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**AIRPORT DEPARTMENT  
ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

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**To:** Angela Whitfield-Calloway, Council Member, District 2  
**From:** Jason Watt, Director, Airport   
**Date:** March 28, 2025  
**Re:** Responses to 2025-2026 Airport Budget Analysis

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Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 20, 2025 regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the Airport.

- 1. The Airport Department works in partnership with the DPSCD and its Davis High School. Please explain the partnership and the programs available for training in airport and airline careers.**

The partnership between the Airport Department and DPSCD is for the main terminal facility. The main terminal facility is going to be the new home of Davis Aerospace Technical High School. Current programming is slated to be drone pilot certification, private pilot certification and aircraft maintenance certification. The Airport Department and DPSCD are discussing other aspects of a potential future partnership that may include hands-on airport maintenance and airport operations internships.

- 2. The Airport Department works in partnership with the DPD concerning its Aviation Unit. Please explain the partnership and future plans.**

The Airport Department works in partnership with DPD aviation by assisting with its fuel contract. The rate that DPD aviation pays is outlined in the Airport Department's lease with our fixed based operator, AvFlight Corporation. The rate was designed to keep the rate as low as possible contractually and necessary because AvFlight has the aviation fuel contract with the City of Detroit. We also provide space to DPD Aviation for storage and maintenance of the City of Detroit's aviation aircraft.

- 3. Demolitions are in progress at the Airport. Please describe the work and the reasons for the demolitions.**

Demolitions are happening in the recently acquired French Road to Gilbo Road Mini-take area. These demolitions are necessary to clear buildings from the area as part of the overall program mandated by the FAA to move citizens and structures from airport safety areas consistent with FAA airport design standards.

- 4. The City of Detroit in partnership with the FAA is acquiring land west of the airport. Please describe the reasons for the property acquisitions and the status of the program.**

The land that the airport has acquired was acquired using the Federal Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA). This program was started in 1992 and reaffirmed in 2014 under an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The study outlined the property necessary to acquire to bring the airport into compliance with current airport design standards related to safety. The Airport Department has physical custody of the property and is working on clearing title and final compensation. Of the 76 properties that the department acquired as part of the final acquisition phase of the project, two homes are currently in probate and all others have been secured.

- 5. What the outreach programs to attract new business to the airport? Did the airport reach out to Amazon, Target and other operations concerning possible partnerships.**

The airport is developing a program to attract new business. The primary focus of the department currently is on retention of current tenants. Current tenants are negotiating the building of new facilities, and the department is working to adjust the right-of-way utility easements to allow for the construction of new facilities on the airport.

One of our current attraction strategies is to work with our fixed based operator (FBO) AvFlight Corporation to identify companies and individuals that have a desire to build a hangar facility in Southeastern Michigan, as hangar inventory in our region is low to none-available. The department has spoken to Amazon and there was some interest on a local level but when it was elevated up the ladder the discussion stopped. The Airport Department has not spoken to Target, but we are having multiple discussions with many aviation businesses, including discussions with companies in air charter, education, and aircraft maintenance.

- 6. ARPA funding will end in December 2026. What ARPA funding programs will need general fund support to continue beyond ARPA?**

The Airport Department did not have any ARPA supported programs.