



To: Coleman A. Young II, Council Member at Large #1
From: Charles Simms, Executive Fire Commissioner, Detroit Fire Department
Date: April 2, 2025
Re: Responses to 2025-2026 Fire Department Budget Analysis

Please find below responses to your questions sent on 3/21/2025, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the Detroit Fire Department.

1. **Given the planned \$3 million for Fire Department Annex Buildouts using ARPA funds, can you provide an update on the status and expected completion of this project?**

The Fire Department is collaborating with the Construction and Demolition Department (CDD) to complete construction on two annexes by Fall 2025.

2. **The Fire Department has 65 vacant positions as of February 5, 2025. What strategies are in place to improve recruitment and retention, particularly for EMT and Paramedic roles?**


<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
2/28/2025	Uniform	1146	1096	50
	Civilian	154	139	15
		1300	1235	65

- a. February 5, 2025, the department had 1096 uniformed positions.
- b. February 28, 2025, the department had 1095 uniformed positions. Since the March 3rd fire academy class, the department has 27 vacancies which will be filled from our upcoming July class.
- c. Currently, the Department does not have a recruitment and retention problem. We are currently offering an internal Paramedic to create and maintain more Paramedics.

3. **Can you elaborate on how the Fire Department's ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating impacts home insurance rates for residents and what steps are being taken to improve it?**

If the fire department has a strong score from the ISO, this suggests to your insurance provider that the likelihood of your home being destroyed by a fire is low. Homes located in areas with poor ratings may see higher premiums to reflect the greater risk companies take on by insuring the home. The department currently has an ISO score of 2 which is at the 95th percentile of all the fire departments in the nation. The department will work diligently with DWSD to improve the overall score and to achieve an ISO score of 1. Also, revising our current deployment plan would greatly increase our chances of obtaining a score of 1.

Approved by:


CHARLES SIMMS
Executive Fire Commissioner