



Human and Social Services

Service Description

The Human and Social Services Department plays a critical role in enhancing the quality of life for Fairfield residents by offering a wide array of essential services. The department oversees the daily operations of the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities, provides Senior Bus Transit services, and offers professional social services to individuals of all ages, including those with disabilities. It serves as the Municipal Veterans Service and Municipal Agent for the Elderly, ensuring veterans and their families, and aging residents have access to the benefits and services they deserve.

The department has made significant improvements to its facilities, including renovating ADA-compliant bathrooms, completing an outdoor ADA-compliant fitness area, and replacing the kitchen hood to improve safety and accessibility.

Budget Overview

The proposed 6.42% budget increase will allow for the continued expansion of services and to meet the growing needs of Fairfield residents. The funding increase will be allocated to the following key areas:

1. **Part-Time Program Assistant at the Bigelow Center**
The addition of a part-time program assistant will support the growing membership at the Bigelow Center, which increased by more than 650 members in 2025.
2. **Increased Instructor Fees for Fitness Classes**
Increase accounts additional fitness offerings foster greater community engagement, promote healthy aging, and improve physical and mental well-being for members.

Social Services

Social Services Department assists residents experiencing difficulty providing the necessities of life for themselves and their families.



Human and Social Services

Program Descriptions

| <u>Category</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Back to School | \$9,355* | \$3,735 | \$4,930 |
| # of Children (Back to School) | 133 | 107 | 78 |
| Campership | \$10,555 | \$17,545 | \$12,148 |
| # of Families (Campership) | 37 Hshlds | 65 Hshlds | 31 Hshlds |
| Holidays | \$24,435 | \$32,080 | \$25,785 |
| # of Families (Holidays) | 184 Hshlds | 171 Hshlds | 137 Hshlds |
| Energy Assistance | \$70,000 | \$74,170 | \$69,170 |
| Number of Families (Energy) | 123 Hshlds | 165 Hshlds | 212 Hshlds |

Bigelow Center - provides services and programs for aging adults that promote health, well-being, social engagement and encouraging involvement in community life. The Bigelow Center welcomed more than 700 new members in 2024 bringing total membership to more than 7000.

Transportation

The Town of Fairfield provides curb-to-curb bus services to Fairfield residents who are seniors 60 years and older, people with disabilities (all buses are wheelchair life equipped), and Veterans for: Daily trips to the Senior Center and Social Services, weekly grocery shopping, medical appointments, special approved trips, the library and hairdresser. Delivery of new 9-passenger, wheelchair accessible senior transit bus expected Fall 2025.



HUMAN SERVICES

| REVENUE | FY 2022 ACTUAL | FY 2023 ACTUAL | FY 2024 ACTUAL | FY 2025 BUDGET | FY 2026 BUDGET | % CHANGE | \$ CHANGE |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 42386 HUMAN SERVICES - MEMBER/CLASSE | 3,104 | 69,586 | 85,034 | 78,600 | 85,000 | 8.14% | 6,400 |
| TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES | \$3,104 | \$69,586 | \$85,034 | \$78,600 | \$85,000 | 8.14% | \$6,400 |



HUMAN SERVICES

| BUDGET REQUEST 06050 | FY 2022 ACTUAL | FY 2023 ACTUAL | FY 2024 ACTUAL | FY 2025 BUDGET | FY 2026 BUDGET | % CHANGE | \$ CHANGE |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 51010 REGULAR PAYROLL | 178,752 | 321,004 | 356,702 | 364,265 | 397,983 | 9.26% | 33,718 |
| 51030 PART-TIME PAYROLL | 276,215 | 201,719 | 209,867 | 279,783 | 302,380 | 8.08% | 22,597 |
| 51050 OVERTIME EARNINGS | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 51160 LONGEVITY BONUS | 600 | 600 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 51170 SECRETARIAL SERVICES (MINUTES) | 150 | 675 | 850 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 51180 FRINGE-DEF COMP TOWN MATCH | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 52200 SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS | 17,830 | 27,001 | 28,656 | 30,620 | 33,751 | 10.23% | 3,131 |
| 53000 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,115 | 2,885 | -7.38% | (230) |
| 53200 FEES AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE | 27,070 | 26,160 | 8,090 | 18,885 | 10,000 | -47.05% | (8,885) |
| 54150 MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL AND LUBE | 9,115 | 11,550 | 10,093 | 11,340 | 11,340 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 54310 MAINT/REPAIR EQUIPMENT | 4,371 | 3,608 | 0 | 2,000 | 1,000 | -50.00% | (1,000) |
| 54320 MAINT/REPAIR OF BLDGS & GROUND | 9,325 | 18,241 | 14,843 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 55400 ADVERTISING | 260 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 500 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 56100 PRINTING, BINDING & PHOTOGRAPH | 4,704 | 5,881 | 6,949 | 6,500 | 7,000 | 7.69% | 500 |
| 56110 OFFICE SUPPLIES | 2,962 | 3,805 | 3,577 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 56140 SPECIAL DEPARTMENTAL SUPPLIES | 904 | 1,797 | 2,305 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 56150 POSTAGE | 66 | 57 | 309 | 500 | 500 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 58100 EDUCATIONAL AND MEMBERSHIPS | 709 | 472 | 1,075 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 58120 TRAVEL AND MEETINGS | 0 | 211 | 370 | 500 | 500 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 58190 VETERAN'S SERVICES | 4,293 | 4,250 | 4,389 | 4,420 | 4,420 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 58200 SOCIAL SERVICE PAYMENTS | 35,494 | 36,372 | 35,492 | 34,000 | 34,000 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 58760 SR CTR PROGRAMMING | 0 | 9,579 | 41,612 | 40,000 | 43,000 | 7.50% | 3,000 |
| TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES | \$573,832 | \$673,981 | \$726,981 | \$822,728 | \$875,559 | 6.42% | \$52,831 |



PERSONNEL SUMMARY

6050 HUMAN AND SOCIAL SERVICES

| | | <u>FY25 APPROVED</u> | | <u>FY26 REQUESTED</u> | |
|-----------------------------|------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <u>FULL TIME</u> | | | | | |
| DIR HUMAN SERVICES | DH | 1.00 | 123,239 | 1.00 | 126,936 |
| SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR | PETA | 1.00 | 90,311 | 1.00 | 106,042 |
| SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR | PETA | 1.00 | 83,679 | 1.00 | 97,969 |
| SECRTY C HUMAN SERV | THEA | <u>1.00</u> | <u>67,036</u> | <u>1.00</u> | <u>67,036</u> |
| TOTAL FULL TIME | | 4.00 | 364,265 | 4.00 | 397,983 |
| <u>PART TIME</u> | | | | | |
| CLERK | | 1.00 | 16,731 | 1.00 | 17,745 |
| LCSW | | 0.00 | 0 | 1.00 | 14,378 |
| PART TIME DRIVER HUMAN SER | | 5.00 | 112,554 | 6.00 | 117,117 |
| SOCIAL CASE WORKER | | 4.00 | 131,232 | 4.00 | 132,860 |
| DESK CLERK | | <u>1.00</u> | <u>19,266</u> | <u>1.00</u> | <u>20,280</u> |
| TOTAL PART TIME | | 11.00 | \$ 279,783 | 13.00 | \$ 302,380 |