



*Office of the Town Manager*

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March 6, 2025

TO: Select Board  
FROM: Town Manager Paul Cohen  
RE: Earmark Requests for House of Representatives' Proposed FY26  
State Operating Budget

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I am providing your consideration for the following three items to be included as possible earmarks in the FY26 State Operating Budget for the benefit of the Town of Chelmsford:

1. **Senior Center Food and Nutrition Programs (\$25,000)** This will continue to enhance the quality and quantity of food that the Town provides to our senior citizens, especially through the Meals on Wheels program. This would include purchasing high-quality proteins that are no longer available on the commodities list, as well as covering the increased costs of food and packaging.
2. **Freeman Lake Management (\$80,000)** Reduce or eliminate nuisance species and prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species • Improve water quality for swimming, secondary recreation, and aquatic life • Maintain or improve fish and wildlife habitat.
3. **Tree Canopy Restoration and Invasive Species Management (\$50,000)** This would enable the Town to plant shade trees along the Town's right of ways and reduce invasive species. This would result in improved air quality, reduce the urban heat island effect, and beautify neighborhoods.