



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. Serving as the primary public safety dispatch center for the city, the Emergency Communications Center receives and processes over 1.4 million call transactions each year.

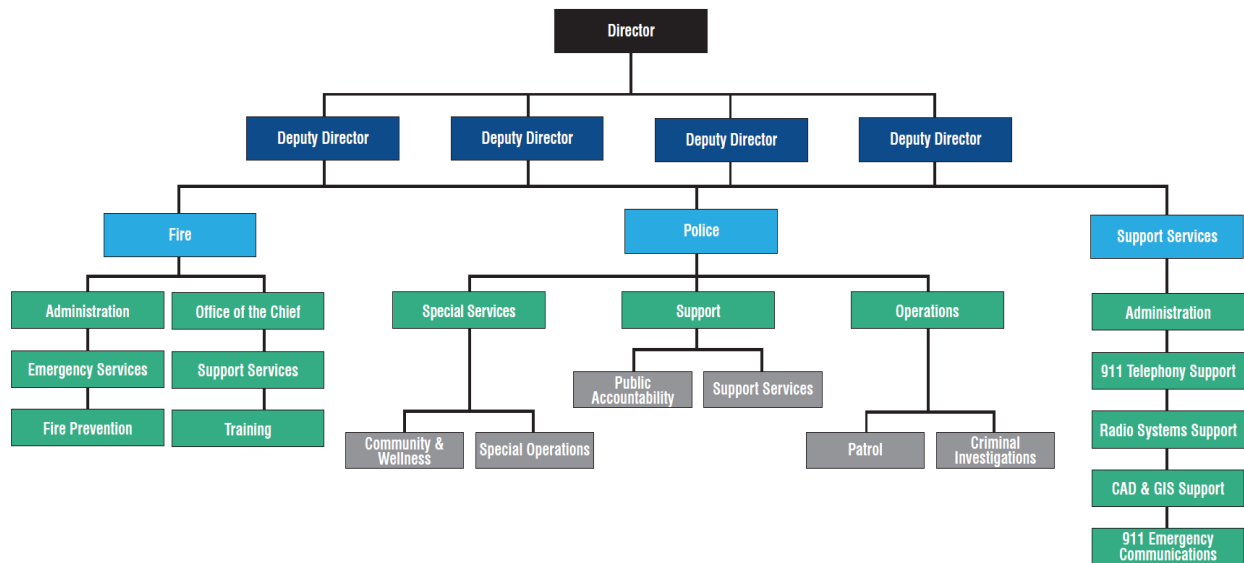
Department Mission

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 1,900 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 mission of the **Division of Fire** 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 over 50 civilian employees, including a full-time Medical Director.

Budget Summary				
Fund	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Proposed
General Fund	726,093,332	727,890,849	774,468,363	850,039,228
E-911 Fund	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,800,000
Department Total	\$ 727,659,560	\$ 729,457,077	\$ 776,034,591	\$ 851,839,228



2026 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

HOUSING

Work collaboratively with other departments to address nuisance properties, crime, and quality-of-life issues through the Police Nuisance Section.

MOBILITY

Patrol assigned waterways and ensure the safety of boaters and other waterway users through the Police Marine Park Unit.

Improve public and roadway safety by keeping the roads clear of hazardous or illegally parked cars through the Police Impound Lot.

SAFETY

Provide real-time intelligence to officers on the street and help solve crimes faster through the collection and analysis of data and surveillance footage from various sources by the Police Real Time Crime Center.

Provide maintenance and technical support for the critical components of the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) system, which supports the City of Columbus and seven additional 911 agencies in Franklin County, through the 911 Support Group.

Maintain and troubleshoot all server and client hardware and software directly related to the dispatching system, ensuring continuous availability of call taking and dispatching services, through the Public Safety Network/CAD Group.

Enhance communication by delivering fast, clear, and reliable alerts, control commands, and automated voice dispatches to first responders, through the Fire Location System.

Ensure that the public safety radio network is up-to-date and fully functioning through the Police and Fire Annual Radio Equipment Program.

Work collaboratively with other departments on initiatives to address crime differently, while continuing to invest in proven safety strategies through the Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy 2.0.

Engage with the community during events and protests, fostering dialogue, diffusing tensions, and informing community members of their rights through the Police Dialogue Initiative, thereby improving police-community relationships and promoting authentic conversations rather than enforcement actions.

Public Safety

Collaborate with The Ohio State University Police Department on mutual assistance and use of resources to address criminal activity and emergencies that occur across jurisdictional lines through the OSU-CPD Crime Interdiction Security Initiative.

Plan for and facilitate training activities based upon industry's best practices to ensure that the City of Columbus continues to employ the best first responders in the country through the Police and Fire Training Programs.

PROSPERITY

Provide services aimed toward helping first responders cope with critical incidents while seeking to destigmatize mental health treatment through the Public Safety Wellness Center.

Provide alternative avenues to address mental health crises, drug overdoses, and other situations that may not require a uniformed, armed officer through the multi-department, cross-divisional Alternative Response Program.

OPERATIONS

Create, collect, process, maintain, disseminate, and dispose of all police-related information and records, including incident reports, arrest data, evidence documentation, and public requests for records as efficiently as possible through the Police Records Management Bureau.

Educate the public, enforce the Fire Prevention Codes, review building plans, provide for the investigation of suspicious fires, and maintain all required reports through the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Plan, manage, and fund projects aimed at keeping our facilities in excellent condition to best serve our employees and the public through the Safety Facilities Improvements Initiatives.

2026 BUDGET NOTES

Public safety continues to be a top priority. The 2026 budget includes over \$18.5 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 \$3.1 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 \$903,238, 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:

- Jail contract expenses are budgeted at \$1,000,000 in 2026.
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- A total of \$325,000 is included for Columbus Humane for animal cruelty investigations.

SUPPORT SERVICES

A total of \$388,000 is budgeted for the maintenance of neighborhood safety cameras. In addition:

- A total of \$1,500,000 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.
- \$1.8 million in funds received by the city from E-911 fund revenue will be used to offset the salaries and benefits of ECC staff.
- Over \$2,100,000 is budgeted to procure replacement and additional portable radios for personnel and mobile vehicles.

POLICE

The Division of Police's 2026 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 participated in 45,478 citizen contacts in 2025, adapted bike patrol operations to facilitate safe neighborhood engagement and attended 340 community events. A total of \$2.9 million is included for overtime, replacement bicycles, and equipment to continue supporting this initiative in 2026.
 - 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 2026 budget includes \$840,000 for this technology, which continues to prove effective in identifying and reducing response times to gunfire.
 - A total of \$4.35 million is budgeted to support the cruiser and body worn camera program.
 - Funding is provided for a beginning year strength of 1,936 police officers. It is anticipated during 2026 there will be a total of 100 separations. Officers lost through these separations will be replaced with 2 budgeted classes totaling 120 recruits, 10 lateral transitions, and subsequent internal promotions.
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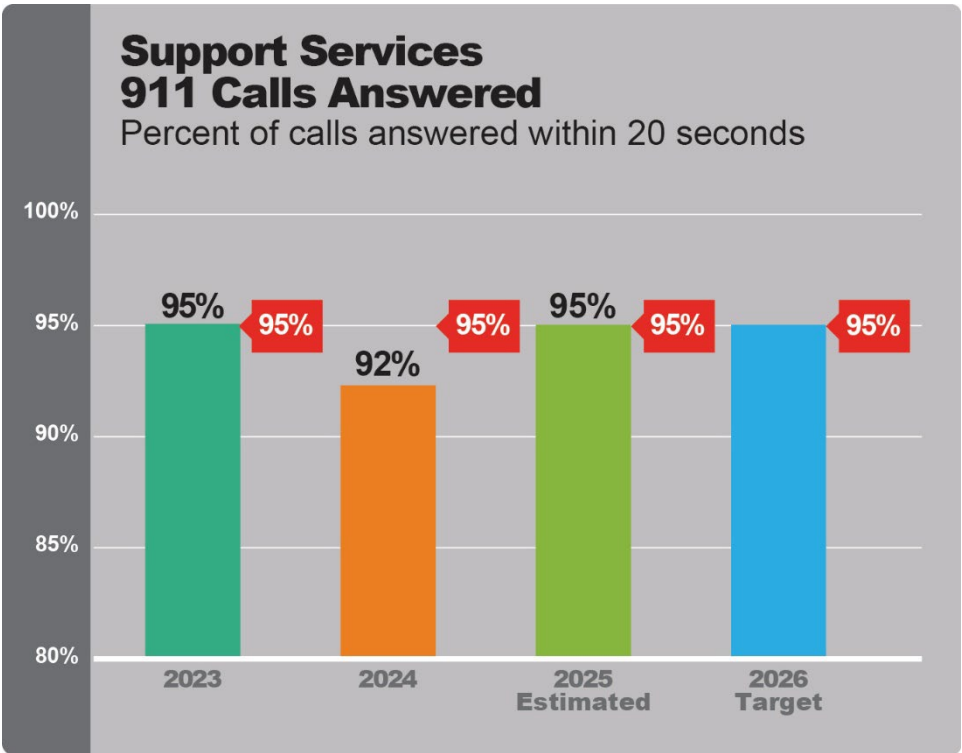
FIRE

The Division of Fire's 2026 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:

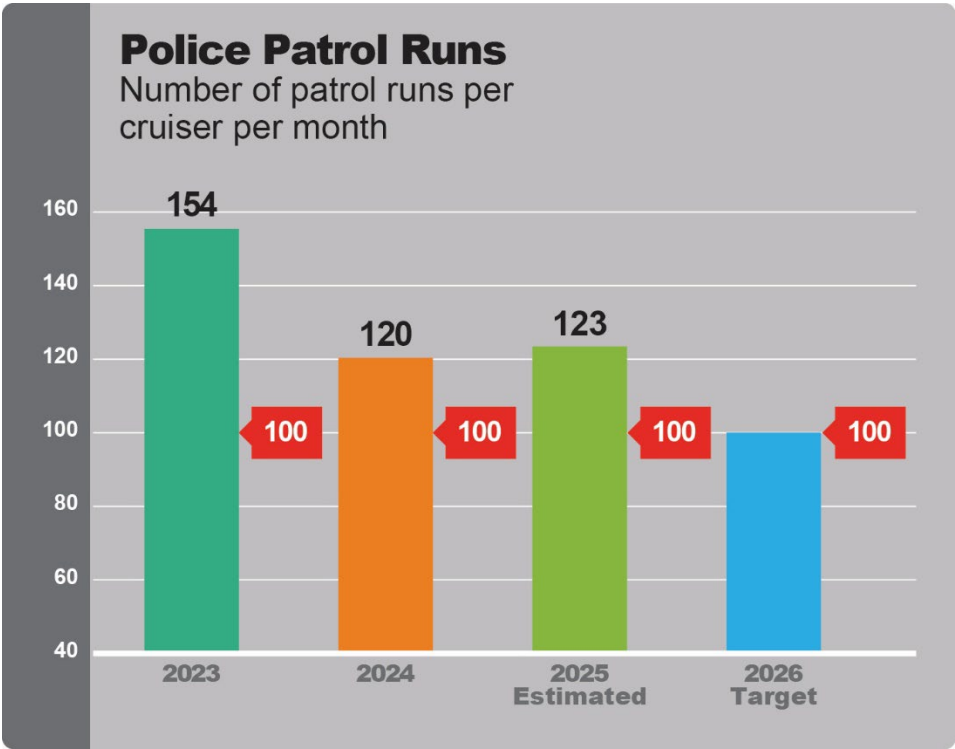
- The EMS third-party reimbursement program that began in January 2003 is expected to generate over \$25 million in 2026. A total of \$1.93 million is budgeted to fund the division's cost for EMS-related billing services.
- Funding is provided for a beginning year strength of 1,716 firefighters. It is anticipated during 2026 there will be a total of 90 separations. Firefighters lost through these separations will be replaced with one budgeted class of 45 recruits and subsequent internal promotions.
- For 2026, \$246,000 is budgeted to facilitate the Fire and EMS Continuing Education program, utilizing an innovative, technology-based curriculum proven to improve skill retention over time.



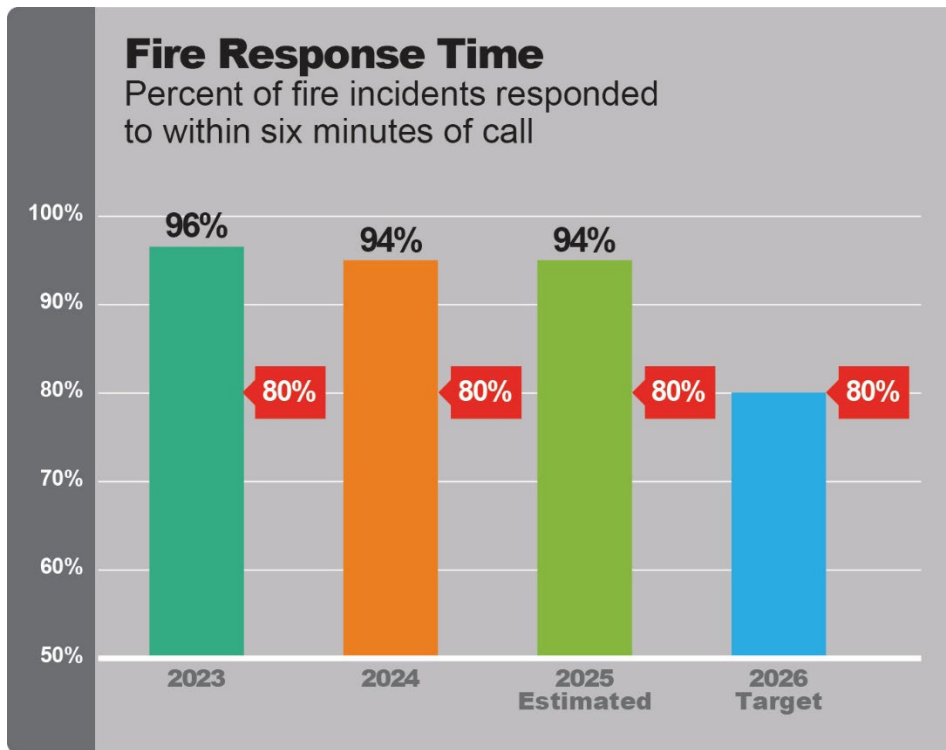
PERFORMANCE MEASURES



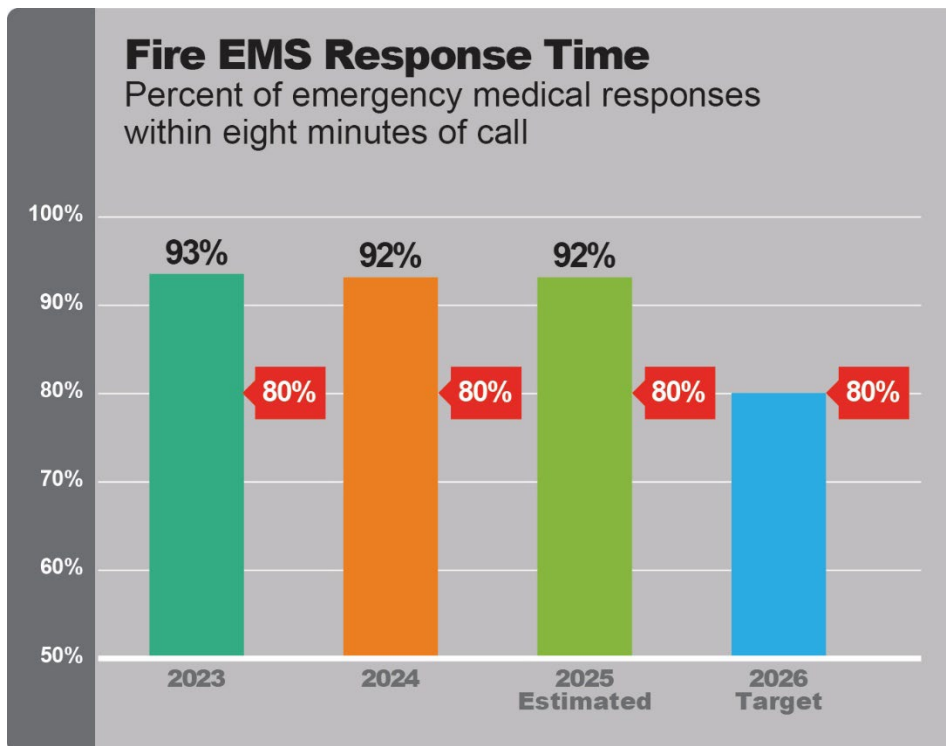
The Emergency Communications Center personnel strive to answer 95 percent of 911 calls within 20 seconds or less. The Department adopted the 95 percent National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Standard and often exceeds this standard. In 2026, the target for this measure will be to meet or exceed 95 percent.



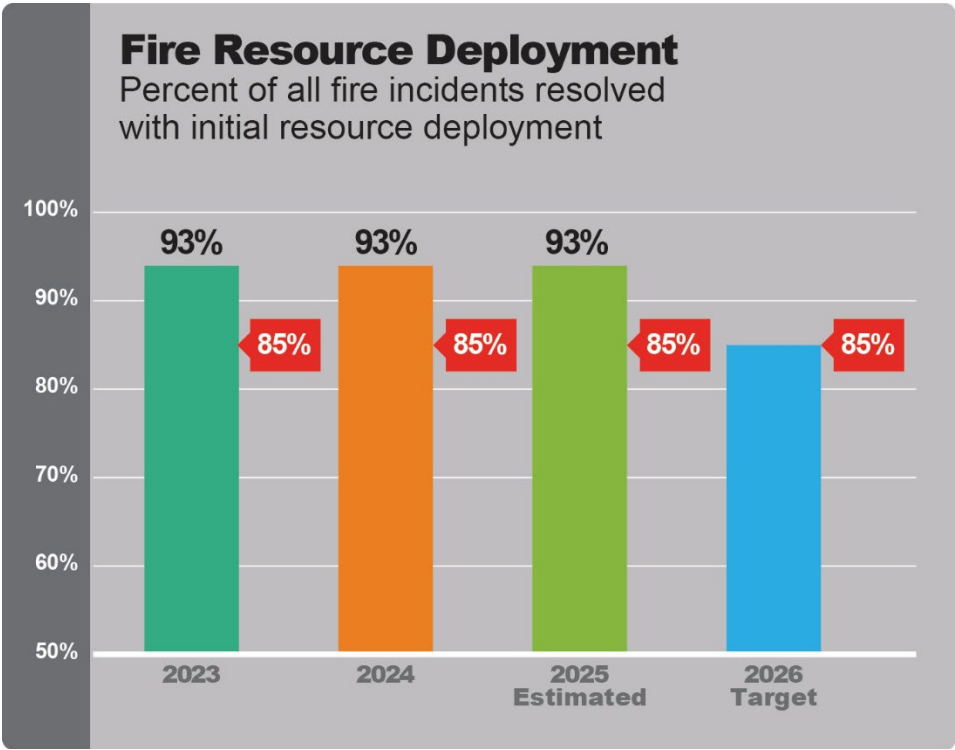
This measure represents the average number of dispatched and self-initiated runs per cruiser per month. The lower the number, the more non-committed time that officers have to engage in community policing activities. The average number of cruisers available on a daily basis is approximately 320.



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 six 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 2025 and maintain this goal for 2026.



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.



Public Safety

Financial Summary by Fund					
Fund	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Projected	2026 Proposed
General Fund					
Administration	\$ 13,794,908	\$ 14,572,464	\$ 15,169,486	\$ 14,941,796	\$ 14,412,858
Support Services	23,259,806	24,581,294	25,502,144	25,687,058	28,154,046
Police	381,339,038	378,135,248	397,552,365	432,367,456	444,003,255
Fire	307,699,580	310,601,843	336,244,368	355,025,580	363,469,069
General Fund Subtotal	726,093,332	727,890,849	774,468,363	828,021,890	850,039,228
E-911 Fund					
Support Services	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228	2,544,100	1,800,000
E-911 Fund Subtotal	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228	2,544,100	1,800,000
Department Total	\$ 727,659,560	\$ 729,457,077	\$ 776,034,591	\$ 830,565,990	\$ 851,839,228



Financial Summary by Area of Expense						
Division	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Projected	2026 Proposed	
Administration						
General Fund						
Personnel	\$ 8,228,065	\$ 8,259,979	\$ 10,229,539	\$ 9,211,729	\$ 9,693,638	
Materials & Supplies	29,337	24,713	130,367	43,629	107,000	
Services	3,678,496	5,958,272	4,784,430	5,086,938	4,092,070	
Other	1,000,010	329,500	25,150	599,500	520,150	
Transfers	859,000	-	-	-	-	
Administration Subtotal	13,794,908	14,572,464	15,169,486	14,941,796	14,412,858	
Support Services						
General Fund						
Personnel	17,399,363	18,189,523	20,940,237	20,266,451	20,838,845	
Materials & Supplies	744,974	517,362	623,852	584,713	2,470,622	
Services	5,113,683	5,753,412	3,787,255	4,674,790	4,834,579	
Other	1,786	1,000	30,800	26,000	10,000	
Capital	-	119,997	120,000	135,104	-	
General Fund Subtotal	23,259,806	24,581,294	25,502,144	25,687,058	28,154,046	
E-911 Fund						
Personnel	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228	2,544,100	1,800,000	
E-911 Fund Subtotal	1,566,228	1,566,228	1,566,228	2,544,100	1,800,000	
Support Services Subtotal	24,826,034	26,147,522	27,068,372	28,231,158	29,954,046	
Police						
General Fund						
Personnel	350,305,004	347,547,650	361,416,335	398,114,992	409,668,787	
Materials & Supplies	8,801,658	6,031,751	9,117,851	6,845,852	8,630,298	
Services	20,195,636	23,123,833	26,678,179	24,008,291	25,389,170	
Other	1,981,005	1,358,107	300,000	3,375,000	275,000	
Capital	42,134	59,844	40,000	23,321	40,000	
Transfers	13,602	14,062	-	-	-	
Police Subtotal	381,339,038	378,135,248	397,552,365	432,367,456	444,003,255	
Fire						
General Fund						
Personnel	285,732,405	286,965,423	313,567,603	331,723,990	340,603,355	
Materials & Supplies	6,374,956	6,739,864	5,339,210	5,622,812	5,547,617	
Services	14,093,869	16,823,968	17,107,555	16,396,778	17,168,097	
Other	1,386,951	72,588	150,000	1,282,000	150,000	
Capital	80,000	-	80,000	-	-	
Transfers	31,399	-	-	-	-	
Fire Subtotal	307,699,580	310,601,843	336,244,368	355,025,580	363,469,069	
Department Total	\$ 727,659,561	\$ 729,457,077	\$ 776,034,591	\$ 830,565,990	\$ 851,839,228	



Public Safety

Department Personnel Summary								
Fund	2023 Actual		2024 Actual		2025 Budget		2026 Proposed	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
General Fund								
Administration	62	6	66	4	83	4	70	4
Support Services	153	7	155	0	180	1	169	0
Police, Uniformed	1,882	0	1,887	0	2,117	0	2,066	0
Police, Civilian	210	31	229	32	290	58	242	51
Fire, Uniformed	1,655	0	1,710	0	1,765	0	1,776	0
Fire, Civilian	44	39	48	23	56	67	51	47
Total	4,006	83	4,095	59	4,491	130	4,374	102

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	2025		2025		2026	
		Budget	FTEs		Proposed	FTEs
911 Emergency Communication Center	\$	16,875,244	147	\$	18,270,542	140
911 Support Group		12,933,965	75		2,018,550	10
Administration		68,675,936	148		56,200,067	127
Communications		12,833,702	39		14,736,490	63
Community Programs		3,138,614	7		25,162,057	133
Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy*		640,000	0		250,000	0
Drug Enforcement		224,196	1		-	0
Fire Emergency Services		227,793,835	1,185		285,676,797	1,531
Fire Investigations		177,947	1		13,053,801	77
Fire Medical Operations & EMS Bureau		-	0		2,308,650	13
Fiscal		4,816,756	22		2,599,967	18
Human Resources		3,304,187	28		3,810,170	28
Internal Services		23,562,233	0		23,375,942	0
Investigative		52,433,775	307		54,165,783	299
Legal Matters		410,823	0		385,823	0
Opiate Initiatives		150,000	0		150,000	0
Police Patrol		160,161,685	1,008		224,297,420	1,097
Public Safety Network/CAD		2,414,861	11		1,659,078	10
Public Safety Wellness Center		200,000	0		543,187	2
Safety Force Recruitment		200,000	0		-	0
Special Operations		46,024,503	258		42,379,410	187
Support Operations		44,456,476	293		37,538,655	219
Training		94,605,853	961		43,256,839	420
Department Total	\$	776,034,591	4,491	\$	851,839,228	4,374

*CNSS program code was created for the 2023 budget and is not all-inclusive of the expenditures associated with advancing the comprehensive neighborhood safety strategies.

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.

2026 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 Columbus Humane and various other 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.

**FIRE MEDICAL OPERATIONS & EMS
BUREAU**

To ensure clinically excellent, compassionate, out of hospital care through medical oversight, education, and quality improvement.

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.

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 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) 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.