

## **Stoughton Opioid Settlement ATM Warrant Articles 63 & 64:**

### **Background:**

In July 2021, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey announced that several of the large drug manufacturers and distributors of opioids would be held accountable for their role in the opioid epidemic. The settlement agreement includes Cardinal, McKesson, AmerisourceBergen and Johnson & Johnson. The settlement dollars will bring critically needed relief to Massachusetts residents who are struggling with substance use disorder by supporting community efforts to address the epidemic. Massachusetts will receive more than \$500 million dollars in abatement funds over the next 18 years.<sup>1</sup> Since that time, additional settlements have occurred with CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Teva and Allergan.

Abatement funds began to be distributed to municipalities starting in mid-2022. Massachusetts municipalities, like Stoughton, that joined the Settlement will receive direct annual payments to use for abatement strategies developed with input from public health experts, municipal leaders, and families affected by the crisis.<sup>2</sup> Abatement funds may be used to support strategies to address the opioid epidemic, ranging across the continuum of care from prevention, to treatment and recovery. These settlement dollars are being coordinated by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

Stoughton's allocation percentage of the annual municipal abatement funds is .31189%. According to the Attorney General's office, there are no requirements to "spend down" the dollars any given year and dollars may be carried over. See the enclosed chart for the sources of the settlement funds and the dollars projected for Stoughton each year by source.

### **Warrant Articles / Why a Stabilization Account:**

In order to access the settlement dollars, Stoughton needs to establish an account for the dollars as they are received from the State. Given that monies have already come in during 2022 and the beginning of 2023, there will already be surplus funds from year 1 of the settlements. After numerous discussions and presentations with the Town attorney, the Town account and the Attorney General's Office it was determined that the best options would be to set up a stabilization account specifically for the opioid dollars and then transfer any settlement funds received into the account. It is also possible that additional settlement monies may be received by the State, so the projected amounts could increase.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/news/ag-healey-announces-26-billion-resolution-with-opioid-distributors-and-manufacturer>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-statewide-settlements-with-opioid-distributors-and-johnson-johnson#\(12\)-where-can-i-get-more-information-about-the-settlements?](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-statewide-settlements-with-opioid-distributors-and-johnson-johnson#(12)-where-can-i-get-more-information-about-the-settlements?)

The proposed warrant article language was drafted for the MA Association of Health Boards who were looking for a template for warrant articles.

### **Acceptable Uses of Opioid Settlement Dollars:**

Monies acquired through the Opioid Settlement must be utilized by communities for abatement strategies<sup>3</sup> that are outlined within the State Sub-Division Agreement for Opioid Settlements<sup>4</sup>.

Stoughton convened an Opioid Task Force to review Stoughton's needs related to the opioid crises and potential strategies to address these gaps based on the available settlement resources and parameters. This Task Force is comprised of the Chief of Police, the Fire Chief, the Prevention Coordinator, the Veteran's Agent, the Director of Human Services and the Recreation Director. The Prevention Coordinator also consulted with individuals working in treatment and recovery, as well as individuals in recovery themselves.

Stoughton is proposing to utilize the settlement monies with a model that addresses Stoughton's current needs and connects to the following abatement focus areas:

***Connections to Care: Provide connections to care for people who have, or are at risk of developing, OUD (Opioid Use Disorder) through programs or strategies that:***

*a. Support the work of Emergency Medical Systems, including peer support specialists and post-overdose response teams, to connect individuals to trauma-informed treatment recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other appropriate services following an opioid overdose or other opioid-related adverse event.*

*c. Fund services or training to encourage early identification and intervention for families, children, or adolescents who may be struggling with use of drugs or mental health conditions*

***Harm Reduction: Support efforts to prevent overdose deaths or other opioid-related harms through strategies that:***

*c. Support mobile units that offer or provide referrals to harm reduction services, treatment, recovery supports, primary and behavioral health care, recovery support, or other appropriate services to persons with OUD.*

***Address the Needs of Criminal Justice Involved Persons: Support diversion and deflection programs and strategies for criminal-justice-involved persons with OUD, including:***

*b. Co-responder and/or alternative responder models to address OUD-related 911 calls with greater OUD expertise.*

### **Stoughton Use of Settlement Dollars (First 5 Years)**

The Stoughton Opioid Task Force would like to propose using the Settlement dollars to hire a full-time social worker, with an emphasis on substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery for the town to:

(1) work with all municipal departments to provide linkages to addiction, recovery and mental health referrals and supports to community members;

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/download>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/march-4-2022-ma-subdivision-agreement/download>

- (2) convene a task force to continue to review complex behavioral cases when appropriate;
- (3) engage community organizations, faith-based communities, cultural communities, schools and municipal departments in supporting people in treatment and recovery and to support family members in their efforts to support the person with opiate use disorder in the family;
- (4) build connections and linkages with local behavioral health, treatment and recovery resources, as well as develop and maintain a local database for referrals related to other basic needs (housing, food, medical care, etc.);
- (5) support a co-response model with the Police Department by co-responding if needed, as well as providing follow up supports to individuals and families in collaboration with the Police
- (6) provide training and education in the use of Nalaxone (Narcan) in treating overdoses;
- (7) work with the Prevention Department to enhance programming to develop materials, provide community education and reduce stigma for help-seeking behaviors.

An ideal candidate would represent the cultural and linguistic diversity of Stoughton.

**Proposed Budget:**

Including the carry-over funds from 2022/2023, the Settlement funds will average \$108,817 annually for FY24-FY28. The following budget was calculated based on that average.

	TOTAL - YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
Salary#	\$75,000-\$80,000	\$76,500 - \$81,600	\$78,030 - \$83,232	\$79,590.60-\$84,896.64	\$82,880.34 - \$86,594.57
Benefits*	\$10,000-\$20,000	\$10,000-\$20,000	\$10,000-\$20,000	\$10,000-\$20,000	\$10,000-\$20,000
Training	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Mileage	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Supplies (laptop, cell phone, desk supplies)	\$2,000	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
TOTAL	\$89,500-\$104,500	\$89,500-\$104,600	\$90,030 - \$105,232	\$91,590.60 - \$106,896.64	\$94,880.34 - \$108,594.57

# assume 2% COLA

\*Benefits for a individual assuming family health coverage (cost to the Town) = \$20,000

The Stoughton Opioid Task force agreed that this project should have a planned timeline of five years. Before the end of that timeline, the community needs and project outcomes should be re-evaluated to determine the future direction for the settlement dollars.

### Settlement totals for Stoughton

Year of payment	J&J	Walgreens	Allergen	Teva	Walmart	CVS	Distributor	Annual TOTAL for Stoughton
2022	91,194	11419.81					46718.25	149,332
2023		7537.84	8757.37	7915.21	12846.16	9733.65	23939.43	70,729
2024			8757.37	7915.21	12846.16	7760.16	29963.58	67,242
2025		7537.84	8757.37	7915.21	12846.16	15508.03	29963.58	82,528
2026	4600	7537.84	8757.37	7915.21	12846.16	15508.03	29963.58	87,128
2027	4600	7537.84	8757.37	7915.21	12846.16	15508.03	29963.58	87,128
2028	4600	7537.84	8757.37	7915.21	12846.16	15508.03	35240.79	92,405
2029	5856	7537.84	8757.37	7915.21		14744.24	35240.79	80,051
2030	5856	11419.81		7915.21		13946.16	35240.79	74,377
2031	5856	11419.81		7915.21		13946.16	29623.44	68,760
2032		11419.81		7915.21		13946.16	29623.44	62904
2033		11419.81		7915.21			29623.44	48958
2034		11419.81		7915.21			29623.44	48958
2035		11419.81		7915.21			29623.44	48958
2036		22839.62					29623.44	52463
2037							29623.44	29623
2038							29623.44	29623
<b>TOTAL by source</b>	122562	148005.33	61301.60	102,897.73	77076.96	136,109.95	533,221.89	1,181,167

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/municipal-abatement-payments>