



**City Manager's Report
May 11, 2026**

Economic Projects

River Front - Powerplants	Diesel Plant - Work is finished. Positive media coverage. Steam Plant - Working with the QEP to commence work now that the Diesel Plant demo is complete.
Broadband Initiative	No new updates.
Ogren Dump Solar Project	No new updates.
Events and Marketing	Looking forward to Thursdays on Sweden. Dates will be: June 11 & 25; July 9 & 23; August 13. Stay tuned for more information.
Landbank	A delegation from Augusta will be here in June.
Chapter 13 Rewrite	Public Hearings on updates to Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 on tonight's agenda.
Federal American Rescue Plan Act	Funds must be spent by 12/31/2026; Annual report was filed prior to the 4/30/2026 deadline. Project updates are included in the manager's report.
Blight Cleanup	Caribou's new CEO has already been sending out Notices of Violation.
Birdseye Cleanup	Brownfields RLF project is ongoing.
Caribou Development Committee	Several initiatives are ongoing.
River Front - Master Plan	The Riverfront Master Plan is underway. There is a survey online that we encourage residents to complete to share their vision for an improved Caribou Riverfront.
Façade Improvement Program	The Spring 2026 funding opportunity received two applications. The committee will meet soon.
Aldrich ATV/Snowmobile Storage	No new updates.
Caribou Economic Growth Council	No new updates.
Business Outreach	Eric is working with several possible businesses.

Other Administrative Projects

Tax Acquired Property Policy	No new updates.
Nylander	No new updates.
Fire Structural Work	No new updates.
Fire Station Renovations	The project bid opening is on May 14.
Police Station	No new updates to share, but should have something soon.
River Road	No new updates.
Investment Policy	No new updates.
Cable Franchise Renewal	No new updates.
Airport	Next meeting 05/12/2026 at the airport.
Personnel Policy	Retirement contributions on the agenda tonight.
New LED Street lights	No new updates.
Comp Plan Update	No new updates
LD 2003 Implementation	No new updates.
15 Prospect Street	No new updates.
Water Street Fire	The ESA Phase I with funding provided by EPA Brownfields funding through Maine DEP has been received.
Age-Friendly Efforts	Exciting events are planned for later this year.
Aroostook Waste Solutions	Please dispose of rechargeable batteries properly. You can take them to Lowes or the Tri-Community Landfill. (Do not dispose of with your waste). Keep an eye on your rechargeable batteries while charging. Unplug chargers when not in use.
Cary Medical Center	No new updates.
Other Updates	Any new updates on the Aroostook River Bridge project will be posted on our website.
Administrative Approvals	NMBC - Extension of Premises and Live Music; Rubbish Hauler - Caldwell's Sanitation, LLC; Liquor License - Spud Speedway, Inc.

Caribou ARPA NEU

HISTORY:

As a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, on March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law. This spending bill was a way to provide relief to state and local governments in funding their response to the pandemic. The funds that came into the state of Maine were divided among the state, counties, and municipalities. The six largest metropolitan areas were given their entitlement funds in a different manner than the other localities who were deemed “Non-Entitlement Units” (NEUs). NEUs (like Caribou) were given funds in two payments from the state. Caribou received a total of \$802,872.50.

Originally, there were strict limitations on how the funds could be spent. The relief could support urgent response efforts, replace lost public sector revenue to help retain jobs for vital public services which included the option to provide premium pay for essential workers, provide for economic stabilization for households and businesses, and address public health and economic challenges that contributed to the unequal impact of the population by investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Over the years, the “final rule” was updated. Many municipalities have used it to fund public services and provide premium pay for public employees, build critical infrastructure and support community development.

Funds not obligated by December 31, 2024, will need to be repaid to the US Treasury. (All funds were obligated prior to December 31, 2024.) All funds must be spent by December 31, 2026.

The amounts obligated have been for:

Broadband Study	\$159,000
County ARPA Program Assistant	\$16,037.86 (2% of ARPA NEU funds)
Match for 2022 County ARPA	\$234,340 (EMS equipment and station upgrades)
Match for 2023 County ARPA	\$100,349 (Fire & Police equipment)
Advertising / Tech support for ARPA projects	\$ 5,657 (Public hearing ads, engineering)
Chadwick Baross Sewer Line extension	\$220,000 (Approved at 03.25.2024 meeting)
Police Department mid-year increase 2024	\$67,488.64 (Approved at 09.23.2024 meeting)
TOTAL SPENT OR OBLIGATED	\$802,872.50

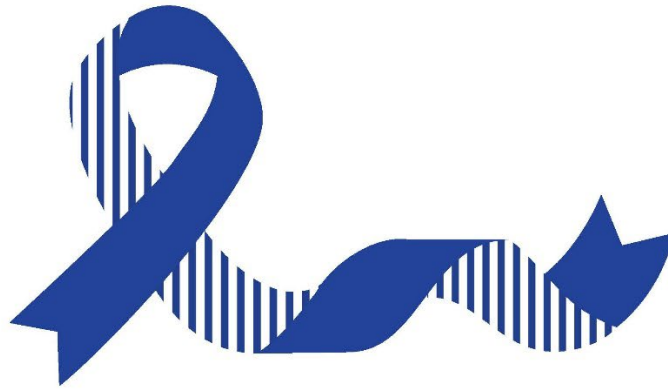
The Chadwick-Baross line extension project will not be going forward. Therefore, there is \$220,000 in funding that must be obligated and spent on other projects prior to December 31, 2026. A stipulation of re-appropriating the funds is that it can only be moved to another established project.

Since the City Council is making tough decisions about the budget, some items for consideration would be:

- Use additional funds towards the “Fire Station upgrades” project (we received an award for matching funds from the County of Aroostook for the sewer project that was reappropriated to the “Fire Station upgrades” project since the County had also contributed funds towards the Caribou Fire Station upgrade project).
- Use additional funds towards “Fire and Police equipment” which could be designated to help fund the assigned cruised project in the police department through Enterprise, or, the ladder truck for the Fire Department or a combination of both.

This is something that needs to be decided in the next few months due to the December 31, 2026, deadline.

ALS AWARENESS MONTH



MAY

Just a reminder that May is ALS awareness month.

Our thoughts are with those families who have previously been or are currently affected by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). It is our sincere hope that a cure will be discovered soon.