

**New York City Council**  
**Hon. Julie Menin, Speaker of the Council**  
**Hon. Linda Lee, Chair, Finance Committee**  
**Hon. Frank Morano, Chair, Veterans Committee**

**Report on the Fiscal 2027 Preliminary Plan,  
and the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Mayor’s Management Report for the  
Committee on Veterans**

Richard Lee, Director  
Jonathan Rosenberg, Managing Deputy Director  
Chima Obichere, Deputy Director  
Paul Scimone, Deputy Director  
Eisha Wright, Deputy Director

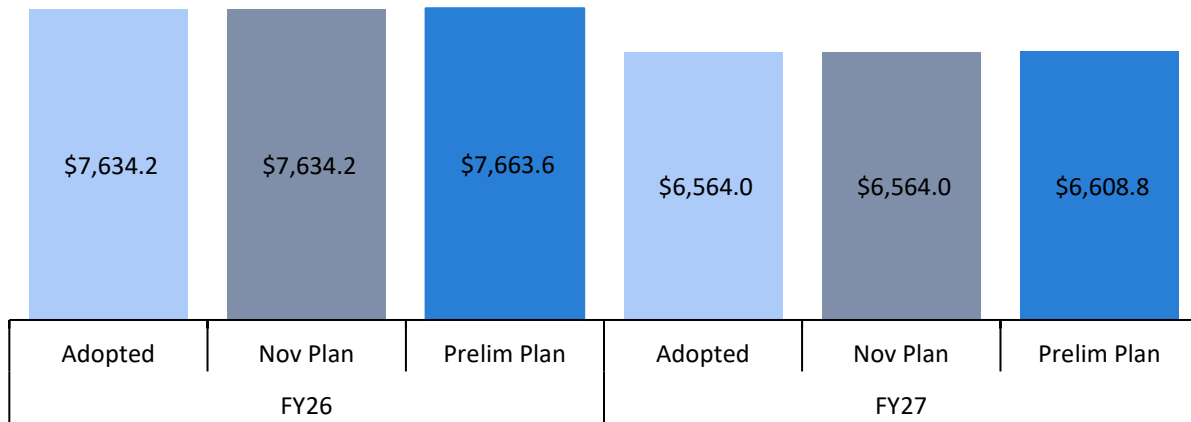
Prepared By:  
Margaret Barnsley, Financial Analyst  
Julia K. Haramis, Assistant Director

**Fiscal 2027 Preliminary Plan**  
*Department of Veterans’ Services*

The Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS or the Department) aims to connect, mobilize, and empower the City’s Veteran community to foster purpose-driven lives for US Military Service Members — past and present — in addition to their caregivers, survivors, and families. DVS works to serve veterans through expanding access to essential services, including affordable housing, federal Veterans Affairs claims support, and peer-to-peer programs, with an ultimate mission of building a City where all veterans can thrive. The Department has not seen significant changes to its budget since the release of the Fiscal 2026 Adopted Plan in June 2025.

The Preliminary Financial Plan for Fiscal 2026-2030 (Preliminary Plan), includes a proposed Fiscal 2027 budget of \$6.6 million for DVS, \$44,750 (0.7 percent) more than its \$6.6 million Fiscal 2027 budget in the November Plan. DVS’s Fiscal 2026 budget in the Preliminary Plan is \$29,391 (0.4 percent) more than its \$7.6 million Fiscal 2026 budget in the November Plan. The current Fiscal 2027 budget is \$1.0 million less than the \$7.6 million Fiscal 2026 budget at adoption, which is partly due to \$585,000 in Council discretionary funding that is in the Fiscal 2026 budget only.

### Comparison of the Last Three Financial Plans



Dollars in Thousands

Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

## DVS Financial Summary

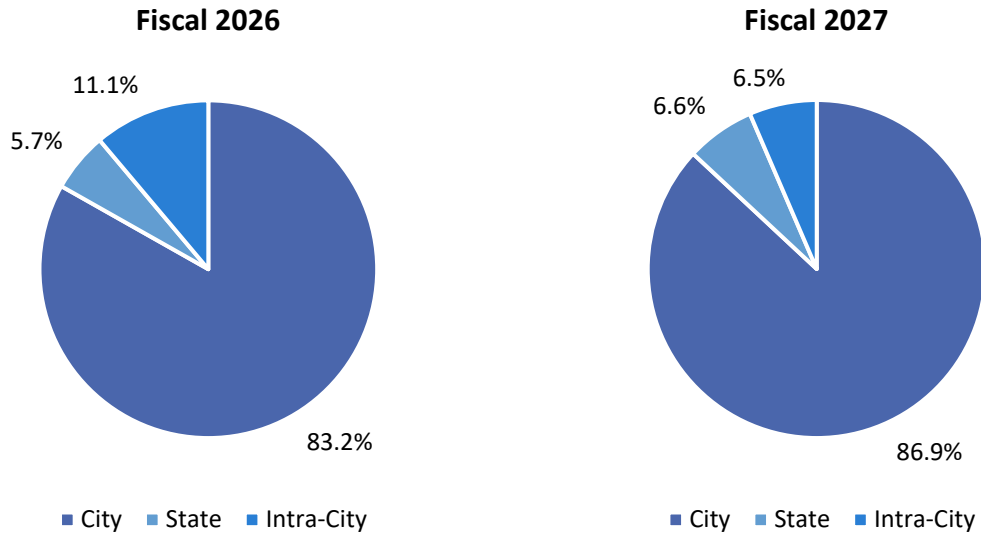
Dollars in Thousands	FY24	FY25	FY26	Preliminary Plan		*Difference
	Actual	Actual	Adopted	FY26	FY27	FY27 - FY26
<b>Budget by Unit of Appropriation</b>						
001 – Personal Services	\$3,811	\$3,811	\$4,936	\$4,936	\$4,874	(\$62)
002 – Other Than Personal Services	1,328	2,314	2,698	2,727	1,735	(963)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,139</b>	<b>\$6,125</b>	<b>\$7,634</b>	<b>\$7,664</b>	<b>\$6,609</b>	<b>(\$1,025)</b>
<b>Funding</b>						
City Funds			\$6,345	\$6,375	\$5,746	(\$599)
State			435	435	435	0
Intra-City			854	854	428	(426)
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$7,634</b>	<b>\$7,664</b>	<b>\$6,609</b>	<b>(\$1,025)</b>
<b>Budgeted Headcount</b>						
Full-Time Positions - Civilian	35	35	49	50	49	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>

\*The difference of Fiscal 2027 Preliminary Budget compared to Fiscal 2026 Adopted Budget.

Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

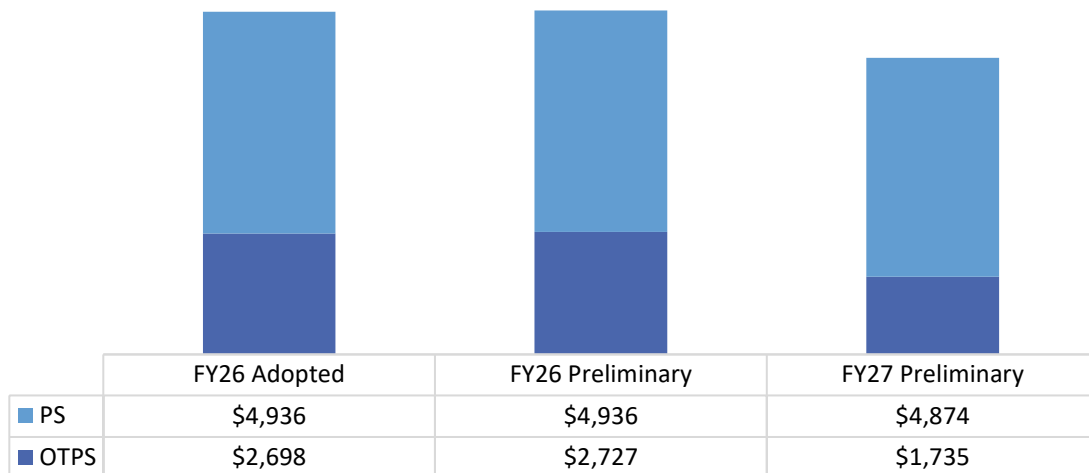
## Budget by Funding Source

Fiscal 2027 City Funds: 86.9 percent



Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

## Personal Services (PS) and Other Than Personal Services (OTPS)



Dollars in Thousands

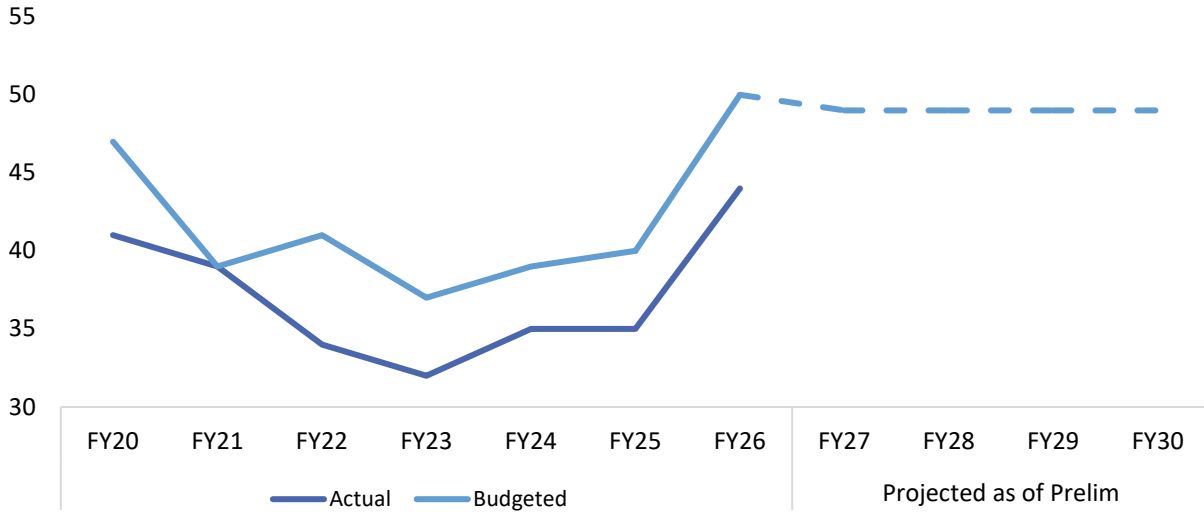
Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

## Headcount

FY26 Budgeted Full-Time Positions: 50  
 Actual Headcount as of January 2026: 44

FY27 Budgeted Full-Time Positions: 49  
 Vacancy Rate as of January 2026: 12.0 percent

**Budgeted and Actual Headcount FY20-FY30**



Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

Note: Budgeted and actual headcounts are as of the end of the fiscal year, except for Fiscal 2026 where budgeted headcount is as of the Preliminary Plan and actual headcount is as of January 2026.

## DVS Contract Budget

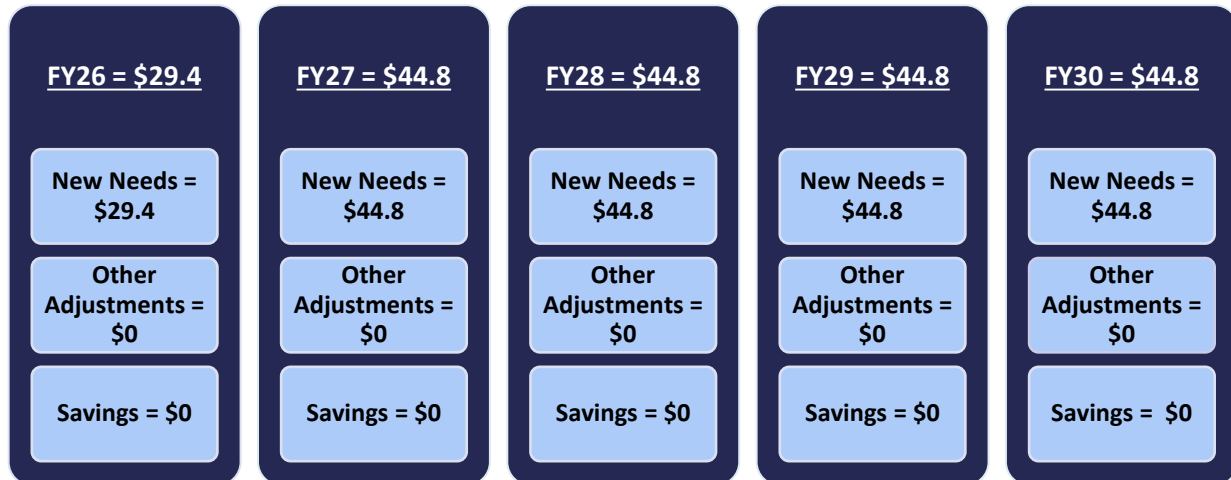
Fiscal 2027 Contract Budget: \$710,000  
 Number of Contracts in Fiscal 2027: 4

Dollars in Thousands

Category	FY26 Adopted	Number of Contracts	FY27 Preliminary	Number of Contracts
Contractual Services - General	\$670	1	\$670	1
Professional Services - Other	10	1	10	1
Temporary Services	441	1	15	1
Transportation Expenditures	15	1	15	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,136</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$710</b>	<b>4</b>

Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

## Preliminary Plan Changes



*Dollars in Thousands*

### Significant Preliminary Plan Changes

#### New Needs

- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).** The Preliminary Plan includes an additional \$29,391 in City funding in Fiscal 2026 and \$44,750 in baseline City funding, starting in Fiscal 2027, for COLAs for staff at contracted providers. The Mayor’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and DVS reviewed all human service contracts to assess how budgeted funding for COLA payments compared to recent spending and made baseline adjustments, as needed, for impacted agencies.

## Preliminary Mayor’s Management Report

The Preliminary Mayor's Management Report (PMMR) for Fiscal 2026 reports on two service areas and four goals for DVS. Noteworthy metrics that were reported are detailed below.

- Place Homeless Veterans and Their Families in Housing.** There were 72 homeless veterans and veteran families who received housing placements through the DVS Veteran Peer Coordinator program in the first four months of Fiscal 2026, an increase of 18.0 percent when compared to the same period last fiscal year when 61 placements were made. According to the PMMR, this was achieved through collaboration with the Department of Homeless Services, Department of Social Services, New York City Housing

Authority, and community-based service providers, as well as ongoing strategic outreach efforts DVS has made to property owners and brokers seeking to house veteran tenants. This metric has been trending upward in recent years, increasing from 52 placements in Fiscal 2022, to 123 in Fiscal 2023, 126 in Fiscal 2024, and finally 153 in Fiscal 2025. The Department's target for Fiscals 2026 and 2027 is to have 92 placements, which DVS is on track to exceed. Given this, DVS should consider increasing the target in the PMMR.

- **Prevent Veteran Homelessness.** DVS was able to reach significantly more people with its homelessness prevention and housing stability services in the first four months of Fiscal 2026 compared to the same period in Fiscal 2025, from 56 to 578, a 932.1 percent increase. According to the PMMR, this growth reflects a more comprehensive capture of prevention and stabilization activities, including rental arrears assistance, eviction prevention, rapid rehousing, and landlord-tenant mediation. In Fiscal 2022 DVS assisted 517 people, but this declined to 217 people in Fiscal 2023, and 227 people in Fiscal 2024, before significantly to 492 in Fiscal 2025. While the decline in people assisted since Fiscal 2023 is concerning, this indicator has strongly rebounded since then. The PMMR includes a target of 190 people for Fiscals 2026 and 2027, which DVS has exceeded comfortably for each of the years included in the PMMR. Given this, DVS should consider increasing the target in the PMMR.
- **Mental Health Referral Requests.** In the first four months of Fiscal 2026, DVS received 27 mental health referral requests, up from just 6 during the same period in Fiscal 2025, a 350.0 percent increase. According to the PMMR, this includes four crisis calls that DVS responded to and offered to connect these veterans to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The number of referrals requests has been declining in recent years, going from 312 in Fiscal 2023, to 129 in Fiscal 2024, and finally to just 33 in Fiscal 2025. Last year's PMMR noted that in Fiscal 2024, DVS decided to make the completion of these mental health screenings voluntary for clients. As a result, the number of clients completing mental health screenings and receiving referrals from DVS has declined considerably.
- **NYC VetConnect Platform.** DVS links service members, veterans, survivors, caregivers, and military families to a range of services provided by various organizations, non-profit community groups, and government agencies, all accessible through the NYC VetConnect platform. In the first four months of Fiscal 2026, 1,046 veterans and family members were served through the VetConnect platform, a 14.1 percent decline when compared to the 1,218 individuals served in same period in Fiscal 2025. This metric has seen a great deal of variance in recent years with DVS serving 1,068 people in Fiscal 2022, increasing to 3,338 people in Fiscal 2023, further increasing to 10,701 people in Fiscal 2024, and finally slightly decreasing to 8,920 in Fiscal 2025. The PMMR includes a target of 5,000 people for Fiscals 2026 and 2027, which DVS will only achieve by significantly increasing the number of people assisted in the remainder of Fiscal 2026. The PMMR does not indicate why the number of people served increased so significantly in Fiscal 2024 or what other factors have impacted this service.
- **Digital and In-Person Outreach.** There were 57,452 DVS site visits in the first four months of Fiscal 2026, 11.1 percent more than the 51,729 visits during the same period in Fiscal

2025. The average weekly newsletter subscribership expanded by 10.6 percent, from 9,792 to 10,828 subscribers. According to the PMMR, this reflects DVS's intentional efforts to build the newsletter distribution list, including identifying members transitioning out of active service to connect new audiences to DVS services. DVS also prioritized face-to-face engagement, adding a dedicated outreach specialist and increasing its in-person outreach in the first four months of Fiscal 2026, attending 117 public engagement events compared to 66 during the same period in Fiscal 2025, a 77.3 percent increase.

## Budget Issues and Concerns, Including Federal and State Budget Risks

- **Shrinking and Privatized Federal Services.** DVS's Fiscal 2027 budget is largely comprised of City funding (\$5.7 million, 86.9 percent), with smaller amounts of support coming from the State (\$435,000, 6.6 percent) and Intra-City funding (\$427,816, 6.5 percent). While the DVS budget does not include any federal funding, there are many federal programs that provide significant services and support programs to veterans residing in the City, most notably through the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Trump Administration has already made significant cuts to health programs, social services, and veteran-specific programs, which negatively impacts veterans residing in the City who were already underserved before these changes. Moreover, while the VA's most recent budget saw its funding increase, significant funds were transferred from its in-house medical services to its privatized arm, Community Cares.<sup>1</sup> Numerous studies and government audits show that the VA provides superior healthcare for veterans at a lower cost to taxpayers than private care.<sup>2</sup> DVS, with a small budget and limited resources, is not equipped to fill these gaps left by the federal government.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/veterans-healthcare/2025/june/va-budget-tops-400-billion-for-2025-from-higher-spending-on-mandated-benefits-medical-care>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/24/veterans-administrations-doctors-trump-policies-harm-healthcare>

## Supporting Budget Charts

### Budget Actions in the November and Preliminary Plans

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	FY26			FY27		
	City	Non-City	Total	City	Non-City	Total
<b>DVS Budget as of the Adopted FY26 Plan</b>	\$6,345	\$1,289	\$7,634	\$5,701	\$863	\$6,564
<b>No Changes Introduced in the November 2025 Plan</b>						
<b>DVS Budget as of the November 2025 Plan</b>	\$6,345	\$1,289	\$7,634	\$5,701	\$863	\$6,564
<b>Changes Introduced in the FY27 Preliminary Plan</b>						
<b>New Needs</b>						
Cost of Living Adjustment	\$29	\$0	\$29	\$45	\$0	\$45
<b>Subtotal, New Needs</b>	\$29	\$0	\$29	\$45	\$0	\$45
<b>TOTAL, All Changes in the FY27 Preliminary Plan</b>	\$29	\$0	\$29	\$45	\$0	\$45
<b>DVS Budget as of the FY27 Preliminary Plan</b>	\$6,374	\$1,289	\$7,663	\$5,746	\$863	\$6,609

Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

## Budget by Unit of Appropriation

<b>Units of Appropriation (U/A): 001 - Personal Services and 002 - Other Than Personal Services</b>						
<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>						
	FY24	FY25	FY26	Preliminary Plan		*Difference
	Actual	Actual	Adopted	FY26	FY27	FY27-FY26
<b>Spending</b>						
<b>U/A 001 – Personal Services</b>						
Additional Gross Pay	\$153	\$90	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Additional Gross Pay - Labor Reserve	60	3	0	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits	0	0	108	108	108	0
Full-Time Salaried - Civilian	3,517	3,657	4,828	4,828	4,766	(62)
Overtime - Civilian	18	19	0	0	0	0
Unsalaries	63	40	1	1	1	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,811</b>	<b>\$3,811</b>	<b>\$4,936</b>	<b>\$4,936</b>	<b>\$4,874</b>	<b>(\$62)</b>
<b>Spending</b>						
<b>U/A 002 – Other Than Personal Services</b>						
Contractual Services	\$921	\$1,335	\$1,126	\$1,806	\$700	(\$426)
Contractual Services - Professional Services	26	559	10	15	10	0
Fixed & Misc. Charges	20	49	20	36	20	0
Other Services & Charges	153	184	743	263	203	(540)
Property & Equipment	0	88	5	78	5	0
Social Services	142	36	50	110	50	0
Supplies & Materials	65	64	744	419	747	3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,328</b>	<b>\$2,314</b>	<b>\$2,698</b>	<b>\$2,727</b>	<b>\$1,735</b>	<b>(\$963)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,139</b>	<b>\$6,125</b>	<b>\$7,634</b>	<b>\$7,664</b>	<b>\$6,609</b>	<b>(\$1,025)</b>
<b>Funding</b>						
City Funds			\$6,345	\$6,375	\$5,746	(\$599)
State			435	435	435	0
Intra-City			854	854	428	(426)
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$7,634</b>	<b>\$7,664</b>	<b>\$6,809</b>	<b>(\$1,025)</b>
<b>Budgeted Headcount</b>						
Full-Time Positions - Civilian	35	35	49	50	49	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>

\*The difference of Fiscal 2027 Preliminary Budget compared to Fiscal 2026 Adopted Budget.  
Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget