

Department of Emergency Services

2024 Executive Proposed Budget



Core Programs & Functions

Communications

- 24/7 Emergency Dispatch Center for the majority of Fire and EMS agencies in Westchester, trained to perform Emergency Medical Dispatch

Emergency Management

- Manage the County's Emergency Operations Center, coordinate disaster preparation and response with municipalities and NGOs
- Facilitate/support county-wide emergency mitigation, preparedness, and response including plan development, equipment/supplies, training and exercises, federal reimbursements

Fire/EMS

- Mutual aid coordination for Fire and EMS services, and provides on scene emergency support
- Specialty responses including hazardous materials, technical rescue, interoperable communications, Grasslands Fire Brigade, cause and original arson investigation
- Manage the Basic Life Support – First Responder Program
- Manage County's Public Access Defibrillator and Automated External Defibrillator programs, trains County employees in CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed
- Coordinate extensive training programs for Fire and EMS
 - Host two Career Fire Academies per year as well as the Yonkers Academy
 - Continue to deliver Firefighter I Programs through several schedules to meet the needs of volunteers
 - Host a variety of advanced Fire training and EMS specialty classes throughout the year

Budget Summary

ITEM	2023	2024
Operating Positions	64	65
Trust Positions	4	5
TOTAL POSITIONS	68	70
Personal Service	2,899,716	3,315,639
Equipment	412,436	279,000
Materials & Supplies	798,723	831,106
Contractual Expenses	5,070,488	5,681,490
Inter-Departmental Charges	4,406,597	5,180,792
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	13,587,960	15,288,027

Budget Summary

ITEM	2023	2024
Inter-Departmental Revenue	453,040	637,524
Departmental Revenue	78,766	416,389
State & Federal Aid	362,887	358,600
TOTAL REVENUE	894,693	1,412,513
DEPARTMENT TAX LEVY	12,693,267	13,875,514

Highlights

- A new storage facility has been built on Walker Road to hold vehicles, training and emergency response equipment presently stored in the drill yard. This will keep them more secure and out of the elements prolonging the useful life of these significant investments, improving readiness for emergency response needs, and will provide additional training space in the yard.
- Collaborated with the CE's Office, DEF, and Consumer Protection to develop solutions to the growing concerns over Lithium Ion battery hazards, including proper disposal of batteries, public education, and firefighter training
- Helped address the growing EMS mutual aid crisis by providing supplemental ambulance service throughout the county to provide relief from the high volume of mutual aid calls through a contract with AMR.
- In cooperation with Budget and other impacted County departments, obtained over \$63 million in reimbursements from FEMA for county government's disaster recovery related eligible expenses. Assisted municipalities with their applications for reimbursement.

Highlights

- Made over 200 awards to local Fire and EMS volunteers through the Higher Education Recruitment and Retention Opportunities (HERRO) Program for tuition and student loan reimbursements in exchange for a volunteer service commitment, helping local Fire and EMS agencies recruit and retain volunteers.
- Conducted over 225 Fire inspections of County properties and facilities to ensure compliance with codes and safety requirements
- Adopted a department therapy dog, Phoenix, who is in training to respond to emergencies and provide emotional and stress relief to first responders.



New Initiatives

- Implement County legislation enacted to create Lithium Ion Battery Safety program, including point of sale notification for e-mobility devices, prohibition on sales of non-UL rated batteries and reconfigured or damaged batteries, additional public education activities, and Firefighter training.
- Become a resource for local EMS agencies striving to implement new service standards developed by the State
- Update County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, including focus on Continuation of Operations Planning for a cybersecurity incident and transition of emergency planning for Indian Point Energy Center from operating to decommissioning nuclear power plants
- Design and build a new Smoke House fire training prop to replace the current 50 year old building. It provides valuable hands on fire suppression training, and will be used by the County training academy as well as local fire departments for required yearly live burning training.