




To: Mary Waters, Council Member At-Large
From: Jason Watt, Airport Director 
Date: March 23, 2023
Re: Responses to 2023-2024 Budget Hearing, Airport Department

Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 13, 2023, regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget for the **Airport Department**.

- 1. For FY 2024, for students who may have the desire to become Pilots, what is the date for Davis Aerospace program to begin?**

We are in the early stages of the final discussions for the high school to return to the grounds of the airport. We have been provided a schedule that says the plan is to return in late 2025.

- 2. Within the near future, will there be a new airline providing services to the Coleman A. Young International Airport?**

Currently, there is no interest by any airline, and we do not anticipate any interest for commercial passenger service.

- 3. Please provide an explanation for the increase in Operating Services for \$52,637.**

Operating Services will increase by \$52,637 in FY24 due to an increase in the Airport Department liability insurance policy as well as an increase in DWSD sewerage/drainage costs.

- 4. In Salaries and Wages there is an increase of \$173,402, please explain the increase.**

The Airport Department has requested to add a Community Relations Manager. This position will assist with helping to have one cohesive message around youth aviation programming as well as assist with aviation business attraction.

- 5. What are the plans for the Airport Department to increase business and foot traffic at the City Airport?**

Currently, the plan is focused on rebuilding the airport facilities and infrastructure. The marketing strategies are currently grassroots. As we bring facilities online, we will be able to better target future customers. But as always, we will focus the grassroots marketing efforts on our core strengths like youth aviation education and helicopter tours. We are also planning to work with the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) on business attraction strategies.



CITY OF DETROIT
AIRPORT DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION

11499 CONNER AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48213
PHONE: 313-628-2146 TTY: 311
FAX 313-372-2448
WWW.DETROITMI.GOV

6. Please provide an explanation for the increase in Professional & Contractual Services for \$800,001.

The Airport Department plans to increase the Kimley-Horn contract by \$800,000 (one-time cost) to cover costs associated with designing the new taxiway to increase the chance of federal funding.

cc: City Council Members
Malik Washington, Mayor's Office