



Fiscal Year 2023-24 and 2024-25 Budget Review

San Francisco Fire Department

Fire Commission – February 8, 2023

Budget Instructions Summary

- As a result of fiscal analysis stemming from the City's Joint Report, the current projection is that the City is facing a **\$728 million deficit** over the next two fiscal years
- As a result of these projections, City Departments have been requested to make reductions to their general fund support by **5%** in the FY23-24 and **8%** in FY24-25
- All City Departments are required to submit their budget proposals to the Mayor's Office and Controller's Office by **February 21, 2023**

Budget Challenges

- Limited budgetary flexibility given all costs related to front line operations (salaries and benefits; infrastructure)
- Very limited staffing flexibility given mandatory minimum staffing requirements
- Depleted infrastructure (facilities, equipment) due to long-time fiscal challenges
- Staffing/hiring challenges
- Impacts on revenues as the City recovers from the pandemic
- Potential for unknowns (recession, continued COVID impacts)

Proposed Budget Reductions

- The 5% reduction requested of the Department poses multiple challenges due to its size
 - The value is the equivalent of:
 - The cost to staff 2.5 engine companies for entire fiscal year
 - The cost of staffing 7.5 daily 12-hour ambulances in the field
 - Over 90% of all materials, supplies, and equipment funding allocated in the Department's Operating fund



Budget Status

- Due to current process timeline, SFFD budget still currently a work in progress, with changes being incorporated up until the February 21st submittal deadline
- Updating staffing model to incorporate best assumptions on retirement, new hire, and overtime levels
- Working with other City departments to reconcile work order requests and ensure proper levels of service (both performing and requesting)
- Comprehensive revenue analysis for existing fees
- Establishing prioritization of existing needs identified

Budget Priorities

- Through the current process, the Department is aiming to:
 - Ensure adequate levels of funding to support and maintain front-line Fire, EMS, and Community Paramedicine Operations
 - Identify additional sources of funding to minimize impact to City's general fund
 - Re-establish pre-existing initiatives that were funded prior to COVID but reduced during the pandemic
 - Confirm adequate resources (personnel and non-personnel) to support existing employees

Budget Status - Operations

- Comprehensive update of SFFD staffing model including:
Hiring Retirements Staffing levels
Premium Pay Overtime/Leave
- Inclusion of assumption for two Firefighter academy classes each year as well as hiring/training to maintain existing EMS and Community Paramedic staffing levels
- Review and analysis of EMS revenue, including call volume trends and new supplemental reimbursement programs through the State of California
- Restore/Enhance various equipment initiatives

Budget Status – Fire Prevention

- Maintain staffing levels to meet various demands of the Bureau's current diverse workload
- Analyze need for additional resources to support operational changes at new Permit Center
- Absorption of outreach and safety positions into Fire Department's budget from DBI
- Fee adjustment based on current CPI assumptions
- Proposed restoration of BFP vehicle fund

Budget Status – Training/Capital

- Training – Update academy projections to ensure sufficient support for instructors and recruits given current curriculum and evaluation needs
- Capital – Attempt to maintain existing allocation in current base budget at a minimum; Integrate new positions into operational workflow; Present at Capital Planning Committee for both City's 10-year Capital plan and annual budget requests

Departmental Proposal

- Fire Department is unable to meet target reduction amounts requests asked of it without material operational changes/impacts to front-line services
- Department will continue to make adjustments to budget to reflect existing levels of services are accurately reflected from a budgetary perspective
- No material operational changes included in submittal
- SFFD to exhaust all efforts for additional revenue generation as well as the potential for moving existing expenditures off of general fund support

Departmental Proposal (cont.)

- Fire Commission will receive a comprehensive review of budget documentation submitted to the Mayor's Office for the February 21st deadline at upcoming meeting
- Department will continue to work with the Mayor's Budget Office over the next few months to resolve any outstanding issues, incorporate any policy changes into our budget, and advocate for SFFD needs and priorities.

Questions/Discussion

