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COUNTY COUNCIL
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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April 1, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Ventura:

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1) (FS-02)

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the BFED Committee meeting on **April 7, 2025**.^{*} This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2026 Budget.

May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit your answer to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by the end of the day on **April 7, 2025**. **Date subject to change without notice.*

Overall

1. For the success measurement under Goal #2, item 3, what is the designated "minimum set of major fitness equipment"? (Page 301, Program Budget) (TP)
2. Please provide a status update on FY 2025 grant awards. Include whether the Department applied for the grant, the amount received, and whether any FY 2026 grants are in jeopardy. (Pages 302, 311, 318, and 326; Program Budget) (YLS)
3. Please provide an update on providing ocean safety at Pu'u Keka'a, including the status of the contract and associated positions. (Page 326, Program Budget) (YLS) (TP)
4. Under Goal #1, item 2 for the Fire/Rescue Operations Program, please explain the 75 percent completion of preventative

maintenance for heavy apparatus. What variables account towards the missing 25 percent? What are the solutions to remedy this? (Page 304, Program Budget) (SS)

- a. Please explain any service contract expenditures to complete the remaining 25 percent. (SS)
5. Relating to the Department's External Factors Description: (Page 289, Program Budget)
 - a. Please describe the impact that supply chain disruptions have had to the Department's operations. (TC)
 - b. Please list the Department facilities that are, and will be, impacted by coastal erosion. (TC)
 - c. Please elaborate further on the following statement: "Permitting, approval, and other administrative processes of external entities that slow our department's ability to grow and re-organize to better meet developing challenges." (TC) (NUH)
 6. Under Goal #1, item 1 for the Administration Program, please list all grant awards applied for and awarded to the Department. (Page 292, Program Budget) (TC)
 7. Under Goal #2, item 1 for the Administration Program, please list the facilities which completed a professional assessment in FY 2024 and the facilities anticipated for a professional assessment in FYs 2025 and 2026. (Page 293, Program Budget) (TC)
 8. Under Goal #1, item 1 for the Training Program, what is a standard company evolution and how does this impact the Department's operations? (Page 299, Program Budget) (TC)
 9. The following relate to Goal #2, item 1 for the Fire Prevention Program: (Page 315, Program Budget) (TC) (NUH)
 - a. What is the most common reason for the delay of a building plan review for building permit approval? What strategies are being implemented to mitigate these challenges and reduce the anticipated review time? (TC)

- b. What will help the Fire Prevention Bureau achieve its goal of 100-percent completion of plan reviews in FYs 2025 and 2026? (NUH)
10. As noted to the Committee last year, the Fire Prevention Bureau is identifying all private water systems in the County. Has the Department identified all of these private water sources? Would tankers be able to use them if the piped water system is compromised? (TP)
11. What education and outreach activities are being planned to educate the public about the newly adopted County Fire Code and fines? Can complaints be anonymous? (TP)
12. How many schools and hotels have been inspected by your Department to date and how many remain? (TP)
13. The following relate to the Department's mental health needs: (GJ) (TP)
 - a. Under the External Factors Description, mental health and adjustments to recruitment and retention strategies are challenges your Department faces. What funding and services will be provided in FY 2026 to address these challenges? (Page 289, Program Budget) (GJ)
 - b. As noted to the Committee last year, the Department is addressing the mental health needs of its employees in the aftermath of the August 2023 Maui Wildfires. As we are approaching the second anniversary, how is the Resilience and Wellness Team program going? Has the policy to allow dogs at the fire stations as a mental health promotional initiative advanced? (TP)
14. What is the status of the Ocean Safety 10-hour workdays and associated positions? (TP)
15. What is the status of the Olowalu Fire Station and associated positions? (TP)

16. As it relates to Index Code 911008C-7040 Motor Vehicles, are there no other vehicles available for the Communications Coordinator, CIP Coordinator, Safety Specialist, and Internal Affairs Investigator to use? How often do they need to use a company vehicle? Is it more cost effective to provide mileage reimbursement? Please explain. (Page 9-9, Budget Details) (YLS)

Salaries and Wages (Category "A")

1. Index Code 911008A Wages and Salaries includes a Communications Support Technician. Please describe this position's duties and whether this position is synonymous to a Public Information Officer. Further, please elaborate on the "expanded responsibilities of the Department's communication tools and software." (Page 9-3, Budget Details) (TC) (YLS)
 - a. The Communications Support Technician is also proposed to assist the Communications Coordinator. Is this a function that the Office of the Mayor's Communication Team can assist with? Please explain. (YLS)
2. There are 17 FY 2025 expansion positions in the Department that are being requested to increase to full year salaries in FY 2026. Have these expansion positions been filled? (Pages 9-3, 9-27, 9-28, 9-30, and 9-57, Budget Details) (TP)
3. Is the P-31478 Communications Coordinator position filled? Please describe this position's responsibilities. (Page 9-4, Budget Details) (YLS)

Operations and Equipment (Category "B")

1. Where will the LUCAS Chest Compression System devices be housed? Have any incidents occurred where there was not enough personnel present to perform chest compressions or situations where continuous chest compressions were needed for a longer period of time? (Page 309, Program Budget) (TP)
2. The following relate to Index Code 911008B-6132 Professional Services: (Program Budget, Page 295) (YLS)

- a. Why is funding for consultants' planning of CIP projects and engineers and architects for permit approval documents not an expenditure under the Department's CIP budget? (YLS)
 - b. Why is funding necessary for web-page building and maintenance? Does your Department have a separate website from mauicounty.gov? Please explain. (YLS)
3. Index Code 911008B-6224 Physical Examinations note additional operational costs for Building Maintenance Repairer I. If physical examinations are required for the Building Maintenance Repairer I position, should the proposed Building Maintenance Supervisor I also be required to do a physical examination? Please explain. (Page 295, Program Budget) (YLS)
4. As it relates to Index Code 911026C-7039 Maintenance and Repair Equipment, given our State's dependency on the importation of goods and products, in addition to maintenance downtime, does the mechanic shop keep an inventory of supply parts that are regularly needed to keep the fleet operational? (Page 309, Program Budget) (SS)
5. Please provide additional details for the 35-percent increase in the Department's lease purchases. (Page 290, Program Budget) (NUH)
6. Under Index Code 911421C-7044 Other Equipment, please explain what the tents will be used for. (Page 298, Program Budget) (TC)
7. The following relate to Index Code 911488B-7541 County Funds for brush abatement projects: (Page 317, Program Budget) (TC) (GJ)
 - a. What are the services and brush abatement projects that will be funded? Please elaborate further. (TC) (GJ)
 - b. Are these projects on County-owned lands or private lands? Will there be cost sharing with other departments or landowners? (GJ)
8. For Index Code 911008B-6129 Other Services, please describe the capabilities of and cost associated with the Starlink phones. Which Department personnel would use them? (Page 9-6, Budget Details) (TP)

9. For Index Code 911256C-7044 Other Equipment, will the Department plan to build a roof between the two 20-foot storage containers to create additional shade for the Department's Training Bureau? How was the cost estimate for the storage containers determined? (Page 9-16, Budget Details) (TP)
10. For Index Code 911421C-7033 Education/Instructional Equipment, will CPR training classes be available for Lānaʻi and Molokai communities or is this equipment for Department personnel only? (Page 9-19, Budget Details) (TP)
11. For grants proposed under the Training Program and Fire/Rescue Operations Program, please explain how these grant amounts are determined. (Page 302, Program Budget; Page 9-83, Budget Details) (TP)
12. As it relates to Index Code 911057B-6201 Airfare, Transportation, is the Department unable to recruit Molokai residents? If yes, please explain why. (Page 9-41, Budget Details) (TP)
13. The following relate to Index Code 911057B-6231 Rental of Building: (Page 9-41, Budget Details) (TP) (SS)
 - a. Are off-island firefighters allowed to sleep at the Molokai fire station when off duty? Please explain.
 - b. Has the Department considered purchasing a property on Molokai to provide housing for off-island firefighters instead of renting? (SS)
14. As it relates to Index Code 911076B-6139 Repairs & Maintenance - Others, are the PA and Radio emergency notification systems mobile or are they located only at the noted fire stations? (Page 9-45, Budget Details) (TP)
15. As it relates to Index Code 911076B-6273 Safety Program, are firefighters involved in Swiftwater rescue equipped with their own personal protective equipment in addition to those they are trying to rescue? (Page 9-45, Budget Details) (TP)
16. For the proposed Aerial Quint Truck and Pumper Trucks for the Lahaina, Makawao, and Wailea Fire Stations, you note that it takes 48-53 months to build. Does the Department pay the full amount

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of the truck up-front or is a deposit only required and the balance paid upon delivery? Please explain. (Pages 9-51 & 9-53, Budget Details) (TP)

a. Has the Department pursued funding from grants or other sources for the replacement of these trucks? Please explain. (YLS)

17. The Department is implementing one of its After-Action Report recommendations: “Implement a take-home policy for Battalion Chief command vehicles so off-duty Battalion Chiefs can readily respond from their residence; increasing the Maui Fire Department’s command and control capability.” As Lahaina begins to rebuild, on-street parking and roadway access have been Department concerns. Do Battalion Chiefs have off-street parking available when off-duty? Please explain. (Page 9-55, Budget Details, Index Code 911076C-7040) (TP)
18. In FY 2025, the Department requested 20 portable radios at \$1,750 each. This year, the Department is requesting 10 additional portable radios at \$3,210 each under Index Code 911076C-7030 Communication Equipment. Are these radios compatible or would they require a Communications Applied Technology Incident Command Radio Interface system for connection? (Page 9-56, Budget Details) (TP)
19. By correspondence dated April 11, 2024, you informed the Committee that the WatchTower software program would reflect a six percent increase in year two, with subsequent six percent increases. Please confirm that your Department purchased the WatchTower software. If yes, where is this six-percent increase reflected in the FY 2026 Budget? (Page 9-68, Budget Details) (TP)
20. The following relate to Index Code 911777B-6231 Rental of Building: (Page 9-67, Budget Details) (TP) (YLS)
 - a. Has a new space for Ocean Safety Bureau been identified? (TP)
 - b. Has the Ocean Safety Bureau secured a lease? If not, how was the funding request determined? (YLS)

21. As it relates to Index Code 911777B-6273 Safety Program, when and where will the 2025 Junior Lifeguard State Championships be held? (Page 9-67, Budget Details) (TP)
22. The following relate to Index Code 911081C-7040 Motor Vehicles: (Page 9-56, Budget Details) (YLS)
 - a. By correspondence dated September 13, 2023, the then-Director of Finance said that the furnishing and delivery of a Lānaʻi tanker truck was canceled and the CDBG funding was redirected. Please explain why the Department did not pursue CDBG funding for the tanker truck in FY 2026. Following the cancellation of the CDBG funding, did the Department receive a pre-award of future CDBG funding to acquire the tanker truck? Please explain.
 - b. The current tanker truck is 14 years old. How long will it take to receive the replacement tanker truck? Why was there a delay in requesting General Funds for the replacement vehicle? If the current Lānaʻi tanker truck becomes inoperable before the replacement truck is received, what is the Department's plan to ensure public safety on Lānaʻi? (Page 9-56, Budget details) (YLS)
23. Please provide a breakdown of the \$100,000 expansion request under Index Code 911008B-6132 Professional Services. (Page 9-6, Budget Details) (NUH)
24. Please elaborate on "wildfire mitigation" proposed under Index Code 101075B-6132 Professional Services. (Page 9-76, Budget Details) (NUH)

Capital Improvement Projects

1. The following relate to CBS-1003 Countywide Fire Facilities: (Page 912, Program Budget)
 - a. Are all the items listed under the project description expected to meet the anticipated life of 20-25 years? (YLS)
 - b. Should some of these items be moved to Operations under a "repair and maintenance" category? (YLS)

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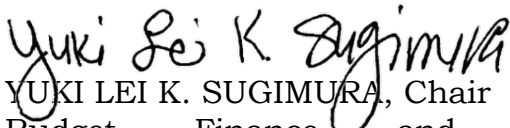
- c. Please elaborate further on Item 17 “Construction Project Miscellaneous Spec Writing and Project Management.” Should this be under Professional Services in Operations? (YLS) (TC)
2. Please provide details on CBS-1004 and CBS-1008, relating to the Kīhei and Pā‘ia Fire Station Relocation projects. What is the total anticipated cost and location for these projects? (Page 911, Program Budget) (NUH)
3. The following relate to CBS-1002 Ha‘ikū Fire Station: (Page 915, Program Budget) (TC) (YLS)
 - a. Has a location for the proposed fire station been identified? (TC)
 - b. Please provide a status update on the project, including a timeline beginning when the project started through the anticipated completion of the station. If FY 2026 funds are for new construction, when is work anticipated to begin and does the Department have a building permit for the project? (YLS)
 - c. How much FY 2025 funding has been encumbered and expended and what work has been completed so far? (YLS)
 - d. With build times for fire apparatus taking an estimated 48-53 months to complete, should an apparatus be included in the FY 2026 Budget concurrently while the station is being built? (YLS)
4. For CBS-8918 Kula Fire Station Apparatus Bay, is the design completed and are the construction plans approved and permitted? Further, explain the \$280,000 funding for “Other.” (Page 914, Program Budget) (YLS)

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

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).

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Sincerely,


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

bfed:2026bgt:250331afs01:jpp

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Budget Director
Deputy Fire Chief

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 2:26 PM
To: Bradford Ventura
Cc: BFED Committee; 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; Lesley Milner; kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us; tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us; Janina Agapay; Gavin Fujioka; Chasserae Kaawa; Richelle.Wakamatsu@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1) (FS-2); reply 4/7/2025
Attachments: (FS-02) Correspondence to Fire Chief 04-01-2025.pdf