Tree Care and Removal

Michele Velez
Public Works Superintendent

The purpose of this budget is to give priority to considerable concerns regarding the infestation of oak trees due to the recent gypsy moth infestations and associated drought conditions combined with the loss of ash trees due to the invasive ash borer. Both of these issues are resulting in a large number of trees that are dying across our community and the State. The purpose of this budget is to highlight the need for long-term remediation of tree care and removal.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Major Service Level Accomplishments

- Continued aggressive efforts for the care and removal of dying oak and ash trees with removal of over 1500 trees.
- Worked collectively with Eversource to identify and report all dangerous trees to reduce the number of falling trees near and on powerlines to help decrease power outages.

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Major Service Level Goals

- Continue aggressive efforts for the care and removal of dying oak, ash trees and diseased Beech trees infected by BLD (Beech Leave Disease).
- Work collectively with Eversource to identify and report all dangerous trees to reduce the number of falling trees near and on powerlines to help decrease power outages.
- Continue to remove dead trees by roads to maximize dollars and minimize cost of moving equipment.

Additional Budget Information

10/15/22 - 6/30/23

Calls into PW about trees	**202**
Calls concerning trees for removal	125
Trees Down in roads	77

7/1/23- 6/30/24

Calls into PW about trees	**210**
Calls concerning trees for removal	170
Trees Down in roads	40

7/1/24-1/27/25

Calls into PW about trees	**74**
Calls concerning trees for removal	49
Trees Down in roads	16

Efforts to reduce tree call-outs and power outages as well as routine work orders have decreased by removing dying or diseased trees throughout town.

Expenditures by Expense Type

Name	Account ID	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Budgeted	FY2026 Budgeted	FY2026 Budgeted ($ Change)	FY2026 Budgeted (% Change)
Expense Objects							
Purchased Professional Services							

Name	Account ID	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Budgeted	FY2026 Budgeted	FY2026 Budgeted ($ Change)	FY2026 Budgeted (% Change)
TREE WARDEN	10543550-53925	$125	$105	$1,500	$1,500	$0	0%
Total Purchased Professional Services:		**$125**	**$105**	**$1,500**	**$1,500**	**$0**	**0%**
Purchased Property Services							
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	10543550-54303	$229,090	$290,798	$250,000	$280,000	$30,000	12%
Total Purchased Property Services:		**$229,090**	**$290,798**	**$250,000**	**$280,000**	**$30,000**	**12%**
Total Expense Objects:		**$229,215**	**$290,903**	**$251,500**	**$281,500**	**$30,000**	**11.9%**