



# Town of Bowdoinham

13 School St • Bowdoinham, ME 04008

Phone 666-5531 • Fax 666-5532

[www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com)

## Memo:

**To:** Select Board,  
Nicole Briand, Town Manager      **Date:** May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**From:** Jason Lamoreau, Community  
Services Director representing the  
Advisory Committee for Age  
Friendly Bowdoinham      **Reference** Storage Unit Grant Support

### **Request to Seek Grant Funding to Purchase and Place Storage Unit for storing Durable Medical and Accessibility Equipment**

#### **Summary**

The Bowdoinham Age Friendly Committee is working to enhance the availability and accessibility of durable medical equipment and home safety supplies for residents, particularly older adults and individuals with mobility challenges. Currently, items such as hospital beds, lift chairs, wheelchairs, rollators, shower benches, and home modification materials (e.g., grab bars) are maintained through informal or limited storage arrangements, which can affect accessibility, organization, and preservation of equipment.

#### **Project Overview**

The Committee proposes the purchase and outfitting of a **20-foot storage container with side-door access**, designed to serve as a centralized, organized storage location at the Bowdoinham Fire Department for:

- Durable medical equipment (hospital beds, lift chairs, wheelchairs, rollators)
- Home safety equipment (grab bars, shower benches, bed rails)
- Basic home modification supplies (lumber, plywood, hardware)

The unit will be outfitted with internal shelving and storage systems to ensure safe, efficient inventory management and quick retrieval when needed by community members.

#### **Grant Opportunity**

The Age Friendly Committee intends to apply for a **\$5,000 grant** to support this project. With the help of the Community Services Director, the Committee will further request donation support from suppliers/contractors to help cover additional costs. If the Committee is unable to cover the entire cost of the project using grant funding and donations, they are requesting to



# Town of Bowdoinham

13 School St • Bowdoinham, ME 04008

Phone 666-5531 • Fax 666-5532

[www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com)

---

cover the costs utilizing reserve funds up to \$750. Donations and grant funds will be used to cover:

- Purchase and delivery of the storage container
- Interior build-out (shelving, racks, and organization systems)
- Basic outfitting to support safe and effective use

## Community Impact

This project will provide significant benefits to Bowdoinham residents, including:

- An efficient, maintenance-free solution to a growing storage issue
- Improved access to essential medical equipment at no cost
- Increased safety in homes, reducing risk of falls and injuries
- Enhanced ability for residents to age in place safely and independently
- Better organization and preservation of shared community resources
- Reduced response burden on emergency services through preventative measures
- Increased security of higher cost donated equipment

## Request

The Bowdoinham Age Friendly Committee respectfully requests that the Select Board:

1. Express formal support for this project and grant application
2. Allow inclusion of the Town of Bowdoinham as a supporting entity in the application
3. Approve placement of the storage unit on Town-owned Fire Department property on existing gravel pad beside detached garage
4. Approve utilization of up to \$750 of Age Friendly reserve funds if needed to cover additional costs.

## Conclusion

This project represents a practical, cost-effective investment in the safety, health, and well-being of Bowdoinham residents. With Select Board support, the Age Friendly Committee will be well-positioned to secure grant funding and implement a sustainable system for managing these important community resources.

We appreciate your consideration and welcome any questions or feedback!

**Proposal for Funding: \$5000 to purchase Metal Storage Unit**

Submitted to Bath Savings Institution

By Town of Bowdoinham, Maine

Contact: Jason Lamoreau  
Community Services Director  
Age-friendly@bowdoinham.com  
207-666-3101

May 20, 2026

**Overview**

The Town of Bowdoinham respectfully requests \$5,000 to purchase a 20-foot metal storage container to support two long-standing community programs: the Medical Equipment Loan Program and the Handy Brigade.

Both programs have operated for more than a decade and have expanded significantly in response to growing community need. However, each now faces critical storage limitations that affect efficiency, cost, and service delivery.

**Community Need and Program Impact**

Bowdoinham is experiencing a steady increase in older residents who wish to remain in their homes as they age. This preference—aging in place—reduces strain on healthcare systems, preserves community connections, and improves quality of life.

The Medical Equipment Loan Program and Handy Brigade are essential, locally driven, volunteer led responses to this need. Together, they provide timely, no-cost access to equipment and home modifications that prevent falls, support recovery, and enable safe daily living.

Demand for both programs continues to grow. Without adequate storage, the Town’s ability to respond timely and efficiently is increasingly constrained.

**Program Descriptions**

Medical Equipment Loan Program

This program provides gently used medical equipment to residents at no cost, on both short- and long-term loan. It enables individuals and families to access essential equipment quickly, without financial burden, supporting recovery and long term convalescence at home. All equipment is donated by residents.

The program has grown from a modest inventory of walkers, canes, bath benches, and occasional wheelchairs to a robust lending library that now includes hospital beds, lift chairs, rollators, transfer and electric wheelchairs, electric scooters, knee scooters, beach (sand) wheelchairs, temporary ramps, and other adaptive equipment.

With more than 100 items in circulation, the program plays a critical role in supporting aging in place and reducing barriers to care.

## Handy Brigade

Originally operated by the Village Lodge Masonic Hall, this program transitioned to Town oversight in 2022 and is now supported by a core group of 6 active volunteers.

The Handy Brigade assists residents—particularly older adults—with minor home repairs and safety modifications that enable independent living. Common requests include installation of grab bars, railings, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, threshold adjustments, ramps, shelving, and other accessibility improvements.

As older residents - now approximately 40% of the Bowdoinham population -seek to remain in their homes, demand for these services has increased. The Town is capitalizing on partnerships with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Comfortably Home to address more complex projects.

## **Project Details**

Both programs currently lack adequate storage:

- The Medical Equipment Loan Program has outgrown its space at the Bowdoinham Fire Department with overflow items stored in the Fire House Community Room, which is not a viable long-term solution.
- The Handy Brigade has no dedicated space for tools or frequently used materials. Items are purchased per project, increasing both costs and response time, while tools are stored in volunteer homes.

To address these challenges, the Town proposes purchasing a SR -1 20' Standard Height One Trip Side Door Storage Container to be located on an existing gravel pad at the Fire Department.

The container will:

- provide secure, centralized, weather resistant storage for both programs
- improve response time for residents in urgent need
- reduce costs through more efficient purchasing and inventory management
- protect valuable donated medical equipment and extend its useful life
- increase volunteer effectiveness through organized access to tools and supplies

Shelving will be donated and installed through in-kind volunteer contributions. The interior layout will be designed for safe and efficient access, including accommodation of large equipment. See Attachment A for interior proposed layout. The unit will be secured via existing wireless security cameras as well as a padlock system with Community Services Director, Fire Chief and Town Manager holding keys and insured by the Town.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$6773; \$5000 of which is being requested from Bath Savings Institution, the cost of the container based on current pricing from SR-1 containers in Turner, Maine. This funding request is for \$5000; additional costs will be covered through Age Friendly reserve funds and/or support/donation from the supplier (see Sources and Uses of Project Funds for a delineation of total costs and sources of funds).

## Case for Support

This request aligns closely with Bath Savings Institution's commitment to strengthening local communities, supporting older adults, and investing in practical solutions that deliver measurable impact.

This is not a request to launch a new program, but to strengthen two proven, high-impact services. This project reflects strong community leverage:

- Volunteers contribute significant time and expertise
- Donated equipment forms the backbone of the loan program
- In-kind contributions will support shelving and installation
- The Town will provide the site, security, and insurance

Funding from Bath Savings Institution will amplify these existing resources and ensure their continued impact.

At its core, this project advances health, safety, and independence. It will help residents avoid preventable injuries, support caregivers, and allow residents to remain in their homes longer—strengthening the fabric of the Bowdoinham community.

## Sources and Uses of Project Funds

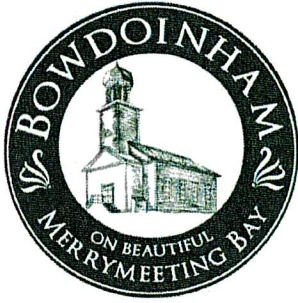
Use	Bath Savings Bank	Donations	In-Kind Contributions	Age Friendly Reserve	Total
Metal storage container	\$5,000	—	—	\$750	\$5,750*
Shelving and lock		\$543	--	--	\$543
Labor (installation)		—	\$480	--	\$480
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$543</b>	<b>\$480</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$6,773</b>

---

\*Based on current pricing from SR-1 containers in Turner, Maine.

## Attachment A: Birds-eye view of layout

A: Lumber Rack		(2x4, plywood)	-----B: Vertical Rack / Shelving	(grab bars, small supplies)	
-----		CENTRAL AISLE (30-36")		-----	
	C: Large Equip Zone(beds, lift chairs)	-----	D: Mobility Equip Zone	(chairs, rollators)	
----- Side double-door access here (20' length)-----					



# Town of Bowdoinham

13 School St • Bowdoinham, ME 04008

Phone 666-5531 • Fax 666-5532

[www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com)

Nicole Briand, Town Manager

May 15, 2026

Re: Age Friendly Bowdoinham Grant Application: Storage for Durable Medical Equipment and Accessibility Supplies

On behalf of the Bowdoinham Fire Department, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Bowdoinham Age Friendly Committee's application for grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 to support the purchase and outfitting of a storage container for durable medical equipment and accessibility-related supplies. This project directly benefits the residents of Bowdoinham, particularly older adults and individuals with mobility challenges, by ensuring that essential medical equipment—such as hospital beds, lift chairs, wheelchairs, rollators, and safety modifications—are readily available within the community. Timely access to this equipment can significantly improve quality of life, enhance safety, and support aging in place. From a public safety perspective, the availability of properly maintained and accessible durable medical equipment can also reduce emergency calls and prevent avoidable injuries. Equipment such as grab bars, shower benches, and mobility aids can help minimize falls and other incidents that often require emergency response.

The proposed storage container will provide a centralized, organized, and secure location for these vital resources. By improving storage conditions and accessibility, we, along with the Community Services Director, will be better equipped to serve residents efficiently and effectively.

The Bowdoinham Fire Department fully supports this initiative and recognizes its value in strengthening community health, safety, and resilience. We commend the Bowdoinham Age Friendly Committee for their leadership and ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of older adults and vulnerable populations in our community.

This department respectfully encourages favorable consideration of this funding request.

If additional information is needed, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Frizzle".

Arthur Frizzle

Fire Chief

Bowdoinham Fire & Rescue Department