

City of Fall River Massachusetts

Office of the City Clerk

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE

CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: July 28, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
City Council Hearing Room, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel,
Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr.,
Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff
Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
Dr. Kathleen Smith, Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools
Elizabeth Legault, Deputy Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools
Aldo Petronio, Chief Financial Officer, Fall River Public Schools
Kenneth C. Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools

President Ponte called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

1. Citizen Input Time

Collin Dias, 560 Ray Street – Budget

Vice President Dionne and Mr. Dias held a brief discussion regarding how the funding for the School Transportation line item within the budget is under the jurisdiction of the City Council. Vice President Dionne emphasized that the City Councilors are not required to agree with every line item within the budget, but that their vote is based on the appropriation order in its entirety. Mr. Dias stated that the Mayor had bullied the School Administration with regard to the School Transportation line item. Councilor Pereira expressed concern regarding Mr. Dias' statements and said that these remarks should not be made without documented evidence. Councilor Camara agreed and asked Mr. Dias if he had any evidence available regarding the bullying between the Administration and the School Department and Mr. Dias stated that he did not want to disclose the names of those who had informed him of this matter.

PRIORITY MATTERS

2. Mayor and order with Memorandum of Agreement between Mayor Paul E.

Coogan and the City of Fall River City Council regarding outside legal counsel

Vice President Dionne stated that there was a collaborated effort between the City Council and the Administration to compromise on this proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and emphasized the need for a full Council vote to determine if this matter is amenable to all parties.

One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722

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Councilor Cadime agreed and stated that Vice President Dionne worked to schedule numerous meetings between the Administration, the City Councilors and the Law Department to discuss this MOA. Councilor Cadime also commended Corporation Counsel for participating in these discussions and helping to determine how this plan could benefit the City Council for future legal inquiries. Councilor Cadime said that he will work to strike-out the current ordinance in the City code related to outside legal counsel for the City Council, as the MOA will now serve as the protocol for this matter.

Councilor Camara asked if the existing ordinance and the MOA could both exist. Councilor Cadime stated that with the current MOA, the ordinance should be removed from the City code, but that future City Councilors will always have the power to change the protocol in the future. Councilor Cadime also emphasized that there were concerns regarding the legality of the ordinance.

On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay, to adopt the order, with Councilor Peckham voting in the negative.

Approved, July 29, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

**3. Mayor and third revised Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget
General Fund Appropriation Order**

On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow members of the Administration and the School Department to answer questions.

Councilor Pereira stated that the budget for the School Transportation costs was voted upon by the School Committee to total roughly \$17,000,000, but that the Administration presented the City Council with a total of approximately \$16,100,000 from the General Fund, in addition to other sources of funding, and acknowledged that there are many variables regarding how many school buses the City would need for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) due to redistricting and changing bus routes. Councilor Pereira also explained that she worked with the Treasurer/Collector to obtain data regarding the City's earned interest from the previous year, from various sources including the investment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and recommended that the Administration consider using that interest accumulation to assist with School Transportation funding.

Dr. Kathleen Smith, Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools, provided information regarding the process of the School Transportation budget being determined by the School Committee, including the cost of redistricting buses and students, and the variable of cost savings with this new transportation program. Superintendent Smith stated that she had spoken with President Ponte regarding her desire to work together with the City Council and the School Committee to collaboratively plan for these transportation costs. Superintendent Smith also expressed concern regarding the proposed total within the FY27 budget, as it is short of the voted upon \$17,000,000, by a total of \$450,000, and emphasized that the grand total of students and buses for this upcoming school year cannot yet be finalized as registration is ongoing.

Councilor Pereira stated that, at a recent Committee on Ordinances and Legislation meeting, there was a discussion regarding the creation of an ad-hoc School Transportation Committee to help with future collaboration regarding this matter. Councilor Pereira asked if the Administration would be able to provide additional funding to the School Department for transportation costs if needed in the future.

Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, stated that there are other funding sources that the City could utilize in the future if additional capital is necessary to help with School Transportation costs. Councilor Pereira stated that, if this funding is currently available, it should be allocated to this line item within the budget to ensure that the School Department has adequate funding for this portion of their budget. Councilor Pereira and Ms. Arpke discussed various portions of the City's budget that would need to be reduced to balance out the potential increase in funding within the School Transportation account. Superintendent Smith explained that the School Department would not have final data totals for student enrollment until October or November, which will be crucial in determining the overall anticipated costs of school buses.

President Ponte asked Superintendent Smith for an exact funding total that the School Department felt was necessary to ensure adequate capital for School Transportation, and the Superintendent stated that the total amount voted upon by the School Committee was \$17,000,000.

Councilor Cadime supported Councilor Pereira's initiative to fully fund the School Transportation budget. Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke held a detailed discussion regarding various methods that were used to increase this total over the past few budgetary meetings, including reduction of funding for vacant positions. Ms. Arpke also emphasized that the actual total cost for School Transportation cannot be determined until the School Department has collected all data regarding student enrollment. Councilor Cadime and Superintendent Smith discussed the redistricting plan for students that has been implemented and the variables that are now present with the new bus routes and student enrollment totals. Superintendent Smith stated that the School Department will be working with the Chief Financial Officer to determine the best steps going forward to fund this expenditure. Councilor Cadime and Superintendent Smith discussed the need for more collaboration between the School Department and the City Council.

Councilor Raposo and Superintendent Smith discussed student enrollment totals, as well as deadlines for various types of school funds that are based on student populations. Elizabeth Legault, Deputy Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools, provided data regarding student enrollment as of July 27, 2026, and stated that 10,563 students are currently enrolled in the Fall River Public Schools and 604 new students enrolled for this upcoming school year. Deputy Superintendent Legault explained that there were over 11,000 students enrolled during the previous school year.

Councilor Canuel and Ms. Arpke discussed the variables associated with School Transportation costs, including student enrollment and the use of new electric school buses, as well as the consequences of reducing funding in other areas of the budget to allocate the full \$17,000,000 to the School Transportation fund. Ms. Arpke stated that if the City utilized investment revenue to assist with this funding, it would reduce the City's income totals significantly. The Director of Financial Services emphasized that there are only so many accounts that can be reduced without causing significant strain on other departments. Councilor Canuel and Ms. Arpke also discussed the various methods that the City could use to utilize unused funding from previous fiscal years. Ms. Arpke explained that some funding could be reallocated or released prior to November of 2026, but there may also be a delay if the funding is considered surplus revenue and becomes part of the City's Free Cash total. Councilor Canuel stated that the additional \$450,000 needed to balance the School Transportation budget is a very small amount of the overall budgetary total of \$483,583,582, and that the City Council should not reject the entire budget based on this one funding shortage. Councilor Canuel also expressed concern regarding cutting services or employees in different departments to allocate this additional funding.

Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke discussed the decreased indirect cost funding that was amended at a previous budgetary meeting and Ms. Arpke stated that those sections of the budget cannot be reduced any further as the Water, Sewer and EMS Enterprise Fund FY27 budgets have all been adopted. Vice President Dionne inquired as to how many vacant employee positions were still being funded and Ms. Arpke explained that she removed funding from positions that were anticipated to remain vacant, such as the Electrician and Plumber positions. The Director of Financial Services clarified that there are some positions that were vacant at the time of the budget being prepared, but that were planned to be filled by department heads. Ms. Arpke emphasized that defunding those positions may have a negative impact on City departments who were planning to hire employees for those roles but confirmed that the reduction in funding for these positions was under the jurisdiction of the City Council. Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke also discussed the anticipated savings with the new electric school buses. Ms. Arpke stated that data shows the City would save \$25 per day per bus that is replaced with an electric vehicle. Ms. Arpke also clarified that these totals have not yet been verified as the electric buses were only used for a few days last year. Kenneth C. Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, Fall River Public Schools, agreed and stated that these new buses were only in service for about 28 days last year. Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke discussed how total bus costs were determined for the upcoming school year. Ms. Arpke explained that schools need different amounts of buses or vans, as well as bus monitors, based on student totals. Vice President Dionne expressed concern that some schools may also need more vehicles due to special needs students and stated that she was not comfortable with this line item not being fully funded.

Councilor Camara and Ms. Arpke discussed the total within the McKinney Vento fund and how much of this capital was factored into the FY27 budget. Ms. Arpke stated that the current total is \$779,634.68 and that about \$600,000 of this total was factored into the proposed budget. Ms. Arpke also explained that this total will most likely be the same for the upcoming fiscal year.

Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke discussed various funding sources for the School Transportation line item, including the McKinney Vento fund and the Special Education Circuit Breaker Program funds. Councilor Cadime stated that any total less than the planned \$17,000,000, would not be balanced as the School Department cannot reduce transportation services in the future due to lack of adequate funding. Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke also discussed other funding sources such as local receipts and the Reserve Fund. Councilor Cadime suggested that, as the Memorandums of Agreement for various collective bargaining units have not yet been finalized, the City could adjust the line item for the Reserve Fund by \$450,000 to assist with balancing the School Transportation line item.

A motion was made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Vice President Dionne to send a letter to the Administration asking them to reduce the Reserve Funds by \$450,000 and use that funding to balance the School Transportation budget.

Councilor Pereira suggested that the matter could be tabled until a new appropriation order was presented with this adjustment. The City Clerk stated that, at the Council's will, a recess could be held, and the Director of Financial Services could produce a new budgetary appropriation order for consideration on behalf of the Mayor.

A recess was held from 6:39 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

Ms. Arpke presented the City Councilors with a newly revised budgetary appropriation order. Councilor Cadime requested that the Director of Financial Services clarify if this new appropriation order had decreased line-item I4, Reserve Fund, by \$450,000, and increased line-item G2, School Transportation, by \$450,000. Ms. Arpke confirmed that this was the financial adjustment within the newly presented appropriation order and that the additional funding from the McKinney Vento account and the Special Education Circuit Breaker Program account, totaling \$2,000,000, and \$1,800,000, respectively, would cover the additional funding for School Transportation, totaling \$17,000,000.

Councilor Peckham and Ms. Arpke held a discussion regarding the current deadlines for ARPA funded project expenditures. The Director of Financial Services explained that there are various deadlines for Bristol County ARPA funded projects and City ARPA funded projects, and that those deadlines range from September to December of 2026. Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff, explained that, as of March 31, 2026, all project numbers had been reconciled and that she will obtain a report from the City Auditor to ensure all funds are being expended in a timely manner. Councilor Peckham asked if there were any concerns about the projects being completed on time. Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that all ongoing projects appear to be scheduled appropriately for the use of this funding. Vice President Dionne and Councilor Peckham discussed the overall totals for ARPA funding. Vice President Dionne stated that, prior to the ARPA Directors' departure, a total of \$8,100,000 had been expended with \$8,000,000 in ARPA funding remaining. Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that she would provide data updates to the Councilors as soon as possible. Councilor Peckham asked that the Director of City Operations call him to discuss the ongoing ARPA-funding projects within City property prior to Thursday, July 30, 2026.

On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay, to adopt the revised Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget General Fund appropriation order, with Councilor Peckham voting in the negative.

Approved, July 29, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

4. Mayor and second revised Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget
July Continuing Appropriation Order

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted that the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget July continuing appropriation order be granted leave to withdraw.

The City Clerk suggested that, to ensure clarity with the budgetary motions, that the City Councilors instead vote to reject the order.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to reject the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget July continuing appropriation order.

5. City Council President and ordinance with policy on the use of outside legal
counsel

President Ponte stated that a policy should be in place regarding the City Council's utilization of outside counsel and asked that the Councilors review the existing policy and submit any feedback to the City Clerk in writing. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.

ORDINANCES

Second Reading and Enrollment, as amended:

6. Proposed Ordinance – Salary amendments for the Director of Health and Human Services (July 14, 2026 failed to carry 4 yeas, 4 nays)

On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to reconsider the previous motion made during the Regular Meeting of the City Council held on July 14, 2026. On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through second reading and enrollment, as amended. On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed to be ordained, as amended.

Approved, July 29, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

A recess was held from 6:59 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the signing of the ordinance.

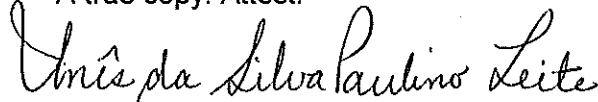
On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached)

Earned interest report provided by Treasurer/Collector

A true copy. Attest:



City Clerk

In City Council, August 11, 2026

Approved.



City of Fall River Massachusetts

Office of the City Clerk

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INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

JULY 28, 2026 AT 5:30 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL HEARING ROOM, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER

AGENDA

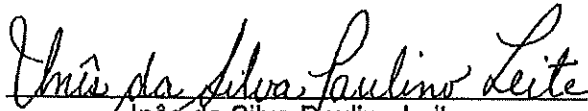
1. Citizen Input

PRIORITY MATTERS

2. *Mayor and order with Memorandum of Agreement between Mayor Paul E. Coogan and the City of Fall River City Council regarding outside legal counsel
3. *Mayor and third revised Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget General Fund Appropriation Order
4. *Mayor and second revised Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget July Continuing Appropriation Order
5. *City Council President and ordinance with policy on the use of outside legal counsel

ORDINANCES

- Second Reading and Enrollment, as amended:
6. *Proposed Ordinance – Salary amendments for the Director of Health and Human Services (July 14, 2026 failed to carry 4 yeas, 4 nays)


Inês da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650

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PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

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CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

July 23, 2026

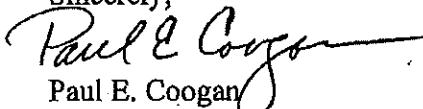
Council President
Members of the Honorable Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Council President and Members of the Honorable Council,

Attached please find for your review and consideration the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Mayor's Office and the City of Fall River City Council as it pertains to outside legal counsel.

For any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or my office.

Sincerely,


Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

PC/amos

City of Fall River, In City Council

2

ORDERED, that the attached Memorandum of Agreement between Mayor Paul E. Coogan and the City of Fall River City Council is hereby approved.

2

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

MAYOR PAUL E. COOGAN

AND

THE CITY OF FALL RIVER CITY COUNCIL

This Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") is entered into by Mayor Paul E. Coogan ("Mayor") and the Fall River City Council ("City Council"), collectively referred to as the "Parties."

WHEREAS, the City Council has requested the availability of funding to retain outside legal counsel when necessary to obtain legal advice;

WHEREAS, the Mayor has agreed to provide an annual appropriation of not less than Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) within the Law Department budget for legislative legal services;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Authority of Corporation Counsel

Pursuant to Sections 2-527 and 2-528 of the Code of the City of Fall River, the Administration, acting through Corporation Counsel, remains the only authority authorized to legally bind the City of Fall River.

2. Annual Appropriation

The City Council shall receive an annual appropriation of not less than **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)** for the purpose of retaining outside legal counsel to provide legal consultation and legal services.

3. Good Faith Resolution

Prior to retaining outside legal counsel, the Parties shall make a good faith effort to resolve the matter through direct discussion.

4. City Council Policy

The City Council shall adopt a policy governing the circumstances under which outside legal counsel may be retained and establishing the procedures for requesting and authorizing such legal services.

5. Selection of Counsel

Annually, following the City Council's organizational meeting, the City Council shall engage qualified outside legal counsel to provide legal advice, consultation, and legal representation pursuant to this MOA. The selection of counsel shall remain in effect until a successor is approved or until the outside legal counsel is terminated by vote of the City Council.

Prior to engaging the services of outside legal counsel, the Council leadership shall consult with the Corporation Counsel to create a list of three (3) mutually acceptable outside attorneys or law firms, which will be presented to the City Council for final approval/selection.

6. Furnishing of Legal Opinions

The Parties understand and agree that, pursuant to 2-523, all requests for a written legal opinion must be submitted in writing to the Corporation Counsel and any opinion rendered by an Assistant Corporation Counsel or outside legal counsel must also be approved and countersigned by the Corporation Counsel. Notwithstanding the above, the City Council may receive legal advice from outside counsel regarding the soundness of a previously issued legal opinion.

7. Authority of Outside Counsel

The outside legal counsel shall represent the City Council for the purpose of providing legal advice, consultation, and legal services to the legislative branch. Such counsel shall have no authority to bind the City of Fall River, execute agreements on behalf of the City, settle claims, waive legal rights, enter into contracts, or otherwise obligate the City except as expressly authorized by the City Charter, City ordinances, and applicable law. The outside legal counsel shall provide legal services to the City Council only in accordance with the terms of this MOA and the policies adopted by the City Council.

8. Funding and Payment

The Parties agree that the annual appropriation established pursuant to this MOA shall be used to pay for the legal services rendered by the outside counsel, and such funds shall remain available for its intended purpose and shall be administered in good faith and in a manner consistent with preserving the City Council's access to outside legal counsel.

9. Amendments

This Memorandum of Agreement may be amended only by the mutual written agreement of the Parties.

2

Dated this ____ day of July, 2026.

FOR THE CITY COUNCIL

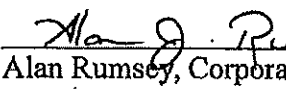
FOR THE ADMINISTRATION

Cliff A. Ponte, City Council President

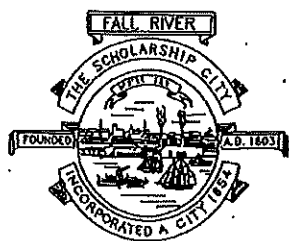
Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

Michelle M. Dionne, City Council Vice-President

Approved as to Form and Manner of Execution only:



Alan Rumsey, Corporation Counsel



PAUL E. COOGAN
MAYOR

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2026 JUL 24 A 10: 57

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

Honorable Members of the City Council,

The Fiscal Year 2027 THIRD REVISED Proposed Municipal Budget is hereby submitted for your review and approval. The General Fund is being submitted for appropriation in the amount of \$483,583,582, which is a 3.3% increase from the Fiscal Year 2026 Revised Budget. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Enterprise Fund has been approved in the amount of \$16,894,935, which is an increase of 2.5% from the Fiscal Year 2026 Revised Budget. The Sewer and Water Enterprise Funds have previously been approved for appropriation with a combined total of \$48,559,989, which is an increase of 1.2% – the approved orders and supporting detail have been included.

The total General Fund increase can be attributed to a few very specific categories: State mandated Net School Spending requirements, Solid Waste expenses, the Diman Regional Debt Assessment, Health Care, the annual Pension assessment, and cost of living adjustments to salaries and expenses. These increases are being added to the base budget and will at a minimum be maintained, however we are expecting more normalized increases in these lines in the subsequent fiscal years.

The revenue projected for the FY2027 General Fund Local Receipts is about 88.5% of the Projected FY2026 receipts, in line with DOR's recommendation of no more than 90% of the previous year's actuals. Through State Aid, at the Senate's Proposed budget, we are anticipating an 7.9% increase from the FY2026 budget.

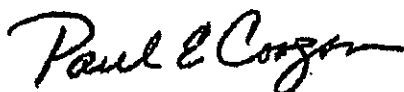
Prior to this fiscal year, the goal was to increase the Free Cash certification to rebuild our General Fund Stabilization balance. Great progress has been made, with a current balance of \$22.9M. While there is still more work to be done to meet the State and National standards set for General Fund Stabilization balances, we feel it is at a comfortable enough level to shift our focus to allocating funds to these other large financial matters for the next several fiscal years. By returning to zero-based budget practices, while continuing to keep capital expenditures and one-time purchases out of the General Fund budget and being less conservative on revenue budgets – we are anticipating Free Cash Certifications return to

previous values of \$3-8M after FY2026. Given the level of uncertainty surrounding Federal funding, which would also impact State funding local municipalities, the Administration and Finance team is committed to leaving the current General Fund Stabilization balance at this level, only utilizing the funds as a last resort option. In turn, it is our intent to use future surplus strategically for capital expenditures, rebuilding the Employer Health Care Trust fund balance, and to cover the increasing State mandated Net School Spending requirements, Solid Waste expenses, the Diman Regional Debt Assessment, Health Care costs, annual Pension assessment, and cost of living increases. We are committed to working hard on improving the City's financial plans and practices with the City Council, to not just keep the City afloat but to keep us moving forward.

Through this Budget we reaffirm our continued commitment to education, public safety, and serving the needs of the citizens of Fall River. This Budget represents a collaboration between all City Departments and our Finance Team to review budgetary requests and maintain an increase in the Tax Levy of not more than 2.5%.

Budget development is an important process that takes much time, analysis, coordination and teamwork to get to a final product. We thank the City's Department Heads, Division Managers, and School Department leadership, who have worked seamlessly with the Finance Team and Administration to make this possible while still providing their daily services to the community.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul E. Coogan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mayor Paul E. Coogan

BE IT ORDERED, that the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2027 from various funds, is \$483,583,582 of which the amount of \$471,937,983 be raised from ordinary revenue and municipal receipts for appropriation as follows:

A. for the purpose of GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. from the General Fund, for MAYOR, Salaries	\$	309,668	
2. from the General Fund, for MAYOR, Expenses	\$	20,250	
3. from the General Fund, for CITY COUNCIL, Salaries	\$	264,103	
4. from the General Fund, for CITY COUNCIL, Expenses	\$	170,700	
5. from the General Fund, for CITY CLERK, Salaries	\$	381,990	
6. from the General Fund, for CITY CLERK, Expenses	\$	35,875	
7. from the General Fund, for ELECTIONS, Salaries	\$	366,576	
8. from the General Fund, for ELECTIONS, Expenses	\$	104,300	
9. from the General Fund, for VETERANS' BENEFITS, Salaries	\$	299,611	
10. from the General Fund, for VETERANS' BENEFITS, Expenses	\$	1,651,055	
			\$3,604,130

B. for the purpose of ADMINISTRATION

1. from the General Fund, for ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Salaries	\$	1,521,234	
2. from the General Fund, for ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Expenses	\$	3,632,805	
3. from the General Fund, for JUDGEMENTS AND CLAIMS	\$	350,000	
			\$5,504,039

C. for the purpose of FINANCIAL SERVICES

1. from the General Fund, for FINANCIAL SERVICES, Salaries	\$	1,872,708	
2. from the General Fund, for FINANCIAL SERVICES, Expense	\$	344,990	
			\$2,217,698

D. for the purpose of FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

1. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Salaries	\$	1,009,797	
2. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Expense	\$	2,181,465	
3. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Capital	\$		
			\$3,191,262

E. for the purpose of COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE

1. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Salaries	\$	5,567,884	
2. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Expense	\$	17,891,532	
3. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Capital	\$		
			\$23,459,416

F. for the purpose of COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Salaries	\$	2,886,552	
2. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Expense	\$	672,631	
3. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Transfers	\$	30,000	
			\$3,589,183

G. for the purpose of EDUCATION

1. from the General Fund, for SCHOOL APPROPRIATION	\$	212,582,416	
2. from the General Fund, for SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION	\$	12,800,048	
3. from the General Fund, for EDUCATION ASSESSMENTS	\$	10,225,442	
			\$235,607,906

H. for the purpose of COMMUNITY PROTECTION

1. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Salaries	\$	24,767,158
2. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Expenses	\$	2,130,062
3. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Capital	\$	-
4. from the General Fund, for HARBOR MASTER, Salaries	\$	4,500
5. from the General Fund, for HARBOR MASTER, Expenses	\$	31,000
6. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Salaries	\$	19,695,445
7. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Expenses	\$	1,187,798
8. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Capital	\$	-

\$47,815,962**I. for the purpose of OTHER GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSES**

1. from the General Fund, for DEBT - SERVICE	\$	13,719,946
2. from the General Fund, for INSURANCE	\$	52,402,162
3. from the General Fund, for PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS	\$	44,747,127
4. from the General Fund, for RESERVE FUND	\$	578,517

\$111,447,751**TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET****\$ 436,437,347****CHERRY SHEET ASSESSMENTS****\$ 47,146,235****GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET****\$ 483,583,582****FUNDING SOURCES:**

from Diman Stabilization Fund	\$	4,000,000
from Surplus Revenue (<i>Free Cash</i>)	\$	-
from the EMS Rate Revenues for INSURANCE	\$	1,447,435
from the EMS Rate Revenues for PENSION	\$	1,692,975
from the EMS Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT	\$	928,980
from the Water Rate Revenues for INSURANCE	\$	618,839
from the Water Rate Revenues for PENSION	\$	1,195,932
from the Water Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT	\$	813,438
from the Sewer Rate Revenues for INSURANCE	\$	154,615
from the Sewer Rate Revenues for PENSION	\$	292,624
from the Sewer Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT	\$	500,761
from Ordinary Revenue and Municipal Receipts	\$	471,937,983

GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET**\$ 483,583,582**

4



PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

RECEIVED

2026 JUL 15 P 3:28

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

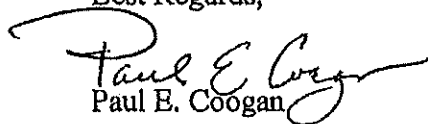
July 15, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Honorable Council Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 32, I am submitting the following revised continuing appropriation for Fiscal Year 2027 for the month of July to your Honorable Body.

Best Regards,


Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

BE IT ORDERED, that the Continuing Appropriation for July of Fiscal Year 2027 from various funds, is \$42,510,123.85 as follows:

A. for the purpose of GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. from the General Fund, for MAYOR, Salaries	\$	16,323.51	
2. from the General Fund, for MAYOR, Expenses	\$	17,000.00	
3. from the General Fund, for CITY COUNCIL, Salaries	\$	20,823.43	
4. from the General Fund, for CITY COUNCIL, Expenses	\$	-	
5. from the General Fund, for CITY CLERK, Salaries	\$	29,172.72	
6. from the General Fund, for CITY CLERK, Expenses	\$	1,240.00	
7. from the General Fund, for ELECTIONS, Salaries	\$	21,225.00	
8. from the General Fund, for ELECTIONS, Expenses	\$	5,610.00	
9. from the General Fund, for VETERANS' BENEFITS, Salaries	\$	22,997.54	
10. from the General Fund, for VETERANS' BENEFITS, Expenses	\$	134,002.50	
			\$ 268,394.70

B. for the purpose of ADMINISTRATION

1. from the General Fund, for ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Salaries	\$	118,952.42	
2. from the General Fund, for ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Expenses	\$	1,585,965.00	
3. from the General Fund, for JUDGEMENTS AND CLAIMS	\$	25,000.00	
			\$ 1,729,917.42

C. for the purpose of FINANCIAL SERVICES

1. from the General Fund, for FINANCIAL SERVICES, Salaries	\$	139,366.49	
2. from the General Fund, for FINANCIAL SERVICES, Expense	\$	37,195.00	
			\$ 176,561.49

D. for the purpose of FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

1. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Salaries	\$	87,126.53	
2. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Expense	\$	292,347.50	
3. from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Capital	\$	-	
			\$ 379,474.03

E. for the purpose of COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE

1. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Salaries	\$	489,134.43	
2. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Expense	\$	1,666,826.50	
3. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Capital	\$	-	
			\$ 2,155,960.93

F. for the purpose of COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Salaries	\$	234,857.23	
2. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Expense	\$	104,301.16	
3. from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Transfers	\$	-	
			\$ 339,158.39

G. for the purpose of EDUCATION

1. from the General Fund, for SCHOOL APPROPRIATION	\$	17,715,201.33	
2. from the General Fund, for SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION	\$	377,000.00	
3. from the General Fund, for EDUCATION ASSESSMENTS	\$	-	
			\$ 18,092,201.33

H. for the purpose of COMMUNITY PROTECTION

1. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Salaries	\$ 2,130,502.00
2. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Expenses	\$ 288,579.00
3. from the General Fund, for POLICE, Capital	\$ -
4. from the General Fund, for HARBOR MASTER, Salaries	\$ 1,000.00
5. from the General Fund, for HARBOR MASTER, Expenses	\$ 2,750.00
6. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Salaries	\$ 1,390,118.75
7. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Expenses	\$ 92,166.95
8. from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Capital	\$ -

\$ 3,905,116.70

I. for the purpose of OTHER GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSES

1. from the General Fund, for DEBT - SERVICE	\$ 2,856,900.10
2. from the General Fund, for INSURANCE	\$ 4,294,250.00
3. from the General Fund, for PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 3,765,972.76
4. from the General Fund, for RESERVE FUND	\$ 603,012.75

\$ 11,520,135.61

TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET \$ 38,566,920.60

CHERRY SHEET ASSESSMENTS \$ 3,943,203.25

GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET \$ 42,510,123.85

FUNDING SOURCES:

from Stabilization Fund	\$ -
from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash)	\$ -
from the EMS Rate Revenues for INSURANCE	\$ 120,619.58
from the EMS Rate Revenues for PENSION	\$ 141,081.25
from the EMS Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT	\$ 77,415.00
from the Water Rate Revenues for INSURANCE	\$ 51,569.92
from the Water Rate Revenues for PENSION	\$ 99,661.00
from the Water Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT	\$ 67,786.50
from the Sewer Rate Revenues for INSURANCE	\$ 12,884.58
from the Sewer Rate Revenues for PENSION	\$ 24,385.33
from the Sewer Rate Revenues for OTHER INDIRECT	\$ 41,730.08

from Ordinary Revenue and Municipal Receipts \$ 41,872,990.61

GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET \$ 42,510,123.85



City of Fall River
Massachusetts
City Council

5

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2026 JUL 24 A 11: 58

CLIFF A. PONTE
President
City Council

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

July 24, 2026

Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Members of the City Council:

Please find attached the 2021 City Council Policy on Use of the City Council Attorney. The policy was first accepted and placed on file during a Regular Meeting of the City Council held on March 23, 2021 and subsequently adopted, as amended, during a Regular Meeting of the City Council held on July 13, 2021.

This policy was drafted in 2021 in consultation with Attorney Lauren F. Goldberg of KP Law, P.C., the legal firm hired by the City Council for outside legal counsel.

With the recent passage of Ordinance 2026-14, also attached, the City Council has the authority to retain outside legal counsel. As a result, I am requesting that members please review the attached policy and send any proposed changes in writing to the City Clerk. The changes will be incorporated and the updated policy will be presented to the City Council for a future vote.

I look forward to the City Council's consideration and deliberation of this matter.

Sincerely,

Cliff A. Ponte
City Council President

Enc.

City of Fall River, *In City Council*

City of Fall River City Council Policy on Use of the City Council Attorney

INTENT

The intent of this policy is to establish a proper procedure for any contact with the City Council Attorney that will result in financial charges to the City of Fall River. To stay on budget, and to ensure that consistent advice is received, a formal system needs to be in place for these services.

POLICY

1. Any request for legal services by an individual City Councilor shall be submitted in writing to the City Council President or the City Council Vice President and a copy sent to the City Council Secretary at city_council@fallriverma.org.
2. Prior to making a request for legal services, City Councilors shall first try to find the answer to their questions by looking at applicable state law, researching available guidance, or speaking with a state agency.
3. City Councilors will notify the City Council President or the City Council Vice President if a written response is needed.
4. The request will include a brief description of the matter.
5. The request will indicate whether the matter is a high or low priority.
6. The request will indicate when the opinion is needed. For example, if it is needed for inclusion in the City Council's packet on Thursday, then the City Councilor needs the opinion no later than Wednesday.
7. The City Council President or City Council Vice President shall review the completed submission within two days of its receipt and decide whether such question should be forwarded to the City Council Attorney, taking into consideration matters, such as the budget, or whether the question has been previously asked.
8. If approved, the City Council President or City Council Vice President will forward the request, as well as contact information for the City Councilor requesting legal services, to the City Council Attorney.
9. If the request is denied, the individual City Councilor may request that the full City Council consider and vote upon the request for access.
10. The City Council Secretary shall keep a list of requests, and report to the Council Leadership each month how many requests were filed, as well as the number approved and the number denied.
11. The City Council President and City Council Vice President should both sign off on the monthly bill and added to City Council agenda for City Councilors to accept and place it on file.
12. In the event of an emergency, City Councilors shall contact City Council Leadership and/or the City Clerk to advise of the emergency.

13. The City Council Attorney should attend all Fall River City Council Committee on Ordinances and Legislation meetings. The Chair of the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation will make arrangements to discuss the agenda with the City Council Attorney once the agenda is prepared to allow the City Council Attorney to prepare for such meeting.

14. If the Chair of a respective sub-committee is requesting the attendance of the City Council Attorney, the Chair needs to send that request in writing to the City Council President and City Council Secretary. The Chair is required to speak with the City Council Attorney prior to the meeting to prepare them for possible discussions. If the City Councilor feels the meeting is going to last longer than 30 minutes, the City Council Secretary and City Council President must be notified.

15. Open Meeting Law complaints will continue to be sent to the Office of the Corporation Counsel. If Corporation Counsel is unable to respond in a timely manner, Corporation Counsel must request permission from the City Council President or City Council Vice President in writing to engage the services of the City Council Attorney.

16. The City Council President will determine if the City Council Attorney needs to attend meetings of the Committee on Finance or Regular and Special Meetings of the City Council. If their attendance is required, the City Council should consider taking items out of order to keep billing hours in line.

17. This policy shall be reviewed three months following its effective date, as appropriate.

18. This policy shall be effective on March 24, 2021.

In City Council, March 23, 2021
Accepted and placed on file.

A true copy. Attest:

Alison M. Bouchard
City Clerk

City of Fall River, In City Council

City of Fall River City Council Policy on Use of the City Council Attorney

INTENT

The intent of this policy is to establish a proper procedure for any contact with the City Council Attorney that will result in financial charges to the City of Fall River. To stay on budget, and to ensure that consistent advice is received, a formal system needs to be in place for these services.

POLICY

1. Any request for legal services by an individual City Councilor shall be submitted in writing to the City Council President or the City Council Vice President and a copy sent to the City Council Secretary at city_council@fallriverma.org.
2. Prior to making a request for legal services, City Councilors shall first try to find the answer to their questions by looking at applicable state law, researching available guidance, or speaking with a state agency.
3. City Councilors will notify the City Council President or the City Council Vice President if a written response is needed.
4. The request will include a brief description of the matter.
5. The request will indicate whether the matter is a high or low priority.
6. The request will indicate when the opinion is needed. For example, if it is needed for inclusion in the City Council's packet on Thursday, then the City Councilor needs the opinion no later than Wednesday.
7. The City Council President or City Council Vice President shall review the completed submission within two days of its receipt and decide whether such question should be forwarded to the City Council Attorney, taking into consideration matters, such as the budget, or whether the question has been previously asked.
8. If approved, the City Council President or City Council Vice President will forward the request, as well as contact information for the City Councilor requesting legal services, to the City Council Attorney.
9. If the request is denied, the individual City Councilor may request that the full City Council consider and vote upon the request for access.
10. The City Council Secretary shall keep a list of requests, and report to the Council Leadership each month how many requests were filed, as well as the number approved and the number denied.
11. The City Council President and City Council Vice President should both sign off on the monthly bill and added to City Council agenda for City Councilors to accept and place it on file. The City Clerk will attach a MUNIS report showing used and available funds.
12. In the event of an emergency, City Councilors shall contact City Council Leadership and/or the City Clerk to advise of the emergency.

13. The City Council Attorney should attend all Fall River City Council Committee on Ordinances and Legislation meetings. The Chair of the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation will make arrangements to discuss the agenda with the City Council Attorney once the agenda is prepared to allow the City Council Attorney to prepare for such meeting.

14. If the Chair of a respective sub-committee is requesting the attendance of the City Council Attorney, the Chair needs to send that request in writing to the City Council President and City Council Secretary. The Chair is required to speak with the City Council Attorney prior to the meeting to prepare them for possible discussions. If the City Councilor feels the meeting is going to last longer than 30 minutes, the City Council Secretary and City Council President must be notified.

15. Open Meeting Law complaints will continue to be sent to the Office of the Corporation Counsel. If Corporation Counsel is unable to respond in a timely manner, Corporation Counsel must request permission from the City Council President or City Council Vice President in writing to engage the services of the City Council Attorney.

16. The City Council President will determine if the City Council Attorney needs to attend meetings of the Committee on Finance or Regular and Special Meetings of the City Council. If their attendance is required, the City Council should consider taking items out of order to keep billing hours in line.

17. This policy shall be reviewed three months following its effective date, as appropriate.

18. This policy shall be effective on March 24, 2021.

19. The City Council as a body will be notified when services or opinions are requested.

In City Council, July 13, 2021
Adopted, as amended

A true copy. Attest:

Alison M. Bouchard

City Clerk

City of Fall River, In City Council

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Fall River, as follows:

That Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts, 2018, which chapter relates to Administration, be amended as follows:

By Inserting in Article II, a new section to read as follows:

§2-33 Authority to retain outside legal counsel

- A. The City Council is authorized, by a majority vote, to retain outside legal counsel for the limited purposes of obtaining independent legal opinions, advice or analysis related to the following matters:
 - 1. The City Charter, City code, General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or federal laws
 - 2. The drafting and/or review of proposed City ordinances
 - 3. Investigatory or oversight functions of the City Council
- B. Limitations
Outside legal counsel retained by the City Council shall serve in an advisory capacity only and shall not supersede or replace the roles of Corporation Counsel defined in Chapter 2, Article V, Division 7
- C. Appropriation and funding
 - 1. The City Council shall, through the annual budget process or by separate appropriation order(s), establish a dedicated budgetary line item or fund for the retention of outside legal services
 - 2. Any expenditures shall be subject to standard municipal procurement procedures and applicable state procurement laws
- D. Transparency and reporting
 - 1. Any commitment to the services of outside legal counsel shall be documented and approved by a vote of the City Council.
 - 2. The City Council shall approve by majority vote the defining rules and procedures in relation to obtaining outside counsel which shall be proposed by the City Council President and approved prior to the beginning of each fiscal year

In City Council, June 9, 2026
Passed to be ordained, 6 yeas, 3 nays
Notwithstanding the veto of the Mayor

A true copy. Attest:

Emilia da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

City of Fall River, In City Council

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Fall River, as follows:

That Chapter 50 of the Code of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts, 2018, which chapter relates to Personnel be amended as follows:

By striking out in Section 50-301, which section relates to the Salary schedules for executive officers, department heads and non-union personnel, the following:

	Grade	Effective Date	Not to exceed
Director of Health and Human Services	HHS	7/1/2022	\$101,000.86

and inserting in place thereof the following:

	Grade	Effective Date	Not to exceed
Director of Health and Human Services	HHS	7/1/2026	\$110,000.00

CITY OF FALL RIVER
IN CITY COUNCIL

JUN 23 2026

CITY OF FALL RIVER
IN CITY COUNCIL

JUL 14 2026

Passed through
first reading, as amended

Motion second reading & enrollment,
as amended, failed to carry
4 yeas, 4 nays