Fiscal Year 2019 Budget



TOTAL REVENUE

Total revenue for FY2019 is projected at \$160,907,698, an increase of \$8,407,954 or 5.51%. Of this increase, \$155,666,977 is from revenue dedicated to support the General Fund and \$5,240,721 is from debt exclusion overrides to support borrowing for capital projects, such as to renovate or build new elementary schools and the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School. The General Fund increase is \$6,557,231 or 4.40%

The property tax levy is projected to increase, without debt exclusion revenue, by \$4,616,527 or 4.05%. This includes the normal 2.5% increase plus \$650,000 in new growth. Total tax revenues, including the debt exclusions, increase by \$6,467,250 or 5.52%

Local receipts are projected to increase \$100,000 due to projected increases in Motor Vehicle Excise tax collections.

State Aid estimates are made up two components, (1) Cherry Sheet Aid, the annually recurring aid for education, general government, and other categories (see State Aid description on page 41) and (2) School Construction Aid, State reimbursements to the Town for borrowing costs the Town incurred for state eligible school building projects. Total state aid is projected to decrease \$388,436, or 1.87%, however, this decrease is caused solely by a decrease in School Construction Aid because the State completed reimbursing the Town for several projects. The Governor's budget contained a \$104 million increase in Chapter 70 School Aid and a \$37.2 million increase for General Government Aid and the House and Senate budgets increased Chapter 70 allocations. From these increases, Arlington will receive a \$504,510 (4.5%) increase in Chapter 70 Aid and a \$265,265 (3.5%) increase in General Government Aid.

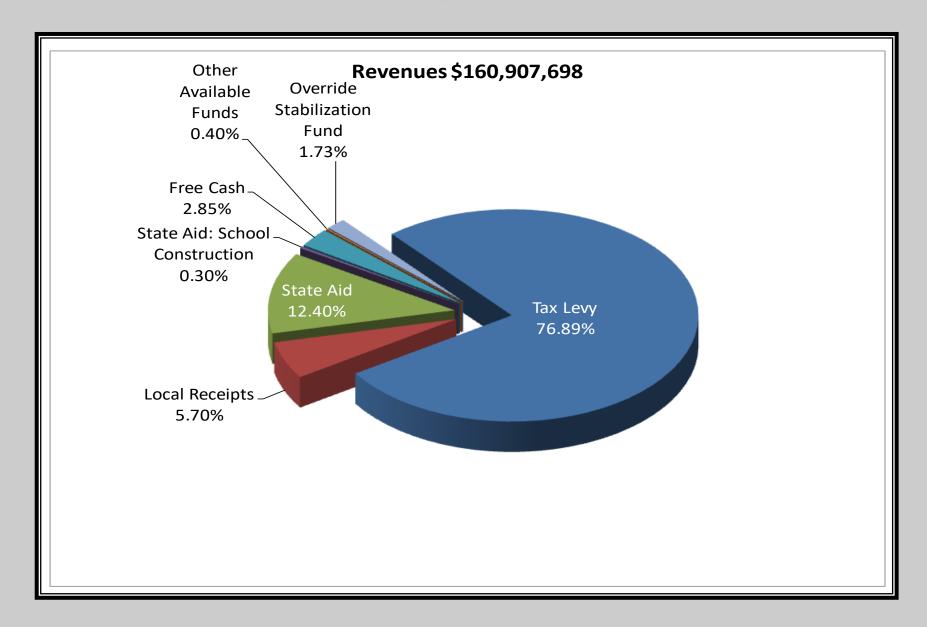
A total of \$4,593,375 in Free Cash is proposed to be used, which is a decrease of \$257,191 from FY2018 and, consistent with Town financial policies, an amount equal to 50% of the Free Cash balance certified by the Department of Revenue for June 2017.

Other Available Funds include \$200,000 in surplus tax abatement overlay funds, a decrease of \$300,000 from FY2017 when the Assessors released additional overlay surplus funds to pay for their FY2018 revaluation costs.

For the first time since the override in 2011, the budget relies on the Override Stabilization Fund, a use of \$2,786,331.

REVENUE SOURCE	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Budget
REVENUE SOURCE	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Tax Lew	108,977,901	112,439,838	117,255,201	123,722,451	6,467,250
Local Receipts	11,071,191	10,689,873	9,071,000	9,171,000	100,000
State Aid	0	21,393,301	20,822,977	20,434,541	(388,436)
Free Cash	3,435,846	4,537,299	4,850,566	4,593,375	(257,191)
Other Available Funds	350,000	200,000	500,000	200,000	(300,000)
Override Stabilization Fund	0	0	0	2,786,331	2,786,331
Total	123,834,938	147,451,456	152,499,744	160,907,698	8,407,954







				Total G	eneral F	und Rev	enues			
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>							
Tax Levy*	77,877,924	80,365,862	89,409,382	92,416,269	96,144,398	99,691,909	103,384,789	106,846,726	111,126,263	118,129,339
Local Receipts	8,653,173	9,238,654	10,291,463	9,886,882	10,296,545	10,115,304	11,071,191	10,689,873	9,071,000	9,171,000
State Aid**	14,382,965	14,066,445	13,420,743	15,040,051	17,093,258	17,462,884	18,230,105	18,918,527	19,207,062	19,958,018
Free Cash	1,497,907	582,050	481,456	1,570,000	3,411,528	3,042,925	3,435,846	4,537,299	4,850,566	4,593,375
Other Available Funds	3,242,376	2,080,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	350,000	350,000	200,000	500,000	200,000
Override Stabilization Fu	ınd									2,786,331
Total	105,654,345	106,333,011	113,803,044	119,113,202	127,145,729	130,663,022	136,471,931	141,192,425	144,754,891	154,838,063
*Excludes MWRA Debt	Shift									
**Excludes MSBA Reimbursements										
			A	Innual Re	evenue Ir	ncreases				
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
	<u>Actual</u>	Budget	Budget							
Tax Levy	2,525,030	2,487,938	9,043,520	3,006,887	3,728,129	3,547,511	3,692,880	3,461,937	4,279,537	7,003,076
Local Receipts	(62, 135)	585,481	1,052,809	(404,581)	409,663	(181,241)	955,887	(381,318)	(1,618,873)	100,000
State Aid	(1,185,505)	(316,520)	(645,702)	1,619,308	2,053,207	369,626	767,221	688,422	288,535	750,956
Free Cash	(693,715)	(915,857)	(100,594)	1,088,544	1,841,528	(368,604)	392,922	1,101,453	313,267	(257, 191)
Other Available Funds	2,742,376	(1,162,376)	(1,880,000)	0	0	150,000	0	(150,000)	300,000	(300,000)
Override Stabilization Fu	ınd									2,786,331
Total	3,326,051	678,666	7,470,033	5,310,158	8,032,527	3,517,293	5,808,909	4,720,494	3,562,466	10,083,172
Percent Increase	3.3%	0.6%	7.0%	4.7%	6.7%	2.8%	4.4%	3.5%	2.5%	7.0%
					_					
				Percent o						
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>							
Tax Levy	73.7%	75.6%	78.6%	77.6%	75.6%	76.3%	75.8%	75.7%	76.8%	76.3%
Local Receipts	8.2%	8.7%	9.0%	8.3%	8.1%	7.7%	8.1%	7.6%	6.3%	5.9%
State Aid	13.6%	13.2%	11.8%	12.6%	13.4%	13.4%	13.4%	13.4%	13.3%	12.9%
Free Cash	1.4%	0.5%	0.4%	1.3%	2.7%	2.3%	2.5%	3.2%	3.4%	3.0%
Other Available Funds	3.1%	2.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%
Override Stabilization Fu	ınd									1.8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



PROPERTY TAX LEVY

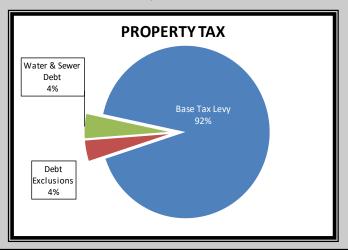
Property tax is the primary source of revenue for virtually every Massachusetts municipality. In Arlington, property taxes represent approximately 77% of annual operating revenues. Property taxes are levied on real property (land and buildings) and personal property (equipment) used by Arlington's non-manufacturing businesses. State law mandates that communities update their property values every five years and obtain State certification that such values represent full and fair cash value. A revaluation was conducted in FY2016. Under the Provisions of Proposition 2½, property taxes, in the aggregate, may not exceed 2½% of their "full and fair cash value." This limit is known as the "levy ceiling." Annual levy increases may not exceed 2½% of the previous year's levy plus the taxes from any new or renovated property added to the tax rolls (known as new growth). Any Proposition 2½ 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 FY2019 are preliminary estimates used to project the levy limit. The FY2018 levy limit was \$109,965,991. The 2½% increase allowed for FY2019 is \$2,749,150. New growth from construction not previously on the tax rolls is expected to add \$650,000 to the levy. An additional \$4,746,198 is added to the tax levy to cover the cost of debt service for projects approved by the voters as Proposition 2½ debt exclusion overrides. This added debt exclusion amount is net of state reimbursements estimated at \$476,523. Beginning in FY2012, debt service for the Symmes Urban Renewal project was added to the tax levy. FY2018 will mark the fourth 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 M.G.L. 59 § 21C, whereby water and sewer debt costs, including MWRA debt assessments, are transferred to the real estate taxes. The Board of Selectmen voted to freeze the amount of MWRA debt shift at the FY2007 amount of \$5,593,112. The FY2019 tax levy is projected to total \$123,704,451 representing an increase of \$6,449,249 (5.55%) over the FY2018 levy.

PROPERTY TAX LEVY	FY2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	Budget	
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Change	
Base Tax Levy	102,420,256	105,967,928	109,888,005	113,365,141	3,477,136	
General Override	-	-	-	-	-	
Debt Exclusion Overrides						
Bishop School	-	(19,865)	(38,508)	-	38,508	
Brackett School	91,583	70,318	39,140	-	(39,140)	
Dallin School	270,347	255,864	264,252	250,818	(13,434)	
Gibbs School				2,144,312	2,144,312	
Hardy School	(25,397)	(43,680)	(64,888)	90,985	155,873	
Minuteman High School	-		214,571	808,578	594,007	
Peirce School	115,878	95,693	65,758	46,072	(19,686)	
Stratton School	-	17,511	711,532	562,475	(149,057)	
Thompson School	512,122	502,957	582,228	842,958	260,730	
Sub-total Debt Exclusions	964,533	878,798	1,774,085	4,746,198	2,972,113	
Water and Sewer Debt	5,593,112	5,593,112	5,593,112	5,593,112	_	
Total	108,977,901	112,439,838	117,255,202	123,704,451	6,449,249	

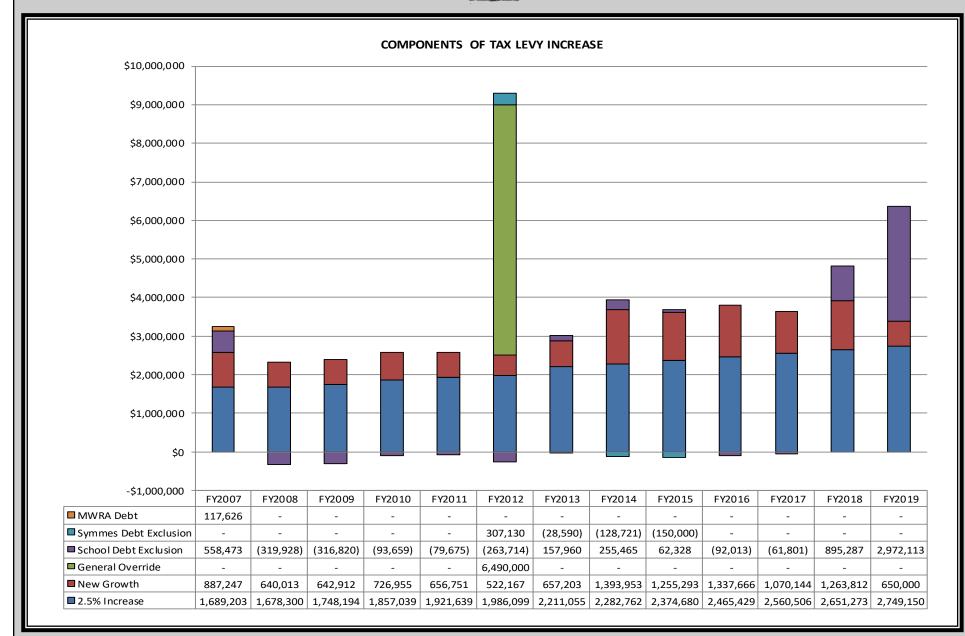




	Real Estate &		Tax				Amount	Toy Title	Tax	Toy Deferred
Fiscal	Personal Property	Abatements	deferral		Net	% of	Amount transferred	Tax Title Balance as	Possession Balance as	Tax Deferral Balance as
			(Ch 41A)						of June 30th	of June 30th
Year	Commitments		` ,	Net Tax Levy						
2017	114,042,281.23	316,252.00	69,741.70	113,656,287.53	113,137,357.89	99.54%	0.00	545,964.37	396,784.20	288,509.98
2016	110,511,438.41	344,808.64	50,555.38	110,116,074.39	109,675,315.38	99.60%	432,204.96	1,016,093.83	396,784.20	251,686.77
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

It is Town policy to close out all real estate and personal property commitments in the same fiscal year, except in 2017, when such close outs were delayed one year because of the Town's conversion to new tax collection software.





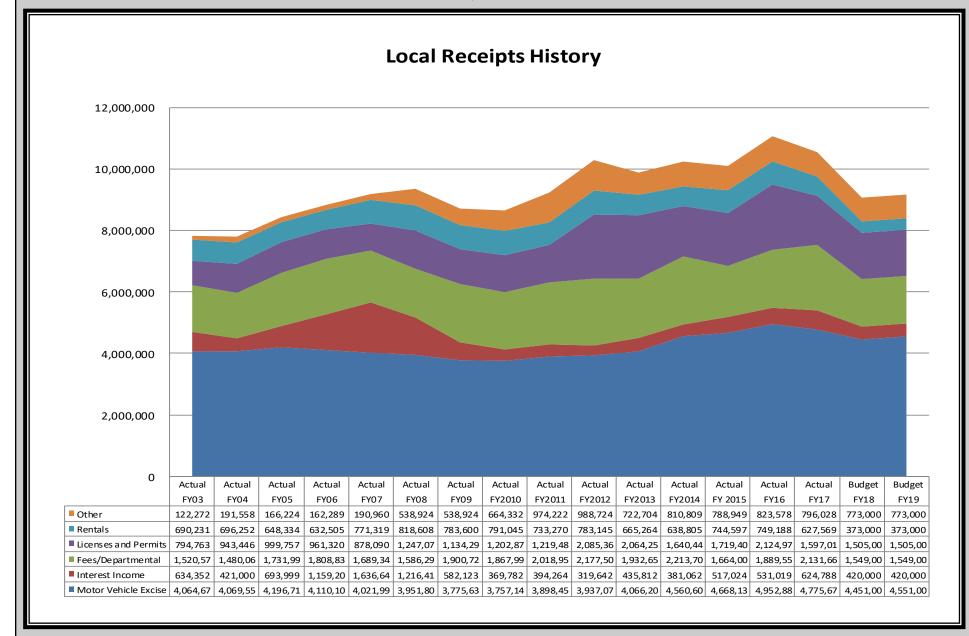


LOCAL RECEIPTS SUMMARY

Local receipts for FY2019 are projected to increase \$100,000 to a total of \$9,171,000. The Motor Vehicle Excise taxes are projected to increase \$100,000. All other sources are level estimates from FY2018.

LOCAL RECEIPTS SUMMARY	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Budget	Budget Change
Motor Vehicle Excise	4,952,880	4,775,678	4,451,000	4,551,000	100,000
Interest Income	531,019	624,788	420,000	420,000	-
Departmental Fees	1,889,552	2,131,664	1,549,000	1,549,000	-
Licenses and Permits	2,124,973	1,597,015	1,505,000	1,505,000	-
Rentals	749,188	627,569	373,000	373,000	-
Other	823,578	796,028	773,000	773,000	-
Total	11,071,190	10,552,742	9,071,000	9,171,000	100,000







MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE

Motor vehicle excise tax receipts are projected to increase \$100,000 over the budgeted amount from FY2018 to a projected total of \$4.451 million, consistent with long-term trends and Town revenue policy. Commitments have been increasing year since 2012, exceeding the low in 2009. 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 2017 is as of June 30, 2017.

			Motor Veh	nicl	e Excise C	Collection By F	Fis	scal Year		
<u>Levy Year</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>ommitments</u>	Collections		Refunds	Net Collections		<u>Abatements</u>	Balance (Uncoll.)	Collection %
2017	\$	4,838,049.36	\$ 4,865,068.94	\$	90,286.47	\$ 4,774,782.47	\$	158,912.85	\$ (95,645.96)	101.98%
2016	\$	5,165,749.14	\$ 5,038,846.19	\$	85,965.27	\$ 4,952,880.92	\$	169,326.92	\$ 43,541.30	99.16%
2015	\$	4,867,711.40	\$ 4,768,890.38	\$	100,755.76	\$ 4,668,134.62	\$	521,918.86	\$ (322,342.08)	106.62%
2014	\$	4,213,165.12	\$ 4,636,918.89	\$	76,292.47	\$ 4,560,626.42	\$	134,742.51	\$ (482,203.81)	111.45%
2013	\$	4,342,665.00	\$ 4,145,705.00	\$	80,917.00	\$ 4,064,788.00	\$	129,537.00	\$ 148,340.00	96.58%
2012	\$	4,077,138.00	\$ 4,021,599.00	\$	54,950.00	\$ 3,966,649.00	\$	71,047.00	\$ 39,442.00	99.03%
2011	\$	3,617,140.00	\$ 3,438,728.00	\$	35,428.00	\$ 3,403,300.00	\$	89,485.00	\$ 124,355.00	96.56%
2010	\$	3,439,627.00	\$ 3,277,405.00	\$	34,770.00	\$ 3,242,635.00	\$	83,853.00	\$ 113,139.00	96.71%
2009	\$	3,405,929.00	\$ 3,262,275.00	\$	42,208.00	\$ 3,220,067.00	\$	90,499.00	\$ 95,363.00	97.20%
2008	\$	4,095,771.00	\$ 3,968,005.00	\$	82,613.00	\$ 3,885,392.00	\$	164,786.00	\$ 45,593.00	98.89%

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Budget
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Motor Vehicle Excise	4,952,880	4,775,678	4,451,000	4,551,000	100,000



DEPARTMENTAL FEES

Departmental fees are projected to remain unchanged in FY2019, however, the establishment of a parking benefits district at Town Meeting means that parking meter revenue has been moved to the Parking Fund and the estimate for parking violations, with increased enforcement, has been increased.

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Budget
DEPARTMENTAL FEES	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Schools (Medicare Reimbursement)	238,991	331,647	100,000	100,000	-
Cemetery Revenue	262,825	278,075	265,000	265,000	-
Library Fees and Fines	52,804	48,957	49,000	49,000	-
Collector's Demand Fees	61,968	42,667	70,000	70,000	-
Town Clerk Fees	47,486	51,508	40,000	40,000	-
Parking Violations	331,429	390,017	285,000	350,000	65,000
Parking Meter Receipts	86,161	152,992	65,000	-	(65,000)
Fire Alarm Renewal Fee	9,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	-
Ambulance Fees	432,093	490,271	400,000	400,000	-
Other Departmental Revenue	330,415	259,567	200,000	200,000	-
Other Department Fees	36,380	81,963	70,000	70,000	
Total	1,889,552	2,131,664	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 dropped from a high of more than \$1.4 million in FY2007 to \$55,430 in FY2011. This is due to dramatic fluctuations in interest rates. As interest rates continue to change, the Town will monitor interest income.

INTEREST INCOME	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Budget	Budget Change
Investment Income	142,329	329,266	65,000	65,000	-
Penalties & Interest	388,690	295,522	355,000	355,000	-
Total	531,019	624,788	420,000	420,000	-



LICENSES AND PERMITS

Licenses and permits revenues for FY2019 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 FY2019 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	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Budget
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Parking Permits	138,217	140,315	115,000	115,000	-
Liquor Licenses	75,623	83,693	80,000	80,000	-
Food Licenses	8,410	5,665	7,000	7,000	-
Food Permits	14,440	13,925	16,000	16,000	-
Tobacco Permits	9,500	9,500	11,000	11,000	-
Building Inspections	1,678,830	1,286,254	1,220,000	1,220,000	-
Fire Prevention Permits	54,290	51,591	50,000	50,000	-
Marriage Licenses	6,158	6,072	6,000	6,000	-
Other	139,505	-	-	-	_
Total	2,124,973	1,597,015	1,505,000	1,505,000	0



RENTAL INCOME

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

Overall, revenue is projected to decrease by \$276,000 to \$373,000, because of the conversion of the Gibbs building to a school for 6th graders. There will be no revenue from the Gibbs building after June 30, 2017.

New leases, which went into effect in FY2015, include a capital contribution which will offset future capital improvements to the buildings. 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	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Budget	Budget Change
Ryder St.	127,875	123,623	95,000	95,000	-
Parmenter	235,478	197,999	209,000	209,000	_
Gibbs	316,719	236,831	-	-	-
Mt. Gilboa	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	-
Dallin Library	45,116	45,116	45,000	45,000	<u> </u>
Total	749,188	627,569	373,000	373,000	-



OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS

Other local receipts are projected to remain unchanged in FY2019.

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.

FY2019 projections are consistent with actual collections in past years.

OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Budget
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Request	Change
Meals Tax	409,308	415,173	400,000	400,000	-
Hotel Tax	363,125	303,939	325,000	325,000	-
Court Fines	30,248	28,608	30,000	30,000	-
Special Assessments	2,897	(3,212)	-	-	-
Payments In Lieu of Taxes	18,000	51,519	18,000	18,000	-
Total	823,578	796,028	773,000	773,000	0



STATE AID SUMMARY

In January, the Governor released his budget, which included a \$104 million increase in Chapter 70 School Aid and a \$37.1 million for General Government Aid. The House and Senate budgets each increased Chapter 70 Aid. As a result Arlington will benefit from a \$504,510 increase in Chapter 70 School Aid and a \$265,265 increase in Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA).

General Government Aid — Unrestricted General Government Aid and Veterans' Benefits reimbursements — will increase \$220,207 or 2.82%.

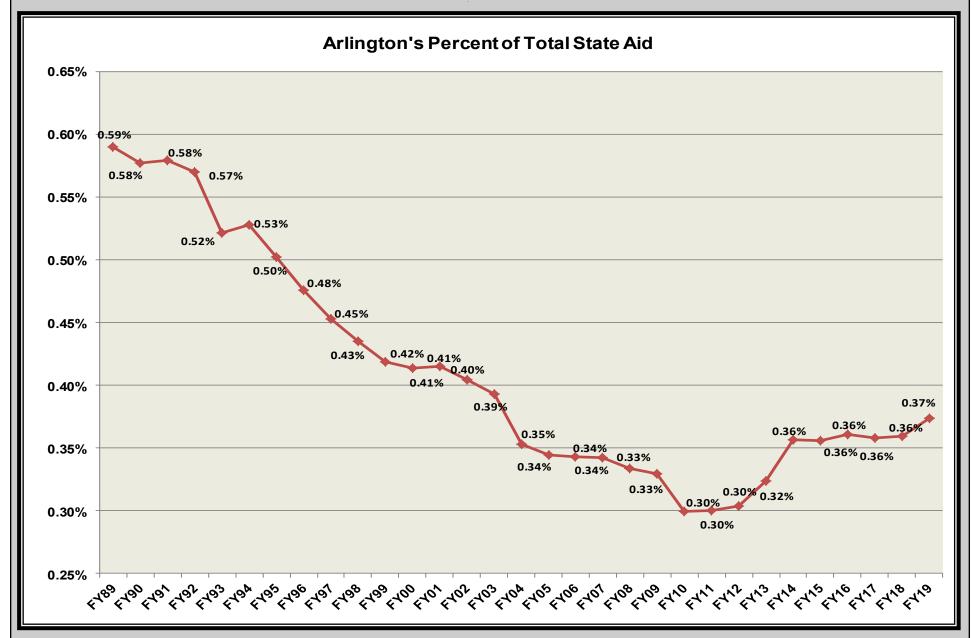
School Aid — Chapter 70 School Aid plus Charter School tuition reimbursement and exclusive of school construction aid — is projected to increase \$495,856 or 4.42%. Overall FY2019 State Aid, as used to balance the Town Manager's budget, will decrease \$388,436 to a total of \$20,434,541. This total is inclusive of \$476,523 in school construction reimbursements for debt service on the Bishop, Brackett, Hardy, and Peirce School construction projects. FY2018 is the last year of reimbursement for all but the Peirce School project.

Exclusive of school construction aid, Arlington's projected state aid for FY2019 is a slight increase in real dollars above what it received in FY2002, 16 years ago. Since 1989, Arlington has seen its share of total state aid cut by approximately 37% (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 FY2019 ends in a cumulative increase of 31%. Arlington, on the other hand, has only recently experienced an increase above FY2002. In FY2006, Arlington was still 15% below FY2002 levels, while the average of all municipalities started seeing annual increases since then. As recently as FY2014, Arlington's cumulative year-to-year change since FY2002 was a mere increase of 1.1%. In FY2019, Arlington remains disproportionately below other municipalities despite overall increases in state aid. To further illustrate this impact, the average state aid for municipalities in Massachusetts increased 30.9% from FY2002, while in FY2019 Arlington's cumulative year-to-year change since FY2002 is an increase of 20.9%, two thirds of the overall state increase.

STATE AID SUMMARY	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Budget	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Budget	Budget Change
Gen Government Aid	7,311,161	7,577,597	7,818,847	8,039,054	220,207
School Aid	10,725,382	11,040,081	11,216,320	11,712,176	495,856
School Construction	2,474,773	2,474,774	1,615,914	476,523	(1,139,391)
Tax Exemptions	135,079	113,405	116,040	150,747	34,707
Cherry Sheet Offsets	54,299	54,397	55,856	56,041	185
Total	20,700,694	21,260,254	20,822,977	20,434,541	(388,436)

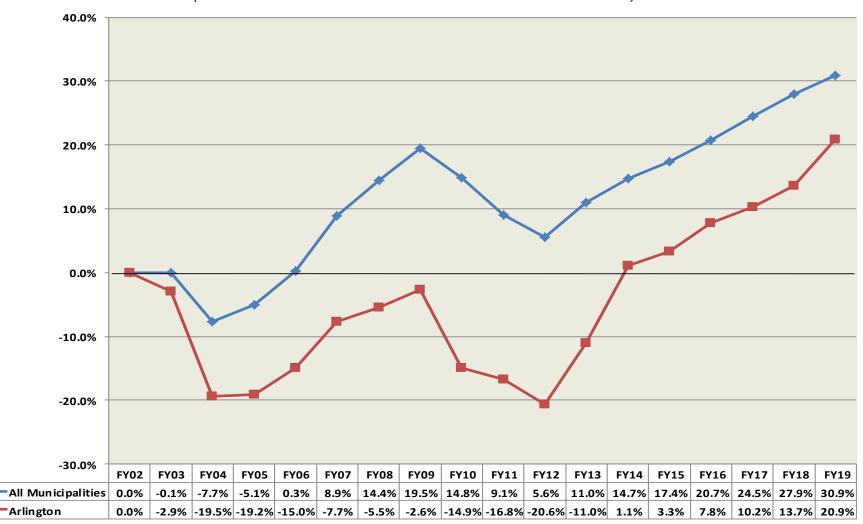






State Aid Cumulative Year-to-Year Percent Change Since Fiscal Year 2002

(Numbers Exclude School Construction and METCO Reimbursements)





GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA)

In FY2019 UGGA is expected to increase \$265,265, or 3.9% to \$7,844,260. This increase is due to Governor Baker's policy of having UGGA increase at the same rate that projected State revenues increase each year.

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 FY2018, the Town has weathered a reduction of approximately \$1.6 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 FY2019 the preliminary Cherry Sheet estimate is \$194,794, a decrease from the previous year, which reflects a reduction in the number and size of veterans' benefits claims.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Budget
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget	Change
Unrestricted General Government Aid	6,993,777	7,294,509	7,578,995	7,844,260	265,265
Veterans' Benefits	317,384	283,088	239,852	194,794	(45,058)
Total	7,311,161	7,577,597	7,818,847	8,039,054	220,207



SCHOOL AID

SCHOOL AID - CHAPTER 70

Proposed total statewide funding in FY2019, exclusive of regional schools, is \$4.1 billion, an increase of \$92 million, or 2.23%. Of this amount, it is estimated that Arlington will receive \$11,534,686, an increase of \$353,807 or 3.16%. 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 funding schedule that is supposed to follow a pattern of 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. In the past two fiscal years the Governor and Legislature have appropriated sufficient funds to fund only the first year reimbursement. Based on the preliminary cherry sheets, the Town will receive \$26,787, a decrease of \$8,654.

SCHOOL AID	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Budget	Budget Change
Chapter 70 School Aid	10,715,559	11,012,669	11,180,879	11,685,389	504,510
Charter School Tuition Reimbursement	9,823	27,412	35,441	26,787	(8,654)
Total	10,725,382	11,040,081	11,216,320	11,712,176	495,856



SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AID

The school construction aid the Town currently receives is for projects completed under an old State school building assistance program, the SBA program under which cities and towns borrowed the full amount of debt for a school building project and the state reimbursed the cities and towns for its share of the project. In 2004, the Governor signed Chapter 210 of the Act of 2004, which made substantial changes to the School Building Assistance (SBA) Program. This legislation (Ch. 208) transferred 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 dedicates one cent of the state sales tax to the new off-budget school building trust. This is projected to be \$847 million in 2018. Funding is no longer subject to an annual appropriation from the Legislature and approval of the Governor, allowing MSBA to prepay its share of project expenses. This streamlined process saves local communities millions in avoided interest costs and provides greater cash flow.

The Peirce School project is the last school project to receive reimbursement under the old SBA process. For FY19 the reimbursement will be \$476,222. The last construction aid payments for the Peirce School occur in FY2021, the same year of the last Arlington bond payment for the construction project.

SCHOOL AID	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Budget
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget	Change
School Construction Aid	2,474,773	2,474,774	1,615,914	476,523	(1,139,391)



TAX EXEMPTION AID

There are several categories of property tax exemptions for which the State provides a partial reimbursement to municipalities. For FY2019, Arlington's reimbursements are expected to increase \$34,707 to a total of \$150,747. 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	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Budget
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Tax Exemption Aid	135,079	113,405	116,040	150,747	34,707



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 FY2019, assistance to libraries is expected to increase slightly to \$56,041. 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.

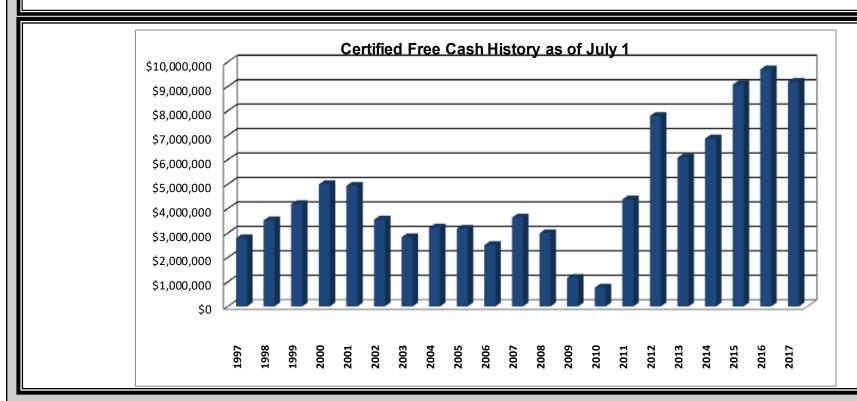
CHERRY SHEET OFFSETS	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Budget
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget	Change
Libraries	54,299	54,397	55,856	56,041	185
Total	54,299	54,397	55,856	56,041	185



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 amounts that were appropriated. It is also affected by increases or decreases in uncollected property taxes, deficits in non- General Fund funds, and any other legally incurred operating deficits, such as snow removal overdrafts.

The Town's free cash balance as of June 30, 2017 was \$9,186,749. 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 \$4,593,375 or 50% of the existing balance, be appropriated toward the FY2019.



FREE CASH	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Budget
FREE CASH	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Change
Free Cash Appropriated	3,435,846	4,537,299	4,850,566	4,593,375	(257,191)



OTHER REVENUE

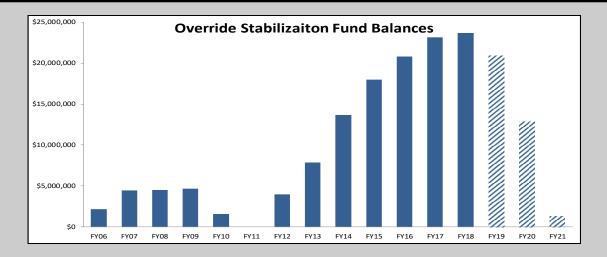
The Other Revenue category includes the Tax Abatement Overlay Reserve Surplus and Override Stabilization Funds.

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 has 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 2½ 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, when \$2,742,376 was appropriated or withdrawn. The remaining balance in the fund, of \$1,580,000, was appropriated in FY2011, the sixth year. Since the Override of 2011, \$23,692,212 was put into the Fund. The FY2019 budget will use \$2,786,331.



OTHER REVENUE	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Budget	Budget Change
Overlay Surplus	350,000	200,000	500,000	200,000	(300,000)
Override Stabilization Fund	-	-	-	2,786,331	<u>-</u>
Total	350,000	200,000	500,000	2,986,331	2,486,331