

Town of
MERRIMAC, MASS.

Report of the
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2025

**A Summary of the recommendations
To be presented at the
Annual Town Meeting
To be held on:**

Monday April 29, 2024

7:30 P.M.

**At the Sweetsir School
102 Church St. Merrimac, MA 01860**

**Report of the
Capital Planning Committee
Town of Merrimac
Fiscal Year 2025**

The Capital Planning Committee met with numerous department heads and committees February 26th and February 27th, 2024, to review Capital requests for Fiscal Year 2025 and projected Capital requests through Fiscal Year 2029. Departments are asked to project their anticipated Capital requests for the next five fiscal years so the Town can plan accordingly. We have numerous challenges facing us as a community. The Committee reviews all Capital requests with an anticipated life duration of at least five years and an initial cost of \$20,000 or more. Generally, the criteria applied in developing recommendations in order of priority are: 1) necessary to respond to State or Federal mandates; 2) public safety and/or health considerations; and 3) operational necessity.

Attached is a Summary of our Recommendations together with the Requests by Department reflecting the votes of the Capital Planning Committee for Fiscal Year 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Marden, Chairperson & representing Finance Committee

Sandra Venner

David Cressman

Bonnie Pearlman

Chris Manni, representing Board of Selectmen

Marcia Zosack, alternate Finance Committee Representative

Carol McLeod, Finance Director (Ex-Officio)

FY2025 - Capital Planning Recommendations

Summary

Free Cash

Total Available	\$	630,442
Approved Capital Requests	\$	(468,500)
Balance for Other Requests	\$	161,942

Grant Funding

Water Retained Earnings

Total Available	\$	95,517
Approved Capital Requests	\$	(65,000)
Balance of Retained Earnings	\$	30,517

Wastewater Retained Earnings

Total Available	\$	318,002
Approved Capital Requests	\$	(192,000)
Balance for Other Wastewater Requests	\$	126,002

Total Capital Recommended Requests	\$	725,500
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Other Free Cash Funding Requests

Stabilization Balance	\$	1,020,350
Fire and Ambulance Apparatus Stabilization	\$	636
Capital Stabilization	\$	315,423
Total Stabilization as of 12/31/2023	\$	1,336,409

FY2025 - Capital Planning Requests

Description	Replacement or New	Requests		Recommended	Funding Source	Recommendation
		FY25	Priority			
Police						
Administrative Police Cruiser (50) (2012)	Replacement	\$ 60,000	1	\$ 60,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Fire						
Command Vehicle- C1	Replacement	\$ 90,000	1	\$ 90,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Building Study-Masonry & Systems	Replacement	\$ 80,000	3	\$ -		
Radios- Mobile & Portable	Replacement	\$ 56,000	1	\$ -		
Casade System- 1998 purchase	Replacement	\$ 80,000	2	\$ -		
Apparatus Capital Plan	New	\$ 100,000		\$ -		
Highway						
Town wide road improvements	Replacement	\$ 500,000	2	\$ -		
DPW Garage W/Salt Shed	Replacement	\$ 4,000,000	1	\$ 50,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Roadway Compressor	Replacement	\$ 10,000	1	\$ 10,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Park and Rec						
Park and Rec Garage Repairs	Replacement	\$ 45,000	1	\$ 20,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Town Hall						
Exterior Painting	Replacement	\$ 100,000	1			
COA						
COA Food Pantry Expansion	Replacement/Upgrade	\$ 25,000	2	\$ -		
Outside Building, Window, Façade Repairs	Replacement	\$ 20,000	1	\$ 20,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Library						
Adult Area	Replacement	\$ 138,500	1	\$ 138,500	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Multi Purpose/Admin Areas	Replacement	\$ 121,500	2	\$ -		
Commission of Disabilities						
Town wide sidewalk improvements	Replacement	\$ 45,000		\$ 45,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Sweetsir						
Flooring - Asbestos Tiles @ \$12K Sq Ft - Original wing	Replacement	\$ 35,000	1			
Communications - Design and Install 911 Classroom and intercom	Replacement	\$ 40,000	1	\$ -		
Donaghue						
Building Interior - Hussey Back Stop Repair	Replacement	\$ 19,000	2	\$ -		
Replace Classroom Asbestos tiles	Replacement	\$ 35,000	1	\$ 35,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Communications - Design and Install Telephone and 911 Classroom	Replacement	\$ 40,000	1	\$ -		
Total Town Capital Requests		\$ 5,640,000		\$ 468,500		
Available				\$ 630,442		
Delta				\$ 161,942		

FY2025 - Capital Planning Requests

Description	Replacement or New	Requests		Priority	Recommended		Funding Source	Recommendation
		FY25			FY25			
Water								
Meter Replacement	Replacement	\$ 30,000		1	\$ 30,000		Retained Earnings	Yes 5 - 0
Water Infrastructure Improvements	Replacement	\$ 25,000		4	\$ 25,000		Retained Earnings	Yes 5 - 0
Roadway Compressor	Replacement	\$ 10,000		2	\$ 10,000		Retained Earnings	Yes 5 - 0
Sub-total Water		\$ 65,000			\$ 65,000			
Wastewater								
Treatment Plant/improvements	Replacement	\$ 177,000		1	\$ 177,000		Retained Earnings	Yes 5 - 0
Water Meters	Replacement	\$ 10,000		2	\$ 10,000		Retained Earnings	Yes 5 - 0
Roadway Compressor	New	\$ 5,000		3	\$ 5,000		Retained Earnings	Yes 5 - 0
Sub-total Wastewater		\$ 192,000			\$ 192,000			
Total Requests		\$ 5,897,000			\$ 5,897,000			

**Tax Impact on Home Valued at \$621,118
Resulting from Debt Exclusions and General Overrides**

Debt Exclusions - Impact on property tax rate is for the duration of debt service - usually 20 years for major capital expenditures.

	Amount	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Town Hall Renovation and Addition	\$ 2,850,000	\$ 67	\$ 63	\$ 65		
Construction of New Library	\$ 2,351,263	\$ 56	\$ 54	\$ 52	\$ 49	
Police Station Project	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 163	\$ 165	\$ 161	\$ 166	\$ 165
PRSD Middle/High School Project		\$ 398	\$ 719	\$ 711	\$ 732	\$ 730
Total Debt Exclusions		\$ 684	\$ 1,000	\$ 989	\$ 947	\$ 895

General Overrides - Impact on property tax rate is permanent and can increase each year by 2 1/2%, but decreases when reevaluated property values go up.

	Amount	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
School Operating Budget - FY2002	\$ 167,768	\$ 120	\$ 123	\$ 125	\$ 130	\$ 130
School Operating Budget - FY2003	\$ 243,818	\$ 175	\$ 179	\$ 182	\$ 189	\$ 189
Library Operating Budget - FY2005	\$ 35,034	\$ 24	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 26	\$ 26
School Operating Budget - FY2006	\$ 484,500	\$ 323	\$ 331	\$ 336	\$ 348	\$ 350
EMT-Firefighter - FY2008	\$ 47,000	\$ 30	\$ 31	\$ 31	\$ 32	\$ 32
COA Nutrition Program - FY2008	\$ 31,700	\$ 19	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 21	\$ 21
On Call Firefighter/EMT - FY2009	\$ 50,000	\$ 31	\$ 32	\$ 32	\$ 33	\$ 34
Schools Operating Budget - FY2010	\$ 315,000	\$ 190	\$ 195	\$ 198	\$ 205	\$ 206
Schools Operating Budget - FY2017	\$ 100,000	\$ 51	\$ 52	\$ 53	\$ 55	\$ 55
Schools Operating Budget - FY2024	\$ 860,000				\$ 396	\$ 398
Total General Overrides		\$ 964	\$ 988	\$ 1,002	\$ 1,435	\$ 1,441

Combined Total Impact of Debt Exclusions and Overrides	\$ 1,648	\$ 1,988	\$ 1,991	\$ 2,382	\$ 2,336
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