Water and Road Budget items
Reducing phone lines:

In our discussions regarding the Water Operating budget, the increase in phone lines was a subject of great concern. The budget from 2026 to 2027 is 26 to 27% increase. The BAC asked me to look into alternatives.

Having over all ten phone lines with Fidium/Consolidated that are all alarm related, I called their sales department. He said the price could be reduced if we switch to fiber lines about $70 each a month less. Fidium's fiber is on Pond Rd in Campton, where one customer is paying $381 for their service (one line). Fidium does have salesmen going around (Joe Pease) who has approached us, looking to get in touch with the HOA to bring it to the area.

The representative on the phone said that he would estimate it would be a year to 18 months before we would see it at all of our locations. He could not reduce our costs, because the cost of maintaining these copper lines is expensive on their end, and they did not have any alternatives for us at this time.

Starlink Satellite Services, as an alternative to copper phonelines.
I looked into this option as requested. Unfortunately in the State of New Hampshire, our alarms are governed by Nation Fire Alarm and Signalling Code (NFPA-72 Compliance). This means, it cannot be the only source, we would need LTE cellular or copper phone lines as a back up to the Starlink, under New Hampshire laws.

The cost would be $55 a month for each location
In addition the hardware needed at each site would be an additional one time cost of $2,049.

If we are to hold to the 2.5% increase cap, then leaving $1 for engineering (most contracts would include the engineering in them) GL code: 02.4331.520.862. Reduce the system repairs by 10,000 GL Code 02.4331.520.641 - $110,000 to $100,000 as we are under budget for the year, yet this leaves a substantial amount in this line item. Reduce the budget from $568,209 to $528,210. This would result in a 2.8% increase from 2026's budget.

Material Costs -roads

In September we received correspondence from Eastern Minerals, Inc. that the cost per ton of rock salt was increasing 4.76% from 85.80 to 89.89. In 2025 we used 140 tons or roughly $12,012 (the price has not gone up in 3yrs). In 2027 that same 140 tons will cost roughly

12,584.60. If we apply the 4.76% increase to the line item instead of the 25% increase, we can bring these costs down.

We have also seen an increase of over 50% in diesel fuel since January of 2026. Working with Steve and Lisa we have reduced the budget to a 5% increase. We cannot cut our supplies, if we hope to maintain our roads. Reducing Sand/Salt or vehicle and equipment costs, presents a risk to our assets; which includes, equipment as well as our homeowners and visitors, should we reduce sand/salt use or have vehicles that are inadequately maintained.

For 2027 we can get a 2.5% increase over 2026. Getting 2.5% goal, would result in the budget being under funded. While management appreciates the goal of 2.5% the cost of certain materials has gone up 25 to 50% and would pose a risk to our responsibilities. These were the areas identified where we could reduce costs.
GL: 01.4312.002.819 : (Road Salt & Sand) 25,000 reduced to $22,000
GL: 01.4312.002.390 (Subcontractors) $25,000 reduced to $22,000
GL: 01.4312.002.822 (Projects) $8,000 reduced to $4,000 (additional material bins)

Further update as of Monday 11/2/26 -
On Oct. 22, 2026 a leak in the Morton Mine in Fairport, Ohio, led to the mine being shut-down due to safety concerns. This will create an increase in prices for Morton users and more of a demand on alternative companies, such as Eastern Minerals. Speaking with Archie Jackson, he suggested that the district stock up before the end of the year, to be on the safe side, to avoid salt outages.
https://www.mining.com/morton-salt-ceases-operations-at-ohio-mine-after-water-breach/