

# City of Framingham

The City Council of Framingham



## ORDER NO. 2025-079-001 REQUEST OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

UPON THE REQUEST OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION, THROUGH THE FRAMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, IT IS SO ORDERED:

That the Council votes to approve a five-year contract for the Lease of 86 Type C Diesel School Buses with New England Transit Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$10,674,640. The contract includes a total of eighty-six school buses to be delivered by June 1, 2026 and all maintenance, repairs and inspections, as attached.

YEAS: Alexander, Bryant, Cannon, King, Leombruno, Long, Mallach, Ottaviani,  
Steiner, Ward, White Harvey  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: All members were present in person or via teleconference.  
PASSED IN COUNCIL: December 2, 2025

A True Record, Attest:

12/3/2025

Date Approved

Lisa A. Ferguson

Lisa A. Ferguson, City Clerk

Emily L. Butler, Assistant City Clerk

12/5/25

Date Approved

Charlie Sisitsky

Charlie Sisitsky, Mayor

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: November 12, 2025  
To: Framingham City Council and Finance Subcommittee  
From: Lincoln Lynch IV, Executive Director of Finance and Operations  
Re: School Bus Five Year Lease Contract Award Recommendation

After appropriately following the Invitation for Bid process governed by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30B for a five year contract for the Lease of 86 Type C Diesel School Buses, I recommend the contract be awarded to New England Transit Sales, Inc. New England Transit Sales is the lowest responsible and responsive bidder which is the rule for award for this contract and all Chapter 30B Invitation For Bids. The total five year contract amount per New England Transit Sales bid is \$10,674,640 with an average per year cost of \$2,134,928. Since the contract is more than 36 months, I am requesting the following formal votes:

1. **A review and vote of the School Committee on November 19, 2025**
2. **A review and referral from the City Council to the Finance Subcommittee of the City Council on December 2, 2025**
3. **A review and vote of the Finance Subcommittee of the City Council on December 9, 2025**
4. **A final review and vote of the City Council on December 16, 2025**

The following are all bid amounts that were submitted:

**Vendors and Five Year Contract Bid**

1. **New England Transit Sales: \$10,674,640.00**
2. **Devivo Bus Sales: \$12,822,530.00**
3. **Andco Incorporated: \$13,352,863.20**
4. **First Student: \$14,513,519.20**

The contract is for eighty-six school buses to be delivered by June 1, 2026 and all maintenance, repairs and inspections. The only cost not included in the contract is fuel. The bus specifications in the IFB were as follows:

**School Bus by Type**

1. **Fifty-Two (52) Seventy-seven (77) Passenger School Buses with air conditioning (Forty-Seven (47) buses for daily routes. Five (5) buses will be used as**
2. **Eleven (11) Thirty-One (31) Passenger Mini Buses with air conditioning and two (2) wheelchairs (Nine (9) buses for daily routes. Two (2) buses will be used as spare buses)**
3. **Twenty-One (21) Forty-Eight (48) Passenger Mini Buses with air conditioning (Nineteen (19) buses for daily routes. Two (2) buses will be used as spare buses)**

4. Two (2) Forty (40) Passenger Mini Bus with four (4) wheelchairs with Air Conditioning (One (1) bus for routes. One (1) bus will used as a spare bus)

The advertisement for this contract went out on September 24 2025 and bids were due back on October 23, 2025. Since then, a phone meeting with the vendor and extensive collaboration has ensued between my office and the City CFO's office to confirm all required documents were included in all bids, to confirm all parties are on the same page as it pertains to the contract and to complete the following reference checks:

**Reference Checks Conducted on New England Transit Sales**

1. School District with 44 leased buses
  - a. NETS has been great
  - b. Responsive
  - c. Any time there is an issue, NETS helps and deals with it right away
2. School District with 33 leased buses
  - a. Responsive and reliable
  - b. Positive overall experience
  - c. Make an effort to address concerns in a reasonable timeframe
3. School District with 24 leased buses
  - a. No issues
  - b. Good relationship with service and office staff
  - c. Always come through
4. School District with 6 leased buses
  - a. Good relationship
  - b. Buses are down the vendor takes care of it