

Bolton Long Range Planning Committee Municipal Services Survey

Overview of the Bolton LRPC Municipal Survey

This document is based upon information collected by the Bolton Long Range Planning Committee. In 2002, the LRPC created a survey of town services and sent the survey to surrounding towns of similar character and different populations. The goal of the survey was to determine what, if any, municipal services and expenses were correlated with population. If any correlations were found, this would enable the Town of Bolton to better prepare a long-range forecast of town requirements and expenses as the town grows.

The survey was sent to the towns of Boxborough, Carlisle, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Sterling, Stow and Townsend in late 2002. The results were collected and compiled during the first half of 2003. For valid comparison, fiscal year 2002 data was used for all towns. Departments of the Town of Bolton also completed the survey with fiscal year 2002 data to aid in the comparison.

Based upon the survey results, analysis is provided for the Fire Department, Police Department, and Town Administration portions of the survey.

The complete results of the survey are available from the Town of Bolton Long Range Planning Website:

<http://www.townofbolton.com/lrp/index.html>

Note: Not all departments of all towns participated in the survey. For this reason, some parts of the survey did not have enough data to justify analysis. In other parts of the survey, we did not have complete data from all towns, but did analysis based upon the information provided.

Related Documents:

Bolton LRPC Survey Results.xls

This is the complete results and data of the survey in a Microsoft Excel (version Office 2000) format (file size = 337KB):

Bolton LRPC Municipal Survey Fire(2003).pdf

Analysis of Fire Department in Adobe Acrobat Reader format with charts.

Bolton LRPC Municipal Survey Police(2003).pdf

Analysis of Police Department in Adobe Acrobat Reader format with charts.

Bolton LRPC Municipal Survey TownAdmin(2003).pdf

Analysis of Town Administration in Microsoft Adobe Acrobat Reader format with charts.

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Police Department Summary

- Bolton has the highest per capita police department expense of all the towns surveyed.
- Office space devoted to the police department in Bolton is among the lowest in all measures.

For detailed information about the Police Department, see
Bolton_LRPC_Survey_Police.doc

Fire Department Summary

- Fire departments in which some or all of the responders are volunteers support towns with larger populations than Bolton.
- Fire department expenses seem to be correlated with population density (number of people per square mile of town area). There is correlation with population and there is a strong inverse correlation with town area: the larger the area of the town, the less per square mile is the cost.

For detailed information about the Bolton Fire Department, see
Bolton_LRPC_Survey_Fire.doc

Town Administration

- Per capita costs of town administration for Bolton are higher than for other towns in the survey. However, for towns greater than 4800 people, the per capita cost drops as the population increases.

For detailed information about Town Administration, see
Bolton_LRPC_Survey_TownAdmin.doc