



Emergency Telephone System Board Of DuPage County Memorandum

TO: Chair Schwarze and ETS Board Members
FROM: Linda Zerwin, Executive Director
DATE: June 10, 2026
SUBJECT: FY27 Budget Executive Summary
CC: Chair Conroy, County Administrator Nick Kottmeyer

Budget Preparation Calendar:

June Meeting - Budget Kick Off

1. Review of Overall Budget
2. Introduce 911 State Advisory Board Goals from their Strategic Planning Sessions
3. Update the Calendar based on Discussion

July Meeting

1. Review any changes to the Operating Budget
2. Cash Projection Discussion
 - a. New Chart for review
 - b. Policy Discussion
3. Total Obligations Presentation
4. ETSB Goals Discussion
5. Update the Calendar based on Discussion

August Meeting

1. Capital Budget Requests
2. 54199: Capital Contingencies and Capital Management Plan
3. Continue ETSB Goals Discussion
4. Update the Calendar based on Discussion

September Meeting

1. Discussion of the FY26 Budget as shown on the September Agenda
Standard Practice has been to provide the final budget in September for discussion and approval at the October meeting
2. Continue ETSB Goals Discussion
3. Update the Calendar based on Discussion

October Meeting

1. Approve the FY26 Budget if not approved in September
2. Approve FY26 COLA salary adjustments, if finalized by the County Board, and the ETS Board is in agreement

November Meeting – if needed

1. Approve the FY26 Budget if not approved in September.
2. Approve FY26 COLA salary adjustments, if finalized by the County Board, and the ETS Board is in agreement

Additional Tasks:

1. Review the Expenditure policy for ETSB based on discussions
2. Capital Requests Memorandums – make recommendations for ETS Board approval in final budget, cut off October
3. Update Tasks based on Discussion



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After discussion regarding the Ad Hoc Finance Committee in November of 2025, the ETS Board made the decision in December of 2025 to make Revenue and Finance a permanent part of the ETSB regular meeting. This was tested in January of 2026 and continued for all subsequent FY26 meetings to date.

The ETS Board determined that all 12 members of a Committee of the Whole format would provide better governance of the budget, strategic planning, and other financial matters concerning the ETSB. To that end, prior to June Budget Kick Off, staff created reports which are snapshots of certain worksheets of the ETSB Budget Excel workbook that had been provided to members in previous years.

These reports include: ETSB Revenue and Reimbursement Report, FY26 Equalization Surcharge Revenue Distribution Report, Treasurer’s History Report, Payment of Claims History Monthly Report, the FY26 Expenditure vs Budget Report for March, FY26 Equalization Surcharge Revenue Distribution by Formula, Capital Management Report With CPI, Capital Management Report CPI Data Report, and Capital Management Report 10 Year Forecast.

Additionally, as part of the budget process and goal setting, staff will present the operational budget for discussion. A general task agenda, as was used in previous years in the Ad Hoc Finance Committee, will also be provided to allow for timely discussion and to align with County Board requirements for budget preparation and submissions.

The draft budget is prepared by staff in concert with County Finance and according to County budget policy. The draft FY27 budget to date is:

	FY2026 Appropriation	FY2027 Projections Obligations	Difference FY26 to FY27	% of Difference FY26 to FY27	% of Operating Budget
Personnel	\$ 1,667,754	\$ 1,680,111	\$ 12,357	1%	12%
Commodities	\$ 597,750	\$ 615,950	\$ 18,200	3%	4%
Contractual	\$ 11,546,450	\$ 11,392,019	\$ (154,431)	-1%	83%
Total Operating	\$ 13,811,954	\$ 13,688,080	\$ (123,874)	-1%	100%
New Capital	\$ 432,940	\$ 534,380	\$ 101,440	23%	

OPERATIONS BUDGET

FY27 \$14,222,742

FY26 \$14,244,894

Difference / % Difference **-\$123,874 / -1%**

The FY27 Operations Budget is a one percent (1%) decrease in expenses from the FY26 Operations Budget. These zero (0) growths are the result of the diligent efforts by staff to identify review invoices and dispute charges, the finishing of several projects, and balancing the rotation of certain large purchases such as batteries. Additionally, eighty-eight percent (88%) of the ETSB budget is commodities and contracts that support the 911 infrastructure including the core components, maintenance, and licensing. Of the thirty (30) line items in Contractual Category, five (5) consume the lion’s share of the costs. Wired Communication Services, Wireless Communication Services,



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Repair & Maintenance Other Equipment, Software Licenses, Software Maintenance Agreements, and Other Contractual Expenses make up eighty-eight percent (88%) or \$10,048,483 of the \$11,540,301 contractual budget category.

Personnel Expense

FY27 \$ 1,680,111

FY26 \$ 1,667,754

Difference / % Difference \$12,357 / 1%

The authorized head count remains nine (9) for FY27. As of this report there is still one open position. On the June agenda, the Executive ETSB staff will be asking the ETS Board to consider changing the title of this position from Data Analyst to Systems Administrator. This is a more fitting title based on the County HR job descriptions for IT. Staff worked with County IT staff to align positions. It should be noted that County IT is in the process of revamping their titles and descriptions and it would be the Executive Director's intent to continue to align with County IT to keep salaries consistent with HR processes and policies.

While a three percent (3%) COLA has been utilized for FY27 salaries, the increase of one percent (1%) overall is based on projected decreases in employee insurance and IMRF. Insurance will lower based on employee plan choices. And IMRF is calculated based on 8.15%, the County recommendation. The IMRF in FY26 was calculated at 9.64%. The decreases in these two line items offset increases in other Personnel categories, resulting in a small increase for FY27.

Commodities

FY27 \$ 597,750

FY26 \$ 615,950

Difference / % Difference \$18,200 / 3%

This category shows a slight increase. In FY27, ETSB will purchase one (1) replacement fire radio battery per portable radio. This rotation of moving off replacing batteries at one time provides balance. The increase is the result of the fire radio batteries being more expensive than the police radio batteries. In FY28, the UPS batteries are scheduled to be replaced. This resulted in an anticipated decrease in this line item based on volume and cost. The rotation will then be: police, fire, UPS. The offsetting decrease is the result of a decrease in the furniture line item as ETSB anticipates completing its office realignment project.

Contracts

FY27 \$ 11,546,450

FY26 \$ 11,392,019

Difference / % Difference (\$154,431) / -1%

This category shows zero (0) growth with a decrease of \$154,431. The reduction in Repair and Maintenance as the office realignment project finishes helps to offset contractual increases in the operation of the 911 System. There are several contracts that will be renewed this year including the Hexagon/Octave contract for Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Mobile for Public Safety (MPS). While this system is one of the largest aspects of the 911 System Core Components, the renewal of this contract should be less as this will be the first year that ETSB will not be paying the cost of maintenance for the Records Management System (RMS). With the PRMS Consortium going to a



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different vendor, it will no longer be necessary for ETSB to pay for RMS and bill the Consortium in arrears.

New Capital

FY27 \$ 432,940
FY26 \$ 534,380

Difference / % Difference \$101,440 / 23%

Last year, the Board approved a bundle of services from RapidSOS at the request of the PSAP Directors. To date, one component, Communicator, has been deployed. The remaining costs have been carried over for future deployment and maintenance costs have been added to the operational budget. The next component to be deployed has not yet been determined. The balance of the costs in New Capital is for fire agency new building projects that will require new Station Control Units (SCU) for fire station alerting. For projects where the buildings are being replaced, ETSB will retain the old SCU as a spare. Conversations with multiple vendors indicate that lead time for hardware can now range from two to six months. This is not an acceptable window for the five major systems that make up the core components of the 911 System. To date, the PSAPs and technical staff have not submitted any new capital requests for Board consideration. Per the Calendar, new capital requests are not scheduled for discussion until the August meeting.

REVENUE

Monthly Surcharge Estimated FY27 \$ 13,698,084
Monthly Surcharge YTD Actual FY26 \$ 6,831,434
Monthly Surcharge Estimated FY26 \$ 13,000,000

Difference / % Difference \$ 698,000 / 5%

FY25 was the first time in seventeen (17) years that ETSB did not make its monthly revenue projection. The projection was \$14M. Consequently, the FY26 monthly revenue projection was reduced to \$13M.

The State has been researching the cause of this decline and whether this is because of the decline in Pre-Paid cellphones point of sale (POS) purchases, NG911 costs, legacy network costs, and added service: Text to 911.

In 2021, the ETSA statute was amended to provide a mechanism for the ISP to return its unused surcharge to the 911 systems. This annual payment is recorded as NG911 Withholding in the Revenue History Report. ETSB Policy 911-010: Expenditure Policy was amended in 2025 to allow the ETS Board to consider providing surcharge received from the NG911 Withholding disbursement to the PSAPs so long as the FY Monthly Revenue projection is reached and there are sufficient funds in 54199: Capital Contingencies. Otherwise, these funds will be used for those gaps. In FY25, an additional \$830,783.17 was available to be distributed to the PSAPs in FY26.

It should be noted that there has been a steady decline in the amount of the NG911 Withholding disbursement. The first disbursement was \$2,348,343.23 in FY22 and in FY25 the amount was \$1,614,314.27.

The Treasurer indicated in their review in FY25 that interest earnings will be declining generally in the market and because the ETSB had several large projects expenses, such as the DEDIR System



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radio replacement, that resulted in significant payouts over the last year. These expenses reduced the amount of money available for longer term/higher yield investing and general return on interest. Aside from the monthly surcharge, the NG911 Withholding, and interest earnings, the ETSB receives approximately \$30,000 annually in non-surcharge revenue and an additional \$2.5M from reimbursement from grants, by member agencies for PRMS, licensing, maintenance, and DEDIR System agency owned radio purchases. The ETSB has been reselling the old APX7000 series radios as the new radios have been deployed, resulting in \$307,000 in revenue.

PSAP ALLOCATION

FY26 \$1,000,000

FY27 \$1,000,000

FY26 NG911 Withholding paid in FY27 \$ 830,783

Per policy 911-010: Expenditure Policy, last fiscal year, the Board approved \$830,783 of the \$1,614,314.27 NG911 Withholding Distribution to be allocated to the PSAPs in FY27. The remaining amount was used to meet the \$14M monthly revenue projection.

ACDC \$350,000 (IGA) + \$190,774.11 (NG911) = \$ 640,774.11

DU-COMM \$650,000 (IGA) + \$540,009.06 (NG911) = \$1,190,009.06

Total Allocation 53830: Other Contractual Expenses \$1,830,783.17

CAPITAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

FY27 \$14,013,330

FY26 \$ 799,999

Total Asset (Original Purchase Price) \$27,474,004

The ETS Board has been discussing the 54199: Capital Contingencies line item which funds existing capital infrastructure for the 911 System. This discussion resulted in the updating of 911-010: Expenditure Policy and the creation of several reports:

The Capital Management Plan Report: This report is a snapshot of the items included for replacement with 54199 funds. The ETS Board asked that an escalator be applied for comparison and consideration. The County uses Historic CPI. ETSB Staff also utilized Historic IT CPI for a broader picture since this is the majority of the components in the 911 System.

As supporting data for this report, there are the following reports: Capital Management Plan CPI, Capital Management Plan Charts, Capital Management Plan Forecast.

The major discussion here is how much to allocate vs how much cash and whether there should be a reserve. ETSB staff are working with County Finance to prepare several forms for this discussion. This is why the discussion is currently scheduled for the August meeting.