

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
DOCKET- SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET HEARING: FISCAL YEAR 2025 Proposed Budget
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024
CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.
145 TAUNTON AVENUE-CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
EXECUTIVE SESSION: CONFERENCE ROOM A

OPEN SESSION WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW EXECUTIVE SESSION

Notice: The meeting will also be viewable live at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0YEW6s1RpicKR47VMil1LA>

City Council:

Council President, Bob Rodericks – At Large
Council Vice-President: Frank Rego – Ward 1
Councilwoman Anna Sousa - Ward 2
Councilman Frank Fogarty - Ward 3
Councilman Rick Lawson - Ward 4

City Solicitor, Michael Marcello
City Clerk, Jill Seppa

I. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

Fogarty_____ Lawson_____ Rego_____ Sousa_____ Rodericks

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council of East Providence may meet in Executive Session,
pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1)

1. Discussion of the job performance, character ... of a person provided that the person or persons affected have been notified in advance in writing.\City Clerk Employee Agreement

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		

Sousa		
Rodericks		

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Fogarty_____ Lawson_____ Rego_____ Sousa _____ Rodericks_____

V. MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

III. BUDGET SESSION

A. Discussion and possible vote on changes or amendments to the Mayor’s FY25 proposed budget. A copy of the proposed budget is available on-line at <https://stories.opengov.com/eastprovidenceri/published/XxwJuzw3k6> and in the City Clerk’s office

1. City Government
 - City Council
 - Mayor’s Office
 - City Clerk
 - Law
 - Canvassing

2. City Operations
 - Finance Controls & Accounts
 - Tax Collection
 - Tax Assessment
 - Human Resources
 - EEOC/Affirmative Action
 - Information Technology
 - Miscellaneous
 - Debt Service
 - Capital

3. Community Development

- Planning & Economic Development
4. Community Services
 - Recreation
 - Pierce Stadium
 - Carousel
 - Library
 - Senior Center
 5. Public Works
 - Public Works Director
 - Building Inspection
 - Engineering
 - Highway/Parks
 - Streetlights
 - Refuse Disposal
 - Public Buildings
 - Central Garage
 6. Public Safety
 - Police Department
 - Animal Shelter
 - Harbormaster
 - Fire Department
 - Public Safety Communications
 7. Enterprise Fund
 - Wastewater Pollution Control
 - Water Utilities
 8. East Providence School Department

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS – Ordinance for final passage - For discussion and possible vote-

1. Ordinance Of The Council Of The City Of East Providence Ordering The Assessment And Collection Of Property Tax On The Ratable Real Estate And Tangible Personal Property
Summary: Sec 16-50 entitled "Assessment" of Article IV entitled "Property Tax on Ratable Real Estate and Tangible Personal Property and Excise Tax on Registered Motor Vehicles and Trailers"

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		

Sousa		
Rodericks		

2. An Ordinance Authorizing The Director Of Finance To Borrow Funds In Anticipation Of Taxes

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

3. An Ordinance Authorizing The Director Of Finance To Borrow Funds In Anticipation Of Bonds

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

4. Ordinance Of The Council Of The City Of East Providence Appropriating \$6,118,625 For The FY2025 Capital Budget And FY2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

5. Ordinance Of The Council Of The City Of East Providence Appropriating \$221,692,101 For The Support Of The City Government For The Fiscal Year Ending October 31, 2025

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

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6. Announcement of Final Public Hearing on FY2024 Budget – October 22, 2024 if necessary

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS - For discussion and possible vote

1. Resolution Authorizing The Expenditure Of Funds To Hire Outside Legal Counsel
Sponsor: Councilman Lawson

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Member	Aye	Nay
Fogarty		
Lawson		
Rego		
Sousa		
Rodericks		

If communication assistance is needed or any other accommodations to ensure equal participation, please contact the City Clerks Office at 401.435.7596 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

CHAPTER

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO BORROW
FUNDS IN ANTICIPATION OF BONDS**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION I. The Director of Finance is authorized to borrow during the fiscal year ending October 31, 2025 such sums of money in anticipation of bonds as may be permitted by law for the purpose of meeting the current liabilities and expenses of the City and that the Director of Finance is authorized to issue the note or notes of the City therefore and to refund such note or notes and any bond anticipation notes of a prior year to the extent permitted by law.

SECTION II. This ordinance shall take effect upon its second passage and all ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Given first passage _____ and referred to _____ at 6:30 p.m.
for a hearing and consideration of final passage and adopted _____.

Attest:

City Clerk of the City of East Providence, Rhode Island

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

CHAPTER

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO BORROW
FUNDS IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION I. The Director of Finance is authorized to borrow during the fiscal year ending October 31, 2025 such sums of money in anticipation of the property taxes of the year as may be permitted by law for the purpose of meeting the current liabilities and expenses of the City and that the Director of Finance is authorized to issue the note or notes of the City therefore and to refund such note or notes and any tax anticipation notes of a prior year to the extent permitted by law.

SECTION II. This ordinance shall take effect upon its second passage and all ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Given first passage _____ and referred to _____ at 6:30 p.m.
for a hearing and consideration of final passage and adopted _____.

Attest:

City Clerk of the City of East Providence, Rhode Island

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

CHAPTER

**ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
ORDERING THE ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF PROPERTY TAX ON THE
RATABLE REAL ESTATE AND TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION I. Section 16-50 entitled “Assessment” of Article IV entitled “Property Tax on Ratable Real Estate and Tangible Personal Property and Excise Tax on Registered Motor Vehicles and Trailers” of Chapter 16 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of East Providence, Rhode Island, 1998, as amended, entitled “Taxation.” is amended to read as follows:

That the Council of the City of the City of East Providence hereby orders the assessment and collection of a tax on ratable real estate and tangible personal property in a sum not more than One Hundred Eighteen Million Seven Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Six Hundred and Forty-five (\$118,754,645) dollars. Said tax is for ordinary expenses, for the payment of interest and indebtedness, in whole or in part, of said city, and for other purposes authorized by law.

The Tax Assessor shall assess and apportion said tax on the inhabitants and ratable property of said city as of the 31st day of December, 2024 at twelve o'clock Eastern Standard Time, according to law, and shall on completion of said assessment, date and sign same and shall make out and certify to the Tax Collector of the City of East Providence, who is charged with the duties for the collection of taxes, on or before the 15th day of June, 2025 a complete list of the names of the persons taxed and of the total value of all the real estate and tangible personal property assessed against each person, and also the total amount assessed against each person on said real estate and tangible personal property, opposite the name of the person or persons assessed. Upon receipt of the certified tax list by the Tax Collector, she shall proceed and collect said tax on the persons and estates liable thereof; said tax shall be due and payable on and between the 1st day of June 2025 and the 1st day of July, 2025 and provided further that if said tangible personal property and/or real estate taxes are paid in full on or before the 1st day of July, 2025, a discount of one and one half per centum (1.5%) of the total taxes on said tangible personal property and real estate shall be granted, and all taxes remaining unpaid on the 1st day of July, 2025 shall carry until collected a penalty at the rate of twelve per centum (12%) per annum from the 1st day of June, 2025 upon said unpaid tax, however, said taxes may be paid in four installments; the first installment of twenty-five per centum (25%) on or before the 1st day of July, 2025, the second installment of

twenty-five per centum (25%) on or before the 1st day of September, 2025, the third installment of twenty-five per centum (25%) on or before the 1st day of December, 2025 and the fourth installment of twenty-five per centum (25%) on or before the 1st day of March, 2026.

Each installment of taxes if paid on or before the last day of each installment period successively in order shall be free from any charge of interest and shall include an additional 7 ~~calendar~~ business day grace period after the last due date of each installment.

If any succeeding installment of taxes is not paid by the last date of the respective unpaid balance period or periods as they occur and after the 7 ~~calendar~~ business day grace period, then the whole tax or remaining unpaid balance of the taxes as the case may be shall immediately become due and payable and carry until collected a penalty at the rate of twelve per centum, (12%) per annum.

If any payment of taxes is made by check or electronic fund transfer (EFT) and said check is returned unpaid or said EFT is rejected and the city is assessed a fee from its bank for said bounced check/rejected EFT, a fee in the amount of \$25.00 for a bounced check and a fee in the amount of \$15.00 for a rejected EFT shall be due and owing by said taxpayer and said payment amount shall be added to the bill due and owing by the taxpayer.

SECTION II. That any of said taxes not paid on or before the 1st day of March 2025 shall forthwith be collected by levy upon the sale of real estate upon which it is assessed and by that or other due process of law in case of assessment upon tangible personal property.

SECTION III. This ordinance shall take effect upon its second passage and all ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Given first passage _____ and referred to _____ at 6:30 p.m. for a hearing and consideration of final passage and adopted _____.

Attest:

City Clerk of the City of East Providence, Rhode Island

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

CHAPTER

**ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
APPROPRIATING \$221,692,101 FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2025**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION I. The general fund receipts for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2025, have been established to amount to \$221,692,101 made up as follows:

GENERAL FUND	2023-2024	2024-2025
REVENUES		
Property Taxes	115,823,418	117,285,537
School State Aid	40,661,557	39,578,297
City State Aid	23,030,797	25,092,866
City Revenue	10,301,495	11,797,458
School Grants/Other	1,200,000	1,250,000
Total General Fund	\$ 191,017,267	\$ 195,004,158
UTILITY FUNDS	2023-2024	2024-2025
REVENUES		
Water Division	11,939,039	12,556,139
Wastewater Division	14,131,804	14,131,804
Total Utility Funds	\$ 26,070,843	\$ 26,687,943
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 217,088,110	\$ 221,692,101

SECTION II. To defray the expenses of the City of East Providence for the fiscal year commencing November 1, 2024 and ending October 31, 2025, the sum of money, or so much thereof as are authorized by law indicated in the accompanying schedule, are hereby appropriated for the objects and purposes, and in the amounts expressed therein, provided that payments thereunder shall be subject to the provisions of the City Charter of the City of East Providence and also subject to the provisions of said City Charter relative to the manner and form of expenditures of money set forth in said Charter from the City Treasury.

SECTION III. All monies appropriated are to be expended by the various departments in the manner and form approved by the Director of Finance.

SECTION IV. The payment to the School Fund of the following estimated receipts, included in the appropriation of \$99,396,962 for the support of the public schools for the City of East Providence fiscal year 2024-2025, shall be increased or decreased to conform to the actual amounts received from such sources during the fiscal year 2024-2025 except the appropriation of property tax.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT REVENUES	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation of Property Taxes	55,003,481	57,203,620
State Sources/Other	41,861,557	42,193,342
Totals	\$ 96,865,038	\$ 99,396,962

SECTION V. The purpose of this ordinance is to adopt the Budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025 which begins November 1, 2024 and ends October 31, 2025 as prepared and submitted by the Mayor, and to implement the recommendations as set forth in the Mayor's Budget Message by the approval of said recommendations as contained herein, or by other ordinances or resolutions of the Council of the City of East Providence; all in accordance with the provisions of said Article.

SECTION VI. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and all ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Adopted: _____

Attest:

City Clerk of the City of East Providence, Rhode Island

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

CHAPTER

ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
APPROPRIATING \$6,118,625 FOR THE FY2025 CAPITAL BUDGET AND
FY2025-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION I. The FY2025 General Fund Capital Budget for the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2024 and ending October 31, 2025 has been established to amount to \$6,118,625 made up as follows:

Fire Department

Replacement of Ladder 3 (Tower Truck) \$2,123,625

This purchase is to replace Ladder 3 which is a frontline apparatus. The existing Ladder 3 truck was manufactured in 1995 and is currently 29 years old. This vehicle should no longer be in-service according to industry standards. This vehicle takes about a year to be constructed and delivered for use.

Replacement of Rescue 2 \$475,000

This purchase is to replace the current frontline Rescue 2 which was purchased in 2020. The existing rescue is 5-years old and has exceeded industry standard frontline status. The existing mileage is 122,825.

Department of Public Works- Highway

2x 3500 Utility Body with Plow \$190,000

This purchase is to replace two current frontline plow vehicles which are aging past their useful life.

Department of Public Works- Engineering

City Road & Sidewalk Improvements \$2,300,000

This funding is utilized to repave roads that require maintenance due to poor existing conditions. City roads are assessed based on their condition, and this capital budget line item is the funding source that repaves the roads most in need.

Department of Public Works- Parks

550 Dump Truck with Plow \$95,000

This purchase is to replace a current frontline dump truck which is beyond its useful life.

Baseball Infield Groomer \$30,000

This purchase is to replace an existing infield groomer that is used for baseball and softball infields throughout the city. The current groomer has exceeded its useful life.

Stump Grinder \$80,000

This purchase is to replace the existing stump grinder which is aged beyond useful life. The existing stump grinder consistently needs repairs.

Lawn Mower \$30,000

This purchase is to replace the oldest lawn mower in the fleet of mowers that is used to maintain parks throughout the city. The current lawn mower has aged past its useful life.

Tree Planting \$50,000

This funding is utilized for planting trees throughout the City. This funding is used to replace trees where an existing one may have died as well as for planting in new locations.

Department of Public Works- Public Buildings

City Hall VAV Installation \$225,000

This funding is for continued improvements to City Hall's HVAC systems to modernize the equipment. The existing VAVs provide better control and distribution of airflow throughout the building. This funding will replace older antiquated equipment.

Department of Public Works- Refuse Recycling

Recycling Facility Improvements \$225,000

The City's DPW site at Commercial Way is currently under review for increased efficiency of the use of the yard. The review will result in an efficiency plan to reorganize the recycling facility area. This funding is to implement the improvements of a more efficient recycling facility area, which will allow the city to provide additional recycling collection space to help defer trash to the landfill and provide a secure drop off area for better control of materials being dropped off.

Department of Public Works- Central Garage

4 Post Lifts \$60,000

This purchase is to replace four post lifts at the City’s Central Garage which are utilized daily by the City Mechanics. The Central Garage is tasked with servicing the City’s entire fleet of vehicles.

Information Technology

Updates for Access Controller Software and Hardware \$125,000

The City’s access controllers are currently outdated with software and hardware, and these funds would be used to upgrade the software and hardware to allow our technology infrastructure to go into a hybrid cloud solution.

Fire station 1-4 Access Control for Doors \$60,000

The City’s access controls at Fire Stations 1 through 4 need to be replaced. This will allow for increased security to know who is entering each fire station.

Carousel

Replacement of Generator at Carousel \$50,000

This funding is to purchase a new generator to replace the existing one which has not been replaced since the early 1990’s. This generator is used to power fire suppression and security systems during power outages. The existing generator is consistently in need of repairs.

SECTION II. The purpose of this ordinance is to adopt the Capital Budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025 which begins November 1, 2024 and ends October 31, 2025 as recommended by the Planning Board pursuant to East Providence City Ordinance Sec. 2-172 and submitted by the Mayor, and amended by the City Council, and to implement the recommendations as set forth in the Mayor's Budget Message by the approval of said recommendations as contained herein, or by other ordinances or resolutions of the Council of the City of East Providence; all in accordance with the provisions of said Article.

SECTION III. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and all ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Adopted: _____

Attest:

City Clerk of the City of East Providence, Rhode Island

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE**

RESOLUTION NO.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS
TO HIRE OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL**

WHEREAS, the Assistant City Solicitor resigned leaving the City with just one Solicitor; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to hire legal counsel to represent them on matters pertaining to their duties as required by the City Charter; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by passage of this resolution, the East Providence City Council authorizes the hiring of outside legal counsel to represent the City Council.

Adopted by the City Council: _____

Attest:

City Clerk of East Providence, Rhode Island

Introduced by: Councilman Lawson