2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY AND PROTECTION

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the "Budget" is regarding the 2025 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 2022 and 2023, annualized Continuing Resolution levels for 2024, and the President's Budget request for 2025. Amounts for 2024 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 2023. Amounts shown in 2024 and 2025 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 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

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 the safeguarding of property and personnel. OSSP is committed to identifying and addressing all security risks that may affect USDA personnel, infrastructure, and facilities. Direct appropriated funding for OSSP was first requested in 2021, this request was a combination of a new appropriations request, as well as transferred appropriations from the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Departmental Administration appropriations levels.

OSSP is located in Washington, D.C. As of September 30, 2023, there were 58 permanent full-time employees located in Washington, D.C.

OIG AND GAO REPORTS

OSSP did not have any Office of Inspector General or Government Accountability Office Evaluation reports during the prior fiscal year.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTES

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

Item	2022 Actual	FTEs	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Estimated	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations	$23,306	28	$21,800	35	$21,800	35	$21,952	35
Total Adjusted Appropriation	23,306	28	21,800	35	21,800	35	21,952	35
Lapsing Balances	-921	-	-4,924	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Obligations, OSSP	22,385	28	16,876	35	21,800	35	21,952	35
Other USDA:								
Physical Security	4,002	17	4,202	17	4,400	17	4,400	17
Security Detail	4,239	6	4,670	6	5,030	6	5,030	6
Total, Other USDA	8,224	23	8,386	23	9,430	23	9,430	23
Total Available, OSSP	32,530	51	25,748	58	31,230	58	31,382	58

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTES

Table OSSP-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	2022 Actual			2023 Actual			2024 Estimated			2025 Estimated		
	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total
SES	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-15	5	-	5	5	-	5	5	-	5	5	-	5
GS-14	9	-	9	9	-	9	9	-	9	9	-	9
GS-13	17	-	17	20	-	20	20	-	20	20	-	20
GS-12	8	-	8	8	-	8	8	-	8	8	-	8
GS-11	3	-	3	7	-	7	7	-	7	7	-	7
GS-9	8	-	8	8	-	8	8	-	8	8	-	8
Total Permanent	51	-	51	58	-	58	58	-	58	58	-	58
Total Perm. FT EOY	51	-	51	58	-	58	58	-	58	58	-	58
FTE*	51	-	51	58	-	58	58	-	58	58	-	58

*Total FTEs are all inclusive of workforce categories including temporary positions

ACCOUNT 1: SALARIES AND EXPENSES

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

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

Salaries and Expenses

For necessary expenses of the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection, [$22,020,000]$21,952,000.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

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

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2024	$21,800,000
Change in Appropriation	152,000
Budget Estimate, 2025	21,952,000

PROJECT STATEMENTS

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

Item	2022 Actual	FTEs	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Estimated	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
OSSP	$23,306	28	$21,800	35	$21,800	35	$21,952	35	+$152	-	(1)
Total Appropriation	23,306	28	21,800	35	21,800	35	21,952	35	+152	-	
Total Available	23,306	28	21,800	35	21,800	35	21,952	35	+152	-	
Lapsing Balances	-921	-	-4,924	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Obligations	22,385	28	16,876	35	21,800	35	21,952	35	+152	-	

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

Item	2022 Actual	FTEs	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Estimated	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
OSSP	$22,385	28	$16,876	35	$21,800	35	$21,952	35	+$152	-
Total Obligations	22,385	28	16,876	35	21,800	35	21,952	35	+152	-
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	921	-	4,924	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	23,306	28	21,800	35	21,800	35	21,952	35	+152	-
Total Appropriation	23,306	28	21,800	35	21,800	35	21,952	35	+152	-

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) An increase of $152,000 in salaries and expenses for the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection ($21,800,000 and 35 FTEs available in 2024).

An increase of $152,000 for pay costs.
This increase consists of $152,000 in 2025 pay and employee costs, for continuation of the 2024 pay cost increase of 5.2 percent and the 2025 pay cost increase of 2 percent. If this funding is not provided, the office of Safety, Security, and Protection will have a limited ability to maintain Information Security Center standards for physical security at Federal facilities, leaving USDA employees, contractors, and visitors vulnerable to physical security threats.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table OSSP-6. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2022 Actual	FTEs	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Estimated	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs
District of Columbia	$22,385	28	$16,876	35	$21,800	35	$21,952	35
Obligations	22,385	28	16,876	35	21,800	35	21,952	35
Lapsing Balances	921	-	4,924	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available	23,306	28	21,800	35	21,800	35	21,952	35

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table OSSP-7 Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	$2,967	$3,749	$3,944	$4,101
11	Total personnel compensation	2,967	3,749	3,944	4,101
12	Personal benefits	1,180	1,320	1,363	1,417
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	-	1	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	4,147	5,070	5,307	5,518
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	39	85	30	30
22.0	Transportation of things	5	5	5	5
23.2	Rental payments to others	-	30	-	-
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	134	95	92	135
24.0	Printing and reproduction	42	42	42	42
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	1,916	-	462	500
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	13,492	10,660	13,481	13,172
26.0	Supplies and materials	223	159	95	150
31.0	Equipment	2,373	727	2,306	2,400
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	14	-	-	-
43.0	Interest and Dividends	-	3	-	-
	Total, Other Objects	18,238	11,806	16,493	16,434
99.9	Total, new obligations	22,385	16,876	21,800	21,952
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)	-	$7	$7	$7
	Information Technology Investments:				
	Enterprise IT Facilities and Physical Security				
11	Internal Labor	$137	$410	$420	$431
	External Labor (Contractors)	1,450	2,466	2,528	2,591
	Total Major Investment 1	1,587	2,876	2,948	3,022
	Identity & Access Management (IAM)(EPACS)				
11	Internal Labor	269	271	278	278
	External Labor (Contractors)	2,466	2,466	2,528	2,528
	Total Major Investment 2	2,735	2,737	2,806	2,806
25.3	Mission Area WCF Transfers	1,159	-	-	-
	Total Non-Major Investment	1,159	-	-	-
	Total IT Investments	**5,481**	**2,876**	**3,365**	**2,948**
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$197,000	$299,000	$314,548	$327,000
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$116,964	$142,184	$150,000	$156,000
	Average Grade, GS Position	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3

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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 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.

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. This new technology advancement will aid in prevention of fraudulent or cloned badge credentials from being used to gain access to USDA facilities.

The USDA Blast Mitigation Film Project that is in progress will retrofit and enhance existing windows in the HQ's Whitten and South buildings with Blast mitigation film. This modification will ensure that USDA complies with the Interagency Security Committee (ISC) standards and meets the GSA TS01-2003 & ASTM F1642 3b Blast Standards.

The Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) Geospatial Study on credentialing stations is a joint project between the OSSP-Facility Protection Division and OCIO-Enterprise Geospatial Management Office (EGMO). The goal of the study is to improve the nationwide coverage of credentialing station services through an analysis of the current station placement versus the USDA federal and non-federal employee population. Credentialing stations are utilized for LincPass issuance, enrollment, lifecycle maintenance as well as for suitability fingerprinting services in the onboarding process. Improving the placement and availability of credentialing stations can reduce time to hire and LincPass delivery metrics. This analysis is necessary as the GSA USAccess shared service program, which USDA relies on for the station equipment and LincPass issuance, is lacking in its implementation of the shared credentialing station model. OSSP has provided funding to the OCIO-EGMO through the IRA program for the period of April 2023 to April 2024 to develop the initial visualizations, perform the drive distance, and gap analysis. To date the OCIO-EGMO has produced a series of maps visualizing the current station footprint as well as USDA employee populations. The OSSP has performed a rudimentary gap analysis to identify 10 gap or underserved service areas until such a time as the OCIO-EGMO tool can provide this analysis through data. The OCIO-EGMO team recently migrated the product to a new environment to perform the detailed drive distance visualizations and analysis and is working to secure the ESRI product license to do so.

The Window intrusion alarm project is underway due to a recent vulnerability assessment that identified a need for intrusion devices to be installed on windows at the Whitten and South buildings. OSSP has taken immediate action to minimizing/elimination the risk, through installation of window glass break intrusion alarms on all windows that are located at accessible areas on ground level and within moat areas. These windows are considered accessible for potential access through undetected intrusion. Each room window intrusion alarm is required to detect active physical intrusion entry through perimeter windows from the building exterior affording access to interior of facilities. A total of 303 intrusion control devices will be installed and wired to alert USDA's 24-hour Security Control center.

The Turnstile Retrofit project is in progress since the turnstiles that are currently in the Whitten building have been in service for approximately 7 years and require maintenance. The Retrofit for the OptiStile 720 turnstiles will include replacing the motors, updating the wiring, cleaning, and finishing of all brass casework and a 3-year warranty on all factory parts.

USDA's Security Control Center (SCC) and Emergency Communication Center (ECC) is currently being remodeled and modernized. 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.

The USDA Active Assailant Training Program was developed by OSSP. The OSSP has been hosting Active Assailant Training" to participants within the NCR, and throughout the United States. To date, 175 USDA employees have been trained taking advantage of the potentially lifesaving guidance and response strategies this training course offers.

OSSP is currently installing NARCAN (Naloxone) cabinets in OSSP offices to promote responsive efforts should an overdose occur within HQ facilities. To date, Narcan administration training has been provided to 49 USDA OSSP employees as a means of enhancing OSSP emergency preparedness.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress

The upgrade and modernization of USDA's Headquarters complex Video Surveillance System (VSS) ensures compliance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive -12, (HSPD-12), and Interagency Security Committee (ISC), Risk Management Process (ISC/RMP) standards at the Whitten, Yates, and South Buildings. 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 replacement of the Camera System improves efficiencies by allowing the Security/Guard force to view more of the complex, with fewer staff. This will be accomplished by using intelligent video management software that can detect objects, can detect traffic flow in corridors, and other smart video capabilities.

The Duress Alarm system modernization in the 200A USDA Executive Suites has been completed. OSSP replaced the outdated, antiquated existing system. The upgraded duress alarm system uses technology that directly supports the highest level of protection, enhancing our security posture while leveraging advanced technology to maintain secure areas and prevent unwanted access. The duress system provides notification and lockdown capabilities in the event of an emergency and complies with the Interagency Security Committee standards. This new upgraded duress alarm technology will also be integrated with the new and improved Video Surveillance System (VSS).

OSSP in conjunction with OCIO, developed and implemented a USDA Physical Security Assessment System and Repository Portal. This system allows USDA Security Specialists to conduct, monitor and record Physical Security Assessments at all USDA Locations either through onsite inspections or with the assistance of local personnel. This system will ensure USDA is complying with the Department of Homeland Security Inter-Agency Security Committee Risk Management Process. Additionally, this system will allow USDA Security Personnel and Senior Leadership to review collected data rapidly and easily from all assessed locations. Examples of this data are number and types of employees, numbers and types of assets, and numbers and types of security deficiencies.