



FY 23 Budget Proposal

FIRST SELECTWOMAN BRENDA L. KUPCHICK

WITH THANKS AND APPRECIATION

Thank you to our Finance Department, all Department Heads and Town employees for your work throughout the year and in assistance developing the Town budget.

Thank you to all our elected officials and volunteers who serve on boards and commissions that make our community a better place to live and work.

It's an honor to serve as Fairfield's First Selectwoman and work with the men and women in our Town government.



FAIRFIELD AT A GLANCE

- 61,512 Residents
- \$139,122 Median Household Income
- 20,641 Households
- 66% of Adults hold College Degree or higher
- 442 Town Employees (22 ECC, 22 WPCA)
- AAA-rated community
- 1,483 Board of Education employees
- A+ Rated Public Schools
- 35% of households have children in public schools



RESPONSIVE & RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

- ✓ Protects Taxpayers
- ✓ Significantly Increases Education Spending
- ✓ Reorganizes & Right-sizes Town Government
- ✓ Increased Government Modernization, Access & Transparency
- ✓ Invests in Public Safety
- ✓ Maintains Tax Relief for Senior & Disabled Residents
- ✓ Funds Long Term Contractual Obligations
- ✓ Preserves AAA Credit Rating & Long-Term Fiscal Health of the Town



COST INCREASES

- Inflation in the US as of February is a 40 year high of 7.9%
- Energy costs are soaring
 - Gas: ↑ 76%
 - Diesel: ↑ 53%
- Global supply chain disruption has led to increase costs and the ability to acquire certain items
- Two State Minimum Wage Increases in FY 23
 - \$14 per hour on July 1, 2022
 - \$15 per hour on June 1, 2023
- Mandatory Newspaper Advertising – nearly doubling
- Contractual union wage increases
- Employee Health Insurance
- Tipping & Recycling Fees



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- **Salary, Wages, and Contingency** – Set aside reserve to fund open contracts
- **Pension Contribution** – Fully funded at 100% of ADEC
- **OPEB Contribution** – Fully funded at 100% of ADEC
- **Fund Balance** – FY22 surplus will maintain the 11.34% funding level through FY23
- **Public Schools** – Budget increase of \$7.9 million over last year (4.12%). This is a \$2.5 million reduction from the Board of Education's FY23 request
- **Mill Rate** – Less than 1% increase at .98%



FY23 BUDGET SUMMARY VS FY22

	FY22 Adopted Budget	FY23 Proposal First Selectwoman	% Budget Change
Board of Education	\$192,084,220	\$199,991,554	4.12%
Shared Expense (BOE & Town)	\$28,175,167	\$26,528,998	-5.84%
Town	\$112,082,264	\$116,252,322	3.72%
Total Expenditures/Net Revenue Required	332,341,651	\$342,772,874	3.14%
Mill Rate Increase			.98%



Where the money comes from...

	FY 22 Adopted Budget	FY23 Proposal First Selectwoman Budget	Change in Dollars	Change in Percentage
Current Year Tax Levy	\$305,135,907	\$314,611,196	\$9,475,289	3.11%
Prior Year Tax, Interest	\$3,200,000	\$4,237,730	\$1,037,730	32.43%
Misc. Town Fees/Charges	\$15,531,095	\$15,563,738	32,643	0.21%
Investment Income	\$1,355,384	\$370,294	(\$985,090)	-72.68%
Municipal Aid	\$4,936,134	\$5,776,651	\$840,517	17.03%
Fines	\$228,755	\$240,410	\$11,655	5.09%
Rental Income	\$1,954,376	\$1,972,856	\$18,480	0.95%
Totals	\$332,341,651	\$342,772,874	\$10,431,223	3.14%



Where the money goes...

	FY 22	FY23 Proposal First Selectwoman	Change in Dollars	Change in Percentage
Town Budget Categories				
Salary, Wages, Contingency	\$53,382,852	\$53,953,996	\$571,144	1.07%
Pension Contribution	\$10,272,460	\$10,312,769	\$40,309	0.39%
OPEB Contribution	\$9,284,597	\$ 9,463,245	\$178,648	1.92%
Health Insurance	\$10,376,207	\$10,835,805	\$459,598	4.43%
Fees & Professional Services	\$5,997,228	\$6,311,158	\$313,930	5.23%
Capital Outlay	\$1,455,335	\$1,463,000	\$ 7,665	0.53%
All Other*	\$21,313,585	\$23,912,349	\$2,598,764	12.19%
Total Town Budget	\$112,082,264	\$116,252,322	\$4,170,058	3.72%
Board of Education	\$192,084,220	\$199,991,554	\$7,907,334	4.12%
Shared Expenses (Town & BOE)	\$28,175,167	\$26,528,998	(1,646,169)	-5.84%
Total Budget	\$332,341,651	\$342,772,874	\$10,431,223	3.14%



NOTEWORTHY CAPITAL NEEDS

- **Public Safety**

Fire hose replacement, command vehicles, radio equipment, investigative technology, security cameras

- **Public Works**

Sewer treatment plant upgrades, snow plows, power equipment

- **Information Technology**

Servers, storage, back up equipment, computer and laptop replacements

TOTAL: \$1.5 million



PAVING FUNDING PLAN FY23

\$1.2 million in operating budget

\$1.25 million ARPA

\$1 million from FY22 surplus

+ \$580k in bonding (proposed)

\$4,030,000 to fully fund year 1 of the independent paving analysis

ECC | EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Beginning in FY23, the new ECC operation will be budgeted as a separate fund.

All revenues and expenses will flow through the new fund (similar to WPCA and Regional Fire School). Because the Fund is not 100% self-supporting, there will be a separate ECC appropriation in the General Fund to make up the difference.

The proposed budget includes the assumption of adding a third town as of January 1, 2023.

	FY 20	FY 23	
	Budget	Proposed	Difference
Total Cost	\$1,950,334	\$3,106,754	\$1,156,420
Outside Revenue	\$137,704	\$1,399,219	\$1,261,515
NET Cost - Fairfield	\$1,812,630	\$1,707,535	(\$105,095)



RIGHTSIZING TOWN GOVERNMENT

Reorganizing Town Departments to better serve the needs of Fairfield residents.

- **Social Services:** Part time Director of Social Services to full time position to address increasing assistance needed for financial impact of COVID on low income residents, and mental health services.
- **Senior Center:** Consolidate two part time positions to one full time Director to provide increased services for senior citizens.
- **Tax Collector:** Sewer Rent Collector funded 80% by WPCA, and 20% by the Town.
- **Human Resources:** Eliminated Risk Manager position, for a full time Assistant Director, HR Generalist and part time Diversity Recruitment Coordinator.
- **Engineering Department:** Eliminated and replaced Engineer Drafter and Instrument Operator with a new Senior Civil Engineer and Project Manager.
- **Conservation Department:** Addition of a part-time administrative position.
- **Police Department:** Two new officers to address new demands on law enforcement.



RIGHTSIZING TOWN GOVERNMENT

Fairfield Police Department | Comparable Department/Community Study

	Population	Square Miles	Calls for Service	Sworn Personnel	Officers	Detectives	Sergeants	Lieutenants	Captains	Deputy Chiefs	Chiefs	Annual Budget
Fairfield	61,740	30	48,735	108	67	15	13	8	3	1	1	\$ 15,819,012.00
				1 Ofc per 571 people								
Manchester	57,805	27	42,400	111	70	12	19	6	3	0	1	\$ 21,108,030.00
				1 Ofc per 520 people								
Stratford	52,120	17	46,000	115	73	16	11	9	4	1	1	\$ 11,701,846.00
				1 Ofc per 479 people								
Milford	54,328	22	47,000	120	74	16	18	7	3	1	1	\$ 15,511,872.00
				1 Ofc per 452 people								
Bristol	60,218	26	42,933	122	77	19	12	11	0	2	1	\$ 16,777,925.00
				1 Ofc per 493 people								
West Hartford	63,063	22	47,665	131	89	16	13	7	3	2	1	\$ 16,970,863.00
				1 Ofc per 481 people								
Greenwich	62,587	48	41,000	155	104	20	16	9	3	2	1	\$ 23,765,496.00
				1 Ofc per 403 people								



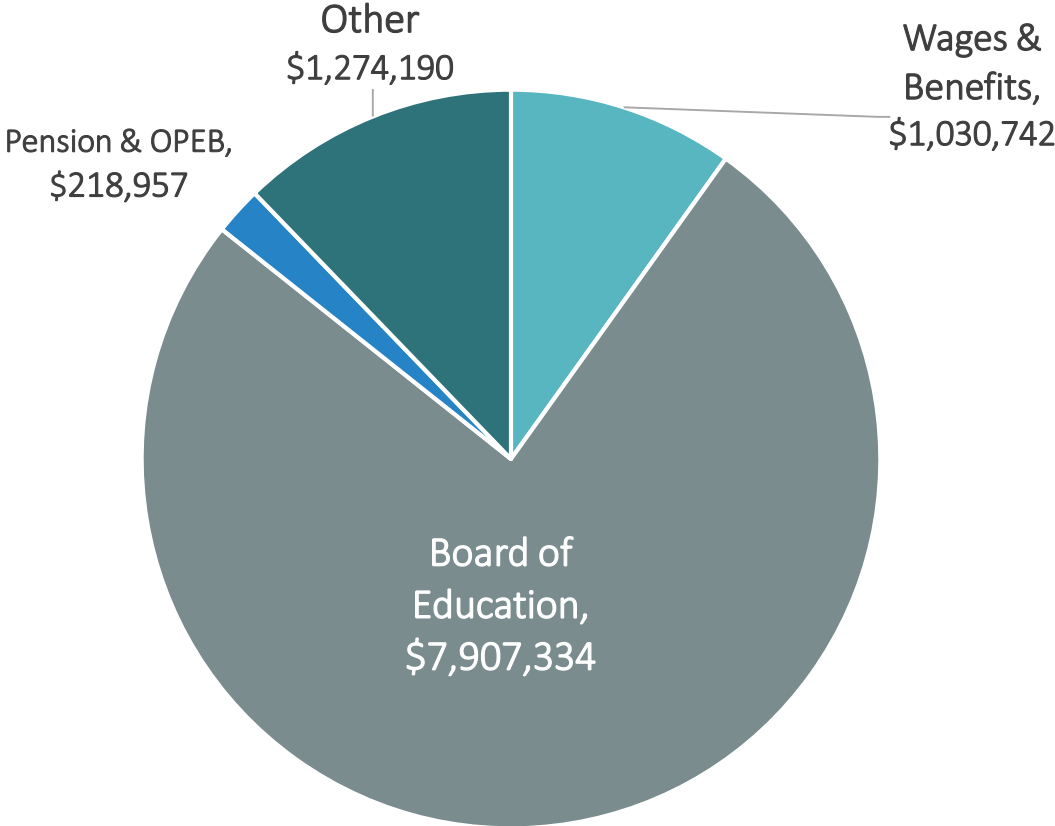
SENIOR & DISABLED TAX RELIEF

- State and local laws provide property tax relief programs for Fairfield residents who are age 65 and over or totally disabled and whose annual incomes and assets are within specified limits.
- These programs are designed to help seniors and totally disabled residents, to remain in their homes and town they improved over the years.
- This program benefitted 1,315 residents in the current fiscal year.
- The FY23 budget includes \$4,077,768 from the Town in tax credits and an additional \$367,118 from the State.



FY23 BUDGET INCREASE

Spending Increases as a Share of Total

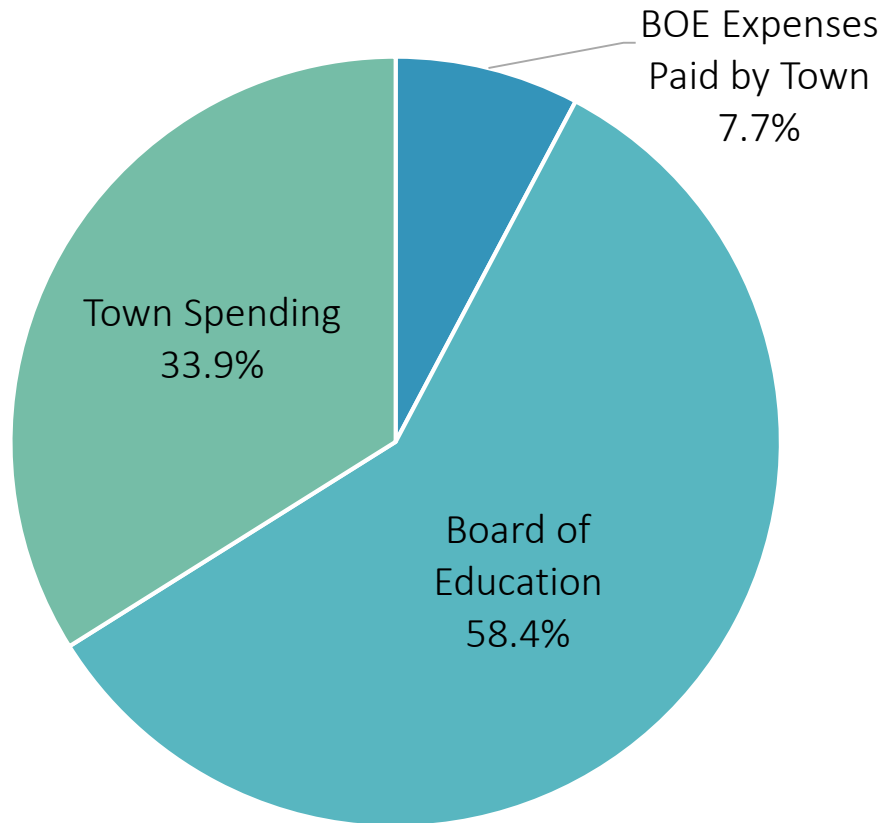


The First Selectwoman’s budget efficiently utilizes just 14% to provide funding for:

- Investments in technology
- Safety and training equipment for law enforcement and firefighters
- Service vehicles and equipment for Public Works
- Salary & Wage Reserves for unsettled contracts

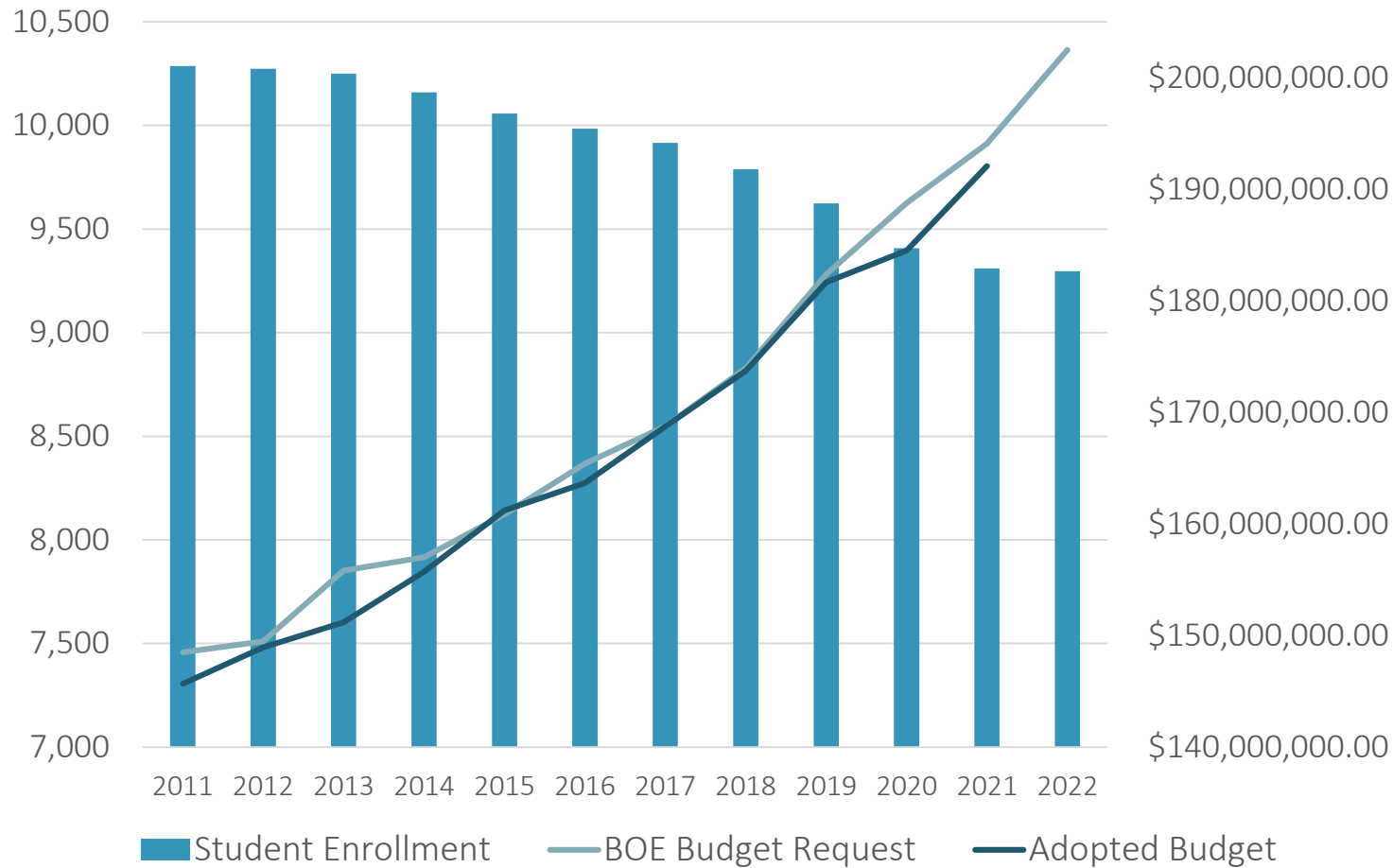
86% of FY23 increases are to fund education and long-term liabilities

SPENDING TOTALS



- The overall budget includes:
 - Town Budget
 - Education expenses paid by the town (debt service on capital projects, nurses etc.)
 - Board of Education Budget
- The Board of Education budget plus the education expenses paid by the Town, totals 66% of the Town of Fairfield's Budget.

BOE BUDGET REQUESTS, TOWN ADOPTION & STUDENT ENROLLMENT



Board of Education Request

- Superintendent's request was 6.2% / \$12 million increase for \$204 million budget
- BOE approved a 5.43% / \$10.4 million increase for a \$202.4 million budget after allocating grant funding for some of the costs
- The FSW Budget includes a 4.12% / \$7.9 million increase for a total budget of \$200,491,554
- Over the last 10 years, the average increase request from the BOE is 4%, the average increase granted from the Town is 2.8%



BOS Changes (Cuts/Add)

General Fund Revenue						
Dept #	Department	Object	Object Description	FS Proposed	BOS (Incr)/Decr	BOS
1030	Clerk	42311	Recording Fees	(300,000)	(50,000)	(350,000)
General Fund Expenditures						
Dept #	Department	Object	Object Description	FS Proposed	BOS Incr/(Decr)	BOS
4030	Police	51120	Crossing Guards	159,230	(159,230)	0
4150	Emergency Communications Center	58950	Transfer Out – ECC	1,736,174	(28,639)	1,707,535
3110	Information Technology	57000	Capital Outlay	257,500	50,000	307,500
7030	Penfield Pavilion	51030	Part-Time Payroll	39,930	(8,085)	31,845
7030	Penfield Pavilion	51070	Seasonal Payroll	125,395	(25,265)	100,130
1330	Human Resources	58819	ADA Compliance	1,000	(1,000)	0
3150	Unemployment Compensation	52510	Unemployment Comp	350,000	(100,000)	250,000
5030	Public Works	57002	Capital – Asphalt Paving	1,000,000	200,000	1,200,000
2010	Contingency	58010	Contingency	2,645,930	122,219	2,768,149
					50,000	



FURTHER EXPECTED CHANGES

- Based on updated data from the Town's Insurance broker (AON) the projection for health insurance increased by an additional \$400K on both the Town side and School side of the budget – about \$800K total.
- The increase in the projection is due to increased utilization by Town and Board of Education employees as they act on optional and other procedures they skipped during the shutdown and peak COVID.



ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION TO BOF

In response to these unexpected changes, we have considered some proposals that offset these unforeseen increases:

-An increase to the Town's Collection Rate, from 98.71 percent to 98.89 percent.

4-Year Average (Excludes Deferment)

98.89

-A reduction to the DPW's Capital Outlay request.



IN SUMMARY

- I believe this budget is responsive to the needs of residents and businesses, and is responsible to taxpayers.
 - Continues our efforts to modernize town services and reorganize town government
 - Moves forward my priority to right size the town's workforce
 - Maintains strong investment in Fairfield Public Schools
 - Fully funds our long term obligations to keep our AAA bond rating
- I am proud of the work my administration has done with the fortitude to make sorely needed and long overdue changes and we will continue these efforts.
- I care deeply about our community and will continue to listen and learn from our residents.

