

# *Annual Report* *Fiscal Year 2024*

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### ***Introduction:***

The City of Boston Finance Commission is an independent watchdog agency, established by Massachusetts Acts and Resolves of 1909, Chapter 486, Section 17, to monitor the administrative and financial activities of the City of Boston. The Commission reviews all unadvertised contracts over \$50,000 issued by city departments, as well as other documents pertaining to city operations, investigates complaints of potential wrongdoing, undertakes research projects to uncover municipal efficiencies and reports the findings of any irregularities to the Gubernatorial appointed members, the City of Boston Administration and to the public.

The Boston Finance Commission promotes transparency, accountability and the application of proven good governance and business practices with the focus on acting in the best interest of the taxpayers. To assist in accomplishing this task, the Commission is empowered with subpoena powers, which can be utilized when necessary. The Commission's independence allows it to operate free of political pressures and to focus on policies and procedures that will lead to efficient and responsible governing practices for the City of Boston.

## ***General Information about Boston Finance Commission***

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### ***Membership***

Commission members are appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts for terms of five years. All appointees must have resided in the City of Boston for at least three years at the time of the appointment.

Commission members and their term expiration dates are as follows:

Richard Iannella, Chair (10/9/2024)

Sheriece Perry (8/9/2027)

Mario Nicosia (7/17/2025)

Grace Fey (9/18/2025)

Howard Kahalas (7/28/2026)

### ***Executive Director***

Matthew A. Cahill serves as Executive Director of the Finance Commission. Mr. Cahill became the Executive Director of the Finance Commission in 2009.

### ***Budget***

The Commission is an independent watchdog agency, funded by the City of Boston. The Finance Commission budget appropriation for Fiscal Year 2024 was \$325,736.00.

### ***Meetings***

The Commission convenes often throughout the year. Meetings are public and citizens are encouraged to attend. Meetings are usually held at the Curley Conference Room at 43 Hawkins Street, Boston. In Fiscal Year 2024, Boston Finance Commission held a total of seven virtual and in-person meetings.

## *Summary of Commission Activity in Fiscal Year 2024*

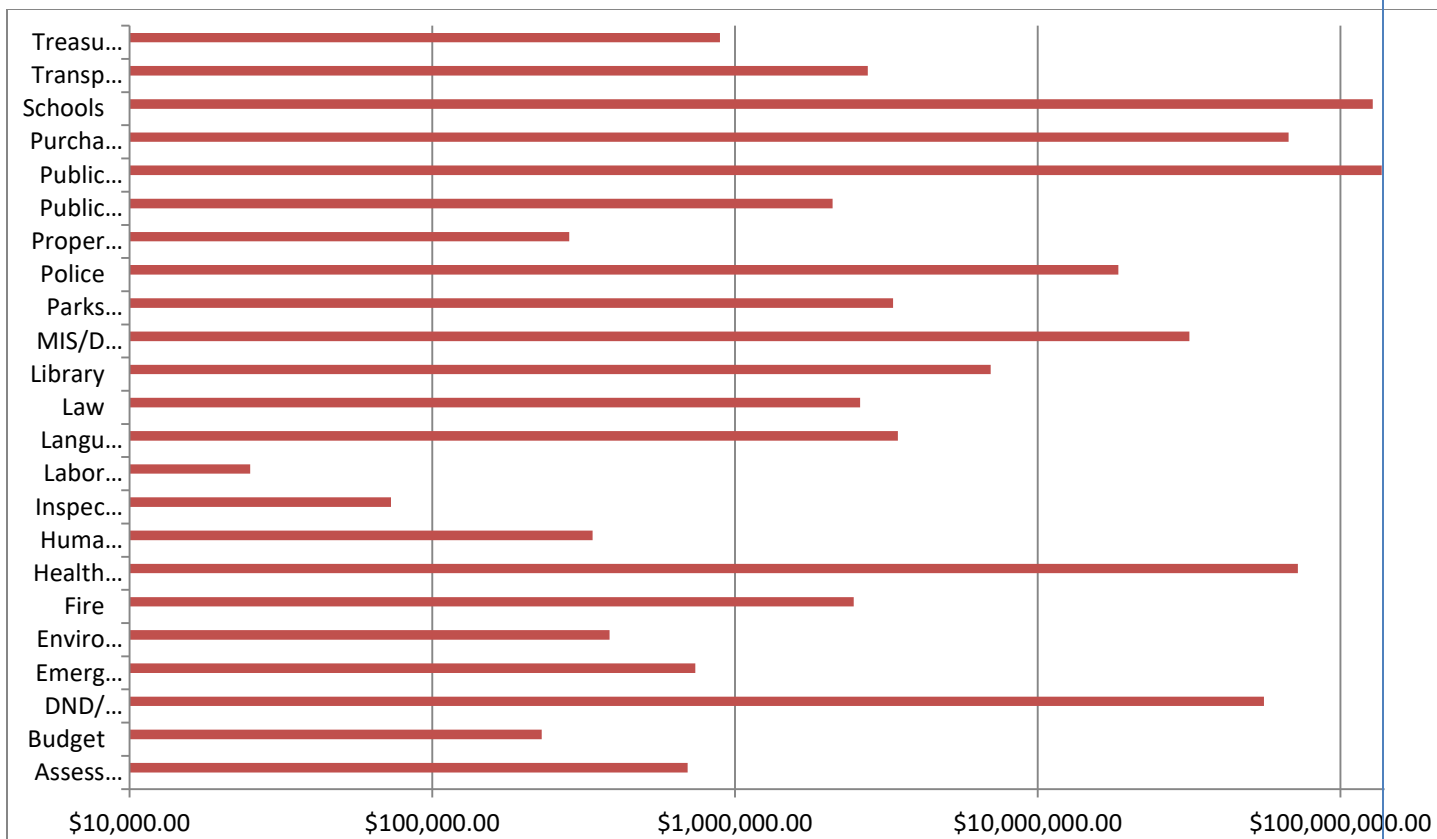
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### *Unadvertised Contracts*

It is the business of the Finance Commission to review all unadvertised contracts over the \$50,000 dollar value set forth by M.G.L. 30B, to assure Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bidding Law compliance. The review process allows the Commission to consider the need for the services, review the qualifications of the vendor, and monitor the provider's hourly/daily rate and the total cost of the contract.

**In Fiscal Year 2024, the Finance Commission reviewed 486 unadvertised contracts issued by various city departments, having a total value of \$538,148,695.99. The following chart and graph details contracts reviewed data.**

<u>Department</u>	<u># of Contracts</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
Assessing	3	\$698,176.50
Budget	2	\$229,999.00
DND/Housing	68	\$55,908,076.77
Emergency	5	\$739,614.83
Environment	6	\$384,950.00
Fire	5	\$2,469,000.00
Health Benefits	7	\$72,345,000.00
Human Resources	4	\$338,623.00
Inspectional Services	1	\$73,105.10
Labor Relations	1	\$25,000.00
Language and Communications Access	6	\$3,450,000.00
Law	30	\$2,591,130.00
Library	2	\$7,000,000.00
MIS/DoIT	70	\$31,742,182.95
Parks and Recreation	16	\$3,327,830.00
Police	44	\$18,457,226.47
Property Management	4	\$283,190.00
Public Facilities	4	\$2,103,298.48
Public Works	9	\$136,937,282.97
Purchasing/Procurement	60	\$67,500,000.00
Schools	131	\$127,903,334.72
Transportation	5	\$2,748,695.20
Treasury	3	\$892,980.00
	486	\$538,148,695.99



## *Reports & Activities*

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1. The office composed a report regarding publicly bid goods and services that receive only one bid response, and noted three incidents where this occurred. The report cites the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General guidelines for creating and reviewing best practices, and notes that the Finance Commission advises when only a single bidder responds to a request for proposals, it should trigger a review of the document to assure there were no barriers to increased competition.
2. The Finance Commission created a document summarizing the Fiscal Year 2024 City of Boston budget. The document was issued as a quick guide to reported city revenues.
3. The website [Bostonfincomm.com](http://Bostonfincomm.com) was restructured and relaunched. The site offers contact information, as well as meeting minutes and reports issued, and are independent. All future reports will be issued and published through the site.
4. The Finance Commission continues to review several ongoing issues; including bike lane installation and usage city-wide, White Stadium, George Wright Golf Course change of catering vendors, property tax revenues, contracting practices by various city departments, as well as other issues. When appropriate, the Commission contacts and data-shares with other agencies, to assure transparency and accountability in City of Boston operations.
5. The Finance Commission spent a great deal of time auditing city contracts to gauge oversight of spending. The office will be producing a report regarding the findings and concerns.
6. The Finance Commission regularly conducts site visits as part of investigations into contracts and/or complaints. In FY24, these site visits included George Wright Golf Course, school bus parking lots, various city neighborhoods for bike lane observations and meetings with residents across the city regarding complaints or concerns.