



## DALLAS COUNTY OFFICE OF BUDGET AND EVALUATION

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*August 29, 2025*

**TO:** Commissioners Court  
County Administration

**THROUGH:** Dr. Ronica Watkins, Budget Officer *rw*

**FROM:** Bryant Jackson, Senior Budget and Policy Analyst

**SUBJECT:** FY2026 Proposed Budget for the Dallas County Building Security

### **BACKGROUND**

The Dallas County Building Security Department is responsible for safeguarding County facilities, employees, and the public through comprehensive security coverage across multiple locations. The department provides 24/7 services, including access control, monitoring, and public safety screening.

In recent years, Dallas County has begun transitioning from reliance on contracted security services to an in-house staffing model to enhance accountability, stability, and long-term cost efficiency.

For FY2026, OBE continues to support this transition by budgeting additional positions and incorporating previously contingency-funded contract costs into the department's base budget. This approach strengthens transparency, ensures critical security obligations are funded within the operating budget, and reduces reliance on supplemental appropriations.

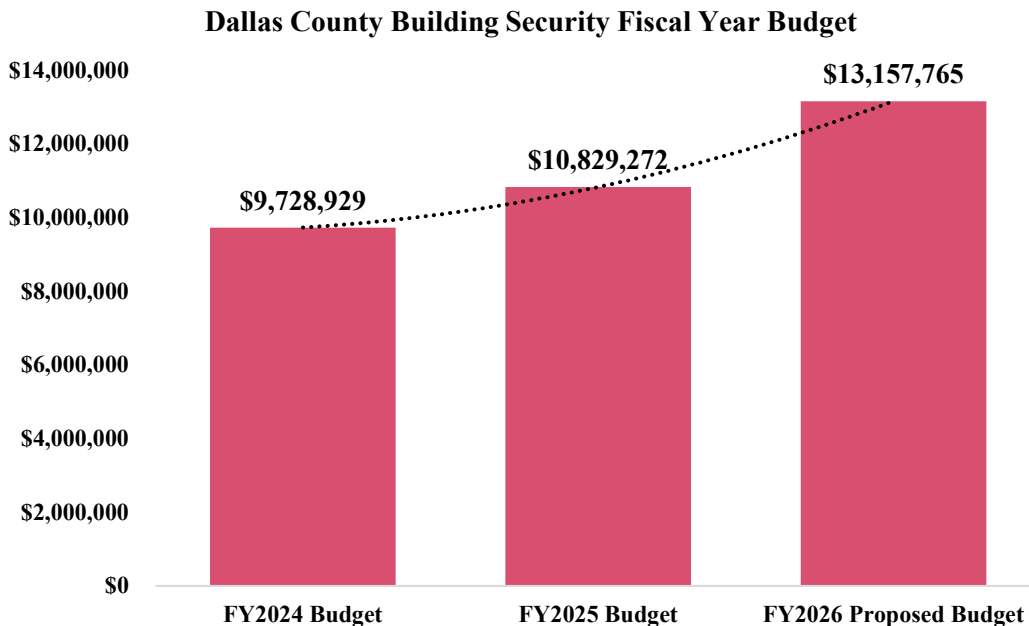
### **BUDGETED POSITIONS AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Category	FY2025 Adopted	FY2026 Proposed	Change / Notes
<b>Total Positions</b>	85	92	OBE continues emphasis on hiring public safety screeners; positions remain challenging to fill and retain, which has caused ongoing reliance on USDA contract staff.
<b>Operating Budget</b>	\$10,829,272	\$13,157,765	Increase primarily due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding USDA security contract within the base budget instead of reserves/contingency.</li></ul>

- Personnel-related costs for additional screeners (salaries, benefits, training, equipment).
- Support for transition to a more sustainable in-house security model.

**Highlights:**

- **Staffing Challenges:** Recruiting and retaining public safety screeners remains difficult, contributing to continued reliance on contracted security.
- **Transition to In-House Model:** Budgeted positions and resources support the County’s goal to gradually reduce dependency on external contracts while building internal capacity.
- **Budget Integration:** Incorporating contract costs into the base budget ensures transparent, fully funded operations without reliance on supplemental appropriations.



**RECOMMENDATION**

The Office of Budget and Evaluation recommends that the Commissioners Court approve the FY2026 Proposed Budget of \$13,157,765 for the Dallas County Building Security Department. This budget ensures that security operations are properly resourced, incorporates contract obligations directly into the operating budget, and supports the County’s transition toward a more sustainable in-house security model.