

Tucson Fire Department Overview



Mission Statement

The mission of the Tucson Fire Department is to prevent, respond, and serve — anytime, anywhere.

The Tucson Fire Department (TFD) strives to deliver the highest quality service in a timely and safe manner, while supporting the community and its partners. Central to this mission is our commitment to protecting and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens by responding swiftly, performing with excellence, and providing public education on how to stay safe and aware during emergencies. All emergency and non-emergency services are managed by expertly trained professionals dedicated to serving the community.

To effectively fulfill its mission, the Office of the Fire Chief outlines the department's vision and objectives. TFD is organized into four divisions: Operations, Essential Services, Innovation and Special Services, and Employee and Community Services.

The Operations Division is the largest, responsible for the day-to-day execution of emergency services. It consists of four battalions, each covering different sections of the city. Commissioned fire personnel operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, responding to over 106,000 calls per year for fire, EMS and all-hazard emergencies.

The Essential Services Division encompasses logistics, supply, training, and medical oversight, all of which significantly contribute to operational effectiveness. Fire prevention, encompassing inspection and investigation, falls under this division, making it the second largest in the department, with a substantial operating budget necessary for delivering apparatus, equipment, and specialized training.

Innovation and Special Services is a relatively new division within TFD, comprising a small team of data and technology experts. This division manages special and capital projects, including the construction of new fire stations and initiatives aimed at reducing call volume and apparatus utilization, ultimately resulting in cost savings.

The Employee and Community Services Division provides critical support to department employees through a safety and wellness team. It also collaborates with community partners and initiatives through TC3 (Tucson Community Collaborative) and offers public education programs. The division also works hand in hand with human resources to ensure department policies and procedures are in line with city policies and procedures. Lastly, our public information office is responsible for internal and external communications, including providing the content on the social media platforms for the department.

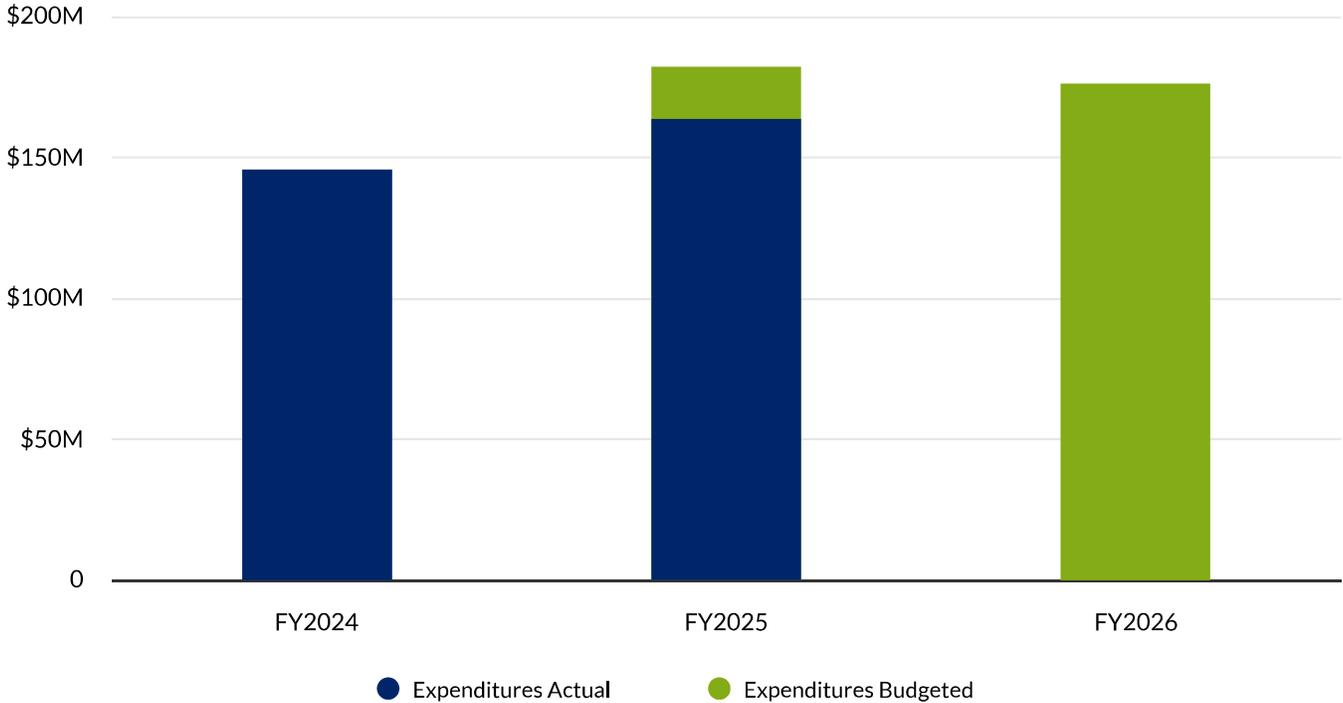
Together, the divisions and assistant chiefs closely collaborate with the Fire Chief to develop practical and efficient solutions for the fire service, while maintaining the integrity and responsiveness that the Tucson Fire Department is renowned for.

Expenditure Summary

\$176,173,765

-\$5,908,976 / 3.25% Lower Than the Prior Year's Budget

Historical Expenditures Across Department



Note: Amounts shown in the graphs are rounded up.

Significant Changes

The Tucson Fire Department (TFD) has budgeted expenditures of \$126.2 million for Fiscal Year 2026, which includes the operating budget. Apart from the budgeted amount, the overall budget includes additional funds, specifically \$7.1 million in Investment Plan funds, \$16.8 million in Capital funds, \$21.8 million in the Pension Trust fund, \$2.5 million in Grant Funding, and other miscellaneous funds, totaling \$176 million. In previous years, all the listed funding accounts would be displayed as the department’s approved budget. However, in FY26, the City made adept changes to the sources, better aligning them with the actual department expenditure availability, resulting in a noticeable overall change in budgeted amounts.

The \$126.2 million represents an increase of approximately 2% from FY25. The rise in funding is primarily due to the addition of 15 14 personnel for the Peak Volume Truck (PVT) program, as well as one Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT), to ensure proper and cost-saving maintenance of the fire apparatus.

Additionally, there is an increase in critical personal protective equipment (PPE) and necessary medical supplies and equipment, which were previously requested as supplemental funding but have now been incorporated into the base operating budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

Trends

The TFD budget is over 90% of personnel costs, focused on salaries, wages, and other compensation, including benefit packages and incentives.

As an industry, the fire department continues to face increasing costs for commodities, such as medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, and for capital items like fire apparatus (fire engines, ladders, and paramedic trucks), which have approximately doubled in cost since 2020. The cost of repair items for the apparatus is also increasing rapidly.

Technology updates and reporting and billing requirements necessitate an investment in patient care reporting, a predictable need that will continue to evolve as technological and data collection requirements evolve.

Expenditures by Fund

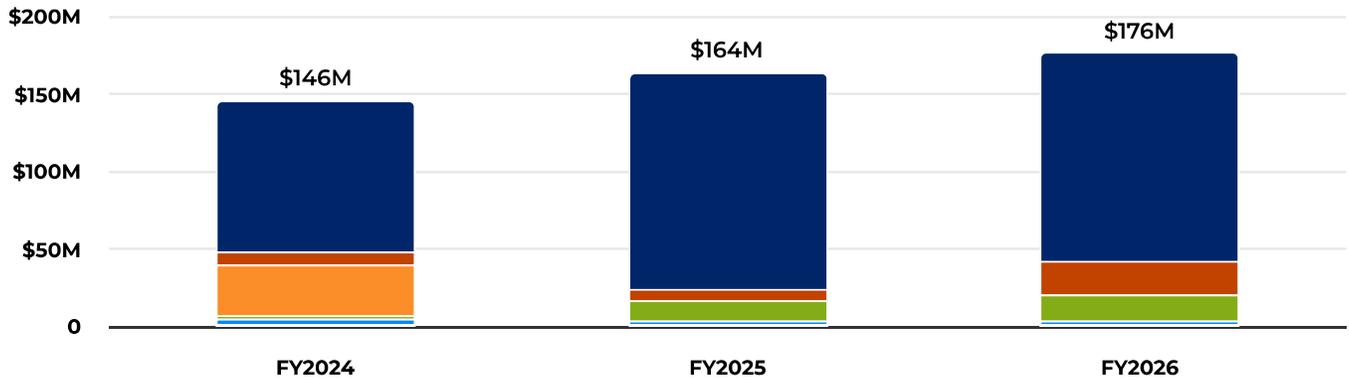
Fiscal Year 2024: Total expenditures were approximately \$146 million, with the majority funded by the General Fund. Small allocations came from including the Section 115 Pension Trust and a large American Rescue Plan at \$33 million.

Fiscal Year 2025: Spending increased to about \$164 million, continuing to rely heavily on the General Fund. The department also maintained steady use of grants, Safer City, and a portion of the Section 115 Pension Trust.

Fiscal Year 2026: Expenditures rose sharply to \$176 million, reflecting strategic investments in public safety services. While the General Fund remains the primary source, there has been a notable increase in support from:

- Safer City funds
- Section 115 Pension Trust
- Miscellaneous Grant Fund

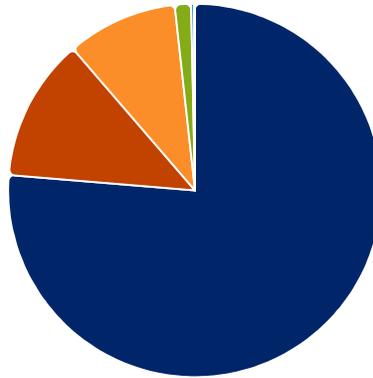
Historical Expenditures by Fund



- General Fund
- Safer City
- Miscellaneous Non Federal Grant Funds
- Civic Contributions
- Section 115 Pension Trust
- Miscellaneous Federal Grant Funds
- Fire Impact Fees (Post 12/31/2011)
- American Rescue Plan
- Risk Management / Self Insurance
- Central District Impact Fees (Post 12/31/2011)

Note: Amounts shown in the graphs are rounded up.

Fiscal Year 2026 Expenditures by Fund



● General Fund	\$134,474,339	76.33%
● Section 115 Pension Trust	\$21,779,793	12.36%
● Safer City	\$16,840,240	9.56%
● Miscellaneous Federal Grant Funds	\$2,485,226	1.41%
● Risk Management / Self Insurance	\$495,737	0.28%
● Miscellaneous Non Federal Grant Funds	\$39,550	0.02%
● Fire Impact Fees (Post 12/31/2011)	\$29,440	0.02%
● Central District Impact Fees (Post 12/31/2011)	\$29,440	0.02%

Notes: Charts may not total 100% due to rounding.

Expenditures by Type

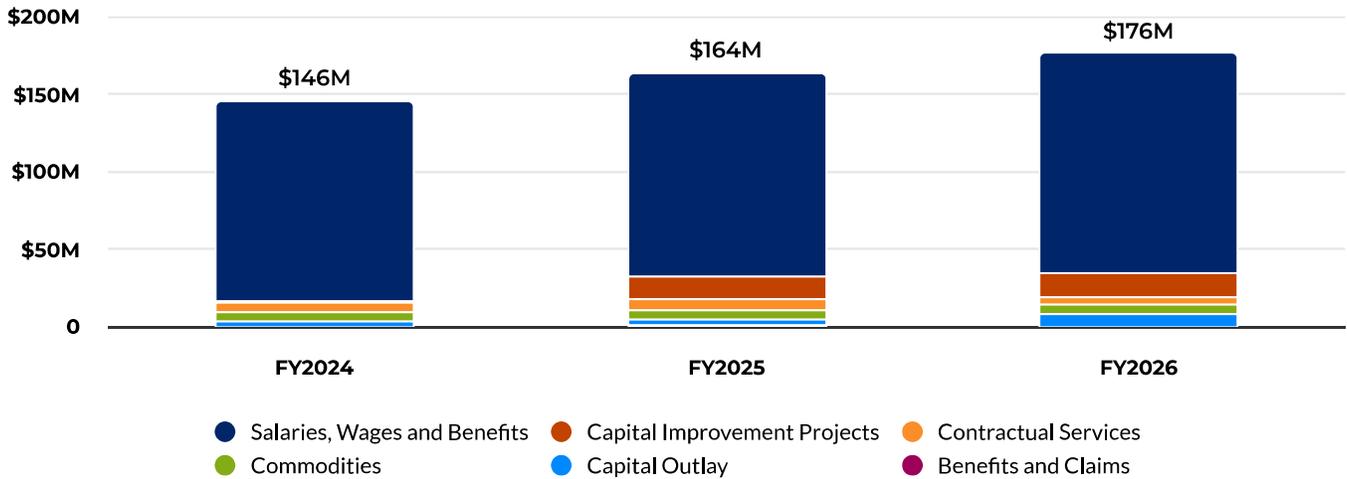
The Tucson Fire Department's expenditures have steadily increased over the past three fiscal years, reflecting the City's ongoing investment in emergency services, personnel, and operational capacity.

Fiscal Year 2024: Total expenditures reached \$146 million, with the majority allocated to Salaries, Wages, and Benefits, supporting the department's core workforce. A small portion was directed toward Capital Improvement Projects.

Fiscal Year 2025: Spending rose to \$164 million, continuing to prioritize personnel costs and service contracts. A substantial decrease in Commodities but a notable increase in Capital Improvement Plans.

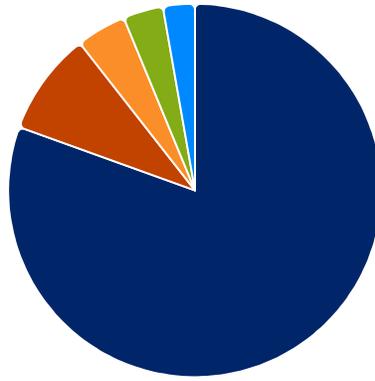
Fiscal Year 2026: Expenditures are projected to climb to \$176 million, with Salary, Benefits and Wages becoming a notable cost category. This likely reflects increased retirements, rising healthcare costs, and long-term benefit obligations, pointing to the financial impact of an evolving workforce and expanding service responsibilities.

Historical Expenditures by Type



Note: Amounts shown in the graphs are rounded up.

Fiscal Year 2026 Expenditures by Fund



● Salaries, Wages and Benefits	\$141,820,683	80.50%
● Capital Improvement Projects	\$15,760,148	8.95%
● Capital Outlay	\$7,625,363	4.33%
● Commodities	\$6,128,006	3.48%
● Contractual Services	\$4,839,565	2.75%

Note: Charts may not total 100% due to rounding.

Expenditures by Cost Center

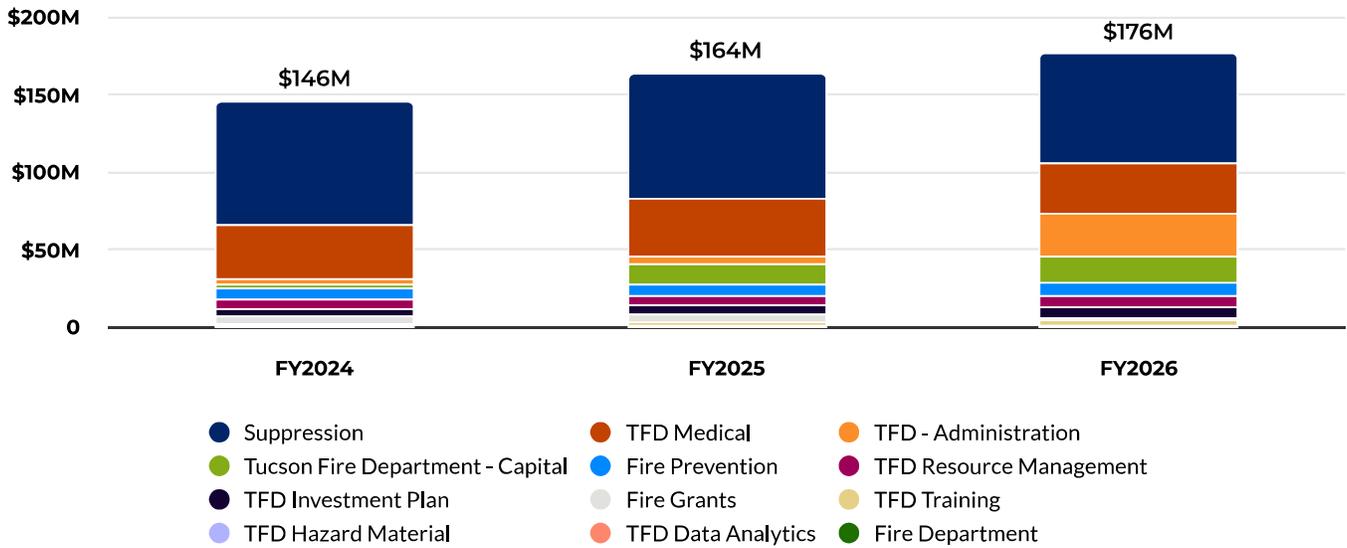
The Tucson Fire Department's expenditures have shown a consistent upward trend from Fiscal Year 2024 through Fiscal Year 2026, reflecting both growth in suppression and TFD medical.

Fiscal Year 2024: Total expenditures reached \$146 million, with the bulk of funding allocated to Suppression and Medical Services. Administration, Fire Prevention, and Training received steady but modest funding.

Fiscal Year 2025: Spending increased to \$164 million, marked by moderate growth across most cost centers. Suppression and Medical Services continued to lead in funding.

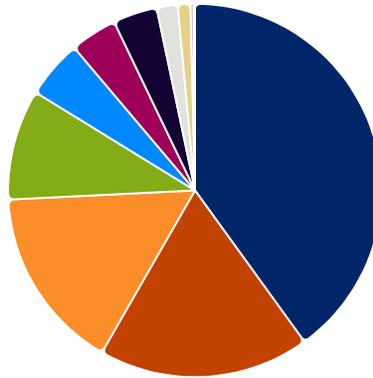
Fiscal Year 2026 (Projected): Expenditures are expected to surge to \$176 million, driven by a significant expansion in Medical Services, Suppression, and Administration. Every cost center is slated to receive additional funding, demonstrating the department's broad commitment to service enhancement and modernization.

Historical Expenditures by Cost Center



Note: Amounts shown in the graphs are rounded up.

Fiscal Year 2026 Expenditures by Cost Center



● Suppression	\$70,565,741	40.05%
● TFD Medical	\$32,130,426	18.24%
● TFD - Administration	\$28,031,227	15.91%
● Tucson Fire Department - Capital	\$16,899,120	9.59%
● Fire Prevention	\$8,882,491	5.04%
● TFD Investment Plan	\$7,155,323	4.06%
● TFD Resource Management	\$6,681,630	3.79%
● TFD Training	\$3,197,381	1.81%
● Fire Grants	\$1,944,960	1.10%
● TFD Hazard Material	\$493,097	0.28%
● TFD Data Analytics	\$156,893	0.09%
● Fire Department	\$35,475	0.02%

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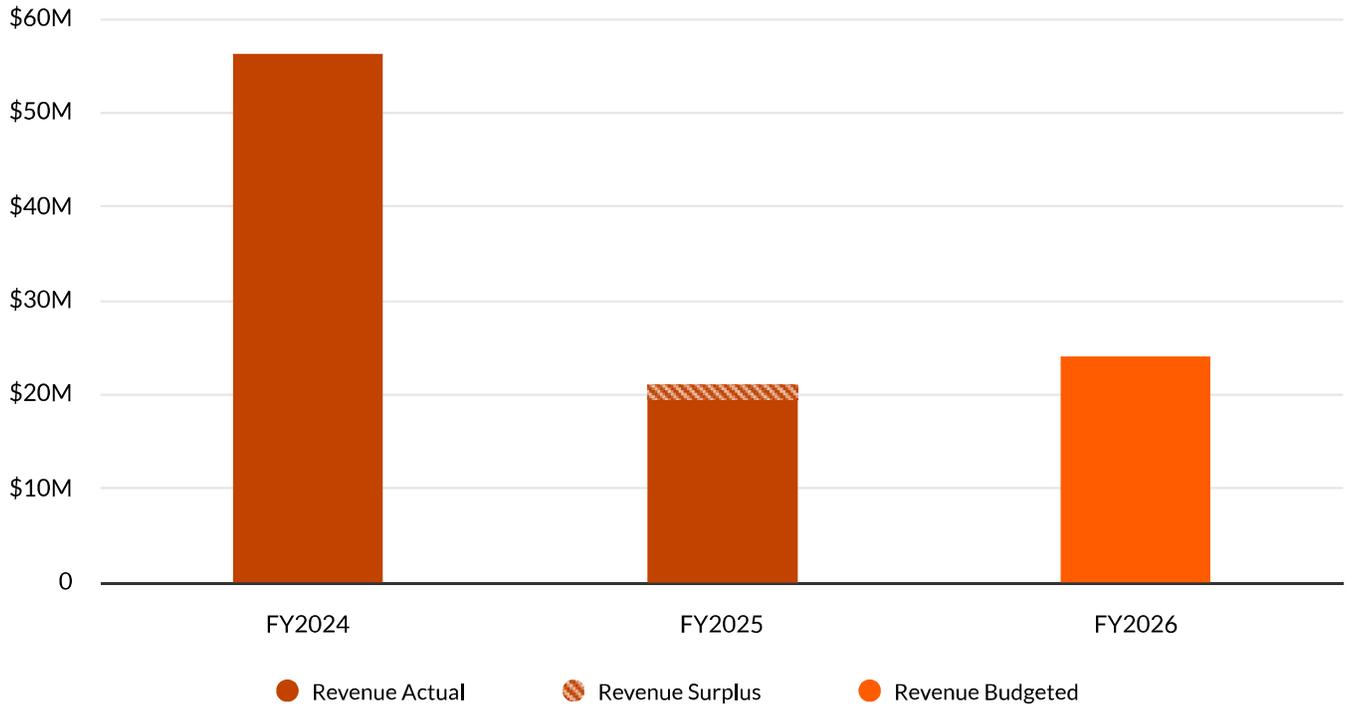
Revenue Summary

\$23,970,480

Includes Transfers In and Out

\$4,457,070 / 22.84% Higher Than the Prior Year's Budget

Historical Revenues Across Department



Revenues by Fund

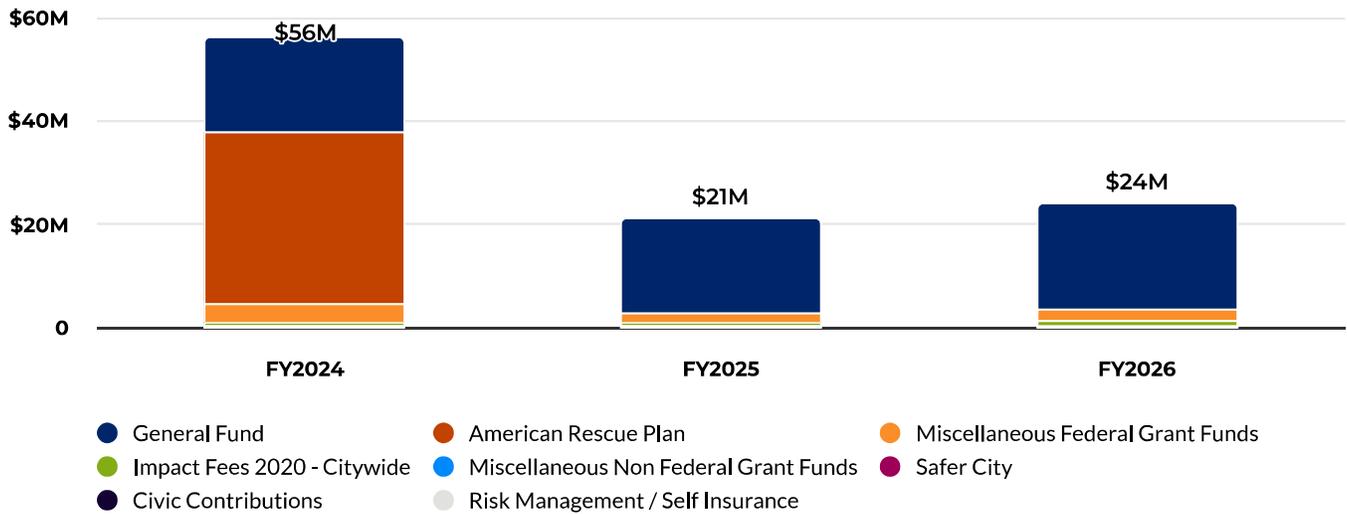
Over the past three fiscal years, the Tucson Fire Department has experienced a decline in total revenues, falling from \$56 million in Fiscal Year 2024 to \$23 million in Fiscal Year 2026.

Fiscal Year 2024: Actual Revenues totaled \$56.1 million, primarily sourced from the General Fund and American Rescue Plan.

Fiscal Year 2025: Actual Revenues declined to \$21 million primarily from General Funds.

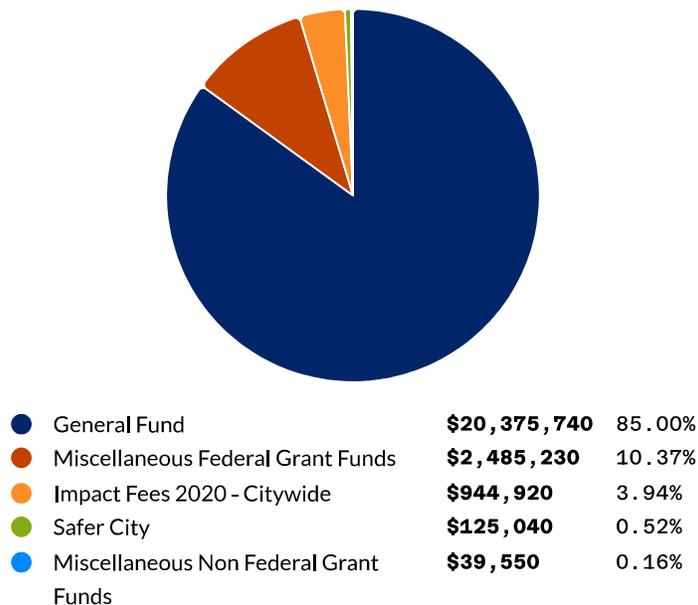
Fiscal Year 2026: Revenue projected to be at \$24 million, primarily from General Funds and Miscellaneous Grant Funds. This decrease is evidently because of the removal of the American Rescue Plan.

Historical Revenues by Fund



Note: Amounts shown in the graphs are rounded up.

Fiscal Year 2026 Revenues by Fund



Note: Charts may not total 100% due to rounding.

Revenues by Funding Source

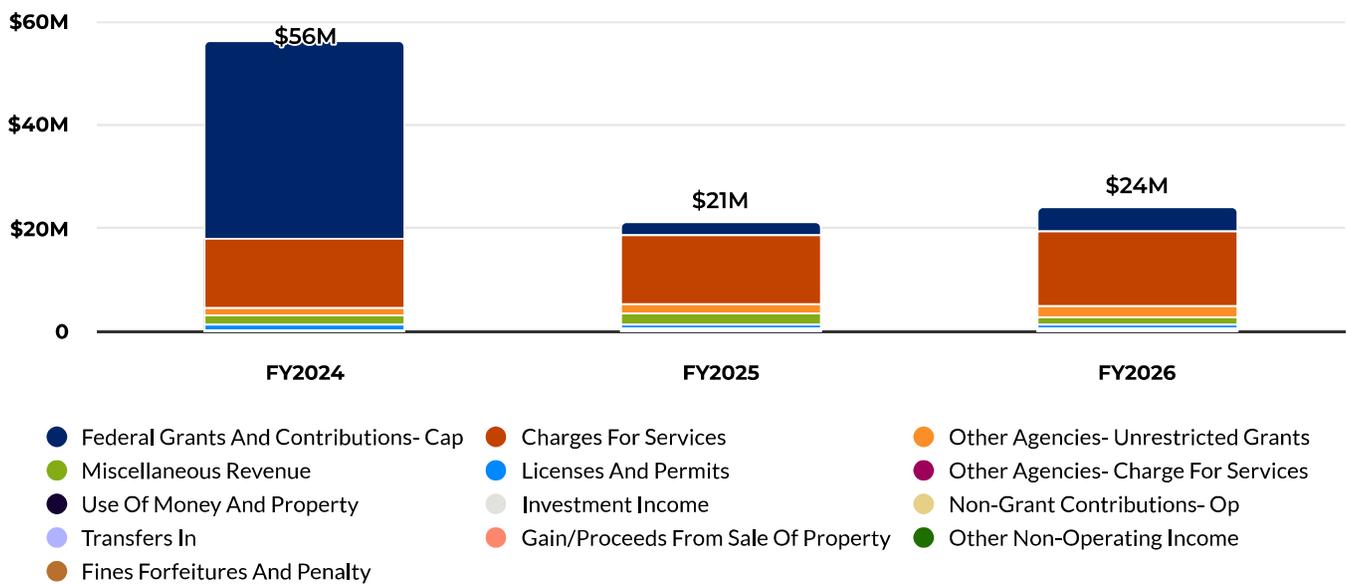
Revenue for the Tucson Fire Department declined from \$56 million in Fiscal Year 2024 to \$24 million in Fiscal Year 2026, reflecting a decrease from Federal Grants and Contributions.

Fiscal Year 2024: Total revenue reached \$56 million, driven primarily by Federal Grants and Contributions and Charges for Services and with additional support from Licenses and Permits.

Fiscal Year 2025: Revenues dropped to \$21 million, largely due to a reduction from Federal Grants received. Charges for Services quietly remain the same, investment income and other minimal revenues are included.

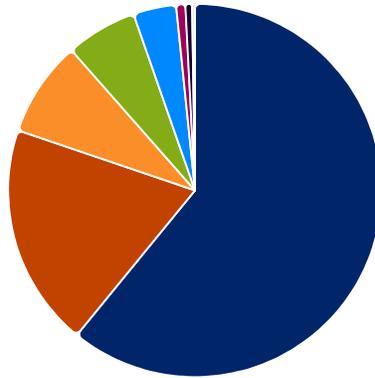
Fiscal Year 2026: Revenues are projected to go up at \$24 million, though with further slightly in Charges for Services, Grants, and Charges for Services.

Historical Revenues by Revenue Type



Note: Amounts shown in the graphs are rounded up.

FY26 Revenues by Revenue Type



Charges For Services	\$14,596,210	60.89%
Federal Grants And Contributions-Cap	\$4,629,090	19.31%
Other Agencies- Unrestricted Grants	\$1,991,880	8.31%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,477,890	6.17%
Licenses And Permits	\$884,960	3.69%
Other Agencies- Charge For Services	\$195,330	0.81%
Investment Income	\$138,040	0.58%
Use Of Money And Property	\$56,320	0.23%
Gain/Proceeds From Sale Of Property	\$440	0.00%
Fines Forfeitures And Penalty	\$320	0.00%

Notes: Charts may not total 100% due to rounding.

Accomplishments

Enhanced Fire Suppression & Emergency Response – Improved service delivery through optimized unit staffing, implementation and utilization of alternative response vehicles, and refined efficiency-driven dispatch protocols.

Advanced Training & Certification – Expanded firefighter and paramedic training programs in areas such as wildland firefighting, advanced life support (ALS), and hazardous materials, ensuring skills remain current and high standards are maintained.

Modernized Equipment & Fleet Upgrades – Deployed four new fire engines, a technical rescue unit, and additional life safety equipment to upgrade an aging fleet, improve reliability, and reduce maintenance downtime.

Infrastructure & Station Improvement Projects – Completed or began capital improvements to fire stations to improve the safety and comfort of employees in their work environment, especially in a field that demands 24/7 staffing and on-site living.

Community Risk Reduction & Public Education – Expanded fire prevention outreach: smoke alarm installations, wildfire risk reduction education, fall prevention, school safety programs, Narcan distribution, car seat installation, and community CPR & AED training.

Integrated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Enhancements – Improved EMS protocols to match science-based best practice, collaboration with health providers, and deployment of advanced medical equipment to improve prehospital care and patient outcomes.

Interagency Coordination & Mutual Aid – Continued to bolster coordination with regional fire, EMS, law enforcement, and disaster response partners to streamline mutual aid, joint training, and large-incident response readiness.

Future Objectives

Continue Reducing Response Times & Improving Coverage – Recognizing that a single minute can mean the difference between life and death, we will utilize data-driven analyses of station locations, resource reallocation, and staffing modifications to address coverage gaps and enhance performance in underserved areas.

Advance Wildland & All-Hazards Readiness – Strengthen our readiness against wildfires, climate-driven events, and multi-hazard situations through training, strategic equipment acquisition, and strong community mitigation partnerships.

Further Modernize Fleet & Equipment – Replace aging apparatus and roll out new-generation firefighting, rescue, and EMS vehicles. Standardize maintenance processes to minimize fleet downtime.

Expand Fire Prevention, Resilience & Outreach Programs – Expand public education efforts, enhance collaboration with neighborhoods on defensible space strategies for wildland-urban interface fires (WUI), and implement citywide fire risk reduction initiatives.

Optimize EMS Integration & Community Health Response – Emphasize co-response models, telemedicine integration, and advanced EMS protocols to ensure the most timely, appropriate care for our citizens. Coordinate more with healthcare providers, social services, and behavioral health partners to right-source non-emergent calls to a more appropriate and meaningful resource.

Invest in Workforce Wellness – Improve mental health, resilience, and support programs for firefighters to extend careers, reduce injury and illness and reduce risk associated human and monetary costs.

Succession Planning – Enhance career pathways, leadership development, and cross-training to better prepare for future leadership transitions and continuity of community care.

Performance Metrics, Data Analytics & Transparency – Implement dashboards to track key metrics, such as response times, patient outcomes, fire incidents, and cost per call. Publish performance summaries to enhance public accountability and study outcomes to improve efficiency and enhance cost savings.

Sustainability & Infrastructure Resilience – Incorporate energy-efficient renewable systems, such as solar panels, and upgrade facilities to reduce operational costs and minimize environmental impact. Ensure that fire station designs account for climate change, water scarcity, and natural hazards.

Position Resources

**Full-Time Equivalent Employee (FTE)*

***645 of the 699 FTE for Fiscal Year 2024/25 are Commissioned*

