,555,250**, based on estimates for non-tax municipal revenues.

<u>Estimates</u>	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY24</u>
Excise Taxes	\$ 1,105,000	\$ 1,154,500
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	132,500	143,350
Intergovernmental	1,868,500	1,969,200
Charges for Services	127,000	97,000
Other Revenues	107,000	191,200

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	\$3,340,000	\$3,555,250
Selectmen Recommended	\$3,340,000	\$3,555,250
Budget Committee Recommended	\$3,340,000	\$3,555,250
Approved	\$3,340,000	

STATEMENT OF FACT: Revenue estimates are based on state projections and 4-year trends in-house.

TWENTIETH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to reallocate budgeted amounts from budget lines that have unexpended appropriations to other budget lines, as they deem necessary, to avoid individual budget lines being over-expended. Approval of this warrant article does not increase the overall appropriations approved for the Town.

TWENTY-FIRST - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Unassigned Fund Balance those funds deemed necessary by the Board of Selectmen to reduce the amount of property taxes to be collected to fund the Year 2025 budget in an effort to stabilize the tax rate in a manner consistent with prudent fiscal management.

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) at the end of the 2024 budget year, is estimated to be \$3,900,000. The auditors recommend carrying a minimum UFB level that is adequate to cover three months' expenditures, which is approximately \$3,800,000. Approval of this Article would allow the Selectmen to utilize whatever amount of UFB, if any, that they deem to be advisable to reduce the property tax commitment while maintaining adequate reserves.

TWENTY-SECOND - To see what amount, if any, of the Year 2025 Bee Line Cable (Spectrum) Contract Franchise Fee and equipment and facilities fund the Town will vote to appropriate for the **CABLE FRANCHISE FEE RESERVE FUND** for the benefit of Bee Line Cable subscribers, to be expended or allocated at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amount Requested	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Selectmen Recommended	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Budget Committee Recommended	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Town Meeting Approved	Full Franchise Fee	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Cable Television Franchise granted to Bee Line, Inc. by the Town of Farmington requires Bee Line to pay the Town 5% of its gross annual revenues as compensation for the rights and privileges granted by the Agreement. In 2024, that amount was \$46,076. This payment is used to support the operations of the Public, Educational, and Governmental channel, Mount Blue TV (Channel 11). The Franchise Agreement also allows for a \$7,500 annual payment for Mount Blue TV's equipment and facilities. The full franchise fee for 2025 is expected to be an amount similar to or slightly less than that received in 2024.

TWENTY-THIRD - To see if the Town will vote to make property taxes due and payable on Monday, November 4, 2025, or 45 days from the tax commitment, whichever is later and, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 505(4), charge interest on overdue taxes at the rate of 7.50% per annum after November 4, 2025.

TWENTY-FOURTH - To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 506-A, to pay interest on refunds of overpaid or abated taxes at the rate of 4.00% per annum after Monday, November 3, 2025, or 45 days from the tax commitment, whichever is later.

TWENTY-FIFTH - To see if the Town will vote to accept prepayment of taxes to the Tax Collector prior to the date of commitment and to pay no interest thereon.

TWENTY-SIXTH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell by bid or auction or on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interest of the Town, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture as are no longer necessary for Town operations.

TWENTY-SEVENTH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen

to replace and/or purchase additional services or equipment for the Town at such times as the Board of Selectmen deems necessary or in the best interest of the Town, but only at such times as sufficient funds are available in reserve accounts to pay for such equipment or services.

TWENTY-EIGHTH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend, without further action by Town Meeting, money from the State, federal or other governmental units or private sources that become available during the year, and to authorize the Selectmen to accept, on behalf of the Town, any and all unconditional gifts of any type of property.

State funds include the following categories: Maine Emergency Management Agency funds, General Assistance Reimbursements, Municipal Revenue Sharing, Urban/Rural Initiative Program funds for road improvements, State Aid to Education, Snowmobile Registration Reimbursements, Tree Growth Program Reimbursements, Education Tax Relief Block Grant, Veterans' Exemption Reimbursement, Maine State Housing Authority, Public Library State Aid per Capita and Library Stipend, Property Tax Relief Funds, Homestead Act Funds, State grants, and other State funds.

Federal funds include the following categories: Community Development Block Grant funds, Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, Housing and Urban Development funds, Economic Development Administration funds, USDA Rural Development funds, federal grants, and other federal funds.

TWENTY-NINTH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budget amount in each category of the 2025 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2026, until the Town Meeting in March 2026.

THIRTIETH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and execute multi-year contracts, including but not limited to, contracts or agreements in the following areas: auditing, tax assessing, solid waste disposal, equipment purchasing, leasing, and maintenance and collective bargaining agreements.

THIRTY-FIRST - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reserve Account for purposes consistent with the Downtown Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Downtown Omnibus Development Program established in October 2013 and subsequently amended.

THIRTY-SECOND - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the Franklin Printing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reserve Account for purposes consistent with the Franklin Printing Municipal Development Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program established in June 1998 and subsequently amended.

THIRTY-THIRD - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow up to \$800,000 to be combined with remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the purposes of structural and mechanical improvements to the Community Center.

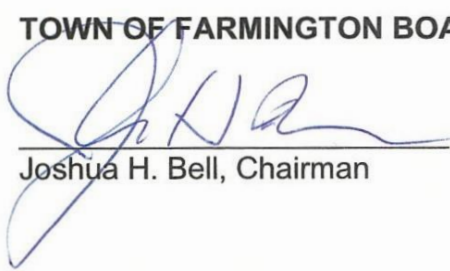
STATEMENT OF FACT: The Community Center Roof is in need of structural renovation as it does not meet building code for weight limits and snow loads. In addition the building needs other major repairs including replacement of the concrete handicap access ramp in front of the building, paint and masonry repairs, boiler replacement and HVAC upgrades. After more than a year of negotiations the Town has executed a contract with Sheridan Construction for a Design-Build Contract for an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000. ARPA funds of \$700,000 have been earmarked for this project. This borrowing request is to obtain the additional funding to execute this contract.

The Registrar of Voters will be in session at the Community Center on March 25, 2025 at the time of the meeting to add new names to the voting list or make changes to the voting list.

Notice is hereby given that the Town Clerk intends to begin the process of casting absentee ballots at 2:00 P.M., 4:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Town Meeting day.

Given under our hands at Farmington, Maine this twenty-seventh day of February, A.D. 2025.

TOWN OF FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Joshua H. Bell, Chairman



Matthew W. Smith

Dennis E. O'Neil



Byron T. Staples



Richard M. Morton

ORIGINAL:



OFFICER'S RETURN

I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Farmington of the time and place of the Town Meeting by posting an attested copy of the within warrant at the **FARMINGTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING** at _____; at the **WEST FARMINGTON POST OFFICE** at _____; at the **FARMINGTON POST OFFICE** at _____; at the **FARMINGTON FALLS POST OFFICE** at _____; and at the **FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER** at _____, all being conspicuous public places within the Town of Farmington on March ____, 2025, which is a least 7 days prior to the day of said meeting.

Dated at Farmington, Maine this ____ day of March 2025.

S. Clyde Ross
Resident of Farmington
True copy:

Diane Dunham
Town Clerk