



SECTION VII

NON-APPROPRIATED EXPENSES

NON-APPROPRIATED EXPENSES



STATE ASSESSMENTS • CHERRY SHEET OFFSETS •
TAX ABATEMENT OVERLAY • COURT JUDGMENTS AND
DEFICITS



NON-APPROPRIATED EXPENSES

This category includes mandated assessments and expenditures, which are automatically added to the tax rate without appropriation. Overall, non-appropriated expenses are budgeted to increase \$91,117 (1.98%) in FY2024. The total projected State Assessments for FY2024 are \$3,876,905, an increase of \$66,056 from FY2023. The MBTA accounts for \$3,319,812 of this total and is increasing 3.46%. The remaining Non-Appropriated expenses include Cherry Sheet Offsets, Court Judgments and Deficits, and Tax Abatement Overlay. These items total \$810,062 which is a increase of \$25,061 from the FY2023 final Recap figure, because the Town fully paid off the Symmes debt service payments. The FY2023 Overlay will be adjusted when the final tax rate is set in the fall.

| Non-Appropriated Expenses | FY2021 Actual | FY2022 Actual | FY2023 Budget | FY2024 Budget | Budget Change |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| State Assessments | | | | | |
| MBTA | 3,066,409 | 3,094,335 | 3,208,809 | 3,319,812 | 111,003 |
| RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge | 33,560 | 12,140 | 12,140 | 13,100 | 960 |
| Air Pollution Districts | 18,234 | 19,323 | 19,782 | 19,605 | (177) |
| Metropolitan Area Planning Council | 24,491 | 25,084 | 25,864 | 26,436 | 572 |
| Special Education Charge | 21,012 | 21,421 | 22,333 | 27,130 | 4,797 |
| Charter School tuition | 204,720 | 336,744 | 410,684 | 364,714 | (45,970) |
| School Choice | 144,734 | 109,492 | 111,237 | 106,108 | (5,129) |
| State Assessments Sub-total | 3,513,160 | 3,618,539 | 3,810,849 | 3,876,905 | 66,056 |
| Cherry Sheet Offsets | 71,523 | 75,100 | 85,001 | 110,062 | 25,061 |
| Tax Abatement Overlay | 961,455 | 600,000 | 600,000 | 600,000 | - |
| Court Judgments & Deficits | 671,950 | 767,450 | 100,000 | 100,000 | - |
| Total | 5,218,088 | 5,061,089 | 4,595,850 | 4,686,967 | 91,117 |

**MBTA**

The MBTA is composed of 175 communities: the 14 original member communities of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), and 161 additional communities, which are receiving direct MBTA service. Chapter 161A of the Acts of 2000 increased the number of communities that constitute the MBTA from 78 to 175. The additional 97 communities have been receiving MBTA service; however, the original authorizing language made no provision for these communities to be assessed. The Authority is required to assess each community's share of the overall Authority's assessments. All communities associated with the Authority must contribute to the MBTA State and Local Assistance Fund an amount not less than \$136,026,868. After FY2006, this amount was adjusted each July 1 by the rate of inflation, but not more than 102.5% of the previous year's assessment. Each community's MBTA assessment shall equal its weighted share of the total population of the authority. Chapter 161A, Section 9 has determined the weights for each community. The population figures utilized in this calculation should be the most recent from the United States Census Bureau. Assessments are also weighted by the level of service within each community.

For FY2024, the Town's assessment will increase \$111,003 or 3.46%.

PARKING FINE REGISTRY SURCHARGE

If after proper notices, a motorist fails to pay a parking fine, motor vehicle excise tax, or a charge for abandonment of a motor vehicle, the Town notifies the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) not to renew the license and registration of that motorist. To cover the RMV's administrative costs of entering the necessary information into its computer system, the RMV assesses the Town a fee of \$20 for each notification it receives. This fee, which comes through as a charge on the Cherry Sheet, is recovered by the Town by adding this amount and other penalties to the original fine amount. The FY2024 surcharge assessment is estimated to be \$13,100, subject to final assessments made once the State budget is approved.

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

General Laws Chapter 11, Section 142B, requires that communities be assessed for a portion of the costs incurred by the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to monitor air pollution levels and enforce air quality standards at industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities. Expenditures made for such purposes are assessed against the metropolitan communities, one-half in proportion to the EQV's and one-half by the population of each community. Costs for FY2024 are estimated at \$19,605 an decrease of \$177 or -.89%.

METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL

The basic purpose of the Council is to coordinate and assist communities in their planning efforts, particularly for those activities or projects that may have a regional impact. The assessment for FY2024 is estimated at \$26,436, an increase of \$572 or 2.21%.

***SPECIAL EDUCATION CHARGE***

The purpose of this program is to partially reimburse the state for providing special needs education to children enrolled in state hospital schools. The cost that each municipality is charged is the average per pupil cost of education within the school district multiplied by the Full Time Equivalent of resident pupils served by the state. Current year charges are for pupils served in the prior school year. In FY2024, the State will charge Arlington \$27,130, an increase of \$4,797 or 21.48%.

CHARTER SCHOOL TUITION

The purpose of this program is to assess the sending municipality or regional school district for pupils attending charter schools. Charter school tuition charges are assessed against the sending district and paid to the charter school district. Charter Schools receive per-pupil payments from sending districts equal to the average cost per student in that district, plus a capital funding share equal to the state average of what districts pay per pupil in principal and interest for land and buildings. Cherry Sheet assessments for the upcoming fiscal year are based on pre-enrollment data from October of the current fiscal year. Final assessments are based upon March 15 figures. The tuition assessment for FY2024 is estimated at \$364,714 a decrease of \$45,970 or 11.19% from FY2023.

SCHOOL CHOICE SENDING TUITION

This is an assessment to the Town of Arlington for pupils attending another school district under school choice. School choice tuition charges are assessed against a sending district and paid to a receiving school district. Per pupil tuition rates are based on the receiving district's per pupil costs for the prior fiscal year. Costs are based on instruction, pupil services, administration, maintenance, and fixed charges. A student's tuition equals 75 percent of the per pupil cost, up to a limit of \$5,000, so effectively Arlington is charged \$5,000 per student, except for students with an individualized education plan, in which case a special education increment augments that tuition. The FY2024 charge is \$106,108, a decrease of \$5,129 or 4.61%.

CHERRY SHEET OFFSETS

Included in the estimated amount of aid to be received from the state are grant funds for the Town's Public Libraries. These funds are reserved for direct expenditure by the Library 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 expenses section as offsetting debits.

The library grant actually includes three grant programs more fully described in the revenue section of this budget under Cherry Sheet Offsets. It is projected to increase to a total of \$110,062, and increase of \$25,061 or 29.48%.

**TAX ABATEMENT OVERLAY**

State law requires that the Assessors put aside funds from each tax levy in a reserve that is called an Overlay. This account is established in anticipation that a certain percentage of the tax levy may end up being abated. Individual tax abatements are paid out of this fund. The final amount of the overlay account is determined by the Assessors and added to the tax rate without appropriation, and is usually set at anywhere from 1% to 2.5% of the tax levy. In revaluation years, which occur every three years, the overlay account is usually set at a higher amount in anticipation of an increased number of abatements. In other years, the overlay is set closer to \$600,000. FY2024 it will be set at \$600,000. Any surplus left in an overlay account is appropriated by Town Meeting in much the same manner as free cash. Under the Municipal Modernization Act, Ch. 218 of the Acts of 2016, municipalities changed from accounting for overlays for each tax year to combining all previous overlay accounts into a single fund. As of June 30, 2022, the balance in the overlay account was \$1,945,376. From this account, \$600,000 is proposed to be declared surplus and be used as a revenue source in FY2024.

COURT JUDGMENTS, DEFICITS, AND OTHER

State law provides that if the Town receives a court judgment requiring the payment of funds, the Treasurer, with the Director of Account's approval, may pay the award from the treasury without appropriation. The amount must then be added to the tax rate for the following year unless a subsequent appropriation is made to cover the deficit prior to setting the next year's tax rate. For FY24, an allowance of \$100,000 has been made for any such judgments.

From time to time, there are other non-appropriated expenses which have to be added to the tax rate. Any deficits in revenue, overlay, pensions, or debt and interest accounts, along with tax title amounts, and snow and ice budgets, must be added to the following year's tax rate.

In prior years, as a result of a special act of the legislature, any tax revenue from the Symmes project was debited here as a reserve to pay down the debt for the Symmes project. Once the debt was paid off in FY2022, the taxes associated with the project began going into the General Fund, like all other property taxes.