



Budget Fact Sheet – Public Safety

Mayor Harrell’s core Charter responsibility is to improve public safety and keep people safe, and we have seen significant progress over the last three years. This budget takes a holistic approach to safety and makes vital investments to continue to address staffing challenges, increase response options, improve response times, and do more to prevent dangerous situations with proactive solutions.

In 2025, Mayor Harrell is proposing to spend \$916 million on public safety in the City’s general fund.

The City’s public safety efforts include investments in the Seattle Police Department (SPD), Seattle Fire Department, and the Seattle CARE Department, as well as support from many departments such as violence interruption and survivor support with the Human Services Department (HSD), graffiti abatement and rangers with Seattle Parks & Recreation (SPR), and traffic enforcement with the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). This work happens in close partnership with community-based organizations like the Third Avenue Project with We Deliver Care and the Let Everyone Advance with Dignity (LEAD) and CoLEAD programs with Purpose Dignity Action.

Additionally, the proposed 2025 budget invests \$4.3 million in additional Payroll Expense Tax funds in youth violence prevention, an urgent community priority.

Highlights of new investments in the 2025 proposed budget include:

Seattle Police Department

COST	INVESTMENT AREA
\$10M	Curb violent criminal behavior through emphasis patrols and proactive policing in hot spots where it is concentrated in a street segment, intersection, or a small cluster of blocks.
\$2M	Add new positions to establish and fully staff a Real Time Crime Center integrated with closed-circuit television to leverage technology to triage and coordinate emergency responses.
\$1.1M	Add new positions to assist SPD detective with homicide, robbery, and gun crime investigations.

Seattle Fire Department

COST	INVESTMENT AREA
\$2M	Add 20 new firefighter recruits to address high vacancy rates and keep up with attrition.
\$720K	Add new paramedic students to address high vacancy rate and keep up with attrition.
\$500K	Abate and demolish dangerous vacant buildings to reduce fires and other hazards.

Seattle CARE Department

COST	INVESTMENT AREA
\$1.5M	Add 21 new positions to CARE Responder Team to expand services citywide and seven days a week.
\$415K	Add two new positions to CARE to increase public transparency with a dedicated Public Disclosure Officer and Citywide resource coordination with a Seattle Restoration Director.

Focused Improvements

COST	INVESTMENT AREA
\$4.3M	Improve student safety in schools through violence interruption specialists, safe passage programs and case management to address gun violence and other challenges. (HSD)
\$2M	Add five new positions to support survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and sex worker interventions, including providing appropriate community-based support resources and advocates for systems navigation. (HSD)
\$1.2M	Add 37 new Automated School Zone Camera Expansion cameras at 19 additional locations, more than doubling the current count. (SPD, SDOT)