



FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET HEARINGS

PUBLIC SAFETY CITY SERVICE AREA

**POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENTS &
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**
OP PG. 331-344; 227-240; 293-302

PUBLIC SAFETY - SERVICE AREA SUMMARY

	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed	% change	FY 2025 Adopted FTE	FY 2026 Proposed FTE	% change
General Fund	\$112.5 M	\$119.3 M	6.0%	258.38 FTE	261.38 FTE	1.2%

Department	General Fund Revenue	General Fund Expenses	General Fund FTE
Emergency Services	\$95,589	\$1.7 M	3.48
Fire	\$20.1 M	\$59.3 M	116.91
Police	\$3.5 M	\$58.2 M	140.99





CITY OF
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Police Department

Operating Pg. 331-344

FY 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET (POLICE)

Community Impact

Police proposals will sustain service levels, enhance security and safety, and enhance recruiting.

Proposed Changes in General Fund

- Enhancing quality control over medical dispatch, add a security presence to city council meetings, provide for funding of automated license plate readers added by Council in FY25, and add maintenance for the city-wide two-way radio program.
- Create a runway for a new police recruit to get through the police academy and field training program when the department has zero vacancies.

FY 2026 DEPARTMENT OUTLOOK (POLICE)

- Move into the Public Safety Building (PSB)
- Anticipate an ongoing focus on property crimes, traffic issues, and mental health response
- Maintain a recruiting pipeline
- Implement an update to the computer aided dispatch platform
- Implement a city-wide two-way radio upgrade program
- Continue the Organized Retail Theft (ORT) and stolen vehicle program funded by the State of California ORT grant through 2027



CITY OF
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Fire Department

Operating Pg. 227-240

FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET (FIRE)

Community Impact

Fire's proposals will align with community risk reduction goals by having a crew cross-staff an engine and an ambulance at Fire Station 4, expanding firefighting response to the city.

Major Proposed Changes in General Fund

- Add 3 FTE fire captain positions to cross-staff a fire engine and an ambulance at Fire Station 4
- Establish ongoing budget for up to 5 new firefighter hires each year

FY 2026 DEPARTMENT OUTLOOK (FIRE)

- Explore additional resources to address the increasing service demand and become more self-sufficient
- Work with labor and city staff to explore single-role staffing options
- Upgrade important medical equipment to the latest technology
- Continue expanded public education in fire prevention, wildland urban interface, and safety and EMS awareness
- Recruit, hire, and train new firefighters to maintain staffing and invest in equipment and facilities ensuring crews have tools required to safely conduct rescue activities
- Work with Public Works to identify future training facility options and complete condition assessment of all fire stations

SUPPLEMENTAL MEMO (FIRE)

Revenue

- Muni Fee Study Recommended Increase (\$0.7M)

Single-role, Recommended Phase In Proposal

- 12-hour peak single-role ambulance
- Continued cross-staffing of Engine 64
- \$0.9M FY26 Cost, \$1.2M ongoing annual costs

Alternatives

- Only cross-staff Engine 64 in the PM (\$0.9M, \$1.2M)
- Fully staff Engine 64 by adding full-time single-role ambulance (\$0.8M, \$1.5M)
- Fully staff Engine 64 & Add 12-hour peak single-role ambulance (\$1.3M, \$2.2M)



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

Office of Emergency Services

Operating Pg. 293-302

FY 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET (OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES)

Community Impact

In FY 2024, Council approved the hiring of an additional 1.00 Emergency Services Coordinator position, which OES has filled to assist with the projects described below.

Department Priorities and Long-Term Projects

- Continue to explore grant funding opportunities
- Partner with other City departments to bolster organizational resilience
- Continue to provide a community facing function to promote preparedness
- Prepare for significant events, including Super Bowl (Feb. 2026) and FIFA World Cup
- FY 2025 has base budget changes, but no significant proposals

FY 2025 DEPARTMENT OUTLOOK (OES)

- OES is planning for a continued increase in special events (Stanford, dignitary visits) and public safety education activities (all hazards, including active shooter)
- Updating emergency plans such as the Emergency Operations Plan and Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan
- Collaboration with other City departments and County of Santa Clara on Foothills fire safety planning, regional emergency planning
- OES has a significant role in new Public Safety Building (PSB) - the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC)