



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

November 17, 2020

City Council President Joseph P. Lopes and
Honorable Members of the City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Council President Lopes and Honorable Members of the City Council:

I am submitting for your approval an ORDER that the sum **ONE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY-NINE DOLLARS (\$1,686,699)** now standing to the credit of the account from **WATER FREE CASH** be and is hereby assigned to the Fiscal Year 2021 Water Enterprise Fund budget, and that the portion raised by Water Receipts is hereby reduced by the same amount.

Sincerely,

Jon Mitchell
Mayor



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

November 24, 2020

ORDERED, that to balance the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 the sum of **ONE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY-NINE DOLLARS (\$1,686,699)** now standing to the credit of the account from **WATER FREE CASH** be and is hereby assigned to the Fiscal Year 2021 Water Enterprise Fund budget, and that the portion raised by Water Receipts is hereby reduced by the same amount.



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

November 17, 2020

City Council President Joseph P. Lopes, and
Honorable Members of the City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Dear Council President Lopes and Members of the City Council:

As you will recall, the FY 2021 budget, as originally proposed by me and ultimately adopted by the City Council, reflected an effort to manage the long-term implications of the current pandemic on the city's ability to deliver core municipal services and the financial pressures on tax payers. This required significant austerity measures, including the elimination of vacant positions across city government and the cutting of one-time expenses, along with the use of one-time funds to ease immediate depletion of revenues. There is a general consensus among economists that the pandemic will be felt over several fiscal years, and our budget this year seeks to reduce spending to allow for a softer landing.

To that end, I am submitting for your consideration several appropriations as envisioned in the adopted budget, as described in the accompanying correspondence from the Chief Financial Officer. The appropriations consist of \$6,068,909 in free cash, as well as a \$1,300,000 transfer from the Wastewater Special Projects Fund, or \$7,368,909 overall. Although the state's recently enacted emergency legislation allows municipalities to carry forward free cash certifications from FY 2020 to FY 2021, we are still required to set our annual tax rate before mailing bills at the end of this calendar year. These allocations, while necessary to limit the increase to the tax levy and forestall increases to water and sewer rates, illustrate the difficulties we are encountering in building a budget that is sustainable over the long term.

As I noted in my budget address last July, the City is facing a structural deficit, resulting primarily from enormous retiree obligations and escalating medical and collective bargaining costs. Moreover, New Bedford has not been able to grow its way out of these fiscal challenges, nor winnow costs sufficiently through proactive fiscal management and aggressive efficiency measures. This year's budget thus was shaping up to be trying even before the coronavirus arrived.

It is telling that, despite all our austerity measures, significant one-time funding will be needed to ensure that taxpayers are not overly burdened by economic shock to city government. The amount of free cash applied to balance this budget vastly exceeds that at any point in the last ten years. Over time, we will continue to work proactively to identify unnecessary costs and to reduce current and future liabilities, so that we can come out of the pandemic in a stronger fiscal position.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Mitchell".

Jon Mitchell
Mayor



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE CFO
ARI J. SKY
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

November 16, 2020

TO: Mayor Jonathan F. Mitchell
New Bedford City Council

FROM: Ari J. Sky

SUBJECT: FY 2021 Free Cash and Enterprise Fund Appropriations

The FY 2021 budget assumes the utilization of certified Free Cash balances to offset revenue requirements in the General Fund and several enterprise funds. The State's emergency law allows localities to carry forward Free Cash certifications from FY 2020 to FY 2021. Appropriation of the Free Cash balances toward revenue will be necessary in order to reduce the impact on the tax levy. The following Free Cash balances are available for appropriation:

- **General Fund:** \$3,893,036 can be applied to general revenue. Reductions approved by the City Council during its consideration, as well as additional State aid as envisioned in the Governor's revised and the House and Senate Ways & Means budgets, have eliminated the need for a transfer from the Stabilization Reserve.
- **Downtown Enterprise Fund:** Revenue to date is down by 50% through the first four months of the fiscal year. The certified Free Cash balance of \$489,174 can be applied to offset the apparent revenue shortfall in the enterprise fund.
- **Water Enterprise Fund:** Appropriation of the \$1,686,699 balance will ensure that the enterprise fund's revenue is sustainable through FY 2021.

The Wastewater Enterprise Fund is classified as a special revenue fund and therefore does not certify Free Cash. However, surplus revenue is assigned to the fund's special projects fund. The adopted budget will require a \$1,300,000 transfer from the fund's special projects account to balance FY 2021 revenue.

Attached please find correspondence from the Department of Public Infrastructure and the Traffic Commission staff requesting appropriations as described above. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Attachments



Jon Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford

OFFICE OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

The Elm Street Garage
51 Elm Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel. (508) 961-3153
Fax: (508) 979-1716

Scott Downing
*Traffic Commission
Executive Secretary*

November 12, 2020

The Honorable Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor of New Bedford
City Hall
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mayor Mitchell:

Due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, receipts in the Downtown Enterprise Fund will not meet FY21 budget projections of \$997,329.

As of today, current revenue is at \$167,911; however, the Downtown Enterprise Fund has a certified Free Cash balance of \$489,174.

I respectfully request the use of Free Cash to offset the FY21 revenue shortfall in the Downtown Enterprise Fund.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly,

Laurie A. Alfonso



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

Department of Public Infrastructure

Jamie Ponte
Commissioner

Water
Wastewater
Highways
Engineering
Cemeteries
Park Maintenance
Forestry
Energy

To: Ari Sky, CFO
From: Jamie Ponte, Commissioner
Date: November 13, 2020
Subject: Water Free Cash – Appropriation Request

The Department of Public Infrastructure would like to request the appropriation of Free Cash in the Water Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$1,686,699.00 as follows:

\$1,686,699.00 to 55006000-490910 Other Financing Sources

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. I appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jamie Ponte
Commissioner



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

Department of Public Infrastructure

Jamie Ponte
Commissioner

Water
Wastewater
Highways
Engineering
Cemeteries
Park Maintenance
Forestry
Energy

To: Ari Sky, CFO
From: Jamie Ponte, Commissioner
Date: November 13, 2020
Subject: Wastewater– Appropriation Request

The Department of Public Infrastructure would like to request the appropriation of \$1,300,000 from the Special Projects Fund to the Wastewater Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$1,300,000 as follows:

\$1,300,000 to 63906000-490910 Other Financing Sources

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. I appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jamie Ponte
Commissioner

SUBMITTED BY	Robert Ekstrom	CITY/TOWN/DISTRICT	New Bedford
PHONE	508-979-1530	SUBMISSION DATE	11/01/19
FIELD REP	Debbie Wagner	SUBMISSION COMPLETE DATE	11/14/19

FREE CASH CALCULATION

BEGIN:

UNRESERVED UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE 8,571,978

LESS:

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES RECEIVABLE 177,600

REAL ESTATE TAXES RECEIVABLE 3,596,989

OTHER RECEIVABLE, OVERDRAWN ACCOUNTS, DEFICITS

Other Dept Rec	91,504	Healthy Meals	1	
Ret Check Fees	75	Part for success	896	
A/R Other	663	Ren. MCC Field	216	
Accd Int MARS	141	Young Peop Concer	120	
Due From Harb. Dev.	749,859	EOS Grant	45	
Due From Redev Auth	650,931	Nellie Mae	1,500	
Health Fines	196	MA CEC Learn	2,249	
Tourism Rev	15,666	SPED Imp	971	
Quest Center	18,303	Title II A	25,536	
DEA Overtime	654	MKEA	11,109	
SSYI EOHHS	1,211	ELL Academ	190	
Fire Safer FEMA	357	Turn Assist	6,500	
Safer Staffing FEMA	3,293	Voucher	17,553	
Environ Monitor	1,227	Trans Main	1	
AERO Study	2,939	4 2M Bond	139,852	
Airport Grants	458,165	Michael Freitas	8	
Airport Equip	1,803	NBHS Photo	5	
Duchaine Blvd Brown	3,253	Retirement Salaries	20,346	
Browns Assess Grant	1,509	Additional Sheet	139,492	<u>2,368,337</u>

FREE CASH VOTED FROM TOWN MEETING NOT RECORDED -

ADD:

DEFERRED REVENUE (CREDIT BALANCE +, DEBIT BALANCE -) 1,463,984

60 DAYS TAX COLLECTIONS -

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS:

3,893,036
FREE CASH, JULY 1, 2019

Debbie Wagner

REVIEWED BY:

PLEASE SEE CERTIFICATION LETTER

DATE:

11/06/19

FOR DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS APPROVAL

SUBMITTED BY Robert Ekstrom
 FIELD REP Debbie Wagner

COMMUNITY New Bedford
 FUND Parking Enterprise Fund

RETAINED EARNINGS CALCULATION - ENTERPRISE FUND

PART I

CASH 702,781

SUBTRACT:

CURRENT LIABILITIES, DESIGNATIONS OF FUND BALANCE

Warrants Payable	29,205
Encumbrances	113,966
Expenditures	
Acc. Payroll	4,345
Other Liab	1,015
Due to other funds	65,077

OTHER

TOTAL 489,174

PART II

RETAINED EARNINGS - UNDESIGNATED 494,187

SUBTRACT:

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE (NET)	
A/R	5,013

OTHER

TOTAL 489,174

PART III

FIXED ASSETS:

DEBITS

CREDITS

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	-		-
FIXED ASSET VARIANCE	-		-

Debbie Wagner

REVIEWED BY:

PLEASE SEE CERTIFICATION LETTER

DATE:

11/14/19

FOR DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS APPROVAL

SUBMITTED BY Robert Ekstrom
FIELD REP Debbie Wagner

COMMUNITY New Bedford
FUND Water

RETAINED EARNINGS CALCULATION - ENTERPRISE FUND

PART I

CASH 2,744,963

SUBTRACT:

CURRENT LIABILITIES, DESIGNATIONS OF FUND BALANCE

Warrants Payable	631,147
Encumbrances	65,200
Expenditures	
Accrued Payroll	90,604
Other Liabilities	268,147
Due to other funds	3,164

OTHER

Variance	(1)
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TOTAL 1,686,699

PART II

RETAINED EARNINGS - UNDESIGNATED 3,596,217

SUBTRACT:

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE (NET)

Departmental	20,854
Inventory	155,942
Receivables	1,732,722

OTHER

TOTAL 1,686,699

PART III

FIXED ASSETS:

DEBITS

CREDITS

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	-		-
FIXED ASSET VARIANCE	-		-

REVIEWED BY:

Debbie Wagner

PLEASE SEE CERTIFICATION LETTER

DATE:

11/14/19

FOR DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS APPROVAL