



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

January 19, 2017

Honorable Members of the City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

As you know, the City recently received its FY 2016 Free Cash certification from the State. The General Fund component of the certification totaled \$3,397,368. During its December 8, 2016, meeting, the City Council agreed to appropriate \$700,000 to balance the FY2017 tax levy, leaving \$2,697,368 currently available for use. This balance is available for appropriation until June 30, after which time it will revert to unobligated fund balance.

Knowing that there is always a greater appetite for resources than available funding, I have decided to take a conservative approach to the allocation of Free Cash going forward, and believe it is important for the City to continue to act prudently by maintaining a robust Stabilization Fund. The City's Fund Balance Management policy sets a target goal of between two and six percent of the General Fund operating budget, which would equate to a range of \$5.9-\$17.8 million based on the FY 2017 adopted budget. The maintenance of a healthy reserve is essential to the City's ongoing fiscal well-being.

It is also important to ensure that the City maintains sufficient flexibility to address future developments, both planned and unexpected. With these thoughts in mind, we have developed a package of items that address certain immediate needs, while ensuring that the City will be well-positioned to respond to future requirements. The package that I am submitting for your consideration consists of the following appropriations:

- \$270,000 to the City's OPEB Trust Fund. This transfer is in compliance with the recently-adopted financial policy, which designates at least 10% of available General Fund Free Cash for deposit into the Fund.
- \$900,000 to match a grant amount from the Irwin Jacobs Foundation to the School Department to provide laptops and software for students at New Bedford High School. This program, which is described in the accompanying memorandum, will ensure that every student at the high school has the technology they need to succeed.

- \$200,000 to purchase four police cruisers as part of the Police Department's ongoing replacement program. A memorandum from Chief Cordeiro describing the department's ongoing vehicle replacement program is attached.
- \$200,000 for improvements at City parks. This appropriation, combined with CDBG funding and proceeds from the easement granted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the 103 Sawyer Street Superfund site, will allow the City to continue improvements at City parks, including improvements to Pine Hill, Buttonwood, Tom Lopes and Hazelwood parks.
- \$40,000 to match fundraising by the Zeiterion Theater to purchase and install a digital movie projector that will enable the Zeiterion to host more events that will support small businesses nearby. The proposal from the Zeiterion accompanies this memorandum.
- \$500,000 to the City's Stabilization Fund. This allocation will increase the balance of the fund to approximately \$8.3 million. Adequate funding is especially necessary given the impending payment for the AFSCME furlough award.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the relevant staff if you have any questions regarding these proposals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Mitchell', written over a horizontal line.

Jon Mitchell
Mayor

Attachments



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

January 26, 2017

ORDERED: That the sum of **TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$270,000.00)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

OPEB TRUST FUND.....\$270,000.00

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

January 26, 2017

ORDERED: That the sum of **NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$900,000.00)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

OTHER FINANCING USES..... \$900,000.00

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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PIA DURKIN, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

*"We are committed to developing a community of learners who
are academically proficient, demonstrate strong character and
exhibit self-confidence."*

TO: Honorable Mayor Jon Mitchell

FROM: Pia Durkin, Superintendent

SUBJECT: NB K-Nect Funding

DATE: 12/21/2016

This memo confirms New Bedford Public Schools request of \$900,000.00 to utilize toward the advancement of our school district's three phase technology project, NB K-Nect.

NB K-Nect was piloted in the 2015-2016 school year via a generous donation from Dr. Irwin Jacobs and the Mobile Technology Learning Center (MTLC) at San Diego in the amount of \$301,000. Approximately 250 students and four teachers received tablet computers on a one to one (1:1) basis, 24/7 internet access, instructional software, and professional development targeted toward 9th grade Algebra I courses.

Following the success of the pilot program, the district appropriated \$450,000 and Dr. Irwin Jacobs and MTLC donated an additional \$450,000 to fully launch the three phase project in the 2016-2017 school year. Phase I of this expansion involved all New Bedford High School 9th grade students and faculty and a pilot of 10th grade students and teachers.

Through spring and summer of 2017, Phase II of the project will utilize the balance of funds from Dr. Irwin Jacobs and the free cash appropriation of \$900,000 from the City. Phase II will cover the costs of equipment and software for the entire 10th grade student population, and training for the sophomore class faculty. Where this appropriation holds a balance by June 30th, 2017, these funds will be encumbered for use in Fiscal Year 2018.

In school year 2017-2018, Phase III, the balance of the aforementioned free cash appropriation from the City, continued funding in next year's (FY2018) school technology services budget, and an anticipated match of \$450,000.00 again from Dr. Jacobs will fund the completion of this New Bedford High School 1:1 initiative.



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

January 26, 2017

ORDERED: That the sum of **FOUR HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$440,000.00)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

POLICE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL OUTLAY.....	\$200,000
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL OUTLAY....	\$200,000
TOURISM CHARGES AND SERVICES.....	\$ 40,000

To be certified and approved by the Department Head



New Bedford Police Department

Office of the Chief of Police

871 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02740
Phone: 508-991-6300 Fax: 508-961-3022

Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor

Joseph C. Cordeiro
Chief of Police

Paul Oliveira
Deputy Chief of Police

December 29, 2016

Mayor John Mitchell
City of New Bedford
133 William St., Rm. 212
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mayor Mitchell,

Our uniform cruisers run twenty four hours a day, three hundred sixty five days a year and are taken off line for very short periods for regular maintenance. Coupled with a variety of drivers with varying driving habits and the demands of emergency police response resulting in high miles and tremendous wear and tear on the vehicles, ultimately diminishes the shelf life of the vehicles.

Historically, the department has purchased vehicles on regular basis and has had periods of not purchasing vehicle for years at a time forcing large purchases creating a financial burden and subpar fleet. Eighteen vehicles were purchased in 2013, four vehicles in 2014, seven in 2015.

An annual vehicle replacement program would be ideal. In the interim I am requesting the replacement of four uniform vehicles this year in addition to the prisoner transport van and the emergency management vehicle which have been ordered. Replacement of these four vehicles will be beneficial if we are to avoid large vehicle purchases and progress towards an annual replacement program. Our uniform vehicles average 36,000 miles a year. Realistically their shelf life should be no more than three years. These vehicles that I am looking to replace currently have an average median of 100,000 miles. We currently still have some vehicles with 150,000 plus miles as spare vehicles, traffic duty etc. Any purchases made this year will lessen the future burden in updating our fleet inventory. Especially considering the last large purchase of eighteen vehicles was three years ago.

Ideally a three year annual vehicle replacement program would ensure our vehicles are properly rotated ensuring a healthier fleet. The first two years would include purchasing nine uniform vehicles per year and year three purchasing non uniform vehicles (i.e. Prisoner Transport Van, Traffic Vehicles, and Detective Vehicles Etc.).

Very truly yours,

Chief Joseph Cordeiro

ZEITERION PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

— DOWNTOWN NEW BEDFORD —

MEMO

To: Mayor Jon Mitchell
cc: Christina Connelly
From: Rosemary Gill, Executive Director, Programming & Development
Date: December 22, 2016
Re: Video projector

As you know, The Z has expressed interest in purchasing a video projector and screens. Currently, we rent a projector each time one is required for a production we present, at an annual cost of more than \$10,000. Owning a projector would not only make fiscal sense, but it would allow us to increase our programming options to include classic movie nights, screenings and film festivals – something sorely lacking in this community. Owning would also make The Z more attractive to organizations interested in renting the building for conferences, corporate gatherings and other events.

We have researched costs and estimate that a projector and screens would cost \$60,000. If the city could provide \$40,000, The Z would raise funds to cover the balance.



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

January 26, 2017

ORDERED: That the sum of **FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000.00)** now standing to the credit of the account from **FREE CASH** be and the same is hereby transferred and appropriated to as follows:

STABILIZATION FUND..... \$500,000.00

To be certified and approved by the Department Head