



**AIRPORT DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

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To: Coleman A. Young II, Council Member, Council Member at Large
From: Jason Watt, Director, Airport
Date: March 28, 2025
Re: Responses to 2025-2026 Airport Budget Analysis

Please find below responses to your questions regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the Airport.

1. **With \$100 million in FAA grants approved for airport improvements, what are the top three priorities for these funds, and what is the projected timeline for major upgrades such as the new Air Traffic Control Tower and corporate hangars?**
 - a. **Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS)** - This project is the construction of a crushable concrete pad on the end of each end of the main runway that is designed to stop an aircraft from running off the end of the runway. Our airport by FAA standard has to have 1000ft off the end of the runways but we are unable to attain that number because of the cemeteries without shrinking our, already short runway. This solution was approved by FAA in Washington D.C. and is underway. The Airport Department is going to receive a 100% FAA/State funded grant for the advanced/preplanning and environmental work necessary to move to the final design phase that is set for next calendar year (2026) with construction to follow in 2027. Project is planned to be completed and operational Q4 2027. Total Estimated cost \$9M.
 - b. **New Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT)** - The airport has sighted a new ATCT and has moved to the environmental mitigation phase. The City of Detroit estimates the environmental mitigation to cost less than \$100k. For that cost the airport will receive a 100% funded \$60M ATCT facility. The facility is slated to be constructed and operational Q4 2027.
 - c. **Relocation of Davis Aerospace Technical High School** - The airport department is working with DPSCD to move the Davis Aerospace Technical High School back to the grounds of the airport. We are currently working through a MOU and final lease as DPSCD has requested to take control of the main terminal facility at the airport in Q4 of 2025. The school is planned to be operational Q4 of 2026.
 - d. Other ongoing high priority projects include Myflight Corporation's Entertainment/Terminal facility, estimated cost \$4.5M with a groundbreaking April 9, 2025, with the facility planned to be completed Q4 of 2025. Another project slated for groundbreaking in April 2025 is AVFlight Corporations new Hangar facility, estimated cost \$8M, with completion slated for Q4 of 2025.

- 2. What specific strategies are being pursued to increase commercial activity, private investment, and aviation partnerships at Coleman A. Young International Airport to drive long-term financial sustainability?**

The airport department is in the process of retaining our existing customers and allowing them to build new facilities. The department is also working with our industry partners such as AvFlight Corporation and Kimley-Horn to identify potential companies and individuals looking to build hangar facilities in Southeastern Michigan, as the inventory of available large hangar facilities in our region is extremely low to not available.

- 3. With the planned reduction in Professional & Contractual Services (\$45,000) and Operating Services (\$48,246), how will the airport maintain or improve service levels, particularly in areas like safety, maintenance, and emergency response?**

These specific decreases in the overall FY26 Proposed Budget are due to the reallocation of funds to GSD for security management services. Safety, maintenance, and emergency response will not be impacted in any way.