

City Council Resolve

IN CITY COUNCIL

Resolved, that the following be, and hereby is the Annual Appropriation and Revenue Resolve of the City of Auburn for the fiscal year 2025-2026, which includes the amounts appropriated herein and revenues from all sources beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

The estimated aggregate amount of non-property tax revenue is \$70,678,616 with a municipal revenue budget of \$27,172,975 and a School Department revenue budget of \$43,505,641.

The aggregate appropriation for the City of Auburn is \$128,481,297, with a municipal budget of \$60,601,837 County budget of \$3,385,568 and a School Department budget of \$64,493,892 which received School Committee approval on April 30th 2025, and school budget approved at the May 5th, 2025 Council Meeting pursuant to the School Budget Validation vote on June 10, 2025, in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A § 1486 and based on the budget submitted to the Auburn City Council on April 15, 2025, by the City Manager, and notification was posted on the City of Auburn website on April 30, 2025 that a public hearing would be held on May 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. and said hearing having been held on that date, and as amended by the City Council, the same is hereby appropriated for the fiscal year 2025-2026 beginning July 1, 2025 for the lawful expenditures of the City of Auburn and the County of Androscoggin taxes, and said amounts are declared not to be in excess of the estimated revenue from taxation and sources other than taxation for the fiscal year of 2025-2026.

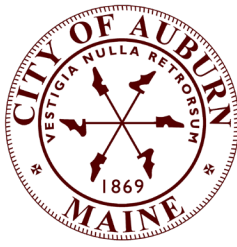
RESOLVED, The City is authorized to accept grants and forfeitures and to expend sums that may be received from grants and forfeitures for municipal purposes during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, provided that such grants and forfeitures do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.

RESOLVED, that fifty percent (50%) of all real estate taxes assessed as in the annual commitment, committed to the Tax Collector, shall be due proportionately from each taxpayer on September 15, 2025, and the remaining fifty percent (50%) shall be due on March 16, 2026.

Richard S. Whiting, Ward One
Benjamin J. Weisner, Ward Four
Belinda A. Gerry, At Large

Timothy M. Cowan, Ward Two
Leroy G. Walker, Sr., Ward Five
Jeffrey D. Harmon, Mayor

Stephen G. Milks, Ward Three
Adam R. Platz, At Large
Phillip L. Crowell, Jr., City Manager



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Except as may be provided by resolve regarding payments in accordance with an installment payment plan, any real estate tax remaining uncollected on September 16, 2025, and March 17, 2026, respectively shall bear interest at a rate of 7% per annum from and after such dates.

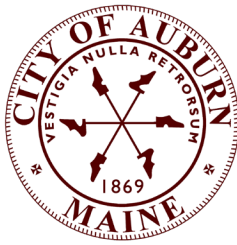
Personal property taxes shall be due and payable on or before September 15, 2025. Any personal property taxes remaining unpaid on September 16, 2025, shall bear an interest rate of 7% per annum from and after such date. Interest on all delinquent taxes shall be computed on a daily basis and shall be collected by the Tax Collector. The Tax Collector is authorized to accept tax prepayments.

Passed first reading, 5/5/25 6-1 (Gerry).
Passed second reading, 5/19/25 6-1 (Gerry).

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City Council Resolve

IN CITY COUNCIL

Resolved, to establish a Vision Zero Policy to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on the City of Auburn's streets by 2040.

WHEREAS, one death or serious injury on our streets is one too many; and

WHEREAS, crashes resulting in fatalities and life-altering injuries are not inevitable, but largely preventable through safer street design, appropriate speed management, education, enforcement, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn is committed to protecting the safety, health, and welfare of all residents and visitors and to creating a transportation system that ensures equitable access and opportunity for all users, regardless of age, ability, income, or mode of travel; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn's goal to promote active transportation such as walking, biking, and transit relies on the development of a safe, accessible, and inclusive public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable road users including children, seniors, pedestrians, unhoused persons, cyclists, and individuals with disabilities face the highest risk of serious injury or death on our streets; and

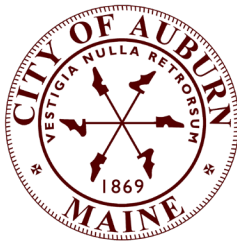
WHEREAS, national and local data show that traffic fatalities are disproportionately concentrated in underserved neighborhoods and that the burden of unsafe streets is not equally shared; and

WHEREAS, Auburn has demonstrated its commitment to safer and more connected mobility through investments in Complete Streets policies, traffic calming projects, Safe Routes to School programs, SS4A Planning, and infrastructure upgrades; and

WHEREAS, between 2015 and 2024, crashes on Auburn's streets resulted in 21 fatal crashes and 556 serious injuries to motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists, representing a public health and safety crisis that requires coordinated, systemic action; and

WHEREAS, emerging technologies, data analytics, and best practices in urban planning offer new tools to prevent serious crashes and improve safety outcomes; and

WHEREAS, a Vision Zero approach requires a shift in thinking — recognizing that human error is inevitable, and that the transportation system should be designed with redundancy through the Safe System Approach to ensure that these errors do not result in death or severe injury; and



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WHEREAS, implementing a Vision Zero policy will require collaboration between the City's Engineering Division, Planning and Code Department, Police Department, Public Services, Schools, City Council, MaineDOT, Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC), community organizations, and residents; and

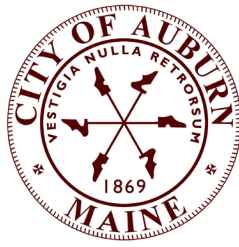
WHEREAS, Auburn joins a growing list of cities nationwide, including Portland and South Portland, in adopting Vision Zero principles to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the **City Council of the City of Auburn, Maine**, that:

1. **The City of Auburn commits to a Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on city streets by 2040.**
2. **The City will endorse the Safety Action Plan** as a guide that:
 - a. Is a data-driven analysis of traffic fatalities and serious injuries;
 - b. Identifies high-crash locations and contributing risk factors;
 - c. Identifies strategies to address a safe system approach for Safe Road Users, Safe Vehicles, Safe Speeds, Safe Roads, and Post-Crash Care;
 - d. Includes community engagement and participation efforts to prioritize equitable and inclusive input;
 - e. Focuses on protecting the most vulnerable street users.
3. **The City of Auburn shall collaborate with local, regional, and state partners**, including: MaineDOT, Androscoggin County, ATRC, and Lewiston, and local schools and hospitals to align efforts and maximize the impact of Vision Zero strategies.
4. **The City of Auburn recognizes that speed is a critical factor in crash survivability** and shall consider the adoption of context-sensitive speed limits, traffic calming measures, and street redesigns to manage vehicle speeds and enhance safety.
5. **Progress toward Vision Zero goals shall be measured** through publicly available reports including implementation status of key initiatives.
6. **The City acknowledges that achieving Vision Zero will require ongoing commitment, resources, and public support**, and pledges to prioritize safety in all transportation-related planning, funding, and policy decisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **City Council affirms this resolution as a moral and strategic commitment to protect life and promote a safe, healthy, and connected Auburn for all.**

Passed 5/5/25, 7-0.



City Council Resolve

IN CITY COUNCIL

Opposition to the Proposed 13.15% Increase in the Androscoggin County 2026 Budget

WHEREAS, the Androscoggin County Commissioners have proposed a 2026 budget totaling \$23.8 million, representing a 13.15% increase over the previous year, with \$17.2 million to be raised through taxation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn's share of the county budget has increased from **\$2,611,080 in 2022 to a proposed \$3,830,770 in 2026, a 47% increase over five years**, with the **largest single-year increase of \$445,202** proposed for 2026; and

WHEREAS, these steep and accelerating increases are **unsustainable** for Auburn taxpayers and are inconsistent with the City's efforts to maintain fiscal discipline and stabilize the property tax rate; and

WHEREAS, the proposed county budget includes increases—particularly within the Sheriff's Department and Jail Operations—that were initially funded through **temporary ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds**, and should not be absorbed into the long-term tax burden without sustainable funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the current Androscoggin County Charter grants final budget authority to the County Commissioners, even when a **majority of the Budget Committee**—composed of municipal representatives—opposes certain expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Auburn City Council believes that the Budget Committee should have **binding authority** to reduce or reject budget increases that are not fiscally responsible or supported by a majority of its members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Auburn City Council **formally opposes** the proposed 13.15% increase in the 2026 Androscoggin County budget and urges the County Commissioners to **vote against** its adoption at the meeting scheduled for **November 5, 2025**.
2. The Auburn City Council requests the County Commissioners limit the 2026 budget **increase to 5%**.
3. The Council calls for the **removal of all new positions and/or programs** from the 2026 budget that were originally funded by ARPA or other temporary sources, unless a permanent and sustainable funding source is identified.
4. The Council urges the County Commissioners to **amend the Androscoggin County Charter** to grant the Budget Committee binding authority to reduce or reject budget proposals by a majority vote.
5. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the **Androscoggin County Commissioners** and the **Androscoggin County Budget Committee**.