



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Fiscal 2026 Recommended Budget

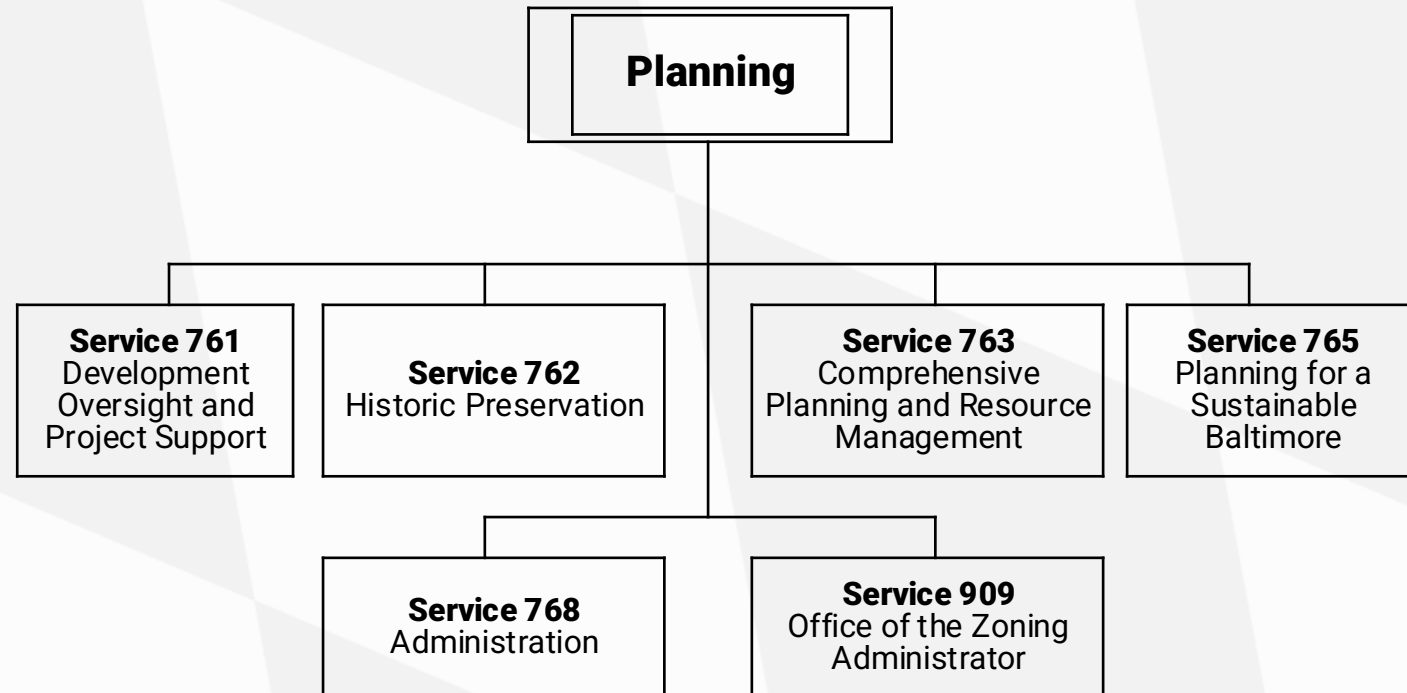
Department of Planning

Chris Ryer, Director

June 14, 2025

Department of Planning Chart

Organization Chart



Fiscal 2026 Agency Overview

Planning Mission

- To build Baltimore as a diverse, sustainable and thriving city of neighborhoods and as the economic and cultural driver for the region.

Fiscal 2026 Goals

- GOAL 1: Complete improvements to the capital budgeting process to improve transparency and accountability.
- GOAL 2: Implement recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan for Land Use and Zoning reforms.
- GOAL 3: Integrate Zoning Administrator's office into the Department of Planning.

Service 761 - Development Oversight and Project Support

Pillar
Equitable Neighborhood Development

FY26 Rec. Budget
\$1,006,331

FY26 Rec. Positions
7

Service Description

- This service provides direct support to applicants who wish to build and invest in Baltimore City.

Major Operating Budget Highlights

- Transferring 1 City Planner Supervisor to Service 762: Historic Preservation.
- Removing \$75,000 in Special Grant funding due to expiration of a one-time grant.

Performance Measures

Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Target	FY24 Actual	FY25 Target	FY26 Target
% of subdivision reviews receiving Planning Commission review within 45 days	87%	100%	94%	80%	96%	80%	80%
% of items scheduled for UDAAP review within 60 days	N/A	N/A	95%	80%	100%	80%	80%

Service 762 - Historic Preservation

Pillar
Equitable Neighborhood Development

FY26 Rec. Budget
\$800,036

FY26 Rec. Positions
6

Service Description

- This service acts as the policymaking authority for the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) as outlined in Article VI of City Code.

Major Operating Budget Highlights

- The Recommended Budget transfers 1 City Planner Supervisor from Service 761: Development Oversight and Project Support.

Performance Measures

Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Target	FY24 Actual	FY25 Target	FY26 Target
% of preliminary reviews completed for tax credit applications within 30 business days	82%	59%	71%	70%	51%	70%	60%
% of completed Authorization-to-proceed applications processed within two business days	72%	57%	55%	75%	58%	70%	70%

Service 763 - Comprehensive Planning and Resource Management

Pillar
Responsible Stewardship of City Resources

FY26 Rec. Budget
\$5,718,651

FY26 Rec. Positions
23

Service Description

- This service leads the City’s neighborhood-based planning initiatives from the small neighborhood plan to multi-year citywide comprehensive plans using data analysis, geographic information systems, research, and community engagement.

Major Operating Budget Highlights

- New Positions: Operations Officer II (Capital Budget support) – costs transferred to Capital Budget. Operations Officer II (Pimlico Impact Aid oversight). Operations Officer III & Grant Services Specialist III (Casino Impact Funds support).
- Key Investments: \$125K for Comprehensive Plan implementation. \$1.1M Pimlico Local Impact Aid (\$989K for project support). \$2.2M Casino Local Impact Funds: \$104K environmental education, \$125K Harbor Hospital produce boxes, \$500K security near Horseshoe Casino
- Budget Adjustments: Removal of \$75K one-time State/Special grant (FY25) – no service impact.

Performance Measures

Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Target	FY24 Actual	FY25 Target	FY26 Target
% of map requests submitted to DOP completed within two weeks	N/A	N/A	N/A	90%	97%	90%	90%
% of permits that receive initial review within three days	75%	73%	60%	70%	50%	60%	55%

Service 765 - Planning for a Sustainable Baltimore

Pillar
Clean and Healthy Communities

FY26 Rec. Budget
\$3,832,027

FY26 Rec. Positions
13

Service Description

- This service funds the Baltimore Office of Sustainability (BOS), which is guided by the Baltimore Sustainability Plan.

Major Operating Budget Highlights

- The FY26 budget includes one-time funding of \$75,000 for updates to the Nuisance Flood Plan, the Triennial Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and a study on the development of a Climate Resilience Authority.
- Special revenue funding includes \$1.1 million for environmental grants (non general funds).
- State and special grant appropriations increase by \$131,500. This includes \$341,500 in anticipated state funding. The Open Energy Grant will support energy efficiency upgrades at 16 Community Resiliency Hubs (non municipal facilities), while the Watershed Master Plan Grant will fund plans for the Gwynns Falls and Baltimore Harbor. An additional, \$10,000 from the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute Strategic Consultation Grant will enhance the health and well-being of Baltimore's residents.

Performance Measures

Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Target	FY24 Actual	FY25 Target	FY26 Target
# of customers engaged and/or equipped by the Office of Sustainability to promote and/or implement sustainable practices (% increase)	49,980	70,074	76,468	75,000	84,940	78,000	85,000
% of Baltimore Sustainability Plan strategies initiated or advanced annually	9%	13%	12%	5%	14%	5%	5%
Total Healthy Food Priority Area (HFPA) Funds invested in the City's food system through grant agreements with community organizations and urban farms	\$140,000	\$141,277	\$148,341	\$154,275	\$154,275	\$160,446	\$165,259

Service 768 - Administration - Planning

Pillar

Equitable Neighborhood Development

FY26 Rec. Budget

\$1,959,481

FY26 Rec. Positions

10

Service Description

- This service provides executive leadership and administrative support for the Planning Department.

Major Operating Budget Highlights

- The Recommended Budget includes one new General Fund position within this service. An Operations Officer III, created mid-year in Fiscal 2025, will be responsible for technical components of budget development for the Capital Improvement Plan, including systems and reporting processes. Costs related to this position will be transferred to the Capital Budget.



Service 909 - Office of the Zoning Administrator

Pillar
Equitable Neighborhood Development

FY26 Rec. Budget
\$602,429

FY26 Rec. Positions
6

Service Description

- This service provides oversight for the administration and enforcement of the Zoning Code for Baltimore City. This service ensures that all construction activities and land uses in Baltimore City comply with the City's Zoning Code.

Major Operating Budget Highlights

- The Recommended Budget creates Service 909: Office of the Zoning Administrator, previously an activity under the Department of Housing and Community Development's Service 751: Building Code Permitting, Inspections, and Compliance. This transfer will streamline the zoning process while maintaining the divisions responsible for drafting and administering the zoning code within the same agency. The budget for this service includes the transfer of 7 positions and will increase the Department of Planning's budget by \$602,000. The recommended funding level is consistent with the Fiscal 2025 budget.

Performance Measures

Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Target	FY24 Actual	FY25 Target	FY26 Target
% of complete applications reviewed within 30 days	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%
% of complete appeals referred within 30 days	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%

Questions & Discussion



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor