Fiscal Year 2017 Budget



TOTAL REVENUE

Total revenue for FY2017 is projected at \$146,749,254, an increase of \$4,384,629, or 3.08%.

The property tax levy is projected to increase \$2,948,705 or 2.71%. This includes the normal 2.5% increase plus \$450,000 in new growth. Local receipts are projected to increase \$75,000 due to projected increases in Motor Vehicle Excise tax collections.

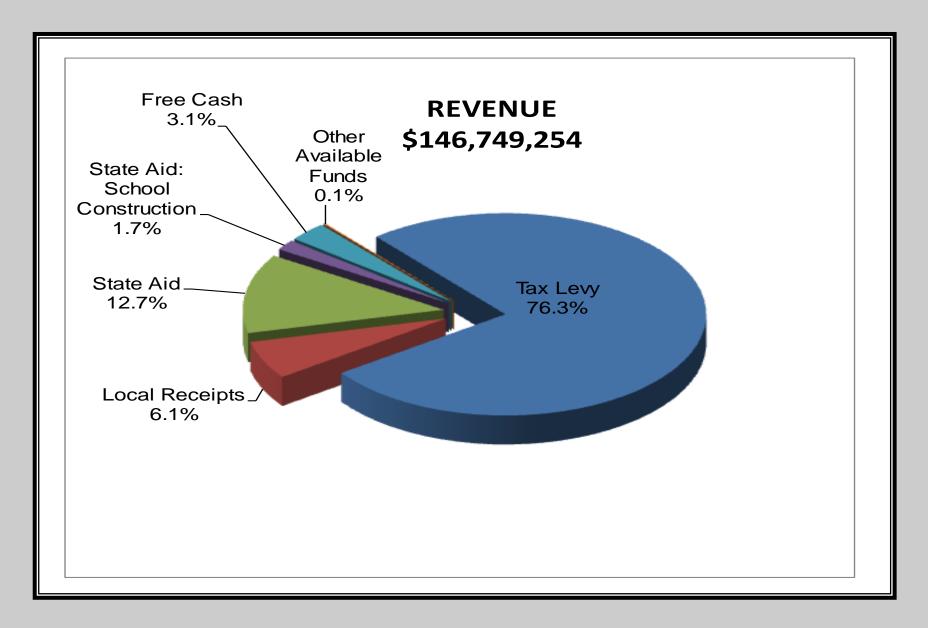
Based upon the Governor's proposed budget, state aid is projected to increase \$409,471, or 2.0%. The Governor has proposed the following: \$72.1 million increase in Chapter 70 School Aid and a \$42.1 million for General Government Aid. As it stands today, Arlington would benefit from a \$112,923 increase in Chapter 70 and \$300,732 increase in General Government Aid.

A total of \$4,537,299 in free cash is proposed to be used, which is an increase of \$1,101,453 from FY2016 and, consistent with Town financial policies, an amount equal to 50% of the Free Cash balance certified by the Department of Revenue in FY2016.

Other Available Funds include only \$200,000 in surplus tax abatement overlay funds, a decrease of \$150,000 from FY2016.

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REVENUE SOURCE	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Budget
THE PERSON OF TH	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Tax Levy	101,737,509	105,285,021	108,977,901	111,926,606	2,948,705
Local Receipts	10,245,431	10,115,304	8,896,000	8,971,000	75,000
State Aid	17,093,258	20,369,150	20,704,878	21,114,349	409,471
Free Cash	3,411,528	3,042,925	3,435,846	4,537,299	1,101,453
Other Available Funds	200,000	350,000	350,000	200,000	(150,000)
Total	132,687,726	139,162,400	142,364,625	146,749,254	4,384,629







	Total General Fund Revenues												
	FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17												
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Tax Lew*	68,050,315	71,185,238	73,220,264	75,352,894	77,877,924	80,365,862	89,409,382	92,416,269	96,144,398	99,691,909	103,384,789	106,333,494	
Local Receipts	8,834,256	9,188,329	9,024,278	8,715,308	8,653,173	9,238,654	10,291,463	9,886,882	10,296,545	10,115,304	8,896,000	8,971,000	
State Aid**	14,790,887	15,600,746	15,972,745	15,568,470	14,382,965	14,066,445	13,420,743	15,040,051	17,093,258	20,369,150	20,704,878	21,114,349	
Free Cash	1,614,155	1,939,695	954,736	2,191,622	1,497,907	582,050	481,456	1,570,000	3,411,528	3,042,925	3,435,846	4,537,299	
Other Available Funds	400,000	400,000	500,000	500,000	3,242,376	2,080,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	350,000	350,000	200,000	
Total	93 689 613	98 314 008	99 672 023	102 328 294	105 654 345	106 333 011	113 803 044	110 113 202	127 145 720	133 569 287	136 771 513	141 156 142	

^{*}Excludes MWRA Debt Shift

Annual Revenue Increases

	FY06 <u>Actual</u>	FY07 Actual	FY08 Actual	FY09 Actual	FY10 <u>Actual</u>	FY11 <u>Actual</u>	FY12 <u>Actual</u>	FY13 <u>Actual</u>	FY14 <u>Actual</u>	FY15 <u>Budget</u>	FY16 <u>Budget</u>	FY17 Budget
Tax Lew	7,434,074	3,134,923	2,035,026	2,132,630	2,525,030	2,487,938	9,043,520	3,006,887	3,728,129	3,547,511	3,692,881	2,948,705
Local Receipts	397,161	354,073	(164,051)	(308,970)	(62, 135)	585,481	1,052,809	(404,581)	409,663	(181,241)	(1,704,589)	75,000
State Aid	744,040	809,859	371,999	(404, 275)	(1,185,505)	(316,520)	(645,702)	1,619,308	2,053,207	3,275,892	335,728	409,471
Free Cash	199,352	325,540	(984,959)	1,236,886	(693,715)	(915,857)	(100,594)	1,088,544	1,841,528	(368,604)	392,922	1,101,453
Other Available Funds	(100,000)	0	100,000	0	2,742,376	(1,162,376)	(1,880,000)	0	0	150,000	0	(150,000)
Total	8,674,627	4,624,395	1,358,015	2,656,271	3,326,051	678,666	7,470,033	5,310,158	8,032,527	6,423,558	2,716,941	4,384,629
Percent Increase	10.2%	4.9%	1.4%	2.7%	3.3%	0.6%	7.0%	4.7%	6.7%	5.1%	2.0%	3.2%

Percent of Total Revenue

	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>								
Tax Levy	72.6%	72.4%	73.5%	73.6%	73.7%	75.6%	78.6%	77.6%	75.6%	74.6%	75.6%	75.3%
Local Receipts	9.4%	9.3%	9.1%	8.5%	8.2%	8.7%	9.0%	8.3%	8.1%	7.6%	6.5%	6.4%
State Aid	15.8%	15.9%	16.0%	15.2%	13.6%	13.2%	11.8%	12.6%	13.4%	15.2%	15.1%	15.0%
Free Cash	1.7%	2.0%	1.0%	2.1%	1.4%	0.5%	0.4%	1.3%	2.7%	2.3%	2.5%	3.2%
Other Available Funds	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	3.1%	2.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

^{**}Excludes MSBA Reimbursements



PROPERTY TAX LEVY

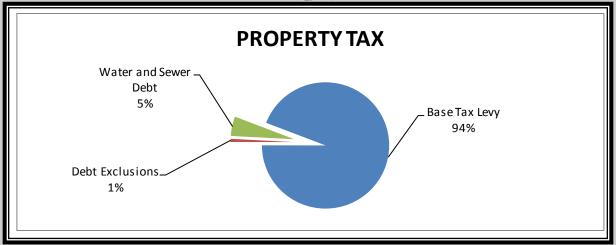
Property tax is the primary source of revenue for virtually every Massachusetts municipality. In Arlington, property taxes represent approximately 76% of annual operating revenues. Property taxes are levied on real property (land and buildings) and personal property (equipment) used by Arlington's non-manufacturing businesses. State law mandates that communities update their property values every three years and obtain State certification that such values represent full and fair cash value. A revaluation was conducted in FY2012. Under the Provisions of Proposition 2 ½, property taxes, in the aggregate, may not exceed 2 ½% of their "full and fair cash value." This limit is known as the "levy ceiling." Annual levy increases may not exceed 2 ½% of the previous year's levy plus the taxes added from any new or renovated property added to the tax rolls (known as new growth). Any Proposition 2 ½ override or debt exclusion amounts approved by voters are added to the levy limit, while all related school construction reimbursements from the State are subtracted.

Property values and new growth for FY2017 are preliminary estimates used to project the levy limit. The FY2016 levy limit was \$102,420,256. The 2 ½% increase allowed for FY2017 is \$2,560,506. New growth from construction not previously on the tax rolls is expected to add \$450,000 to the FY2017 levy. An additional \$902,732 is added to the tax levy to cover the cost of debt service for projects approved by the voters as Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion overrides. This added debt exclusion amount is net of state reimbursements estimated at \$1,615,913. Beginning in FY2012, debt service for the Symmes Urban Renewal project was added to the tax levy. FY2017 will mark the third year that tax revenues from the Symmes project will completely offset the cost of debt service. As a result Symmes debt will no longer be added to the tax levy.

The Town has accepted the provisions of Chapter 110, whereby water and sewer debt costs are transferred to the real estate taxes. At the present time, the only water and sewer debt included is from the MWRA. The Board of Selectmen voted to freeze the amount of MWRA debt shift at the FY2007 amount of \$5,593,112. Based on the above, the FY2017 tax levy is projected to total \$111,931,117 representing an increase of \$3,837,644 (3.55%) over the FY2016 levy.

PROPERTY TAX LEVY	FY2014 Budget	FY2015 Budget	FY2016 Budget	FY 2017 Budget	Budget Change
Base Tax Levy	94,898,816	98,617,161	102,420,256	105,430,762	3,010,506
General Override	-	-	-	-	=
Debt Exclusion Overrides					
Brackett School	139,164	119,714	91,583	70,318	(21,265)
Hardy School	19,564	1,165	(25,397)	(43,680)	(18,283)
Bishop School	34,426	19,101	-	(19,865)	(19,865)
Peirce School	155,856	137,718	115,878	95,693	(20,185)
Dallin School	290,072	277,596	270,347	301,820	31,473
Stratton/Thompson Plans	-	-	-	-	-
Thompson School	456,500	556,148	512,122	498,446	(13,676)
Symmes Debt	150,000	-	-		- · ·
Sub-total Debt Exclusions	1,245,582	1,111,442	964,533	902,732	(61,801)
Water and Sewer Debt	5,593,112	5,593,112	5,593,112	5,593,112	=
Total	101,737,509	105,321,715	108,977,901	111,926,606	2,948,705

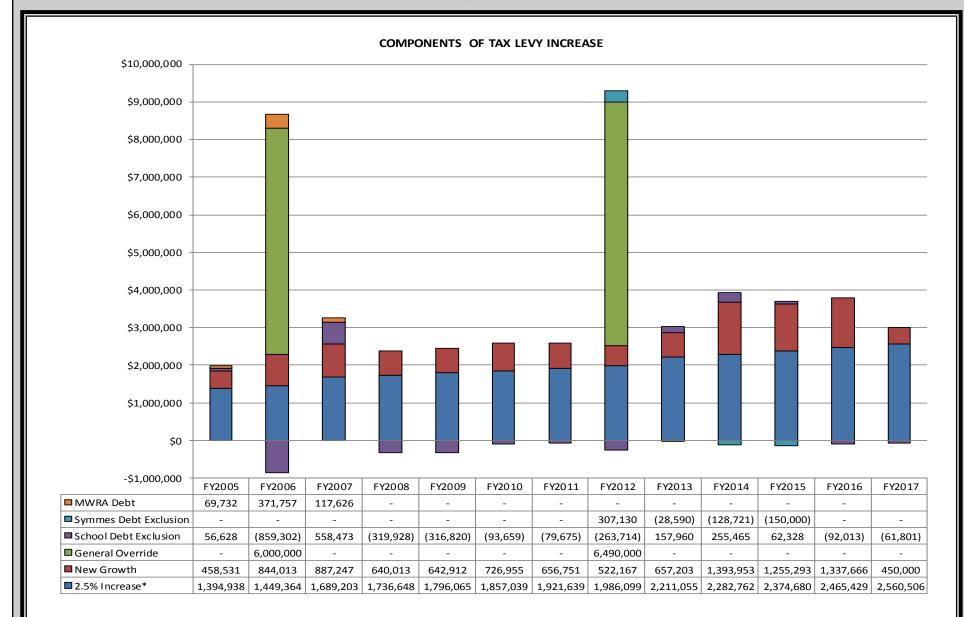




	Real Estate & Personal		Tax deferral				Amount	Tax Title	Tax Possession	Tax Deferral
Fiscal	Property	Abatements	Abatements		Net	% of	transferred	Balance as	Balance as	Balance as
Year	Commitments	Granted	(Ch 41A)	Net Tax Levy	Collections	Collections	into tax title	of June 30th	of June 30th	of June 30th
2015	105,512,757.86	343,828.94	50,661.96	105,118,266.96	104,637,861.18	99.54%	478,131.08	990,780.09	396,784.20	350,426.94
2014	101,955,275.34	323,139.16	57,609.97	101,574,526.21	101,147,224.95	99.58%	420,461.22	1,046,173.13	396,784.20	350,014.89
2013	98,200,712.05	391,307.70	55,314.74	97,754,089.61	97,319,166.14	99.56%	435,398.24	946,663.94	396,784.20	293,094.22
2012	95,185,766.56	427,191.48	47,748.92	94,710,826.16	94,287,096.98	99.56%	423,729.18	858,108.74	396,784.20	307,667.70
2011	86,093,152.50	465,825.69	51,677.04	85,575,649.77	84,199,193.25	99.56%	375,360.09	650,009.11	396,784.20	303,386.69
2010	83,612,918.72	483,555.47	61,658.71	83,067,704.54	82,652,328.29	99.50%	415,059.45	781,121.00	396,784.20	363,475.82
2009	81,073,914.29	487,858.75	77,402.97	80,508,652.57	80,065,721.17	99.45%	480,507.03	707,145.88	396,784.20	393,703.43
2008	78,887,655.80	472,051.80	72,738.36	78,342,865.64	78,066,532.84	99.65%	276,332.81	471,582.61	396,784.20	377,006.41
2007	76,885,362.74	342,368.47	84,469.92	76,458,524.35	76,243,171.54	99.72%	216,092.26	339,191.03	396,784.20	390,472.48
2006	73,601,851.23	343,515.23	87,097.83	73,171,238.17	72,939,691.01	99.68%	231,489.78	324,280.65	396,784.20	380,256.66
2005	65,779,185.77	302,203.09	58,911.88	65,418,070.80	65,202,793.72	99.67%	234,667.16	339,307.20	396,784.20	285,068.38
2004	63,831,019.20	391,879.53	49,554.72	63,389,584.95	63,223,644.05	99.74%	165,940.90	258,629.93	396,784.20	274,115.15
2003	61,323,172.92	369,352.26	41,586.52	60,912,234.14	60,699,775.08	99.65%	212,459.06	317,178.44	397,922.00	247,855.77
2002	59,183,329.33	375,235.37	47,510.62	58,760,583.34	58,615,862.62	99.75%	144,720.72	216,588.20	397,922.00	347,816.81
2001	55,924,516.87	436,168.37	56,445.54	55,431,902.96	55,316,386.89	99.79%	115,516.07	181,873.01	397,716.45	354,375.56

The policy is to close out all real estate & personal property commitments in the same fiscal year. All collections, refunds, transfers into Tax Title all take place within the same fiscal year.







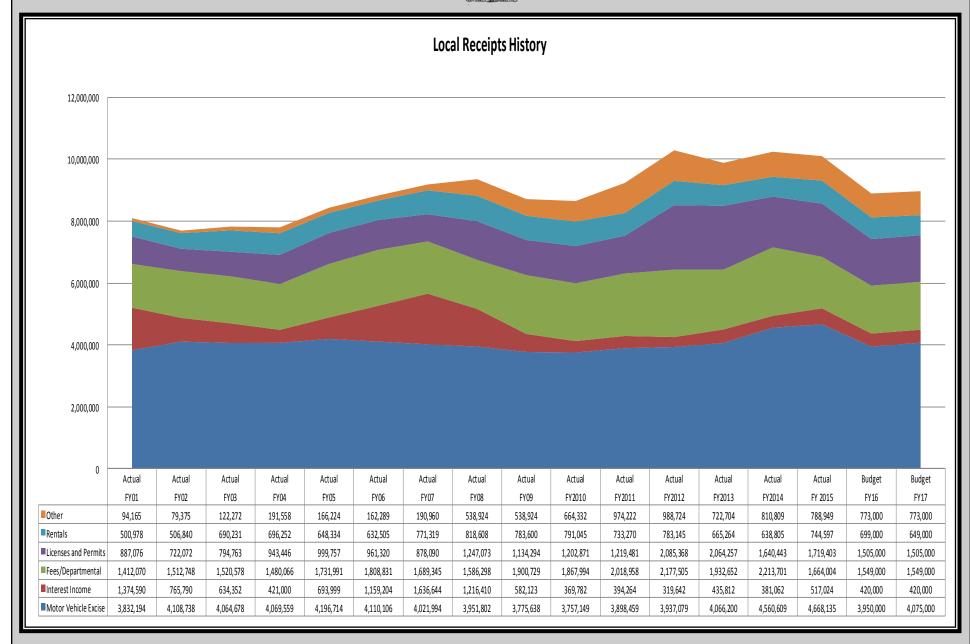
LOCAL RECEIPTS SUMMARY

Local receipts for FY2017 are projected to increase \$75,000 to a total of \$8,971,000. The Motor Vehicle Excise taxes are projected to increase \$125,000 and rental income is project to decrease by \$50,000. All other sources are level funded for FY2017.

LOCAL RECEIPTS SUMMARY	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Budget	FY2017 Budget	Budget Change
Motor Vehicle Excise	4,560,609	4,668,135	3,950,000	4,075,000	125,000
Interest Income	381,062	517,024	420,000	420,000	-
Departmental Fees	2,213,701	1,664,004	1,549,000	1,549,000	-
Licenses and Permits	1,640,443	1,719,403	1,505,000	1,505,000	-
Rentals	638,805	744,597	699,000	649,000	(50,000)
Other	810,809	788,949	773,000	773,000	-
Total	10,245,429	10,102,114	8,896,000	8,971,000	75,000



Local Receipts





MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE

Motor vehicle excise tax receipts are projected to increase \$125,000 over the budgeted amount for FY2016 to a projected total of \$4.075 million. Commitments have been increasing each year since 2012, exceeding 2008/9 levels. The excise rate is \$25 per thousand and is assessed on 90% of the vehicle's value in the first year, 60% in the second year, 40% in the third year, 25% in the fourth year, and 10% thereafter. The actual billings are prepared by the Registry of Motor Vehicles and then turned over to the Town for printing, distribution, and collection. There are approximately 38,000 registered vehicles in Arlington. In the chart below, Levy Year 2015 is as of June 30, 2015.

Levy Year	Coi	mmitments	9	Collections	Refunds	Ne	et Collections	 <u>Abatements</u>	<u>Balance</u>	Collection %
2015	\$	4,867,711	\$	4,768,890	\$ 100,756	\$	4,668,135	\$ 521,919	\$ (322,342)	106.62%
2014	\$	4,213,165	\$	4,636,918	\$ 76,292	\$	4,560,626	\$ 134,742	\$ (482,203)	111.45%
2013	\$	4,342,665	\$	4,145,705	\$ 80,917	\$	4,064,788	\$ 129,537	\$ 148,340	96.58%
2012	\$	4,077,138	\$	4,021,599	\$ 54,950	\$	3,966,649	\$ 71,047	\$ 39,442	99.03%
2011	\$	3,617,140	\$	3,438,728	\$ 35,428	\$	3,403,300	\$ 89,485	\$ 124,355	96.56%
2010	\$	3,439,627	\$	3,277,405	\$ 34,770	\$	3,242,635	\$ 83,853	\$ 113,139	96.71%
2009	\$	3,405,929	\$	3,262,275	\$ 42,208	\$	3,220,067	\$ 90,499	\$ 95,363	97.20%
2008	\$	4,095,771	\$	3,968,005	\$ 82,613	\$	3,885,392	\$ 164,786	\$ 45,593	98.89%
2007	\$	4,230,657	\$	4,125,146	\$ 81,094	\$	4,044,052	\$ 159,117	\$ 27,488	99.35%
2006	\$	4,248,107	\$	4,134,418	\$ 89,206	\$	4,045,212	\$ 177,550	\$ 25,345	99.40%
2005	\$	4,293,875	\$	4,189,478	\$ 95,281	\$	4,094,197	\$ 173,543	\$ 26,135	99.39%
2004	\$	4,290,578	\$	4,166,076	\$ 78,847	\$	4,087,229	\$ 183,274	\$ 20,075	99.53%
2003	\$	4,241,385	\$	4,109,464	\$ 72,532	\$	4,036,932	\$ 189,004	\$ 15,449	99.64%
2002	\$	4,281,043	\$	4,130,254	\$ 80,517	\$	4,049,737	\$ 215,905	\$ 15,401	99.64%
2001	\$	4,250,080	\$	4,122,587	\$ 76,815	\$	4,045,772	\$ 187,565	\$ 16,743	99.61%
2000	\$	4,090,219	\$	3,983,605	\$ 87,702	\$	3,895,903	\$ 181,778	\$ 12,538	99.69%
1999	\$	3,734,714	\$	3,644,635	\$ 92,391	\$	3,552,244	\$ 173,537	\$ 8,933	99.76%

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Budget
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Motor Vehicle Excise	4,560,609	4,668,135	3,950,000	4,075,000	125,000



DEPARTMENTAL FEES

Departmental fees are projected to remain unchanged in FY2017.

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Budget
DEPARTMENTAL FEES	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Schools (Medicare Reimbursement)	132,013	184,995	100,000	100,000	=
Cemetery Revenue	285,976	273,838	265,000	265,000	-
Library Fees and Fines	49,394	50,919	49,000	49,000	-
Collector's Demand Fees	89,019	56,936	70,000	70,000	= '
Town Clerk Fees	41,776	47,206	40,000	40,000	-
Parking Violations	420,083	370,259	285,000	285,000	-
Parking Meter Receipts	68,741	60,400	65,000	65,000	-
Fire Alarm Renewal Fee	5,375	375	5,000	5,000	-
Ambulance Fees	437,318	367,052	400,000	400,000	- '
Other Departmental Revenue	626,472	216,265	200,000	200,000	-
Other Department Fees	57,534	35,759	70,000	70,000	-
					-
Total	2,213,701	1,664,004	1,549,000	1,549,000	-



INTEREST INCOME & PENALTIES

Interest Income is projected to remain stable at \$420,000. It is made up of two components: investment income and interest and penalties associated with delinquent tax payments.

Investment income can vary widely depending upon market interest rates, available cash balances, cash flows, and investment practices. Investment income has dropped from a high of more than \$1.4 million in FY2007 to a projected amount of only \$65,000 in FY2016. This is due to the dramatic drop in interest rates.

INTEREST INCOME	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 FY2016 Actual Budget		FY2017 Budget	Budget Change
Investment Income	86,768	96,346	65,000	65,000	-
Penalties & Interest	294,294	420,678	355,000	355,000	<u>-</u>
Total	381,062	517,024	420,000	420,000	- .



LICENSES AND PERMITS

Licenses and permits revenues for FY2017 are expected to stay unchanged. Building Permits generally generate the most permit revenue. The Town has collected all of the permit revenue from the Symmes and Brigham's project which has had a significant impact on prior year projections. The FY2017 projection is consistent with long-term collections, excluding large, one-time permits.

Besides building permits, some of the other major categories of Licenses and Permits include parking permits and liquor licenses issued by the Selectmen, and fire permit fees, which include fire alarm connection fees. All of these are expected to remain flat.

LICENSES AND PERMITS	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Budget	FY2017 Budget	Budget Change
Parking Permits	136,477	152,652	115,000	115,000	-
Liquor Licenses	88,220	83,035	80,000	80,000	-
Food Licenses	8,140	7,874	7,000	7,000	=]
Food Permits	15,278	18,645	16,000	16,000	=]
Tobacco Permits	9,500	9,000	11,000	11,000	-
Building Inspections	1,196,205	1,259,913	1,220,000	1,220,000	- 1
Fire Prevention Permits	55,767	67,735	50,000	50,000	- 1
Marriage Licenses	6,952	5,940	6,000	6,000	- 1
Other	123,904	114,609	-	-	<u>-</u>
Total	1,640,443	1,719,403	1,505,000	1,505,000	0



RENTAL INCOME

The Town derives income from the renting of several Town-owned properties including the Gibbs and Parmenter schools, the Mt. Gilboa house, the former Dallin Library, and former Parks Department buildings at Ryder Street.

Overall, revenue is projected to decrease by \$50,000 to \$649,000.

New leases, which went into effect in FY2015, include a capital contribution which will offset future capital improvements to the buildings. Revenue from the Gibbs is forecasted to decrease \$50,000 to \$276,000. The decreased revenue is forecast in case the building is converted back to a middle school and the tenants leave before the end of the fiscal year. Projected revenue from other properties remains unchanged.

The Ryder Street property is rented for a five-year period, generating a net income of \$95,000 annually.

The Dallin Library is currently leased to the Arlington Community Media, Inc. (ACMi) with rental income projected at \$45,000.

The Crosby School, which has generated revenue in the past, was sold in June of 2012.

RENTAL INCOME	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Budget	FY2017 Budget	Budget Change
Ryder St.	109,383	131,682	95,000	95,000	-
Parmenter	192,159	219,941	209,000	209,000	- -
Crosby	1,923	-	-		- '
Gibbs	286,229	323,858	326,000	276,000	(50,000)
Mt. Gilboa	4,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	- 1
Dallin Library	45,116	45,116	45,000	45,000	
Total	638,810	744,597	699,000	649,000	(50,000)



OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS

Other local receipts are projected to decrease remain unchanged in FY2017.

In 2009, the Legislature gave the authority to Town Meeting to adopt optional increases to the meals and hotel taxes. At that time, only the State collected revenue from the meals tax of 5%. Cities and towns were allowed to add an additional 0.75%. The Town also collected a room occupancy tax on hotels (there is only one hotel in Arlington) of 4% at that time. The State allowed cities and towns to increase the room occupancy tax by 1% to a total of 5%. Both of these optional taxes were adopted by Town Meeting in the fall of 2009 to go into effect January 1, 2010. For communities that adopted these taxes with this effective date, they were allowed to estimate six months of collections in FY2010, eleven months in FY2011, and a full twelve months thereafter.

FY2017 projections are consistent with actual collections in past years.

OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Budget
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Meals Tax	413,164	401,870	400,000	400,000	-
Hotel Tax	300,875	330,739	325,000	325,000	<u>-</u>]
Court Fines	45,829	31,590	30,000	30,000	_ [
Medicare Part D Reimbursement	-	-	-	-	<u>-</u> [1
Special Assessments	-	-	-	-	<u>-</u> [
Payments In Lieu of Taxes	50,941	24,750	18,000	18,000	<u> </u>
Total	810,809	788,949	773,000	773,000	0



STATE AID SUMMARY

In January, the Governor released his budget which included a \$98 million increase in Chapter 70 School Aid and a \$42 million for General Government Aid. As it stands today, Arlington would benefit from a \$108,040 increase in Chapter 70, a \$4,883 increase in Charter School Tuition Reimbursement, and a \$300.732 increase in General Government Aid.

Based upon the Governor's budget State Aid, exclusive of school construction aid, is projected to increase \$409,471 or 2%. Overall FY2017 State Aid, as used to balance the Town Manager's budget, will increase \$410,130 to a total of \$21,115,008. This total is inclusive of \$2,474,773 in school construction aid.

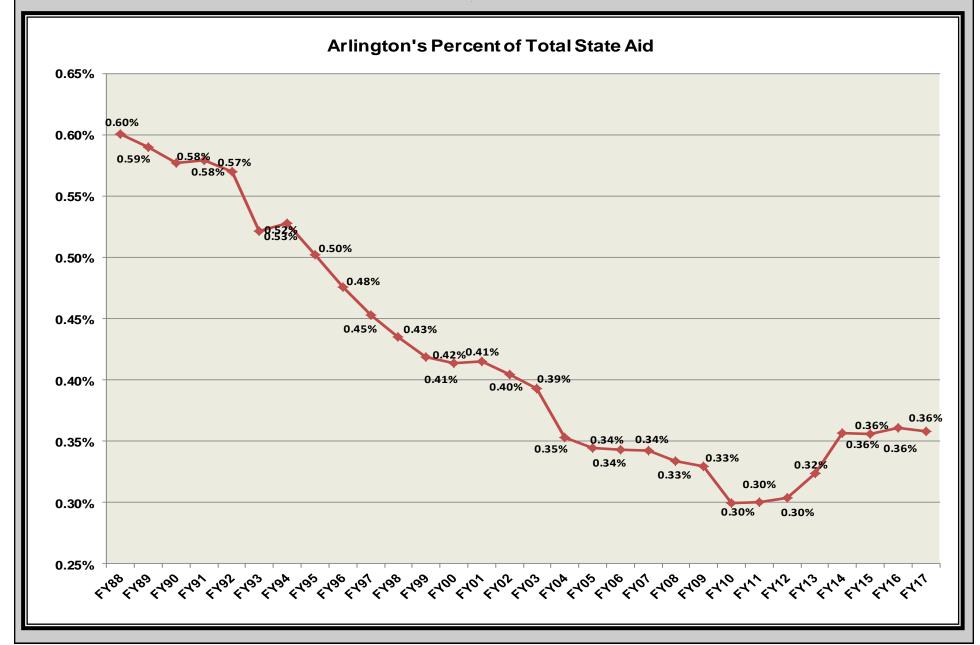
In FY2017 Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) is expected to increase \$300,732 or 4.3% to \$7,611,893.

Exclusive of school construction aid, Arlington's projected state aid for FY2017 is a slight increase in real dollars than it received in FY2002, 15 years ago. Since 1987, Arlington has seen its share of total state aid cut by approximately 41% (see chart on p. 42). A look at the cumulative year-to-year increases and decreases since FY2002 (see Chart on p. 43) also shows how Arlington has been disproportionately cut.

Since FY2002 local aid for all municipalities initially dropped by approximately 8%, rebounded through FY2009 to a 20% increase, and in FY2017 ends in a cumulative increase of 20%. Arlington, on the other hand, has only recently experienced an increase above FY2002. In FY2006, Arlington was 15% below FY2002, while the average of all municipalities saw a slight increase. In FY2014 the cumulative year-to-year change since FY2002 was a slight increase of 1.1%, however in FY2017, Arlington remains disproportional from other municipalities despite increases in state aid. To further illustrate this impact, the average state aid for municipalities in Massachusetts increased 24.5% from FY2002, while in FY2017 Arlington's cumulative year-to-year change since FY2002 is an increase of 10.2%.

STATE AID SUMMARY	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Budget	FY2017 Budget	Budget Change
Gen Government Aid	6,776,358	6,970,290	7,311,161	7,611,893	300,732
School Aid	10,089,282	10,245,360	10,725,382	10,838,305	112,923
School Construction	2,474,773	2,906,266	2,474,773	2,474,773	=
Tax Exemptions	167,052	139,263	139,263	135,079	(4,184)
Cherry Sheet Offsets	60,566	74,531	54,299	54,958	659
Total	19,568,031	20,335,710	20,704,878	21,115,008	410,130

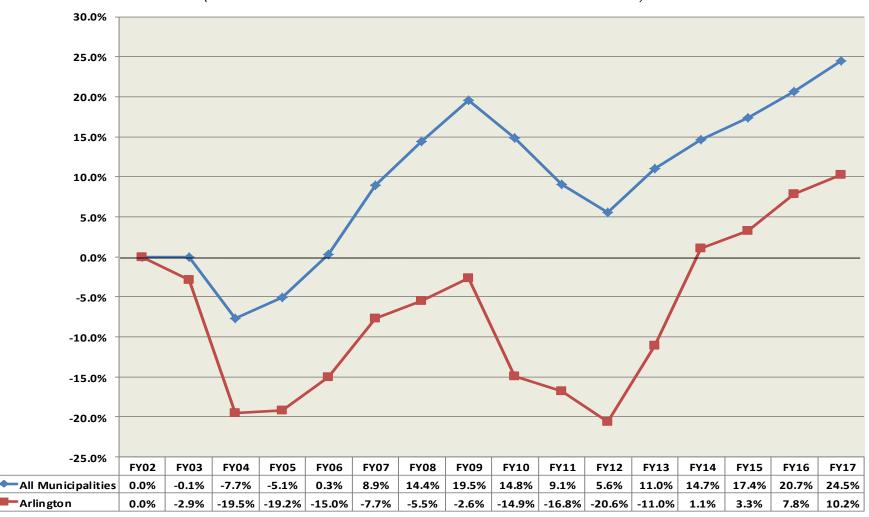






State Aid Cumulative Year-to-Year Percent Change Since Fiscal Year 2002

(Numbers Exclude School Construction and METCO Reimbursements)





GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA)

In FY2017 UGGA is expected to increase \$300,732, or 4.3% to \$7,294,509.

As historical background, in FY2010, the Additional Assistance category was combined with Lottery Aid under a new category called Unrestricted General Government Aid. Between these two aid categories, Arlington received in excess of \$9.4 million in FY2008. While this account is increasing in FY2017, the Town has weathered a reduction of approximately \$2.6 million since FY2008.

VETERANS' BENEFITS

Chapter 115, Section 6, calls for the reimbursement to cities and towns of the costs of providing assistance to veterans and their dependents. Benefits paid out in accordance with state guidelines are eligible for 75% reimbursement. For FY2017 the preliminary cherry sheet estimate is \$317,384, level from the previous year.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Budget
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget	Change
Unrestricted General Government Aid	6,568,591	6,750,750	6,993,777	7,294,509	300,732
Veterans' Benefits	207,767	219,540	317,384	317,384	0
Total		6,970,290	7,311,161	7,611,893	300,732



SCHOOL AID

SCHOOL AID - CHAPTER 70

Proposed total statewide funding in FY2017, exclusive of regional schools, is \$4 billion, an increase of \$99 million, or 2.51%. Of this amount, it is estimated that Arlington will receive \$10,823,599, an increase of \$108,040 or 1%. The distribution formula calculates a foundation budget for each school district and then funds a percentage of the budget depending upon a number of factors, including community income levels, property wealth, and municipal contributions to the school budget. For those communities determined to be relatively wealthy, the State will fund a maximum 17.5% of the school district's foundation budget. Arlington is one of 109 communities that fall within this category. Communities that are less affluent receive significantly more than the 17.5% minimum.

CHARTER SCHOOL TUITION ASSESSMENT REIMBURSMENT

General Laws Chapter 71, Section 89 (nn) mandates that the State assess a municipality or regional school district for the costs associated with pupils attending a Charter School district and reimburse sending districts for the tuition they pay to Commonwealth charter schools. Municipalities and school districts are reimbursed for this assessment based on the following schedule: in year one, an amount equal to 100% of the assessment; in years two through six, an amount equal to 25% of the assessment, after year six, no reimbursement. This reimbursement is subject to appropriation. If the account is not fully-funded, then the reimbursement is pro-rated. Based on the preliminary cherry sheets, the Town will receive \$14,706, an increase of \$4,883.

SCHOOL AID	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Budget	FY2017 Budget	Budget Change
Chapter 70 School Aid	10,048,980	10,234,582	10,715,559	10,823,599	108,040
Charter School Tuition Reimbursement	40,302	10,778	9,823	14,706	4,883
Total	10,089,282	10,245,360	10,725,382	10,838,305	112,923



SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AID

In July of 2004, the Governor signed Chapter 208 and Chapter 210 of the Acts of 2004 into law, which make substantial changes to the School Building Assistance (SBA) Program. This legislation (Ch. 208) transfers responsibility for the School Building Assistance Program from the Department of Education to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), operating under the Office of the State Treasurer. The authority is a new and independent governing body comprised of seven members.

The reform legislation (Ch.210) dedicates one cent of the state sales tax to the new off-budget school building trust. This amounted to \$655 million in 2011. Funding is no longer subject to an annual appropriation from the Legislature and approval of the Governor, allowing MSBA to reimburse districts within 15 days of submitting a request for payment. This streamlined process save local communities millions in avoided interest costs and provides greater cash flow if needed.

The MSBA funding commitments include \$11 billion for 1,156 projects authorized under the former SBA program, including \$5.1 billion for 728 prior grant projects that were already receiving funding (54% of this liability has been retired), and \$5.5 million for 428 projects on a wait list (88% of this liability has been retired). The remaining limited resources are being used to fund new projects. MSBA is projecting to spend \$2.5 billion through 2015 for new projects. Reimbursement rates are based on community factors and incentive points and range from 31% to 80% of approved eligible project costs.

When the moratorium on new projects was lifted in July 1, 2007, the MSBA received 423 Statements of Interests from 163 school districts for various projects. Arlington submitted three projects: Thompson, Stratton and the High School. Only Thompson was approved. Construction on a new Thompson School was completed in summer of 2013. Under the MSBA's Green Repair Program, the Town received a grant of approximately \$700,000 as reimbursement for the \$2.6 million the Town has spent on renovations and improvements to Stratton School.

The school construction aid the Town currently receives is for projects completed under the old SBA program. The amount is expected to be \$2,474,773 for FY2017. The projects and their funding are as follows:

Peirce	\$ 476,222
Ottoson	858,859
Brackett	347,518
Bishop	322,764
Hardy	469,110

Total \$2,474,773

SCHOOL AID	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Budget
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
School Construction Aid	2,474,773	2,906,266	2,474,773	2,474,773	-]



TAX EXEMPTION AID

There are several categories of property tax exemptions for which the State provides a partial reimbursement to municipalities. For FY2017, Arlington's reimbursements are expected to decrease \$4,184 to a total of \$135,079. Veterans, blind persons, surviving spouses, and elderly who meet exemption requirements are eligible. Elderly persons (at least 65 years of age) who meet certain whole estate or total assets, annual income, and residency requirements, are eligible for an exemption. The number of exemptions granted is multiplied by the statutory reimbursement of \$500, subject to appropriation. However, if a municipality has adopted Clause 41B or 41C (Arlington has adopted this section which increases exemption amount to \$1,300), the number of exemptions for which it is reimbursed cannot exceed the number reimbursed in the most recent year under Clause 41. In addition, municipalities that have adopted Clause 41B or 41C will be reimbursed for additional costs incurred in determining eligibility of applicants under these clauses in an amount not to exceed two dollars per exemption granted. For property tax exemptions granted to qualifying veterans, blind persons, surviving spouses, and elderly persons, the exemption and reimbursement amounts are as follows:

· Surviving spouses, minor children, elderly persons:

Clause 17 - \$175, full reimbursement

Clauses 17C, 17C^{1/2}, 17D - \$227.50, reimbursement cannot exceed the amount reimbursed on Clause 17.

· Veterans:

Clause 22(a-f) - \$520 exempted, \$225 reimbursed

· Paraplegic veterans, surviving spouses:

Full amount, 100% minus \$175 reimbursed (§8A)

· Veterans, loss of one arm, foot, or eye:

Clause 22A - \$975 exempted, \$575 reimbursed

Veterans, loss of two arms, two feet, one arm and one leg, or loss of sight:

Clause 22B - \$1,625 exempted, \$1,075 reimbursed

· Veterans, special adapted housing:

Clause 22C - \$1,950 exempted, \$1,325 reimbursed

- · Veterans, surviving spouses of service members who died in combat zone or who are missing in action and presumed dead due to combat: Clause 22D 100% exempted- 1st five years of exemption. \$2.500 thereafter
- · Veterans, 100 percent disability:

Clause 22E - \$1,300 exempted, \$825 reimbursed

· Blind persons:

Clause 37A - \$650 exempted, \$87.50 reimbursed

TAX EXEMPTION AID	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Budget
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Tax Exemption Aid	167,052	139,263	139,263	135,079	(4,184)



CHERRY SHEET OFFSETS

Included in the estimated amount of aid to be received from the State are grant funds for libraries. These grants are reserved for direct expenditure by the departments and cannot be counted as general available revenues. Consequently, as part of the tax rate preparation process, whatever amount is included within the State Aid estimate is also included in the non-appropriated expense section as offsetting debits.

The Town has traditionally received two such annual grants — one for the school lunch and one for public libraries. In FY2016, the State started to account for the school lunch program differently and it is no longer be reflected on the Cherry Sheet.

The library grant is actually three separate grants — the Library Incentive Grant (LIG), Municipal Equalization Grant (MEG) and the Nonresident Circulation Offset (NRC). In FY2017, assistance to libraries is expected to increase slightly to \$54,958. The three funding formulas to determine amounts for each municipality are as follows:

- 1. The Library Incentive Grant (LIG) is distributed to municipalities as follows:
 - a. Population under 2,500: an amount equal to the amount appropriated for free public library service in the preceding year; distribution not to exceed \$1,250.
 - b. Population of 2,500 or over: up to \$.50 per capita, provided that at least \$1,250 was appropriated for public library service in the preceding year.
- 2. The Municipal Equalization Grant (MEG) distributes the balance in the LIG/MEG account according to the lottery formula so that municipalities with lower property values receive proportionately more aid than those with greater property values.
- 3. The Nonresident Circulation Offset (NRC) is distributed annually by the Board of Library Commissioners, based upon each community's share of the total Statewide-circulated items.

The Board of Library Commissioners measures compliance with all requirements before voting to certify or deny applicants for grant payments. To qualify for funding, certain requirements must be met and the municipal Library Director must submit an application to the Board of Library Commissioners each year. Requirements include:

- The city or town's appropriation to operate the public libraries must be equal to or greater than 102.5% of the average of the 3 preceding years' appropriations for free public library service. The Board of Library Commissioners may grant waivers of this requirement to a limited number of municipalities.
- The library must have complied with the minimum standards for free public library service in the preceding year. There are minimum standards in such areas as library director's education, number of hours open, and expenditures for library materials. The library must submit annual report data as specified by the Board of Library Commissioners.

CHERRY SHEET OFFSETS	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Budget	FY2017 Budget	Budget Change
Lunch Programs (Schools)	18,819	19,195			0
Libraries	41,747	55,336	54,299	54,958	659
Total	60,566	74,531	54,299	54,958	659



FREE CASH

Free Cash, which is certified as of July 1 each year by the Commonwealth's Department of Revenue (DOR), represents the portion of General Fund surplus revenue that is unrestricted and available for appropriation. These funds, once certified, may be used to support supplemental appropriations during the year, to support the ensuing fiscal year's budget, to reduce the tax levy, or to serve as emergency reserves. Free Cash is generated when the actual operating results compare favorably with the budget, such as when actual revenues exceed the original estimates and/ or when actual expenditures are less than appropriated. It is also affected by increases or decreases in uncollected property taxes, non- General Fund deficit balances, and any other legally incurred operating deficits, such as snow removal overdrafts.

The Town's free cash balance as of June 30, 2015 was \$9,074,598. In accordance with Town policy, Arlington can appropriate up to 50% of the free cash balance towards the next fiscal year's budget. It is recommended that \$4,537,299 or 50% of the existing balance, be appropriated towards the FY2017 budget leaving a balance of \$4,537,299.



FREE CASH	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Budget
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Free Cash Appropriated	3,411,528	3,042,925	3,435,846	4,537,299	1,101,454



OTHER REVENUE

The Other Revenue category includes Tax Abatement Overlay Reserve Surplus Funds and Override Stabilization Funds. In FY2017, the amount available is \$200,000 from the Tax Abatement Overlay Reserve Surplus Funds. No funds will be withdrawn from the Override Stabilization Fund.

Overlay Surplus

The Tax Abatement Overlay Reserve Surplus comes from funds set aside each year for property tax abatements and exemptions. Any funds remaining in the accounts that are no longer needed are declared surplus by the Board of Assessors and are made available for appropriation. Currently, the Board of Assessors have declared \$200,000 as surplus and therefore available for appropriation.

Override Stabilization Fund

The Override Stabilization Fund was created as a result of the 2005 Proposition 2 ½ Override. The five-year plan developed at that time projected that the first two years would have surplus funds to be put in an Override Stabilization Fund, the third year there would be no surplus, and the last two years the surplus funds would be drawn down to balance the budget. As a result of tight budget controls, there was no need to make any drawdown from the fund until the fifth year, FY2010. In that year, \$2,742,376 was appropriated or withdrawn. The remaining balance in the fund, which was \$1,580,000, was appropriated in FY2011, the sixth year. Since the Override of 2011 and including the expected appropriation to the fund in FY2017, \$23,184,133 will have been put into the Fund. It is expected that no drawdown will be necessary until FY2018.

OTHER REVENUE	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Budget	FY2017 Budget	Budget Change
Overlay Surplus	200,000	350,000	350,000	200,000	(150,000)
Override Stabilization Fund		-	-	-	-
Total	200,000	350,000	350,000	200,000	(150,000)