

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE
TOWN OF WORTHINGTON
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

The intent of this report is to provide information on the results of operations on the most recently ended fiscal year, [Fiscal Year 2022], which closed June 30, 2022 and a status report on the current Fiscal Year 2023 budget. Please note that this report uses the exact same format of prior year reports to make it easy to compare from year to year. Only the dates and amounts change.

FISCAL YEAR 2022

The tax levy for Fiscal Year 2022 was 3,077,969.34 with a resulting tax rate of 16.04. The town taxed under its levy limit (unused taxing capacity) by 211,790.66. The average single family residential value was 272,693.00 and the average single family tax bill was 4,374.00. This resulted in a 328.38 dollar increase for the average single family tax bill. At year end actual local receipts exceeded estimates by 203,406.89 and unspent appropriations were 142,295.00. The amount of 8,976.00 in the school choice assessment that exceeded what was estimated was netted against the 142,295.00 that was not spent and was closed. The school choice assessment is a charge to the town for children who live in Worthington but opt to go to another school system for which the town must pay. The town budgeted 196,809.00 for this and at year end the actual charge was 205,785.00. As a result of operations the 7/1/22 Free Cash was certified at 355,252.00.

Each year the Reserve Fund is created by an appropriation at Annual Town Meeting pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.40, s.6. Its' purpose is to provide funding for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures. Transfers by formal requests are approved or disapproved by the Finance Committee. To approve a transfer from the fund to another appropriation, the Finance Committee must find that the request is for either an extraordinary or unforeseen purpose and not just because the appropriation is depleted or overspent. In Fiscal Year 2022, 10,000.00 was budgeted in the Reserve Fund and one transfer was requested and approved.

No. 1	Assessors Computer Data Migration	1,800.00
	Total:	1,800.00

FISCAL YEAR 2023

The Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Town Meeting and a Special Town Meeting in November approved a total of 5,015,609.31 in appropriations. The town operating budget totaled 2,257,741.84; the town school budget totaled 1,272,008.47 and vocational education totaled 248,751.00. The town also appropriated 76,628.00 to Gateway RSD as the town's share of Gateway debt. This resulted in a grand total operating budget of 3,855,129.31. This was a 219,289.08 dollar increase and a 6.03 percent increase from the prior year. The school budget represents 32.00 percent of the total town operating budget. If we add the vocational education amount to the town school budget total, the total education budget represents 39.45.00 percent of the total town operating budget. It should also be noted that there are other school related costs that are not appropriated in the above mentioned school budget but are contained in other operating appropriations such as the cost of the Conwell building and fringe benefits for school employees. The Conwell building appropriation totals 134,596.00.00 and fringe benefits such as health insurance total 150,543.00 which is included in the Group Insurance appropriation. In addition, as mentioned above the town is charged an assessment from the State for the cost of Worthington students that through the School Choice Program

attend schools in other towns. This assessment per the Fiscal Year 2023 cherry sheet is 202,285.00 and while it is not appropriated at town meeting, it is added to the town's budget.

In addition to the operating budget, the town appropriated a total of 257,001.00 from the General Stabilization Fund. The amount of 120,000.00 was appropriated for a new backhoe for the Highway Dept. Also 9,000.00 was appropriated for radios for the Fire Dept. Also 47,243.00 was appropriated from the General Stabilization Fund and added to an insurance recovery of 24,044.00 to purchase a new F150 police cruiser. Also, 78,000.00 for Right of Way costs for the Route 143 reconstruction and 2,758.00 for tables and benches at the town park. To help replenish those votes, the town voted the sum of 445,419.00 from Free Cash into the General Stabilization Fund.

The town also appropriated the sum of 225,000.00 from the Conwell Building Stabilization Fund for renovations to the building.

The revenue budget projected 984,683.00 in estimated receipts from state and local sources, 3,235,006.61 from property tax revenue, 445,419.00 from Free Cash, 257,001.00 from the General Stabilization Fund, 225,000.00 from the Conwell Stabilization Fund, and 233,060.00 in "Chapter 90" state highway aid.

The tax levy for Fiscal Year 2023 was 3,235,006.61 with a resulting tax rate of 14.91. The town taxed under its levy limit (unused taxing capacity) by 217,097.39. The average single family residential value was 307,806.00 and the average single family tax bill was 4,589.93. This is an increase of 215.39 from Fiscal Year 2022.

As always, we would hope that this report will help to inform you of town budget actions as well as other information that can be found on the Finance Committee's page on the town's web site <https://worthington-ma.us/municipal-directory/finance-committee/>. In closing, we also would like to thank all town departments for their help in the budget process and hope to see you all at the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Joe Boudreau (Chair)
Paul Dunlevy
Gretchen Eliason
Bart Niswonger
Melinda Rose