

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
November 12, 2025
In person and Zoom
Public Meeting

Present for all or part of the meeting:

Budget Committee Members: Richard Jones, Select Board rep. Judy Brotman, School rep. Kristin Roth, Phil Kinsler, Rich Brown, Bill Malcolm, Jennifer Boylston, Brian Spence, Vince Berk, Jennifer Boylston, Stacey Summerfield (via zoom)

Administrator: Dina Cutting

Town Staff: Select Board/Assessing Clerk Jordan Gray

Community members: Phone number 1-603-729-6105 (via zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Jones.

1. Ms. Boylston moved to approve the minutes of the public meeting on November 5th, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Malcolm. The motion was voted 8 in favor and 1 abstention (Mr. Berk).

2. Mrs. Brotman presented the Select Board's proposed operating budget.

- A brief recap: the Select Board has put in much effort to keep costs down and keep the budget level (level out the rising school costs). One way they accomplished this was by not appropriating as many funds into the Capital Reserve Funds. This year a larger portion will need to be considered.
- The bottom-line budget figure reflects a 5.06% increase.
- Changes include: The Cemetery Trustees requested \$6,000 for the Sexton stipend, the Select Board is recommending \$5,000. The mowing contract for the cemetery has increased. The Fire Department had requested \$7,500 in the administration line last year. The department is requesting \$20,000 this year, the Select Board is recommending \$10,000. Chief Rich requested a \$20,000 Fire Chief stipend. Fire Department members have requested \$40,000 for Fire Chief stipend. The Select Board recommends the Fire Chief stipend be \$27,500. The figure \$11,500, for radio repeater, will be a warrant article instead of in the operating budget. The Highway Road Agent stipend was requested by department head to increase from \$4,000 to \$5,000. The Select Board recommends \$6,500. The bottom-line budget figure for Highways and Streets (regular and winter) shows a 6.3% increase. Solid waste bottom line increase reflects a 16.4% increase,

largely due to the increased costs for Lebanon Landfill fees and haul fees. Parks and Recreation has increased 2.9%.

- Bottom line proposed town operating budget has increased \$151,888. (5.06% increase).
- Questions pertaining to the increase in the proposed legal budget-line. Mrs. Brotman explained that the Town has seven open court cases pending and it takes a lot of time to prepare, on top of time in court. As well as things have become more intricate and tedious, so the Town is consulting with legal on a more regular basis. The Select Board felt it was necessary to increase the legal line.
- Mrs. Cutting explained that the insurance has increased due to the CAP program. (with Primex) This is no longer available, and that significantly changed the cost. Also, the number of vehicles and equipment have increased significantly in cost which increases the cost of insurance.
- Discussion occurred pertaining to the Fire Department and what the future of the department is looking like.
- The upcoming Budget meeting date was discussed. December 10th, 2025 as the school would not be ready for the December 3rd, 2025 date.

4. At 8:18 PM Mr. Kinsler moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Spence. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Gray