

**TOWN OF BROOKLINE  
FY2020 PROGRAM BUDGET**

**NON-APPROPRIATED EXPENSES**

This category consists of mandated expenditures and assessments that are automatically added to the tax rate without appropriation. Overall, Non-Appropriated expenses are expected to total \$8,744,711 a decrease of \$152,334 (1.7%) for FY20. The total projected State and County Assessments of \$6,825,698, an increase of \$232,951 (3.5%), includes \$5,364,833 for the MBTA and \$1,042,646 for Norfolk County.

CLASS OF EXPENDITURE	ACTUAL FY2018	BUDGET FY2019	REQUEST FY2020	FY20 vs FY19	
				\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
<u>State and County Assessments</u>					
County	948,309	972,017	1,042,646	70,629	7.3%
Air Pollution District	31,070	31,755	33,397	1,642	5.2%
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	30,499	30,840	31,698	858	2.8%
Special Education	1,264	7,957	19,068	11,111	139.6%
School Choice Sending Tuition	27,059	71,558	70,611	(947)	-1.3%
Charter School Assessment	73,984	25,399	29,965	4,566	18.0%
Registry Parking Surcharges	233,480	233,480	233,480	0	0.0%
MBTA	5,146,859	5,219,741	5,364,833	145,092	2.8%
<b>SUB-TOTAL - STATE AND COUNTY ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>6,492,524</b>	<b>6,592,747</b>	<b>6,825,698</b>	<b>232,951</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
<u>Misc. Non-Appropriated Expenses</u>					
Cherry Sheet Offsets -Libraries	86,983	88,500	87,271	(1,229)	-1.4%
Tax Levy Overlay	1,722,221	1,762,675	1,806,742	44,067	2.5%
Tax Titles/ Court Judgments/ Deficits	25,000	453,123	25,000	(428,123)	-94.5%
<b>SUB-TOTAL - MISC. NON-APPROPRIATED</b>	<b>1,834,204</b>	<b>2,304,298</b>	<b>1,919,013</b>	<b>(384,056)</b>	<b>-16.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL NON-APPROPRIATED</b>	<b>8,326,728</b>	<b>8,897,045</b>	<b>8,744,711</b>	<b>(152,334)</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>

**COUNTY TAX**

General Laws Chapter 35, Section 31, provides that the cost of county government shall be apportioned among the cities and towns within each County according to the equalized valuation (EQV) of each city and town in relation to the total EQV of all cities and towns in the County. EQV's are updated by the State every two years and were updated by the State in CY2018. Under the present EQV's, Brookline pays more than 14% of the Norfolk County assessment. While the overall county assessment is limited to a 2 ½% increase under Proposition 2 ½, individual communities' assessments are not. The Town's FY20 assessment is estimated to increase \$70,629 (7.3%) to a total of \$1,042,646.

**AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

General Laws Chapter 11, Section 142B, requires that communities be assessed for a portion of the costs incurred by the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to monitor air pollution levels and enforce air quality standards at industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities. Expenditures made for such purposes are assessed against the metropolitan communities, one-half in proportion to the EQV's and one-half by the population of each community. Costs for FY20 are expected to increase \$1,642 (5.2%) to \$33,397.

**METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL (MAPC)**

The basic purpose of the Council is to coordinate and assist communities in their planning efforts, particularly for those activities or projects that may have a regional impact. The total assessment is apportioned among communities based on the community's share of the total district population. The assessment is estimated to increase \$858 (2.8%) for FY20, resulting in a projected cost of \$31,698.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

This assessment is to partially reimburse the State for providing special needs education to children enrolled in state hospital schools. The cost that each municipality is charged is the average per pupil cost of education within the school district multiplied by the Full Time Equivalent of resident pupils served by the State. Current year charges are for pupils served in the prior school year. The FY20 assessment is estimated to increase \$11,111 (139.6%) to \$19,068.

**SCHOOL CHOICE SENDING TUITION**

General Laws Chapter 71, Section 12B mandates that the State assess a municipality or regional school district for pupils attending another school district under School Choice. School Choice tuition charges are assessed against the sending district and paid to the receiving school district. Cherry Sheet estimates are based on the prior year's final tuition rates and enrollment figures. The tuition charge is based on the number of Full Time Equivalent students multiplied by the per pupil tuition rate. Per pupil tuition rates are based on the receiving district's per pupil costs for the prior fiscal year. Costs are based on instruction, pupil services, administration, maintenance and fixed charges. A student's tuition equals 75% of the per pupil cost, up to a limit of \$5,000. For a student with an individualized education plan, a special

education increment augments that tuition. The amount of the increment is determined by applying annual cost rates to the specific services cited in a pupil's individual education plan. A \$70,611 assessment is expected for FY20, which reflects a decrease of \$947 (1.3%).

**CHARTER SCHOOL ASSESSMENT**

General Laws Chapter 71, Section 89, Sub-section (nn) mandates that the State assess a municipality or regional school district for the costs associated with pupils attending a Charter School district. Municipalities and school districts are reimbursed for this assessment based on the following schedule: in year one, an amount equal to 100% of the assessment; in year two, an amount equal to 60% of the assessment; in year three, an amount equal to 40% of the assessment; after year three, no reimbursement. The reimbursement of the assessment, which appears as revenue under State Aid, is, of course, subject to appropriation. If the account is not fully-funded, then the reimbursement is prorated. The FY20 assessment is expected to increase by \$4,566 (18%), for a projected cost of \$29,965.

**PARKING FINE REGISTRY SURCHARGE**

If after proper notices a motorist fails to pay a parking fine, motor vehicle excise tax, or a charge for abandonment of a motor vehicle, the Town notifies the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) to not renew the license and registration of that motorist. To cover the RMV's administrative costs of entering the necessary information into its computer system, the RMV assesses the Town a fee of \$20 for each notification it receives. This fee, which comes through as a charge on the Cherry Sheet, is recovered by the Town by adding this amount and other penalties to the original fine amount. The FY20 surcharge assessment is expected to remain at \$233,480.

**MBTA**

The MBTA provides rapid transit and other mass transit services to 175 cities and towns including Brookline. Prior to the 1999 enactment of the reform package that overhauled the budgeting and assessment procedures for the MBTA (commonly referred to as "forward-funding"), only 78 communities were assessed, totaling \$145 million and increasing 2 1/2 % annually. Now 175 communities are assessed and total assessments declined over a six-year period, ending in FY06, when it reached \$127.5 million. With the total assessment being spread over a larger number of communities, the assessment for the original 78 communities was lowered over the six-year period. This is governed by General Laws, Chapter 161A. Beginning in FY07, total assessments could not increase by more than 2 1/2% annually.

Each community's MBTA assessment equals its weighted share of the total population of the authority. Chapter 161A, Section 9 has determined the weights for each community. The population figures utilized in this calculation are the most recent from the United States Census Bureau. The FY20 total assessment for all communities is estimated at \$174.4 million, with the Town's assessment at \$5.36 million, a projected increase of \$145,092 (2.8%).

**EDUCATION OFFSET**

Included in the estimated amount of aid to be received from the State are grant funds for the Libraries. These funds are reserved for direct expenditure by the departments and cannot be counted as general available revenues. Consequently, as part of the tax rate preparation process, whatever amount is included within the state aid estimate is also included in the non-appropriated expense section as an off-setting debit. The main component of Education Offsets is Libraries, which are expected to decrease by \$1,229 (1.4%), for a projected cost of \$87,271. A more detailed explanation of this item can be found in the financing section (Section III) under State Aid.

**TAX LEVY OVERLAY**

General Laws Chapter 59, Section 25 requires that the Board of Assessors put aside funds from each tax levy in a reserve that is called an Overlay. This account is established in anticipation that a certain percentage of the tax levy may end up being abated or exempted. Individual tax abatements are paid out of this fund, as are exemptions for certain elderly, veterans, surviving spouses, and blind persons. The final amount of the overlay account is determined by the Assessors and added to the tax rate without appropriation. The overlay balance as of 6/30/18 was \$8,085,617.96 The balance does not reflect potential future liabilities of \$7,204,083.50 The proposed overlay for FY20 is \$1.8 million, or approximately 0.8% of the total property tax levy, an increase of \$44,067 (2.5%).

**TAX TITLES, COURT JUDGMENTS, AND DEFICITS**

State law provides that if the Town receives a court judgment requiring the payment of funds, the Treasurer, with the Director of Account's approval, may pay the award from the treasury without appropriation. The amount must then be added to the tax rate for the following year unless a subsequent appropriation is made to cover the deficit prior to setting the next year's tax rate. From time to time, there are other non-appropriated expenses that have to be added to the tax rate. Any deficits in revenue, overlay, pensions, or debt and interest accounts, along with tax title amounts, must be added to the following year's tax rate. Expenses for FY20 are estimated at \$25,000.

