



MAYOR
Renard U. Johnson

CITY MANAGER
Dionne Mack

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Alejandra Chávez

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Deanna M. Rocha

District 4
Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5
Ivan Niño

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Lily Limón

District 8
Chris Canales

**NEWS
RELEASE**

08/04/2026

City Presents FY 2027 Budget Proposal Focused on Protecting Essential Services

Proposed Budget Prioritizes Public Safety, Neighborhood Services and Investments Residents Rely on Every Day

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso presented an update to its proposed FY 2027 budget, focused on maintaining the essential services residents rely on every day while addressing rising public safety costs and reduced revenue.

From police officers and firefighters responding to emergencies to maintaining streets, operating parks and libraries, providing public health and animal services, and investing in neighborhoods, the City provides 236 programs that impact the lives of El Paso residents every day.

The proposed budget reflects months of cost-cutting measures and operational reviews undertaken before recommending any budget adjustments. It also continues investments in the people and infrastructure needed to serve the community, including public safety staffing and academies, new fire stations, street resurfacing and other neighborhood improvements.

The City is committed to protecting residents, ensuring emergency responders are available when they are needed, maintaining the quality of life residents expect, and preserving the City's long-term financial stability.

Services Residents Rely on Every Day

City taxpayers support 236 programs and services that touch nearly every aspect of daily life, including:

- Police patrols, criminal investigations, emergency communications and crime prevention
- Fire suppression, emergency medical response, rescue operations and disaster response
- Street maintenance, resurfacing, traffic signals, pothole repairs and neighborhood infrastructure
- Parks, recreation centers, swimming pools, athletic facilities and community programs
- Public libraries, literacy initiatives, technology access and youth programming
- Public health services and programs that promote a healthier community
- Animal Services, neighborhood code enforcement and other quality-of-life services
- Planning, permitting, economic development and services that support continued growth

Public safety is the City's largest General Fund investment at approximately \$371 million, or 57 percent of the General Fund. The City has also invested \$39.4 million in Fire facilities, opening new Fire Stations 1 and 38 and renovating Fire Stations 15, 20, 22, 23 and 24.

The City continues to invest in the people who provide those services, including new Police and Fire academies and additional staffing. Federal grants will support 21 entry-level firefighters in Far East El Paso and additional police officers to strengthen community policing.

"City services are part of our residents' everyday lives, often in ways we don't stop to think about," said City Manager Dionne Mack. "It's knowing someone will answer when you call 911. It's driving on a safe street, taking your child to a City park or City library, or knowing help is there when your family needs it. Behind every one of those services are City employees who come to work every day to serve this community. This budget is about protecting those services and the people who provide them, while making sure we are prepared for what El Paso will need in the future."

—more—



Good Governance
Leadership that is responsive + reliable

Media Contact: Laura Cruz Acosta
Strategic Communications Director
Cruz-AcostaLA@elpasotexas.gov
915.491.0758



MAYOR
Renard U. Johnson

CITY MANAGER
Dionne Mack

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Alejandra Chávez

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Deanna M. Rocha

District 4
Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5
Ivan Niño

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Lily Limón

District 8
Chris Canales

Protecting the Services Residents Count On

Before asking residents to pay more, the City looked first at where it could reduce costs while protecting the services people use every day. Departments reviewed spending, operations and vacant positions to find savings without unnecessarily affecting frontline services.

Those efforts generated an estimated \$26.2 million in recurring savings and reduced or eliminated approximately 75 percent of vacant positions. The City also avoided using one-time money to pay for ongoing services, which would only push today's financial challenges into future years.

Even after those reductions, the City still faces rising costs and reduced revenue. The challenge is balancing those financial realities without compromising the police and fire response, streets, parks, libraries, public health, animal services and other services residents count on every day.

Public Safety Costs Continue to Increase

Public safety is the City's largest General Fund investment, accounting for approximately 57 percent of the General Fund. Those costs are expected to increase as the City plans for anticipated firefighter compensation associated with ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

The City's most recent proposal in those negotiations represents approximately \$43 million in additional firefighter compensation over four years, including \$7.7 million in FY 2027. Those anticipated costs are one of the significant financial pressures contributing to the proposed tax increase and must be balanced with the City's responsibility to maintain police, fire and emergency response services.

El Paso currently has approximately 960 firefighters and 1,160 police officers serving the community, responding every day to fires, accidents, crimes, medical emergencies, rescues and other calls for help. Maintaining that workforce and ensuring emergency responders have the staffing, equipment and facilities they need requires continued investment.

The City is also investing in Police and Fire recruitment and academies to maintain staffing and emergency response capabilities as the community's needs grow. Federal grants will support additional police officers and 21 entry-level firefighters for the Far East fire station.

State Actions Reduced Local Revenue

Recent changes in State law expanding property tax exemptions have reduced the City's available revenue by approximately \$12 million, reducing the local resources available to support essential City services.

In addition, lower-than-anticipated certified property values reduced projected General Fund property tax revenue by approximately \$5.3 million.

Together, these revenue reductions, combined with rising public safety costs, have created a financial challenge that cannot be addressed through spending reductions alone. The proposed budget seeks to close that gap while protecting the services residents depend on today and ensuring the City can continue meeting the community's needs in the years ahead.

Maintaining Essential Services for the Future

After reducing costs and identifying savings, the City is recommending a property tax adjustment to maintain those services and address the remaining financial pressures. The proposed budget recommends a property tax rate of \$0.809487 per \$100 of taxable value, compared with the current rate of \$0.759649 per \$100.

—more—



Good Governance
Leadership that is responsive + reliable

Media Contact: Laura Cruz Acosta
Strategic Communications Director
Cruz-AcostaLA@elpasotexas.gov
915.491-0758



MAYOR
Renard U. Johnson

CITY MANAGER
Dionne Mack

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Alejandra Chávez

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Deanna M. Rocha

District 4
Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5
Ivan Niño

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Lily Limón

District 8
Chris Canales

The recommended increase of approximately 5 cents per \$100 of taxable value includes approximately 0.9 cents to offset the \$5.3 million reduction in projected General Fund property tax revenue caused by lower-than-anticipated certified property values. The remaining approximately 4 cents would help support the FY 2027 budget, including anticipated public safety labor costs and the continued delivery of essential City services.

For the average El Paso homestead, with a taxable value of approximately \$232,669, the proposed tax rate would increase the City portion of the property tax bill by about \$11 per month, or approximately \$132 per year.

That investment supports the public safety, neighborhood and quality-of-life services residents rely on every day while allowing the City to continue investing in the people, facilities and infrastructure needed to serve El Paso into the future.

“We know families are already paying more for groceries, utilities and other everyday expenses, and we understand what it means to ask them to pay more,” Mack said. “That is why we looked first at what we could reduce and where we could operate more efficiently. But we also have a responsibility to be clear about the choices in front of us. Additional cuts would mean making difficult decisions about the services our residents rely on. This recommendation protects police and fire response, streets, parks, libraries and other essential services while keeping El Paso financially strong and prepared for the future.”

The FY 2027 proposed budget will continue through the public review process. A public hearing is scheduled for August 17, followed by City Council consideration of the FY 2027 budget and tax rate on August 18.

###



Good Governance
Leadership that is responsive + reliable

Media Contact: Laura Cruz Acosta
Strategic Communications Director
Cruz-AcostaLA@elpasotexas.gov
915.491-0758