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Town Manager



**TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH**  
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## Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Message

To the Honorable Members of the North Attleborough Town Council,

As we prepare to enter Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), I am pleased to present a budget that reflects our continued commitment to responsible governance, strategic investment, and the delivery of exceptional services to the residents of North Attleborough. The FY26 budget stands as both a financial roadmap and a reaffirmation of the values that guide our work—transparency, stewardship, and community focus.

Fiscal Year 2025 was marked by significant accomplishments in stabilizing our financial outlook while continuing to invest in infrastructure, public safety, and service delivery. These successes were made possible by careful fiscal planning, a strong local economy, and the dedication of our department heads and staff. As we move into FY26, our financial position remains strong, but we are also realistic about the challenges ahead, particularly in the areas of healthcare costs, collective bargaining obligations, and long-range capital planning.

The FY26 budget is set at \$113,230,547 reflecting a 3.7% increase over FY25. This growth is driven by steady tax levy increases under Proposition 2½, continued strength in local receipts (projected at a 9.1% increase), and prudent use of Free Cash and stabilization funds to support capital and operational needs. New growth is forecasted at \$550,000, and our AA+ bond rating remains in place, reaffirming confidence in our fiscal management.

### **Strategic Investments and Priorities for FY26**

#### **Public Works and Infrastructure:**

We continue to address long-term infrastructure needs, including ongoing investment in roads, PFAS mitigation, stormwater management, and critical facility maintenance. Our DPW continues to lead in securing grants and completing projects ahead of schedule.

#### **Public Safety:**

With no new staffing additions in FY26, we are leveraging grants and reserve funding to maintain high service levels in police, fire, and emergency dispatch. The Ambulance Receipt Reserve fund continues to support the NAFD EMS division, even as mutual aid and call volume increase by approximately 7% annually.

#### **Education and Youth Investment:**

Support for North Attleborough Public Schools remains a top priority, with FY26 representing over 53% of the Town's operating budget. We continue to plan for the long-term future of our educational infrastructure, including the NAHS project, while managing substantial assessment increases for Tri-County Vocational due to enrollment and MSBA capital obligations.

**Community Development and Growth:**

We are preparing for a wave of projects expected to come online between FY27 and FY30 along Kelley Boulevard, Draper Avenue, Elm Street, and South Washington Street. Investments in downtown and mixed-use zoning are paving the way for sustained new growth.

**Financial Resilience and Long-Term Planning:**

Our stabilization fund balances exceed \$15.3 million, and Free Cash was certified at \$5.54 million for FY25. These reserves allow us to fund key capital needs and absorb short-term budgetary shocks, particularly in areas such as health insurance, which is projected to increase by 15% in FY26.

**Looking Ahead**

While this budget is balanced and forward-looking, it is not without concern. We are facing:

- Ongoing healthcare inflation with claims exceeding premiums at a 110% trend line
- The need to renegotiate seven collective bargaining agreements
- Capital planning pressures as we anticipate major projects and equipment cycles
- Uncertainty around state aid and increasing costs in insurance and utilities

The five-year forecast we've developed helps position the Town to absorb these pressures while maintaining essential services and preparing for future growth. We remain committed to maintaining high collection rates, leveraging external funding, and seeking efficiencies across all departments.

**In Closing**

The FY26 budget reflects our continued commitment to managing today's obligations while preparing for tomorrow's challenges. It is a balanced, thoughtful plan that supports our Town's strategic goals, protects taxpayer dollars, and reinforces our long-term financial health.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Town Council for your guidance and collaboration, our department heads for their stewardship and leadership, and the residents of North Attleborough for their trust and partnership. Together, we are not only navigating another fiscal year, we are building a resilient and sustainable future for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,



**Michael D. Borg**  
Town Manager  
North Attleborough, MA