
2016 Overview: City Attorney

Finance & Personnel Committee
October 8, 2015

Community Goals and Department Objectives

1. Improve the city's fiscal capacity
 - Protect the city's interests in litigation
 - Manage risk so that liabilities do not disrupt finances
2. Build safe and healthy neighborhoods
 - Reduce nuisances that detract from neighborhood quality of life

2016 Budget Summary

	2015 ADOPTED BUDGET	2016 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENCE (amount, %)
FTEs – O&M	58.60	59.00	.40(.07%)
FTEs - Other	2.00	2.00	0
Salaries & Wages	\$4,870,030	4,996,810	\$126,780 (2.6%)
Fringe Benefits	2,191,513	2,398,469	\$206,956 (9.4%)
Operating Expenditures	393,900	405,300	\$11,400 (2.9%)
Equipment	90,000	87,000	-\$3,000(-3.3%)
Special Funds	0	60,000	\$60,000 (100%)
TOTAL	\$7,545,443	\$7,947,579	\$402,136 (5.3%)

Budgetary Changes

■ Staffing and Compensation

- ❑ 2016 budget reflects the replacement of two part time Assistant City Attorney V positions with full time positions
- ❑ 2015: Department of Employee Relations approved the implementation of a merit pay plan for Assistant City Attorneys
 - Salary adjustments based on merit shall not exceed 4% of an eligible employee's salary
- ❑ Potential Retirements
 - At least 11 staff (17%) will be eligible for retirement in 2016

Budget Issues/Challenges

- Collaboration with Thompson Reuters and Accellis
 - ❑ To resolve the problems with current Case and Document Management systems
 - ❑ May need to issue an RFP for a new Case and Document Management system Develop
 - ❑ ITMD continues to provide system support
- Administrative Actions and Other Legal Services
 - ❑ The numbers of administrative actions, requests for legal advice, contract negotiation, drafting and other legal services remains high
 - ❑ Examples: development projects (Arena), streetcar, Bublr bikes, other transit and infrastructure negotiations and drafting, PSC appeals , continuing advice to MPS, DER, ERS, RACM, HACM, MPD, MFD, MHD

Budget Issues/Challenges

■ Litigation

- Defend the City against law enforcement related claims and tax assessment challenges
 - requires significant expenditures
- Additional but unknown costs for pre-trial discovery, deposition, outside counsel, expert witness, settlements and judgments
- Active caseload has increased:
 - 265 cases as of June 30, 2013
 - 374 cases as of June 30, 2014
 - 438 on June 30, 2015 (a 65.3% increase over 2 years)
 - Examples include: tax assessment challenges licensing litigation, construction disputes (MPD 3rd District Parking) demolition and nuisance abatement

Special Purpose Accounts

	2015 ADOPTED BUDGET	2016 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENCE (amount, %)
City Attorney Collection Contract	\$1,125,000	\$1,125,000	\$ 0
Damages & Claims Fund	1,225,000	1,225,000	\$0
Insurance	429,689	600,000	\$170,311 (39.6%)
Outside Counsel-Expert Witness	850,000	850,000	\$0
Total SPAs	\$3,629,689	\$3,800,000	\$170,311 (4.7%)

Revenues

	2015 ADOPTED BUDGET	2016 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENCE (amount, %)
Charges for Service	\$761,000	\$878,100	\$117,100 (15.4%)
TOTAL	\$761,000	\$878,100	\$117,100 (15.4%)