

City Attorney's Office

FY 2019-20 Budget Work Session

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

City Attorney Tracy Reeve

Mayor Ted Wheeler

Budget Dashboard



Resources

\$13.5 M Total

\$6.8 M General Fund

Non-General Fund revenue sources are primarily from interagency agreements.

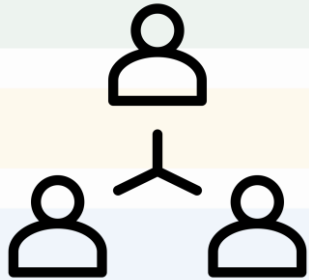


Expenditures

88% Personnel

4% EMS

8% IMS



Staff

66.6 Total FTE

Legal Services:

39.6 FTE Attorneys

10 FTE Paralegals

11 FTE Legal Assistants

6 FTE Administrative Staff

*Does not include 4 positions funded on a one-time basis.

Strategic Goals

Mission: Provide excellent, objective, timely and cost-effective legal advice and advocacy in support of the City's policy goals and ensure that the official actions of the City, its elected officials and employees comply with the law.

Strategic Goals supporting our Mission:

- Customer Service
- Advocacy
- Equity
- Accountability

Successes

Contracts Reviewed: 11,432 in FY 2017-18

Litigation Cases Handled: 1,481 in FY 2017-18

Percentage of Cases Favorably Resolved: 97% in FY 2017-18

Hours of Training to the City: 394 in FY 2017-18

Revenue Collections: \$4.8 million from FY 2016-17 to FY 2017-18

Low Cost: \$158/hour vs. outside counsel at \$362/hour

Successes

Defending the City's Values: Pursuing litigation to defend the City's values.

- Defending our sanctuary city policies against the Trump administration in the Byrne JAG Grant litigation.
- Defending DACA against the Trump administration through *amicus curiae* briefs.
- Challenging FCC mandates imposed by the Trump administration.
- Defending the City's fire sprinkler safety regulations against the state Building Codes Division.

Successes

Advancing the City's Policy Goals: Legal work in support of City Council policies:

- Housing emergency and affordable housing policies.
- Issues affecting livability and those experiencing homelessness.
- Affirmative civil rights and equity issues.
- Public safety policies and improvements.
- Revenue measures and other critical policy issues.

Successes

Transparency and Public Involvement: Public records advice and supporting public involvement.

- Helping the City respond to over 31,000 public records requests in 2018, including over 22,000 requests made to the Police Bureau.
- Developing and implementing training for the City's volunteer boards and commissions.

Key Challenges/Risks

Meeting the Public's Demand for Transparency:

The public demands faster and cheaper processing of public records requests.

- Additional position requested to do electronic records searches at no cost to bureaus or requesters.
- Request not recommended by the Budget Office.

Key Challenges/Risks

Meeting the Public's Demand for Improved Policing:

The public expects the Police Bureau to continue to improve police services to people experiencing a mental health crisis and to advance procedural justice and racial equity. This requires ongoing legal services devoted to policy development and training.

- One-time funded attorney position requested to be renewed on an ongoing basis.
- Request not recommended by the Budget Office. Existing position will be eliminated.

Key Challenges/Risks

Meeting Bureaus' Demands for Contract Review:

Bureaus expect faster reviews of their contracts.

- One-time funded paralegal position requested to be renewed on an ongoing basis.
- Request not recommended by the Budget Office. Existing position will be eliminated.

Discussion