

ONONDAGA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2027 EXECUTIVE BUDGET WRITTEN STATEMENT

SECTION 1:

2026 INITIATIVES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To begin 2026, the Department of Emergency Management worked with OCWA, impacted municipalities, and first response agencies affected by the potable water transmission line break. This incident reinforced the need for a robust emergency management program capable of supporting response to multiple hazards throughout the county.

Throughout the year, we have continued to build upon programs previously established, including planning, training, and exercising. Highlights from the past year include hosting an extreme heat response workshop, hosting a highly sought-after active shooter management training class, and participating in numerous exercises designed to improve response to incidents throughout the county. This will culminate with a functional emergency operations center exercise later this year. We have also grown our outreach efforts focused on citizen preparedness and continued supporting special events throughout the county.

Additionally, we partnered with OCRRA to develop and implement a lithium-ion battery disposal program to assist fire departments throughout the county when batteries are involved in a fire. This year we also initiated development of a Drone as First Responder program to support all public safety agencies in the county and provide critical information to responders prior to arrival on-scene. This program will also assist with damage assessments following large-scale incidents.

This year, we will also complete a comprehensive study of the county's pre-hospital emergency medical care system. This study will provide recommendations for continued improvement of the system countywide.

2026 BUDGET REVIEW

Our fiscal year 2026 budget is expected to come in under budget due to our use of federal grant programs and salary savings.

SECTION 2:

2027 BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 2027 budget includes standard salary and wage increases consistent with the baseline budgeting approach. There is a modest increase to part-time wages for increased support at special event, that is fully offset by additional miscellaneous revenue.

Emergency Management's 2027 Travel and Training appropriation remains flat from 2026 and supports required mileage reimbursement and specialized training in rescue operations, fire response and detection, emergency operations, exercises and simulations, and EMS. These investments help ensure emergency responders remain properly trained and prepared to respond effectively to emergencies throughout the County.

The Professional Services appropriation also remains flat from 2026 and supports services essential to Emergency Management's core mission, including continuity of operations planning, EMS training, WebEOC enhancements, and interpreter services.

The transfer to grant line is reduced as 2026 included support for a one time initiative for public safety.

The 2027 Other Miscellaneous Revenue appropriation increases to offset additional costs in the Temporary Employee and Benefit accounts. This revenue is primarily generated through reimbursements for Emergency Management staffing at special events, including events at the Amphitheater.

SECTION 3:

2027 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In 2027, we will complete the initial proof of concept for the Drone as a First Responder program. Based on the results, we envision expanding the program to serve additional areas of the county. We will also work with EMS agencies and other appropriate authorities to implement the findings of the EMS study. Additionally, we will continue building on the foundation established in the EOC through a progressive exercise program that sustains user training and increases the facility's capabilities.