



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 5, 2016

Representative David K. Muradian, Jr.
9th Worcester District
State House, Room 156
Boston, MA 02133

RE: State Grant Request – FY 16/17

Dear Representative Muradian,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit two items for your consideration as the State begins the process of drafting the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. We know that like the Town, the State faces a challenge in developing the next year's budget, so we appreciate the opportunity to make you aware of two items that would significantly benefit the Town of Upton. The grant request is for \$100,000 and includes two items. Those are:

- **Defibrillators** – as you know, this technology has become a standard in the area of public safety and when readily available plays a significant role in saving lives. The Town has had these devices for a number of years in all of our police cars and on each fire truck. Our devices have become outdated and all need to be replaced. We are seeking **\$27,000** to replace a total of 13 units as well as purchase one training unit so that we can conduct the recertification in house. Purchase of these units will enable us to offer the most advanced units for all of our first responders, and enable the Town to direct these dollars to other important services.
- **Tractor & Attachment** – as you may know, a number of roads in town are fairly rural, and it is necessary each year to mow tall grass and some brush along both sides of each road and at intersections for safety purposes. We currently contract this work out and are requesting a grant for **\$73,000** to enable us to buy this equipment. We budget \$17,000 annually for this work, which is done during the summer on a contractor's schedule. There is also a need to mow and maintain 18 storm water retention basins and 1 ½ miles of sewer easements. We have not had the resources to take care of the basins and easements in the past, and this equipment will enable us to do so. We'll also be able to do the roadside maintenance on a timelier basis than we have, rather than a contractor's schedule. The equipment is estimated to cost \$110,000 and if we are fortunate to obtain a grant, the

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Kenneth E. Picard, Chairman
James A. Brochu
Robert J. Fleming

TOWN MANAGER
Blythe C. Robinson
One Main Street • Suite 1 • Upton, MA 01568
T: 508.529.6901 • F: 508.529.1010

Town will appropriate the matching resources. Purchasing it will enable us to remove this line item from our budget, and the payback for the investment will be 6.5 years. The tractor has at least a 15 year lifespan, making this a good investment for our community.

I trust you will agree that both of these items would be a good use of State resources and will have lasting benefit not only for our residents, but anyone who may be traveling through or visiting the Town of Upton. We believe that they will improve our efficiency, reduce our annual operating costs allow us to better meet other obligations of the Town, and will enhance public safety. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blythe C. Robinson", followed by a long horizontal flourish line extending to the right.

Blythe C. Robinson
Town Manager

Cc: Board of Selectmen
Chief Goodale
Chief Bradley