



WMFS

West Midlands
Fire Service

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority Finances 2025/2026

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority is responsible for West Midlands Fire Service, which serves the West Midlands conurbation.

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 Dealing excellently with incidents

Our response to fires and other emergencies continues to be graded 'outstanding' by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services. 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	2024/25	2025/26	Change
Total Employees	1,802	1,826	24

How much does the service cost?

The table below details the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority's revenue budget for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26:

Revenue Budget	2024/25	2025/26
Expenditure	£140.383m	£154.826m
Income	-£84.164m	-£93.530m
Council Tax Requirement	£56.219m	£61.296m

At 31st March 2024, the Authority's borrowing was £29m.

Council tax requirement per head of population in 2025/2026 is **£20.17**

Band D requirement for 2025/26 is **£80.19** which equates to an increase of £4.99 per household compared to 2024/25.

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	2024/25	2025/26
Birmingham	£20,149,088	£21,911,883
Coventry	£6,597,597	£7,222,267
Dudley	£7,104,903	£7,850,412
Sandwell	£5,881,939	£6,444,545
Solihull	£5,989,078	£6,465,932
Walsall	£5,484,545	£5,964,282
Wolverhampton	£5,011,749	£5,436,796
Total Precept	£56,218,899	£61,296,117

Why has the Council Tax requirement changed?

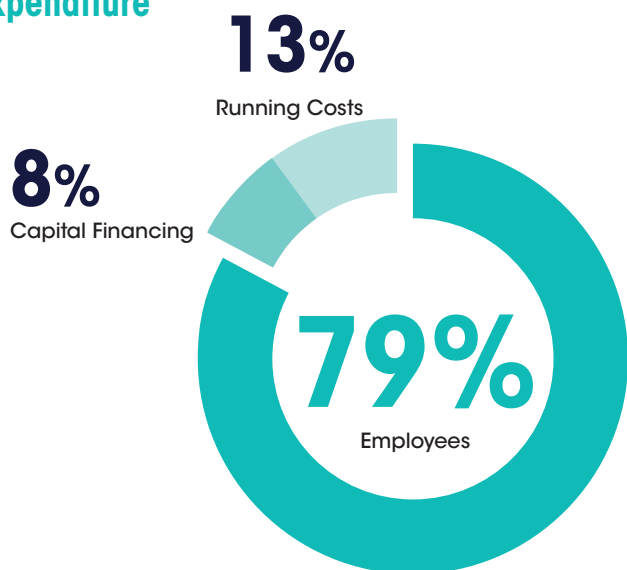
The Authority's council tax requirement for 2025/26 is £61.296m compared with £56.219m for 2024/25, an increase of £5.077m. This change is analysed in the table below:

Changes To Council Tax Requirement	
Pay Award and Staffing	£4.773m
Inflation	£0.879m
Growth and Demand	£4.144m
Savings	-£3.059m
Settlement Funding & Other	-£1.660m
Government Grants	-£1.660m
Total Change	£5.077m

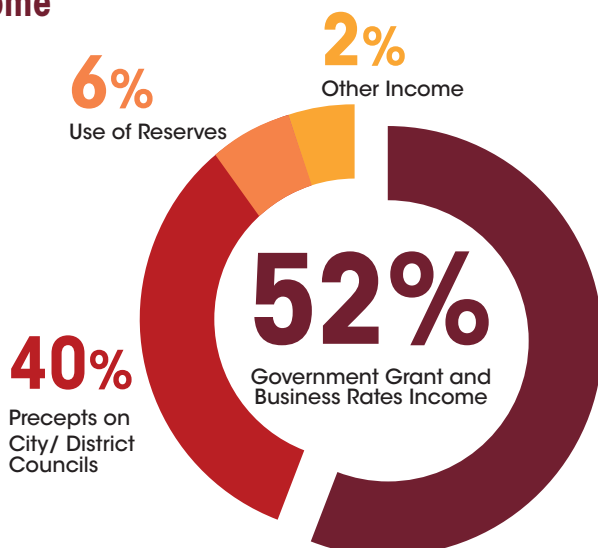
How is the budget spent and financed?

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

Expenditure



Income



How much does the service cost in 2025/26?

The table below details the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority revenue budget for the financial year 2025/26:

Revenue Budget: Cost Of Service in 2025/26	
Employees	£122.280m
Running Costs	£20.197m
Capital Financing	£12.349m
Total Expenditure	£154.826m
Government Core Funding	-£66.362m
Other Government Grant	-£13.889m
Other Income	-£4.064m
Use of Reserves	-£9.215m
Total Income	-£93.530m
Council Tax Requirement	£61.296m

Anything else?

For further information relating to the Fire Service, contact us using 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, scan the QR code below or visit: 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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