



PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from IAFF Local 27 on City of Seattle 2027-28 Proposed Budget

Local 27 President: "Put simply: If this budget takes effect, people will wait longer for help when they call 9-1-1 during an emergency."

SEATTLE, WA – Today, Seattle Fire Fighter and IAFF Local 27 President Kenny Stuart released the following statement in response to the City of Seattle's proposed 2027-28 budget:

"This budget proposal does not meet Seattle's public safety needs. In fact, it reduces our ability to respond quickly in an emergency. Despite the City's charter obligation to provide public safety, this proposal would balance the budget by cutting \$7.1 million from the Seattle Fire Department -- one of the largest dollar amounts for any City department in 2027.

"While this reduction is being called a decrease in 'overtime,' the City currently depends on overtime funding to reach minimum staffing requirements and meet national standards. The Fire Department already has staffing and resource issues and is falling behind [National Fire Protection Association benchmark response times](#).

"We need to see through the smoke and mirrors of this budget proposal. This cut would hurt your Seattle Fire Fighters' ability to respond to fires, medical incidents, and other emergencies on any given day. It takes funding away from the fire department and forces rotating closures of fire engines, fire trucks, and fire stations. There will be fewer Fire Fighters on duty and fewer fire stations operating daily. **Put simply: If this budget takes effect, people will wait longer for help when they call 9-1-1 during an emergency.**

"Seattle Fire Fighters are proud to run toward emergencies, save lives, and protect you, your family, and our communities. But to continue to do so effectively, we need the City to commit to the staffing and resources necessary to be ready every minute, in every neighborhood. This budget proposal does not accomplish that.

"Over the course of the next several days and weeks, we will continue to analyze this proposal and work with the City Council and Mayor's Office to identify needed changes to better promote public safety."

IAFF Local 27 [recently launched](#) a new website: FireFightersSaveLives.com, focused on the essential role Seattle Fire Fighters play in protecting public health and safety. The Seattle Fire Department is the only municipal fire department in the state recognized with a Protection 1 Class rating, reflecting excellence in preventing and fighting fires. Seattle Fire Department's Medic One is an internationally recognized leader in EMS, and residents are two to three times more likely to survive cardiac arrest in Seattle compared to other major cities.

However, since 2010, while Seattle grew by over 30% and fire calls increased by 40%, Fire Fighter staffing has decreased by 3%. This proposed budget would accelerate the resource challenges facing the Fire Department, with a direct and significant impact on Fire Fighter staffing and response times.

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