

Alignment of Funding to the City Commission Priorities

As a part of a commitment to an open and transparent government, the City Commission participated in its annual prioritization workshop in January 2026 to identify its priorities for the upcoming year. Through a facilitated session, which included neighbor feedback from the Neighbor Survey and an analysis of future opportunities, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Commission Priorities were developed.

The budget makes significant investments into each of the City Commission’s identified priorities to improve the quality of life for neighbors today and prepare the City for tomorrow’s challenges. The City strategically identified how to best align resources toward these priorities, while maintaining the current millage rate. The table below demonstrates how funding in the FY 2027 Preliminary Budget will advance the City Commission’s priorities.

PRIORITY	FUNDED ITEMS (★ Newly funded initiatives)
Public Safety	★The Police Department budget includes approximately \$316,000 for a Group Violence Intervention Program, which includes the addition of one (1) Senior Administrative Assistant position to support the program beyond the initial pilot phase.
	★The Fire Rescue Department budget includes approximately \$330,000 for two (2) additional Fire Inspector positions, including one-time capital costs, which will strengthen the City’s fire prevention efforts through additional fire plan reviews and construction inspections.
	★The Fire Rescue Department budget includes approximately \$195,000 for an Ocean Rescue Captain position, which will provide additional oversight and support for beach operations. The Fire Rescue budget includes \$275,000 in funding to support the start-up costs and operational expenses for the new Ocean Rescue Headquarters.
	★The Fire Rescue Department budget includes approximately \$261,000 for new fire rescue equipment including thermal imaging cameras, ocean rescue equipment, forklifts, and eductors.
	★The Fire Rescue and Police Department budgets include funding, in the amounts of \$760,000 and \$521,000 respectively, for new marine vessels which will enhance safety on the City’s waterways.
	★The Police Department budget includes approximately \$240,00 for the addition of one (1) Support Services Bureau Manager position, which will enable sworn officers to dedicate more time to providing core public safety services.
	★The Police Department budget includes approximately \$184,000 in additional funding to enhance Public Safety Aide coverage at schools on a rotating basis throughout the City’s four (4) districts, improving school zone safety and traffic management.
	★The Fire Rescue Department budget includes \$175,000 to enhance training led by Florida Certified Training Instructors, increasing Fire Rescue’s readiness and strengthening the department’s operational capabilities.

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Public Safety, continued	★The Community Services Department budget includes approximately \$381,000 for two (2) Code Compliance Officer positions, which will expand nighttime coverage.
	★The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes \$7.8 million for a new Fire Rescue station at Holiday Park and \$12.1 million in unspent project balances for two (2) emergency medical services substations - the Heron Garage Fire Rescue Stations #117, which will serve the Las Olas corridor, and Emergency Medical Substation #88, which will serve the South Federal Highway corridor. It also includes \$560,000 to support fire station surveillance and backup power modernization.
	The Police Department budget includes approximately \$484,000 for the continuation of the ShotSpotter Program.
	The Police Department's budget includes \$508,000 to support a vendor-managed, subscription-based License Plate Reader (LPR) service model that expands Citywide coverage, modernizes equipment, and improves system reliability.
	The Police Department budget includes \$1.0 million for the replacement of police equipment such as ballistic vests, nighttime vision goggles, and boat engines.
	The Police Department budget includes approximately \$484,000 in continued funding to staff the Real Time Crime Center.
	The Fire Rescue Department budget includes \$1.1 million for the replacement of equipment such as power-load stretchers as well as bunker gear.
	★The Fleet Services budget includes \$8.4 million for the replacement of eighty-one (81) public safety vehicles, including twenty-two (22) motorcycles, per the vehicle replacement schedule. In addition, the Police Department budget includes an additional \$1.5 million annually to reduce the lifecycle for Police Patrol vehicles from seven (7) to six (6) years.
Homelessness Response	★The Community Services Department budget includes approximately \$248,000 in funding to expand access to an additional 15 shelter beds through Broward Partnerships' Central Homeless Assistance Center.
	The Community Services Department budget includes \$330,000 for a Shelter Bed Access Program which provides temporary shelter for neighbors experiencing homelessness for a period of up to 60 days.
	Funding in the amount of \$250,000 is included for the continuation of a mental health and substance abuse treatment program with two (2) housing service providers.
	★The Community Services Department budget includes \$270,000 to fund a bus service, in partnership with the Rotary Connection, that provides transportation and relocation assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness.

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Homelessness Response, continued	Funding of approximately \$646,000 is included in the Community Services Department for five (5) positions to support homeless-related initiatives.
	The Community Services Department budget includes approximately \$211,000 for the continuation of the Community Court Program, which helps individuals receive services tailored to their needs and link participants to restitution projects and onsite social services and treatment providers, accommodating approximately 130 participants weekly.
	The Police Department continues its efforts toward homeless support in the amount of approximately \$1.4 million through the General Fund for the Homeless Outreach Unit and Reunification Travel Voucher Program.
	The Fire Rescue Department budget includes approximately \$316,000 to continue the Mobile Integrated Health Program – Homeless Action Team which connects high utilizers (911 callers with three or more logged calls annually) to public and private resources.
	Entitlement grant funding will continue to support homelessness initiatives and is managed by the Housing and Community Development Division: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding will provide approximately \$130,000 to support local organizations' homelessness assistance and prevention programs. • The City anticipates continuing to receive approximately \$1.4 million in State Housing Initiative Partnership funding to be used in part to assist those experiencing homelessness and to prevent homelessness.
Infrastructure and Resilience	Flood Mitigation and Utilities
	The CIP includes \$58.3 million in unspent project balances to continue the Fortify Lauderdale Program.
	The CIP includes \$9.4 million in cash-funded stormwater improvement projects designed to reduce localized flooding in neighborhoods.
	★The Public Works Department budget includes an additional \$1.1 million in ongoing funding to support the Fortify Lauderdale infrastructure projects that have recently been placed into service.
	The CIP includes \$11.0 million in unspent project balance for a condition assessment of the City's Watershed Asset Management Plan (WAMP). Additionally, the Public Works Department Stormwater Operations budget includes \$1.3 million to support asset inventory improvements and implementation of the WAMP.

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Infrastructure and Resilience, continued	<p>★The CIP includes \$8.3 million in special obligation bond funding for seawall replacement projects including replacements at Del Mar Place/Aurelia Place, Colee Hammock Park, Bayview Drive Seawall, and SW 9th Street. An additional \$22.3 million in unspent project balances is available for seawall replacement projects including on Hendricks Isle, Riverwalk, Cordova Road, Las Olas Marina, Del Mar/Aurelia Place, Solar Plaza, Sebastian and Seville, and Southeast Isles. The City has also received \$5.1 million in grant funding for seawalls.</p>
	<p>★The Development Services Department budget includes \$50,000 to launch a living seawall assistance program which will provide permit fee rebate for eligible projects.</p>
	<p>The Water and Sewer - General Capital Projects CIP includes \$22.0 million in new cash funded capital projects in addition to approximately \$115.8 million in unspent project balances. The Central Region Wastewater budget includes \$30.8 million in new cash funded capital projects prioritized based upon a renewal and replacement study in addition to approximately \$77.3 million in unspent project balances.</p>
	<p>The Utility Services Department budget includes \$36.7 million for the operations of the new Prospect Lake Clean Water Center.</p>
	<p>★The Utility Services Department includes \$4.2 million for contracted staffing services to maintain operations at the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant during the transition to the Prospect Lake Clean Water Center.</p>
	<p>The CIP includes \$25.8 million in unspent project balances for implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and a new utility billing software system.</p>
	Transportation and Traffic
	<p>The CIP includes \$2.2 million in General Fund projects and \$850,000 in CDBG Fund projects for the repair and maintenance of asphalt, roadways, and sidewalks, in addition to \$1.1 million in General Fund projects to expand sidewalk access within the City. The Special Obligation Bond 2025 Municipal Improvements Fund has unspent balances in the amount of \$26.6 million for the repair and maintenance of asphalt, roadways, and sidewalks.</p>
	<p>The Utilities Services Department budget includes \$650,000 in funding to complete asphalt repairs following utility rehabilitation work.</p>
	<p>★The Special Obligation Bond 2025 Municipal Improvements Fund includes \$6.2 million for two (2) bridge replacement projects: SE 7th Street Bridge over Rio Cordova and the West Lake Drive Bridge over Lucille River.</p>
<p>The CIP includes \$4.0 million in unspent project balance and \$1.0 million in additional funds in FY 2027 to continue the implementation of the Las Olas Mobility Plan.</p>	

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Infrastructure and Resilience, continued	The Transportation and Mobility Department budget includes \$2.4 million in ongoing funding, including two (2) positions, for the City's Microtransit Program, funded primarily through the Transportation Surtax Fund.
	The CIP includes approximately \$53,000 in unspent project balance for traffic flow improvements as well as approximately \$1.7 million in unspent project balances for traffic calming projects in Tarpon River, Riverland Road, River Oaks, NE 16 th Court, Rio Vista, and Riverside Park.
	The Transportation and Mobility Department received grant funding in the amount of \$3.4 million for improvements along NW 15 th Avenue.
	★The Transportation and Mobility Department budget includes \$50,000 one-time funding for flashing beacons that enhance driver awareness at pedestrian crossings, and \$40,000 ongoing funding for the maintenance program.
	The Transportation and Mobility Department budget includes \$525,000 for traffic calming initiatives such as speed radar signs, speed hump installations, and pavement markings.
Public Spaces and Thriving Communities	The Public Works Department budget includes approximately \$141,000 for the continuation of the Chief Waterways Officer program.
	The Police Department budget includes \$2.2 million for personnel and operational expenses of the Marine Unit, which is staffed by eight (8) dedicated officers responsible for patrolling local waterways and enforcing marine laws and regulations.
	The Public Works Department budget includes approximately \$144,500 for water quality monitoring in compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), environmental clean-up efforts, and the purchase of pollution mitigation equipment to help protect local waterways.
	★The Public Works Department budget includes approximately \$32,000 for the purchase and installation of a trash skimmer to collect trash and improve water quality in the City's canals.
	The Utilities Services Department Water and Sewer Fund budget includes approximately \$272,000 for the Waterway Quality Monitoring Program.
	The Parks and Recreation Department budget includes \$2.3 million for the Marine Facilities Division, which ensures neighbors have access to clean well-maintained public boat ramps, pump-outs, and marinas.
	★The Parks and Recreation Department budget includes \$200,000 ongoing funding for Tree Canopy enhancement in public places, supported primarily by the Tree Canopy Trust Fund.
	★The Parks and Recreation Department budget includes funding for a comprehensive subterranean termite treatment and forest protection program, addressing the increase in subterranean termite activity.

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Public Spaces and Thriving Communities, continued	The CIP includes \$7.4 million in unspent project balance for roadway improvements along Breakers Avenue and Birch Road. Additionally, the City received grant funding in the amount of \$3.9 million for traffic improvements along Breakers Avenue.
	The Public Works Department received \$153,000 in grant funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protections for the purchase and operation of a pump-out vessel.
	A \$50,000 Broward Boating Improvement Program Derelict Vessel Removal Grant will continue to support the City's efforts to remove and dispose of vessels that present environmental or navigational hazards.
	The CIP includes \$3.4 million in unspent project balance for the Galt Ocean Mile beautification project.
	The Parks and Recreation budget includes \$3.8 million for the programming of community pools; these facilities provides community access to swimming and swim lessons. Additionally, the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center is funded in the amount of \$3.3 million to similarly advance community swimming and swim education in a state-of-the-art facility used for both local and international competition.
	The CIP includes \$3.4 million in funding to continue advancing Parks Bond projects. This additional funding will help ensure projects can be completed despite rising construction and material costs.
	★The Office of Strategic Communications budget includes additional \$40,000 in ongoing funds to expand the City's brand, attracting visitors and businesses to the City.
	★The Information Technology Services Department budget includes \$180,000 to expand Wi-Fi coverage at 10 City parks.
	The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) budget includes \$4.3 million in business incentives.
	The Parks and Recreation Department budget includes \$4.2 million for median maintenance and parks landscaping beautification efforts.
	Funding in the amount of \$605,000, including two (2) positions, is included in the Community Services Department budget for the Cultural Affairs Program by supporting economic development, promoting art installations, and strengthening community engagement. Highlighted funding and initiatives include \$170,000 for art installations, \$125,000 for art activation and event sponsorships, and \$30,000 for marketing.
	The CIP includes approximately \$224,000 for the replacement of three (3) lifeguard towers which will feature artistic murals.
A Chief Economic Development Officer continues to be funded in the Community Services Department in the amount of approximately \$181,000 to create and implement a comprehensive plan for attracting, retaining, and expanding businesses in Fort Lauderdale.	

**Some of these projects have elements that are components of other programs and initiatives; as such, the funding identified above may extend to multiple Commission Priorities.*