

**Fairfield Board of Education  
Proposed Emergency Non-Recurring Project  
2025-2026**



Updated: March 25, 2025

Approved by BOE on March 25, 2025



**To:** Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, & Representative Town Meeting

**From:** Angelus Papageorge, Executive Director of Operations

**Date:** March 25, 2025

**Subject:** Request for Consideration – Emergency Lighting Project at Warde’s Turf Field

As we move forward with the emergency lighting project at Warde’s turf field, I ask for your consideration in streamlining the process to ensure timely completion. Due to the long lead time for materials and the importance of completing this project efficiently, I propose the following:

1. **Waiving the bid process for the lighting supplier** – This would allow us to work directly with the same supplier used for the Town Parks and Recreation turf project at Roger Ludlowe Middle School, ensuring consistency and efficiency.
2. **Utilizing the town’s on-call services bid for electrical work** – This approach would expedite the process while adhering to existing procurement agreements.
3. **Managing the project in-house** – By overseeing the project internally, we can effectively control costs and ensure efficient execution.

By accepting this approach, we can stand with confidence in the project cost while holding a **8% contingency for unknowns**, ensuring financial stability throughout the project.

Your support in this approach will help us complete the project in a timely and cost-effective manner. Please let me know if you have any questions or require further details.

Sincerely,

Angelus Papageorge

Executive Director of Operations

## Fairfield Warde Light Tower Project

New Pole with lights and all equipment needed for a turnkey system.....	\$349,834
Electrical work to install poles and power and all else necessary for a turnkey Installation.....	\$56,800
Sound Equipment Replacement.....	\$14,954
Removal of Existing light towers.....	\$7,181
Clean up of Hazards Materials.....	\$6,373
Testing and Investigation of three remining towers.....	\$16,200
Geo Tec and Soil Testing.....	\$25,000
Footings.....	\$55,000
Peer Review of Footing Design.....	\$10,000
Project Sub Total.....	\$541,342
8% Project Contingency.....	\$43,307
<b>Project Total.....</b>	<b>\$584,649</b>

## Emergency Light Pole Replacement

Fairfield Warde High School Artificial Turf Field Pole Light Project

\$584,649

**Background:** This project request addresses the emergency replacement of light poles at Fairfield Warde High School Artificial Turf field. On February 17, 2025, one of the 70' light towers collapsed during a windstorm. A subsequent inspection revealed that the remaining three poles exhibit similar structural failures, posing a significant safety risk.

**Purpose & Justification:** The replacement of these light poles is critical to ensure the safety of individuals using the facility. The existing poles were installed on March 13, 2000, and were manufactured by Whitco Co. of Fort Worth, TX. These poles were later identified in a recall issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Given their known structural deficiencies and the recent failure, immediate action is required to prevent further collapses and potential injuries or property damage.

**Detailed Description:** This project involves the removal of the three remaining defective light poles and the installation of new, structurally sound replacements. The scope of work includes:

- Removal and disposal of the failed pole.
- Inspection and removal of the remaining three poles.
- Procurement and installation of new light poles that meet current safety and engineering standards.
- Electrical and structural modifications as needed to accommodate the new poles.
- Site field testing

**Estimated Cost:** Total estimated cost is \$584,649. This includes materials, labor, and associated site work.

**Long Range Costs:** Routine maintenance and inspections will be required to ensure the longevity and safety of the new poles. Expected lifespan of the new light poles: 20+ years. The new light poles will be LED and require less bulb replacement along with a reduction of power consumption.

**Demand on Existing Facilities:** This project will restore full lighting functionality to the facility, ensuring continued. No additional burden on infrastructure is expected once the replacement is complete.

**Security, Safety and Loss Control:** The failure of the existing poles presents an immediate safety hazard to users of the facility. Replacement of the light poles will mitigate the risk of future failures, ensuring compliance with safety regulations.

**Environmental Considerations:** Proper disposal of the failed poles will be conducted in accordance with environmental regulations. New poles will be selected with sustainability and energy efficiency in mind.

**Funding, Financing & OSCG&R:** There are currently no external funding opportunities identified for this project. The Town Attorney is exploring potential funding sources or settlements. However, since Whitco Co. went bankrupt shortly after the recall, recovery options may be limited.

**Schedule, Phasing & Timing:**

- **Phase 1:** Immediate removal of the failed and compromised poles to eliminate safety risks.
- **Phase 2:** Procurement of new light poles and necessary components.
- **Phase 3:** Installation of new poles and electrical connections.

Estimated project completion: Summer of 2025.

**Other Considerations:** Temporary lighting solutions may be required to maintain facility operations during replacement. Coordination with utility providers and permitting agencies will be necessary.

**Alternates to The Request:** Continued use of the existing poles is not a viable option due to their known structural failures. Temporary lighting solutions could be implemented in the short term but would not provide a long-term solution to the safety risk.