

TOWN OF SHERMAN 2026 - 2027 BUDGET

<u>2025 - 2026 FISCAL YEAR</u>	
BUDGET REVENUES	
FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL & OTHER	1,432,405
2024 GRAND LIST PROPERTY TAXES	14,585,991
TOTAL REVENUES	16,018,396
BUDGET EXPENSES	
TOWN OPERATING BUDGET	5,292,241
DEBT SERVICE	1,254,391
TOWN BUDGET	6,546,632
SHERMAN SCHOOL	8,509,520
HIGH SCHOOLS	1,872,427
ANTICIPATED GRANTS	(450,183)
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET	9,931,764
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	16,478,396
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(460,000)
2024 GRAND LIST TAX COLLECTION RATE	879,206,138 99.5%
MILL RATE	16.67

<u>2026 - 2027 FISCAL YEAR</u>		YTY %
BUDGET REVENUES		
FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL & OTHER	1,431,948	0.0%
2025 GRAND LIST PROPERTY TAXES	15,437,392	5.8%
TOTAL REVENUES	16,869,340	5.3%
BUDGET EXPENSES		
TOWN OPERATING BUDGET	5,479,411	3.5%
DEBT SERVICE	2,454,781	95.7%
TOWN BUDGET	7,934,192	21.2%
SHERMAN SCHOOL	8,802,988	3.4%
HIGH SCHOOLS	1,664,484	-11.1%
ANTICIPATED GRANTS	(372,324)	-17.3%
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET	10,095,148	1.6%
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	18,029,340	9.4%
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(1,160,000)	
2025 GRAND LIST TAX COLLECTION RATE	890,947,168 99.5%	1.3%
MILL RATE	17.41	4.4%

ACTUAL FUND BALANCE AS OF 06/30/2025 6,102,924
 BUDGETED FY 2025-2026 SURPLUS (DEFICIT) (460,000)
 EST FUND BALANCE AS OF 06/30/2026 5,642,924
 PERCENT OF BUDGETED GENERAL FUND REV 35.2%

EST FUND BALANCE AS OF 06/30/2026 5,642,924
 BUDGETED FY 2026-2027 SURPLUS (DEFICIT) (660,000)
 LST FUND BALANCE AS OF 06/30/2027 4,982,924 -11.7%
 PERCENT OF BUDGETED GENERAL FUND REV 29.5%
 BOND PREMIUM APPLIED (500,000)

TOWN MEETING -- ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026 -- 10:00 AM -- CHARTER HALL

TOWN REFERENDUM -- BUDGET VOTE

SATURDAY, MAY 02, 2026 -- 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM -- CHARTER HALL

Board of Selectmen
 Mallary Town Hall
 P.O. Box 39
 Sherman, Connecticut 06784

PRSRT STD
 ECRWSS
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 EDDM RETAIL

Postal Patron
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Don Lowe
First Selectman

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TOWN OF SHERMAN CONNECTICUT
MALLORY TOWN HALL

March 30, 2026

Dear Taxpayer,

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) in partnership with the Board of Education (BOE) and other Town budget entities faced many challenges to keep Sherman's taxes as low as possible while developing the 2026/27 budget. Along with increased inflation, higher insurance costs, and collective bargaining salary increases, the primary driving force is our debt obligations for both the Sherman School renovation/repair project and the new Senior Center. After careful consideration, we will present an overall tax increase of 4.4 % with the mill rate increasing from 16.67 to 17.41.

The BOS has unanimously approved the 2026/27 Town and BOE budgets and set them for a referendum vote on **Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 10am to 8pm** at Charter Hall. A summary of these budgets will be presented on **Saturday, April 18 at 10am** in a Town Meeting at Charter Hall. Both budgets are posted on the Sherman website.

Budget highlights include:

- The proposed Town budget is \$7,934,192 and the proposed BOE budget is \$10,095,148 for a combined budget of \$18,029,340, less combined surplus and bond premiums of \$1,160,000 for a grand total of \$16,869,340.
- Items that impacted this year's Town budget include necessary funding increases for the SVFD's ambulance personnel, utility costs, collective bargaining, insurances, and debt service for the school renovation/repair project.
- The 2026/27 budget also includes \$400,000 additional to our capital fund. Our previous seven budgets added \$500,000 but after analyzing our capital needs for this fiscal year we were comfortable reducing that budget line. Our capital non-recurring fund currently sits at more than \$1.6 million with half of that encumbered.
- The general fund surplus has more than doubled since 2018 and currently sits at \$5.6 million.
- In Grand List growth, Sherman experienced a 1% increase from property improvements and new construction.
- As a sign of good financial health, in the summer of 2025, the rating agency, Standard and Poor's, increased Sherman's financial rating to the highest a municipality of our size can achieve: AA+.
- In order to lessen the tax burden for Sherman residents - a goal stated during both Sherman School project and new Senior Center hearings -- we used \$660,000 of general fund surplus and \$500,000 of bond premiums to offset expenses in the 2026/27 budget.
- Our comprehensive goal over the last 8 years has been to offer Sherman taxpayers consistency: We haven't lowered taxes dramatically during years of lower expenses and higher-than-expected revenue, and we have been able to contain tax increases during years with budget expense challenges.
- Despite this budget increase, over the last eight years, taxes have decreased by a cumulative 3.5%.

We worked diligently to craft a budget that supports the services residents expect. Personally, I thank fellow Selectmen Bob Ostrosky and Joel Bruzinski for their good work. We extend a huge thanks to Andrea Maloney (treasurer) and Liz LaVia (business manager) for their excellent efforts on behalf of Sherman taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Don Lowe First Selectman

Town of Sherman

MILL RATE CALCULATION

	APPROVED 2025 - 2026		PROPOSED 2026 - 2027	
				YTY%
Town Budget	\$	6,546,632	\$	7,934,192 21.20%
Education Budget	\$	9,931,764	\$	10,095,148 1.65%
Total Expenditures	\$	16,478,396	\$	18,029,340 9.41%
Total Revenue	\$	16,018,396	\$	16,869,340 5.31%
Revenues other than Current Yr Property Taxes	\$	1,432,405	\$	1,431,948 0.0%
Revenues from Current Year Property Taxes	\$	14,585,991	\$	15,437,392 5.8%
Collection Rate		99.5%		99.5% 0.0%
Grand Levy	\$	14,659,287	\$	15,514,967 5.8%
Grand List at budget time	\$	879,206,138	\$	890,947,168 1.3%
Mill Rate		16.67		17.41 4.44%

CAPITAL & NON-RECURRING RESERVE FUND

2025 - 2026 FISCAL YEAR ESTIMATE

PREVIOUS AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL & NR	1,198,433
ANNUAL TOWN CONTRIBUTION	500,000
ESTIMATED INTEREST INCOME	12,220
APPROVED & PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS	(853,097)
AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL & NON-RECURRING	<u>857,556</u>

2026 - 2027 FISCAL YEAR PROPOSED

PREVIOUS AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL & NR	857,556
ANNUAL TOWN CONTRIBUTION	400,000
ESTIMATED INTEREST INCOME	12,450
PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS	(297,800)
AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL & NON-RECURRING	<u>972,206</u>

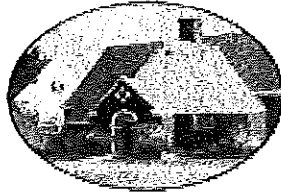
Town of Sherman
Proposed Budget 2026/2027

Description	Actual 2024/2025	Approved 2025/2026	Proposed 2026/2027	Previous Yr \$ Incr/(Decr)	Increase Percentage
Selectman's Office	225,201	240,075	250,865	10,790	4.49%
Treasurer	28,780	29,840	31,031	1,191	3.99%
Tax Collector's Office	64,348	67,412	70,177	2,765	4.10%
Town Clerk's Office	121,682	127,484	131,797	4,313	3.38%
Assessor's Office	135,657	124,678	156,449	31,771	25.48%
Brd of Assessment Appeals	390	505	505	0	0.00%
Building Department	157,593	114,439	120,611	6,172	5.39%
Planning & Zoning	110,979	125,489	101,959	(23,530)	-18.75%
Zoning Board of Appeals	2,218	4,850	4,850	0	0.00%
Inland Wetlands	17,158	18,836	18,830	(6)	-0.03%
Counsel & Court Costs	28,246	25,000	27,500	2,500	10.00%
Registrar's Office	48,429	63,692	63,993	301	0.47%
Memberships	10,682	10,913	9,151	(1,762)	-16.15%
Consultants	2,800	4,300	2,300	(2,000)	-46.51%
General Government Expense	17,579	16,200	18,300	2,100	12.96%
Town Hall I/T Operations	94,590	107,480	115,858	8,378	7.79%
Buildings	108,517	107,650	112,750	5,100	4.74%
Public Safety	486,805	534,545	660,013	125,468	23.47%
ESF Operating	121,522	128,800	129,600	800	0.62%
SVFD Operating	213,466	231,145	235,945	4,800	2.08%
Candlewood Lake Expense	128,500	131,050	133,815	2,765	2.11%
Economic Development	-	1,600	1,600	0	0.00%
Animal Control	22,515	25,066	-	(25,066)	-100.00%
Collections/Recycling	37,170	40,973	41,228	255	0.62%
Public Works	943,427	985,425	1,011,443	26,018	2.64%
Health Department	58,024	68,280	70,872	2,592	3.80%
Social Services-Health & Welf	67,256	71,272	73,649	2,377	3.34%
Debt Service	458,125	1,254,391	2,454,781	1,200,390	95.70%
Insurance/Employment Exp	721,738	791,500	810,600	19,100	2.41%
Reserve for Capital Expense	500,000	500,000	400,000	(100,000)	-20.00%
Land Acquisition Fund	23	100	-	(100)	-100.00%
Library Oper Exp-Town Grant	208,241	208,241	248,938	40,697	19.54%
Park & Recreation	251,805	198,633	225,664	27,031	13.61%
Celebrations	1,989	2,550	2,550	0	0.00%
Probate Services	5,910	7,037	6,895	(142)	-2.02%
Senior Center	130,821	142,181	152,873	10,692	7.52%
Historic District	1,165	800	800	0	0.00%
Cemetary Flags	-	100	100	0	0.00%
Tree Warden/Removals	26,500	28,200	30,000	1,800	6.38%
Miscellaneous	3,984	4,000	4,000	0	0.00%
Conservation Commission	796	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
Housing Commission	-	-	-	0	0.00%
Arts Commission	991	900	900	0	0.00%
Expenditures	5,565,622	6,546,632	7,934,192	1,387,560	21.20%
Board of Education	9,756,229	9,931,764	10,095,148	163,384	1.65%
Combined	15,321,851	16,478,396	18,029,340	1,550,944	9.41%
			(660,000)	General Fund Surplus Applied	
			(500,000)	Bond Premium Applied	
			16,869,340		2.372%



Capital Expenditure Plan
Project/Expense

Status	Date	Description	2025/2026		2026/2027		Long Range					
			Proposed	Approved	Proposed	Approved	Actual	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	2030/2031	
PW		Pave Anderson	\$ 550,000									
		Purchase Avant Attachments-Lift and Power Arm	\$ 54,000									
		Dump Body for 2016 Tr #4	\$ 16,000									
		Replace 2011 Ford F550-Tr #6/returnish Engine 3	\$ 75,000									
11/22/25		Purchase Hitachi ZW140 Loader	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 174,871							
11/22/25		Purchase/Install Rotary Brand 16K # Vehicle Lift	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 162							
		Building Addition-Cleanspan Bldg				\$ 250,000						
		Repl 2011 F550 Plow/Sander Tr #3				\$ 140,000						
		Replace 2016 Skag Mower				\$ 16,000						
		Replace Fueling Station Monitoring System				\$ 30,000						
		Replace JD 410J Backhoe					\$ 250,000					
		Replace 2014 Kubota ZD326					\$ 26,000					
		Replace 2014 Kubota ZD1211						\$ 27,000				
		Replace 2016 Ford F550						\$ 150,000				
		Replace 2022 Ford F250						\$ 78,000				
ESF	09/17/25	Emergency A/C Condenser Repair	\$ 7,265	\$ 7,265	\$ 7,265							
SVFD		Stairchair for Ambulance (80/20 Split 10K-ARPA?)	\$ 8,000									
		Repl Tires E5 (80/20 Split 6K)				\$ 4,800						
		Portable Radio Repl 12 (80/20 split 130K)				\$ 104,000						
		Base Radios-2 (80/20 Split 16K)					\$ 15,000					
		Portable Radio Repl 12 (80/20 split 130K)					\$ 104,000					
		Portable Radio Repl 12 (80/20 split 130K)					\$ 104,000					
		Repl Utility Truck 6 (80/20 Split 85K)					\$ 68,000					
		Replace Car 9 (80/20 Split 85K)					\$ 68,000					
Misc	12/06/25	New Sr Ctr \$4,450,000 bond \$3,90,000 of this	\$ 4,450,000									
		MTH Purchase/Install New IT Server	\$ 10,000									
		OTH-Paint Exterior	TBD									
	09/17/25	ROV-Purchase/Install 4 Ballot Box Cameras		\$ 6,000	\$ 5,572							
		Playhouse Electric Upgrades				\$ 16,000						
P&R	09/17/25	Repair/Renovate Vets Field Gazebo Roof		\$ 11,000	\$ 9,750							
	09/17/25	Repair/Renovate P&R Beach Office Roof		\$ 5,500	\$ 5,200							
		Purchase Pressure Washer	\$ 5,200									
		Resurface Tennis Courts				\$ 28,500						
		Repair Basketball Court and Fencing				\$ 4,500						
			\$ 5,375,465	\$ 229,765	\$ 202,820	\$ 693,800	\$	\$	\$ 370,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 245,000	\$ 146,000



SHERMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET PROPOSAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Board of Education is pleased to present the proposed 2026–2027 school budget to the Sherman community. This proposal reflects our ongoing commitment to operating an efficient and effective school district while remaining mindful of the local taxpayer.

This is a unique and exciting year, as the district continues its renovation project and prepares to transition into the new school building during 2026–2027. The budget was developed through a thorough planning process that included stakeholder input and a comprehensive review of projected expenses. This work ensures that the proposed budget supports student needs while positioning the district for a successful move into the new facility.

The Board of Education respectfully requests a budget not to exceed \$10,095,148, representing a 1.65% increase over the 2025–2026 approved budget.

This proposal meets the district's contractual obligations, including salaries for certified and non-certified staff, health benefits, transportation, and high school tuition. It also maintains a strong focus on curriculum development and instructional improvement to enhance teaching, learning, and overall student achievement, while preserving appropriate class sizes. Projected enrollment for 2026–2027 is 239 students in Grades PK–8 and 112 students in Grades 9–12.

The primary drivers of this year's increase include special education, transportation, and insurance. To better serve students within the district, the budget includes the addition of one full-time special education teacher and increasing our speech and language pathologist from 0.8 to 1.0 FTE. It also provides for a part-time social worker (two days per week) through a grant partnership with the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau. Additional investments include a part-time technology technician to be added in the mid-year, as well as rent for the preschool program housed at the Sherman Church and the Business Office while construction is completed.

The Board of Education and administrative team are grateful for the continued support of Sherman taxpayers. We look forward to working collaboratively with town leaders and the community to ensure that resources are used thoughtfully to support student growth and success.

For more information, please visit www.shermanschool.com or contact Superintendent Dr. Patricia Cosentino at cosentinop@shermanschool.com. Board of Education members can also be reached at boe@shermanschool.com.

Summary of Proposed Functional Expenses - BoE approved 3/20/26

	2024-2025 Approved	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Approved	2026-2027 Proposed	\$ DIF	% CNG
COST CENTER 1 - DISTRICT OPERATIONS & PERSONNEL SERVICES						
Board of Education	\$70,625	\$98,614	\$77,180	\$77,691	\$511	0.66%
Office of Superintendent	\$87,900	\$108,124	\$103,965	\$103,965	\$0	0.00%
Fiscal Services	\$173,312	\$183,958	\$174,597	\$174,221	-\$376	0.22%
Personnel Services	\$1,077,300	\$1,051,712	\$1,189,287	\$1,419,486	\$230,199	19.36%
	\$1,409,137	\$1,442,438	\$1,545,029	\$1,775,363		

COST CENTER 2 - SHERMAN SCHOOL	<i>The expenses summarized below support the educational operations of the Sherman School and</i>					
Office of Principal	\$345,264	\$36,078	\$319,391	\$333,297	\$13,706	4.29%
Elementary	\$1,120,145	\$1,157,170	\$1,154,266	\$1,164,422	\$10,156	0.88%
Middle School	\$594,372	\$577,736	\$576,560	\$607,928	\$31,368	5.44%
Special Area Subjects	\$540,907	\$528,879	\$552,896	\$562,842	\$9,945	1.80%
Other Regular Programs	\$290,437	\$301,010	\$321,048	\$304,160	-\$16,888	-5.26%
Improvement of Instruction	\$175,069	\$180,968	\$158,629	\$172,301	\$13,672	8.62%
Educational Media Services	\$281,348	\$464,268	\$289,049	\$346,319	\$57,270	19.81%
Student Activities	\$69,569	\$50,951	\$79,173	\$79,250	\$77	0.10%
Student Transportation	\$180,280	\$179,975	\$211,130	\$206,414	-\$4,716	-2.23%
Safety & Security	\$68,468	\$42,829	\$116,000	\$116,500	\$500	0.43%
Medical Services	\$57,097	\$55,151	\$57,713	\$60,003	\$2,290	3.97%
Food Services	\$25,000	\$29,539	\$25,000	\$33,044	\$8,044	32.17%
Operation & Maintenance	\$718,882	\$800,170	\$529,317	\$651,624	\$122,108	23.06%
General	\$45,760	\$42,501	\$39,015	\$67,444		
	\$4,513,098	\$4,747,528	\$4,429,587	\$4,705,548		

COST CENTER 3 - SPECIAL EDUCATION & RELATED SERVICES	<i>The expenses summarized below expenses support provision of special education & related services in Grades PK-12, and beyond as req'd.</i>					
Office of Student Support Services	\$211,633	\$207,406	\$225,679	\$239,541	\$13,862	6.14%
Grades PK-8	\$1,291,113	\$1,171,696	\$1,391,391	\$1,543,789	\$152,398	10.95%
Grades 9-12	\$147,266	\$52,444	\$119,155	\$62,857	-\$76,298	-51.83%
Out of District/Special Placement	\$693,150	\$319,295	\$775,728	\$473,000	-\$302,728	-39.01%
Adult Education	\$2,566	\$2,805	\$2,950	\$2,889		
	\$2,349,328	\$1,753,546	\$2,534,903	\$2,322,076	-\$51	2.07%

COST CENTER 4 - HIGH SCHOOL TUITION & TRANSPORTATION	<i>The expenses summarized below support the education of students Grades 9-12.</i>					
Tuition	\$1,765,298	\$1,582,034	\$1,630,086	\$1,410,672	-\$219,414	-13.46%
Transportation	\$233,101	\$230,683	\$212,341	\$253,812	\$11,471	4.73%
	\$1,998,399	\$1,812,717	\$1,872,427	\$1,664,484	-\$207,943	-11.11%
Total Budget	\$10,269,961	\$9,756,229	\$10,381,946	\$10,467,471	\$85,526	0.82%

GRANTS

Anticipated State and Federal Special Education Grants			\$391,704	\$316,845		
Supplemental Grants for Program Improvement			\$55,179	\$55,479		
			\$450,183	\$372,324	-\$77,859	-17.29%
Budget Request			\$9,931,764	\$10,095,148	\$163,384	1.65%

	-\$77,859	-19.73%
	\$0	0.00%