

**TOWN OF JEFFERSON
2025 MUNICIPAL WARRANT**

To Myra Lane, Clerk of the Town of Jefferson, County of Lincoln, State of Maine:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Jefferson in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to assemble in the Jefferson Village School in said Town, on Tuesday the 22th day of April, AD, 2025 at eleven o'clock in the morning, then and there to act upon Article 1 by written ballot and then upon Article 2 through 32 as set out below by secret ballot. The polling hours will be from eleven o'clock in the morning until seven o'clock in the evening.

Pursuant to Title 21-A, Section 759 (7), absentee ballots will be processed at the polls at the following times: 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Art. 1. To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Art. 2. To elect by secret ballot the municipal officers for the ensuing year, namely, one Select Board Member/Assessor/Overseer of the poor for a three-year term, two members of the School Committee for a three-year term and one Road Commissioner for a three-year term.

Art. 3. Shall the Town of Jefferson vote to charge 7.5% interest on personal and real estate taxes after October 1st following commitment?

Art. 4. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$531,219 for Administration of local government?

Recommended by Select Board: (3-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee: (11-0-0)

<u>Administration</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Officers' Salaries	17,500	17,500
General Salaries	260,076	313,919
Officers' Expenses	2,000	2,500
Office Expenses	60,000	63,400
Legal	7,000	7,000
Audit	22,500	37,000
Insurance/Bonding	16,500	17,500
Planning Board	2,000	2,000
Appeals Board	400	400
Code Enforcement	15,000	18,000
Liens/Discharges	8,500	8,500
Assessors' Agent Salary	30,000	30,000
Elections/Town Meeting	18,000	12,500
Contingency Fund	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
TOTALS	460,476	531,219

Art. 5. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$490,605 for protection and health and to allow the Select Board to expend Animal Control Revenue in order to offset Animal Control Expense?

Recommended by Select Board: (3-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee: (11-0-0)

<u>Protection/Health</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Transfer Station	119,263	124,705
Streetlights/911 Signs	5,500	5,500
Jefferson Fire Department	65,000	70,000
Forest Fire Suppression	500	500
Animal Control	14,000	14,000
General Assistance	3,000	3,000
Emergency Management	500	500
Ambulance Service	<u>238,444</u>	<u>272,400</u>
TOTALS	446,207	490,605

Art. 6. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$496,650 for roads and highways?

Recommended by Select Board: (3-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee: (11-0-0)

<u>Roads/Highways</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Wages	9,500	9,500
General Road Repair	44,000	50,000
Winter Maintenance	85,000	85,000
Snow Plowing Contracts	<u>315,670</u>	<u>352,150</u>
TOTALS	454,170	496,650

Art. 7. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,523 for unclassified expenses?

Recommended by Select Board: (3-0-0)

Recommended by Budget Committee: (11-0-0)

<u>Unclassified</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Unorganized Cemeteries	1,000	1,000
Memorial Day	750	750
Public Library	7,561	7,773
Jefferson Scholarship	3,000	3,000
Jefferson Annual Scholarship	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
TOTALS	15,311	15,523

Art. 8. Shall the Town of Jefferson authorize the Select Board to spend an amount not to exceed 5/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2025 budget during the period from January 1, 2026, to the 2026 Annual Town Meeting?

Art. 9. Shall the Town of Jefferson authorize the Select Board to borrow such sums of money as may be necessary to pay current expenses in anticipation of taxes, such sums not to exceed the current tax commitment?

Submitted by the Select Board

Explanation: This will allow the Select Board to borrow money in anticipation of tax income, should the town expenses exceed the balance on hand.

Art. 10. Shall the Town of Jefferson vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate from unreserved surplus, as they deem advisable, to meet unanticipated expenses for emergencies in general assistance, winter road repair and winter maintenance that may occur during the fiscal year 2025?

Submitted by the Select Board

Explanation: This will allow the Select Board to continue road repair and maintenance during the winter when there has been an extreme number of storms as well as allowing the Select Board to continue issuing general assistance to qualifying people in the event that there is a spike in applications. In both cases it will avoid the necessity of calling a special town meeting in order to plow the roads or to give assistance to a qualifying resident if appropriated funds run out.

Art. 11. To see if the Town will require the municipal officers to provide the former owner(s) of tax-acquired property, or if deceased his/her/their heirs, personal representative or devisees six months to repurchase the property on terms the board deems in the best interests of the Town; if no repurchase occurs, the municipal officers may sell the property through the sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C. If the board is unable to list or sell the property as required by § 943-C(3), the board may sell the property in any manner it deems in the best interest of the Town. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

Submitted by the Select Board

Art. 12. Shall the Town of Jefferson authorize the Select Board to deposit all new funds received from the annual Alewife harvest into the Meserve Mill Dam Fund reserve account for future repairs to the dam?

Submitted by the Select Board

Art. 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed and to pay an interest rate of 0% (zero) as a courtesy to taxpayers who wish to prepay some or all of their uncommitted taxes.

Submitted by the Select Board

Art. 14. Shall the Town of Jefferson expend from the State Block Grant the sum of \$54,344 for reconstruction of Town Roads?

Submitted by the Select Board and Road Commissioner

Art. 15. Shall the Town of Jefferson authorize the Select Board to appropriate from unreserved surplus an amount of \$73,950 for repairs and modifications of the municipal office building?

Submitted by the Select Board

Explanation: These funds will be used repair deteriorating parts of the municipal office and modify interior areas of the building in order to make better use of the interior space of the building.

Art. 16. Shall the Town of Jefferson authorize the Select Board to appropriate from unreserved surplus an amount of \$100,000 for repaving and reconstruction of Town roads with any unspent funds to be added to the Road Expense Account?

Submitted by the Select Board and Road Commissioner

Article 17. Shall the Town of Jefferson appropriate from unreserved surplus the sum of \$60,000 to go towards the cost of property revaluation? These funds to be invested by the Town Treasurer until needed, with Select Board approval of the Funds use.

Submitted by the Select Board

Explanation: As of 12/31/24 there is approximately \$94,954 from the assessors line to go towards a \$275,000 revaluation that is scheduled for 2028. The remainder of the amount needed will be raised over the next two years in approximately \$60,000 increments.

Art. 18. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 for the Jefferson Fire and Rescue Fire Truck and Rescue Reserve Fund? These funds to be invested by the Town Treasurer until needed, with the Select Board's approval of the Fund's use.

Submitted by Jefferson Fire and Rescue

Art. 19. Shall the Town of Jefferson vote to enact an ordinance titled "Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance of 2025"?

Submitted by Jon Olsen

Art. 20. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 from unreserved surplus to be deposited into the Fire Truck Reserve account for a future fire truck? These funds to be invested by the Town Treasurer until needed, with the Select Board's approval.

Submitted by Jefferson Fire and Rescue

Art. 21. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to support Midcoast Conservancy in employing local youth, controlling Hydrilla, and protecting the water resources of Damariscotta Lake?

Submitted by Midcoast Conservancy

Explanation: Midcoast Conservancy staff and volunteers monitor water quality and nature-based education.

Art.22. Shall the Town of Jefferson appropriate the amount of snowmobile registration refund monies received from the State for the benefit of the Jefferson Snopackers Inc.?

Submitted by Jefferson Snopackers Inc.

Explanation: The monies are used to maintain the trail system for use by the general public.

Art. 23. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,194 for the benefit of Maine General Hospice?

Submitted by Loretta McNeil, Volunteer Supervisor for Maine General Hospice

Explanation: Maine General Hospice focuses on bringing you comfort when you are terminally ill and supporting those who care for you.

Art. 24. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the benefit of Sweetser Mental Health?

Submitted by Justin Chenette, Sr Director Public Relations

Explanation: Provides mental health services

Art. 25. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,677 for the benefit of Spectrum Generations?

Submitted by Lindsay MacDonald, Community Engagement Officer

Explanation: Provides home delivered meals, homemaker services, respite care, information referrals, etc.

Art. 26. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,300 for the benefit of Healthy Kids?

Submitted by Charlene C. Corbett, Executive Director

Explanation: Home visits providing information on parenting, discipline issues, infant care, etc.

Art. 27. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$930 for the benefit of New Hope for Women?

Submitted by Joan R. Lemole, Development Director

Explanation: Provides a 24-hour hotline for abused/battered women, safe homes, and community education for domestic violence.

Art. 28. Shall the Town of Jefferson raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to help with the operation of Jefferson Community Food Pantry?

Submitted by Candace F Hilton

Art. 29. Shall the Town of Jefferson elect the Select Board to serve as members of the Fish Committee for jurisdiction of Alewife rights?

Submitted by the Select Board

Art. 30. Shall the Town of Jefferson elect Robert E. Clark, Sr., trustee for the Clary Memorial Highway Fund for a three-year term?

Art. 31. Shall the Town of Jefferson elect Robert E. Clark, Sr. for Davis Worthy and Deserving Poor and Shepard Charitable Trust Fund for a three-year term?

Art. 32. Shall the Town of Jefferson appropriate from unexpended surplus an amount not to exceed available funds for the purpose of reducing the tax rate?

Recommended by the Select Board

Pamela J. Grotton

Claudia A. Orff-Reed

A true copy of the warrant

Robert E. Clark Jr.

Attested :