



April 16, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Edward P. Burroughs III, Chair
Government, Operations, & Fiscal Policy Committee (GAFP)

THRU: Sylvia King *CK*
Senior Legislative Budget Officer

FROM: Isaiah Joseph *JW*
Legislative Budget & Policy Analyst

RE: Office of Ethics and Accountability (OEA)
Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Review

Budget Overview

The FY 2027 proposed budget for the Office of Ethics and Accountability is \$1,241,100, an increase of \$37,600, or 3.1%, over the FY 2026 approved budget. This is primarily due to increases in compensation for mandated salary requirements and an increase in fringe benefit expenses to align with projected costs.

Funding for the Office is 100% general funded, and there are no recoveries.

Budget Comparison - General Fund

Approved Fiscal Year 2026 to Proposed Fiscal Year 2027

Category	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Proposed	Change FY26-FY27	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$726,904	\$797,000	\$772,500	\$816,200	\$19,200	2.4%
Fringe Benefits	241,586	273,000	275,000	288,700	15,700	5.8%
Operating	119,513	133,500	133,400	136,200	2,700	2.0%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	
SubTotal	\$1,088,003	\$1,203,500	\$1,180,900	\$1,241,100	\$37,600	3.1%
Recoveries	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	\$1,088,003	\$1,203,500	\$1,180,900	\$1,241,100	\$37,600	3.1%

Staffing Changes and Compensation

Authorized Positions	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Proposed	Change FY26-FY27
General Fund				
Full Time - Civilian	6	6	6	0
Full Time - Sworn	0	0	0	0
Subtotal - FT	6	6	6	0
Part Time	0	0	0	0
Limited Term	0	0	0	0

- FY 2027 proposed staffing remains unchanged compared to FY 2026. General Funds provide for six (6) full-time positions – an Executive Director, Attorney, Investigator, Administrative Aide, Administrative Specialist, and a Compliance Specialist.
- The Office reported one (1) vacancy on its board.
- FY 2027 Compensation expenditures are proposed to be at \$816,200, an increase of \$19,200, or 2.4%, over the FY 2026 approved level, due to the annualization of FY 2026 salaries and anticipated 2027 salary adjustments.

Fringe Benefits

- FY 2027 fringe benefit expenditures are proposed at \$288,700, an increase of \$15,700, or 5.8%, above the FY 2026 approved amount. The increase is attributed to a change in the fringe benefit rate from 34.3% to 35.4%.

Operating Expenses

- FY 2027 Operating Expenses are proposed at \$136,200, an increase of \$2,700, or 2%, over the FY 2026 approved amount, and are comprised of the following major items:
 - Office Automation \$81,600
 - General & Administrative Contracts \$32,000
 - Training \$8,300
- The noticeable increase between the FY 2027 Proposed Budget and the FY 2026 Approved Budget for the Office Automation is mainly due to OIT Automation increases.
- The notable decrease for FY 2027 from FY 2026 in General & Administrative Contracts is due to a decrease in some contracts not being renewed in FY 2027.

- The accompanying table compares the FY 2027 Proposed Budget operating expenditures with the FY 2026 Approved Budget operating expenditures. In six (6) categories, the FY 2027 Proposed Budget increases planned spending over the FY 2026 level. In four (4) of the categories, the FY 2027 Proposed Budget reduces planned spending from the FY 2026 budget.

Commitment Items	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Estimated	FY 2027 Proposed	\$ Change	% Change	Explain reason for budgetary change for each commitment item
Training	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,300	\$ 3,300	66%	Increase based on FY 2026 actuals and fees for planned trainings in FY 2027
Office Automation	78,500	78,500	81,600	3,100	4%	OIT increase in charges
Telephone	3,500	4,500	4,500	1,000	29%	Increases in actual cell phone costs.
Membership Fees	500	1,300	1,500	1,000	200%	Increase based on FY 2025 actuals
Printing	300	1,000	1,000	700	233%	Increase based on FY 2025 actual spending.
CNN Cable	4,000	6,000	4,500	500	13%	Increases in a actual cable costs in FY 2026.
Mileage Reimbursement	500	500	300	(200)	-40%	Decrease due to virtual conference options in FY 2027.
Miscellaneous	500	500	-	(500)	-100%	Decrease based on actual spending in FY 2025 and FY 2026
General Office Supplies	4,300	2,400	2,500	(1,800)	-42%	Decrease based on actual spending in FY 2025 and FY 2026
General & Administrative Contracts	36,400	28,700	32,000	(4,400)	-12%	Decrease due to some contracts not being renewed in FY 2027
TOTAL	133,500	\$133,400	\$136,200	\$2,700	2.0%	

- Proposed FY 2027 contracts total \$32,000, with the largest cost being \$29,000 for Carasoft (Salesforce) a Case Management System to handle Financial Disclosure Statements, Secondary Employment requests, and management of complaints.

Vendor/Contractor Name	Summary of Contract Services	FY 2026 Approved Budget					FY 2027		Funding Source: General Fund (GF), Grants (GR), Other Fund (OF)
		FY 2026 Approved Budget	FY 2026 Actual/Estimated Contract Amount	Current Contract Term (month/year-month/year)	Number of Additional Option Years Available	Contract Status: Executed (E), Planned Not Executed (PE)	FY 2027 Proposed Contract Amount		
Carasoft (Salesforce)	Case Management System for , FDS's, Secondary Employment requests, and management of complaints	\$26,400	\$26,622	7/2022 thru 6/2027	1	E	\$ 29,000	General	
Xerox	Printing Contract	\$2,200	\$2,078	Month to month	N/A	E	\$ 2,200	General	
Westlaw	Search Engine	\$800	\$0	7/2026 thru 6/2027	N/A	E	\$ 800	General	
Navex	Hotline Contract	\$7,000	\$0	Not renewed	N/A	N/A	\$ -		
Total		\$36,400	\$28,700				\$ 32,000		

Highlights

- The Office of Ethics and Accountability (OEA) enforces the Prince George’s County Code of Ethics in order to ensure the ethical conduct of individuals who serve in County government.
- Core services of the Office include administering public ethics laws, providing ethics training and advice to County employees, reviewing financial disclosure and lobbying records, investigating alleged ethical violations, providing administrative support to the County’s Board of Ethics, and providing analysis and recommendations to the Executive and Legislative Branches.
- The Board of Ethics is a five (5) member board established to administer the County’s Code of Ethics¹. Members of the Board are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Council. The current Board members are as follows:
 1. Dr. Kara Hunt Appointed 7/26/2024 - term expires 12/1/2026
 2. Lori M. Matthews Appointed 1/27/2026 - term expires 12/1/2026
 3. Rev. Dr. Gerald T. Folsom Appointed 1/27/2026 - term expires 12/1/2027
 4. Jason Papanikolas Appointed 3/11/2025 - term expires 12/1/2027
 5. Vacancy (1)
- The Office reported the following key accomplishments for FY 2026:
 - Processed approximately 1,100 Financial Disclosure Statements for the 2025 calendar year.
 - Of those disclosures submitted, over 95% of them, along with 100% of new lobbyist registrants are processed via use of the OEA Web-Portal that was deployed in April 2016 to replace the extensive paper-based collection effort previously in place.
 - Continued to utilize audit functions to include, in addition to the Schedule A (real property) audit, originally piloted in FY 2018, Schedule E (business entities employed with the County), and Schedule H (other sources of income).
 - The Office will continue its review of all Financial Disclosure Statements of active County employees, officials, and appointed members for omissions and errors in reporting.
 - Additionally, OEA has added a Pilot Risk Assessment for OEA, and will be able to utilize this platform for other County agencies in early 2027.
 - Continued to meet one of its principal objectives of global ethics education to the over 6,000 County employees, officials, board, and commission-appointed members. As a result, and in consultation with the Office of Human Resources (OHRM), all County employees, board, and commission members, have been

¹ Pursuant to County Code of Ethics Section 2-292(a)(1), Board Member terms are for a three (3) year period (or until replaced), and no more than two (2) Members’ terms can expire in the same year.

provided access to the County Neo-Gov system, to not only take the Ethics training virtually, but also provided access to professional development opportunities.

- Additionally, the Board of Ethics decided that all board and Commission-appointed members can take the training annually, as required by their individual board requirements.

- As part of mandatory OHRM Annual Compliance Education (ACE) in 2026 – there is required Ethics and Political Activity training.

- Continued its review of registrations and annual reports of registered lobbyists for omissions and errors of reporting. In fiscal year 2025, OEA processed 291 annual reports from 65 registered lobbyists. OEA is conducting random audits.

- Initiated operation reviews to improve the efficiency of day-to-day operations, which provides an organizational perspective on the office's feedback via recommendations in accordance with policies and standard operating procedures.

- OEA provides adequate resources, site in place, and the ability to involve all management and staff.

- As a result of the Office of Ethics and Accountability's operations reviews and other activities, OEA continues to provide recommendations to executive leadership to further maintain the highest standards of integrity and public trust. OEA has provided an additional ten recommendations in fiscal year 2026. The Office provided an additional 205 recommendations since fiscal year 2019, resulting in significant policy development and organizational change.

- OEA works with the Office of Community Relations (OCR) regarding FY 2026 events, including attending Bowiefest, the annual OEA Food & Friends volunteer effort, and presentation to the National Jack & Jill Future Black Legislators program. OEA is in the process of updating the OEA/BOE Informational Brochure in both English and Spanish. The Executive Director, as instructor for the UMD Academy for Excellence in Local Government, provided ethics presentations at the MACO Summer Conference (8/2025), LGIT Annual Meeting (11/2025), and is scheduled for the MML Summer Conference (6/2026).

- The Office reports its top priority for FY 2027 is to continue to sustain and effectively administer the County's electronic filing and case management system that allows Prince Georgians, County government employees, and elected or appointed officials 24/7/365 access to online filing of registrations, annual reports, financial disclosure statements, and lobbyist complaints.

- The system must continue to support the timely investigation of filings and registrations in accordance with applicable laws, ensuring timely responses, analysis, reporting, and management recommendations.

- OEA had one (1) State legislation pending ([HB 0328 – PG/MC 105-26](#)) to clarify the Bi-County Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) process, which passed the General Assembly, but it will have minimal impact on OEA operations.
 - With the passage of HB 328 the General Assembly, it will require changes to the County Code of Ethics and review by the State Ethics Commission as described above. The effective date is October 1, 2026.

- [Senate Bill 0618](#), which also passed, would let a legislator work for a state, county or local government if that person had served one elected term in the General Assembly and met other standards, including having “objectively satisfied the minimum education, licensure and experience requirements” of the job. The effective date will be January 13, 2027.
 - The impact on OEA will be to review secondary employment for related cases.

- OEA is required to certify each year (Oct. 1) with the State Ethics Commission in compliance with §5-807(b) of Maryland Code Ann., Title 5, General Provision Article.