

TOWN OF EAST LYME  
FIRST SELECTMAN'S PROPOSED  
2021/2022 BUDGET SUMMARY

The increase in the proposed Town and Board of Education budgets for the coming fiscal year are shown below in millions of dollars.

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>General</b>				
<b>Government</b>	<b>\$18.852</b>	<b>\$19.610</b>	<b>\$0.758</b>	<b>4.02%</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>5.817</b>	<b>5.804</b>	<b>(0.012)</b>	<b>(.22%)</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>.649</b>	<b>.683</b>	<b>0.034</b>	<b>5.29%</b>
<b>Total Town Only</b>	<b>25.318</b>	<b>26.098</b>	<b>.780</b>	<b>3.08%</b>
<b>Board of Education</b>	<b>50.873</b>	<b>52.931</b>	<b>2.058</b>	<b>4.05%</b>
<b>Total Town and BoE</b>	<b>\$76.191</b>	<b>\$79.029</b>	<b>\$2.838</b>	<b>3.73%</b>

The proposed budget includes a 4.05% increase proposed by the Board of Education Superintendent currently under review by the Board of Education; I propose a 4.02% increase for the Town, a .22% decrease for Debt Service and a 5.29% increase for capital. Together, the entire municipal budget is expected to increase by \$2.838 million or 3.73%.

**Budget Increases/Highlights**

The following major cost increases and decreases have been included in this budget because they were required, mandated by the State, or deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. Major budget increases or decreases are detailed below except for the Board of Education. Per the Charter, I am passing on to you in total the Board of Education budget as presented.

Building Department \$26,415

The reason for the increase is in the Assistant Building Official account to 33.5 weekly hours and possibly transitioning to a full-time staff member. In addition, an increase of up to four hours per week for the part-time Administrative Assistant.

Information Technology \$67,717

In the 2020/2021 budget, we increased the departmental budget as a short-term solution, with the outside IT contract to cover after hour's needs for the Public Safety departments. In addition, we moved all IT related expenditures from the following departments to the IT department: Planning (117), Dispatch (215), Police (216) and Fire Marshal (224) Emergency Management (214) – where there were corresponding decreases in these departments. Due to the upcoming move to the Public Safety Building by the departments noted above, we believe it best to continue with the same model – using outside IT contract services to meet our needs. With the state mandate for body cameras, the new support contract for the police cars and body cameras increases from \$4,000 to \$32,000. In addition, \$22,000 to the outside IT services contract for the billing rate increase to \$100 per hour.

### Registrars (\$27,737)

The reason for the decrease in the budget is last year we had the Presidential election and Presidential Primaries.

### Maintenance of Town Buildings \$76,074

The primary reason for the increase in this department is for the move to the new Public Safety Building. We will need 182 hours per week for our Custodians with the new building, whereas, we currently use 163 hours per week. We will also require preventative HVAC unit maintenance, security coverage, servicing of fire extinguishers and pest control services. There are also impacts to the electric and heating accounts. We did include operating funds in department 120 (Contingency) in the 2020/2021 budget for many of the items noted above, therefore, we moved the funding from the contingency department to this one.

### General Government & Misc \$183,917

There is an increase in payroll taxes in the amount of \$36,589 – due to overall general wage increases, and the addition of two new Police Officers. We are estimating an 8% increase in health insurance funding in the amount of \$190,510. As you know we are now in the State of CT 2.0 Plan and are expecting the State to release the actual rates soon, therefore, can make a final budget projection. We are estimating an \$83,072 decrease in the annual required pension contribution. Due to the Police Accountability Act, we added a \$25,000 legal account for specialized assistance to meet the requirements of the act. Our property and workers comp insurance premiums are expected to increase by 3%/

### Contingency \$91,068

This includes \$99,068 for wage contingency to include UPSEU wages, funding for a change in the Police Chief contract and other miscellaneous wage issues. We increased the general contingency by \$50,000 from \$125,000 to \$175,000.

### Inland Wetlands Agency \$25,911

This supports a \$25,000 allowance for contracting services with SECOG for an anticipated change in applications for the change to the upland review area from 100 feet to 300 feet. With this being the first year in dealing with this change, we thought it best to begin using consulting services rather than hiring an additional town employee.

### Public Safety – Dispatch \$31,231

We rely on part-time dispatchers to fill open shifts. It is often difficult to fill all the shifts with the part-timers we have in our ranks. When we cannot fill these shifts with part-timers, we need to have our full-time staff members work which means we pay them overtime. We have decreased the funding for part-time employees by \$34,952, however, increased the overtime budget by \$45,607 to meet the needs of the department.

### Public Safety – Police \$205,701

The increase is primarily due to requesting two additional Police Officers. The department has made significant progress to transition from a more reactive agency, to one which focuses on more proactive enforcement. However, our staffing and funding continue to remain below both national average and regional comparison. Currently, the ELPD is staffed at 1.3 Officers per 1,000 population, while the State average is 2.07 according to the Office of Legislative Research, which places us as the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest per capita staffing out of the State's 94 municipal departments. Other areas in the budget with increases are uniforms, training wages and supplies, prisoner expenses and testing/accreditation related to the Police Accountability Act. The increases were partially offset by the \$37,899 decrease for facility rental.

### Public Safety/Flanders Fire Department \$38,419

The increase here is for part-time and overtime wages.

### Public Works (\$17,407)

At this time, the wage increases for the employees in this department are being held in the contingency department awaiting the final stages of a 2.25% COLA agreed upon and awaiting approval. We have a \$29,000 decrease in the Tipping Fee account due to decrease in commercial tonnage and we are receiving a credit for transportation on our bill monthly as opposed to receiving a revenue. In addition, we went out to bid for unleaded and diesel fuels and our new rates of \$1.5931 and \$1.58 reflect 18% and 23.9% decreases.

### Commission on Aging \$14,184

In the 2019/2020 fiscal year the department Program Coordinator left. For the current fiscal year, we did not budget a full year since there were no programs taking place because of the pandemic. We now have a Program Coordinator on board and the position is funded for the entire fiscal year.

### Library- (\$15,346)

The decrease in this budget is related to current year budget savings that they are carrying forward to next fiscal year.

### Debt Service – (\$12,625)

While we strive to keep our debt service as smooth as possible, we do get some fluctuation. Overall interest will increase \$129,987 and principal is decreasing \$142,612. We also benefit from savings due to debt re-funding's.

### Capital Outlays/Equipment – \$34,334

We have developed a plan to adequately maintain our infrastructure, replace older vehicles and equipment for efficiency in costs and plan.

Included in capital is funding in the amount of \$137,880 for the Capital Non-recurring Fund as follows: \$4,000 CAD Software & Survey Equipment, \$10,000 roof replacement town-wide, \$15,000 HVAC Replacement Town-wide, \$10,000 Sidewalk Repair – town-wide, \$5,000 Town-wide Servers and \$85,380 to evenly spread the cost of statistical and full revaluations over the next 10 years..

Various town capital items as follows: \$5,051 for the Engineering vehicle acquisition payments, \$10,000

town-wide computers continuing our replacement program, \$50,194 for P&R acquisition program, \$16,000 for turn-out gear replacement both NFD and FFD, \$7,366 FFD acquisition program payments, \$7,920 for NFD & \$6,600 FFD for SCBA 45 minute cylinders, \$6,000 for assorted fire hose Flanders Fire Department and \$5,000 for Niantic Fire Department, \$633 for prior year Police acquisition program, \$10,388 for Fire Marshal acquisition, \$375,040 for Public Works acquisition and \$15,000 to purchase MSW Recycling Carts. We are in need to replace two microwave links for the communication towers and include \$14,041 to be part of the acquisition program.

### **Proposed Revenues**

The revenue side of the budget is always a challenge. The projected State Revenues will be released on February 10, 2021 by the Governor; therefore, we will update them at that time. These revenue sources, as well as their amounts, may change as the Governor's budget goes through the State's upcoming legislative process.

Following is a listing of those major municipal revenue sources that are expected to increase or decrease during the coming fiscal year. Only those revenue sources changing by \$10,000 or above are listed.

#### **Revenue Increases:**

- Emergency Management Grants - \$19,562
- Building Permits – \$130,645
- Conveyance Taxes - \$25,000
- Landfill Deposits - \$17,750
- Operating Transfer In Capital Projects - \$183,641

#### **Revenue Decreases:**

- Interest & Liens – Current Year Taxes \$10,000
- Education Cost Sharing - \$190,252 (per state phase out schedule)
- Municipal Stabilization Grant - \$15,723
- Investment Earnings - \$15,000
- Tuition Other Districts - \$184,080
- Transportation Subsidy - \$40,000 (we now receive credit on monthly invoice)
- Tipping Fees Commercial - \$20,225
- Insurance Reimbursements - \$30,000
- Misc Dog Revenue – 15,519