



**Hillsborough
County Florida**

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Bonnie M. Wise

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MEMORANDUM (VIA EMAIL)

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Bonnie M. Wise, County Administrator

DATE: September 26, 2025

SUBJECT: State of Florida Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Blaise Ingoglia Press Conference

On August 8, 2025, I sent a letter to the Executive Office of the Governor DOGE Team welcoming their visit on August 11 – 12 and expressing our gratitude for being able to demonstrate how Hillsborough County is wisely investing and safeguarding taxpayer dollars. This letter was copied to you, and it is attached for your further review. On September 24, 2025, the State of Florida Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Blaise Ingoglia held a press conference in Hillsborough County to discuss initial high-level results of the State's findings.

During the press conference, the CFO made certain statements containing data from the County's budget. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide context and further insight into the data. My hope is that our further information will provide you with a greater ability to respond to questions from your constituents.

Mr. Ingoglia stated that the Hillsborough County's general fund budget increased by \$859,860,943 from FY 20 to FY 25, which is accurate. Please see the table below which provides an analysis of that increase. Forty-two and a half percent (42.5%) of the increased budget is associated with public safety including the Sheriff's Office, Fire Rescue, and Disaster Preparedness. Another 21.1% of the increase is related to reserve increases that keep us in compliance with the Board's policy to maintain the reserve percentage between 20 - 25% in support of our "AAA" bond rating. Other increased investments include transportation (8.9%), maintenance of existing county infrastructure (6.0%), and support of other outside Constitutional Officers/Agencies (3.5%) whose budgets we do not control.

General Fund Budget Analysis				
				Share of FY 20 -
	FY 20	FY 25	Difference	FY 25 Growth
Public Safety				
Sheriff	\$ 460,379,690	\$ 676,613,616	\$ 216,233,926	25.1%
Fire Rescue	\$ 176,723,521	\$ 280,906,904	\$ 104,183,383	12.1%
Disaster Reserves	\$ 3,450,000	\$ 48,300,000	\$ 44,850,000	5.2%
Public Safety	\$ 640,553,211	\$ 1,005,820,520	\$ 365,267,309	42.5%
Transportation	\$ 29,918,232	\$ 106,801,501	\$ 76,883,269	8.9%
Maintenance of Existing Infrastructure	\$ 86,470,848	\$ 138,103,901	\$ 51,633,053	6.0%
Reserves - operating and capital	\$ 287,045,417	\$ 468,897,223	\$ 181,851,806	21.1%
Other Constitutional Officers & Outside Agencies	\$ 127,226,181	\$ 157,169,662	\$ 29,943,481	3.5%
New County Facilities	\$ 17,862,000	\$ 31,631,000	\$ 13,769,000	1.6%
County Administrator (less Fire Rescue)				
Affordable Housing	\$ 16,101,194	\$ 28,216,134	\$ 12,114,940	1.4%
Parks and Conservation	\$ 53,534,524	\$ 69,852,973	\$ 16,318,449	1.9%
Support Services	\$ 28,755,389	\$ 43,451,509	\$ 14,696,120	1.7%
Public Works	\$ 31,240,891	\$ 32,631,033	\$ 1,390,142	0.2%
Human Services Programs	\$ 39,577,995	\$ 45,632,670	\$ 6,054,675	0.7%
All Other County Administrator Programs	\$ 38,065,480	\$ 82,900,948	\$ 44,835,468	5.2%
County Administrator (less Fire Rescue)	\$ 207,275,473	\$ 302,685,267	\$ 95,409,794	11.1%
Other Items				
Tax Increment Financing Districts	\$ 21,625,609	\$ 42,114,050	\$ 20,488,441	2.4%
Non-Departmental	\$ 55,893,966	\$ 73,177,434	\$ 17,283,468	2.0%
Transfers - All Other	\$ 30,501,423	\$ 34,674,755	\$ 4,173,332	0.5%
County Attorney, Board, Auditor	\$ 13,013,919	\$ 16,171,909	\$ 3,157,990	0.4%
Other Items	\$ 121,034,917	\$ 166,138,148	\$ 45,103,231	5.2%
Total General Fund Budgets	\$ 1,517,386,279	\$ 2,377,247,222	\$ 859,860,943	100.0%

Mr. Ingoglia's comments also included a statement that Hillsborough County's budget is \$278,951,562 higher than it should be after inflating the FY 20 budget forward considering population and inflation, and a government inefficiency percentage. We were generally able to understand how Mr. Ingoglia calculated his figure. However, this projection does not consider significant service deficits that were present in FY 20 in the areas of public safety and transportation.

Over the past five years, the Board has made significant headway in addressing these deficits. Examples include:

- Eight replacement fire stations
- Four new fire stations
- 16 new rescue ambulance units
- 161 new Fire Rescue positions (an increase of over 15%)
- Funding new Fire Union contracts that provide competitive wages for first responders
- Maintenance of disaster reserves even after a short-term cash flow need exceeding \$200 million from the recent hurricanes
- 408,528 linear feet of sidewalk repaired
- 656 lane miles of road repaved
- 23 bridges repaired and rehabilitated
- 74,753 linear feet of culverts installed
- Completion of Citrus Park Drive, Apollo Beach Boulevard, Big Bend Interchange
- 64 new Sheriff’s Office positions

For the period FY 20 to FY 25, Mr. Ingoglia stated that Hillsborough County added 645 new positions. That figure is accurate. However, it should be noted that 112 of those positions are associated with Constitutional Officers and outside Agencies funded by the County whose budgets we do not control. Of the 533 positions added by the County, 318 are being funded by County general funds and 161 (50%) are new Fire Rescue positions. The new general fund positions represent a 10.5% increase in positions while the County’s population has grown 9.03%. However, when you exclude new Fire Rescue positions, new general fund positions have increased only 7.8%, which is less than population growth. Please see the following table:

**New Positions
FY 20 to FY 25**

**645
New Positions**



Population Growth FY 20 to FY 25 – 9.03%

	FY 20	FY 25	Increase	Percent Change
County Administrator - GF Excluding Fire	2,013	2,170	157	7.8%
County Administrator - GF Fire Rescue	1,030	1,191	161	15.6%
County Administrator – Non-GF	2,489	2,684	215	8.7%
Sheriff’s Office	3,767	3,831	64	1.7%
Clerk of the Circuit Court	107	120	13	12.1%
Other Constitutionals and Agencies	944	979	35	3.7%
	10,330	10,975	645	6.2%

Within the County Administrator – General Fund budget, Fire Rescue positions increased 15.6% while all other positions increased 7.8%.

Other Constitutionals and Agencies includes the Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Planning Commission, Environmental Protection Commission, Courts, Soil and Water Conservation District, etc. The Board of County Commissioners has limited to no control over these budgets.

GF = General Fund

Of note, total positions under the County Administrator are 5.6% or 371 less in FY 25 than in FY 07 even with a population increase of over 30% during this period. This has still been achieved with an increase of 37.9% or 356 more Fire Rescue positions over this same period.

In addition to addressing the CFO's presented data, I want to also provide the following:

- Residents owning a homesteaded property are protected from significant annual increases in the assessed value of their home by "Save Our Homes" legislation. Their annual assessed value increases cannot exceed a maximum of 3%. From FY 21 to FY 25, those percentage caps have been 1.4%, 3%, 3%, 3%, and 2.9%, respectively. Therefore, the cumulative assessed value increase for a homesteaded property over the five-year period has been capped at a compounded 14.0%.
- Approximately 40% of the increase in property tax revenue over the past five years can be associated with new construction, which requires new service.

As your County Administrator, please know that I am always supportive of initiatives that explore opportunities to become more efficient. In addition to being cost-efficient, I must make recommendations to the Board each budget process that I believe will keep the public safe; which are responsive to Board priorities; and which provide for responsive customer service to the County's residents, business owners, and visitors.

I hope you find this communication beneficial, and please reach out if you have further questions. Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve our residents.

Attachment: August 8, 2025 Letter to Executive Office of the Governor DOGE Team

Cc: Christine Beck, County Attorney
Melinda Jenzarli, County Internal Auditor
Sheriff Chad Chronister
Executive Team
DOGE Liaison Committee