

Board of Finance

Capital Committee Report

April 17, 2024, Meeting

7:00PM

Brooklyn, Ct. Capital Requests for year 2024-2025

Dept.	Request	Amount	Facts/Reason	Rate Need	Approval	Justification
DPW	New 6-wheel dumptruck w/ sander built-in and 10' plow	250,000	This vehicle will replace the oldest truck in the present fleet which will be disposed of upon delivery of new truck.	Historically the capital committee has been replacing one large truck every other year.	Yes	Reduced the amount for this vehicle to 200k. It will be lighter than normally purchased and will not require a CDL. Also slightly smaller, more maneuverable in EB section of town. It will be lower and safer to unload when patching roads.
DPW	New fire alarm system at DPW garage	7,000	The present alarm system has been having major problems with false alarms and having the present alarm company service the system and its problems	The town is looking to go with a local vendor to install the new system and be able to supply service immediate when needed.	Yes	The committee felt that the present alarm system is not protecting the town's assets as should be. It also has many false alarms and the service has not met expectations.
Recreation	Replacement of Recreation vehicle	12,000	The present recreation vehicle is 11 years old and considerably larger than needed. It is no longer considered a plow truck. It will be utilized for towing the mower trailer, picking up supplies and other recreation needs.	The old Ford F-250 will be traded toward the new vehicle. (\$21,000) trade-in allowance toward new vehicle. 2024 Ford Bronco or comparable.	No	The Recreation department had requested a new lighter vehicle. The committee felt that the town owns this vehicle and they should continue to use it even if it is too big for their needs.
Resource Recovery	Installation of 12' X 20' X 4" pad with pergola style roof.	10,000	This new platform will be utilized to store hazardous waste paint products. This new area will keep the waste dry and visible to the attendants to closely monitor what residents dispose of.	The current storage area is not visible to the attendants for easy monitoring.	No	The committee felt that their plan of action was incomplete. We request that they come back next year with a more comprehensive plan to upgrade the handling of items at the landfill.
BOE	Newwork infrastructure switches Grant Net	138,500 (60,000) 78,500	This request would replace the network switches in the school system and also plan on receiving a \$60,000 grant to reduce total request.	This will keep the school's digital infrastructure operational and eliminate system failures and system vulnerability	Yes	We felt that keeping the school's infrastructure system operating without failures was a viable request and also taking advantage of the grant was in the best interest of the BOE.
BOE	Elementary School Freezer/ Cooler	18,000	This request which has been on the replacement list since 2018 and recently been repaired multiple times.	If this should fail when no one is working, it would cost the school for lost food.	Yes	This unit keeps all the fresh and frozen food for the Elementary school system and would be a great catastrophic loss should it fail.
BOE	Upgrade Trend Controls with Siemens	38,250	This system would update the control system on the Preschool/Kindergarten wing for the HVAC system.	The present system doesn't control the temperature properly in this building which means they need to open and close valves manually to control the temperature.	Yes	The way they operate the system at present leaves a lot to be desired. It is labor intensive and doesn't adequately control the environment. Reaction to complaints is not always prompt. This will keep all buildings with Siemens controls and compatible.
BOE	Sidewalks at rear of the schools	15,000	Last year we approved a grant of 16k which was insufficient to complete the project as required due to inflation.	This is a safety issue for the students walking in the same area as the traffic with no sidewalks to enter the schools. The students presently have to walk on the grass to enter the schools.	Yes	We felt that the safety of the children being dropped off and picked up was at risk. Walking on or near the road was not an acceptable practice. The sidewalk will eliminate this problem.
Town Hall	Upgrade Phone System	10,000	Present phone system is no longer supported by the vendor and needs to be replaced.	If not replaced, it could cause security and compatibility issues.	Yes	The committee felt that this was a need and should be replaced.
Land Use/ Bldg. Dept.	Digitize Records	73,762	Digitize all present and past records. Save them to the cloud.	Greatly reduce the labor needed to fill requests for copies and information.	Yes	We felt that this could have been postponed by a year but would have lost the \$6k grant. Digitizing all records will greatly reduce the labor required to copy files requested.

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Mortlake	Replace Breathing Air Compressor		Request withdrawn by Chief Breen		No	
EBFD	Replace Extirication Equipment		Request withdrawn by Chief Skene		NO	
Town	Replacement of Flooring in Community Center basement/ Dept. of Health	24,245	Carpeting at the Community Center which houses Brooklyn Cares and the Dept. of Health is in deplorable condition and needs to be replaced.	Flooring will be replaced with vinyl flooring which should last many years and be easier to clean.	Yes	Carpeting will be removed from both locations and replaced with vinyl flooring to facilitate easier maintenance and an unsanitary condition.
Rec Dept.	Install Fencing at Riverside Park	8,500	(Safety issue) Install fencing along river and grass area to keep vehicles out.	This area, especially at night, is not illuminated and someone could drive into the river.	Yes	This request will eliminate a safety issue and keep cars from driving into the river and off the grass.
	SUB-TOTAL of recommended projects	473,257				
BOE	HVAC System for Brooklyn Schools	3-4 Million	Project was started 3 years ago and has been progressing at a slow pace. The ARPA Committee awarded the BOE \$150,000 in funds to do an engineering study and complete plans for the project. Now the state DAS has required the school to complete inspections, which will cost \$500,000 to complete. The school is planning on utilizing leftover money in this years budget plus additional ARPA funds to makeup the \$00k. The project will have to be bonded for the full amount. The town will be reimbursed 70% of the cost.	The BOE has been investigating this since Sandy Hook and the Covid Pandemic. Air needed to be circulated during Covid which caused a security risk. The State of Connecticut highly recommends HVAC systems and will reimburse at the 70% rate	Yes	The committee fully endorsed this move to install an HVAC system at the school to enhance both security and continual air movement which is highly recommended by the state BOE. During COVID, all doors and windows were opened to facilitate air movement which caused a great security risk at the school.