

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2027 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 2024 and 2025, Working Families Tax Cut Act, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026, and the President’s Budget request for 2027. Amounts for 2026 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 “Working Families Tax Cut Act” is used to refer to the Public Law 119-21.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027.

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 small non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1). Due to rounding, some tables may not sum exactly.

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, 2025, 68 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	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$20,800	37	\$20,800	37	\$24,000	26	\$19,100	25
Total Available	20,800	37	20,800	37	24,000	26	19,100	25
Lapsing Balances.....	-485	-	-344	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	20,315	37	20,456	37	24,000	26	19,100	25
Other USDA:								
Physical Security	4,395	6	5,573	6	2,707	6	2,737	6
Security Detail	4,977	15	7,930	25	16,176	38	16,375	38
Total, Other USDA.....	9,372	21	13,503	31	18,883	44	19,112	43
Total Available, OSSP.....	30,172	58	34,303	68	42,883	70	38,212	68

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTEs

Table OSSP-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	2024 Actual			2025 Actual			2026 Estimated			2027 Estimated		
	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total
SES	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-15.....	5	-	5	7	-	7	9	-	9	7	-	7
GS-14.....	9	-	9	11	-	11	9	-	9	6	-	6
GS-13.....	20	-	20	24	-	24	21	-	21	19	-	19
GS-12.....	8	-	8	9	-	9	17	-	17	30	-	30
GS-11.....	7	-	7	8	-	8	6	-	6	2	-	2
GS-9.....	8	-	8	8	-	8	5	-	5	1	-	1
GS-8.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-	2
Total Permanent	58	-	58	68	-	68	70	-	70	68	-	68
Total Perm. FT												
EOY	58	-	58	68	-	68	70	-	70	68	-	68
FTE ¹	58	-	58	68	-	68	70	-	70	68	-	68

¹ Total FTEs are all inclusive of workforce categories including temporary positions.

ACCOUNT 1: OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

Office of Safety, Security, and Protection

For the expenses of the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection, [~~\$24,000,000~~]\$19,100,000.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table OSSP-3. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (in dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2026	\$24,000,000
Change in Appropriation	<u>- 4,900,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2027	<u>19,100,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table OSSP-4. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs) ²

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs			
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Office of Safety, Security, and Protection											
Protection	\$20,800	37	\$20,800	37	\$24,000	26	\$19,100	25	-\$4,900	-	(1)
Total Available	20,800	37	20,800	37	24,000	26	19,100	25	-4,900	-	
Lapsing Balances	-485	-	-344	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Obligations	<u>20,315</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>20,456</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>24,000</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>19,100</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>-4,900</u>	-	

Table OSSP- 5, Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs) ³

Item	2024		2025		2026		2026		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Discretionary Obligations:										
Office of Safety, Security, and Protection										
Protection	\$20,315	37	\$20,456	37	\$24,000	26	19,100	25	-\$4,900	-
Total Available	20,315	37	20,456	37	24,000	26	19,100	25	-4,900	
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	485	-	344	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation.....	<u>20,800</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>20,800</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>24,000</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>19,100</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>-4,900</u>	-

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. the research, publication, and access to that research, essentially triple-charging the public for the same product.

² This table does not match MAX Schedule X due to reimbursables.

³ This table does not match MAX Schedule X due to reimbursables.

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, server rooms, etc. In accordance with administration policy announced in the Budget, OSSP will follow new government-wide grants guidance prohibiting the use of Federal funds to pay for subscriptions to academic journals, as well as for the publication of research results that are not specifically required by Federal statute or approved in advance by a Federal agency. This policy preserves funds to support actual research by ensuring that the American taxpayer does not pay for

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

(1) A decrease of \$4,900,000 for the Office of Safety, Security and Protection. (\$24,000,000 and 26 FTEs available in 2026).

A) A decrease of \$4,900,000 in contractual security services.

This decrease will be absorbed through efficiencies and key reductions in contractual security support. These targeted cuts will focus on non-essential services ensuring that OSSP continues to maintain critical physical security standards, access control, and facility protection across USDA locations.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs

Table OSSP-6. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for Office of the Chief Economist (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
District of Columbia	\$20,315	37	\$20,456	37	\$24,000	26	\$19,100	25
Obligations	20,315	37	20,456	37	24,000	26	19,100	25
Lapsing Balances	485	-	344	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available	20,800	37	20,800	37	24,000	26	19,100	25

OBJECT CLASSIFICATION

Table OSSP-7. Classification by Objects – Discretionary Funding (thousands of dollars) ⁴

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$4,152	\$4,497	\$3,203	\$3,372
11	Total personnel compensation	4,152	4,497	3,203	3,372
12	Personal benefits	1,345	1,703	1,265	1,322
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	-	-	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	5,497	6,200	4,468	4,694
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	81	17	100	100
22.0	Transportation of things.....	5	8	10	10
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	3	3	3	3
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	30	-	-	-
	Communications, utilities, and misc.				
23.3	charges	99	85	100	100

⁴ This table does not match MAX Schedule O due to reimbursables.

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	30	24	25	25
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources ..	13,361	12,647	17,144	12,368
	Other goods and services from Federal				
25.3	sources	323	1,037	1,500	1,250
26.0	Supplies and materials	159	35	50	50
31.0	Equipment	727	400	600	500
	Total, Other Objects	14,818	14,256	19,532	14,406
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	20,315	20,456	24,000	19,100
DHS Building Security Payments					
	(included in 25.3)	\$7	\$8	\$8	\$8
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	\$204,000	\$208,000	\$213,616	\$215,888
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$133,900	\$135,641	\$136,327	\$138,184

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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 (HQ) complex which includes the Jamie L. Whitten, South, Yates building, and the George Washington Carver Center (GWCC) 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.

Employee Screening

OSSP implemented full screening for all personnel entering the USDA HQ complex this past year. This required significant reorganization of employee entrances. This process continues as needs change and to facilitate efficient employee traffic flow into the buildings.

Whitten Turnstile Project

OSSP is coordinating the redesign of the Whitten building entrance to provide increased security as well as more efficient employee traffic flow into the building. With the implementation of security screening for all personnel entering the USDA HQ buildings, the need existed to reorganize and upgrade the existing turnstiles and building entrance layout.

Parking Plan Reorganization

OSSP is poised to go live with a new parking plan for the USDA HQ complex. Parking at the Headquarters complex has not been reorganized in many years leading to confusion and inefficiencies with parking at the numerous parking lots around the complex. OSSP has evaluated the parking situation and is ready to implement a new parking operation which will make much better use of available parking spaces.

Video Surveillance System Upgrade

OSSP continues to upgrade the video surveillance system (VSS) at the headquarters complex. OSSP is working to increase the capability of the VSS to include more views and remove blind spots in the existing system. Specifically, the project will increase the views of the Whitten exterior and National Mall area as well as give OSSP better visibility on streets surrounding the HQ complex.

Upgrade to Visitor Management System

Moving forward with the new USDA Wide Enterprise Visitor Management System (VMS) to schedule and log visitors to the Headquarters Complex which will allow for the use of a PIV-like visitor card that will use the same secure authentication method as the PIV cards. The new system will also allow for instant vetting of visitors to the complex, greatly increasing the security of the entire Headquarters Complex.

Window intrusion alarm project

OSSP completed the installation of window glass break intrusion alarms on all windows that are located at accessible areas on ground level and within moat areas in the Whitten and South Buildings. The project has been expanded to include the GWCC complex and installation continues at GWCC.

Credential Management Portal (CMP)

OSSP working in conjunction with OCIO has developed and will implement a new USDA Intranet page allowing employees to instantly check the status of their LincPass. The site will provide information to the employee relating to credential issuance, POCs, and list pending issues/actions for resolution.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress

USDA's Uniformed Security Officer contract re-bid

The uniformed security officer contract for USDA Headquarters expired this past year and was put out for re-bid. This is a five year contract that provides uniformed security officers at USDA National Capital Region facilities. The guards 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 in Washington, D.C., and the George Washington Carver Center (GWCC), Beltsville, MD.

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).

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.

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.

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.

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 multiple 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.