



CITY OF DETROIT  
MUNICIPAL PARKING DEPARTMENT

1600 WEST LAFAYETTE RD  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48216  
(313) 221-2500 • TTY:711  
FAX (313) 221-2501  
WWW.DETROITMI.GOV

**To:** David Whitaker, Legislative Policy Division  
**From:** Keith Hutchings, Director of Municipal Parking Dept  
**Date:** 3/21/25  
**Re:** Responses to 2025-2026 Budget Analysis

---

Please find below responses to your questions sent on 3/19/2025, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the Municipal Parking Department.

1. **Please briefly explain the new expense initiatives the Municipal Parking Department is planning to implement in FY 2026. Please provide which appropriation/cost center the new initiatives will affect in FY 2026.**

The MPD FY 2026 budget does not have any new expense initiatives.

2. **Please briefly explain the new capital funding requests the Municipal Parking Department is planning to implement in FY 2026. Please provide which appropriation/cost center the new requests will affect in FY 2026.**

The FY2026 budget does not contain any capital funding.

3. **Please briefly explain the operational reform and savings proposals the Municipal Parking Department is planning to implement in FY 2026. Please provide which appropriation/cost center the new reforms/proposals will affect in FY 2026.**

The Municipal Parking Department FY 2026 budget does not have any operational reform or savings proposals.

4. **Please briefly explain the new revenue initiatives/proposals the Municipal Parking Department is planning to implement in FY 2026. Please provide which appropriation/cost center the new initiatives/proposals will affect in FY 2026.**

No new revenue initiatives are contained in the FY 2026 budget.

5. **What are your projected performance metrics for each division/operational program in the current fiscal year? What are your target metrics for each division/operational program for fiscal year 2026?**



The Municipal Parking Department will measure the average number of active enforcement officers and attendance as parking enforcement metrics. Parking meter metrics will comprise servicing every active meter a minimum of once every three weeks and maintaining a 95% uptime for meters. The garage metrics will be measured by the percentage increase in event parking at Ford Underground and Eastern Market Garages.

**6. According to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), the Municipal Parking Department had 16 vacancies through February 05, 2025.**

**a. Please indicate your number of vacancies as of March 18, 2025.**

As of March 18, 2025, the department had 18 vacancies.

**b. What are the titles of the vacant positions?**

A few vacancies were in the Parking Meter Collection, Parking Meter Repair Worker, Building Trades Worker General, Sr. Parking Enforcement Officer, Principal Clerk, and one Administrative Special Service Staff position. The majority of vacancies are found in the Parking Enforcement Officer positions.

**c. What is the difficulty of filling the vacancies?**

The Parking Meter Collection and Parking Meter Repair positions are either filled or in the process of being filled. Parking Enforcement Officer (PEO) positions have high turnover due to the negative interactions with the public and pay rate.

**d. Please briefly explain the Municipal Parking Department's strategy to fill the vacant positions or why they will remain vacant.**

It is the goal of the City to negotiate an increased pay rate for the PEO position in the pending Teamsters union contract.

**7. B34-5: For FY 2026, Salaries & Wages for the General Fund (1000) will increase by \$271,561 or 7%. Please explain the reason for this increase.**

The increase is primarily comprised of annual wage increases and step/merit increases.

**8. B34-5: For FY 2026, Professional & Contractual Services for the General Fund (1000) will increase by \$562,149 or 12%. Please explain the reason for this increase.**



9. \$562,149 increase is comprised of variance in the following areas:
- a. \$324k in Ticket Management System based on projected activity
  - b. \$73k in Security Contract Increases due to new rates
  - c. \$113k in Towing & Storage increased activity
  - d. \$52k in Meter and Services based on the projected activity

10. **B34-6: For FY 2026, Revenues from Use of Assets for the General Fund (1000) will decrease by \$470,700 or 6%. Please explain the reason for this decrease.**

FY26 Revenues are based on Actual Usage through the year of FY25. Revenues from the Use of Assets actuals underperforming against historical expectations, we have decreased revenue projections to be in line with actual year-end expectations.

11. **B34-6: For FY 2026, Fines, Forfeits, & Penalties for the General Fund (1000) will decrease by \$1,053,100 or 10%. Please explain the reason for this decrease.**

FY26 Revenues are based on Actual Usage through the year of FY25. Fines, Forfeits and Penalties actuals underperforming against historical expectations, we have decreased revenue projections to be in line with actual year-end expectations.

12. **B34-9: For FY 2026, the expenditures for Appropriation #27340 - Code Enforcement will increase by \$6,455,419 or 137%. This appears to be primarily due to a consolidation of appropriation 27341-Parking Garages and appropriation 29340-MPD Administration into appropriation 27340-Code Enforcement-Parking in FY 2026. Please explain the reason for this consolidation.**

The consolidation of Appropriations allows MPD to have more fluidity and flexibility in paying for essential services. This flexibility is vital due to everchanging shifting priorities.

13. **B34-9: For FY 2026, please explain why the expenditures for Cost Center #340010 – Parking Administration will increase by \$160,040 or 14% after the consolidation.**

The increase is primarily based on general wage increases and step/merit increases applied to the current active roster and vacant positions.

14. **B34-9: For FY 2026, please explain why the expenditures for Cost Center #340080 – Parking Violation Bureau- Administration will increase by \$167,785 or 5.5% after the consolidation.**



The increase of \$167k, is primarily due to: General Wage Increase (2%), Cost of Living Increase (2-3%) and general inflationary pressures.

- 15. 14. B34-9: For FY 2026, the expenditures for Cost Center #340083 - Parking Violation Bureau- Towing & Storage will increase by \$107,159 or 26%. Please explain the reason for this increase.**

The \$107k increase is needed to fulfill the current 7 Towing Contracts and armed security at a new rate: 23.25/hr, and Security Vehicle at Caniff Lot @ \$180/wk Rate increase

- 16. B34-9: For FY 2026, the expenditures for Cost Center #340085 - Parking Violation Bureau- Processing & Collection will increase by \$324,052 or 15%. Please explain the reason for this increase.**

This \$324k increase is due solely to an enhancement to the Ticket Mgmt System.

- 17. B34-10: For FY 2026, please explain the \$33,100 reduction in revenue in Cost Center #340083-Parking Violation Bureau-Towing & Storage in FY 2026, then gradually recovers in the out years in the four-year financial plan.**

FY26 Revenues are based on Actual Usage through the year of FY25. Within Towing and Storage, actuals underperforming against historical expectations, we have decreased revenue projections to be in line with actual expectations.

- 18. 17. B34-10: For FY 2026, please explain the \$29,100 reduction in revenue in Cost Center #340330-Revenue Fund Trustee in FY 2026, then recovers to the FY 2025 level and plus in the out years in the four-year financial plan.**

FY26 Revenues are based on Actual Usage through the year of FY25. Within Revenue Fund Trustee Cost Center, actuals underperforming against historical expectations, we have decreased revenue projections to be in line with actual expectations.

- 19. B34-10: For FY 2026, the revenues for Cost Center #340331 - On Street Meter Collections will decrease by \$441,600 or 7%. Please explain the reason for this decrease. Please also explain the gradual increase in this revenue in the out years in the four-year financial plan.**



FY26 Revenues are based on Actual Usage through the year of FY25. Within On Street Meter Collections, actuals underperforming against historical expectations, we have decreased revenue projections to be in line with actual expectations.

- 20. B34-10: For FY 2026, the revenues for Cost Center #340080 - Parking Violation Bureau-Administration will decrease by \$1,020,000 or 11%. Please explain the reason for this decrease. Please also explain the gradual increase in this revenue in the out years in the four-year financial plan.**

FY26 Revenues are based on Actual Usage through the year of FY25. Due to shifting priorities (A-BAND) and actuals underperforming against historical, we have decreased revenue projections to be in line with actual expectations.

- 21. It was reported in December 2024 that the City of Detroit is warning residents about a scam targeting motorists with text messages claiming they owe payment for unpaid parking invoices. Officials say that these messages are not legitimate and are designed to trick recipients into providing sensitive information or making payments. Officials also indicated that 1) unpaid parking notices are sent via U.S. mail from the Municipal Parking Department, never by text message, 2) Fake Web Address: They are using "Detroit-mi-com," which mimics the City's official website, detroitmi-gov, but is incorrect, and 3) Out-of-Area Phone Number: The number in the message, (438) 402-1962, does not originate from Detroit, according to authorities. Furthermore, Motorists are urged to delete these messages immediately and avoid engaging with the sender. (Source: <https://www.instagram.com/metrodetroitnews/p/DDx1BwmMefd/>).**

**Questions:**

- a. Does the City of Detroit have any leads on who is behind the scam or how they obtained motorists contact information?**

The city's Department of Innovation and Technology initiated the investigation by alerting the appropriate authorities. No information has been provided regarding the investigation. These scams are prevalent and occur almost weekly around the nation related to tolls, municipal billings, utility billings, software access, and generally any service or platform with a sign in mechanism.





**b. What steps is the City of Detroit Municipal Parking Department taking to prevent future scams?**

While it is impossible to guard completely against scams, the Municipal Parking Department has taken several steps to protect citizens from scams. First, the department does not utilize printed QR codes for payment or information. This

is because a false QR code sticker can be placed on a meter or surface by scammers. MPD has messages on each meter alerting motorist that the department does not use paper or sticker QR codes for transactions. The only QR codes used are digitally generated from the ParkDetroit app and they can't be duplicated. Secondly, the department sends all parking violation correspondence via the U.S. Mail. Any additional email communications are supplemental. This is to guard against unauthorized communications to the

citizen. Multiple media distribution has occurred to help educate the public. The reality is we all need to be vigilant by closely looking at website/email addresses and phone numbers. The department lists all official contact information on every parking violation ticket and on its websites and parking application.

**22. For the new parking changes described on B34-2 Goals/Strategic Priorities to be implemented will there be a need for additional enforcement officers being hired, or is technology (like cameras or digital meters) playing a bigger role?**

No additional officers need to be budgeted in FY 20-26. The department has been using digital meters since 2014 but is adding new camera technology in the corridor parking lots. This will provide the beginning of more advanced capability to document usage, understand parking behaviors, detail the types of parking uses, and coordinate enforcement. The application eventually can be expanded to the right of way to improve Central Business District congestion.

**23. How will these new parking changes affect commuters daily?**

All new parking changes will improve parking availability for motorists and facilitate more options for economical parking and reduce traffic congestion.

**24. Is the City of Detroit considering further updates such as more bike lanes, or expanded public transit options, that may impact on Municipal Parking operations.**



The Municipal Parking Department is not aware of plans for additional bike lanes or expanded public transit. Those decisions emanate from other departments. Expanded public transit would most likely not affect parking as existing services would stop in existing locations. Bike lanes could possibly eliminate parking depending on the corridor where it occurs. And in corridors that businesses are heavily reliant on on-street parking, this would be detrimental for the commercial viability of the corridor. For this reason, MPD would suggest that bike lane networks be carefully planned out to create connectivity without reducing critical parking, meaning not all streets should have bike lanes.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Hutchings', is written over a horizontal line.

Keith Hutchings, Director of the Municipal Parking Department

.Cc: T. Stoudemire, J. George, J. Parker, M. Washington, M. Walker, S. Nelson