West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority Finances 2026/2027

WMFS
West Midlands Fire Service

The Authority is responsible for the governance of West Midlands Fire Service.
Our vision is "Making the West Midlands safer, stronger and healthier"

Our three-year strategy is based on our Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), which identifies and assesses all foreseeable risks which our communities may face.
We use our CRMP to inform our Service Delivery Model - how we use our resources to reduce risk and vulnerability.

Our focus on community risk reduction includes:

RESPONSE - Responding safely, assertively and effectively to fires and other emergencies.

We are your fire and rescue service, here when you need us. We are hugely proud of what we do and what we have done to get here. We respond locally, nationally and internationally, saving lives, preventing harm, and safeguarding homes and businesses with the resources you need, when you need them.

PREVENTION - Delivering activities which support safer and healthier communities

By focusing on people most at risk, we improve their quality of life through reducing their risk of fire, helping them to lead healthier lives and educating them on how to be safer on our roads.

PROTECTION - Protecting life and property to make businesses stronger and communities safer

We inspect high-risk and tall buildings, including flats, hospitals, schools and businesses, to keep safe the people who live and work there. We also advise companies on fire safety legislation, to keep their staff and customers safe and help their businesses to grow. In cases of significant risk, we can take enforcement action, including prosecution.

How many people work for the Authority?

The table below gives details of the budgeted staffing establishment of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority. Numbers are shown as full-time equivalent posts:

Budgeted Staffing	2025/26	2026/27	Change
Total Employees	1,826	1,824	-2

How much does the service cost?

The table below details the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority's revenue budget for the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27:

Revenue Budget	2025/26	2026/27
Expenditure	£154.826m	£161.863m
Income	-£93.530m	-£96.114m
Council Tax Requirement	£61.296m	£65.749m

At 31st March 2025, the Authority's borrowing was £27.5m.

Band D requirement for **2026/27** is **£85.19** which equates to an increase of £5.00 **per household** compared to 2025/26.

Who pays for it?

The West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority precept is the part of the council tax which pays for the fire service. The total amount of precept for each West Midlands Council is shown below:

Local Authority	2025/26	2026/27
Birmingham	£21,911,883	£23,464,673
Coventry	£7,222,267	£7,787,648
Dudley	£7,850,412	£8,392,895
Sandwell	£6,444,545	£6,970,243
Solihull	£6,465,932	£6,885,955
Walsall	£5,964,282	£6,478,992
Wolverhampton	£5,436,796	£5,768,671
Total Precept	£61,296,117	£65,749,077

Why has the Council Tax requirement changed?

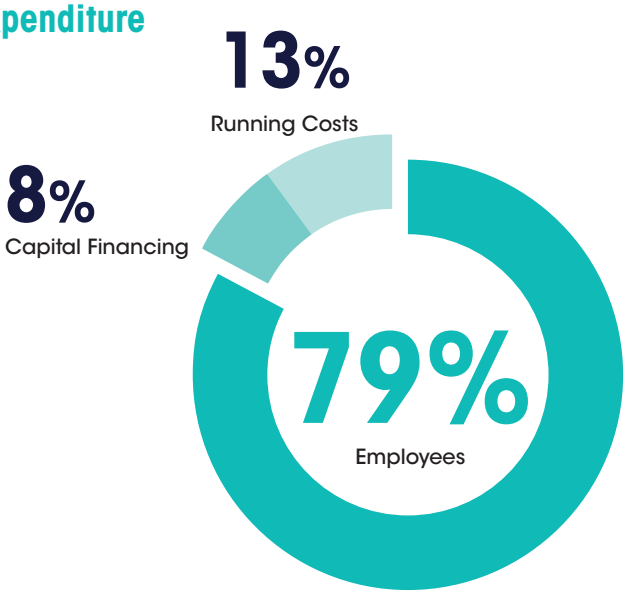
The Authority's council tax requirement for 2026/27 is £65.749m compared with £61.296m for 2025/26, an increase of £4.453m. This change is analysed in the table below:

Changes To Council Tax Requirement	
Pay Award and Staffing	£5.277m
Inflation	£1.106m
Growth and Demand	£1.433m
Efficiencies	-£0.938m
Income	£2.886m
Government Grants	-£5.311m
Total Change	**£4.453m**

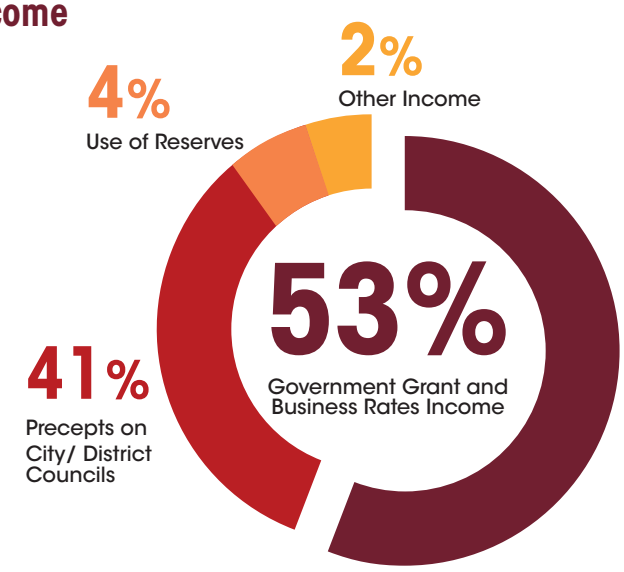
How is the budget spent and financed?

The pie charts below show in percentage terms how the budget is spent and financed:

Expenditure



Income



How much does the service cost in 2026/27?

The table below details the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority revenue budget for the financial year 2026/27:

Revenue Budget: Cost Of Service in 2026/27	
Employees	£128.183m
Running Costs	£21.962m
Capital Financing	£11.718m
Total Expenditure	**£161.863m**
Government Core Funding	-£81.047m
Other Government Grant	-£3.731m
Other Income	-£4.244m
Use of Reserves	-£7.092m
Total Income	**-£96.114m**
Council Tax Requirement	**£65.749m**

Anything else?

For further information relating to the Fire Service, contact us uing the address below.
For financial information relating to the Fire Service, please contact **Finance Team** at the address below.

West Midlands Fire Service Headquarters,
99 Vauxhall Road, Birmingham, B7 4HW.

This leaflet contains financial information on your Fire Service. The Authority is committed to equality of opportunity but must demonstrate value for money. Whilst all requests for our leaflets and publications to be reproduced in alternative formats and languages will be considered, where possible we will seek other methods of communication.
Please call **03300 589 000**.

To find out more about staying safe in your home and to book a Safe and Well visit, take a look at our website:
www.wmfs.net/our-services/safe-and-well

Further information about our focus on community risk reduction can be found on our website:
www.wmfs.net/our-strategy

Find out more about our work on social media:
@WestMidsFire #WeAreWMFS

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