

2017



Legislative Reference Bureau

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CITY ATTORNEY

2017 Proposed Plan and Executive Budget Review

Prepared by: Dana Zelazny, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Budget Hearing: 10:30 am on Thursday, October 6, 2016
Last Updated: October 5, 2016

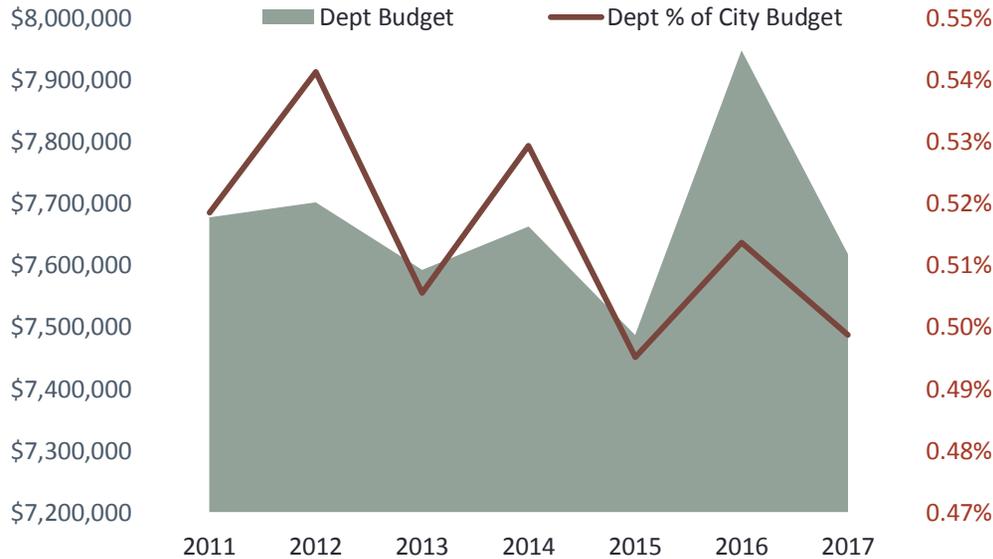
Final Version



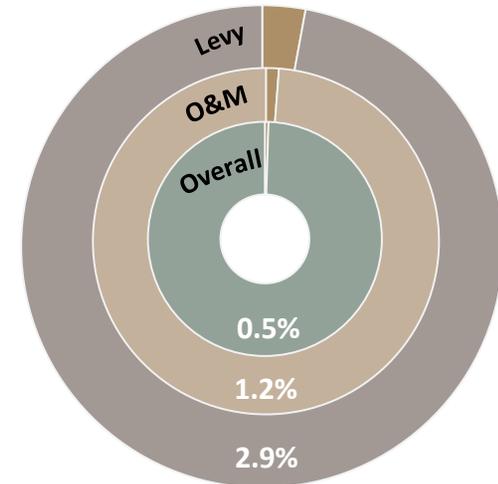
\$7,617,505
Proposed 2017 Budget

\$330,074
Change in Proposed Budget

4.2%
% Change in Proposed Budget



Departmental Budget Impact



Departmental Budget Appropriation Category



	Salaries/Wages	Fringe Benefits	Operations	Equipment	Special Funds
\$	\$4,917,245	\$2,212,760	\$405,500	\$82,000	\$0
%	65%	29%	5%	1%	0%
Δ	-1.6%	-7.7%	0.0%	-5.7%	-100.0%

Budget per Capita

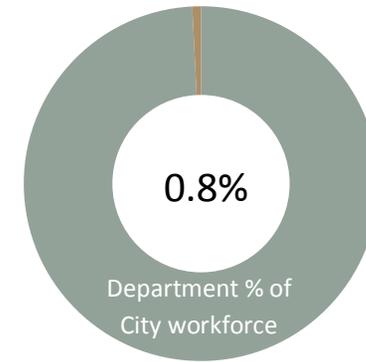
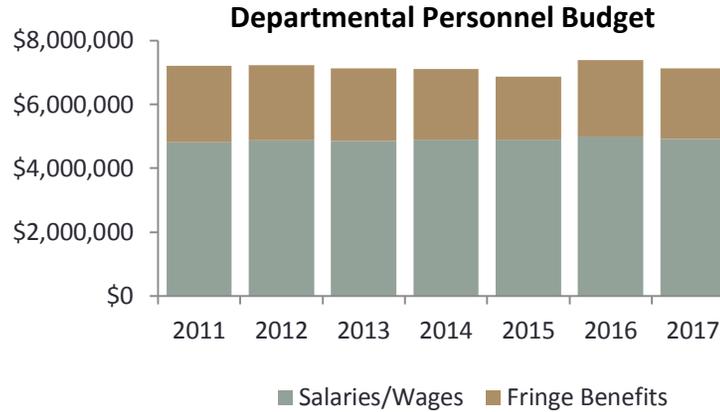


-\$79,565

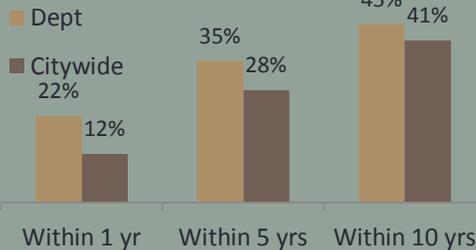
Decrease in Salaries and Wages for the department, down 1.6% from the amount allocated in 2016.

-\$185,709

Decrease in Fringe Benefits for the department, down 7.7% from the amount allocated in 2016.



Retirement Eligible



Staffing Vacancies

- 3 Legal Office Assistants.
- 4 Assistant City Attorneys.

Two of the vacant Assistant City Attorney positions are purposely held vacant in exchange for two of the filled Deputy City Attorney positions. The remaining two Assistant City Attorney positions are being actively recruited for.

Staffing Update

Staff retirement eligibility for 2017 consists of the following positions:

- 8 Deputy/Assistant City Attorneys
- 5 Support staff

0

Change in Positions

0.0%

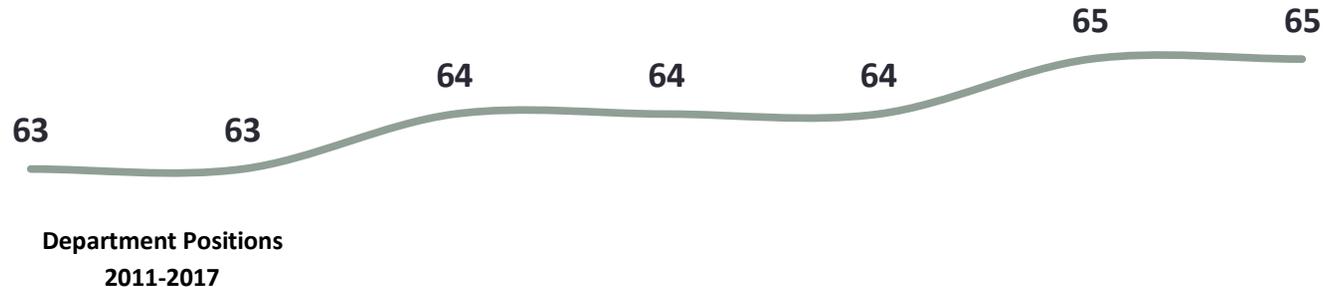
% Change in Positions

7

Current Vacancies

2

Voluntary Separations



\$818,700

The 2017 anticipated amount of funds generated in Reimbursable Services, a decrease of \$59,400 (6.8%) from the 2016 Budget.

-\$235,000

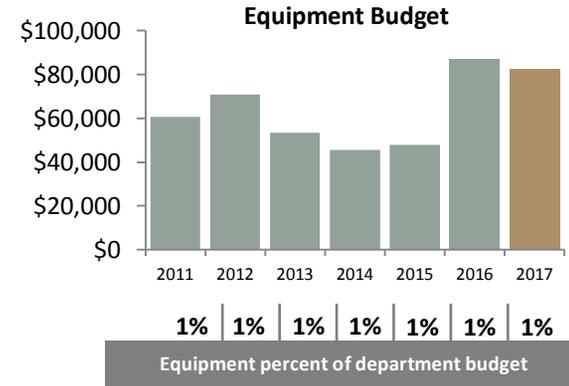
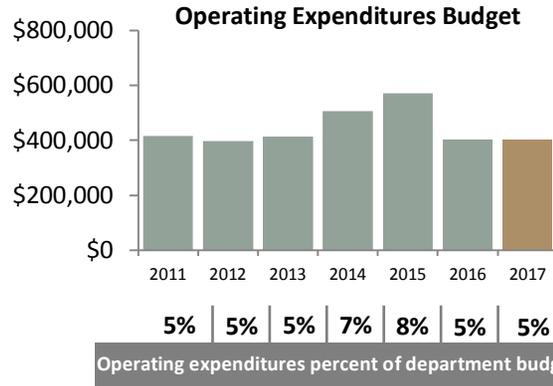
Reimbursable Services Deduction amount for 2017, an increase of \$69,000 (42%) from the 2016 Budget.

\$55,000

Amount of increase for SPA Insurance fund since 2016, following switch to a private insurer from the Local Government Property Insurance Fund.

-\$132,399

Personnel Cost Adjustment amount for 2017, which is unchanged from the amount budgeted in 2016.



Revenue

Top 4 areas of Reimbursement Services estimated:

- Services to RACM \$300,000
- Services to HACM \$125,000
- Services to ERS Fund \$135,000
- Services to Water Works \$100,000
- Remaining Services \$158,700
- Total \$818,700

Grants

This department receives no grant funding.

Special Purpose Accounts

- Collection Contract Fund \$1,125,000
- Damages & Claims Fund \$1,225,000
- Insurance Fund* \$ 655,000
- Outside Counsel/Expert Witness Fund \$ 850,000

*Increase of \$55,000 from 2016

Capital Requests

The department requested \$3.5 million to complete renovation and remodel the City Hall 8th floor, which is not included in the 2017 Proposed Budget. The requested amount is \$400,000 more than requested in 2016.

-\$60,000

Decrease in special fund for Case and Document Management System due to completion of project.

-\$25,000

Decrease in Information Technology Services due to transferring activities from a contract for consulting services to the IT Support Specialist Senior.

900

Approximate number of pending litigation cases in 2015, an increase of approximately 100 (12.5%) from 2014.

\$4,284,163

Increase in net collections for receivables from 2014 (according to outside audit of contract).

Automated Claims Processing

The City Attorney is collaborating with the City Clerk's Office to automate and improve the claims review process through the use of GovQA, a customer service system and work management tool currently used by the City Clerk's Office. Currently, claims are received by the City Clerk and transmitted via interoffice mail to the City Attorney's Office.

Graduate Intern

The City Attorney plans to use the DER Auxiliary Resource Program to hire a part-time Graduate Intern through the State Bar of Wisconsin Diversity Clerkship program.

This program provides first-year law school students from diverse backgrounds experience with public sector legal organizations.

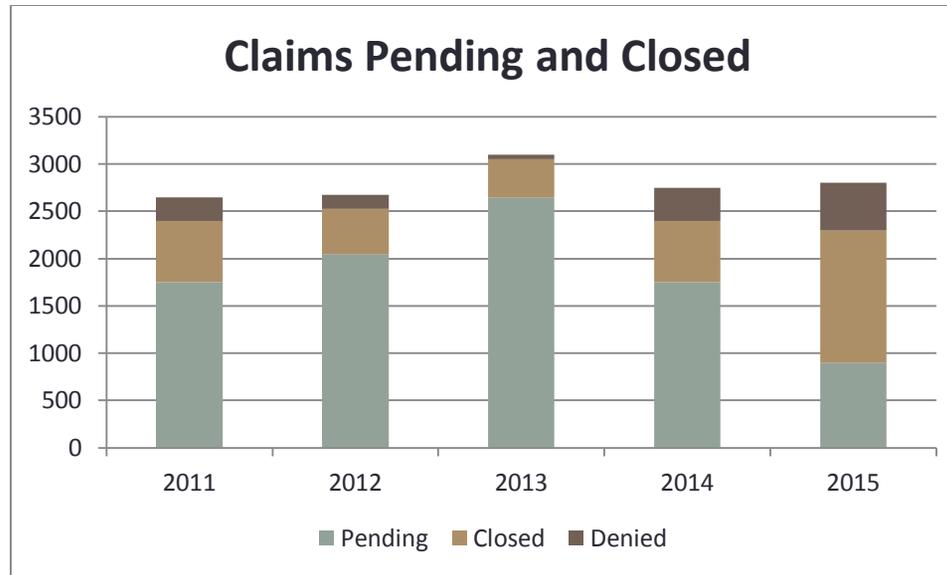
Landlord Fines

A small group of Milwaukee property owners has become well-known for accumulating large numbers and dollar amounts of fines and fees relating to property code violations, but making no more than token payments and receiving repeated payment extensions from the Municipal Court. Some of these property owners, frequently residential landlords, continue to purchase foreclosed properties at Sheriff's sales for cash despite alleging financial hardships when requesting extensions and reduced payments from the Municipal Court.

When these owners subsequently fail to pay property taxes, the City typically seizes the homes after 3 years. Because code violations have not been remediated, the properties that the City takes ownership of are often dilapidated.

Because the Municipal Court has a walk-in policy allowing certain violations to be dealt with without appointments or prior notice to interested parties, such requests may be granted without a City Attorney's presence to represent the City's interests.

The City Attorney's Office continues to assist the Municipal Court to properly exercise discretion relative to payment extensions, and continues to file nuisance abatement cases in Circuit Court in order to seek injunctive relief requiring property owners to repair or raze buildings.



Kohn Law Firm provides collections services for the Receivables for the City of Milwaukee. Based on the 2015 outside audit of the Kohn contract for collection services, 9,425 case accounts were referred for collection in 2015. The audit findings represent information during the collection contract dated December 20, 2011, for the year ended December 31, 2015.

	Total Amount Collected	Costs Collected	Fees	Net Collected
City Treasurer, Personal Property Tax	\$ 674,729	\$ 38,987	\$ 75,551	\$ 560,191
City Treasurer, Real Estate Taxes	20,613,993	288,585	2,248,873	18,076,535
Department of Public Works	354,145	38,127	56,544	259,474
Water Works	21,139	2,023	4,042	15,074
School Board of Directors	76,497	3,984	11,897	60,616
Neighborhood Services	151,410	3,625	20,613	127,172
Fire Department	1,765	-	247	1,518
Miscellaneous	888	-	124	4,764
Total	\$ 21,894,566	\$ 375,331	\$ 2,417,891	\$ 19,101,344