



Finance Committee Budget Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Monday, April 28, 2025

7:00 PM

The Finance Committee will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Monday April 28, 2025 at 7:00 pm. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/85642893268> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 856 4289 3268.

You may also:

1. Watch a live broadcast of the meeting on NewTV's government channel (Comcast 9, RCN 13, 614 (HD), Verizon 33).
2. View a live stream on NewTV's YouTube channel at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvNeCJkA3PftuLLvfAh3cQ>

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

- #107-25 Appropriation of \$2,000,000 for FY2026 Health Insurance costs**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate two million dollars (\$2,000,000) from June 30, 2024 Certified Free Cash to an account established for the purpose of supplementing the significant increase in FY2026 Health Insurance costs.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET & CIP DISCUSSIONS:

Comptroller/Retirement
Treasurer
Purchasing

Please Note: Budget materials can be found on the City's website at the following link:

<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/comptroller/budget>

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

Referred to Finance and Appropriate Committees

- #351-24 Submittal of the FY2026 to FY2030 Capital Improvement Plan**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the Fiscal Years 2026 to 2030 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter.
- #81-25 Submittal of the FY26 Municipal/School Operating Budget**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR submitting in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter the FY26 Municipal/School Operating Budget, passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY26-FY30 Capital Improvement Program (#351-24). EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION 04/22/25; LAST DATE TO PASS THE BUDGET 06/06/25
- #82-25 Submittal of the FY2026-FY2030 Supplemental Capital Improvement**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY26 – FY30 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan.

**Respectfully submitted,
Leonard Gentile, Chair of Finance Committee**



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

#107-25

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April 14, 2025

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Honorable City Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of two million dollars, \$2,000,000, from June 30, 2024, Certified Free Cash to an account established for the purpose of supplementing the significant increase in FY2026 Health Insurance costs.

Unfortunately, the City recently learned that rather than absorbing a 7.8% increase in the cost of Health Insurance for our employees, we (the City, NPS, and our employees) must now absorb an 11.2% increase. Higher costs due to inflationary pressures, a resurgence in doctor visits following the pandemic, and increased utilization of specialty drugs, among other factors, are pushing medical cost trend rates to the highest levels in recent years. Unfortunately, the City of Newton is not immune from these cost pressures.

This increase amounts to \$2.0M altogether of which \$700,000 is for the City and \$1,300,000 is for NPS. Because this increase occurred as late as it did in the process, I have decided to docket a request to use Free Cash for this purpose. We believe this increase will become a recurring expenditure in the FY2027 budget and will need to be absorbed in next year's budget increase at that time.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile, authorization to appropriate the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) from June 30, 2024 Certified Free Cash to Acct#01C10403-57HLTH Health Insurance Costs established for the purpose of supplementing the significant increase in FY2026 Health Insurance costs, be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Free Cash (0001-3240).....	\$2,000,000
TO:	Health Insurance Costs (01C10403-57HLTH).....	\$2,000,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____