




MAYOR'S OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

To: Director David Whitaker, Legislative Policy Division

From: Melia Howard, Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Office 

Date: March 20, 2025

Re: Response to 2025-2026 Mayor's Office Budget Analysis

Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 13, 2025, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the Mayor's Office.

- 1. Please briefly explain the Mayor's Office's new expense initiatives, new capital funding requests, operational reform and savings proposals, and new revenue initiatives/proposals to be implemented in FY 2026. Please provide which appropriation/cost center the new initiative/request/proposal is impacting in FY 2026.**

One new expense initiative is the Mayor Innovation Challenge. This initiative will empower the City of Detroit to improve the delivery of government services by utilizing efficient and innovative technology to solve challenges. \$300,000 shall be allocated and available for city departments to bid for on a competitive basis in order to use technology and innovation to improve resident services, save City of Detroit resources, and deliver impactful outcomes for Detroiters.

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The other new expense proposed in the Mayor's Office budget for FY26 is \$186,375 in funding for the Mental Health Co-Response ARPA Program continuation. These funds will sustain the program by supporting three Program Analysts and essential supplies. For more information about the program, please see the answer to question #2 below.

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- 2. On page B33-1, please explain how the Operating Budget Highlights, Mental Health Co-Response ARPA Program Continuation (one-time) \$186,375 will impact the operation.**

The \$186,375 in one-time funding will sustain the Mental Health Co-Response Program by supporting three key Program Analysts and essential supplies. These analysts ensure the program's efficiency, compliance, and impact; focusing on homeless outreach, crisis

response coordination, and data-driven reporting. Their work provides functional oversight, manages the operational budget and assists with securing future funding. This investment enhances response and intervention efforts to improve long-term outcomes for vulnerable residents.

3. The FY 2026 budgeted positions for the Mayor's Office increase by 4 positions (3 general fund and 1 nongeneral fund) from the FY 2025 budgeted positions. Please explain the impact of the increase in positions on Mayor's Office operations in FY 2026.

The 3 general fund position increases are the 3 Program Analysts for the mental health co-response ARPA program continuation. These analysts ensure the program's efficiency, compliance, and impact; through focusing on homeless outreach, crisis response coordination, and data-driven reporting. They also provide oversight over the operations and budget of the program. The investment in these analysts enhances the response and intervention efforts of the mental health co-response team and help improve long-term outcomes for some of the city's most vulnerable residents.

The 1 non-general fund position increase is for the Senior Emergency Management Specialist within the Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) department. This position allows Detroit HSEM to be efficient in completing grant required activities including Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, Emergency Assessments, and Local Planning Team activities. This position also impacts the compliance of grant-required tabletop and full-scale exercises.

4. On page B33-2, there are 21 ARPA positions filled as of February 5, 2025, but no ARPA positions are budgeted moving forward. Will these ARPA positions be absorbed by the general fund or will they be eliminated permanently?

Department leadership will evaluate current ARPA programming and make recommendations to the incoming administration on which programs to continue. It will be up to the next administration to make the final determination of whether or not to continue to fund these ARPA positions with general fund dollars moving forward.

5. On page B33-2, please explain the \$486,375 One-Time Expenditure increase for FY2026.

This includes funding for the mental health co-response ARPA program continuation (\$186K) and the Mayor Innovation Challenge (\$300K).

The mental health co-response ARPA program continuation funds will sustain the program by supporting three Program Analysts and essential supplies.

The Mayor Innovation Challenge funds will be allocated and available for city departments to bid for on a competitive basis in order to use technology and innovation to improve resident services, save City of Detroit resources, and deliver impactful outcomes for Detroiters.

6. On page B33-3, Professional & Contractual Services increased by \$567,070 in FY2026. Please explain how this will impact the operation.

This includes funding for the Mayor Innovation Challenge (\$300K) (explained in question #5 above), funding for operating supplies and services within the Homeland Security UASI grant match (\$69K), and funding to assist with the transition to a new administration (\$197K).

7. On page B33-5, 1000-General Fund Other Expenses increase by 73.91% 101,483 in FY 2026. Please explain how this will impact the operation.

This funding increase is to provide grant match funding for the Harvard Business School Leadership fellowship. This program is a key partnership that has been a part of the Mayor's Office in recent years. It remains a piece of the Mayor's Office talent attraction and retention strategy to bring talented young professionals to work on projects and programs that enhance city services provided to Detroit residents. Other key pieces of the Mayor's Office talent retention strategy include the DONs shadow program, GDYT, and the Mayoral Fellowship, each of which focus on attracting local Detroit talent to the Mayor's Office.

8. On page B33-3, Equipment Acquisition decreased by \$145,215 in FY 2026. Please explain how this will impact the Homeland Security operation

The decrease by \$145,215 will not impact Homeland Security operations. In the previous fiscal year, dollars were increased to the Equipment Acquisitions line for the direct purchase of additional equipment and services for the Detroit Police Department.