

Town of
MERRIMAC, MASS.

Report of the
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2026

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

Monday April 28, 2025

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 2026**

The Capital Planning Committee met with numerous department heads and committees February 24th and March 3rd to review Capital requests for Fiscal Year 2026 and projected Capital requests through Fiscal Year 2030. 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 2026.

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)

FY2026 - Capital Planning Recommendations

Summary

Free Cash

Total Available Approved	\$	524,123
Capital Requests	\$	(327,822)
Balance for Other Requests	\$	196,301

Water Retained Earnings

Total Available Approved	\$	81,594
Capital Requests	\$	(72,000)
Lease	\$	(60,000)
Balance of Retained Earnings	\$	9,594

Wastewater Retained Earnings

Total Available Approved	\$	130,541
Capital Requests	\$	(130,000)
Balance for Other Wastewater Requests	\$	541

Total Capital Recommended Requests	\$	589,822
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Other Free Cash Funding Requests	\$	195,000
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Stabilization Balance	\$	1,069,939
Capital Stabilization Balance	\$	325,252
Fire and Ambulance Apparatus Stabilization	\$	636
Total Stabilization as of 12/31/2024	\$	1,395,827

FY2026 - Capital Planning Recommendations

Description	Replacement or New	Request		Recommended	Funding Source	Recommend.
		FY26	Priority			
Police						
Taser Replacement (5) Year Lease with Axon for 12 Tasers and Training Package. Total Cost \$78,595.20. (5) Year Lease \$15,719.04 per year for 5 Years	Replacement	\$ 15,719	3			
Police Cruiser (51) (2015) - Waiting for quotes	Replacement	\$ 65,000	2	\$ 65,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Dispatch Console - Waiting for updated quotes. Estimated between \$180,000 and \$225,000	Replacement	\$ 175,000	1			
Fire						
Facility improvements	Replacement	\$ 150,000	1	\$ 100,000	Free Cash & Transfers	Yes 5 - 0
Boiler/water heater	Replacement	\$ 75,000	2			
Town-wide AED Solution	Replacement	\$ 35,000	3	\$ 20,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Zoll Monitors	Replacement	\$ 125,000	1			
Apparatus Capital Plan	Replacement	\$ 100,000				
Highway						
Town wide road improvements	Replacement	\$ 500,000	1			
DPW Garage W/Salt Shed	New	\$ 4,000,000	2			
Ford 3930 Tractor/Mid Mount Mower	Replacement	\$ 170,000	3	\$ 20,822	Lease and Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Town Hall						
Exterior Painting	Replacement	\$ 100,000	1			
Windows - 2nd Floor & Towers	Replacement	\$ 180,000	2			
Library						
Paint & Trim	New	\$ 30,000	2			
HVAC and Roof Repairs	New	\$ 55,000	1	\$ 45,000	Free Cash and Grant	Yes 5 - 0
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	\$ 16,000	3	\$ 16,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Donaghue						
Replace Classroom Asbestos tiles	Replacement	\$ 16,000	1	\$ 16,000	Free Cash	Yes 5 - 0
Total Town Capital Requests		\$ 5,852,719		\$ 327,822		
Available				\$ 524,123		
Delta				\$ 196,301		
Water						
Meter Replacement	Replacement	\$ 19,000	3	\$ 19,000	Retained Earnings	Yes 4 - 0
Water Infrastructure Improvements	Replacement	\$ 43,000	1	\$ 43,000	Retained Earnings	Yes 4 - 0

FY2026 - Capital Planning Recommendations

Description	Replacement or New	Request		Recommended	Funding Source	Recommend.
		FY26	Priority			
Truck Replacement 1	Replacement	\$ 60,000	2	\$ 60,000	Lease	Yes 4 - 0
Building, Road, Pump Replacement	Replacement	\$ 10,000	4	\$ 10,000	Retained Earnings	Yes 4 - 0
Total Water Requests		\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000		
Wastewater						
Treatment Plant/improvements	Replacement	\$ 100,000	1	\$ 100,000	Retained Earnings	Yes 4 - 0
Pump Station Repairs - pedestals	Replacements	\$ 23,000	2	\$ 23,000	Retained Earnings	Yes 4 - 0
Water Meters	Replacement	\$ 7,000	3	\$ 7,000	Retained Earnings	Yes 4 - 0

FY2026 - Capital Planning Requests

Description	Replacement or New	Amount													
		FY26	Priority	FY27	Priority	FY28	Priority	FY29	Priority	FY30	Priority				
Replace Ceiling Tiles in Classrooms and Halls	Replacement	TBD	1			TBD	3								
Bathroom Drain Relining	Replacement	TBD	1												
Basketball Hoops and Rims	Replacement									TBD	3				
Resurface Gym Floor	Replacement									TBD	3				
Sub-total Donaghue		\$ 16,000		\$ 316,000		\$ 391,000		\$ 241,000		\$ -		\$ -			
Water															
Meter Replacement	Replacement	\$ 19,000	3	\$ 20,000	3	\$ 20,000	2	\$ 20,000	2	\$ 20,000	1	\$ 20,000	1	\$ 20,000	1
Water Infrastructure Improvements	Replacement	\$ 43,000	1	\$ 100,000	1	\$ 100,000	1	\$ 100,000	1	\$ 100,000	1	\$ 100,000	1	\$ 100,000	1
2012 F350 Pickup -DEBT	Replacement	\$ 60,000	2												
2015 Transit Van	Replacement			\$ 30,000	2										
Building, Road, Pump Replacement	Replacement	\$ 10,000	4	\$ 20,000	4	\$ 20,000	3	\$ 20,000	3	\$ 20,000	3	\$ 20,000	3	\$ 20,000	
Water Emergency Planning - Plan development/Dep coordination	New			\$ 38,500	5										
Please assign a priority any requests, 1 being the highest priority.															
Sub-total Water		\$ 132,000		\$ 208,500		\$ 140,000		\$ 140,000		\$ 140,000		\$ 140,000		\$ 140,000	
Wastewater															
Treatment Plant/improvements	Replacement	\$ 100,000	1	\$ 100,000	1	\$ 200,000	1	\$ 200,000	1	\$ 200,000	1	\$ 200,000	1	\$ 200,000	1
West Shore Pump Station	Replacement					\$ 80,000	4								
Willowdale Pump Station	Replacement					\$ 80,000	2								
Pump Station Repairs - pedestals	Replacements	\$ 23,000	2												
Orchard Acres Pump Station	Replacement									\$ 80,000	2				
Chevy 2500 PU-2013-debt	Replacement			\$ 65,000	4										
Red Oak Panel	Replacement			\$ 50,000	4										
Chevy 2500 Utility-2015-debt	Replacement			\$ 100,000	2										
Water Meters	Replacement	\$ 7,000	3	\$ 10,000	3	\$ 10,000	3	\$ 10,000	3	\$ 10,000	3	\$ 10,000	3	\$ 10,000	2
Sub-total Wastewater		\$ 130,000		\$ 325,000		\$ 370,000		\$ 370,000		\$ 290,000		\$ 210,000		\$ 210,000	
Total Requests		\$ 6,114,719		\$ 2,842,219		\$ 2,436,719		\$ 2,901,721		\$ 6,495,719		\$ 6,495,719		\$ 6,495,719	