2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – OFFICE OF SAFETY SECURITY AND PROTECTION

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the "Budget" is in regard to the 2026 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2023 and 2024, Full-Year Continuing Resolution levels for 2025, and the President's Budget request for 2026. Amounts for 2025 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the "2018 Farm Bill" is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2025, as extended by the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158, Division D). Amounts shown in 2025 and 2026 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1).

AGENCY-WIDE

PURPOSE STATEMENT.

The Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP) was established on October 13, 2019, to improve facility emergency management and response. OSSP provides Department-wide leadership, policy, and management in safeguarding property and personnel. OSSP is committed to identifying and addressing all security risks affecting USDA personnel, infrastructure, and facilities. Direct appropriated funding for OSSP was first requested in 2021. This request combined new and transferred appropriations from the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Departmental Administration appropriations levels.

OSSP is located in Washington, D.C. As of September 30, 2024, 58 permanent full-time employees were located in Washington, D.C.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTES

Table OSSP-1. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	$23,306	35	$21,800	37	$21,800	37	$19,100	31
Total Adjusted Appropriation	23,306	35	21,800	37	21,800	37	19,100	31
Lapsing Balances	-4,924	-	-485	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations, OSSP	16,876	35	20,315	37	21,800	37	19,100	31
Other USDA:								
Physical Security	4,202	6	4,395	6	5,773	6	5,573	5
Security Detail	4,669	17	4,997	15	7,930	25	7,930	25
Total, Other USDA...............	8,871	23	9,392	21	13,703	31	13,703	30
Total Available, OSSP	30,672	58	30,230	58	34,503	68	32,803	61

* This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

<u>**PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTEs**</u>

Table OSSP-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	HQ	Field	2023 Actual Total	HQ	Field	2024 Actual Total	HQ	Field	2025 Estimated Total	HQ	Field	2026 Estimated Total
SES	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-15.................	5	-	5	5	-	5	8	-	8	7	-	7
GS-14.................	9	-	9	9	-	9	7	-	7	7	-	7
GS-13.................	20	-	20	20	-	20	25	-	25	24	-	24
GS-12.................	8	-	8	8	-	8	11	-	11	12	-	12
GS-11.................	7	-	7	7	-	7	5	-	5	3	-	3
GS-9...................	8	-	8	8	-	8	2	-	2	1	-	1
GS-8...................	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	1	-	1
GS-4...................	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total Permanent	58	-	58	58	-	58	63	-	63	56	-	56
Unfilled, EOY	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	5	-	5
Total Perm. FT EOY	58	-	58	58	-	58	68	-	68	61	-	61
FTE*	58	-	58	58	-	58	68	-	68	61	-	61

* This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

ACCOUNT 1: OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored):

Salaries and Expenses

For necessary expenses of the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection, $19,100,000.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT
Table OSSP-4. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Enacted, 2025	$20,800,000
Change in Appropriation	- 1,700,000
Budget Estimate, 2026	19,100,000

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table OSSP-51. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Office of Safety Security and Protection................	$21,800	35	$20,800	37	$20,800	37	$19,100	31	-$1,700	-6	(1)
Total Appropriation	21,800	35	20,800	37	20,800	37	19,100	31	-1,700	-6	
Lapsing Balances	-4,924	-	-485	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Obligations................	16,876	35	20,315	37	20,800	37	19,100	31	-1,700	-6	

Table OSSP-6. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Office of Safety Security and Protection................	$16,876	35	$20,315	37	$20,800	37	$19,100	31	-$1,700	-6
Total Obligations.................	16,876	35	20,315	37	20,800	37	19,100	31	-1,700	-6
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	4,924	-	485	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	21,800	35	20,800	37	20,800	37	19,100	31	-1,700	-6
Total Appropriation	21,800	35	20,800	37	20,800	37	19,100	31	-1,700	-6

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Office of Safety Security and Protection

Base funding for OSSP will be used to support the overall needs of physical security, security procedures, standards and access control at USDA's HQ complex, George Washington Carver Center, and USDA leased facilities in the NCR. OSSP provides guidance and oversight to USDA's contracted Special Police force who stands ready as the agency's first line of defense. OSSP provides oversight and management on all Life-Safety services that ensure all NCR facilities' life safety systems are operational, maintained, and meet all federal and jurisdictional regulatory requirements, codes, and industry standards.

OSSP is responsible for the operation, support, troubleshooting, and maintenance of all electronic security systems at USDA NCR locations. These systems are vital tools to the security and safety of USDA employees and facilities. OSSP manages USDA's enterprise physical access system (ePACS) to help maintain, troubleshoot, assist, and operate the ePACS Infrastructure. OSSP manages USDA's HSPD-12 program across the nation. This program continues to assist USDA employees with the issuance, renewal, and troubleshooting with LincPass' Logical Resources (computers, networks, printers, etc.) as well as physical resources (buildings, turnstiles, network closets, sever rooms, etc.

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

(1) <u>A decrease of $1,700,000 and 6 FTEs in salaries and expenses for the Office of Safety Security and Protection ($20,800,000 and 37 FTEs available in 2025)</u>.
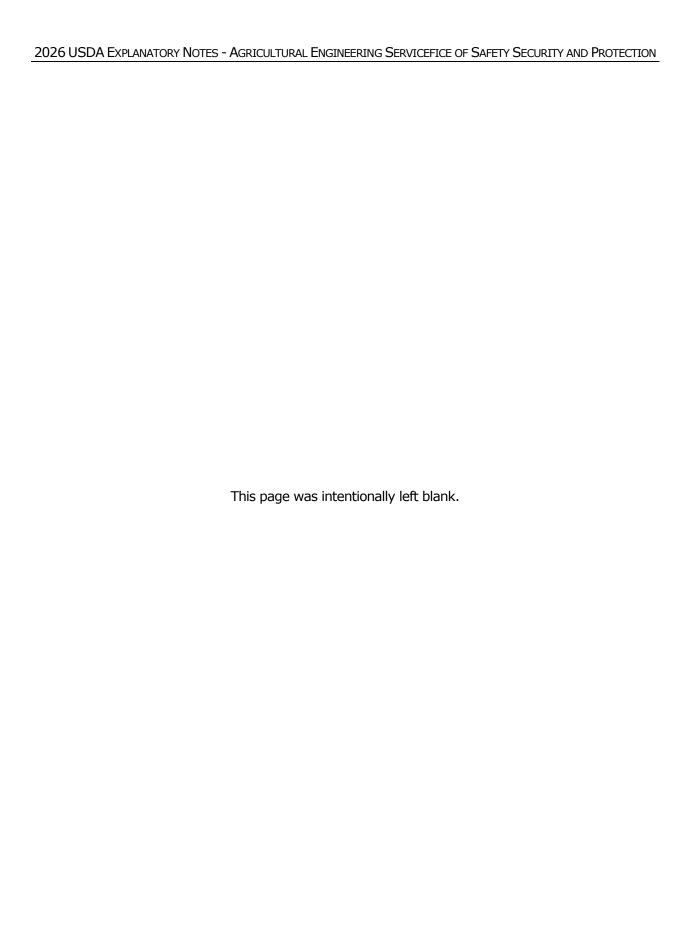
In pursuit of streamlining workforce efforts, facilities, and other government efficiencies, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer has reduced staff from 37 to 31. At this funding level, OSSP will continue to support the overall needs of physical security, security procedures, standards and access control at USDA's facilities.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table OSSP-8. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for the Office of Safety, Security and Protection (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
District of Columbia..................	$16,876	35	$20,315	37	$20,800	37	$19,100	31
Obligations...........................	16,876	35	20,315	37	20,800	37	19,100	31
Lapsing Balances.....................	4,924	-	485	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available....................	21,800	35	20,800	37	20,800	37	19,100	31

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table OSSP-9. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	$3,749	$4,152	$4,116	$4,508
11	Total personnel compensation............	3,749	4,132	4,116	4,508
12	Personal benefits.................................	1,320	1,345	1,417	5,124
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	5,070	5,717	5,833	4,183
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.......	85	81	30	30
22.0	Transportation of things	5	5	5	5
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	-	3	-	-
23.2	Rental payments to others......................	30	30	30	30
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	95	99	92	80
24.0	Printing and reproduction	42	30	42	40
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.	10,660	13,759	14,181	14,222
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources...	-	323	362	305
26.0	Supplies and materials..........................	159	159	150	150
31.0	Equipment..	727	109	75	55
	Total, Other Objects...........................	11,806	14,598	14,967	14,917
99.9	Total, new obligations	16,876	20,315	20,800	19,100
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3).................................	$7	$7	$8	$8
	Information Technology Investments:				
	Enterprise IT Facilities and Physical Security				
11	Internal Labor......................................	$410	-	$1,200	-
	External Labor (Contractors).................	2,466	$631	1,068	$749
	Total Major Investment 1	2,876	631	2,268	749
	Identity & Access Management (IAM)(EPACS)				
11	Internal Labor......................................	271	-	-	-
	External Labor (Contractors).................	2,466	3,815	3,910	4,007
	Total Major Investment 2	2,737	3,815	3,910	4,007
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$219,000	$221,000	$223,000	$223,000
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$129,000	$131,500	$132,500	$133,700
	Average Grade, GS Position...................	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6

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STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Office of Security, Safety and Protection (OSSP) ensures unified effective, efficient delivery of facility and emergency response, and personnel safety across USDA operations. OSSP serves as the primary point of oversight, planning, coordination and implementation of USDA security and safety assessments, facility emergency management, training and protection for USDA facilities, property, and personnel.

Current Activities

OSSP directly manages all facility security and emergency response, asset protection and personnel safety for USDA's Headquarters complex which includes the Jamie L. Whitten, South, Yates building, and the George Washington Carver Center as well as having primary authority to fully coordinate facility safety, security, and protection in the National Capitol Region. OSSP is responsible for standardizing facility security and personnel safety policies and procedures, including establishing consistent risk-based specifications for countermeasures that USDA facilities nationwide will be expected to implement based on their functions and vulnerabilities.

USDA's Uniformed Security Officer contract re-bid. The uniformed security officer contract for USDA Headquarters is currently in the bidding process as the current five-year contract is expiring. The uniformed security officers at USDA National Capital Region are contracted to provide, operate, manage, and maintain a uniformed protective security force 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the physical protection of the United States Department of Agriculture Headquarters (HQ) Complex (South, Sydney R. Yates, and Jamie L. Whitten Buildings) in Washington, D.C., and the George Washington Carver Center (GWCC), Beltsville, MD.

Upgrade to Visitor Management System. Upgrading the new Visitor Management System (VMS) to schedule and log visitors to the Headquarters Complex will allow for the use of a PIV-like visitor card that will use the same secure authentication method as the PIV cards but also has a built-in background check process that will perform open-source background checks on visitors and flag them should any negative information be found, greatly increasing the security of the entire Headquarters Complex.

The Window intrusion alarm project. OSSP is supervising the installation of window glass break intrusion alarms on all windows that are located at accessible areas on ground level and within moat areas. The installation of 303 system devices has been completed in the Whitten and South Building complex. Installation has been expanded to include the GWCC complex and installation progress for all four GWCC buildings.

Geospatial Study of credentialing stations. The Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) completed a baseline Geospatial Study of credentialing stations as well as the creation of a web-based credential services locator tool, through a joint project between the OSSP-Facility Protection Division and OCIO-Enterprise Geospatial Management Office (EGMO).

Selected Examples of Recent Progress

The upgrade and modernization of USDA's Headquarters complex Video Surveillance System (VSS): This new state- of the-art VSS significantly improves USDA's security posture consisting of a combination of exterior and interior VSS devices. There are perimeter cameras strategically placed around the perimeter of the facility that provide real- time surveillance of the building and its surrounding areas.

The Land Mobile Radio System (LMRS): Supports OSSP's core mission by providing reliable, secure, and efficient management of emergency and non-emergency radio communications at HQ and GWCC. This system additionally hosts new communication repeaters that allow HQ and GWCC the ability to communicate during normal business events, as well, during emergency conditions.

Whitten Turnstile Retrofit Project: The turnstile retrofit project facilitated upgrading the existing Gunnebo turnstiles by replacing the internal mechanics and electronics, as well as updating the exterior glass and covers. This has restored the turnstiles to a fully functional state, like a new system, while retaining the existing structural elements.

GIS Study Results: OSSP partnered with the OCIO-Enterprise Geospatial Management Office (EGMO) to perform a GIS study on the USDA employee population and USAccess credentialing station footprint. This study consisted of developing service areas based on drive distance and identifying gap areas outside of local travel distance. This study produced a gap analysis report that identified the areas with the largest populations and furthest travel distance and used as the underlying data to justify the decision to end the practice of Agency specific dedicated locations at the USDA.

HSPD-12 Credentialing Services Locator Tool: OSSP, in partnership with the OCIO-EGMO developed a publicly available web-based map tool that allows applicants to easily locate the nearest credentialing station to their location. Since its launch, it has been accessed approximately 7,000 times.

Upgrade of ePACS to Federal Identity, Credential, and Access Management (FICAM) Compliance: OSSP is upgrading the existing ePACS Application to be fully compliant with NIST 800-116 and FIPS 201-2. This will allow ePACS to use the secure PKI Card Authentication Key Certificate on USDA Linc Passes for access, rather than the deprecated and insecure Cardholder Unique ID that it is currently using.

Progress of installation of USDA's Visitor Management System: Significant progress made in implementing a state-of-the-art Visitor Management System to ensure that Visitors to our facility are being vetted, logged, and using a secure credential to enter the USDA HQ Complex. All Card Readers have been upgraded as part of the VMS rollout except for areas under construction.

Development and Implementation of a USDA Physical Security Assessment System (PSAS) and Report Repository Project: OSSP in conjunction with OCIO has developed a SharePoint based Physical Security Assessment System and Repository. This system has allowed USDA Security Specialists to conduct, monitor and record Physical Security Assessments at USDA Locations either through onsite inspections or with the assistance of local personnel. This system allows USDA Security Personnel and Senior Leadership to review data collected rapidly and easily from all assessed locations.

LincPass V8.1 Transition: OSSP facilitated the transition of over 110,000 LincPass credentials to a more secure card technology to remain compliant with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) requirements.

Remodel and modernization of USDA's Security Control Center (SCC) and Emergency Communication Center (ECC): The SCC and ECC provide security and emergency communications, liaison and coordination between USDA Emergency Management, Executive Protection, Security, Federal Protective Services, DC FIRE and ambulance, and DC Metro Police.

Emergency Facility Occupant Mass Notification "Ag-AWaIRS" Platform: The Agriculture Automated Warning and Information Response System (Ag-AWaIRS) is the primary emergency mass notification system for personnel working in the National Capital Region. Ag-AWaIRS fulfills OSSP's requirement for a reliable, rapid, and broad-based layered communications strategy to deliver time-sensitive emergency notifications to USDA personnel via email, text messaging, desktop popups, mobile notifier (iOS/Android push notifications), PA announcements and phone calls. Ag-AWaIRS alerting includes, but is not limited to, manmade or natural disasters, threat level changes, active shooter warnings, severe weather, drills, or recall procedures.

Fire Safety/Emergency Management: To increase the level of life safety at Whitten Sub-Central Plant OSSP-STEM facilitated the installation of a new fire alarm system that is an integrated analog

addressable voice evacuation fire alarm system that meets the current codes and standards and complies with NFPA 72 and PBS P100 requirements.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Fire Alarm Messaging Service (DHH-FAM): Upgraded USDA's HQ's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Fire Alarm Messaging Service that is part of OSSP's rapid response layered communications strategy and is used to notify USDA's deaf and hard of hearing personnel of a fire alarm at HQ, via text and email-based notifications.

CRG Digital 3-D Mapping Project: Digital 3-D mapping project for South/Whitten/GWCC/Yates facilities to assist OSSP-OO-FPS- and Local Municipality First Responders during catastrophic emergency events. This program allows all participants to access USDA facilities through a 3-D image during emergency response conditions.