

Office of the Commissioner of Police

BUDGET DEBATE BRIEFING NOTES

FOR THE 2026 FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2026
AND THE 2027 FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2027

Introduction

The Office of the Commissioner of Police (OCP) is the central authority for law enforcement, national security and public safety services across all three Cayman Islands.

Mister Chair, the public may be aware that the OCP's responsibilities extend beyond traditional policing to include border protection, maritime security and emergency response coordination. But for clarity, the OCP provides strategic oversight for the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS), the Cayman Islands Coast Guard (CICG), and the Cayman Islands Regiment.

Through this integrated leadership the OCP supports Government's Broad Outcome 7 on Good Governance and Public Safety, by delivering professional, intelligence-led, and community-focused services; working with and for our communities to protect life, preserve peace, build public trust and collective resilience; and by safeguarding the Islands from all threats, both foreign and domestic.

Recent performance improvements including lower overall incident rates, stronger detection outcomes, and enhanced coordination across uniformed services, demonstrate the OCP's commitment to operational excellence and its continued protection of the Islands' people and institutions.

Nature of Activities

Guided by good governance, transparency, and accountability, the OCP's activities are grouped under four key operational pillars:

1. **Law Enforcement and Public Safety, through the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service.** As our national police service and the chief law enforcement body, the RCIPS maintains law and order; preserves public peace; and protects life and property. With more than 6,000 offences on the statute books of the Cayman Islands that it may be called upon to investigate, the RCIPS is responsible for preventing and detecting crime, apprehending offenders, conducting evidence-based policing, and strengthening community trust and confidence.

2. **Maritime and Border Security, through the Cayman Islands Coast Guard and coordinated interagency efforts.** The OCP leads national maritime security, and search and rescue operations. Efforts focus on safety of life at sea; preventing illicit maritime movement of drugs, weapons, persons and other contraband, through intelligence-led patrols and joint regional and international operations; and enhancing regional cooperation on border protection and cooperative disaster response across the Caribbean region.

3. **Emergency Response and Interagency Support, through the Cayman Islands Regiment.** Mister Chair, our Regiment is central to Cayman's emergency management and disaster relief operations, including marine- and land-based search and rescue; evacuation of at-risk individuals; and post-disaster recovery and route clearance. During critical incidents it also supports public safety and emergency response partners including the Fire Service, Emergency Medical Services, Prison Service, and Hazard Management Cayman Islands.

4. Lastly, Mister Chair, a core OCP function across all three entities is **Training, Leadership, and Organisational Readiness,** to strengthen professional standards and operational readiness across the uniformed services under its command – including in leadership development, discipline management, and specialist training.

Strategic Priorities and Key Drivers

Achieving the OCP's goals for 2026-2027 requires targeted investment in people, infrastructure, and technology, which are the foundations of operational readiness, community confidence, and long-term sustainability.

These are its strategic priorities and drivers.

1. **Population Growth and Community Impact** - The Cayman Islands' population has grown by approximately 20,000 residents in recent years, which has increased the demand for law enforcement and public safety services. As communities become more diverse and densely populated, the complexity of policing rises, requiring deeper engagement and stronger community partnerships. To remain effective, the OCP will continue expanding its operational workforce and enhancing its visibility, ensuring that policing remains proactive and responsive to emerging challenges.

2. **Community Policing and Public Engagement -** Community policing is vital to public safety and good governance – fostering transparency and trust between law enforcement and the public. But with only 10 community officers currently deployed across all three Islands, capacity remains limited. Expanding this complement to 21 officers will restore visible policing; enhance youth and neighbourhood outreach; and improve early intervention and crime prevention, to promote social cohesion and public confidence.

3. **Workforce Development and Caymanian Succession** - Through targeted recruitment, succession planning, and training, the OCP aims to cultivate a sustainable pipeline of Caymanian talent. A local recruit class of 24 officers is planned for early 2026, alongside the continuing professional development of Caymanian graduates and interns in specialist roles such as Scene of Crime Officers; Crime Analysts; and Digital Forensics. These initiatives are vital to the OCP's success, in that they ensure that law enforcement reflects the community it serves and develops future leaders within national security institutions.

4. **Specialist Recruitment and Financial Crime Capability** - In an increasingly complex financial and cyber environment, the Cayman Islands must maintain and further bulk up our strength to investigate and prevent economic crime. The OCP will continue targeted recruitment of investigators, forensic specialists, and intelligence analysts to support the Cayman Islands Bureau of Financial Investigation, and the Financial Crime Investigation Unit. Because we now have a staff deficit in these areas, these hires will ensure compliance with international AML and CTF standards, allowing OCP to better safeguard the Islands' reputation as a well-regulated global financial centre.

5. **Traffic Management and Road Safety** - There are now more than 60,000 vehicles on our roads, Mister Chair; and in 2024, the RCIPS recorded 3,253 vehicle accidents, including 14 fatalities and 34 serious injuries. To reduce these risks, the OCP will prioritise enhanced traffic enforcement and road safety campaigns, supported by additional staffing and technology to monitor compliance and improve RCIPS response times.

6. **Technological Modernisation and Digital Transformation** - The OCP has plans to invest in digital infrastructure, mobile technology, and evidence management systems to transform frontline operations and enable faster, data-driven decision-making. These advancements will enhance real-time reporting, strengthen oversight, and ensure that the OCP remains agile and resilient in the face of evolving security threats.

7. **Firearms Capability and Operational Readiness** - Maintaining a safe and effective armed response capacity is essential to public confidence and officer safety. The OCP continues to invest in training, equipment, and oversight to meet international standards of professionalism and accountability. Recruiting Firearms Response Unit officers during the next budget cycle will ensure full coverage across all three Islands, and enhance preparedness for high-risk incidents.

8. **Infrastructure Development and National Readiness** – This, Mister Chair, is the OCP's priority project. Constructing a new, fit-for-purpose George Town Police Station and Headquarters will consolidate core operations and provide a secure, efficient environment to support future demands. Moreover, it will reinforce good governance, enhance interagency coordination, and ensure that our law enforcement remains future-ready.

Financial Outlook

The budget allocation for 2026-2028 provides a stable financial base for delivering vital policing, maritime, and defence operations across all three Islands.

1. **In 2026:**
    a. The proposed budget allocation is KYD$74.3million.
    b. Key investment focus and expected outcomes are:
        i. Initiation of local and overseas recruitment for new police officers and support staff; and
        ii. investment in digital transformation and data-driven policing tools.

2. In 2027:

a. The proposed budget allocation is KYD$75.4million, an increase of 1.1%.
b. Key investment focus and expected outcomes are:
    i. Continued workforce expansion
    ii. infrastructure development, with the George Town Headquarters project); and
    iii. enhancing the capacity for community policing.

3. In 2028:

a. The proposed budget allocation is KYD$76.8million, an increase of 1.4%.
b. Key investment focus and expected outcomes are funding supporting essential policing, maritime safety, and emergency response operations.

Conclusion

Mister Chair, the OCP is central to advancing Government's Broad Outcome 7 of Good Governance and Public Safety, ensuring that the Cayman Islands remains one of the safest and most stable countries in the region.

The 2026 - 2028 budget allocations provide the foundation to strengthen frontline policing, enhance investigative capacity, and modernise infrastructure and technology.

This funding will also enable the recruitment of local police officers and critical support staff, to strengthen local succession planning, community policing, and administrative efficiency.

Through prudent fiscal management of these allocations, the OCP will continue leading with integrity, professionalism, and accountability – core tenets of good governance.

And in collaboration with government ministries, partner agencies, and communities, the OCP will build on its current momentum to deliver a modern, resilient, and community-centred policing service.

In doing so, it will not only protect the safety and stability of the Cayman Islands, but it will also uphold the principles of responsible governance that underpin national prosperity; and that safeguard the people, economy, and institutions of the Cayman Islands.

Thank you, Mister Chair.