

Town of Franklin

Town Administrator
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355 East Central Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038-1352

Memorandum

June 21, 2019

To: Capital Subcommittee & Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator

Re: FY19 Capital Plan Proposal Round 2

After the winter snow season has come to a close, the Town has \$692,000 left in free cash to appropriate. Based on the requests made this year and a few other odds and ends that have come up, which need immediate attention, the following is the recommended appropriations. The full Council will be considering these recommendations later this evening.

1. **\$448,000 for Roads & Infrastructure.** As we all know, the Town has a \$40 million backlog of road work and we the Town had to cut funds in this year's operating budget and hope to get that back in for FY21. I will have another request later this year to appropriate the hotel revenue to continue to help on roads.
2. **\$24,000 for the Old South Church Study.** This money will be used for historic preservation consultants to evaluate the cost to fully renovate and bring up to code the Old South Church.
3. **\$100,000 for Public Safety Communications Infrastructure.** Verizon informed us earlier this year they are replacing all of the copper wires in Town that helped our public safety officials communicate via handheld radio to communicate on scene to the station. Staff spent the last several months meeting with Verizon and our consultants to develop a long-range game plan for coverage townwide. We are using \$87,000 in previously authorized capital funds for the Fire Department for these purposes, \$100,000 from the rebate from the MECC being delayed and this free cash appropriation to complete Phase I and Phase II. See attached plan for details.
4. **\$100,000 wage settlement account.** This is a rare and one-time request to help pay for anticipated contractual obligations, retirements, and departmental reorganizations that will occur in the next six months.
5. **\$20,000 - Beaver Street recycling center.** This the start of the land swap with the state. Funds will be used for various state requirements to swap the property, including environmental assessments, legal fees, surveys and appraisals over the next couple years.



Memorandum

June 19, 2019

To: Town Council
From: Michael D'Angelo, Facilities Director
Thomas Lynch, Chief of Police
James Klich, Acting Fire Chief
Timothy Rapoza, Director of Technology

Re: Franklin Public Safety Communication Project

Verizon is moving all dial tone in Franklin and many other communities in Massachusetts over to its FIOS fiber optic network, and abandoning their old copper network. For many years Public Safety has used reasonably priced copper pair circuits to "back-haul" hand-held radio signal to the stations. The only thing they have to replace it are very expensive T1 circuits over fiber. Converting radio communication to a VOIP platform requires expensive equipment at the stations and all antennas.

As cell phone towers were built in Franklin in the 80's and 90's, Public Safety located its antennas and repeaters on these private structures at no cost to the town. One tower at Forge Hill was sold a few years ago and the new owner wanted to charge the town 2 thousand dollars per month to keep the site operational. Fortunately Franklin TV put up a radio broadcast tower only a thousand yards from the existing tower and we were able to co-locate public safety there at no cost.

We still have the main repeaters and receivers located on private property.

We have had a radio propagation engineer do studies on the entire town and have a phased plan in place to improve radio coverage and move all safety communications to town owned property utilizing fiber and upgrading end of life equipment.

Phase 1-Add T1 circuits to switch over existing towers to VOIP communication.

Phase 2-Install fiber to Forge Hill tower. Install new main Public Safety repeater on Keller Sullivan and receiver on the Upper Union water tower. Upgrade radio equipment.

Phase 3-Install additional tower and fiber to provide a full fault tolerant network with increased capacity to the town of Franklin.



TOWN OF FRANKLIN

TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO.: 19-44

APPROPRIATION: Public Safety Communications Infrastructure

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$ 200,000

PURPOSE: To transfer \$100,000 from Free Cash and to Transfer \$100,000 from funds remaining in the MECC Dispatch Center Account for a total of Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for Public Safety Communications Infrastructure.

MOTION

Be It Moved and voted by the Town Council that the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) be transferred from Free Cash and that the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) be transferred from the MECC Dispatch Center Account for a total of Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for Public Safety Communications Infrastructure to be expended at the discretion of the Town Administrator and to include any residual funds remaining in line items.

This resolution shall become effective according to the provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.

DATED: _____, 2019

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: ____ NO: ____

ABSTAIN: ____ ABSENT: ____

RECUSED: _____

Teresa M. Burr
Town Clerk

Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council



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