

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
Office of Grants and Research**



**State Fiscal Year 2026  
Municipal Public Safety Staffing Grant Program**

**Report to the Massachusetts General Court**  
*Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means*

**June 2026**

**Maura T. Healey**  
Governor

**Kimberley Driscoll**  
Lieutenant Governor

**Gina K. Kwon**  
Secretary

**Kevin J. Stanton**  
Executive Director

## **Introduction**

### **Legislation – 1599-0026**

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) is pleased to submit this report on the SFY26 Massachusetts Municipal Public Safety Staffing Grant Program to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means.

OGR is a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). EOPSS is responsible for the policy development and budget oversight of the secretariat's agencies, independent programs, and several boards which aid in crime prevention, homeland security preparedness, and ensuring the safety of residents and visitors in the Commonwealth. The agencies that fall under EOPSS are:

- Massachusetts State Police
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Sex Offender Registry Board
- Department of Fire Services
- Department of Criminal Justice Information Services
- Department of Correction
- Parole Board
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- State 911 Department
- Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
- Municipal Police Training Committee
- Massachusetts National Guard
- Office of Grants and Research

In addition to managing and administering state-funded criminal justice, homeland security, and traffic safety grant programs, OGR is the State Administering Agency (SAA) for federal grant funding received by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In total, the agency manages more than \$279 million in grant funds annually. Additionally, OGR's Research and Policy Analysis Division (RPAD), which houses the Massachusetts Statistical Analysis Center, utilizes research and evaluation to promote public safety in the Commonwealth by informing criminal justice and public safety policy. The goals of the OGR include:

- Improving community safety and local preparedness by providing resources to communities based on need;
- Investing in evidenced based innovative programs;
- Granting awards based on national and state priorities;
- Fostering collaboration across jurisdictions by delivering grant dollars with a regional approach;
- Making funding decisions based upon research, empirical data, and best practices; and
- Ensuring the grant awarding process is transparent and in compliance with federal and state guidelines.

This document serves as the report authored by OGR regarding the SFY26 Massachusetts Municipal Public Safety Staffing Grant Program.

### **Program Narrative**

Pursuant to Fiscal Year 2026 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025, OGR released an Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) for municipalities meeting the criteria as detailed in the appropriation language below:

*1599-0026 For a reserve to support municipal improvements [...] provided further, not less than \$6,000,000 shall be transferred to the executive office of public safety and security for a competitive grant program for public safety and emergency staffing to be administered by the executive office; provided further, that the grants shall be awarded to communities using the same methodology and criteria used in fiscal year 2025; provided further, that grants under this item shall only be provided to communities that submitted qualifying applications that were approved by the executive office in fiscal year 2025; provided further, that not more than 4 per cent of funds appropriated for the grant program shall be expended for the administrative costs of the program; provided further, that not later than February 16, 2026, each state entity administering grant funds through this item shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing grants awarded through this item and the criteria used for distribution[.]*

### **Applicant Eligibility**

Pursuant to the appropriating language, 10 communities were eligible to apply for funding. Those communities were:

- Brockton
- Fall River
- Framingham
- Haverhill
- Lawrence
- Lowell
- Lynn
- Malden
- Newton
- Somerville

Funds were available for both public safety and emergency staffing, thus allowing municipalities to utilize funds for police and/or fire needs. The Mayor/City Manager for each municipality was responsible for determining whether applications for funding were to be submitted for police and/or fire and how much would be appropriated to the respective department(s).

In SFY26, OGR made changes to the program's application and award processes to facilitate expedited awards for cities with immediate public safety needs. These changes were introduced in the wake of the devastating July 13 fire at the Gabriel House assisted living facility that killed 10 people and injured 30 others. OGR made applications available earlier in SFY26 than in previous fiscal years and reviewed applications on a rolling basis, allowing departments that applied early to receive their awards sooner. OGR also introduced an option allowing grant recipients to use the awarded funds during an extended 18-month contract period or to utilize the program's traditional 12-month period of performance.

### **Allowable Funding Purposes**

- To restore laid off sworn police officers and/or firefighters

- To retain police officers and/or 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 and other reasons
- To restore or retain civilian employees working at the police and/or fire department
- For overtime necessary to provide adequate shift coverage and/or to maintain staffing levels

**Allowable Costs**

- Salaries
- Employer-paid fringe benefit costs
- Overtime costs
- Additional direct costs with a specific purpose and a specific amount associated with hiring or rehiring or retaining personnel (e.g., training, uniforms)

**Application and Review Process**

OGR awarded the appropriated funds through a competitive grant process, according to the following timeline:

Solicitation Posted: Friday, July 18, 2025  
 Applicant Assistance Webinar: Tuesday July 22, 2025  
 Application Deadline: Friday, August 8, 2025, 4:00 p.m.  
 Grant Period of Performance: Contract Start Date – December 31, 2026

Each applicant was required to submit a completed online application form and budget worksheet. Municipalities requesting funding to support both the police department and fire departments were required to submit separate applications for each department.

Applicants were invited to submit their proposal prior to the deadline to facilitate an expedited award. Three departments took advantage of this option.

**Awarded Funds**

OGR received a total of 16 police and fire applications from the 10 eligible municipalities. All applications were funded. Awards were based on reviewers’ best assessment of data, information, and need presented by each department in its application. In FY26, OGR awarded a total of \$5,729,996 in grants through this program. The table below displays awards to each community by department.

<b>Award Recipient</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Period of Performance</b>
Brockton Fire Department	\$323,822	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Brockton Police Department	\$352,620	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Fall River Fire Department	\$805,783	8/18/2025-12/31/2026
Fall River Police Department	\$805,419	8/18/2025-12/31/2026
Framingham Fire Department	\$74,264	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Framingham Police Department	\$74,264	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Haverhill Fire Department	No funds requested	
Haverhill Police Department	\$333,792	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Lawrence Fire Department	No funds requested	
Lawrence Police Department	\$1,208,942	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Lowell Fire Department	\$90,750	8/22/2026-12/31/2026
Lowell Police Department	\$216,990	1/1/2026-12/31/2026

Lynn Fire Department	No funds requested	
Lynn Police Department	\$633,985	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Newton Fire Department	No funds requested	
Newton Police Department	\$123,677	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Malden Fire Department	\$259,471	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Malden Fire Department	\$259,471	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Somerville Fire Department	\$109,296	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Somerville Police Department	\$87,450	1/1/2026-12/31/2026

### **Disbursement**

Upon finalization of the SFY26 Municipal Public Safety Staffing Grant Program (MUNI) awards, 50 percent of the approved awards was rendered to each award recipient. To help ensure compliance with grant rules and regulations, the remaining 50 percent was rendered after OGR receives and approves an award recipient's SFY26 MUNI quarter one report (on or about April 15, 2026).

### **Contracting**

Upon approval of their awards, each of the 16 award recipients (police and/or fire departments) from the 10 eligible municipalities were sent a contract packet containing a Standard Contract, Contractor Authorization Signature Listing Form, OGR Subrecipient Grant Conditions, and OGR reporting requirements.

Each grantee was sent a copy of its executed Standard Contract, its formal notification to begin incurring costs. Departments that requested an extended, 18-month contract period received signed contracts in August and could begin spending against their award immediately. The remaining departments received their signed contracts on October, with a contract start date of January 1, 2026.

In accordance with appropriation language, no more than 4% of total awards was set aside for administrative costs. The total amount set aside for OGR administration in SFY26 was \$240,000.