



**AIRPORT DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

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To: David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division
From: Jason Watt, Director, Airport
Date: April 14, 2025
Re: Responses to 2025-2026 Airport Budget Analysis

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

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

The Airport Department does not plan to implement new expense initiatives for FY26.

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

The Airport Department did not submit any Capital Requests for FY26.

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

The Airport Department has not implemented any operational reform and savings proposals for FY26.

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

Based on the outcome of my City Council Budget Hearing It was recommended that I receive \$25K for Marketing and an additional \$1M for a new airport department administration building. Based on this additional funding I will develop a marketing plan for the airport and utilize the additional \$1M for the construction of the new administration building.

This revenue initiative will affect Appropriation 27100 and Cost Center 100010.

The Airport Department does not have any additional revenue initiatives for FY26, however during FY26 we will have new facilities being constructed on the airfield. Based on the

anticipated circumstances, the Airport Department will have a revenue initiative implemented for FY27.

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?

Our department performance metric will be to continue with the development of the airport. The measurement will be in facilities to be complete in FY2026 and continue the increase of the number of aircraft operations at the airport. Metrics to be used will be overall fuel sales and increase in overall aircraft traffic.

6. According to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), the Airport Department had 2 vacancies through February 5, 2025.

a. Please indicate your number of vacancies as of March 17, 2025.

As of March 17, 2025 the airport department has 2 vacancies.

b. What are the titles of the vacant positions?

The airport department has 1 airport service worker position open and 1 building and grounds maintenance assistance position open.

c. What is the difficulty of filling the vacancies?

The difficulty is in the retention of labor. We filled the airport service worker position 2 times, but they left for higher paying opportunities, and we filled the building services operations assistant position, but the person left for higher paying opportunities.

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

We currently have the service worker position open and will be conducting interviews for two weeks until a candidate is selected and are working on posting the building services operations assistant position.

7. B10-5: For FY 2026, expenditures for Salaries & Wages will increase by \$38,747 (4%) while the number of FTEs remain at 12 in FY 2026. Please explain the increase.

The increase of \$38,747 is attributable to an increase in Salary & Benefits for FY26.

8. B10-5: For FY 2026, expenditures for Professional & Contractual Services will decrease by \$45,000 (or 3%) and for Operating Services will decrease by \$48,246 (or 3%). How will this impact services at the airport?

The \$45,000 decrease in Professional & Contractual Services reflects a transfer from object 617100 to object 730200 and will not impact services at the Airport. The decrease in Operating Services of \$48,246 (Insurance Premium and Utilities-Electricity) should have minimal impact on services at the Airport as long as current Insurance/Electricity costs remain constant.

9. B10-9: For FY 2026, expenditures for the Cost Center #100010 – Airport Administration will increase by \$14,892. Please explain the cause of this increase.

The increase in Cost Center 100010 is attributable to the increase in Salary & Benefits for FY26.

10. The City of Detroit announced a new future for Coleman A. Young International Airport with the approval of \$100 million in grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), can you give a status update on the project and respond to the following questions?

- a. Has the property been secured that the department and the FAA have sited to build the new Air Traffic Control Tower in early 2026?**

Yes, the property has been secured for the new Air Traffic Control Tower. The project construction is still on track to start in 2026 with completion and operations to start in 2027.

- b. Has the title work been completed to build large corporate hangars and T-hangars for smaller aircraft?**

We are in the process of doing the title work in the mini-take area, expected completion is Q4 of 2025.

- c. What is the status of the \$1.2 million Ramp Pavement Improvement Project?**

The \$1.2M ramp pavement project is complete.

- d. What is the status of the \$8.1 million Engineered Material Arresting System?**

Currently we are entering the preliminary planning and environmental portions of the project. This portion of the project will give us the final design requirements and will environmentally clear the project as required by the Federal Aviation Administration.

- e. Has the Snow Removal Equipment been upgraded?**

Not yet, but the vehicle steering committee is working on our request for a new blower broom for the airport.

- f. What is the status of the partnership to move the Davis Aerospace Technical High School back to the airfield?**

We are finalizing an MOU and lease for DPSCD to move Davis Aerospace Technical High School back to the airport in the main terminal facility.

- g. What is the status of training of additional firefighters since the completion of the renovation of Engine 20 on the grounds of Detroit City Airport?**

We are actively working with DFD on staffing engine 20. They currently have 64 firefighters trained in Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF). DFD is working through negotiations with their labor union on a final agreement to operate the facility on a 24-hour basis.