

Alexandria 2026 Budget Hearing

January 20, 2026

- ❖ **Budget Committee Members Present:** Fred Platts, Doug Benton, Kevin Cassidy, Brian Lewis, Danielle Reed, Stephen Crane, and Michael Provost
- ❖ The meeting came to order at 6:05 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- ❖ **Budget Hearing on Proposed 2026 Budget**
 - The Budget Committee went over the attached proposed 2026 budget (see attached worksheet).
 - There was a discussion on the increase in the cost of property appraisal for 2026; the town will be undergoing a town-wide revaluation that is required by the state every five years.
 - There was discussion on the increased in cost for cemetery maintenance. There was mention that there is a need for increased maintenance at the ten cemeteries in town due to overgrowth of brush at some of the smaller cemeteries as well as stone work. There was discussion on whether some monies will be coming in from donations. Stone repairs are estimated at around \$500 per stone. There was discussion on using volunteers for doing some brush removal work.
 - There was an explanation as to what was included in the regional associations budget; there was mention that it includes Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid.
 - There was a question on why the budget committee's recommended amount for the police department was less than the police department requested amount; it was explained that the police department had a line for leasing a new cruiser and the budget committee removed it as they felt it should be in a separate warrant article.
 - There was discussion on concerns with paying for the street lighting when most of the street lights are not currently functioning. Paul Sirard, Road Agent, said that he has been calling Eversource to get them to replace the bulbs in the street lights but they are having difficulty locating bulbs and Paul will reach out to Eversource again. It was mentioned that Eversource removed the old pole and light from one intersection and did not put a light on the new pole. There was discussion on a project to replace all the lights with LEDs, but the cost to replace the light fixtures was too expensive.
- ❖ **Budget Committee Review of Warrant Articles**
 - The Budget Committee reviewed the warrant articles to vote on whether to recommend or not recommend as follows:
 - Warrant Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$180,000 for the repair and maintenance of paved roads. Recommended by the Select Board 3-0-0. Estimated tax impact \$0.60.
 - Paul Sirard stated that the current plan is to pave Fowler River Road unless there is an emergency that requires repairs to other roads.
 - Vote: Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-2-0
 - Warrant Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$373,720 for the repair of a bridge on Welton Falls Road. Recommended by the Select Board 3-0-0. Estimated tax impact \$1.24 per thousand.
 - Paul Sirard explained that the bridge is current on the state's red list and the state required the town to limit the weight to 3 tons and provided an explanation on the work that will be done to the bridge.
 - Vote: Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-0-0.
 - Warrant Article 5: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$31,628 for the fifth of ten yearly payments for the lease of the 2022 Grader for the Highway Department. This lease agreement was approved at the 2022 Town Meeting and contains an escape clause. Recommended by the Select Board 3-0-0. Estimated tax impact \$0.11 per thousand.
 - Vote: Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-0-0.
 - Warrant Article 6: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,456 for the fourth of five yearly payments for the lease of the 2023 Backhoe for the Transfer Station. This lease agreement was approved at the 2023 Town Meeting and contains an escape clause. Recommended by the Select Board 3-0-0. Estimated tax impact \$0.09 per thousand.
 - Vote: Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-0-0.
 - Warrant Article 7: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,764 for the third of seven yearly payments for the lease of the 2024 Truck for the Highway Department. This lease agreement was approved at the 2024 Town Meeting and contains an escape clause. Recommended by the Select Board 3-0-0. Estimated tax impact \$0.14 per thousand.
 - Vote: Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-0-0.
 - Warrant Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be put into the Town Hall Expendable Trust Fund. Recommended by the Select Board 3-0-0. Estimated tax impact \$0.03 per thousand.

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- Vote: Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-0-0.
 - Warrant Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be put into the Fire Department Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. Recommended by the Select Board 3-0-0. Estimated tax impact \$0.03 per thousand.
 - Vote: Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-0-0.
 - Warrant Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be put into the Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund. Recommended by the Select Board 3-0-0. Estimated tax impact \$0.10 per thousand.
 - Vote: Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-0-0.
 - Warrant Article 11: To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a seven year lease agreement in the amount of \$280,000 for the purpose of leasing a new truck for the highway department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$52,500 for the first year's payment for that purpose with \$34,970 coming from the Highway Equipment Fund and the balance of \$17,530 to come from general taxation. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 3-0-0. Estimated tax impact \$0.06 per thousand.
 - Paul explained that this new truck would replace the 2009 Sterling that has cost over \$175,000 in repairs over the time we've had the truck with over \$24,000 in 2025.
 - Vote: Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-0-0.
 - Warrant Article 12: To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a three-year lease agreement in the amount of \$80,000 for the purpose of leasing a police cruiser, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. Total cost of the cruiser \$80,000 with a trade-in of the old cruiser for \$10,000. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Majority vote required. Not recommended by the Select Board 1-2-0. Estimated tax impact \$0.09 per thousand.
 - Michael Provost said he spoke to the Police Chief and truck has 96,000 miles and needs some repairs and expressed concerns that if we wait to trade in the old cruiser the value will continue to decrease. There was discussion that price for the cruiser includes outfitting the cruiser as well because the equipment in the truck will not fit in the new cruiser. There was explanation that the Town owns the vehicle at the end of the lease.
 - Vote: Not recommended by the Budget Committee 2-5-0.
 - It was explained that there are additional warrant articles, but the budget committee only votes on the articles that involve raising and expending funds.
 - There was a question on the petitioned warrant article pertaining to Lakeview Heights and if Paul could obtain a cost on upgrading Lakeview Heights to the Town's Class V Road Agent.
 - There was a brief discussion on the warrant article for a proposed building permit; it was explained that the Select Board would like information required to be submitted to let the Town know what is being built on properties.
- ❖ **Public Input**
- A reminder was provided that the Newfound Area School District Deliberative Session is being held on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 10:00 am.

Meeting adjourned 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Dostie, Administrative Assistant

Also in attendance: Ken Hall, Brian Reed, Nancy McComas-Sharp, Stephanie McComas, Nancy Whitman, Paul Sirard, Deb Glidden, James Grant, Richard Nialetz, George Tuthill, Chet Caron, Robert Piehler

Town of Alexandria, NH
Town of Alexandria 2026
Proposed Budget

Town of Alexandria 2026 Proposed Budget

		2025	2026	2026
	Department Description	Budgeted	Department/BOS Proposed	Budget Committee Proposed
413000	Selectmen's Office	\$ 158,853	\$ 153,896	\$ 153,896
413030	Town Meeting/Town Report	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300
414020	Supervisors of Checklist	\$ 5,991	\$ 11,212	\$ 11,212
414030	Election Administration	\$ 3,175	\$ 6,050	\$ 6,050
415010	Trustees of Trust Funds	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
415020	Auditing	\$ 17,250	\$ 17,250	\$ 17,250
415040	Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 111,233	\$ 117,009	\$ 117,009
415050	Treasurer	\$ 4,837	\$ 4,837	\$ 4,837
415090	Budget Committee	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
415200	Property Appraisal	\$ 39,656	\$ 98,036	\$ 98,036
415300	Legal Expenses	\$ 73,350	\$ 39,200	\$ 39,200
419100	Planning Board	\$ 8,161	\$ 8,177	\$ 8,177
419400	General Government Bldgs.	\$ 61,176	\$ 57,521	\$ 57,521
419500	Cemeteries	\$ 16,345	\$ 27,098	\$ 27,098
419600	Property Liability Insurance	\$ 27,764	\$ 38,699	\$ 38,699
419700	Regional Associations	\$ 29,741	\$ 37,466	\$ 37,466
419900	Tax Mapping	\$ 5,800	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
421000	Police Department	\$ 377,959	\$ 407,025	\$ 380,025
421500	Ambulance Service	\$ 203,379	\$ 259,608	\$ 259,608
422000	Fire Department	\$ 78,214	\$ 89,411	\$ 89,411
429000	Emergency Management	\$ 11,100	\$ 10,900	\$ 10,900
429040	Forest Fires	\$ 5,000	\$ 500	\$ 500
431100	Highway Department	\$ 850,813	\$ 873,698	\$ 873,698
431300	Bridges	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000
431600	Street Lighting	\$ 2,800	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
432400	Transfer Station	\$ 229,252	\$ 240,362	\$ 240,362
441100	Health Officer	\$ 3,768	\$ 4,268	\$ 4,268
441500	Health Agencies	\$ 18,752	\$ 31,064	\$ 20,852
444200	Welfare Assistance	\$ 15,300	\$ 13,800	\$ 13,800
450000	Haynes Library	\$ 19,320	\$ 5,660	\$ 5,660
452100	TTCC & Wellington Park	\$ 37,835	\$ 37,805	\$ 37,805
458300	Flags, Markers	\$ 500	\$ 550	\$ 550
461100	Conservation Commission	\$ 1,571	\$ 1,781	\$ 1,781
470000	Principal & Interest on Loans	\$ 39,984	\$ 39,984	\$ 39,984
472300	Interest on Abatements	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150
	Operating Budget**	\$ 2,488,229	\$ 2,671,317	\$ 2,634,105

**Operating budget does not include additional warrant articles. Warrant articles are not yet finalized.