



Town of Hooksett

WARRANT ARTICLE REQUEST FORM

Revised 1/31/2024

Date of Request: 7/13/2023

Date of Town Meeting: March 2024

Name of Department Submitting Request: Police

1. Please provide the wording of the proposed article.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be added to the Emergency Radio Communications Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 1 No).

2. Voters' Guide Explanation.

Previously this fund was set up to be used in the year 2024 for a complete replacement of the existing radio communication system. Due to ever changing technology it is now recommended by the manufacturers that the radio system components be replaced and/or upgraded on a continuous basis. The end of life for all components is 10 years. This is intended to fund the maintenance of the entire radio infrastructure. Currently there is \$321,417.07 available as of December 31, 2023. Up to \$370,604.00 is anticipated to be needed during the FY 2024-25 budget year from this reserve to replace the base dispatch console and the South Bow Radio Tower. The Capital Improvement Plan Committee voted to support this request and recommended funding a warrant article in FY 2024-25 for these projects.

3. If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs?

The Department's goal is to build this fund so the high cost of replacing radio communication equipment is spread out over time and not have a direct tax impact during one or more years. This fund is also built to ensure emergency equipment can be replaced due to natural disasters that may not be covered completely by insurance. None of this would be possible IF this article is not passed and/or approved. Our goal of keeping our communications equipment current and working at peak performance, while having a minimal yearly tax impact, would not be possible without this article passing.

4. Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?

This reserve was established in 2002.

In 2014 \$144,745 from this reserve and \$187,450 from insurance was used to replace the dispatch consoles that were damaged by lightning.

In 2019 \$28,749 was used to update the antenna system.

In 2020 \$101,258 was used to purchase new portable radios.

March 2023 Ballot: Passed 534 to 299 or 64% approval.

March 2022 Ballot: Passed 846 to 312 or 73% approval.

March 2021 Ballot: Passed 495 to 228 or 68% approval.

March 2020 Ballot: Passed 1,283 to 601 or 68% approval.

March 2019 Ballot: Passed 680 to 299 or 69% approval.