

Fincom Cost-Savings Feedback

Energy Savings, Water Savings	<p>Turn off school campus parking lot lights Shut off computers at end of day Lower temperature in library Fix the HVAC in Merriam Admin Bldg - wastes heat Lower temperature in all school/town buildings - start with 2 degrees Charge public housing occupants for utilities Combine town and schools utilities contracts Partner with Water District on retrofit of municipal buildings for water conservation.</p>
School Bus Efficiencies	<p>Use vans for mid-day kindergarten routes Eliminate bus transportation or charge fee for service Establish bus capacity (fuller buses = fewer buses)</p>
Employee salary, benefits	<p>Investigate single-parent family HI plans for employees Reduce size of Acton town government, employees, contracts, etc. Freeze all salaries - no new contracts with increases Freeze all non-union salaries Evaluate tradeoff between wage increases and HI shift Implement 1.5% increase on steps only on collective bargaining; base increases = 0 Encourage more employees to sign up for lower-cost HI plans. Open up all contracts and get everyone to agree to a solution for bad economic times.</p>
Staffing	<p>Institute hiring freeze Eliminate non-essential administrative positions Require all teachers, including administrators, to teach Use volunteers as teacher aides Use jr high and high school students for cleaning, maintaining town and school bldgs Reduce size of Acton town government, employees, contracts, etc. Ask employees to choose paycut versus layoffs Implement attrition policy Implement HI "per Governor" Examine HI co-pays End early retirement incentive Consider minimum class sizes for electives at middle and high schools Hire teachers on a contract or part-time basis Examine staffing levels for police and fire. Examine overtime levels for police and fire.</p>
Capital Purchases, Improvements	<p>Purchase used trucks rather than new ones Make informed spending and maintenance decisions, specifically about roofs Reduce amount of money spent on maintaining and paving streets Have students purchase and provide own computer</p>

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	Defer capital requests until economy improves.	
Taxation issues	Freeze homeowner's tax rate after living in it for 30 years Implement zero percent tax increase budget for FY10	
Transparency	Provide all expenses, salaries, and benefit costs on town website Provide names of current Fincom members on tax bill Create a committee to reduce town expenses Charge Fincom to aggressively drive down expenses Evaluate overlay account for possible surplus Use of Ambulance Enterprise Fund seems designed to conceal true level of expenditures.	
Fees	Charge fee for bus service for schools Increase commuter lot parking fee Charge fee for parking at Town Hall, library Charge athletic fee for participation (currently charge \$190 per sport per season) Increase all fees on regular, uniform, predictable basis Increase all fees 5% and add new ones	See School Bus Efficiencies
Government structure	Combine Water District with Town of Acton Reduce size of Acton town government, employees, contracts, etc. Reduce budgets - that's what citizens are having to do Combine Community Education and Recreation Combine school and town financial "back office" functions Consider regionalization of various functions (including emergency, education, more) Consider expansion of joint purchasing consortia for schools, town Close library one weekday and open on Sunday 1-5 Close Town Hall one day per week and have extended hours two days until 8 or 9 Make Recreation Dept self-funding	See Employee Benefits, See Staffing
Other	Evaluate town-owned lands to see if any can be sold Investigate use of municipal land for cell tower rental Shift additional functions out of operating budgets to revolving, enterprise funds Reduce all expenses so that increase is 4% over actual Eliminate year-end spending Hold all consultant studies Defer spending on COA, Fire Add 60 Choice students Reduce administrative staff Move Employee Day to NARA	

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Outsource landscaping

Reduce town/schools print and mailing 80% - e-mail items

Hold elections in one location - ask schools to schedule days off

Examine budgets and ask each department to provide 10%, 20%, 30% reductions

Determine a pay-as-you-go prioritization - eliminate programs that cannot fund themselves, e.g., NARA, school programs. Only keep essential services.

Create wish lists for things schools need for classrooms and ask for donations.

Hire fast-food companies to run school cafeterias.

Manage trash and recycling for schools in a better way for healthier and more cost-effective solution.

More effective enforcement and education to maximize recycling at Transfer Station.

Minimize layoffs and maximize support for most vulnerable citizens.

Services for seniors, veterans, and library patrons even more essential during economic bad times.

Increase number of volunteers to provide services to more vulnerable citizens.

Opposition to school choice as a solution for budgetary issues.

Opposition to increasing user fees in schools as a solution for budgetary issues.

Forego capital items as a way to avoid layoffs.

Do less than an "A" job on capital improvements.

Curb growth in departments, e.g., IT

Service reductions impact employees and users

Implement pay-as-you-go/appropriate group fundraising for extracurricular activities at schools.

Examine efficiency of school food service

Have students provide own school and classroom supplies

Use student-teacher interns in classrooms.

Develop student-teacher "earn, learn and save" program to save on teacher costs.

Examine pros and cons of school choice (open enrollment)

Regulate expenses for all extracurricular activities

Develop and enforce guidelines for care and maintenance of all computers, uniforms, instruments, sports equipment, etc.