



Office of the Town Manager

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TO : Select Board
FROM : Town Manager Paul Cohen
RE: Earmark Requests for House of Representatives' Proposed FY24
State Operating Budget

Here are three items for your consideration to submit to the Town's three State Representatives for consideration in the House of Representative's proposed FY24 State Operating Budget:

1. **Lightning Protection System at South Row Elementary School. (\$70,000)**
Over the years, the South Row Elementary has resulted in several lightning strikes given the topography of the area and the height of the school in relation to surrounding structures. Each time taking out the fire alarm main panel or sub panel (nac panel) and cellular radio communicator. The most recent event, in the fall of 2022, the building was struck twice within one week. A lightning protection system is proposed to prevent future losses to the building equipment.
2. **Food Insecurity and Nutrition Programs at the Senior Center (\$25,000)**
 - Pay for high-quality proteins (chicken, beef, fish) that is no longer offered on the commodities list
 - Pay for increased cost of food items
 - Pay for heightened prices in packing for the Meals on Wheels program.
3. **Replacement of Police Department's Incident Command Vehicle (\$75,000)**
The current mobile command van is a 1999 model with a diesel engine. The vehicle is equipped with radio, mapping, and computer functionality to respond to emergency situations. This includes natural disasters, major crime scenes, missing persons, and major accidents. The vehicle is also used to support safety operations at major events such as the July 4th parade, Baystate marathon, and school large crowd gatherings.