

Council Bill 29-2026 Fiscal Analysis

Introduced: May 4, 2026

Fiscal Manager: Melinda Massey

Legislative Intent: The purpose of this legislation is to authorize an emergency appropriation totaling \$1,700,000 for Fiscal Year 2026 pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter. The legislation is intended to provide sufficient funding authority to address unanticipated operating expenditures incurred during FY2026.

ANALYSIS

Fiscal Impact:

The bill provides additional appropriations for:

- Snow removal and winter storm response activities administered through the Department of Public Works and the Department of General Services;
- Overtime expenditures incurred by the Department of Corrections to maintain required staffing levels and operational continuity at the County detention facility; and
- Increased billing obligations from the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) following correction of a prior billing error.

The table below presents the FY2026 approved appropriation, including the impact of the transfer from Debt Service, along with year-to-date spending as of May 2026.

Department	FY2026 Approved Appropriation before Transfer	Transfer from Debt Service	FY2026 Appropriation after Transfer	Year to Date Expense--*May 2026
Department of Public Works: Highways Maintenance	\$20,779,829	\$63,629	\$20,842,918	\$17,947,636
Department of General Services: Operations & Maintenance	\$23,249,322	\$800,000	\$24,049,322	\$21,934,127
Department of Corrections	\$25,629,610	\$600,000	\$26,229,610	\$23,344,749
Non- Departmental Expenses	\$117,164,835	\$236,371	\$117,401,206	\$108,842,160
Total		\$1,700,000		

*Data source: SAP – May2026

Budget Implications:

Overall, the legislation is intended to address the aforementioned one-time FY2026 emergency expenditures. While recurring operational pressures such as overtime and severe weather response may continue in future fiscal years, this bill does not establish any ongoing funding commitments beyond FY2026. In addition, the Administration has stated the future budgetary requests will include increases to ensure resources reach an appropriate level over time.