

5-Year Projection

The 5 Year Financial Forecast is a planning tool that helps outline future scenarios for the city. This forecast is a working document as there is always the need to update assumptions as more information becomes available and based on external economic factors. Major assumptions used in this model are as follows:

Revenues:

Tax Levy

- Proposition 2 ½ increase
- New Growth remains level at \$550,000 which has a direct correlation to the real estate market
- Debt exclusions are based on the debt service out-payment schedule for the debt exclusion borrowings (2018 School Building Addition and 2020 Elementary School)

Cherry Sheet

- Assumed a 2% annual increase in State Aid based on 5-year average

Local Receipts

- Assumed a 2% conservative annual increase based on historical information and slow recovery from the pandemic

Expenditures:

Personal Services

- Assumed an increase of 3% annually for forecasting purposes (actual increases are based on steps and COLA increases in accordance with Collective Bargaining Agreements and Mayor's COLA proposal for non-union employees)

Operating Expenses

- Departmental expenses are assumed to increase 3.5% annually

Debt Service

- Represents actual debt service payments on existing debt and an estimate for FY24 capital projects

State Assessments

- Assumed 5% annual increase

Employee Benefits

- Assumed a 5% conservative annual increase; it includes health insurance, retirement assessment, workers compensation insurance, etc.

Transfers

- OPEB transfer based on current actuarial valuation
- DIF transfer based on existing debt payment schedules

5-Year Projection

Based on the conservative assumptions listed above, the city would exhaust its excess levy capacity in fiscal year 2025. Excess levy capacity can be described as the difference between the maximum property tax revenue a community is permitted to raise, and the amount actually raised (levy). Historically, the accumulation of excess levy capacity appears directly related to broad economic trends. It is very important that the city remains focused on increasing revenue sources through new economic development initiatives as well as remain vigilant in controlling operating costs to avoid/delay an override. "An override (Chapter 59, Section 21C(g)) may be sought for any municipal spending purpose and is most often used when additional revenue is sought to fund an annual operating budget."

	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Projected	FY 2027 Projected	FY 2028 Projected	FY 2029 Projected
REVENUE PROJECTION					
Prior Year Levy Limit - Property Taxes	54,612,647	56,527,963	58,491,162	60,503,441	62,566,027
2 1/2% Increase	1,365,316	1,413,199	1,462,279	1,512,586	1,564,151
New Growth	550,000	550,000	550,000	550,000	550,000
TOTAL LEVY LIMIT	56,527,963	58,491,162	60,503,441	62,566,027	64,680,178
Debt Exclusion	2,276,056	2,256,906	1,828,506	1,825,756	1,825,256
TOTAL AVAILABLE LEVY	58,804,019	60,748,068	62,331,947	64,391,783	66,505,434
LEVY AMOUNT USED	59,437,748	61,805,529	63,917,747	66,566,213	69,361,865
EXCESS LEVY CAPACITY	-633,729	-1,057,461	-1,585,800	-2,174,429	-2,856,432
EXCESS LEVY AS % OF OPERATING BUDGET	-0.81%	-1.30%	-1.90%	-2.51%	-3.18%
TOTAL LOCAL RECEIPTS	4,579,950	4,670,391	4,762,162	4,855,849	4,951,491
% Increase (Decrease) over prior Fiscal Year	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Total Cherry Sheet Receipts	13,313,354	13,579,621	13,851,214	14,128,238	14,410,803
% Increase (Decrease) over prior Fiscal Year	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
RESERVE FOR ABATEMENT	-225,000	-225,000	-225,000	-225,000	-225,000
TOTAL OTHER AVAILABLE SOURCES	1,262,357	1,291,393	1,321,136	1,351,606	1,382,819
	-27.8%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
GROSS REVENUE & OTHER AVAILABLE SOURCES	78,368,409	81,121,934	83,627,259	86,676,905	89,881,978
% Increase (Decrease) over prior Fiscal Year	4.2%	3.5%	3.1%	3.6%	3.7%
CITY COUNCIL PERSONAL SERVICES	49,414	50,897	52,424	53,996	55,616
CITY COUNCIL OTHER EXPENSES	94,180	97,476	100,888	104,419	108,074
(111) TOTAL CITY COUNCIL	143,594	148,373	153,311	158,415	163,690
MAYOR PERSONAL SERVICES	326,797	336,601	346,699	357,100	367,813
MAYOR OTHER EXPENSES	12,513	12,951	13,404	13,874	14,359
(121) TOTAL MAYOR	339,310	349,552	360,104	370,974	382,172
	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%

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	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Projected	FY 2027 Projected	FY 2028 Projected	FY 2029 Projected
ADMIN & FINANCE PERSONAL SERVICES	366,567	377,564	388,891	400,557	412,574
ADMIN & FINANCE OTHER EXPENSES	34,458	35,664	36,913	38,204	39,542
(134) TOTAL ADMIN & FINANCE	401,025	413,228	425,803	438,762	452,116
	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
ASSESSORS PERSONAL SERVICES	207,027	213,238	219,635	226,224	233,011
ASSESSORS OTHER EXPENSES	35,997	37,257	38,561	39,911	41,308
(141) TOTAL ASSESSORS	243,024	250,495	258,196	266,135	274,318
	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
TREASURER PERSONAL SERVICES	220,738	227,360	234,181	241,207	248,443
TREASURER OTHER EXPENSES	36,329	37,600	38,916	40,278	41,688
(145) TOTAL TREASURER	257,067	264,960	273,097	281,485	290,131
	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
LEGAL OTHER EXPENSES	134,550	139,259	144,133	149,178	154,399
(151) TOTAL LEGAL	134,550	139,259	144,133	149,178	154,399
	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
MUNICIPAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS PERSONAL SERVICES	395,347	407,207	419,424	432,006	444,966
MUNICIPAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS OTHER EXPENSES	494,736	512,052	529,974	548,523	567,721
(155) TOTAL MUNICIPAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS	890,083	919,259	949,397	980,529	1,012,688
	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
CENTRAL SUPPLIES OTHER EXPENSES	65,626	67,923	70,300	72,761	75,308
(159) TOTAL CENTRAL SUPPLIES	65,626	67,923	70,300	72,761	75,308
	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
CLERK PERSONAL SERVICES	207,159	213,374	219,775	226,368	233,159
CLERK OTHER EXPENSES	5,827	6,031	6,242	6,461	6,687
(161) TOTAL CLERK	212,986	219,405	226,017	232,829	239,846
	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
ELECTIONS PERSONAL SERVICES	38,451	39,604	40,793	42,016	43,277
ELECTIONS OTHER EXPENSES	60,343	62,455	64,640	66,903	69,244
ELECTIONS EQUIPMENT	19,562	20,246	20,955	21,688	22,447
(162) TOTAL ELECTIONS	118,355	122,305	126,388	130,607	134,969
	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
CONSERVATION PERSONAL SERVICES	63,782	65,696	67,666	69,696	71,787
CONSERVATION OTHER EXPENSES	2,993	3,098	3,206	3,319	3,435
(171) TOTAL CONSERVATION	66,775	68,794	70,873	73,015	75,222
	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
PLANNING OTHER EXPENSES	5,589	5,785	5,987	6,197	6,414
(172) TOTAL PLANNING BOARD	5,589	5,785	5,987	6,197	6,414
	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%

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	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Projected	FY 2027 Projected	FY 2028 Projected	FY 2029 Projected
ZONING OTHER EXPENSES	543	562	582	602	624
(173) TOTAL ZONING	543	562	582	602	624
	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DVLP PERSONAL SERVICES	285,621	294,190	303,015	312,106	321,469
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DVLP OTHER EXPENSES	6,205	6,422	6,647	6,879	7,120
(182) TOTAL COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	291,826	300,612	309,662	318,985	328,589
	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
OTHER ASSESSMENTS	7,893	8,169	8,455	8,751	9,057
(185) TOTAL OTHER ASSESSMENTS	7,893	8,169	8,455	8,751	9,057
	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS OTHER EXPENSES	190,533	197,202	204,104	211,248	218,641
(192) TOTAL MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	190,533	197,202	204,104	211,248	218,641
	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
POLICE PERSONAL SERVICES	4,633,506	4,772,511	4,915,686	5,063,157	5,215,051
POLICE OTHER EXPENSES	409,791	424,134	438,979	454,343	470,245
POLICE EQUIPMENT	95,909	99,266	102,740	106,336	110,058
(210) TOTAL POLICE	5,139,206	5,295,911	5,457,405	5,623,836	5,795,355
	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
FIRE PERSONAL SERVICES	4,097,600	4,220,528	4,347,143	4,477,558	4,611,884
FIRE OTHER EXPENSES	384,197	397,644	411,562	425,966	440,875
FIRE EQUIPMENT	113,850	117,835	121,959	126,228	130,645
(220) TOTAL FIRE	4,595,647	4,736,006	4,880,664	5,029,752	5,183,405
	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
BUILDING INSPECTIONS PERSONAL SERVICES	333,443	343,446	353,750	364,362	375,293
BUILDING INSPECTIONS OTHER EXPENSES	26,939	27,881	28,857	29,867	30,913
(241) TOTAL BUILDING INSPECTIONS	360,382	371,328	382,607	394,230	406,206
	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
WEIGHTS & MEASURES	14,552	15,061	15,589	16,134	16,699
(244) TOTAL WEIGHTS & MEASURES	14,552	15,061	15,589	16,134	16,699
	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
HARBORMASTER PERSONAL SERVICES	36,050	37,132	38,245	39,393	40,575
HARBORMASTER OTHER EXPENSES	6,210	6,427	6,652	6,885	7,126
(295) TOTAL HARBORMASTER	42,260	43,559	44,898	46,278	47,701
	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%

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	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Projected	FY 2027 Projected	FY 2028 Projected	FY 2029 Projected
AMESBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS					
(300) TOTAL AMESBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	37,346,001	38,653,111	40,005,970	41,406,179	42,855,395
	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS					
(390) TOTAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS	2,593,495	2,852,845	3,138,129	3,451,942	3,797,136
	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
DPW PERSONAL SERVICES	931,813	959,768	988,561	1,018,217	1,048,764
DPW OTHER EXPENSES	987,362	1,021,920	1,057,687	1,094,706	1,133,021
DPW EQUIPMENT	64,146	66,391	68,715	71,120	73,609
(422) TOTAL DPW	1,983,321	2,048,079	2,114,962	2,184,043	2,255,394
	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
SNOW & ICE PERSONAL SERVICES	51,500	53,045	54,636	56,275	57,964
SNOW & ICE OTHER EXPENSES	207,000	214,245	221,744	229,505	237,537
(423) TOTAL SNOW & ICE	258,500	267,290	276,380	285,780	295,501
	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%
STREET LIGHTING	155,250	160,684	166,308	172,128	178,153
(424) TOTAL STREET LIGHTING	155,250	160,684	166,308	172,128	178,153
	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
REFUSE & DISPOSAL	2,089,984	2,173,583	2,260,527	2,350,948	2,444,986
(430) TOTAL REFUSE & DISPOSAL	2,089,984	2,173,583	2,260,527	2,350,948	2,444,986
	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
HEALTH INSPECTION PERSONAL SERVICES	41,718	42,970	44,259	45,587	46,954
HEALTH INSPECTION OTHER EXPENSES	49,814	51,558	53,362	55,230	57,163
(510) TOTAL HEALTH INSPECTION	91,533	94,528	97,621	100,817	104,118
	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
COUNCIL ON AGING PERSONAL SERVICES	171,146	176,280	181,569	187,016	192,626
COUNCIL ON AGING OTHER EXPENSES	3,312	3,428	3,548	3,672	3,801
(541) TOTAL COUNCIL ON AGING	174,458	179,708	185,117	190,688	196,427
	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
YOUTH SERVICES PERSONAL SERVICES	392,300	404,069	416,191	428,677	441,537
YOUTH SERVICES OTHER EXPENSES	44,500	46,057	47,669	49,338	51,065
(542) TOTAL YOUTH SERVICES	436,800	450,127	463,861	478,015	492,602
	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
VETERANS PERSONAL SERVICES	4,944	5,092	5,245	5,402	5,565
VETERANS OTHER EXPENSES	366,779	379,616	392,903	406,655	420,887
(543) TOTAL VETERANS	371,723	384,709	398,148	412,057	426,452
	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%

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	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Projected	FY 2027 Projected	FY 2028 Projected	FY 2029 Projected
LIBRARY PERSONAL SERVICES	680,874	701,301	722,340	744,010	766,330
LIBRARY OTHER EXPENSES	238,881	247,242	255,895	264,852	274,122
(610) TOTAL LIBRARY	919,755	948,542	978,235	1,008,861	1,040,452
	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
DEBT EXPENSES	4,516,383	4,404,453	3,928,759	3,860,046	3,807,728
(700) TOTAL DEBT	4,516,383	4,404,453	3,928,759	3,860,046	3,807,728
	7.1%	-2.5%	-10.8%	-1.7%	-1.4%
STATE ASSESSMENTS					
(820) TOTAL STATE ASSESSMENTS	4,939,146	5,186,104	5,445,409	5,717,679	6,003,563
	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS					
(910) TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	7,904,705	8,299,940	8,714,937	9,150,684	9,608,218
	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
LIABILITY INSURANCE					
(945) TOTAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	379,851	395,045	410,846	427,280	444,372
	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
RESERVES					
(946) TOTAL RESERVES	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
TRANSFERS					
(990) TOTAL TRANSFERS	486,676	485,439	474,477	469,055	463,935
	33.4%	-0.3%	-2.3%	-1.1%	-1.1%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	78,368,409	81,121,934	83,627,259	86,676,905	89,881,978
	4.2%	3.5%	3.1%	3.6%	3.7%