



Muriel Bowser
Mayor

Government of the District of Columbia
Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department



John A. Donnelly, Sr.
Fire and EMS Chief

May 4, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Pinto
Chairperson, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 106
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Pinto:

The District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department responds to your questions regarding Mayor Bowser's proposed FY 2027 budget for the Department. Fire and EMS urges Council to approve the Mayor's budget for the Department without reductions.

I. Operating Budget

General

1. Please provide a crosswalk of all FTEs that were reclassified to a different activity in the FY 2027 proposed budget.

[See attached.](#)

2. Please provide the position numbers for all positions eliminated in the proposed agency budget for FY 2027.
 - a. Were all eliminated positions vacant? If not, which eliminated positions were filled?
 - b. Are these positions eliminated effective October 1, 2026, or were funds swept in the FY 2026 supplemental budget?

[No positions were eliminated in the FY27 budget.](#)

3. Please provide the title, salary, fund source, Activity/Division, and hiring plan for all new FTEs proposed in the proposed FY 2027 budget for the agency.



No new positions were added in the FY27 budget.

4. Please provide a hiring plan for the following vacant positions:

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. 00002795 – Heavy Mobile Equipment Mechanic | Updating position grade. Position description in classification update process. |
| b. 00003104 – Captain | Position updated to Firefighter EMT to be filled with new hire. |
| c. 00003110 – Marine Engineer | Position updated to Firefighter EMT to be filled with new hire. |
| d. 00003133 – Program Analyst | No current actions, awaiting backfill guidance. |
| e. 00003245, 00006602, 00007472, 00018213, 00021961, 00023301, 00028777, 00028902, 00028897, 00035003, 00083446, 00083447, 00083452, 00083580, 00099387, 00099395, 00099404, 00108424, 00117847 – Firefighter EMT | Positions updated to Firefighter EMT to be filled with new hire. |
| f. 00003394, 00007373, 00013372, 00021550, 00028846, 00033500 – Firefighter Paramedic Tech | Position updated to Firefighter EMT or Paramedic to be filled with new hire. |
| g. 00004710 – Marine Pilot | Position updated to Firefighter EMT to be filled with new hire. |
| h. 00005215, 00083449, 00099397, 00106841 – Firefighter Paramedic | Position updated to Firefighter EMT or Cadet to be filled with new hire. |
| i. 00006602 – Firefighter Tech | Position updated to Firefighter Paramedic to be filled with new hire. |
| j. 00007210 – Human Resources Specialist | Position updated to Management Program Analyst; preparing to post vacancy. |
| k. 00011595 – Armed Fire Arson Investigator | Position updated to Firefighter EMT to be filled with new hire. |
| l. 00014140 – Vice Firefighter Tech | Position to be updated for new hire vacancy. |

m. 14448 – Program Manager	Position currently in interview stage of recruitment.
n. 00018055 – Pharmacy Technician	Vacancy posted.
o. 00025650 – Lieutenant	Position updated to Firefighter EMT to be filled with new hire.
p. 00026750 – Captain Paramedic	Position updated to Firefighter EMT to be filled with new hire.
q. 00028897 – Assistant Marine Pilot	Position updated to Firefighter EMT to be filled with new hire.
r. 00077772 – Supervisory IT Specialist	Filled.
s. 00082461 – Assistant Medical Director	No current actions, awaiting backfill guidance.
t. 00082633 – Assistant Fleet Management Officer	No current actions.
u. 83132 – Program Support Assistant (Service Writer)	Preparing to post vacancy.
v. 00083149 – Training Instructor	Preparing to repost or upgrade position.
w. 00083609 – Staff Assistant	Filled.
x. 00097337 – Heavy Mobile Equipment Mechanical Foreman	Updating position and description to Program Manager; preparing to post vacancy.
y. 00113879, 00113880 – Community Outreach Specialist	One position filled; second awaiting backfill. Both grant funded.
z. 00113883, 00113884 – EMS Physical Assistant	Candidates selected and undergoing recruitment process.

5. Regarding Special Purpose Revenue Funds, please provide the Committee with:

a. A detailed spending plan for FY 2026 and FY 2027 for unspent funds in:

i. FEMS Reform Fund

- FY26-\$1.7M funds unspent YTD due to lack of budget authority.

- Special Purpose Revenue (O-Type) Budget Modification Request submitted Feb 2026 pending budget approval.
 - Upon approval, funds will be used for the purpose of reform and improvement of the delivery of emergency medical services per § 5-416, specifically towards American Medical Response (AMR) third party transport costs that historically increase over the summer months.
 - FY27-\$0 requested for FY27. Available funds are not calculated until the close of the prior FY to determine how much will be available. Any available funds will be utilized towards emergency medical services per statute.
- ii. Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Regulation Fee Fund
- FY26 - \$0 funds unspent YTD
 - FY27 – None anticipated based on prior year activity
- iii. Reimbursable from Other Governments
- FY26 and FY27 – Funds available are based on revenue refunded from the costs associated with two (2) agreements:
 - WMATA/MWCOG MOU for 4 Fire Liaisons at the rank of Captain
 - Maryland Task Force agreement for response to requests for assistance as needed resulting in overtime to the Department
- iv. Other Revenue – FEMS Training Fund revenue gained from providing advanced CPR training
- FY26 – Unspent funds have a Purchase Order in place for promotional items supporting the Hands on Hearts CPR Program
 - FY27 – Unspent funds are used for training supplies, equipment and promotional items supporting the Hands on Hearts CPR Program
- v. Special Events
- FY26 and FY27 – Unspent funds are used to cover Overtime, equipment and supplies needed to provide services at special events across the District such as EMS Services, Fire Suppression, etc.

- b. Spend from the following SPRs in FY 2025, broken down by division/program, cost center, and account, and noting the programmatic initiative or service supported by the SPR fund dollars:
 - i. FEMS Reform Fund
 - ii. Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Regulation Fee Fund
 - iii. Reimbursable from Other Governments
 - iv. Other Revenue
 - v. Special Events

See attached.

- c. Where the following SPRs have any restrictions on usage of fund dollars or fund balance (for example, a requirement that the fund maintain a certain balance) not reflected in the establishing statute, please provide a summary of those restrictions:
 - i. FEMS Reform Fund
 - ii. Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Regulation Fee Fund
 - iii. Reimbursable from Other Governments
 - iv. Other Revenue
 - v. Special Events

There are no known restrictions outside the establishing statutes.

6. How much funding does the Department have for professional development and where are those funds allocated? What specific professional development initiatives are included in the funding?

See attached.

The Department allocates professional development resources across multiple program areas to support the training and advancement of members at every level of the organization. While professional development funding is distributed across several operating accounts rather than centralized in a single line item, the Department's current funding levels are sufficient to meet operational training needs and ongoing development requirements.

Professional development resources support several key initiatives:

- Career development pathway: The Department has built into the budget a career development pathway for all Firefighter/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics prior to

promotion. This includes completion of Motor Vehicle Operator (Engine or Truck), Fire Inspector I, NFPA 1041/Fire Instructor I, and Fire Officer I. For officers, the Department requires completion of the Supervisor Course for the next rank (Supervisor I–IV) prior to promotion.

- Paramedic training and certification: The Department covers tuition and associated expenses for EMTs seeking to become paramedics, including participation in the University of the District of Columbia’s new paramedic program beginning this calendar year, as well as other accredited regional paramedic programs.
- Specialized training and travel: Employees may request approval for mission-aligned training, conferences, or specialized instruction. When approved, the Department funds travel and training costs across all bureaus to ensure members can access skill-specific or nationally recognized instruction relevant to their roles.
- Continuing education for paramedics: The Department conducts regular paramedic grand rounds to ensure continuing education requirements are met and to maintain clinical competency across the EMS system.
- Ongoing training for EMTs: The Department is developing expanded EMT continuing education and skills-maintenance programming to support both clinical performance and career progression.

Collectively, these investments ensure that Department personnel have access to high-quality, mission-critical training, while also supporting long-term workforce development.

7. Please speak to the potential impacts on Fire and EMS employees of the lack of a current collective bargaining agreement (CBA) and the lack of funding for the increases associated with any CBA ratified this upcoming fiscal year.

Labor negotiations for DC Fire and EMS employees are conducted under the authority of the Office of the City Administrator (OCA) and the Office of Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining, with the Department serving in a supporting and consultative capacity as required. The parties are currently in arbitration, initiated by Local 36 under the statutory process, and we are fully participating so the impasse can be resolved fairly and expeditiously.

We recognize working without a current CBA can create uncertainty for employees. Our workforce has operated without a contract before, and through that period, our employees continued to deliver exceptional service to the public. Their commitment to the mission has not wavered, and we remain deeply appreciative of the professionalism and dedication they bring to the job every day.

Our goal is a timely, constructive resolution that provides clarity and stability for our workforce. We value our employees, we value our partnership with the union, and we are

committed to moving this process forward in a way that supports the people who deliver life-saving services every day.

Agency Financial Operations

8. The Agency Budgeting and Financial Management Services (AFO002) was cut by \$200,000 and 1.0 FTE compared to FY26. What is the reason for this and what position will be cut?

See attached.

Agency Management Program

9. The Fleet Management (AMP009) program has a proposed increase of \$394,000 without any increase in FTEs compared to FY26. Where specifically will the funding go towards?

See attached.

10. Human Resource Services (AMP011) has a proposed decrease of \$451,000 and 2.0 FTEs compared to FY26. Where is this decrease coming from and which positions are being cut?

See attached.

11. The Legal Services (AMP012) has a proposed increase of \$111,000 but no increase in FTEs compared to FY26. Where will this funding go toward?

See attached.

12. The Property, Asset, and Logistics Management (AMP019) program has a proposed decrease of \$3,222,000 but no change in FTEs compared to FY26. Where is this funding being cut from, and how does it not result in a chance in FTEs?

See attached.

13. The Risk Management (AMP024) department has a proposed increase of \$1,354,000 and no FTEs. What specific initiatives is that additional funding going toward? Is any of this tied to the upcoming America 250th celebrations?

See attached.

14. The Training and Development (AMP026) department has a proposed decrease of \$6,500,000 and 32 FTEs compared to FY26. How many of these cut FTEs were vacant in FY26? Where is this cut coming from and why?

See attached.

Public Safety and Health

15. Emergency Communications (PO0601) has a proposed decrease of \$46,000 and no change in FTEs. Where is this cut coming from and how will it affect emergency communications at the Department?

[See attached.](#)

16. Fire Prevention (PO0603) has a proposed increase of \$235,000 and 1.0 FTE compared to FY26. Is the majority of this funding going toward the additional FTE, and if so, what is that FTE's role going to be? If not, where are those funds being allocated toward?

[See attached.](#)

17. Fire Rescue Services (PO0604) has a proposed increase of \$43,849,000 and 36.0 FTEs compared to FY26. What specific programs is this increase going toward, and are there any changes to fire rescue services that warrant such an increase?

[See attached.](#)

18. Homeland Security (PO0606) has a proposed increase of \$284,000 and 2.0 FTEs compared to FY26. Please explain where this additional funding will be going towards and what the additional FTEs roles will be.

[See attached.](#)

19. Medical Direction Administration (PO0607) has a proposed increase of \$297,000 and 1.0 FTE compared to FY26. Please provide details about where that funding is being allocated and the role of that additional FTE.

[See attached.](#)

20. Special Operations (PO0608) has a proposed decrease of \$3,317,000 but an increase of 3.0 FTEs compared to FY26. Where is this funding coming from, especially since the Department anticipates adding 3.0 FTEs to this program?

[See attached.](#)

21. Technical Services (PO0609) has a proposed decrease of \$220,000 and an increase of 1.0 FTE compared to FY26. Please explain where the funding is coming from and what the additional FTE's role will be.

[See attached.](#)

II. Capital Budget

22. Please provide a spending plan for all new or ongoing capital projects, broken out by year, including how available balances will be spent over the financial plan:

- a. Fleet Maintenance Reserve Facility (AM0.FMF01C)
- b. FEMS Scheduled Capital Improvements (AM0.LF239C)
- c. Ambulance Vehicles (FB0.206AMC)
- d. Administrative Vehicles (FB0.206AVC)
- e. Command Vehicles (FB0.206CVC)
- f. Ladder Trucks (FB0.206FTC)
- g. Pumpers (FB0.206PTC)
- h. Rescue Squad Vehicles (FB0.206RSC)
- i. Other Response Vehicles (FB0.206RVC)
- j. Lifesaving Cardiac Equipment Fund (FB0.LCE00C)
- k. New Fire Boat (FB0.NFB01C)
- l. Engine Company 34 – New Fire Station (EPM_AM01004)

FY 2027 - FY3032 FLEET SIX YEAR CAPITAL SPEND PLAN							
Category	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	Totals
Ambulance Vehicles (FB0.206AMC)	20	20	20	20	20	20	120
Rescue Squad Vehicles (FB0.206RSC)	7	7	7	7	7	7	42
Command Vehicles (FB0.206CVC)	18	18	18	18	18	18	108
Administrative Vehicles (FB0.206AVC)	18	18	18	18	18	18	108
Pumpers (FB0.206PTC)	8	8	8	8	8	8	48
Other Response Vehicles (FB0.206RVC)	3	3	3	3	3	3	18
Ladder Trucks (FB0.206FTC)	4	3	4	3	4	4	22
New Fire Boat (FB0.NFB01C)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Replacement	79	77	78	77	78	78	467

Category	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	Totals
Ambulance Vehicles (FB0.206AMC)	\$16,656,736	\$18,430,678	\$20,393,545	\$22,565,458	\$24,968,679	\$27,627,839	\$130,642,934
Rescue Squad Vehicles (FB0.206RSC)	\$3,793,257	\$4,197,239	\$4,644,245	\$5,138,857	\$5,686,145	\$6,291,719	\$29,751,463
Command Vehicles (FB0.206CVC)	\$7,382,784	\$8,169,050	\$9,039,054	\$10,001,713	\$11,066,896	\$12,245,518	\$57,905,015
Administrative Vehicles (FB0.206AVC)	\$1,895,282	\$2,097,129	\$2,320,474	\$2,567,604	\$2,841,054	\$3,143,623	\$14,865,166
Pumpers (FB0.206PTC)	\$15,098,922	\$16,706,957	\$18,486,248	\$20,455,033	\$22,633,494	\$25,043,961	\$118,424,615
Other Response Vehicles (FB0.206RVC)	\$609,631	\$674,556	\$746,397	\$825,888	\$913,845	\$1,011,166	\$4,781,482

Ladder Trucks (FB0.206FTC)	\$13,422,058	\$11,138,630	\$16,433,192	\$13,637,495	\$20,119,852	\$23,804,642	\$98,555,868
New Fire Boat (FB0.NFB01C)	\$7,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000,000
Replacement	\$65,858,668	\$61,414,240	\$72,063,154	\$75,192,048	\$88,229,964	\$99,168,468	\$461,926,543

FY 2027 - FY3032 FACILITIES SIX YEAR CAPITAL SPEND PLAN			
Project Name	Project Number	Available to Spend	Status Update and Timeframe
AM0.BRM22C.ENGINE COMPANY 7	100026	\$220,877	The design of the new facility is currently in Construction Documents phase (75%). We expect the project will complete the entire design process and will be ready to submit for Department of Buildings (DOB) permit in the Q1 of FY27.
AM0.BRM29C.TRAINING ACADEMY REDEVELOPMENT STUDY	100029	\$359,118	A/E team has been awarded. The design of Phase 1 of the new joint facility is currently in Schematic Design phase (15%). We expect the project will continue the design process through the remainder of the FY'26 and will be approaching Construction Document Phase by 1Q of FY'27.
AM0.BRM39C.GENERATOR REPLACEMENT	100031	\$605,013	Phase 1 of the project was completed in FY24. Phase 2 of the Project Was Completed in FY'26. Bids for the 3rd phase of the project are due on 5/1/2026 and we expect the final phase will be completed by 2Q of FY'27.
AM0.FMF01C.FLEET MAINTENANCE RESERVE FACILITY	100052	\$4,129,596	Phase 2 (site work and OSSE Garage/Facility) is in progress is 65% complete. This phase is expected to be completed in 4Q of FY 26. Phase 3 of the project (Fleet Maintenance Facility) is expected to begin in 1Q of FY 27 and take 15 months to complete construction.
AM0.LC837C.RELOCATION OF ENGINE COMPANY 26	100091	\$3,368,251	Request For Space (RFS) was issued by DGS to identify site for lease/purchase. The contract has been negotiated and the study period is expected to begin in Q3 of FY26. Projecting a purchase of the land in 1Q of FY'27 if feasibility study comes back without any major issues.
AM0.LF239C.FEMS SCHEDULED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	100095	\$1,009,548	This project is the life blood of all Fire and EMS facilities upgrades across the portfolio. Projects this fiscal year include HVAC upgrades, roof replacements, apparatus bay door upgrades and commercial kitchen upgrades.
FB0.FEP00C.FEMS SAFETY EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	100415	\$665,394	Safety Equipment are being ordered as planned in FY26.
FB0.LCE00C.LIFESAVING CARDIAC EQUIPMENT FUND	100417	\$1,134,088	Life Saving Cardiac Equipment is being ordered as planned in FY26.
Grand Total		\$11,491,885	

23. Please provide a spending plan for all capital projects with allotment balances but no new funding proposed in the CIP.

We are in the process of encumbering the remaining allotments in alignment with each project's original authorized purpose. This work is being carried out in coordination with the relevant partner agencies, including the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP), the Department of General Services (DGS), and other stakeholders, to ensure that all commitments are properly executed and compliant with established capital project requirements. A detailed spending plan will reflect these encumbrances as they are finalized through these interagency processes.

III. FY2026 Supplemental

24. The FY26 supplemental budget included no changes for DC Fire and EMS. Does the Department view its current FY26 budget as sufficient? Are there any places in which the Department wishes it could have had additional funding for the remainder of FY26 that were not included in the supplemental?

Yes, the Department considers its FY26 budget sufficient to support operations through the end of the fiscal year. While unforeseen needs can arise in any large operational agency, we do not currently identify gaps that require supplemental funding. Should any targeted adjustments become necessary, we anticipate managing them through the District's established reprogramming processes in coordination with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and the Office of Budget and Performance Management.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Department and its employees. If you have any questions, please contact John H. Coombs, Chief of Staff, at 202-815-6058 or john.coombs@dc.gov.

Sincerely,



John A. Donnelly, Sr.
Fire and EMS Chief