

## **Town Article 8 – Capital Reserve Funds Appropriations**

This article raises \$600,000 from the UFB to distribute among five previously-established CRFs. This is up 233% from last year's appropriation of \$185,000 across four of the CRFs, which was raised by regular appropriation. (1) These accounts allow the town to save for specific capital improvements identified in the Capital Improvement Plan, which the town prepares and the Capital Improvement Planning committee normally reviews and makes recommendations. Items in the plan are typically large expenditures for items with longer life span (*e.g.*, replace membrane roof, replace ladder truck). (2) The following CRFs will be funded as listed below, with the BOS as agents to expend.

- \$150,000 for Highway Heavy Equipment (est. 1999, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$213,208) – up from \$0 last year
- \$50,000 for Highway Department Vehicle Replacement (est. 2000, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$159,401) – up from \$50,000 last year
- \$250,000 for Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle (est. 2002, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$726,163) – up from \$50,000 last year
- \$100,000 for Town Office Technology (est. 2005, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$34,131) – up from \$60,000 last year
- \$50,000 for Parks Equipment & Facilities (est. 2008, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$61,983) – up from \$25,000 last year (2)(3)

The BOS committed to increase savings in these CRFs. The CIP committee recommended to town and school to increase appropriations into CRFs, because the CIP plans are underfunded. (4)

The BOS intends to fund this from the UFB, so no additional tax dollars are needed.

A **YES vote** would approve moving the funds into the named CRFs.

A **NO vote** would not allow the raising of these funds.

### **Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- Consider that these appropriations are in the best interest of the Town (5) saving over time to avoid spikes in the tax rate or the cost of bonding for anticipated large expenditures
- To support the Town's previously identified long-range needs, as outlined in the CIP, including the authority to collect impact fees from developers

### **Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Prefer that funds come from another source such as the Operating Budget, bond or loan
- Prefer not to take that much from the UFB (6)

### **References:**

1. VIP 2024 Voter Guide shows what was added last year, see Town Article 15, <https://tinyurl.com/y9ewvbyx>
2. CIP Rules and Procedures, 10/08/2024, <https://tinyurl.com/y67xh4kk>
3. CRF balances were reported in the Board of Selectmen Voter Information Guide, <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>
4. Trustees of the Trust Funds Reports available online, <https://tinyurl.com/2s4d2zxz>

5. Letter from CIP Committee to Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, School Board and Superintendent, dated 12/09/2024, <https://tinyurl.com/2s3sfcjm>
6. Budget Committee, Town Manager and Finance Director discuss the current UFB \$5.3M, Budget Committee Public Hearing for the Town budget, 01/14/2025, RCTV video at timestamp [19:10], <https://tinyurl.com/yjxe9km8>.