



George Latimer
County Executive

February 20, 2024

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Members of the Board of Legislators:

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is an Act to amend the current-year capital budget ("Capital Budget Amendment"), as well as a related bond act ("Bond Act,") which, if adopted, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County") to issue \$2,000,000 in bonds of the County to finance the following capital project:

BES27 – Replacement of Fire Training Tower ("BES27").

The proposed Capital Budget Amendment will amend the County's current year Capital Budget to increase the County's share for BES27 by \$2,000,000 and to add this specific project to the program funded through BES27.

The Bond Act, in the amount of \$2,000,000, would finance the design of a new Fire Training Tower, including special studies and administrative reviews and planning for the demolition of the existing Fire Training Tower located at the Department of Emergency Services in Valhalla. The Department of Emergency Services has advised that the existing Fire Training Tower is in very bad condition and has been deemed too dangerous to permit certain, necessary types of interior and exterior training to first responders.

Following bonding authorization, it is anticipated that design will take approximately ten (10) months to complete. It is further anticipated that the design will be completed using an outside consultant.

Based on the importance of this project to the County, favorable action on the proposed Capital Budget Amendment, as well as the related Bond Act is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Latimer".

George Latimer
County Executive

GL/RGW/cmc
Attachments

Office of the County Executive
Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Telephone: (914)995-2900

Email: CE@westchestercountyny.gov

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK**

Your Committee is in receipt of a transmittal from the County Executive recommending approval by the County of Westchester (“County”) of an act, which, if adopted, will amend the County’s current-year capital budget (“Capital Budget Amendment”), as well as adoption of a related bond act (“Bond Act”) in the amount of \$2,000,000, to finance capital project BES26 – Replacement of Fire Training Tower (“BES27”).

Your Committee is advised that the Capital Budget Amendment will amend the County’s current-year Capital Budget to increase the County share for BES27 by \$2,000,000 and to add this specific project to the program funded through BES27.

The Bond Act, in the amount of \$2,000,000, which was prepared by the law firm of Harris Beach PLLC, would finance the design of a new Fire Training Tower, including special studies and administrative reviews and planning for the demolition of the existing Fire Training Tower located at the Department of Emergency Services in Valhalla. The Department of Emergency Services has advised that the existing Fire Training Tower is in very bad condition and has been deemed too dangerous to permit certain, necessary types of interior and exterior training to first responders.

Your Committee is advised that following bonding authorization, it is anticipated that design will take approximately ten (10) months to complete. It is further anticipated that the design will be completed using an outside consultant.

The Department of Planning has advised your Committee that based on its review, the authorization of the proposed capital project may be classified as a Type “II” action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQR), as indicated in the annexed SEQRA documentation. Therefore, no environmental review is required. Your Committee has reviewed the annexed SEQR documentation and concurs with this recommendation.

The Planning Department has further advised your Committee that the Planning Board has previously reviewed this project and issued a report, and that since there is no change in the scope of the work and this is simply a change in the financing plan, no further action by the Planning Board is necessary at this time.

Your Committee has carefully considered the proposed Capital Budget Amendment, as well as the related Bond Act, and recommends approval of both of the proposed Acts, noting that the Bond Act may only be enacted following adoption of the Capital Budget Amendment. It should also be noted that an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of your Honorable Board is required in order to amend the County's Capital Budget and to adopt the Bond Act.

Dated: _____, 2024
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

C:cmc/02.20.2024

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

CAPITAL PROJECT #: BES27

NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

SECTION A - CAPITAL BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Budget

GENERAL FUND

AIRPORT FUND

SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

Source of County Funds (check one):

Current Appropriations

Capital Budget Amendment

SECTION B - BONDING AUTHORIZATIONS

To Be Completed by Finance

Total Principal \$ 2,000,000 PPU 5 Anticipated Interest Rate 2.61%

Anticipated Annual Cost (Principal and Interest): \$ 436,566

Total Debt Service (Annual Cost x Term): \$ 2,182,830

Finance Department: Interest from February 21, 2024 Bond Buyer - ASBA

SECTION C - IMPACT ON OPERATING BUDGET (exclusive of debt service)

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

Potential Related Expenses (Annual): \$ -

Potential Related Revenues (Annual): \$ -

Anticipated savings to County and/or impact of department operations
(describe in detail for current and next four years):

SECTION D - EMPLOYMENT

As per federal guidelines, each \$92,000 of appropriation funds one FTE Job

Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs Funded: 21

Prepared by: Richard G. Wishnie

Title: Commissioner

Department: Emergency Services

Date: 2/22/24


Reviewed By: *Christina Raygo*

02/22/24

Budget Director

Date: 2/23/24

TO: Michelle Greenbaum, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Jeffrey Goldman, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Carla Chaves, Senior Assistant County Attorney

FROM: David S. Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM 
Assistant Commissioner

DATE: February 16, 2024

SUBJECT: **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW FOR CAPITAL PROJECT:
BES27 REPLACEMENT OF FIRE TRAINING TOWER**

PROJECT/ACTION: Per Capital Project Fact Sheet as approved by the Planning Department on 01-22-2024 (Unique ID: 2447)

With respect to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Planning Department recommends that no environmental review is required for the proposed action, because the project or component of the project for which funding is requested may be classified as a **TYPE II action** pursuant to section:

- **617.5(c)(27):** conducting concurrent environmental, engineering, economic, feasibility and other studies and preliminary planning and budgetary processes necessary to the formulation of a proposal for action, provided those activities do not commit the agency to commence, engage in or approve such action.
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COMMENTS: The current request is for studies and design only.

DSK/cnm

cc: Andrew Ferris, Chief of Staff
Paula Friedman, Assistant to the County Executive
Lawrence Soule, Budget Director
Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney
Dianne Vanadia, Associate Budget Director
Robert Abbamont, Director of Operations, Department of Public Works & Transportation
Susan Darling, Chief Planner
Michael Lipkin, Associate Planner
Claudia Maxwell, Principal Environmental Planner

An Act amending the 2024 County
 Capital Budget Appropriations for
 Capital Project BES27 Replacement
 of Fire Training Tower

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The Capital section of the 2024 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

	Previous 2024 Appropriation	Change	Revised 2024 Appropriation
I. Appropriation	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

Section 2. The estimated method of financing in the Capital Section of the 2024 Westchester County Capital Budget is amended as follows:

II. METHOD OF
 FINANCING

Bonds and/or Notes	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Non County Shares	\$0		\$0
Cash	\$0		\$0
Total	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

Section 3. The ACT shall take effect immediately.