



April 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wanika B. Fisher, Esq., Chair
Public Safety, Health and Human Services (PSHHS) Committee

THRU: Sylvia King *CK*
Senior Legislative Budget Officer

FROM: David Williams *DW*
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Volunteer Fire Commission
Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Review

Budget Overview

- The Volunteer Fire Commission’s (“Commission”) budget is included in the overall Fire/EMS Department’s FY 2027 Proposed Budget.

Category	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Proposed	Change FY26-FY27	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Volunteer Services Command						
Compensation	\$935,614	\$628,300	\$866,200	\$648,700	\$20,400	3.2%
Fringe Benefits	4,666,120	5,575,600	6,463,000	5,318,500	(257,100)	-4.6%
Operating	13,831,846	14,261,800	14,644,100	15,273,300	1,011,500	7.1%
Capital Outlay	9,651	—	—	—	—	—
SubTotal	\$19,443,231	\$20,465,700	\$21,973,300	\$21,240,500	\$774,800	3.8%
Recoveries	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Volunteer Services Command	\$19,443,231	\$20,465,700	\$21,973,300	\$21,240,500	\$774,800	3.8%
Total	\$277,111,800	\$314,948,400	\$305,232,000	\$325,926,500	\$10,978,100	3.5%

- In FY 2027, the Commission’s budget is proposed to increase by \$774,800, or 3.8%, above the approved FY 2026 budget level.
 - ❖ The increase is due to salary adjustments and temporary staff hours.

- ❖ Increase in operating expenditures is due to insurance premiums, refuse collection services, other operating equipment, and repairs.
- ❖ There is a decrease in fringe benefit by -\$257,100, or -4.6%, to align with anticipated requirements.

Staffing

Volunteer Qualifications					
Qualifications	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026 YTD
Fire Fighter	1,243	858	899	902	897
Emergency Medical Technician	224	194	250	250	225
Paramedic	16	14	16	16	20
Total	1,483	1,066	1,165	1,168	1,142
<i>YTD as of: March 8, 2026</i>					

- The Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP):
 - In FY 2027, LOSAP will provide a \$450 per month stipend (and \$8 a month for service in excess of 25 years), which is awarded after 25 years of service at the age of 55. The Program also provides a burial benefit of \$10,000 after 25 years of service.
 - The total FY 2027 budget for LOSAP payments is \$5.1 million.
- ***The most critical issues reported by the Volunteer Fire Commission are:***
 - ❖ Increased call volumes
 - ❖ Staffing shortages
 - ❖ Rising demand for services due to population growth
 - ❖ Full Implementation of Training Programs