



CITY OF DETROIT
FIRE DEPARTMENT
DETROIT PUBLIC SAFETY HEADQUARTERS

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To: Council President Pro Tempore James E. Tate Jr.
From: Charles Simms, Executive Fire Commissioner, Detroit Fire Department
Date: April 16, 2025
Re: Responses to 2025-2026 Fire Department Budget Analysis

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

- 1. How much money is allocated annually to each fire house for capital repairs? Please also include an average.**

Funds are allocated for capital repairs if there is a sufficient fund balance from the prior fiscal year to support PAYGO capital investments. This amount can vary year by year. No PAYGO capital is proposed for any department in FY26 due to other priority uses of the City's fund balance.
- 2. Please explain the reduction in the Fire Facilities Management appropriation) cost center #240120).**

The reduction in the Fire Facilities Management appropriation (Cost Center #240120) primarily reflects a decrease in operating supplies. This adjustment follows a review of year-over-year actual expenditures and current-year spending trends, ensuring that the budget aligns more closely with actual operating costs. Additionally, insurance costs have been removed from this appropriation to eliminate any double counting, as these expenses are already included in a consolidated non-departmental cost center.
- 3. How often are the Engine Houses assessed for physical improvement needs, landscaping, updates to technology and equipment, and furniture and other upkeep to the Engine House?**

The previous three assessments have been conducted at intervals of 3 to 5 years. However, given the aging inventory and insights gathered from the most recent evaluations, CDD is adjusting this schedule. Moving forward, an annual baseline condition assessment should be implemented, complemented by a comprehensive inspection every 5 years to ensure continuous proactive maintenance and effective oversight.
- 4. When was the last time DFD engaged in a strategic capital improvement planning?**

The last time the Detroit Fire Department (DFD) engaged in a comprehensive strategic capital improvement planning process was for the 2024 Capital Agenda approved by City Council in February 2024. This plan represented the most recent efforts to assess and address the department's needs.



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5. Does the Detroit Fire Department (DFD) allocate funding to the 9-1-1 Call Center/Dispatch? If so, how much money is allocated?

FY26 Budget Allocation for DFD 9-1-1 Call Center/Dispatch is as follows:

NON-Personnel

1. Operating Supplies - Equipment for dispatchers and disaster relief supplies \$25,000
2. Operating Supplies - Dispatch quarterly quiz and membership for ISO mandates \$4,000
3. Operating Supplies – DFD portions of Citywide - Cellular devices and services - \$337,008

Personnel

1. FY26 FTE, Salary-Wag, & Benefits – \$2,411,028
2. FY26 Overtime & Personnel - \$581,310

6. What specific initiatives are included in the DFD's budget to enhance operational efficiency and response times in the upcoming fiscal year?

- a. Through February 2026, the PPERS contract will provide additional ambulances to respond to medical emergencies which translates into faster response times.

7. How does the proposed budget address recruitment, retention, and training of firefighters to ensure the DFD meets the city's safety needs?

- a. The proposed budget allocated funding for new hires and specialized training for current members. The increased number of FTEs will allow for a better work life balance for our current members.

8. In May 2024, City Council approved a \$1.3 million contract, using opioid settlement funding, to fund a Quick Response Team (QRT). This one-year contract is with Families Against Narcotics, Inc. How does DFD's work in collaboration with HRD's contract with Families Against Narcotics, Inc. or differ from this contract?

- a. DFD provides medical attention and stabilizes the overdose patient. Once DFD completes treatment and submits the medical report, an autogenerated alert is sent to FAN to prepare them to respond to the overdose patient and offer resources.