

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 42 - 2026

MAY 6, 2026

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the 2026 General Fund budget to provide for One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$136,319.00) from the General Fund unappropriated balance to the Fire Department operating budget for additional costs to support a second Fire Academy in 2026.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That the City Council authorizes a decrease to the General Fund cash balance and an increase to the Fire Department in the amount of One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$136,319.00), as follows:

<u>DECREASE</u>		
General Fund		
000-00-0000-0000-11010	Cash	\$ 136,319.00
<u>INCREASE</u>		
Fire		
000-05-0803-0088-50006	Premium Pay	\$ 113,400.00
000-05-0803-0088-50034	Training & Professional Development	\$ 12,300.00
000-05-0803-0088-50032	Publications & Memberships	\$ 7,619.00
000-05-0803-0088-50054	Repairs & Maintenance Supplies	\$ 3,000.00

SECTION TWO: That this Ordinance takes effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION THREE: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

Legislative Template

- What department or bureau is this bill originating from?

Allentown Fire Department

- Summary and facts of the bill.

The Allentown Fire Department is seeking additional funding to support a second Fire Academy in 2026 at an estimated cost of approximately \$136,319. The Department is currently operating with a staffing shortage of eight employees, which will increase to nine as of June 5, 2026.

- Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:

- a. What are the specific goals or tasks the bill seeks to accomplish?

This bill allows for the transfer of funds to support a second Fire Academy in 2026. The goal is to hire and train additional firefighters to address current and anticipated staffing shortages, so the Department can return to full staffing more quickly and reduce the need for overtime to meet minimum requirements.

- b. What are the benefits of doing this?

The primary benefits of conducting a second Fire Academy include reducing premium pay expenditures in 2027 and creating the opportunity to generate external revenue by allowing neighboring municipalities to enroll their personnel in the program.

- Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:

- a. Cost (initial and ongoing)

The cost of running a second Fire Academy is estimated at about \$136,319. Most of that comes from premium pay, as the Department does not have a fully staffed Fire Academy and a second academy was not included in the 2026 budget.

- b. Benefits (initial and ongoing)

Running a second academy helps move the Department closer to full staffing from now through June 2027. Given the contractual obligation to maintain 29 personnel on duty, this approach reduces the need to rely on overtime to meet that requirement.

- Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:

- a. If transferring funds, please make sure to give specific account names and numbers.

The funding will be transferred from the General Fund as follows:

- \$136,319 from General Fund Cash (000-00-0000-0000-11010)
Allocated to:
 - \$113,400 to Premium Pay – 000-05-0803-0088-50006
 - \$12,300 – Training & Prof Dev – 000-05-0803-0088-50034
 - \$7,619 – Pubs & Memberships – 000-05-0803-0088-50032
 - \$3,000 – Repairs & Maintenance Supplies – 000-05-0803-0088-50054
- Priority status – Are there any deadlines to be aware of?

The goal is to begin the second Fire Academy in June 2026, with a targeted start date of June 8. Preparation for the academy is already underway, so timely approval is important to stay on track and avoid delays in hiring and training.

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

Council should support this bill because it allows the City to proactively address current and projected staffing shortages rather than continuing to rely on overtime to meet minimum requirements. Approving this funding now will help improve staffing levels, manage costs more effectively, and reduce ongoing strain on personnel.