

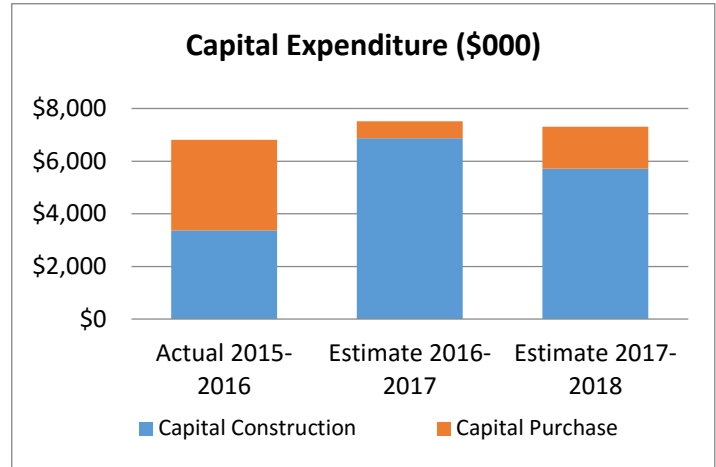
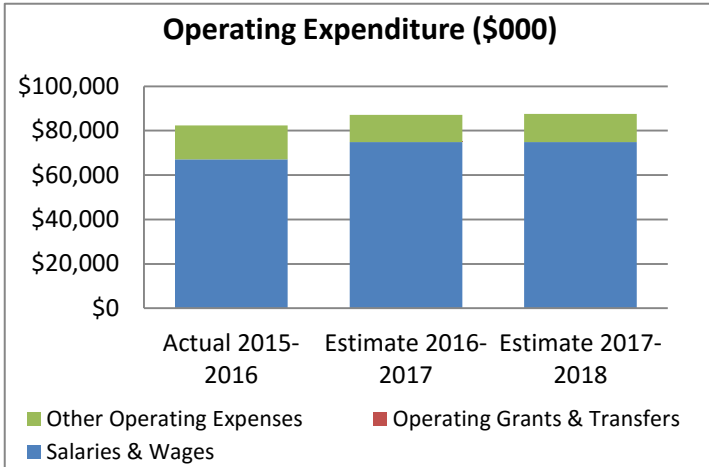


The Fijian Government Republic of Fiji Military Forces 2017-2018 Budget Highlights

The Republic of Fiji military Forces (RFMF) is responsible for protecting Fiji and the Fijian people at all times by employing the latest technologies and defence strategies to address emerging security threats, and working with the international community to reduce conflict and forge peaceful solutions, in volatile regions around the world.

The Fijian Government supports the RFMF in developing a capable military force by investing in training, modern equipment and facilities and maintaining the critical role of the RFMF in international peacekeeping missions through the United Nations. The RFMF also implements a number of projects and programmes in rural and maritime regions in Fiji.

The total budget for the RFMF in 2017-2018 is **\$96.7 million**, comprising **\$87.6 million** for operating expenditure, **\$7.3 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$1.8 million**.



The increase of **\$0.3 million** in 2017-2018 is mainly attributed to:

- an increase in operating expenses for greater travel and improved communication;
- the purchase of goods and services to better equip and prepare RFMF personnel; and

- capital purchases of equipment, including IT equipment and specialised medical and dental equipment.

New Initiatives

- \$330,000 is allocated for Maintenance of Barracks Equipment to ensure all military barracks that house soldiers are OHS compliant.
- \$200,000 is allocated for the purchase of IT Equipment to begin the first phase of a programme to replace desktops, laptops and other IT equipment at all military facilities.
- \$300,000 is provided to procure specialised medical & dental equipment for RFMF Health Support to ensure soldiers are medically fit to serve and have immediate access to health services when required.
- \$350,000 is allocated for the purchase of a survey boat for the Navy's Hydrographic Unit to provide hydrographic data in compliance with the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention. The survey motor boat will support the Fiji Navy in the collection of accurate and up to-date hydrographic data.
- \$90,800 is allocated for a back-up generator at Togalevu Base to maintain operational capability, including continuous maritime forecasts for the Training Unit, Diving Unit and Hydrographic Unit.
- \$200,000 is allocated to procure a hype truck and fork lift to enhance the transport of military equipment by the Navy (Head 50).

Ongoing Initiatives

- Maintaining maritime security by carrying out surveillance of Fiji's maritime zone and operating a costal radio station for all vessels within Fijian waters, as required by the International Law of the Sea:
 - Life Extension Programme for Patrol Boats: retrofits the Navy's two L Class Boats, the Lautoka and the Levuka. Funding is allocated for a life extension programme on the Lautoka and pre-assessment on the Levuka (\$1.1 million).

- Supporting the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in conflict zones around the world to promote peaceful resolution of conflict through:
 - Blackrock Integrated Peacekeeping Centre: operates as a facility to house and train troops who are deployed on peacekeeping missions as ongoing capital works are carried out to make the centre fully operational. This allocation will fund the commencement of civil works to carry out the design scoping for permanent accommodation blocks for troops being deployed (\$2.0 million).
 - Peacekeeping Missions: funds to support the deployment of RFMF personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions in Syria, Iraq and the Sinai. There are currently 1,100 RFMF and Fiji Police Force personnel serving in conflict zones (\$77.3 million – allocated under Head 49).
- Empowering and uplifting the Fijian people by carrying out an extensive range of development projects across the country to improve living conditions of ordinary people:
 - Tools and Equipment for RFMF Engineers: provides effective tools and equipment to the RFMF Engineers to implement rural and maritime development projects. This project is being carried out in phases, and recently was boosted by tools received from Australia and New Zealand to carry out TC Winston rehabilitation works (\$150,000).
 - RFMF Infrastructure and Amenities: funds the construction of a Specialist Workshop for the RFMF Engineers to support the implementation of construction projects in rural and maritime areas (\$350,000).
- Modernising RFMF facilities to better utilise technology and high quality infrastructure to maintain the safety and security of the Fijian people through:
 - Completion of the Construction of RFMF Magazine: funds the completion of the magazine construction to more safely store explosive and munitions (\$400,000).
 - Upgrading of the RFMF Armoury: upgrades the armoury to more securely store RFMF weapons at the Queens Elizabeth Barracks (\$250,000).

- Renovation/Upgrade of Existing RFMF Infrastructure: upgrades the Force Training Group infrastructure (\$350,000) and Logistic Support Group complex (\$300,000).
- General Facility Upgrades: funds the upgrade of the Sukanaivalu and Lautoka camps (\$570,000).
- High Frequency Communication Equipment: upgrades RFMF Communication Systems by replacing communication field sets and installing LAN/WAN at all RFMF camps (\$500,000).