



Town of Fairfield

Office of the First Selectman
William A. Gerber

For Immediate Release

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First Selectman William A. Gerber Releases Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

Budget Provides Expenditures for Teachers, Police and Fire, Plus Critical Conservation Funding

Fairfield, CT, February 22, 2024 – Fairfield First Selectman William A. Gerber released his proposed fiscal year 2024-2025 budget today. The budget highlights critical expenditures for public safety, education, conservation, and libraries, and allocates wage increases for teachers and first responders that have lagged inflation for several years, as well as long-overdue investments in the Fire Department. Increased investment in the Fairfield County Regional Dispatch Center (911 Call Center) will improve response times and service levels. The proposed \$370.1 million budget results in a modest 1.81 percent increase in the mill rate.

In line with the administration's commitment to environmental sustainability, the budget also includes expenditures for conservation staffing. Additional funding for libraries and restoring the teen librarian position will address the increasing need for young adult services.

"Given the magnitude of the projects needing funding and effectively operating a Town of our size, my administration is very pleased with our ability to keep the tax increase moderate while still providing exceptional service levels," Gerber said. "We are proud to present a budget that prioritizes the safety, education, and well-being of all our residents."

The budget reflects an increase of \$13.3 million, or 3.74 percent. As the 11th largest municipality in the state, a significant portion of the budget increase is allocated to salaries and wages. Wages accounted for \$10.9 million, or 82 percent of the increase in combined Town and Board of Education operating expenses. The majority of this increase is unavoidable due to collective bargaining agreements, with a portion related to personnel adjustments in the Board of Education, the Police and Fire Departments.

Additionally, there was a \$3.5 million increase in Town and Board of Education operating expenses and a decrease of \$1.1 million in shared expenses between the Board of Education and Town, such as debt service and workers compensation costs. Other major drivers for the increase were Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) contributions, essential for funding the Town's long-term liabilities.

The total tax levy of \$337.7 million represents a net increase of 2.19 percent, well below the cost of inflation and offset by a modest increase in the Town's Grand List of 0.37 percent.

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