

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Grants & Research**



**Notice of Availability of Grant Funds (AGF)
SFY 2027 Massachusetts Municipal Public Safety Staffing Program
Police and Fire**

Posted: 9/25/2026

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Gina K. Kwon
Secretary

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I. Introduction

The Office of Grants & Research (OGR), a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), is responsible for administering the Massachusetts Municipal Public Safety Staffing Program (The Municipal Staffing Grant.) The Municipal Staffing Grant Program is authorized under Chapter 137 of the Massachusetts Acts of 2026, An Act Making Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2027.

The Municipal Staffing Grant Program helps eligible municipalities maintain public safety and emergency response services by providing funds to address police and/or fire department staffing shortfalls.

II. Applicant Eligibility

The 2027 Municipal Staffing AGF is a competitive grant program. Grants under this item shall only be provided to communities that submitted qualifying applications that were approved by the executive office in fiscal year 2026.

The funds are available for public safety emergency staffing, thus allowing municipalities to utilize funds for police and/or fire needs. The **Mayor/City Manager** for each municipality **must determine** whether applications for funding will be submitted on behalf of police and/or fire, and how much will be appropriated to the respective department.

Per legislative language, only the ten communities listed below are eligible to apply for funding:

Municipality	Census 2010 Population	FY 2010 Police Department Expenditure	Per Capita Expenditure
Lowell	106,519	\$19,414,966	\$182.27
Brockton	93,810	\$17,370,071	\$185.16
Lynn	90,329	\$16,732,413	\$185.24
Fall River	88,857	\$15,252,488	\$171.65
Newton	85,146	\$14,071,461	\$165.26
Lawrence	76,377	\$12,792,247	\$167.49
Somerville	75,754	\$12,500,233	\$165.01
Framingham	68,318	\$10,471,060	\$153.27
Haverhill	60,879	\$8,604,135	\$141.33
Malden	59,561	\$8,618,741	\$144.70

III. Key Dates

Activity	Key Date
AGF Posted	Friday, September 25, 2026
Application Due Date	October 23, 2026, by 4:00 p.m.
Award Notification	November/December 2026
Performance Period (tentative)	January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027

IV. Purpose

Funding may be requested for the following purposes:

- To restore laid off sworn police officers and/or firefighters;
- To retain police officers/firefighters who would otherwise be laid off during the current fiscal year if not for this funding;
- To restore police/fire staffing levels due to attrition or other reasons;
- To restore or retain civilian employees working at the police and/or fire department; and
- For overtime necessary to provide adequate shift coverage and/or maintain staffing levels.

V. Funding Overview

OGR expects to award approximately **\$6,720,000** to Municipal Staffing Grant Program recipients through this AGF. **SFY27 MUNI available funding has increased by 16%, applicants are encouraged to apply accordingly.**

a. Fund Disbursement

Awarded funds are typically distributed in two equal disbursements once the contract is executed. Expenses cannot be incurred before the contract is fully executed and signed by the OGR Executive Director.

b. Project Duration

Applicants must apply for up to one year of funding. The period of performance will begin on or about **January 1, 2027, and end December 31, 2027. No extensions are permitted.**

VI. Application Instructions

The [online Application](#) must be completed as outlined here. All attachments will be submitted through this online application.

a. Applicant/Project Information

- **Contact Information:** Provide Program and Fiscal contact information and Senior/Municipal Department Official,
- **Signature:** The Senior/Municipal Department Official must digitally sign the completed online application form to demonstrate support of the application.

b. Department Overview

Staffing

Provide the total number of uniformed or sworn firefighters for each fiscal year, indicate whether minimum shift staffing is required by contract, and report the number of recruits currently enrolled in the academy.

List the number of layoffs and the total number of positions eliminated) through attrition,

retirement, etc.) or left open since July 1, 2024, as of the date of the application.

Budget Information

Enter the authorized budget for each fiscal year, including total municipal budget, department operating budget, salaries, wages, and benefits, and overtime budget

Demographics, Incidents, Stations Closed and Response Time (Fire Only)

Note the number of square miles the jurisdiction covers along with the amount of firefighters per 1000 citizens.

Use the data table to provide the incident data for the requested time periods, number of brownout shifts, and average response time per fiscal year

Service and Arrest Data (Police Only)

Use the data table to provide the total calls for service, total arrests, and total calls for mutual aid/assistance from other departments per fiscal year.

c. Application Narrative

Applicants are asked to outline their department staffing needs by addressing the following:

- a. Describe how changes in staffing have affected specific department functions. Are any units disproportionately affected?
- b. Describe whether or not staff reductions have affected how you allocate department resources (i.e., staff distribution). Include if and how reductions in civilian staff have affected assignment of sworn personnel.
- c. Describe how reductions or lack of any increases in your department's budget have affected its daily operations by putting firefighters and/or the community at greater risk and to what extent this risk will be reduced by the funds being requested.
- d. Inform OGR if your department has received State and/or Federal funding to support staffing needs in the last 24 months. If so, please identify the funding stream(s), funding amount, number of positions, and duration of the award.
- e. Provide any additional information not already provided that will help justify your department's need for these funds. This could include but not be limited to any reductions in services attributable to staffing reductions (e.g., code enforcement, public education, fire prevention, vehicle maintenance, etc.).

d. Budget Narrative

The Budget Narrative should outline the budget requested and itemize the expenses by cost category as described in this application. For each cost category that has an associated funding request in the Budget Excel Worksheet (Attachment A), please provide

an overall description and justification of that cost category. The budget category narratives should describe what the budget entails, why the items in that category are needed, and how the budgeted amount was determined.

Applicants should submit a budget for up to approximately 12 months. The budget narratives should demonstrate how the costs in the Budget Excel Workbook **specifically link to your proposed strategy**.

e. Budget Excel Workbook (Attachment A)

This section outlines the budget necessary to implement the applicant's proposed strategy. Applicants must:

- **Submit a 12-month budget.**
- Use Attachment A to enter the proposed costs for each cost category. Estimated costs must be identified.

Table 1. Cost Categories

Budget Cost Categories	Explanation of Costs
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full- or part-time regular salaried employees working on the grant-funded initiative.
Overtime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allowable only for sworn uniform personnel working on the grant-funded initiative.
Fringe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Based on federally negotiated rate agreement or established formula by sub-recipient's accountant, comptroller, or human resource unit. Costs are limited to the employer's share of life insurance, health insurance, social security, pension, unemployment, and workers compensation costs. ▪ Include a copy of approved or audited rate with the application.* ▪ If applicant does not have a federally approved or audited rate, actual known costs must be itemized by type and the rate.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Costs listed in this category include direct costs related to the proposed project and/or organization that are not included in the aforementioned cost categories. Costs in this category may include rent, telephone, and reproduction of training materials. "Other" costs are considered administration costs and shall not exceed 10% of your grant award. ▪ Direct costs associated with new hires such as phones, uniforms, etc. ▪ Support costs such as recruitment expenses for new hires, training, etc. ▪ Supplies for new hires (pens, pencils, postage, training materials, copying paper, and other expendable items such as books, ink, etc.).

*If fringe costs are proposed, please attach a copy of the federally approved rate agreement or a copy of the audited rate prepared by the applicant's fiscal contact, comptroller, or HR.

VII. Application Submission

Submit the [online application](#) including all required Attachments by 4:00 p.m. on October 23, 2026.

Emailed submissions will not be accepted.

VIII. Application Review Process

OGR intends to carry out a fair and transparent process for reviewing all applications. OGR will facilitate this process in consultation with EOPSS.

IX. Award Information

a. Award Notification

All final funding decisions are at the discretion of the OGR Executive Director and Public Safety and Security Secretary. It is anticipated that grant awards will be announced in November/December 2026.

b. Sub-recipient Requirements

Sub-recipients must abide by the grant requirements outlined in this document and the OGR Sub-recipient Grant Conditions, which will be provided at the time of contracting.

If awarded, OGR requires:

- OGR sub-recipient grant conditions to be signed and dated.
- The submission of satisfactory and timely progress reports and quarterly financial reports.
- The identification of a project director, their contact information, role, and responsibilities related to the project.
- Cooperation during OGR monitoring efforts, including site visits, desk reviews, and attendance at technical assistance meetings.
- Assurance that funds for projects and services provided through this grant supplement, not supplant, other state or local funding sources. Supplanting of funds is strictly prohibited.
- The receipt of grant funds is contingent upon the grantee's ability to certify that it will comply with the Massachusetts General Laws, including G.L. c. 40A, § 3A, the MBTA Communities Act. Compliance with the MBTA Communities Act is determined by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. This will be included in the OGR Grant Conditions form disseminated at the time of contracting.
- Procurement of services, equipment, and supplies must follow M.G.L. Ch. 30B for local units of government and nonprofit entities and Operational Services Division (OSD) Purchasing Guide for state agencies. Local units of government must ensure that subcontracts with private organizations have provisions ensuring any goods and services provided by the subcontractor are consistent with M.G.L. Ch. 30B procedures.
- Sub-recipients are responsible for reporting alleged waste, fraud, or abuse, including any alleged violations, serious irregularities, sensitive issues, or overt or covert acts involving the use of public funds in a manner not consistent with related laws and

regulations and appropriate guidelines for purposes of the grant. Reports should be made to the Offices of the Massachusetts Inspector General or State Auditor.

Office of the Inspector General
John W. McCormack State Office
Building One Ashburton Place, Room
1311
Boston, MA 02108
800-322-1323
[Email the IGO](#)

Office of the State Auditor
Massachusetts State House, Room
230 Boston, MA 02133
617-727-2075
[Email the SAO](#)
[Report waste and abuse here.](#)

X. Application Checklist

The application and attachments are to be submitted electronically via [the online application form](#). Emailed submissions will NOT be accepted.

This AGF and all other required documents can be found on the [Massachusetts Municipal Public Safety Staffing Program | Mass.gov](#) of OGR's website.

- **Submitted, Digitally Signed [Online Application](#)** – Please notify OGR immediately if applicant is unable to utilize the online application.
- **Budget Excel Worksheet** (Attachment A, template provided) - Both the Summary and Detail sheets must be completed and uploaded to the online application. Submit this document in Excel format. Do not convert the document to PDF or another format.

Please let OGR know if you have any questions regarding the online application. All questions can be directed to allison.c.garvey@mass.gov