

Finance Committee Information on the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Budget Information Session:

Thursday April 30, 2026 7pm at the Warwick Community School Library

Annual Town Meeting:

Monday May 4, 2026 7pm location TBA

Childcare available at WCS, registration information available at WCS

Town Elections:

Monday May 18, 2026 noon to 8 pm Town Hall

FY27 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

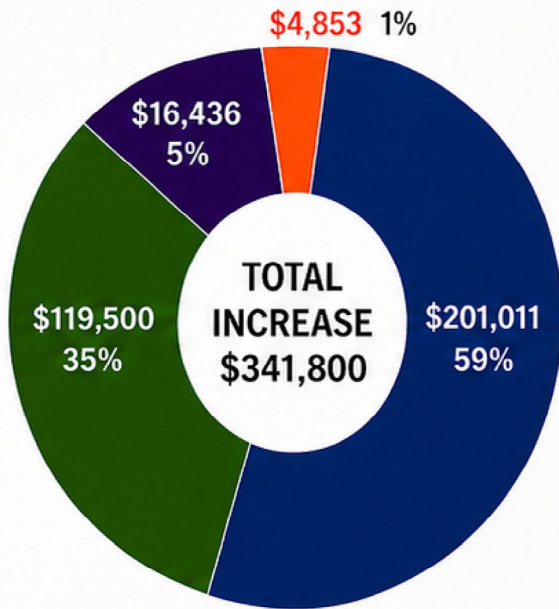


TAX LEVY INCREASE: \$341,800 (16.3%)

FY26: \$2,091,067 | FY27: \$2,432,868 | INCREASE: \$341,800

This is the amount raised from property taxes.

WHAT'S DRIVING THE INCREASE (\$341,800)



Insurance & Benefits (Town + School)

\$201,011 | 59%

Largest driver; includes employee health insurance



Debt Service (Fire Truck - 5 years)

\$119,500 | 35%

Fixed cost over a 5-year period



All Other Operations

\$16,436 | 5%

Net of all departmental increases and decreases



Education (Net Increase)

\$4,853 | 1%

Largely level-funded



Nearly two-thirds of the tax increase is driven by insurance.

Most of the remainder is debt service.

This reflects rising fixed costs — not new spending.

FIXED COSTS ARE RISING



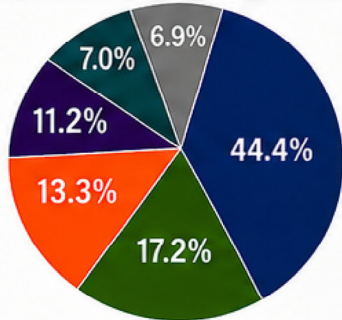
Total fixed costs nearly doubled.

FIXED COSTS TOTAL

FY26 Appropriated	FY27 Recommended	Change (\$)	Change (%)
\$302,072	\$596,383	+\$294,311	+97%

Includes insurance, debt, and retirement costs.

FY27 TOTAL BUDGET: WHERE THE MONEY GOES (\$3,469,177)



- Education \$1,540,495 | 44.4%
- Fixed Costs \$596,383 | 17.2%
- Public Works (Highway, Cemetery) \$462,653 | 13.3%
- General Government \$389,384 | 11.2%
- Public Safety (Police, Fire) \$241,609 | 7.0%
- Other (Combined) \$238,653 | 6.9%

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Level-services budget

No new programs or expansion of services.



Driven by rising fixed costs

Insurance, debt, and retirement are the main drivers.



Focus on sustainability

Careful planning today protects our ability to respond tomorrow.

Highlights of the Fiscal Year 2027 Town Budget

Town Meeting: Monday May 4, 2026

Your Finance Committee has worked to keep next year's budget increases down as much as possible. Still, expenses are growing more than the Prop 2.5 Levy limit allows. The education budget includes an increase in the WCS budget, but a decrease in the Franklin Cty Tech budget. This year we start paying the principle on the new fire truck, the payoff period is five years. Health insurance rates went up 40% in FY26 and another 13% in FY27, a substantial increase combined with some additional eligible positions in town.

Warwick Town Budget	FY25 Year-End	FY26 Appropriated	FY27 Recommended	% Change FY26- FY27	\$Change FY26- FY27	Notes
EXPENSES SUMMARY						
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$309,330	\$349,816	\$389,384	11.3%	\$39,568	Town Coord salary, some recategorizing to other areas
PUBLIC SAFETY: Police and Fire	\$211,293	\$240,836	\$241,609	0.3%	\$773	
PUBLIC WORKS: Highway, Cemetery	\$525,489	\$468,504	\$462,653	-1.2%	-\$5,850	
HEALTH/HUMAN SERVICES: Board of Health, Council on Aging, Veterans Svcs	\$7,036	\$14,782	\$13,151	-11.0%	-\$1,631	
CULTURE/RECREATION: Library, Grounds, Celebrations	\$39,823	\$45,627	\$43,616	-4.4%	-\$2,011	
FIXED COSTS: Borrowing, Health Insurance, Other Ins	\$185,772	\$302,072	\$596,383	97.4%	\$294,311	Fire Truck principle, health insurance increases
TOTAL MUN. GOV. EXPENDITURES	\$1,278,743	\$1,421,638	\$1,746,797	22.9%	\$325,160	
TOTAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES: Franklin Cty Tech, PVRSD retiree benefits pre-2023, WCS building, WCSDistrict	\$1,396,170	\$1,535,642	\$1,540,495	0.3%	\$4,853	

Warwick Town Budget	FY25 Year-End	FY26 Appropriated	FY27 Recommended	% Change FY26- FY27	\$Change FY26- FY27	Notes
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OTHER EXPENSES

Cherry Sheet Charges	\$1,759	\$2,037	\$2,474	21.5%	\$437	updated to House version on 4/16
Snow and Ice Deficit		\$71,240	\$87,257	22.5%	\$16,017	
Warrant Articles	\$86,300	\$130,049	\$92,154	-29.1%	-\$37,895	Prior year bills, Prior Transfer Station deficit

TOTAL of AMOUNTS TO BE APPROPRIATED (Total Expenses)	\$2,762,972	\$3,160,605	\$3,469,177	9.8%	\$308,571	
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REVENUE SUMMARY (Estimated): Total Revenues		\$1,069,538	\$1,036,309	-3.1%	-\$33,229	
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Notable Changes:

Use of Stabilization to avoid override		\$0	\$30,000		\$30,000	
Unrestricted CDBG Program Income - <i>proceeds returned by homeowners from a grant program</i>	\$0	\$52,000	\$30,000	-42.3%	-\$22,000	FY27: \$11k to remain under SB control
Free Cash	\$0	\$169,646	\$252,688	49.0%	\$83,042	
State "Cherry Sheet" funds						
Net Chapter 70 Education Support	\$342,165	\$307,113	\$237,370	-22.7%	-\$69,743	
Net Gen'l Gov't Support	\$328,403	\$341,171	\$356,251	4.4%	\$15,080	
Net Total Cherry Sheet Support	\$670,568	\$648,284	\$593,621	-8.4%	-\$54,663	

Total from Taxation (FY27 Estimated)	\$2,040,979	\$2,091,067	\$2,432,868	16.3%	\$341,800	
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Total Assessed Value Estimate at Town Meeting **\$115,279,033 \$119,818,678 \$133,340,107**

STABILIZATION FUND OVERVIEW

WHAT IT IS



The Town's savings account

USED FOR



Emergency repairs



Equipment & vehicle replacement



Building and infrastructure projects

EXAMPLES IN WARWICK

- Fire Department equipment & building
- Highway garage doors
- Town Hall and Library improvements
- Solar panels

STABILIZATION BALANCE

Current Balance: **\$372,306**

- Article 25 **\$30,000**

Balance after Article 25: **\$342,306**

- Article 26 **\$133,000**



\$209,306
REMAINING

If Article 26 passes

WHY THIS MATTERS



Lowers taxes short-term



Reduces emergency cushion