



Welcome!

From the volunteers who brought you OneFranklin, we hope this newsletter serves as a monthly resource for busy Franklinites interested in our town's financial health. We'll include important upcoming meetings, action steps you can take, and more!

Potential Cuts

At the October 23 Joint Budget Subcommittee meeting, Town Administrator Hellen was asked what cuts the Town might have to make in light of the expected multimillion dollar shortfall ([~1:51-1:54](#)). He responded that, while numbers could change, the tiers presented at the 6/26/24 Town Council meeting ([2:25-2:50](#)) were the likeliest cuts.

This means that the following cuts are likely in 2025. These cuts would not restore any cut services to the school system, nor would they close the entire deficit. Additional potential cuts, including to Franklin Public Schools, will be covered in future *Dollars and Sense*.

Proposed Cut	Total	% of 2025 Dept. Budget
8 Full Time Police Officers	\$775,000	8%
7 Full Time Fire / EMT Staff	\$632,074	7%
4 Full Time DPW workers	\$466,000	17%
DPW Expenses - Road Work	\$300,000	
DPW Expenses - Other	\$316,000	
1 Full Time Library	\$79,000	13%
Library MAR State Waiver	\$98,779	
1 Full Time Senior Center	\$109,374	15%
1 Full time Human Resources	\$79,317	14%
1 Full Time Planning	\$75,681	12%
1 Full Time Arts and Culture	\$125,400	100%
Archivist at Historical Museum	\$55,608	
LPN at Senior Center	\$46,486	
Annual OPEB Contribution	\$400,000	
Total	\$3,558,719	



Important Dates

- 12/10 @ 7:00 School Committee Meeting
- 12/11 @ 7:00 Finance Committee Meeting
- **12/17 @ 7:00 Joint Budget Subcommittee Meeting (JBSC)**
- 12/18 @ 7:00 Town Council Meeting

Zoom links are released with meeting agendas 48 hours in advance. All meetings are streamed on Franklin Town Hall YouTube.

Get Involved!

December's Actions

1. Attend the JBSC or Town Council Meetings in person or on Zoom.
2. Ask a question about potential cuts at the JBSC or Town Council meeting.
3. Write an email to all members of the Town Council.

(Email

onefranklinvolunteers@gmail.com for example template)



Clips We're Watching

- [Finance Committee Chair](#): "There's no fat...there's no hidden money."
 - Watch 23:45-25:30 to see George Conley assure that after going line by line through the budget, there's no waste.
- [School Committee Chairs](#): We're looking ahead at "a stark reality".
 - Watch 13:00-15:00 to see Dave Callahan and Dave McNeill of the School Committee petition the Town Council to engage the community in their efforts to support an override.
- For more context: All town [department heads](#)
 - In this longer clip (2:03-2:41), department heads advocate for their employees and for the services they provide our town. This was 11 weeks before the failed override.
- Stay tuned for more clips from elected officials, advocates, and neighbors!

How We Got Here

Context for the busy Franklinites

This [podcast](#) featuring former School Committee Chair Dr. Bergen frames the journey the Town and schools took **before 2024**.

On June 11, a proposed override failed by ~200 votes.

Since then, dozens of Franklin educators were laid off and dozens more opted not to return to our increasingly volatile district.

As the school year began, parents and families were shocked at the new, exorbitant fees.

A special group with members of the Town Council, School Committee, and Finance Committee (the Joint Budget Subcommittee) held its first meeting since the failed override **on 9/11/24**. That meeting did not shed light on the path to solving our town's financial woes, but it did confirm that we'll be starting next fiscal year at least \$4 million in the red.

The Subcommittee's second meeting was **Wednesday 10/23 at 7:00**. The majority of the JBSC agrees that, minimally, we are facing a \$4 million deficit, and Chairman Mercer committed to putting an agenda item on the February Town Council meeting regarding a potential override election.

If we don't take action in 2025, public safety, education, and quality of life for Franklin residents will continue to decline.

Stay Tuned For...

Future "Dollars and Sense" issues the week of 1/13, 2/4, and 2/25

- More detail about our founding team
- More information about the organization we're building and how to get involved
- More important dates, data, and ways to engage
- *Reach out to this email for any questions, corrections, or clarifications*
onefranklinvolunteers@gmail.com

One Franklin Founding Team

- Dr. Anne Bergen, former Franklin educator and School Committee Chair
- Camille Bernstein, resident advocate, former School Committee member, and parent of 2
- Sue Dewsnap, former Chair of Finance Committee and resident advocate
- Ken Ojukwu, current member of Finance Committee
- Sue Rohrbach, former School Committee member
- Roberta Trahan, resident advocate and former School Committee member
- Ruthann O'Sullivan, member of School Committee, resident advocate, parent
- Jenna Cohen, resident advocate and parent of 3
- Celia Courtright, resident advocate, parent, and Music Boosters president
- Patty Dolan, resident advocate, PCC leader, and parent
- Erin Ferguson, resident advocate
- Jayson Joyce, educator, resident advocate, and parent of 3 young children
- Ben Liberto, resident advocate and parent of 2 young children
- Alison Murphy, resident advocate and parent
- Laura Minnichelli, resident advocate and parent
- Caryn Parnell, resident advocate, retired teacher, and parent
- Jessica Ulm, resident advocate
- Rob Vacca, FPS educator for 29 years, parent of FHS student, resident advocate

One Franklin, West Central St, Franklin, MA

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