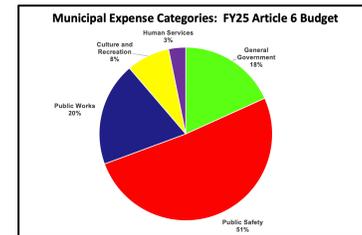


# Inside Town Finances

## Volume 8: Municipal Expenses

**Municipal expenses** represent 25% of the Town’s total Fiscal Year 2025 Article 6 Operating Budget (excluding the South Shore Country Club, Sewer, and Weir River Water System, which are all self-supported through user rates and fees). Altogether, approximately 73% of municipal expenses are salaries and wages. Municipal expenses are grouped into 5 categories.



### **Municipal Expense Categories**

**General Government** (18% of total municipal expenses) includes permitting and licensing activities, support staff, and departments responsible for the care and custody of Town assets.

- Specific General Government responsibilities include Assessing, Bare Cove Park, Community Planning, Conservation, GAR Hall, Human Resources, Information Technology, Land Use & Development, Legal Services, Select Board Office, Accounting, Town Clerk, Treasurer/Collector, Elections, Town Hall, and Town Meeting. This work is performed by 36 full-time and 8 part-time personnel.

**Public Safety** (51% of total municipal expenses) includes Animal Control, Building Department, Dispatch, Fire and Emergency Management, Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable, Police Department, and Public Safety Utilities.

- Fire and Police provide 24x7x365 protection of Town citizens. The Fire and Emergency Management Department has 61 full-time employees who responded to 5,382 calls in 2023. The Police Department has 57 full-time employees, including the Animal Control Officer, 4 School Resource Officers, 2 K9 Patrol Officers, and a Community Crisis Response Clinician. In 2023, Hingham Police received over 28,000 calls for service.
- In Fiscal Year 2023, Public Safety departments generated approximately \$3.6 million in Local Receipts revenue from the Town’s ambulance service, harbor-related fees, and building permits. This revenue offset nearly one fourth of the total Public Safety budget for that year.

24

Hours a day

7

Days a week

365

Days a year

- **5,382** fire and emergency management calls in 2023
- **28,000+** calls for Police service in 2023
- **\$3.6 million** revenue collected in Fiscal Year 2023; offsets 22% of total public safety budget

**Public Works** (20% of total municipal expenses) includes Engineering, Fleet Maintenance, Highway, Transfer Station, and Tree & Park.

- Among the responsibilities of Public Works are the care of 140 miles of public roads, 60 miles of sidewalks, over 10,000 public shade trees, and the Transfer Station, which accommodates 8,000 vehicle trips per week. The Public Works staff includes 46 full-time and 1 part-time personnel.

- **140** miles of public roads
- **60** miles of sidewalks
- **10,000+** public shade trees
- **8,000** weekly Transfer Station vehicle trips

**Human Services** (3% of total municipal expenses) includes the Center for Active Living, the Health Department, Veterans’ Services, Health Imperatives, and the South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center.

- The Center for Active Living is supported by 4 full-time, 4 part-time personnel, and 57 volunteers. In 2023, Center for Active Living volunteers served a total of 4,072 hours, which is the equivalent of more than two full-time positions. During that same time, 6 Veterans’ Services volunteers provided 750 hours of Valor Act support to the Veterans’ Services Department.

**Culture and Recreation** (8% of total municipal expenses) includes Library, Recreation, Bathing Beach, Historic Preservation, and Celebrations (e.g., Memorial Day, Veterans’ Day).

- In 2023, the Hingham Library accommodated 127,857 visits. The Library is staffed by 14 full-time personnel and 18 part-time personnel.