



Department Description

The Department of Public Safety is comprised of the operations of the Support Services Division, the Divisions of Police and Fire, and the Safety Director's Office, which is responsible for the overall coordination of the department. Columbus is one of few large cities in the U.S. to earn international accreditation for both the Divisions of Police and Fire.

The **Division of Support Services** is responsible for a variety of critical functions within the city including 24/7 support of the communications technology that supports first responders. In 2021, the city's 911 Emergency Communications Center (ECC) operations transitioned from the Division of Police into Support Services where operations will continue in 2025. Serving as the primary public safety dispatch center for the city, the ECC receives and processes over 1.5 million calls for service each year.

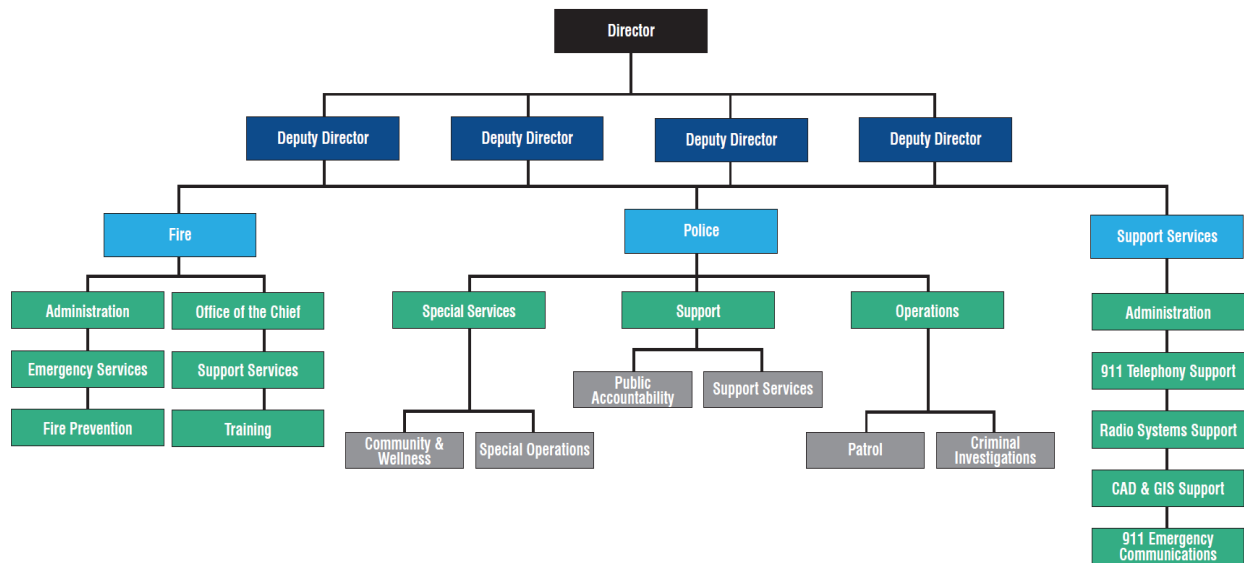
Department Mission

To provide outstanding public safety services to the residents of Columbus, allowing every resident, on every street, in every neighborhood to feel safe.

The **Division of Police** has over 1,800 officers and over 200 civilian employees making it one of the top 20 largest departments in the country. The division is organized into six subdivisions and covers 20 precincts across the greater Columbus metropolitan area, serving over 900,000 residents. The Division of Police strives to be a trustworthy, diverse, progressive, and community-minded organization devoted to providing excellent public service.

The **Division of Fire's** mission is to serve and protect the community by preventing emergencies through education and inspection, minimizing injury, death, and property destruction from fire, natural disaster, and other catastrophes, and providing timely and effective emergency medical services. Working in the Fire Division are over 1,700 firefighters spread out across six bureaus: Office of the Chief, Administration, Support Services, Emergency Services (EMS), Fire Prevention, and Training. In addition, the division employs nearly 100 civilian employees, including a full-time Medical Director.

Budget Summary				
Fund	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed
General Fund	648,161,051	726,093,332	753,682,952	774,468,363
E-911 Fund	1,566,227	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228
Department Total	\$ 649,727,278	\$ 727,659,560	\$ 755,249,180	\$ 776,034,591



2025 BUDGET NOTES

Public safety continues to be a top priority. The 2025 budget includes over \$20.4 million across multiple city departments to support the Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy. Building upon the success of the alternative response pilot launched in 2021, this budget also provides \$3.0 million in funding across the Departments of Public Safety and Health to expand and support the Right Response program.

SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Support to the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program is budgeted at \$846,026, which represents the city's proportionate share of the maintenance and administrative support of the area's emergency siren and mass notification systems. Additional program activities include planning for disaster recovery, public education, and safety exercises. In addition:

- A total of \$375,000 is budgeted for the Community Crime Patrol, which patrols Hilltop, Franklinton, the Merion Village area, the University district including south Clintonville, the Northland/North Linden area, the Near East Side, the East Main Special Improvement District, and any other patrol area as directed by the city. The Community Crime Patrol assists the Division of Police in identifying suspicious activities indicative of criminal behavior and includes reporting quality of life issues, such as code violations, burned out street and traffic lights, water leaks, and downed utility and power lines to appropriate city agencies.
- Minority recruiting efforts will continue in 2025, with \$200,000 allocated for related activities. Additional funding for division-specific minority recruiting efforts is budgeted within Police and Fire.
- Jail contract expenses are budgeted at \$2,000,000 in 2025.
- A total of \$33,000 is budgeted for Crime Stoppers, and \$325,000 is included for Columbus Humane for animal cruelty investigations.

SUPPORT SERVICES

A total of \$300,000 is budgeted for the maintenance of neighborhood safety cameras. In addition:

- A total of \$906,000 is budgeted for the continued maintenance of the city's Public Safety radio system, while \$550,000 is included for annual maintenance of the computer aided dispatching system.
 - Approximately \$1.6 million in funds received by the city from E-911 fund revenue will be used to offset the salaries and benefits of ECC staff.
 - The Licensing Enforcement, Licensing Support, and Weights and Measures programs transferred to the Department of Building and Zoning Services.
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POLICE

The Division of Police's 2025 budget includes funding for a wide array of initiatives aimed to further the Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy, strengthen diversity, and continue developing a model of 21st century community policing for Columbus. In addition:

- Safe Streets officers interacted with over 7,000 members of the community in 2023, adapting bike patrol operations to facilitate safe neighborhood engagement and attending 169 community events as well. A total of \$2.9 million is included for overtime, replacement bicycles, and equipment to continue supporting this initiative in 2025.
- The 2025 budget includes over \$504,000 for the Police Cadet program to continue building a pipeline of qualified, diverse candidates for the division.
- ShotSpotter was strategically deployed across nine square miles of the city during the first quarter of 2019, and was expanded in 2021 to cover an additional three square miles in the Near East Side. The 2025 budget includes \$840,000 for this technology, which continues to prove effective in identifying and reducing response times to gunfire.
- A total of \$2.9 million is budgeted to support the body worn camera program.
- Funding is provided for a beginning year strength of 1,937 police officers. It is anticipated during 2025 there will be a total of 90 separations. Officers lost through these separations will be replaced with three budgeted classes totaling 180 recruits, 10 lateral transitions, and subsequent internal promotions.



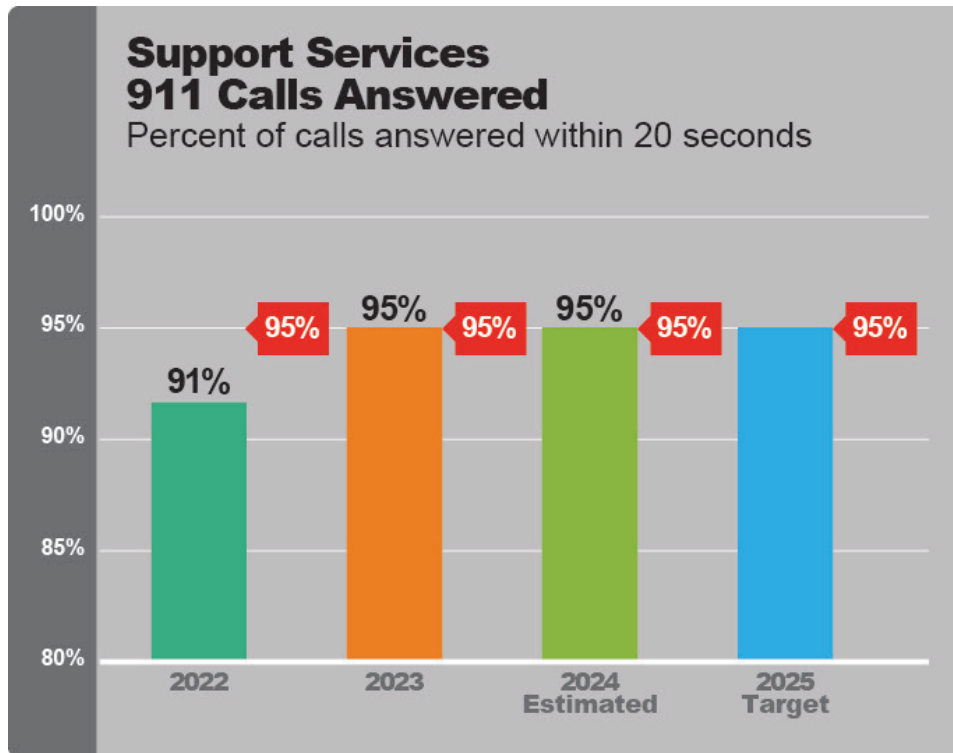
FIRE

The Division of Fire's 2025 budget supports directives designed to preserve life, property, and safety in Columbus through a focused approach toward building workforce diversity and pioneering innovation in Fire and EMS service delivery. In addition:

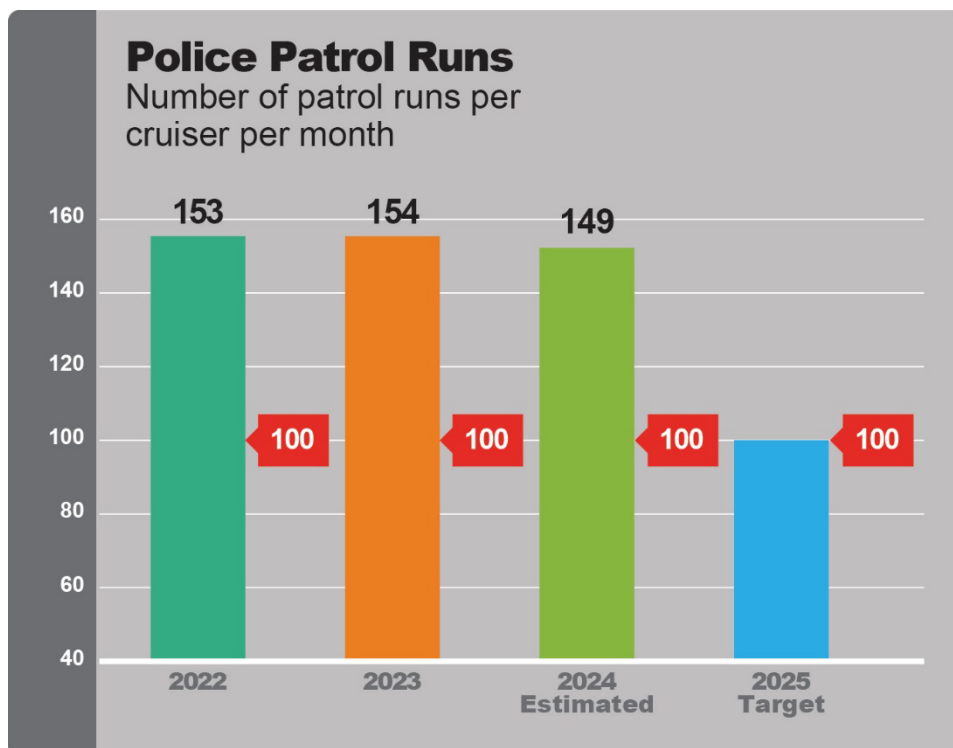
- The 2025 budget includes \$904,000 for the Fire Cadet program to continue building a pipeline of qualified, diverse candidates for the division.
- The EMS third-party reimbursement program that began in January 2003 is expected to generate approximately \$30.3 million in 2025. A total of \$2.5 million is budgeted to fund the division's cost for EMS-related billing services.
- Funding is provided for a beginning year strength of 1,720 firefighters. It is anticipated during 2025 there will be a total of 70 separations. Firefighters lost through these separations will be replaced with one budgeted class of 45 recruits and subsequent internal promotions.
- For 2025, \$150,000 is budgeted to facilitate Basic and Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support training and certifications utilizing an innovative, technology-based curriculum proven to improve skill retention over time.



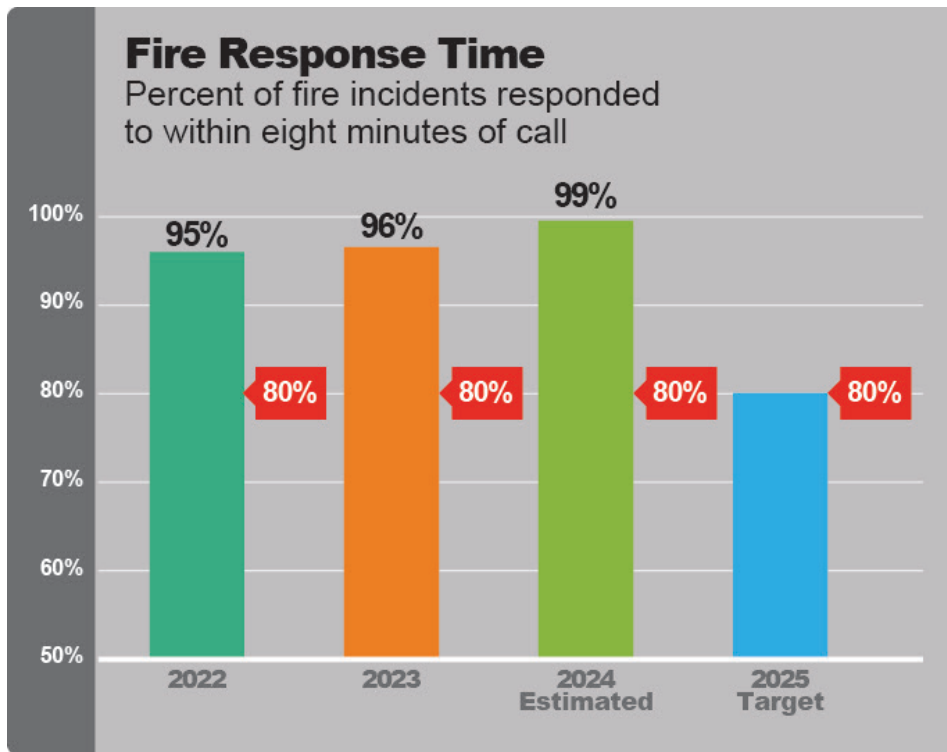
PERFORMANCE MEASURES



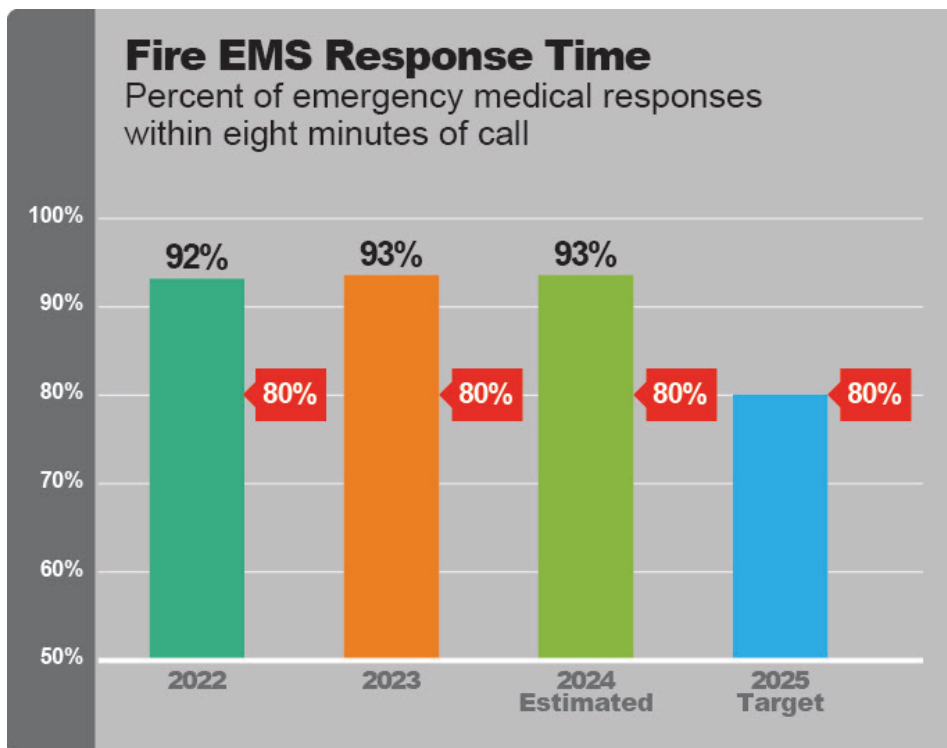
The Emergency Communications Center personnel strive to answer all 911 calls for service in 20 seconds or less. The Department adopted the 95 percent National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Standard and continually exceeds this standard. In 2025, the target for this measure will be to meet or exceed 95 percent.



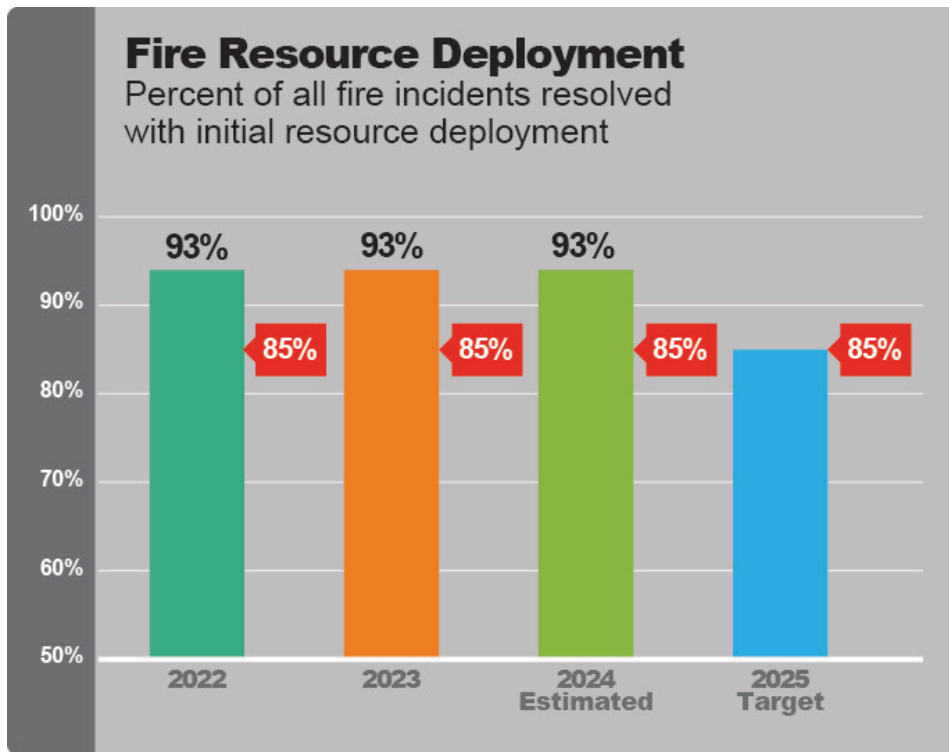
This measure represents the average number of dispatched and self-initiated runs per cruiser per month. The lower the number, the more non-committed time that officers have to engage in community policing activities. The number of cruisers available on a daily basis averages about 326.



Columbus residents can expect a prompt, high-quality response when they request emergency services. By City Council resolution, the Division of Fire must maintain an overall total response time of eight minutes or less in at least 80 percent of fire incidents. The division is on track to achieve or exceed this level of service in 2024 and maintain this goal for 2025.



By City Council resolution, the Division of Fire must maintain an overall total response time of eight minutes or less in at least 80 percent of EMS incidents. While the overall percentage has remained consistent over the past few years, deployment models are regularly updated to accommodate increasing demand.



The Division of Fire is constantly working to improve its dispatch system, both to reduce call times and to ensure that the right personnel, apparatus, and equipment arrive on scene. The division has set a goal of deploying the correct resources during the initial dispatch on at least 85 percent of calls.

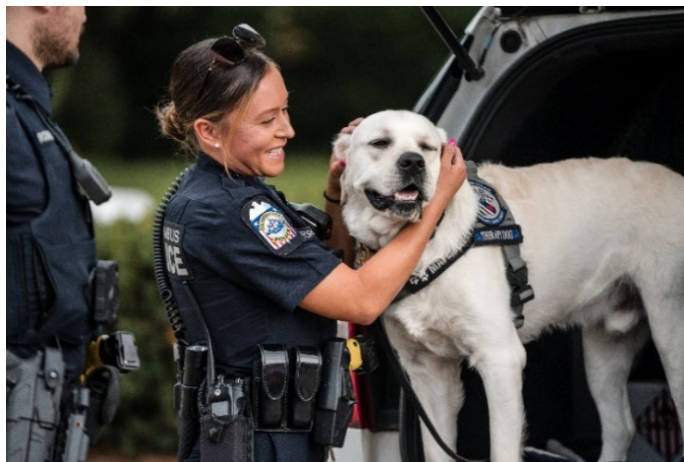


Financial Summary by Fund					
Fund	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Projected	2025 Proposed
General Fund					
Administration	\$ 14,712,379	\$ 13,794,908	\$ 15,191,242	\$ 14,620,353	\$ 15,169,486
Support Services	20,806,017	23,259,806	27,329,608	26,040,844	25,502,144
Police	339,834,484	381,339,038	390,480,763	382,565,571	397,552,365
Fire	272,808,170	307,699,580	320,681,339	308,262,142	336,244,368
General Fund Subtotal	648,161,051	726,093,332	753,682,952	731,488,910	774,468,363
E-911 Fund					
Support Services	1,566,227	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228
E-911 Fund Subtotal	1,566,227	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228
Department Total	\$ 649,727,278	\$ 727,659,560	\$ 755,249,180	\$ 733,055,138	\$ 776,034,591



Public Safety

Financial Summary by Area of Expense						
Division	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Projected	2025 Proposed	
Administration						
General Fund						
Personnel	\$ 7,539,035	\$ 8,228,065	\$ 10,129,249	\$ 8,320,488	\$ 10,229,539	
Materials & Supplies	27,770	29,337	30,367	25,272	130,367	
Services	7,145,574	3,678,496	5,031,476	5,945,093	4,784,430	
Other	-	1,000,010	150	329,500	25,150	
Transfers	-	859,000	-	-	-	
Administration Subtotal	14,712,379	13,794,908	15,191,242	14,620,353	15,169,486	
Support Services						
General Fund						
Personnel	14,722,918	17,399,363	21,153,479	19,634,621	20,940,237	
Materials & Supplies	467,291	744,974	809,175	539,847	623,852	
Services	4,533,790	5,113,683	5,241,154	5,764,376	3,787,255	
Other	4,803	1,786	5,800	2,000	30,800	
Capital	1,077,216	-	120,000	100,000	120,000	
General Fund Subtotal	20,806,017	23,259,806	27,329,608	26,040,844	25,502,144	
E-911 Fund						
Personnel	1,566,227	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228	
E-911 Fund Subtotal	1,566,227	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228	
Support Services Subtotal	22,372,244	24,826,034	28,895,836	27,607,072	27,068,372	
Police						
General Fund						
Personnel	314,713,991	350,305,004	361,170,588	350,540,809	361,416,335	
Materials & Supplies	5,850,634	8,801,658	6,615,685	6,708,685	9,117,851	
Services	15,860,392	20,195,636	22,357,490	23,714,323	26,678,179	
Other	879,999	1,981,005	297,000	1,552,211	300,000	
Capital	2,515,875	42,134	40,000	35,481	40,000	
Transfers	13,592	13,602	-	14,062	-	
Police Subtotal	339,834,484	381,339,038	390,480,763	382,565,571	397,552,365	
Fire						
General Fund						
Personnel	254,925,934	285,732,405	298,541,731	284,760,933	313,567,603	
Materials & Supplies	5,100,303	6,374,956	6,554,964	6,890,215	5,339,210	
Services	12,718,761	14,093,869	15,379,644	16,514,548	17,107,555	
Other	44,258	1,386,951	125,000	96,446	150,000	
Capital	18,914	80,000	80,000	-	80,000	
Transfers	-	31,399	-	-	-	
Fire Subtotal	272,808,170	307,699,580	320,681,339	308,262,142	336,244,368	
Department Total	\$ 649,727,277	\$ 727,659,561	\$ 755,249,180	\$ 733,055,138	\$ 776,034,591	



Department Personnel Summary								
Fund	2022 Actual		2023 Actual		2024 Budget		2025 Proposed	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
General Fund								
Administration	68	2	62	6	85	8	83	4
Support Services	142	1	153	7	196	2	180	1
Police, Uniformed	1,861	0	1,882	0	1,980	0	2,117	0
Police, Civilian	195	16	210	31	288	56	290	58
Fire, Uniformed	1,582	0	1,655	0	1,788	0	1,765	0
Fire, Civilian	48	37	44	39	57	45	56	67
Total	3,896	56	4,006	83	4,394	111	4,491	130

Please note: Beginning in 2019, the equivalent of one Fire Division uniformed position above is funded by the Building and Zoning Services' Development Services fund.

Operating Budget by Program					
Program	2024		2025		
	Budget	FTEs	Proposed	FTEs	
911 Emergency Communication Center	\$ 14,340,671	144	\$ 16,875,244	147	
911 Support Group	12,849,208	78	12,933,965	75	
Administration	59,515,402	162	68,675,936	148	
Communications	9,085,516	46	12,833,702	39	
Community Programs	34,898,993	25	3,138,614	7	
Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy	1,943,000	0	640,000	0	
Drug Enforcement	12,087,401	1	224,196	1	
Fire Emergency Services	243,156,458	1,362	227,793,835	1,185	
Fire Investigations	-	0	177,947	1	
Fiscal	1,733,178	12	4,816,756	22	
Human Resources	2,395,374	25	3,304,187	28	
Internal Services	22,627,473	0	23,562,233	0	
Investigative	33,343,014	343	52,433,775	307	
Legal Matters	403,475	0	410,823	0	
License Enforcement	489,263	7	-	0	
License Support	327,865	3	-	0	
Opiate Initiatives	150,000	0	150,000	0	
Police Patrol	178,492,130	1,106	160,161,685	1,008	
Public Safety Network/CAD	2,610,997	14	2,414,861	11	
Public Safety Wellness Center	200,000	0	200,000	0	
Safety Force Recruitment	-	0	200,000	0	
Special Operations	25,052,363	258	46,024,503	258	
Support Operations	68,880,454	283	44,456,476	293	
Training	30,036,834	517	94,605,853	961	
Weights and Measures	630,111	8	-	0	
Department Total	\$ 755,249,180	4,394	\$ 776,034,591	4,491	

Please note: Unless specified in the budget notes, variances in FTE counts by program are the result of changes to internal payroll coding structures and not indicative of changes in service delivery.



2025 PROGRAM GUIDE

911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER

To receive emergency calls from citizens and dispatch the appropriate resources to the emergency.

911 SUPPORT GROUP

To provide maintenance and technical support for the critical components that serve the PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) system, which supports the City of Columbus and seven additional 911 agencies in Franklin County.

ADMINISTRATION

To maintain safe neighborhoods by providing effective management and support to the delivery of public safety services by the Divisions of Police, Fire, and Support Services. To work cooperatively with citizens to minimize injury, death, and destruction of property.

COMMUNICATIONS

To acquire and maintain all communication tools and equipment needed by fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical personnel to efficiently and effectively deliver public safety services to the citizens of Columbus.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

To provide financial support to community initiatives such as the Community Crime Patrol, Columbus Humane, Truancy, Crime Stoppers, and various neighborhood safety strategies. To provide public services needed for the safety and well-being of the citizens of Columbus.

**COMPREHENSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD
SAFETY STRATEGY**

To invest in innovative programs and work with partners to build stronger and safer neighborhoods through broad-based approaches involving local law enforcement, public health, recreation and parks, neighborhoods, businesses, community leaders, faith leaders and residents.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT

To interdict the flow of illegal narcotics into Columbus and specific geographical areas within its boundaries, respond to complaints and concerns of drug-related activity, seize drugs and assets, and educate the public on how to fight drug trafficking. To enforce laws against prostitution, gambling, morality, liquor violations, and related drug offenses.

FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES

To minimize injuries, death, and property loss related to fire and medical emergencies.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

To determine the origin and cause of fire-related incidents.

FISCAL

To support the Department of Public Safety's mission and personnel through budget preparation, fiscal monitoring, and the procurement and payment of services, supplies, and materials.

HUMAN RESOURCES

To provide professional services in the areas of employee benefits, compensation, labor relations, industrial hygiene, equal employment opportunities, and the hiring of both civilian and sworn personnel.

INTERNAL SERVICES

To account for the internal service charges of the department necessary to maintain operations.

INVESTIGATIVE

To shield victims of sexual assault, family violence, child abuse, child exploitation, and missing persons from further danger through investigations and prosecution. To investigate felony property crimes as well as crimes against persons resulting in the loss of human life or serious physical harm. To investigate the origins of suspicious fires including filing charges against suspects.

LEGAL MATTERS

To provide assistance to the City Attorney's Office and process all claims against the Department of Public Safety.

LICENSE ENFORCEMENT

To enforce rules and regulations pertaining to licenses and licensing procedures as they affect the public health, safety, and welfare. This program has transitioned to the Department of Building and Zoning Services.

LICENSE SUPPORT

To provide service and support to customers throughout all phases of the licensure process. This program has transitioned to the Department of Building and Zoning Services.

OPIATE INITIATIVES

To account for the costs associated with the prevention and treatment of opioid abuse.

POLICE PATROL

To provide public service that reflects a genuine desire to care for the safety and well-being of our community and our employees.

PUBLIC SAFETY NETWORK/CAD

To maintain and troubleshoot all server and client hardware and software directly related to the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system.

**PUBLIC SAFETY WELLNESS
CENTER**

To provide comprehensive mental health and wellness support to the dedicated personnel in the city's Police and Fire Divisions.

SAFETY FORCE RECRUITMENT

To invest in various programs designed to promote hiring among minorities within the Divisions of Police and Fire.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

To provide the citizens of central Ohio with a safe environment and a comprehensive emergency management solution to catastrophic events. To promote the safe movement of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on city streets and freeways. To provide for the mitigation of suspected explosive devices and direct operations of spills containing hazardous materials.

SUPPORT OPERATIONS

To ensure the safety of citizens by providing secure locations for property and impounded vehicles, fingerprint identification, expert forensic laboratory services, and coordination of criminal prosecutions. To maintain facilities, apparatus, fire supplies, and police record management.

TRAINING

To enhance and improve the quality of law enforcement, firefighting, and emergency medical services by providing the knowledge and skills necessary for personnel to perform their jobs safely and efficiently.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

To provide equity in the marketplace by assuring the weights and measures in commercial service within the city are properly installed and accurate. This program has transitioned to the Department of Building and Zoning Services.

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