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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 28, 2026

Mr. Bradford Ventura, Fire Chief
Department of Fire and Public Safety
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Ventura:

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET** (BFED-1) (FS-02)

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the Council's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee meeting of April 6, 2026.* This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2027 Budget.

May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit your responses to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by 4:30 p.m. on **April 7, 2026**. **Date subject to change without notice.*

Overall

1. The following relate to the ongoing fire hazards in Piihana and your Department's enforcement efforts to date: (ALL)
 - a. Would you consider shifting from administrative enforcement to criminal enforcement since the property owner has not achieved compliance? Please explain why or why not.
 - b. Does your Department have the resources—including manpower, equipment, and supplies—to prioritize enforcement until compliance is achieved? If no, what additional resources are needed?

2. What specific FY 2027 investments are requested for Wildland-Urban Interface suppression—additional personnel, water tankers, early warning systems, or new station coverage in fire-prone corridors? How does the Department benchmark its current readiness against the National Fire Protection Association or State standards for WUI response? (ALL)
3. The FY 2026 Budget included funding for fleet standardization. Please provide a status update. Which apparatuses still need to be replaced in FY 2027 and what is the projected cost? Is the Department current on vehicle replacement schedules for its reserve fleet? If no, why not. (ALL)
4. What is the Department's FY 2027 projected overtime budget? How does this compare to FY 2026 actuals? Is the Department pursuing Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant funding to address staffing shortages? (ALL)
5. The pie charts illustrating the Department's FY 2027 Total Expenditures and Equivalent Personnel do not total to 100 percent. Please explain if this is a rounding error or if the funds need to be adjusted. (Page 298, Program Budget) (TP)
6. The following relate to the Department's grant awards: (Page 300, Program Budget)
 - a. Please explain the nearly \$7 million in estimated grants to be awarded in FY 2027. Why does the Department anticipate being awarded \$22.23 million in grants in FY 2026? What is the total value of grants awarded to date? (TP)
 - b. Provide a status update on FY 2026 grant awards. Please include whether the Department applied for the grant, the amount received, and if any FY 2026 grants are in jeopardy. (YLS)

7. As noted to the BFED Committee last year, the Department submitted a request for \$756,841.41 under the Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant for 150 replacement turnout ensembles and 13 LUCAS CPR units. Were these awarded or not? The Department is now requesting 75 more replacement turnouts under Index Code 911256C-7035. What does the Department do with the expired turnouts at the end of their life cycle? (Page 307, Program Budget) (TP)
8. Did the October 2024 agreement to provide lifeguard services at Pu'u Keka'a have a start and end date or is the agreement for an indefinite period? (TP)
9. Ocean Safety Officers operate on a 4-day, 10-hour work schedule. Does the Department track the number of rescues and 911 calls that occur within that extended 10-hour timeframe? If yes, how many rescues and calls have occurred within this timeframe? Does this work schedule help to provide staff coverage during peak hours and reduce overtime? (TP)
10. Under Ocean Safety Program Goal #1, item 1, please explain the minimum staffing requirements at each tower per shift. What are the Department's minimum guidelines? (Page 336, Program Budget) (TP)
11. As noted to the BFED Committee last year, public and private hydrants use the same connections so tanker apparatuses can easily connect to both systems. Does the Department train and test on private hydrant systems? Has a maintenance inspection program been created with results entered into the Life Safety Inspection Vault software annually? (TP)
12. As noted to the BFED Committee last year, the Department offers CPR training to students of public, private, and charter schools upon request. Does this service extend to faculty and staff as well? Which Department division provides this training and how does one request CPR training? (TP)
13. How many notices of violation has the Fire Prevention Bureau sent out to date? How many inspections have been conducted to date? (TP)

14. Considering that it has been a wet winter with El Niño predicted later this year, is the Department confident in its capacity to proactively address wildfire hazards and the Wildland-Urban Interface? Are there programs or positions not in the FY 2027 Budget that should be recommended for inclusion? Are there programs or positions planned for future FYs that could be moved ahead of schedule? (Page 327, Program Budget) (GJ)
15. As it relates to the Department's coordination with the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization and other County departments in fire prevention, is the Department aware of capacity needs that impact the Department's ability to provide this service but may exist outside its budget? For example, funding for residential communities, environmental or land management programs, etc. (Page 327, Program Budget) (GJ)

Salaries and Wages (Category "A")

1. The Fire Prevention Program equivalent personnel summary proposes to delete one Fire Fighter III position and increase the Fire Fighter IV position by two. However, the expansion budget request refers to a Fire Fighter III position. Please confirm if the Department is requesting a proposed expansion position for a Fire Fighter III or IV. (Pages 329 & 330, Program Budget) (TC) (TP)
2. There is a 47-percent increase in the Fire/Rescue Operations Program's premium pay. Is it more cost-efficient to hire additional staff instead of paying overtime? Are vacancies driving overtime costs? (Page 316, Program Budget) (SS)
3. Please explain the duties of the Ocean Safety Officer II – High Tide position. (Page 337, Program Budget) (TP)
4. Why does the Department anticipate taking six months to fill the Fire Fighter III expansion position in the Fire Prevention Program? If funding for additional months were provided, could this position be filled sooner? (Page 330, Program Budget) (GJ)
5. Please explain how Executive Order No. 2025-02 provides the authority for salary increases. (Page 9-4, Budget Details) (TC)

6. Please explain why “holiday funding” is being moved to “premium pay.” (Pages 9-19-9-38, Budget Details) (TC)
7. Please elaborate on the continuation requests for premium pay with the notation, “Funding corrected to add Holiday Pay.” How is this being funded in FY 2026? (Pages 9-39-9-42, Budget Details) (YLS)
8. For Index Code 911412A-5215 Premium pay, how is Base Salary, Overtime, Benefits, Incentives/Premiums funded in FY 2026 if it has to be corrected in FY 2027? (Page 9-61, Budget Details) (YLS)
9. Why was P-30948 Ocean Safety Officer II combined with P-30957 to create one E/P? Could the Department have requested another 0.5 E/P? (Page 9-68, Budget Details) (TP)

Operations and Equipment (Category “B”)

1. The following relate to 911008B-6132 Professional Services for the exclusive dispatch center: (Page 304, Program Budget)
 - a. How will this impact current dispatch operations? (TC)
 - b. Does the Department anticipate any challenges in recruiting dispatchers? (TC)
 - c. For emergency calls, what changes will be implemented to the current dispatch call structure or process? (TC)
 - d. Please explain if the exclusive dispatch will work with the Department of Police and State Department of Health and be located within the Emergency Operation Center, in coordination with the Maui County Emergency Management Agency. Please also provide the section of the Department’s After-Action Report on the August 2023 Maui Wildfires that recommends an exclusive dispatch center. (TP)
 - e. Please explain why the funding for consultant services, planning, and design is not considered a CIP and included in the six-year Capital Improvement Program. (YLS)

2. For Index Code 911057C-7040 Motor Vehicles, is it necessary to replace the nine-year old pumper truck now that the Department received recent donations of two fire trucks under Resolution 26-60? (Page 322, Program Budget) (SS)
3. What work is involved in the Fire Prevention Program as it relates to planning, developing, and enforcing wildfire mitigation programs? (Page 296, Program Budget) (TP)
4. The Office of Recovery identified various finance sources to support infrastructure recovery needs, including CDBG-DR, federal, and state funds. Can the Department apply for funding for the Hā'iku Fire Station, other training, support staffing, and wildfire mitigation under any of these other sources of funding? (Page 297, Program Budget) (TP)
5. For Index Code 911008B-6255 Uniform Allowance, please provide additional details for the \$71,656 increase for hats and ties for uniformed personnel. How essential is it to spend \$71,656 on new hats and ties in FY 2027? (Page 304, Program Budget) (GJ) (NUH)
6. The following relate to Index Code 911081B-6201 Airfare, Transportation: (Page 321, Program Budget)
 - a. Does the Department have to supplement the Lāna'i Fire Station with Maui personnel because there is not enough applicants from Lāna'i? Please explain. (TP)
 - b. Please explain the Department's rationale for using airplane instead of the ferry. Is the plane more reliable than the ferry? (TP) (YLS)
7. The Fire/Rescue Operations Program and Ocean Safety Program are requesting jet skis. Why do the jet skis vary in price from each other? What is the make and model of each jet ski being purchased? Is equipment standardization a recommendation of the Department's After-Action Report and the Department's strategic plan? (Pages 323 & 339, Program Budget) (TP)

8. Under Fire Prevention Program Goal #1, item 1, what criteria does the Department use to define a “hotel”? Do inspections include condo hotels, short-term rentals, and Airbnbs? (Page 328, Program Budget) (TP)
9. Are proposed increases in gas, diesel, and oil costs sufficient given the recent price increases in oil and gasoline, with cost projections that may continue to rise? Is there a long-term strategy to manage these rising costs by transitioning to renewable fuels—such as biodiesel—or energy? (Pages 319 & 330, Program Budget) (GJ)
10. For Index Code 911421B-6129 Other Services, can repaving the Joint Training Center wait until FY 2028 or be submitted as a potential budget amendment in FY 2027 if there are Carryover/Savings? (Page 307, Program Budget) (GJ)
12. For Index Code 911057B-6221 Miscellaneous Other Costs, is the shipping of personal vehicles for Maui personnel to Molokai under a contract? Please explain. (Page 9-47, Budget Details) (YLS)
13. For unbudgeted quarterly equipment requests, does the Department transfer funds to cover shortages between estimated and actual costs or are these items not listed in the Equipment Details of the FY 2026 Budget Details? (TP)
14. What does it cost to lease 850 W. Mokeua Place, Kahului, from the State Department of Transportation? What is the lease length? (Pages 9-72 & 9-73, Budget Details) (TP)
15. The following relate to Index Code 911076B-6529 Auto allowance, mileage: (Page 9-51, Budget Details)
 - a. Provide additional details on the \$57,600 auto allowance for six Battalion Chiefs in lieu of purchasing vehicles. (NUH)
 - b. Does the Department have an auto allowance policy? What is the allowance amount per month? What are the requirements of the personal vehicle, if any? (YLS)
 - c. Does Hawaii Fire Fighters Association Local 1463 have to be consulted? If yes, has this been done? (YLS)

16. Does the 20 Automated External Defibrillators requested to be replaced under the Ocean Safety Program still have a life span of two years left? What will be done with the AEDs when replaced? Will they be provided to other County departments, schools, or nonprofits to be used for the remaining two-year life span? If this equipment is standardized within the Department, why does the replacement cost range from \$3,320 per unit under the Ocean Safety Program to \$3,575 per unit under the Fire Control Training Program? (Pages 9-17 & 9-74, Budget Details) (TP)
17. For Index Code 911777C-7055 Vessel and marine equipment, what is the annual replacement schedule for rescue boards since 10 were purchased in FY 2026? (Page 9-74, Budget Details) (TP)
18. For the vessel and marine and rescue replacement equipment for the Ocean Safety Bureau, please provide the locations where the two jet skis, two utility task vehicles, and all-terrain vehicle will be used. (Page 9-74, Budget Details) (TP)
19. What brand are the 8-foot soft tops for the Junior Lifeguard Program and how will they be distributed? Is there indoor storage space during the off-season? Are older kids able to use 12-foot rescue boards? (Page 9-73, Budget Details) (TP)
20. For Index Code 911076C-7030 Communication Equipment, are these radios going to replace the 800 MHz radios? Are 200 radios enough for the Fire/Rescue Operations Program or will more radios be replaced in future FYs? (Page 9-58, Budget Details) (TP)
21. What are proposed grant amounts based on? How much has been awarded in FY 2025 and to date in FY 2026? (Page 9-83, Budget Details) (TP)
22. Can any of your requested motor vehicle purchases be delayed to FY 2028 or be considered as a budget amendment in the first two quarters of FY 2027 if there are Carryover/Savings? (GJ)

Capital Improvement Projects

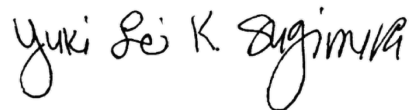
1. The following relate to the Pu'u Keka'a lifeguard tower under CBS-1003: (Page 904, Program Budget)
 - a. Has the Department submitted permits to build the lifeguard tower at Pu'u Keka'a? (YLS) (TP)
 - b. It appears that the Department contracted Fukumoto Engineering, Inc. to assist with the planning, design, and permits under Contract C8712. Please provide a status update of the tower's completion. (TP)
 - c. Has the Department started recruitment to fill the Ocean Safety Officers for this tower? (YLS)
2. For CBS-9486 Olowalu Fire Station Improvements, when is the Olowalu Fire Station expected to be conveyed to the County? What is the anticipated timeline to complete the improvements needed once the station is conveyed to the County? (Page 912, Program Budget) (YLS)
3. As noted to the BFED Committee last year, there was a pending flood study for the Puko'o Fire Station Relocation. What were the results of the study and the status of Puko'o Fire Station during the Kona Low storm? (Page 906, Program Budget) (TP)
4. The following relate to CBS-1002 Hā'iku Fire Station: (Pages 908 & 909, Program Budget)
 - a. In FY 2026, \$18,581,000 was allocated, including federal and bond funds. However, this does not seem to appear in the funding details under the FY 2027 CIP report. Please explain the discrepancy between the FYs 2026 and 2027 CIP sheet. How will federal funding be replaced? (TP)
 - b. Have all permits and entitlements been approved? Please provide an updated timeline. (YLS)

To ensure efficient processing, please duplicate the coding in the subject line above for easy reference.

Mr. Bradford Ventura
March 28, 2026
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Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Kirsten Szabo at ext. 7662, James Krueger at ext. 7761, Jarret Pascual at ext. 7141, Clarissa MacDonald at ext. 7135, or Pauline Martins at ext. 8039).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei K. Sugimura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:2027bgt:260327afs01:jpp

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Budget Director

BFED Committee

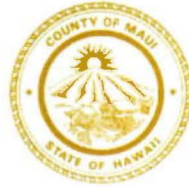
From: BFED Committee
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2026 5:33 PM
To: 'Bradford Ventura'
Cc: 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; 'Lesley Milner'; 'Chasserae Kaawa'; 'Gavin Fujioka'; 'Richelle.Wakamatsu@co.maui.hi.us'; Kristina Cabbat; 'tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us'; Shirley Blackburn; 'Janina Agapay'
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (FS-02)
Attachments: 260327afs01 (FS-02).pdf

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96732
www.mauicounty.gov

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

[Handwritten Signature] 4-6-26
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

The Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura,

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET (BFED-1) (FS-02)

The Department of Fire & Public Safety is in receipt of your letter dated March 28, 2026. Please see responses in **bold**. Please note under "Operations and Equipment (Category "B")" the number 11 was skipped so the question numbers in parenthesis reflect the question numbers on your letter.

Overall

1. The following relate to the ongoing fire hazards in Piihana and your Departments enforcement efforts to date: (ALL)
 - a. Would you consider shifting from administrative enforcement to criminal enforcement since the property owner has not achieved compliance? Please explain why or why not.

Yes, the Department has confirmed with Corporation Counsel that any recurring offense involving the same or a similar violation may serve as

grounds to initiate criminal prosecution in accordance with Maui County Code (MCC) 16.04E.170.

- b. Does your Department have the resources – including manpower, equipment, and supplies – to prioritize enforcement until compliance is achieved? If no, what additional resources are needed?

Over the last five years, the Department with support of the Maui County Council has increased the Fire Prevention Bureau staffing to include a second Fire Captain, a fourth Fire Fighter IV (Lieutenant – Plans Review), and four Fire Fighter IIIs (Fire Inspectors); however, ongoing turnover has made it difficult to determine whether current staffing levels are truly adequate, as frequent vacancies and onboarding cycles reduce overall productivity and continuity. To address this issue, the Department is collaborating with the Department of Personnel Services to develop a structured career path and explore additional strategies aimed at improving retention, stabilizing the workforce, and ultimately increasing production and efficiency within the Fire Prevention Bureau.

2. What specific FY 2027 investments are requested for Wildland-Urban Interface suppression – additional personnel, water tankers, early warning systems, or new station coverage in fire-prone corridors? How does the Department benchmark its current readiness against the National Fire Protection Association or State standards for WUI response? (ALL)

The Department has requested the following:

- **Three (3) Fire Fighter III positions for Napili Fire Station (Tanker 11)**
- **Replacement Engine Apparatus for Ho'olehua Fire Station (Engine 9)**
- **Replacement Tanker for Wailea Fire Station (Tanker 14)**
- **Brush Truck for Kaunakakai Fire Station**
- **New Radios (x200)**
- **Portable Drafting Pumps**
- **Starlink Services**

The Department exceeds the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) standard. In regard to the State of Hawaii's WUI response standards, the Department commits more resources to wildland brush fires than both Kauai Fire Department and Hawaii County Fire Department. The Department's initial response package when a wildland brush fire is reported includes: (1) Engine, (1) Mini, (1) Tanker, and (1) Fire Battalion

Chief. If the wildland brush fire is upgraded, an additional engine, tanker, Fire Battalion Chief, and Air 1 may be dispatched.

3. The FY 2026 Budget included funding for fleet standardization. Please provide a status update. Which apparatuses still need to be replaced in FY 2027 and what is the projected cost? Is the Department current on vehicle replacement schedules for its reserve fleet? If no, why not. (ALL)

The Department has worked diligently to standardize its entire vehicle fleet. All engine apparatuses have now been standardized and the next project is to standardize the brush trucks in our fleet.

As front line apparatuses are replaced, they are moved into the Department's relief fleet. The Department believes it is important to maintain the current replacement schedule to avoid potential issues in the future. The Department does not have a fixed number of assets to make par, however our oldest relief engine apparatus is 24 years old (2002) and the newest relief engine apparatus is 16 years old (2010).

4. What is the Department's FY 2027 projected overtime budget? How does this compare to FY 2026 actuals? Is the Department pursuing Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant funding to address staffing shortages? (ALL)

In FY 2027, the Department proposed \$11,782,198 in Premium Pay which includes overtime, holiday, guaranteed overtime, hazard pay, standby pay, etc.

As of March 30, 2026, the FY 2026 Premium Pay is \$4,621,163.55 which includes \$3,932,677.29 in overtime pay.

No, the Department is not pursuing funds through the SAFER grant at this time. The Department has applied for this grant twice and has been denied. However, the Department intends to apply for the SAFER grant when we begin to recruit for the Haiku Fire Station.

5. The pie charts illustrating the Department's FY 2027 Total Expenditures and Equivalent Personnel do not total to 100 percent. Please explain if this is a rounding error or if the funds need to be adjusted. (Page 298, Program Budget) (TP)

The pie charts do not equal 100% due to rounding issues stemming from Grant Revenue and Grant E/P percentage.

6. The following relate to the Department's grant awards: (Page 300, Program Budget)

- a. Please explain the nearly \$7 million in estimated grants to be awarded in FY 2027. Why does the Department anticipate being awarded \$22.23 million in grants in FY 2026? What is the total value of grants awarded to date? (TP)

In FY 2026, the Department applied for \$15 million in Congressional Direct Spending Grant funding which was denied. The Department will not be pursuing this grant in FY 2027.

The Department has been awarded \$106,806.68 from the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation Grant to purchase extrication tools for Lahaina (Engine 3) and Kahului (Engine 10).

Additionally, the Department received a payout in August 2025 in the amount of \$399,797.33 for the 2023 August Wildfires from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Grant.

- b. Provide a status update on FY 2026 grant awards. Please include whether the Department applied for the grant, the amount received, and if any FY 2026 grants are in jeopardy. (YLS)

The Department applies for and maintains its own grant funding. Please see the response to question 6a for further details.

Program	Project/Item	Requested	Status
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Mini 4 (Kaunakakai Fire Station)	\$226,712.64	Denied
Hawaii Water Service	Wildland Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) and Water Axe Mini Striker	\$29,466.76	Applied
Homeland Security Grant (HSG)	Hazmat, All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT), & Rescue Systems	\$110,000.00	Pending
Ready, Set, Go! Fuels Reduction	Fuel reductions around fire stations.	\$15,000	Pending
US Department of Interior, Slip-on Tanker Pilot Program	Slide-on Skid Fire Pumps for Utility Trucks	\$52,318.00	Pending
Congressional Direct Spending	Department Radios	\$2,500,000	Applied

7. As noted to the BFED Committee last year, the Department submitted a request for \$756,841.41 under Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant for 150 replacement turnouts under Index Code 911256C-7035. What does the Department do with the expired turnouts at the end of their life cycle? (Page 307, Program Budget) (TP)

Unfortunately, the Department was not awarded the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). All expired turnouts are used by Fire Fighter Trainees during Fire Recruit Academy for activities that do not involve fire (e.g., hose evolutions, fire ground operations, etc.).

8. Did the October 2024 agreement to provide lifeguard services at Pu'u Keka'a have a start and end date or is the agreement for an indefinite period? (TP)

The agreement was established on November 7, 2024 and remains in effect until December 31, 2035.

9. Ocean Safety Officers operate on a 4-day, 10-hour work schedule. Does the Department track the number of rescues and 911 calls that occur within that extended 10-hour timeframe? If yes, how many rescues and calls have occurred within this timeframe? Does this work schedule help to provide staff coverage during peak hours and reduce overtime? (TP)

Please see the enclosed "After Hours Call Report" (Exhibit "1") for details. The report provides calls/assists occurring 4:40pm or later, from April 16, 2025 until present.

The implementation of the 10-hour work schedule enhances hours of coverage. By transitioning to this model, the Department has minimized the need for overtime compensation that would have otherwise arisen under the previous 8-hour work schedule.

10. Under Ocean Safety Program Goal # 1, item 1, please explain the minimum staffing requirements at each tower per shift. What are the Department's minimum guidelines? (Page 336, Program Budget) (TP)

The Department's optimal staffing level for towers equipped with a Rescue Watercraft (RWC) is three Ocean Safety Officers (OSOs). This ensures the following:

- **Safety & Support: One OSO operates the RWC while a second serves as the rescuer or grabber.**

- **Emergency Readiness: During lunch and training breaks, having two (2) OSOs ensures that we can respond promptly to any emergency with the RWC.**

The Department's optimal staffing level for towers without a RWC is two OSOs to ensure there will always be an OSO on duty and ready to respond to emergencies during lunch and training breaks.

11. As noted to the BFED Committee last year, public and private hydrants use the same connections so tanker apparatuses can easily connect to both systems. Does the Department train and test on private hydrant systems? Has a maintenance inspection program been created with results entered into the Life Safety Inspection Vault software annually? (TP)

Public and private hydrants are tested by the Fire Fighter IIIs assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau (Fire Inspectors) during installation. Private hydrants are tested annually by third parties to ensure they are operational, but they are only used during emergencies. County hydrants are maintained by Department of Water Supply and are used during department training.

Yes, a maintenance program has begun in the Life Safety Inspection Vault.

12. As noted to BFED Committee last year, the Department offers CPR training to students of public, private, and charter schools upon request. Does this service extend to faculty and staff as well? Which Department division provides this training and how does one request CPR trainings? (TP)

The Department's EMS Cadre provides hands only CPR to students affiliated with local high schools and through the Department's Internship Program. While school faculty and staff members are welcome to participate in the student training, we do not provide certification training as required by their employer. Community CPR and First Aid is provided to community members through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program.

13. How many notices of violations has the Fire Prevention Bureau sent out to date? How many inspections have been conducted to date? (TP)

Inspections from 7/1/2025 – 3/31/2026

Item	Quantity
Inspection	1408
Warning Notices	253
Violation Notices	19*

Brush Inspections	436
• Failed	253
• Passed	183
Failed Brush Inspections	
• Brush Cases Opened	68
• Warning Notices Issued	5
• Cases Resolved	53
• In Progress – Requires additional inspection or update in MAPPS	10
Commercial Inspections	509
• Commercial Safety	268
• Unsafe Conditions	19
• Certificate of Occupancy	74
• Pre-Schools	55
• Private Schools	18
• Public Schools	67 (32 schools, 35 reinspections)
• After School Programs	8
Agency Inspections <i>Includes fire lines, fire hydrants, fire apparatus access roads, fire alarm systems, and fire sprinkler systems, hood and duct systems, standpipe systems, and final inspections.</i>	382
Special Use Permits	100
• Liquefied Petroleum Gas	9
• Events	24
• Fireworks Retail	54
• Fireworks Displays	8
• Fuel Tanks	5

*Indicates violation notices that was not corrected after 30+ days.

The community has been very responsive to warning notices which drastically decreases the need for violation notices.

14. Considering that it has been a wet winter with El Nino predicted later this year, is the Department confident in its capacity to proactively address wildfire hazards and the Wildland-Urban Interface? Are there programs or positions not in the FY 2027 Budget

that should be recommended for inclusion? Are there programs or positions planned for future FYs that could be moved ahead of schedule? (Page 327, Program Budget) (GJ)

Yes, the Department continues to monitor weather and fuels diligently. The Department's training and response capabilities have been focused on possible WUI challenges. With the adoption of stricter WUI codes, the Department can now address problem areas when it comes to fuel mitigation. The Fire Prevention Bureau has been actively working with landowners and has targeted high hazard areas to focus efforts.

The Department's future plans include:

- **Helicopter Dip Tanks above South Maui**
- **Expansion of the Department's Tanker fleet**
- **Improved career paths for the Fire Prevention Bureau personnel**
- **Opening of the Haiku and Oluwalu Fire Station**
- **Fire Administrative Campus**

15. As it relates to the Department's coordination with the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization and other County departments in fire prevention, is the Department aware of capacity needs that impact the Department's ability to provide this service but may exist outside its budget? For example, funding for residential communities, environmental or land management programs, etc. (Page 327, Program Budget) (GJ)

Yes, the Department is aware of these needs and are constantly learning and planning new mitigation solutions in collaboration with Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) and Maui Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). These are examples of projects that the Department has collaborated with HWMO on:

- **FireAside Software: \$3,000 was spent on 100 inspections for the pilot program to document home assessments to prevent ember ignitions.**
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Approximately \$2.7 million was awarded to help with vegetation clearing in the Department's Fuel Break Program. The Department has applied for a Ready, Set, Go! Fuel Reductions Mitigation Grant.**
- **Fire Resiliency Working Group: County Departments and Headwater Economics created a working group to work on wildfire mitigation. Goals include:**
 - **Unified wildfire review system**

- **Adopting Maui-specific wildfire construction standard**
- **Ensuring firefighting access and water supply reliability**

- **Department of Education (DOE) Working Group: The Department in partnership with the MEMA, HWMO, the State of Hawaii Department of Forestry and Wildlife, and the Office of the Fire Marshal, are working with the Department of Education on vegetation clearance, structure hardening, and evacuation planning on campuses across Maui County.**

Salaries and Wages (Category “A”)

1. The Fire Prevention Program equivalent personnel summary proposes to delete one Fire Fighter III position and increase the Fire Fighter IV position by two. However, the expansion budget request refers to a Fire Fighter III position. Please confirm if the Department is requesting a proposed expansion position for a Fire Fighter III or IV. (Page 329 & 330, Program Budget) (TC) (TP)

The Department is requesting a Fire Fighter III expansion position (P-00738) that will be dedicated to fire investigations. In addition, the Department is requesting to reallocate two Fire Fighter III positions (P-25865 and P-29504) to Fire Fighter IV positions.

2. There is a 47-percent increase in the Fire/ Rescue Operations Program’s premium pay. Is it more cost-efficient to hire additional staff instead of paying overtime? Are vacancies driving overtime costs? (Page 316, Program Budget) (SS)

The 47-percent increase to the premium pay occurred because \$2,795,651 in Holiday Pay was moved from Salaries to Premium Pay.

No, it is not as cost-effective to hire additional staff instead of paying overtime. The Department does not feel that hiring additional staff will reduce overtime unless every company was staffed with an additional permanent Fire Fighter I while maintaining the current minimum staffing. While this will decrease overtime costs, salaries, fringe benefits, and other costs associated with a permanent Fire Fighter I position will be more expensive in the long term.

No, vacancies are not a major issue driving overtime costs. Please see the Department’s response to question 7a. on (BFED-1) (FS-01) dated April 2, 2026 for details on driving factors related to overtime.

3. Please explain the duties of the Ocean Safety Officer II – High Tide position. (Page 337, Program Budget) (TP)

The term “High Tide” is a typo and should read “Half-Time.”

4. Why does the Department anticipate taking six months to fill the Fire Fighter III expansion position in the Fire Prevention Program? If funding for additional months were provided, could this position be filled sooner? (Page 330, Program Budget) (GJ)

The re-organization process including the creation of the position is a lengthy process. Based on previous experience, the Department does not believe additional funding will be necessary.

5. Please explain how Executive Order NO. 2025-02 provides the authority for salary increases. (Page 9-4, Budget Details) (TC)

The Budget Office will include Executive Order 2025-02 with their response to BD-08 which explains the authority of these increases. Executive Orders are created/administered by the Department of Personnel Services approved by the Mayor. Executive Orders provide guidance to the HRS Chapter 89C which requires that pay and other benefits for excluded employees under the same classification as employees in the same bargaining unit do not get less than those provided in the union contracts.

6. Please explain why “holiday funding” is being moved to “premium pay.” (Page 9-19 – 9-38, Budget Details) (TC)

Per the instructions provided by the Budget Office, the FY 2027 base salary for each position should be limited to the Council Adopted FY 2026 ending salary. Holiday pay is a premium wage expenditure. The movement of these funds to premium pay will ensure only SR/Step salaries as outlined in the most recent ratified Salary Schedule are paid as salaries.

7. Please elaborate on the continuation requests for premium pay with the notation, “Funding corrected to add Holiday Pay.” How is this being funded in FY 2026? (Page 9-39 – 9-42, Budget Details) (YLS)

Please see the response to question 6 under Salaries and Wages (Category “A”). In the notation, “corrected” may be the wrong terminology, perhaps “amended” is more appropriate. In FY 2026, these funds are paid in Salaries and Wages.

8. For Index Code 911412A-5215, Premium Pay, how is Base Salary, Overtime, Benefits, Incentives/Premiums funded in FY 2026 if it has to be corrected in FY 2027? (Page 9-61, Budget Details) (YLS)

The County's payroll software, Workday, charges salaries, BOBI, and penalty meals, to Salaries and Wages. Additionally, holiday pay for Fire Rescue Operations Program is also charged to Salaries and Wages.

In Workday, overtime, temporary assignment, night differentials, hazardous pay, relocation pay, and standby is charged to Premium Pay.

9. Why was P-30948 Ocean Safety Officer II combined with P-30957 to create one E/P? Could the Department have requested another 0.5 E/P? (Page 9-68, Budget Details) (TP)

The Department combined two half-time positions into one full-time position because it was the most efficient method for approval. At the time, the Department had two half-time employees request or transfer into full-time positions. Additionally, we found that candidates prefer full-time work, and full-time Ocean Safety Officers are more effective for operations.

Operations and Equipment (Category "B")

1. The following relate to 911008B-6132 Professional Services for the exclusive dispatch center: (Page 304, Program Budget)
 - a. How will this impact current operations? (TC)

The Department will be a secondary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and will be responsible for dispatching Fire, EMS, and Ocean Safety. The Maui Police Department (MPD) will continue to dispatch Police. The two PSAP centers will be coordinated and provide redundancy.

- b. Does the Department anticipate any challenges in recruiting dispatchers? (TC)

The Department intends to staff its dispatch center with uniformed personnel which should eliminate recruiting challenges associated with civilian dispatchers.

- c. For emergency calls, what changes will be implemented to the current dispatch call structure or process? (TC)

All calls made to 911 will continue to be answered by MPD's Dispatch Center. MPD's dispatchers will do an initial assessment of the call and transfer calls related to fire, EMS, or ocean to the Department's dispatch center.

- d. Please explain if the exclusive dispatch will work with the Department of Police and State Department of Health and be located within the Emergency

Operations Center, in coordination with the Maui County Emergency Management Agency. Please also provide the section of the Department's After-Action Report on the August 2023 Maui Wildfires that recommends an exclusive dispatch center. (TP)

Yes, the Department's dispatch center will synergize with MPD's dispatch center to provide a more efficient response to the community in times of crisis. The Department of Health is obliged to provide EMS services throughout the state, which includes emergency dispatch.

The Department's dispatch center will initially be located at the Wailea Fire Station with future plans to be permanently housed at the new Fire Administration Campus.

The Department's dispatch center will improve communication with the Maui Emergency Management Agency by providing real-time situational awareness for all concerned.

The Department has long recognized the need for professionally trained Fire/Rescue/EMS individuals that can be retained in the dispatch center. The Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) Maui Wildfires 2023 After-Action Report, Recommendation 11.1 (Page 38) reads:

"Establishes a Call When Needed (CWN) process where a Chief Officer would temporarily go into dispatch to assist in covering macro-level MFD decisions until enough command staff are available."

The Department strives to meet or exceed the recommendations made following the tragic events of August 2023 and strongly believes an internal PSAP will provide the necessary command presence of individuals trained in Fire/Rescue/EMS at all times.

- e. Please explain why the funding for consultant services, planning, and design is not considered a CIP and included in the six-year Capital Improvement Program. (YLS)

Following extensive discussions and demonstrations, Honolulu Fire Department along with Maui Police Department's emergency dispatch personnel, have recommended the Department hire third-party consultants to review the feasibility of a secondary PSAP due to the complex and expensive nature of this project. Funding was included in 911008B-6132 for consultative services to determine if it's feasible to

pursue an internal PSAP. If/when the internal PSAP moves forward, funding will be requested as a CIP.

2. For Index Code 911057C-7040 Motor Vehicles, is it necessary to replace the nine-year old pumper truck now that the Department received recent donations of two fire trucks under Resolution 26-60? (Page 322, Program Budget) (SS)

The generosity of the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation and the support of the Maui County Council has allowed us to add two tanker trucks to our relief apparatus fleet. As mentioned in question 3 under Overall, the Department is working to standardize its front line apparatuses as well as maintain the replacement schedule.

The requested truck is an engine apparatus whereas the donated trucks are tankers and serve a different purpose.

3. What work is involved in the Fire Prevention Program as it relates to planning, development, and enforcing wildfire mitigation programs? (Page 296, Program Budget) (TP)

Wildfire mitigation is constantly evolving as wildfires get worse each year. Department personnel attends trainings and conferences to learn new mitigation strategies each year. Planning, developing, and enforcing wildfire mitigation programs include all our current programs and future programs.

Current Programs

- **MFD Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Program:** This program was merged with HWMO's Firewise Program in which MFD covers the fire code, enforcement, and preplanning with fire crew. HWMO covers the home hardening and other educational information.
- **MFD Fuel Breaks Program:** Inspections are conducted once a year to ensure fuel breaks are in place where required in high-hazard areas.
- **Code Case Process:** General public concerns that are reported and Fire Inspectors assist with enforcement.
- **Home Assessment Program (Phase 1):** Together, with HWMO, to do residential inspections to prevent ember ignitions and document it in the FireAside Software.

Future Programs

- **Fire Resiliency Working Group:** County Departments and Headwater Economics created a working group to work on wildfire mitigation.
 - **Unified Wildfire Review System**

- **Adopting Maui-specific wildfire construction standards**
 - **Ensuring firefighting access and water supply reliability**
 - **Home Assessment Program (Phase 2): Program detailed above will be improved by increasing the number of assessors and possibly making it a requirement for residential homes.**
- 4. The Office of Recovery identified various finance sources to support infrastructure recovery needs, including CDBG-DR, federal, and state funds. Can the Department apply for funding for the Haiku Fire Station, other training, support staffing, and wildfire mitigation under any of these other sources of funding? (Page 297, Program Budget) (TP)

Due to the timeline of funding needed for this project and entering into contract in December 2025, this additional funding request may have delayed the project. CDBG-DR is intended to be funding of last resort and cannot supplant available County funds.

- 5. For Index Code 911008B-6255 Uniform Allowance, please provide additional details for the \$71,656 increase for hats and ties for uniformed personnel. How essential is it to spend \$71,656 on new hats and ties in FY 2027? (Page 304, Program Budget) (GJ) (NUH)

While it is not essential to our mission, the Department hopes to supply all uniformed fire personnel with a formal uniform to be used at ceremonies (e.g., State of the County Address, Maui County Council Inaugurations, etc.), active and retired firefighter funeral services, and other department traditional events such as Fire Recruit graduation. By providing personnel with hats and ties, the Department will better align with Maui Police Department's long sleeve uniform as well as many other fire departments across the nation.

- 6. The following relate to Index Code 911081B-6201 Airfare, Transportation: (Page 321, Program Budget)
 - a. Does the Department have to supplement Lanai Fire Station with Maui personnel because there is not enough applicants from Lanai? Please explain. (TP)

The Department hired its second Lanai resident since 1997 last year, as part of Recruit Class 42. While there are other Lanai natives employed by the Department, they have chosen to relocate to Maui on a permanent basis. The current staffing at Lanai Fire Station consists of two Lanai residents, 11 Maui residents, and five Oahu residents.

- b. Please explain the Department's rationale for using airplane instead of the ferry. Is the plane more reliable than the ferry? (TP) (YLS)

The employer team, including Department Administration and Department of Personnel Services, are working with the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA) on a Supplemental Agreement to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, which would give firefighters the choice of travel methods. The Lanai Expeditions ferry schedule is now limited and the duration of the trip is much longer as they disembark from Ma'alea Harbor instead of Lahaina Harbor.

The option to travel by airplane aligns with the current options available to Maui Police Department personnel.

7. The Fire/Rescue Operations Program and Ocean Safety Program are requesting jet skis. Why do the jet skis vary in price from each other? What is the make and model of each jet ski being purchased? Is equipment standardization a recommendation of the Department's After-Action Report and the Department's strategic plan? (Page 323 & 339, Program Budget) (TP)

The prices vary due to the packages of equipment:

- 1. Rescue Watercraft and Sled**
- 2. Rescue Watercraft, Sled, and Collar**
- 3. Rescue Watercraft, Sled, Collar, and Trailer**

The Department is unable to determine the specific brand until the bid opening. However, the bid specifications will likely require certain features on lifesaving equipment.

Yes, the Department's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan aims to standardize equipment to ensure first responder familiarity.

8. Under Fire Prevention Program Goal # 1, item 1, what criteria does the Department use to define a "hotel"? Do inspections include condo hotels, short-term rentals, and Airbnbs? (Page 328, Program Budget) (TP)

There are 34 hotels in Maui County, which are defined as having three stories or more.

Condo hotels, short-term rentals, and Airbnbs inspections are limited to common areas. In compliance with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 132-6, "...shall inspect

all buildings, premises, and public thoroughfares, except the interiors of private dwellings and state-owned airport facilities...”.

9. Are proposed increases in gas, diesel, and oil costs sufficient given the recent price increases in oil and gasoline, with cost projections that may continue to rise? Is there a long-term strategy to manage these rising costs by transitioning to renewable fuels – such as biodiesel – or energy? (Page 319 & 330, Program Budget) (GJ)

No, the request was made prior to the price increases and is insufficient. Biodiesel has limited availability, and emergency response vehicles need access to fuel 365/24/7. The Department currently has one hybrid vehicle and will make an effort to purchase additional hybrid or electric vehicles in the future, when possible.

10. For Index Code 911421B-6129 Other Services, can repaving the Joint Training Center wait until FY 2028 or be submitted as a potential budget amendment in FY 2027 if there are Carryover/Savings? (Page 307, Program Budget) (GJ)

Due to the deterioration and safety concerns the paving project was completed earlier than anticipated this year. Therefore, we are only requesting a portion of the funding (\$45,000) be kept in the index code to finish the training yard which will include storage and prop building. Additionally, the Department may submit a resolution in FY 2026 to reallocate funding.

11. (12) For Index Code 911057B-6221 Miscellaneous Other Costs, is the shipping for personal vehicles for Maui personnel to Molokai under a contract? Please explain. (Page 9-47, Budget Details) (YLS)

The shipping costs for personal vehicles for Maui personnel who are assigned to Molokai for a minimum of six month is part of a Supplemental Agreement to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association.

12. (13) For unbudgeted quarterly equipment requests, does the Department transfer funds to cover shortages between estimated and actual costs or are these items not listed in the Equipment Details of the FY 2026 Budget Details? (TP)

An unbudgeted equipment request is created whenever the actual cost of equipment is over the budgeted amount. Occasionally, the need to purchase equipment that has not been budgeted for arises which would require an unbudgeted equipment request.

13. (14) What does it cost to lease 850 W. Mokuea Place, Kahului from the State Department of Transportation? What is the lease length? (Page 9-72 & 9-73, Budget Details) (TP)

The State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation has offered an amazing lease agreement of a standard 1-year renewable contract of \$0.00 dollars.

14. (15) The following relate to Index Code 911076B-6529 Auto Allowance, Mileage: (Page 9-51, Budget Details)

- a. Provide additional details on the \$57,600 auto allowance for six Battalion Chiefs in lieu of purchasing vehicles. (NUH)

In the 2023 August Wildfires After Action Report, Recommendation 1.8 (Page 20) reads:

“Implement a take-home policy for BC [Battalion Chief] command vehicles so off-duty BCs can readily respond from their residence; increasing MFD’s command and control capabilities.”

The Department has compared costs for providing Fire Battalion Chiefs with department-issued vehicles vs. providing an auto allowance and believes the auto allowance is the more fiscally responsible choice in terms of costs, replacement, usage, maintenance and repair, etc.

- b. Does the Department have an auto allowance policy? What is the allowance amount per month? What are the requirements of the personal vehicle, if any? (YLS)

Auto allowance is part of the Executive Order issued by the Mayor in conjunction with the Collective Bargaining Agreements. The current Executive Order provides an auto allowance for the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, and two Assistant Chiefs. The requested funding, \$800.00 per month, would be used to include the six Fire Battalion Chiefs assigned to operations. The auto allowance will be included in the employees semi-monthly paycheck with appropriate taxes deducted.

The Department requires personnel who receive an auto allowance to have a 4x4 vehicle which is less than ten years old and in working condition to respond to emergencies.

- c. Does Hawaii Fire Fighters Association Local 1463 have to be consulted? If yes, has this been done? (YLS)

No, the Fire Battalion Chiefs are considered Excluded Management and are not represented by the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association.

15. (16) Does the 20 Automated External Defibrillators requested to be replaced under the Ocean Safety Program still have a life span of two years left? What will be done with the AEDs when replaced? Will they be provided to other County departments, schools, or nonprofits to be used for the remaining two-year life span? If this equipment is standardized within the Department, why does the replacement costs range from \$3,320 per unit under the Ocean Safety Program to \$3,575 per until under the Fire Control Training Program? (Page 9-17 & 9-74, Budget Details) (TP)

The 20 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) slated for replacement may have two years of remaining lifespan, however the Department intends to utilize the buy-back program offered by the distributor. The buy-back prices will be established based on the working condition of each unit. Additionally, the price of \$3,320 per AED is incorrect, it should be \$3,575 each.

16. (17) For Index Code 911777C-7055 Vessel and Marine Equipment, what is the annual replacement schedule for rescue boards since 10 were purchased in FY 2026? (Page 9-74, Budget Details) (TP)

The rescue boards that were purchased in FY 2026 replaced the rescue boards from all towers except Makena State Beach Park. The annual replacement plan for rescue boards will be five per year.

17. (18) For the vessel and marine and rescue replacement equipment for the Ocean Safety Bureau, please provide the locations where the two jet skis, two utility task vehicles, and all-terrain vehicle will be used. (Page 9-74, Budget Details) (TP)

The Rescue Watercrafts will be assigned to Hanakao'o (Canoe) and Ho'okipa Beach Parks. The Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) will be assigned to Kanaha and D.T. Flemings Beach Parks. The All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) will be assigned to Kamaole Beach Park III.

18. (19) What brand are the 8-foot soft tops for the Junior Lifeguard Program and how will they be distributed? Is there indoor storage space during the off-season? Are older kids able to use 12-foot rescue boards? (Page 9-73, Budget Details) (TP)

The brand of the 8-foot soft tops are the "Wavestorm." A total of five (5) will be distributed during the Junior Lifeguard Program sessions in the North, West, South, and Molokai. Additionally, four (4) boards will go to Hana and two (2) boards will go to Lanai.

While some of the older children may be able to use the 12-foot boards, starting with the 8-foot boards allow children to build a strong foundation before transitioning to the larger board. Gradual progression is crucial for developing advanced rescue skills.

The 8-foot boards are also the standard-sized board used in the State Junior Lifeguard Championships by all age groups. All boards will be stored indoors after the season.

19. (20) For Index Code 911076C-7030 Communication Equipment, are these radios going to replace the 800 MHz radios? Are 200 radios enough for Fire/Rescue Operations Program or will more radios be replaced in future FYs? (Page 9-58, Budget Details) (TP)

The Department's current radio cache are no longer supported by Motorola and are being phased out. The new radios will continue to be 800 MHz but will include HIWIN capabilities which provides high-load radial capabilities allowing for easy communication between islands. The Department intends to replace the radios in phases. In this first phase, the requested 200 radios will cover fire operational users only. The Department will seek Congressional Direct Spending funds in the amount of \$2,500,000 for the second phase of radios.

Radios assigned to Administration and Bureaus, including Ocean Safety, do not need these high-level durable radios. They will continue to use the current 800 MHz radios until they are no longer functional.

20. (21) What are proposed grant amounts based on? How much has been awarded in FY 2025 and to date in FY 2026? (Page 9-83, Budget Details) (TP)

Proposed grants are based on an estimate of what the Department will be applying for by reviewing previous years awards and any future needs.

Fiscal Year	Awarded
2025	\$481,673.93
2026	\$106,806.68

21. (22) Can any of your requested motor vehicle purchases be delayed to FY 2028 or be considered as a budget amendment in the first two quarters of FY 2027 if there are Carryover/Savings? (GJ)

In the last few years, with the support of the Mayor and Maui County Council the Department's administrative staff has grown exponentially. The vehicle fleet available to conduct business-related matters for the administrative staff has

fallen behind. If necessary, the Department can delay the purchase of one (1) Motor Vehicle (\$65,000) under 911008C, Department Priority No. 20 (Page 9-10, Equipment Details).

Capital Improvement Projects

1. The following relate to the Pu'u Keka'a lifeguard tower under CBS-1003: (Page 904, Program Budget)

- a. Has the Department submitted permits to build the lifeguard tower at Pu'u Keka'a? (YLS) (TP)

No, the Department has contracted Fukumoto Engineering, Inc. and its subconsultants to provide the services required to obtain a permit including but not limited to application, civil engineering, land surveying, and architectural design for a movable tower. They will also prepare the necessary Special Management Area (SMA) and Shoreline Setback Assessments.

- b. It appears that the Department contracted Fukumoto Engineering, Inc. to assist with the planning, design, and permits under Contract C8712. Please provide a status update on the tower's completion. (TP)

The project is currently in the Planning and Design phase and anticipate permitting to be completed by the end of 2026. Construction will commence following the issuance of all necessary permits and agency approvals. Construction is expected to take approximately 60 – 90 days and the projected completion is set for Summer 2027.

- c. Has the Department started recruitment to fill the Ocean Safety Officers for this tower? (YLS)

No, the Department will not begin recruitment until the necessary permits are approved. Additionally, the Department has not requested any funding for these positions in FY 2027.

2. For CBS-9486 Oluwalu Fire Station Improvements, when is the Oluwalu Fire Station expected to be conveyed to the County? What is the anticipated timeline to complete the improvements needed once the station is conveyed to the County? (Page 912, Program Budget)

The groundbreaking ceremony for Oluwalu Fire Station was held on March 20, 2026. The next step for the West Maui Improvement Foundation (WMIF) is to go

before the Maui Planning Commission to request a Special Use Permit. Once the Special Use Permit is secured, work can begin on the site. The Department cannot comment on the specific timeline for construction and delivery of the modular station at this time.

3. As noted to the BFED Committee last year, there was a pending flood study for the Puko'o Fire Station Relocation. What were the results of the study and the status of Puko'o Fire Station during the Kona Low Storm? (Page 906, Program Budget) (TP)

The flood study and topographic survey for Puko'o Fire Station have been completed. The study established the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) for the property and determined that the existing structure is sufficient to meet current standards. Consequently, it was determined that additional floodproofing measures were not required for the structure or the proposed renovation work, and the Flood Development Permit was issued.

The project's contractor and their Molokai-based foreman reported the property sustained minimal impact from the recent Kona Low Storm. There was no observable damage from heavy runoff or flooding, and no significant mud accumulation was noted on-site.

4. The following relate to CBS-1002 Haiku Fire Station: (Page 908 & 909, Program Budget)
 - a. In FY 2026, \$18,581,000 was allocated, including federal and bond funds. However, this does not seem to appear in the funding details under the FY 2027 CIP report. Please explain the discrepancy between the FYs 2026 and 2027 CIP sheet. How will federal funding be replaced? (TP)

During the initial planning and permitting phase, the project budget included an anticipated \$15,181,000 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant. This amount, combined with the \$3,400,000 FY 2026 appropriation, was intended to reflect the total remaining funding needed for the project. However, due to federal grant cuts the award was rescinded.

Despite this loss, the project proceeded to public bid and was awarded using FY 2025 funds and a portion of the FY 2026 appropriation. To manage the remaining balance, a portion of the contract award was deferred. In FY 2027, the Department submitted a request of \$4,250,000 is intended to cover this deferred award and provide the necessary contingency funding to replace the lost federal grant.

The Honorable Yuki Lei Sugimura, Chair

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April 2, 2026

- b. Have all permits and entitlements been approved? Please provide an updated timeline. (YLS)

No, the Department is currently awaiting placement of Maui County Council agenda for the Zoning Plan Amendment (ZPA) review. Concurrently, the consulting team is finalizing responses to the current round of plan review comments and expects to resubmit the construction documents to the Development Services Administration (DSA) by the end of the month.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Office of the Fire Chief at (808) 270-7561.

Sincerely,



BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief



Maui Ocean Safety After Hour Calls (4:40pm or later) April 16 2025 - Present

Public Contacts	14,075
Drowning	1
Enforcement	539
Medical Aid	47
Prevention	4,418
Rescue	133
Vessel	3

Contact	997
Contact / Beach Water Hazard	3
Contact / P.A. Public Address	4,820
Contact / Providing Information	2,910
Contact / Public Assist	10
Contact / Public Education	2,742
Contact / Unsafe Activity	502
Contact / Water Conditions	2,071
Contact / Wildlife Education	20
Drowning	3
Enforcement	511
Enforcement / Other	20
Enforcement / PD Assist / Assault	2
Enforcement / Warning / Unsafe Beach Activity	6
Medical Aid / Abrasion / Treat & Released	4
Medical Aid / Abrasion / Treat & Transfer to MFD AMR	1
Medical Aid / Dislocation / Refused Medical Aid	1
Medical Aid / Dislocation / Treat & Released	2
Medical Aid / Dislocation / Treat & Transfer to MFD AMR	1
Medical Aid / Fracture / Treat & Released	1
Medical Aid / Laceration / Other	1
Medical Aid / Laceration / Refused Medical Aid	2

Medical Aid / Laceration / Treat & Released	10
Medical Aid / Other / Refused Medical Aid	2
Medical Aid / Other / Treat & Released	6
Medical Aid / Other / Treat & Transfer to MFD AMR	4
Medical Aid / Respiratory / Treat & Released	1
Medical Aid / Seizure / Refused Medical Aid	1
Medical Aid / Seizure / Treat & Transfer to MFD AMR	1
Medical Aid / Sprain or Strain / Refused Medical Aid	1
Medical Aid / Sprain or Strain / Treat & Transfer to MFD AMR	1
Medical Aid / Sprain or Strain / Treat and Released	4
Medical Aid / Unknown Medical / Other	1
Medical Aid / Unknown Medical / Refused Medical Aid	2
Prevention	792
Prevention / Beach	1,257
Prevention / Open Water / Apparatus	10
Prevention / Open Water / Other	1
Prevention / Other	247
Prevention / Rip / Other	102
Prevention / Rip / Swimmer	34
Prevention / Rocks / Other	119
Prevention / Rocks / Swimmer	192
Prevention / Shorebreak	1,252
Prevention / Surf / Other	412
Rescue / Cliff / Other	1
Rescue / Open Water / Foiling	5
Rescue / Open Water / Free Diving	2
Rescue / Open Water / Kayak or Canoe	10
Rescue / Open Water / Kite Surfing	10
Rescue / Open Water / Other	5
Rescue / Open Water / Snorkeling Traditional	2
Rescue / Open Water / Stand Up Paddle	5
Rescue / Open Water / Surfing	4
Rescue / Open Water / Swimmer	12
Rescue / Open Water / Wind Surfing	5
Rescue / Rip / Body Boarding	2
Rescue / Rip / Body Surf	5
Rescue / Rip / Snorkeling Traditional	2
Rescue / Rip / Swimmer	20
Rescue / Rip / Wind Surfing	1
Rescue / Shore Break / Body Boarding	1
Rescue / Shore Break / Other	8
Rescue / Surf / Body Boarding	3
Rescue / Surf / Kite Surfing	5
Rescue / Surf / Other	5
Rescue / Surf / Surfing	7
Rescue / Surf / Swimmer	2
Rescue / Surf / Wind Surfing	9
Vessel / Assist / Other	1
Vessel / Rescue / Jet Ski	2

BFED Committee

From: Janina E. Agapay <Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 11:10 AM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Lesley J. Milner; Tiare P. Horner; Bradford K. Ventura; Gavin L. Fujioka; Chasserae K. Kaawa; Cindy Y. Kagoshima
Subject: (BFED-1)(FS-02)
Attachments: (BFED-1)(FS-02).pdf

Aloha,

Please see attached correspondence.

Mahalo,

Janina Agapay

County of Maui | Budget Office

Phone: (808) 270-7836

Email: Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us