



**Finance & Economic Development Committee Budget Hearings  
Fire Department  
April 1, 2024**

1. \*Share if any impact to this budget for HB 371 that will be effective January 1, 2025, which changes how the Insurance Commissioner and the State Treasurer provide for distributions from taxes collected by the Insurance Commissioner to be made to fire companies or departments in Delaware. The current method for reporting, calculating, and making distributions to fire companies or departments is complex to administer and can lead to incorrect payments.
2. Considering the Administration's overall preference to house the EMS ambulance service in-house rather than contractually, while understanding this huge financial undertaking and implementation in a limited time span, justify the fiduciary rationale as to why the timing is for FY2025 and not a budgetary/fiduciary decision for the new Administration.
  - Specify the transgression and timeframe from what transpired from April 19, 2023 when Council inquired about the Ambulance Contract about this same time last year at the budget hearing; but was not made aware of this massive change with St. Francis until much later.
3. Notwithstanding the 41 new EMS positions added to this budget for \$3.3M, share the mechanisms in place to recruit for these positions.
  - Specify if any plans to work with local schools, colleges, and churches, etc.
  - Any consideration for a Recruiter & Retention Officer position, why or why not?
  - Any consideration for having a Workforce Development EMT training program, why or why not?
  - Justify why these 41 positions are merit rather than union positions, and any challenges.
  - Specify if going forward, if it will be relevant to have a minimum number of EMS Workers, but if it falls below a certain threshold, need certain measures in place to ensure there are enough EMSs to service the city.
  - Specify why Overtime is budgeted for \$0 for these 41 positions.
  - Specify the shift for these positions.
4. Discuss the additional vehicles added to the city's fleet as a result of the new EMS Division (~\$260K).
  - Specify the number and type of vehicles, and cost per vehicle.
  - Specify the life span and replacement cycle for these vehicles.
  - Specify if any request to for State Bond Bill to help with purchase of these vehicles.

5. Discuss the cost benefit analysis for doing the EMS Collections/Billings externally, for budget of ~\$322K.
  - Specify how this entity will avoid the same billing challenges that St. Francis had with non-payment, and how this could impact the City's fiscal position.
6. Understanding the expectation for additional cost that comes with starting a new EMS Division, share the breakdown for the \$250K budgeted for Misc, Supplies.
  - Specify if any request to for State Bond Bill and or Grant in Aid to assist with this cost.
7. Justify ~\$14K budgeted in EMS Division for Registration Fees.
  - Specify if this is adequate funding for continued training for 41 new EMS.
8. Discuss the ~\$1.3M budgeted for Overtime, up \$341K over the prior year's budget.
  - Specify the mechanisms in place to control Overtime and Sick time.
  - \*With the recent settlement pertaining to Overtime pay and damages regarding eligibility for Overtime Pay for WFD positions that the City said was exempt from OT pay, please share impact to this budget as result of.
    - i. Share if the \$459K settlement has been disbursed in FY24.
9. Discuss current vacant positions.
  - a. Specify duration of the vacancy.
  - b. Specify timeframe for filling position.
  - c. Specify if position generates revenue, and if so, estimated amount.
  - d. Specify any impact to Overtime, Temp Agency, and or Consultants.
  - e. Justify the need for the position.
10. Discuss the Department's Authorized Strength.
  - Specify FY25 Proposed Authorized Strength.
  - Specify FY24 Actual Authorized Strength (vacancies, military leave, etc.).
  - Specify any plans for a Fire Academy in FY25 with budgeted costs.
11. Discuss the available amount of State Grant in Aid Funds remaining and amount of funding anticipated for FY2025.
  - Specify the planned use of remaining funds, and FY25 anticipated planned use of funds.
12. Discuss the planned use of \$163K in Consultants.

- Specify vendor name(s), amount of contract, expiration date, length of contract, scope of services, and length of time City has been using the vendor.
13. Discuss the planned use for **\$174K** budgeted in the Contracted Maintenance account, up **\$44K** over the prior year's budget.
- Specify if this budget provides adequate repair funding for all fire stations.
14. Discuss the **~\$487K** budgeted for Wearing & Apparel & Safety, up **\$271K**.
- Specify the life cycle for this replacement gear.
  - Specify if any request to for State Bond Bill and or Grant in Aid to assist with this cost.
15. Specify if any funds budgeted for naracan, fire alarms, and social services for mental health.
- Justify if adequate staffing and or assistance is provided within this budget when addressing non-fire services such as overdose and medical transport.

**All Departments**

16. Provide FY2025 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.