



**Finance & Economic Development Committee Budget Hearings**  
**Fire Department**  
**April 22, 2026**

- 1) Understanding the 5-year revenue and expenditure projections show expenditures **far outpacing** revenues for FY27 to FY30, and FY27 General Fund Proposed Budget uses **\$25.7M** of the Tax Stabilization Fund, please share how this budget aligns with closing any potential budget gaps.
  - a) Specify any cost savings or reductions, and if this budget provides adequate resources to meet the departmental needs.
  - b) Specify any high-level major additions.
  
- 2) Now that WFD has taken full responsibility for EMS since July, please share how the Department is moving from short-term urgency to developing a sustainable, long-term plan for operations, staffing, etc.
  - a) Specify impact of FY26 mid-year budget amendment, resulting in 12 new positions.
  - b) Specify 12 new positions added for FY27.
  - c) Specify impact to revenue collections for EMS services.
  - d) Specify impact for EMS Collection Fees budgeted for **\$371K**, up **\$88K**.
  - e) Share the number of new EMS personnel recruited since the start of FY2026?
  - f) Share if the city has adequate vehicles, equipment, and the necessary resources to manage the demand for EMS services.
  - g) Share if any need for new technology to accommodate these new responsibilities.
  
- 3) Considering WFD's recent union agreement, please share the impact to this budget as a result of the work schedule change for firefighters/EMTs from 24 hours on 48 hours off, to 24 hours on and 72 hours off, and if this budget provides the necessary funding and resources.
  - a) Specify any impact on **~\$2M** budgeted in Overtime, up **~\$568K**.
  - b) Specify any impact on Sick Leave.
  - c) Discuss mechanisms in place to control overtime and sick leave abuse.
  - d) Discuss mechanisms in place for meeting the minimum manning requirements for all fire apparatus.
  
- 4) Discuss budgetary plans for addressing the condition assessment of the Fire Stations, and for protective gear.
  - a) Specify last time condition assessments were done.
  - b) Specify if adequate and reasonable accommodation is at all site locations for all staff (ex.: disability, gender, etc.).
  - c) Specify the lifetime expectancy for all protective equipment, and if there are adequate funds budgeted to cover this cost.

- 5) Discuss whether the proposed budget adequately provides the necessary funding or resources to address the following:
  - a) Diversity
  - b) Recruitment
  - c) Retention
  - d) Training
  - e) Accreditation
- 6) Discuss any plans for a Fire Academy and share the budgeted costs.
  - a) Specify proposed timeframe for an anticipated WFD academy.
- 7) Discuss the impact to your budget for House Bill # 171- **AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO ELECTIVE CREDIT FOR VOLUNTEERING WITH LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS**, which permits high school students to receive elective credit for completing community service in a local fire department.
  - a) Share if any local students contacted WFD about this opportunity.
  - b) Are there any plans to promote this opportunity?
  - c) Specify funding allocated for the Fire Explorers Program, and share the number of people that has participated in the program and became a city Firefighter.
- 8) Discuss the planned use for ~**\$189K** budgeted in the Consultants account category.
- 9) Discuss any current vacant positions.
  - a) Specify duration of the vacancy.
  - b) Specify timeframe for filling position.
- 10) Discuss the Department's Authorized Strength.
  - a) Specify FY27 Proposed Authorized Strength.
  - b) Specify FY26 Actual Authorized Strength (vacancies, military leave, etc.).
  - c) How many personnel will be eligible for retirement in FY 2027
  - d) Share the demographics for the authorized strength (race, gender, and age)
- 11) Discuss the FY2026 available amount of State Grant in Aid Funds remaining and amount of funding anticipated for FY2027.
  - a) Specify the planned use of remaining funds, and FY27 anticipated planned use of funds.
- 12) Discuss the planned use for ~**\$141K** budgeted in the Registration account line.
- 13) Please share how this proposed budget provides the necessary funds and resources for the Fire Marshal's Office.
  - a) Carbon Monoxide Detectors
  - b) Fire Alarms
  - c) Fees for services (specify the last time increases were made considering the *recent HB 124 allowed State Fire Marshal to increase fees*).

**All Departments**

- 14) Provide FY2027 proposed organizational chart with the total number of employees (i.e. permanent, temporary, contract, vacancies).
- a) If there are multiple divisions, please ensure there are sub-org charts that enumerate all the above.
  - b) Please include in the Org chart a photo of all Directors, Managers, Divisions Heads, and Supervisors.