



FY26 BUDGET OVERRIDE TOWN OF FRANKLIN



The Town is entering the FY26 budget process with a structural deficit that is the result of fixed costs rising faster than recurring revenues, which are constrained by the property tax growth restrictions of Proposition 2 ½. Despite School reorganization, service cuts and the use of \$3 million in one time revenues to plug the deficit in FY25, the Town still has a structural deficit of \$3,862,672. In order to address the deficit, the Town and Schools must either reduce services to bring the FY26 budget into balance or raise the limit on property tax growth to maintain the current level of services provided by both Town and School departments. After several community meetings, the Joint Budget Subcommittee, School Committee and Town Council voted in support of putting a \$3,862,672 override ballot question to the registered voters of the Town of Franklin at a Special Town Election on June 3, 2025.



TIMELINE



09/24 - 12/24

Joint Budget Sub Committee (JBSC) Kick Off



12/24-2/25

Budget Recommendations



1/25-3/25

JBSC Community Listening Sessions



3/12/25 + 3/19/25

JBSC Recommendation & Town Council Vote



6/3/25

Special Election

OVERRIDE SAMPLE:

A One-Slide Override Sample

- A \$3,862,672 override would cost an average homeowner \$312 per household annually, based on FY25.
 - Actual bills will hit in January/April 2026. Estimate bills go out in Summer/Fall 2025.

Assumptions

- FY25 Certified Median Single Family Value house is \$679,449 at a Tax Rate of \$11.62.
- Average tax bill increase \$226 for FY 25 (current fiscal year).
- A \$3,862,672 override increases the baseline Prop 2 ½ by an additional \$312 per household annually.
- Prop 2 ½ combined with the \$3,862,672 override results in a \$538 increase annually.
- Disclaimer: The FY26 tax rate is not established until November/December of 2025. The Board of Assessors will not have an actual dollar figure on the baseline Proposition 2 ½ figure until the tax rate is established. Projecting data on a tax rate establishment in 8 or 9 months is not advantageous. Staff use FY25 to illustrate the tax impact on families and households to offer a more accurate projection of their property tax increases with an override.



VISIT THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

franklinma.gov/1089/Fiscal-Year-2026-Override-Information





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TOWN OF FRANKLIN



A Menu of Possible FY26 Operating Budget Reductions

The list below is a draft of potential cuts.

These are a menu of sample cuts. The amount below is higher than the deficit to illustrate the most likely cuts and changes that would have to occur.

The list below totals \$4,255,282.

MENU OF POTENTIAL CUTS:

Line Item	Department	Personnel/Expenses	Reduction	Amounts
141	Board of Assessors	Personnel	Eliminate new administrative assistant, despite the request by the elected board	\$60,231
192	Facilities	Expenses	Implement the savings from redistricting	\$409,208
210	Police	Personnel/Expenses	Eliminate positions and possible expenses	\$250,000
220	Fire	Personnel/Expenses	Eliminate positions and possible expenses	\$250,000
300	FPS	Personnel/Expenses	Represents 54% of deficit. Continued staff and expense reductions.	\$2,085,843
422	DPW	Expenses	See charts below	\$400,000
610	Library	Expenses	reduction in hours, expenses, staff	\$50,000
910	Benefits	Expenses	Reduce OPEB Liability payment for second consecutive year	\$350,000
One-time	MECC	Expenses	Use one-time town stabilization funds	\$400,000
Various	Town Staff	Personnel/Expenses	Reduce town staff	\$250,000

UPCOMING DATES:



- April 18: Town Administrator Official Budget Filing
- April 28–May 1: Finance Committee Hearings
- May 21–May 22: Town Council Budget Hearings
- May 24: Last Day to Register to Vote
- May 15–May 30: Early Voting
- June 3: Town Special Election

