

From: [MaldenNewsNetwork](#)
To: [Carol Ann Desiderio](#); [Lisa M. Cagno](#); [Amanda Linehan](#)
Subject: Please read this as my public comment at the June 2nd Public Hearing
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 3:26:33 PM

Please read this as my public comment at the June 2nd Public Hearing. Thank you.

To the Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Massachusetts Inspector General's June 2026 Final Report on Sheriffs' Budgets and Expenditures identifies fiscal principles directly applicable to Malden's proposed FY27 budget. I respectfully submit the following questions as they apply to the Proposed FY27 Budget:

1. The OIG report warns that budgets lacking itemized, purpose-specific line items enable "uncontrolled spending" and "mission creep." Does the FY27 proposed budget separate mandatory obligations — such as debt service and collective bargaining costs — from discretionary expenditures to allow the Council to evaluate each on its merits?
2. The report identifies use of reserves to close structural deficits as unsustainable. The Mayor's transmittal letter proposes drawing \$5.2 million from reserves. What is the projected reserve balance after this draw, and what is the plan if the structural deficit persists into FY28?
3. The OIG found that eliminating discretionary spending while protecting mandated services is essential. Has the Council received a clear breakdown distinguishing which of the proposed cuts affect legally mandated services versus purely discretionary ones?
4. The report emphasizes that "clarity of purpose" and "clarity of funding ceilings" are essential controls. Are the proposed zero-COLA wage freezes for open union contracts reflected with sufficient contingency funding in the event those contracts are ultimately settled above zero?
5. The OIG stresses that fiscal decisions conducted outside normal oversight systems create accountability failures. Are all proposed grant-funded position shifts — such as in Engineering and General Government — backed by executed grant agreements, or are those revenue offsets speculative?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Brian DeLacey
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