

Capital Outlay Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Hingham Police HQ - 25 Essington Drive

Present:

- Capital Outlay Committee: Mike Donovan (Chair), George Danis, Steven Pohl, Lyndsey Kruger, and Dave Leiphart
- Katie Dugan, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance
- Jeff Pizzi, Town Hall Maintenance Supervisor, and Ray Hemmings, Building Maintenance Specialist
- Ken Corson, Harbormaster
- David Jones, Chief of Police, and Deputy Chiefs O'Shea and Petitti

Chair Mike Donovan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Presentations were made as follows:

Town Hall Maintenance:

Requests totaling **\$177,160** were presented by Jeff Pizzi, Supervisor - Town Hall Building Maintenance, in order of priority:

1. \$25,000 for Town Hall general repairs - a perennial request - for any unforeseen repairs needed. Maintenance has used approximately \$12,000 of last year's \$25,000 fund on a new transformer switch.
2. \$20,000 for heat pump replacements - also a perennial request - to continue work on replacing 70 units at a rate of 2-3 per year. To date 29 have been replaced (41%). Costs are escalating and projected to rise to \$30,000/year for FY29 through FY31. The heat pump in the Rec Dept basement needs replacement ASAP. There is no State or Federal money available for these repairs (response to question from George D).
3. \$42,500 to complete work of replacing boilers at Town Hall where three of five have been replaced. One spare is always needed on site and a second boiler cracked last year. These final two boilers to be replaced are at the end of life. Load-in of boilers is a crucial step in the installation process and it is therefore unfeasible to split the remaining replacements over more than one year (response to question from Mike D).
4. \$31,250 for replacement of two of three B&G circulating pumps. The last renovation of Town Hall was 1997-98 and these pumps run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Katie Dugan remarked that (regarding items 3 and 4) boilers in general are more of a priority than pumps. However, given that installation is a large part of both projects, it makes sense to avoid delaying into FY28.
5. \$58,310 in total to complete LED lighting in the Rec Dept game room (\$16,470) and Town Hall corridors (\$41,570). Grant money is no longer available for LED retrofits. These projects could be split. Completion is a priority given the Town's goal of continuing green initiatives and LEDs are more efficient and require less upkeep. Because Town Hall Maintenance supports all Rec space the game room is considered part of their responsibility. However, the Rec Department's

revolving fund could be asked to contribute, similar to prior floor renovation and gym lighting projects. Katie Dugan will inquire and coordinate with Mark Thorell.

Harbormaster

Requests totaling **\$290,000** were presented by Ken Corson, Harbormaster.

The department received a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security totaling \$1,320,000. The grant includes \$1,000,000 in funding for a police patrol vessel, \$200,000 in funding for a drone, and \$120,000 in funding for training courses. The federal grant has a 25% contribution requirement so the Town's match on the vessel is \$250,000 and the \$50,000 on the drone.

1. \$250,000 to replace vessel "Marine One" (Safeboat 31) which has been in use since 2010. The new vessel would also be 33' in length, has updated technology on board, and does not require a forward diesel engine, which is costly to maintain, for the fire suppression equipment. Furthermore, replacement of the vessel would obviate the \$100,000 repowering need projected for FY30. If funded for FY27 the new vessel would be received in three years given it is ordered purpose-built and construction takes at least a one year. It is expected that the existing vessel would be kept in the fleet for training purposes or, alternatively, prepared for eventual sale.
2. \$40,000 to implement a Drone as First Responder (DFR) System, which was described as follows. The drone would be stationed at HPD in a protective hangar and can be launched remotely pursuant to an incoming dispatch call. Responding officers can take over the drone while in transit and monitor the video to assess the scene prior to arrival. The drone needs to cover a 4-mile range, including the return to base, and the proposed system could reach the entire harbor and most, but not all, of town. The DFR System would represent a new asset to HPD's existing drone system. In response to a question (George D) as to the need for another drone, the Harbormaster responded that the DFR system is completely autonomous and can launch on its own, in contrast to the manual operation of existing land-based drones which also do not have FAA clearance to fly over water. In response to a question (Lyndsey K) as to whether it is anticipated other towns could use the DFR system, the Harbormaster responded that, although Hull could be conceived as a possibility, the range of the system precludes sharing its functionality.

Also discussed were forward-looking costs of \$45,000 for engine replacement on vessel "Marine Two" (Safeboat 25) and \$10,000,000 for inner harbor dredging in the boat mooring basin, both projected in FY29. This section of the harbor was last dredged in 2019 at a cost of \$2,000,000. There is a potential to receive up to \$2,000,000 in grant money from the State under a 50/50 match from the Town (previously a 75% funding program which has been reduced).

Police

Requests totaling **\$1,242,616** were presented by David Jones, Chief of Police, in order of priority.

1. \$21,000 for body armor replacement, which is a standard annual request as equipment is cycled through its 5-year lifespan. (Expected to rise slightly in FY28-30 due to manufacturer price increases.)
2. (The \$13,000 request for rifle plate carriers was withdrawn as they are no longer needed.)
3. \$15,000 to replace police cruiser radios, some of which are 17 years old. Officers do carry portable radios. However, their range is less than those in the cruisers, which are also often vehicle specific with regard to installation and therefore not easily swapped into newer cruisers.
4. \$409,464 for electronic control weapons (Tasers) which represents updated pricing (\$358,666 in 2026). The department considers Tasers a highly effective “de-escalation tool” for the purposes of law enforcement. The models currently in use are no longer produced nor supported by Axon, the manufacturer. Replacement will also require training on the new models which have an expected lifespan of 5-6 years (in response to Q from George D.) and the quoted price represents outright purchase for a 5-year period which includes all cartridges, batteries, and docking stations. It is possible to structure the payment over 5 years (not a lease) at an approximate cost of \$72,000 per year after which the Tasers can be replaced/renewed. In response to a question (Steve P) regarding potential grant money Chief Jones responded that HPD actively pursues grants but these usually cover computer systems (e.g., vehicle based) and not weapons systems.
5. \$55,000 for the replacement of two Live Scan Fingerprinting systems. One is used in the processing of License to Carry requests. The second is used for booking purposes in the secure detention area and therefore not available for general public use. The existing systems are old technology and were brought over from the previous Police HQ, as replacement was not part of the PSF build.
6. \$337,000 for installation of a VirTra simulator system (From the manufacturer: “*VirTra is a global leader in immersive simulation training that helps frontline professionals build decision-making, de-escalation, and use-of-force skills under pressure.*”) The system would be installed in a large, existing room on the 2nd floor which was envisioned as a training space but is currently being used for (minimal) storage. HPD personnel would be able to train on enforcement scenarios in Taser, handgun, and rifle situations as well as verbal de-escalations using video captured from Hingham locations. This is envisioned as an extremely beneficial training tool with cost savings achieved by obviating the need for offsite instruction (e.g., Sheriff’s Department) which involves travel and overtime. As to the lifespan of the system, in response to a question (Mike D) Chief Carson responded that this is unknown but noted that because it is a computer system some switching could occur in the future. Furthermore, because the simulator is also specific to weapons systems a refit could be required should those systems change.
7. \$60,000 for new motorcycles. The current motorcycles, of which there are two, are 2018 models and used for funeral traffic control and other general duty in non-winter months. There is potential to trade in the current motorcycles.
8. \$332,152 for new cruisers. This request has been shortened from a 7-year to a 5-year cycle as the current fleet is hitting mileage numbers sooner than expected. The department looks to replace one detective car and four front-line cars, all of which will continue to be Ford models (command and K-9 vehicles are larger Chevy Tahoe models). HPD has 9 older hybrids remaining in the fleet but these have proven ineffective for front-line use due to the high battery maintenance costs and diagnosis problems and consequently have been transitioned into administrative roles.

Meeting minutes for January 5 were approved 3-0 with 1 abstention.

Meeting minutes for January 12 were approved 5-0.

A motion to reschedule the next Capital Outlay Committee meeting (Monday, Jan 26) to Monday, February 2 was carried. Katie Dugan will confirm with the presenting department heads.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted on XX/XX/XX at XX:XX

Dave Leiphart, acting secretary for January 21

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