Cincinnati Oversight Project

CINCINNATI FY27 BUDGET: Department-Identified Challenges and Contemplated Budget Reductions

Summary of Department Challenges and Budget Reductions

Department	Key Challenges Identified	Proposed FY27 Budget Reduction
Fire	Service delivery challenges referenced but not specifically described	$8,600,000
Citizen Complaint Authority	No meaningful challenges identified	$78,915
Buildings & Inspections	Major Accela system overhaul; large number of inexperienced staff; state law changes affecting plan review; operational disruption during system transition	$930,555
Finance	Staffing and capacity constraints; complexity of GASB requirements; workload pressures	$469,066
Law	Staffing shortages due to unplanned absences; limited capacity to implement technology improvements	$706,582
Emergency Communications Center	Staffing constraints affecting dispatch and call-answer performance; difficulty meeting response metrics	$1,139,943

Department	Key Challenges Identified	Proposed FY27 Budget Reduction
Police	Officer attrition and recruitment challenges; increasing youth criminal activity; staffing needs for proactive initiatives	Not identified
Transportation & Engineering	High project workload; infrastructure and development demands; limited staff capacity for project management	$2,673,000
Health	Demand for services exceeds available resources; facility maintenance needs; uncertainty related to Medicaid and federal funding	$1,200,000
Enterprise Technology Solutions	Increasing system demands, cybersecurity risks; limited IT staffing and capacity	$428,927
Human Services	No meaningful challenges identified	$306,097
MSD*	Infrastructure maintenance demands; rising costs; staffing gaps; increasing debt and technology costs	—
GCWW / SMU*	Regulatory requirements (PFAS, lead lines); procurement delays; workforce and compensation challenges	—
Parks	Outdated work order system causing inefficiencies and service delays; insufficient natural resource staffing for forest conservation and invasive species removal; procurement coordination problems increasing costs and delaying improvements	$634,662

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Department	Key Challenges Identified	Proposed FY27 Budget Reduction
Recreation Commission	Aging recreation centers and pools; growing youth and teen programming demand diverting limited resources from adult and senior programs; offsite programming requests while facilities still require staffing and programming; low fees insufficient to support program improvements and meet service expectations	$1,101,708
Public Services	Insufficient staffing and equipment for preventive street maintenance; need for improved vehicle routing and tracking technology; inadequate operating resources to maintain aging city buildings and fleet	$978,086**

*Enterprise fund departments are not subject to the 5.1% budget reduction requirement.

Source: FY27 Departmental Budget Presentations (March and April 2026)

Updated October 29, 2026

The reductions shown are proposals described in departmental budget presentations, not confirmation of reductions ultimately adopted.

** Public Services: $978,086 General Fund reduction, plus $2,503,281 from Fund 301, $796,509 from Fund 302, and $1,630,249 from Fund 303; total proposed reduction $5,908,125.

Sources for added departments: Parks and Recreation presentations, April 8, 2026, slides 12–13; Public Services presentation, April 8, 2026, slides 13–18.