LEGAL
Department Description and Mission

The mission of the Legal Department is to provide the City of Houston with the highest quality municipal legal services and to facilitate the operations of the City and protect its interests. The department has created eleven programs that focus on the Mayor's key priorities for the City. The programs focus on the ten areas of substantive law in which the Department is organized except for the Administrative Staff/Services program which primarily focuses on administrative matters. The practice area programs include: Claims & Subrogation, Contracts, General Counsel, General Litigation, Labor Employment & Civil Service, Municipal Prosecution, Neighborhood Services, Office of the Inspector General, Real Estate, and Torts & Civil Rights. The Legal Department's work is funded primarily from the General Fund (Fund 1000) and the Property and Casualty Fund (Fund 1004). Additionally, some legal services related to workers' compensation benefits are funded out of the Workers' Compensation Fund (Fund 1011). In addition, legal services provided to the Housing and Community Development Department are funded out of grant funds (Fund 5000) and legal services provided to the Houston Airport System and Houston Public Works are paid out of the Aviation Fund and Combined Utility System, respectively.

The central duties of the portions of the Legal Department funded from the General Fund include: the preparation of City ordinances and resolutions, research and drafting of legal opinions, preparation of contracts, bond issue representation, deed restriction enforcement, support for the dangerous buildings demolition project, prosecution of violators of City ordinances, and utility regulation. The central duties of the Property Casualty Fund sections include: claims resolution, personnel actions, and representing the City in tort, commercial, and employment litigation.

Department Short Term Goals

- Reorganization and restructure of the Department based on the EY Efficiency Study
- Defending the City in litigation regarding City programs
- Preparation of ordinances related to quality of life issues
- Implementation of legislative mandates affecting the City

Department Long Term Goals

- Implementation of AI assisted software to improve response time and strategic handling of workload
- Working with departments to implement better workflows and proactively identify legal issues
- Recruit and retain high quality professionals
- Improved communication with departments and stakeholders to preempt adverse outcomes

Business Area Budget Summary

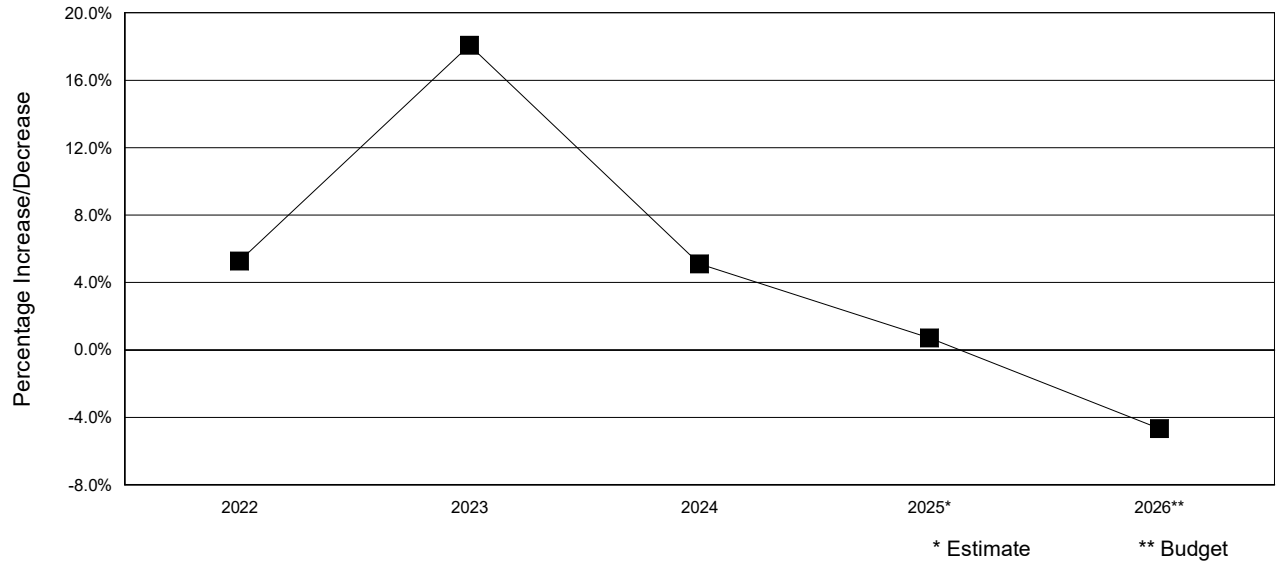
Fund Name : General Fund
Business Area : Legal
Fund No. /Bus. Area No. : 1000 / 9000

		FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Budget	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Budget
Expenditures	Personnel Services	16,247,329	17,265,345	17,265,345	**15,949,071**
	Supplies	131,778	143,325	143,325	**116,560**
	Other Services and Charges	2,646,936	1,772,286	1,772,286	**2,220,934**
	Equipment	17,765	0	0	**0**
	Total M & O Expenditures	19,043,808	19,180,956	19,180,956	**18,286,565**
	Debt Service & Other Uses	0	0	0	**0**
	Total Expenditure	19,043,808	19,180,956	19,180,956	**18,286,565**
Revenues		508,508	626,405	626,605	**630,998**
Staffing	Full-Time Equivalents - Civilian	97.5	96.3	96.3	**86.8**
	Full-Time Equivalents - Classified	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
	Full-Time Equivalents - Cadets	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
	Total	97.5	96.3	96.3	**86.8**
	Full-Time Equivalents - Overtime	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**

Significant Budget Changes and Highlights

- The FY2026 Budget provides funding for health benefits, pension contributions, and municipal employees contractual pay increases.
- The FY2026 Budget includes a reduction of $943,877 for department savings initiatives.
- The FY2026 Budget reflects elimination of Voluntary Municipal Employee Retirement Payout Option (VMERPO) accepted non-critical positions.

General Fund
Legal
Year over Year Expenditure Change



Business Area Budget Summary

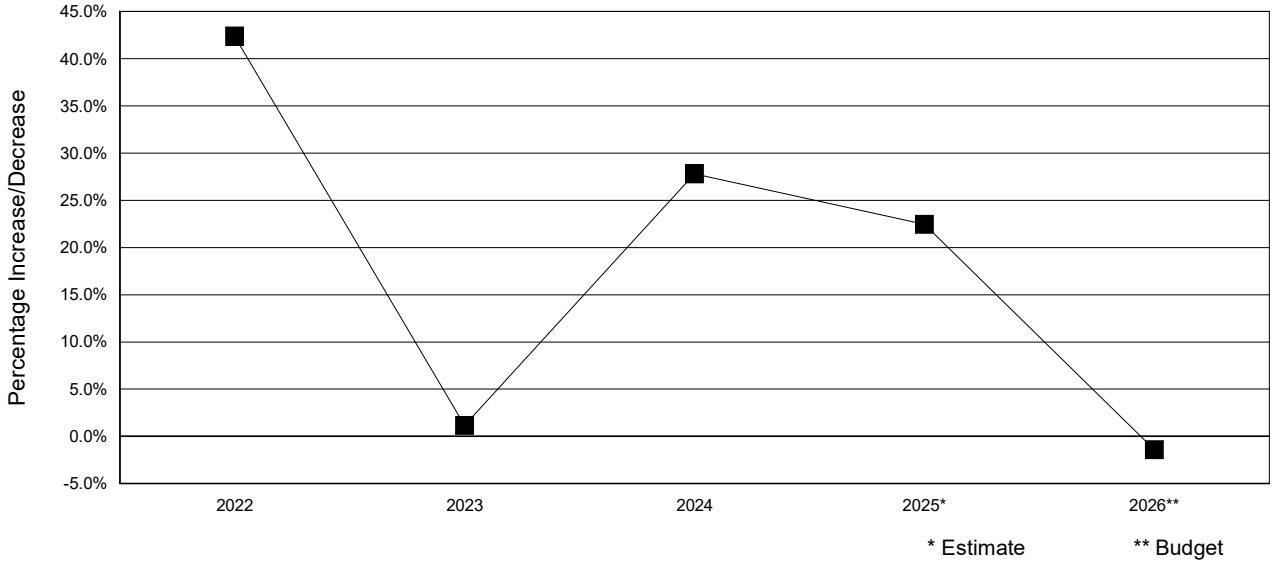
Fund Name : Property and Casualty Fund
Business Area : Legal
Fund No. /Bus. Area No. : 1004 / 9000

		FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Budget	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Budget
Expenditures	Personnel Services	9,604,365	10,917,453	10,917,453	**11,299,649**
	Supplies	136,343	110,525	110,525	**110,525**
	Other Services and Charges	14,187,033	18,275,535	18,275,535	**17,484,133**
	Total M & O Expenditures	23,927,741	29,303,513	29,303,513	**28,894,307**
	Debt Service & Other Uses	0	0	0	**0**
	Total Expenditure	23,927,741	29,303,513	29,303,513	**28,894,307**
Revenues		23,927,741	29,303,513	29,303,513	**28,894,307**
Staffing	Full-Time Equivalents - Civilian	57.0	62.2	62.2	**62.7**
	Full-Time Equivalents - Classified	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
	Full-Time Equivalents - Cadets	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
	Total	57.0	62.2	62.2	**62.7**
	Full-Time Equivalents - Overtime	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**

Significant Budget Changes and Highlights

- The FY2026 Budget provides funding for health benefits, pension contributions, and municipal employees contractual pay increases.
- The FY2026 Budget for claims, settlements and judgments is approximately $9.4 million, which represents 32% of the total budget.
- The FY2026 Budget includes a reduction of $1,273,864 for department savings initiatives.

Property and Casualty Fund
Legal
Year over Year Expenditure Change



Business Area Budget Summary

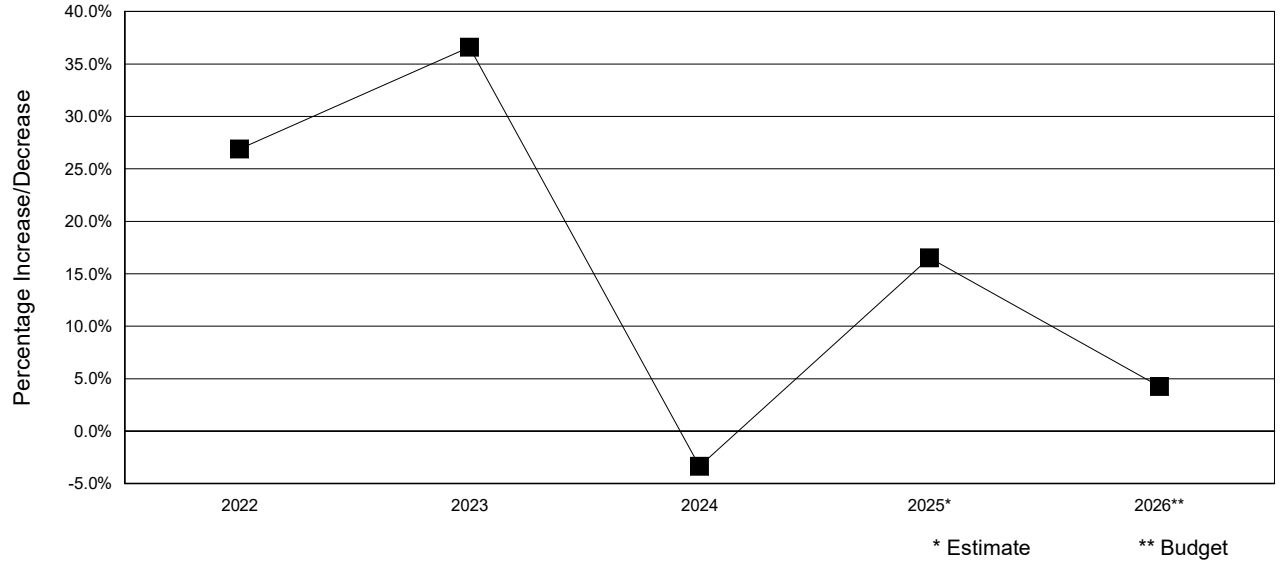
Fund Name : Workers' Compensation Fund
Business Area : Legal
Fund No. /Bus. Area No. : 1011 / 9000

		FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Budget	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Budget
Expenditures	Personnel Services	294,622	346,773	346,773	**361,301**
	Supplies	1,729	10,040	10,040	**10,040**
	Other Services and Charges	24,366	16,857	16,857	**18,236**
	Total M & O Expenditures	320,717	373,670	373,670	**389,577**
	Debt Service & Other Uses	0	0	0	**0**
	Total Expenditure	320,717	373,670	373,670	**389,577**
Revenues		0	0	0	**0**
Staffing	Full-Time Equivalents - Civilian	2.0	2.0	2.0	**2.0**
	Full-Time Equivalents - Classified	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
	Full-Time Equivalents - Cadets	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
	Total	2.0	2.0	2.0	**2.0**
	Full-Time Equivalents - Overtime	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**

Significant Budget Changes and Highlights

- The FY2026 Budget provides funding for health benefits, pension contributions, and municipal employees contractual pay increases.

Workers' Compensation Fund
Legal
Year over Year Expenditure Change



Business Area Revenues Summary

Business Area : Legal
Business Area No. : 9000

Category	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Budget	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Budget
Charges for Services	128	1,500	1,500	**1,500**
Direct Interfund Services	24,417,759	29,903,118	29,896,858	**29,498,505**
Miscellaneous/Other	18,362	25,300	31,760	**25,300**
Grand Total	**24,436,249**	**29,929,918**	**29,930,118**	**29,525,305**

Business Area Program Summary

Business Area: **Legal**
Bus. Area No : **9000**

Budget By Program ($ in thousands):

Program	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
Administrative Services	18	4,865	33	3,975	27	4,062
Claims & Subrogation	5,123	5,446	6,353	6,727	6,150	6,540
Contracts	0	2,079	0	2,464	0	2,175
General Counsel	0	2,564	0	2,586	0	2,558
General Litigation	6,971	6,966	8,319	8,317	8,481	8,480
Labor, Employment & Civil Service	5,267	5,270	6,629	6,629	6,515	6,515
Municipal Prosecution	0	3,922	0	4,212	0	4,188
Neighborhood Services	0	1,951	0	1,992	0	1,850
Office of the Inspector General (OIG)	685	1,904	648	1,971	400	1,619
Real Estate	385	2,307	385	2,410	385	2,015
Torts & Civil Rights	5,987	6,018	7,563	7,575	7,567	7,567
Total	**24,436**	**43,292**	**29,930**	**48,858**	**29,525**	**47,569**

FTEs by Program:

Program	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
Administrative Services	11.8	0.0	11.0	0.0	7.0	0.0
Claims & Subrogation	12.6	0.0	12.4	0.0	13.0	0.0
Contracts	13.0	0.0	14.5	0.0	12.5	0.0
General Counsel	15.8	0.0	14.4	0.0	15.2	0.0
General Litigation	18.3	0.0	20.6	0.0	20.4	0.0
Labor, Employment & Civil Service	10.6	0.0	11.2	0.0	12.0	0.0
Municipal Prosecution	21.9	0.0	23.7	0.0	22.9	0.0
Neighborhood Services	14.4	0.0	11.1	0.0	11.0	0.0
Office of the Inspector General (OIG)	9.6	0.0	10.0	0.0	8.0	0.0
Real Estate	12.7	0.0	12.6	0.0	10.2	0.0
Torts & Civil Rights	15.8	0.0	19.0	0.0	19.3	0.0
Total:	**156.5**	**0.0**	**160.5**	**0.0**	**151.5**	**0.0**

Business Area Program Detail

Business Area : Legal
Bus Area No. : 9000

Administrative Services

Description:

Provides the administrative and IT support to the Legal department by opening case files, assigning subpoenas, supporting procurement actions, handling litigation support, and attending other IT and administrative matters.

Goal:

Facilitate efficient and seamless departmental operations within the given fiscal year.

Mayor's Priority: Government that Works

($ in thousands)

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
General Fund	18	4,865	33	3,975	27	4,062

Staffing:

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
General Fund	11.8	0.0	11.0	0.0	7.0	0.0

Performance Measure:

Performance	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Target	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Target
Number of eDiscovery matters handled	117	125	66	65
Number of subpoenas assigned	259	175	171	170
Number of Torts and Civil Rights cases opened	245	200	256	250

Business Area Program Detail

Business Area : Legal
Bus Area No. : 9000

Claims & Subrogation

Description:

Handles liability tort claims, property and workers' compensation subrogation claims, workers' compensation litigation, and general affirmative collection claims (alarm fees, hazardous material discharge claims, and paving and special assessment claims)

Goal:

Expeditiously resolve pre-litigation claims against the City related to workers' compensation, personal injury, and property damage matters, while minimizing the City's financial exposure for those claims for which it is not legally responsible or liable. Seek reimbursement for damage to City property.

Mayor's Priority: Government that Works

($ in thousands)

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
Property and Casualty Fund	5,123	5,125	6,353	6,353	6,150	6,150
Workers' Compensation Fund	0	321	0	374	0	390
Total	**5,123**	**5,446**	**6,353**	**6,727**	**6,150**	**6,540**

Staffing:

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
Property and Casualty Fund	10.6	0.0	10.4	0.0	11.0	0.0
Workers' Compensation Fund	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
Total	**12.6**	**0.0**	**12.4**	**0.0**	**13.0**	**0.0**

Performance Measure:

Performance	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Target	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Target
Number of liability claims processed	1,231	950	1,348	1,300
Number of liability claims with no payment	1,589	750	921	900
Percentage of liability claims with no litigation	89%	75%	85%	80%

Business Area Program Detail

Business Area : Legal
Bus Area No. : 9000

Contracts

Description:

Prepares, reviews, and negotiates City contracts. Provides legal opinions when requested related to contracting, procurement, and competitive bidding matters. Drafts and interprets commercial documents, ordinances, and policies and procedures related to procurement and contracting. Advises City departments on insurance requirements for contractors. Reviews federal and state grants and prepares subrecipient agreements. Advises City departments on procurement protests. Represents the City in a variety of matters involving enforcement of and compliance with local, state and federal laws. Provides specialized expertise in the following subject areas: risk analysis and risk mitigation, invoicing and other contractual disputes, water and wastewater, non-real estate aviation matters, information technology and copyright, health law, design and construction, and civic art and public events.

Goal:

Facilitate the City's goods and services contracting within the given fiscal year.

Mayor's Priority: Government that Works

($ in thousands)

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
General Fund	0	2,079	0	2,464	0	2,175

Staffing:

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
General Fund	13.0	0.0	14.5	0.0	12.5	0.0

Performance Measure:

Performance	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Target	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Target
Number of contracts handled	983	1,100	1,115	1,100
Number of opinions issued	95	100	121	100
Number of ordinances prepared	151	200	166	200

Business Area Program Detail

Business Area : Legal
Bus Area No. : 9000

General Counsel

Description:

Draft ordinances and opinions, advises City departments and elected officials on a wide variety of topics, including: elections, public information requests, the Texas open meetings act, ethics and conflicts of interest, redistricting, public finance, ad valorem taxation and utility regulation and franchising.

Goal:

Provide timely legal advice to further City departments' and elected officials' understanding of, and compliance with, local and statutory requirements and ethics standards.

Mayor's Priority: Government that Works

($ in thousands)

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
General Fund	0	2,564	0	2,586	0	2,558

Staffing:

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
General Fund	15.8	0.0	14.4	0.0	15.2	0.0

Performance Measure:

Performance	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Target	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Target
Percent of legal reviews provided on the use of Council District Service Funds within 7 business days of receiving the request and all information and details necessary to evaluate the request	100%	95%	100%	95%
Percent of requests processed for public information (TPIA) in conformance with statutory deadlines	100%	95%	99.8%	95%
Percent of responses to requests for legal opinion on ethics or conflict of interest matters within 7 business days of receiving the request and all information and details necessary to opine on the request	100%	95%	100%	95%

Business Area Program Detail

Business Area : Legal
Bus Area No. : 9000

General Litigation

Description:

Defends the City and its officers and employees in litigation involving claims against the City for breach of contract, copyright infringement, inverse condemnation, construction law, election contests, and miscellaneous other cases. This section is also responsible for initiating litigation to recover money owed to the City in actions involving breach of contract and damage to City property, and for acquiring property through eminent domain proceedings.

Goal:

File condemnation lawsuits, defend the City in lawsuits filed against us, prepare ordinances of public convenience and necessity, and file appellate briefs.

Mayor's Priority: Government that Works

($ in thousands)

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
Property and Casualty Fund	6,971	6,966	8,319	8,317	8,481	8,480

Staffing:

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
Property and Casualty Fund	18.3	0.0	20.6	0.0	20.4	0.0

Performance Measure:

Performance	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Target	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Target
Number of appellate briefs prepared and filed	105	40	155	40
Number of condemnation lawsuits prepared and filed	18	15	13	15
Number of public convenience and necessity ordinances prepared	15	10	9	10

Business Area Program Detail

Business Area : Legal

Bus Area No. : 9000

Labor, Employment & Civil Service

Description:

Represents the City at Civil Service Commission hearings, pretermination proceedings and arbitrations, and works with all City departments on any issues related to discipline and employee related policies. Responds to Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) matters, provides advice and prepares ordinances related to personnel matters, represents the City in litigation arising from federal and state employment related claims such as Chapter 143, Title VII, the American Disabilities Act and defense of Section 1983 claims. Reviews and/or recommends policies and procedures for implementing new employment related legislation.

Goal:

Successfully defend against all EEOC/TWC (Texas Workforce Commission) discrimination charges, EEOC/TWC lawsuits, Chapter 143 grievances and lawsuits, and negotiate a Meet & Confer Agreement for Houston Police and Fire Fighters.

Mayor's Priority: Government that Works

($ in thousands)

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
Property and Casualty Fund	5,267	5,270	6,629	6,629	6,515	6,515

Staffing:

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
Property and Casualty Fund	10.6	0.0	11.2	0.0	12.0	0.0

Performance Measure:

Performance	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Target	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Target
Number of EEOC and TX Workforce Commission Civil Rights division matters	21	21	20	N/A
Number of indefinite suspension processing	98	110	125	N/A
Number of medical separation reviews	38	45	25	N/A
Response Time to Client Requests for Employment Law Advice	N/A	N/A	N/A	90%
Training on Employment & Labor Law Matters	N/A	N/A	N/A	min. rating of 3

Business Area Program Detail

Business Area : Legal
Bus Area No. : 9000

Municipal Prosecution

Description:

Represents the State and City in most cases filed in the Houston Municipal Courts including traffic, non-traffic, all ordinance violations, property disposition hearings, dangerous dog hearings and appeals, and scire facias matters. Appears in Justice or County Courts on behalf of the State of Texas and/or the City in Cruelly Treated Animal hearings, tow hearings and the appeals from those hearings. Conducts citizen intake regarding direct filing of non-traffic misdemeanors. Advises, assists, and educates police and City inspectors regarding statutory and code enforcement. Drafts search and arrest warrants. Works directly with the chief clerk and presiding judge to solve problems and establish policy for the Municipal Courts. Responds to questions and problems from citizens. Performs numerous special assignments including drafting appellate briefs, assisting with drafting and reviewing ordinances, complaint preparation, legislative analysis, bond forfeitures, and legal research.

Goal:

Achieve just outcomes for the overall betterment of the citizens of the City of Houston.

Mayor's Priority: Public Safety

($ in thousands)

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
General Fund	0	3,922	0	4,212	0	4,188

Staffing:

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
General Fund	21.9	0.0	23.7	0.0	22.9	0.0

Performance Measure:

Performance	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Target	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Target
Number of adjudications facilitated for the various civil cases handled by City Prosecutors in Houston Municipal Courts and Harris County Courts	59	45	45	45
Number of discovery requests analyzed and reviewed related to Municipal prosecution cases pursuant to statutory requirements	3,881	3,000	3,000	3,000
Number of trainings provided pertaining to criminal law and enforcement in Municipal Courts to various City enforcement officials	11	6	6	6

Business Area Program Detail

Business Area : Legal

Bus Area No. : 9000

Neighborhood Services

Description:

Interfaces directly with neighborhood associations and citizens in order to prosecute nuisances and violations that negatively affect the preservation and protection of neighborhoods and the general quality of life in the community. Responsible for crime-based nuisance abatement, deed restriction enforcement, dangerous buildings abatement, T.A.B.C. (Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission) protests, and the title work to support these activities.

Goal:

Continue serving neighborhoods by maintaining or increasing the number of actions taken by NS (Neighborhood Services) in three main areas of services - deed restriction enforcement, dangerous building rulings, and nuisance lawsuits.

Mayor's Priority: Public Safety

($ in thousands)

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
General Fund	0	1,951	0	1,992	0	1,850

Staffing:

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
General Fund	14.4	0.0	11.1	0.0	11.0	0.0

Performance Measure:

Performance	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Target	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Target
Number of dangerous building orders and emergency review approvals presented to the Building Standard Commission or Hearing official	387	400	400	400
Number of deed restrictions reviewed and enforced	494	550	550	550
Number of nuisance lawsuits handled	8	10	10	10

Business Area Program Detail

Business Area : Legal
Bus Area No. : 9000

Office of the Inspector General (OIG)

Description:

Executive Order 1-39 established OIG to investigate and provide legal advice in connection with allegations of employee and other misconduct, with special emphasis on violations of the law. Employee misconduct within the scope of the order is an act by a covered employee relating directly or indirectly to the employee's employment with the City, and violating a state or federal law, a City Ordinance, an Executive Order, an Administrative Procedure, or a Mayor's Policy. The Office of Policing Reform and Accountability is a branch of OIG which acts to execute the plans of the Independent Police Oversight Board in connection with complaints of misconduct against police officers.

Goal:

Investigate and provide legal advice to correct and deter wrongdoing, respond to allegations of misconduct, and provide legal support to the Independent Police Oversight Board.

Mayor's Priority: Public Safety

($ in thousands)

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
General Fund	0	1,221	0	1,323	0	1,219
Property and Casualty Fund	685	683	648	648	400	400
Total	**685**	**1,904**	**648**	**1,971**	**400**	**1,619**

Staffing:

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
General Fund	6.8	0.0	7.0	0.0	6.0	0.0
Property and Casualty Fund	2.8	0.0	3.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
Total	**9.6**	**0.0**	**10.0**	**0.0**	**8.0**	**0.0**

Performance Measure:

Performance	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Target	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Target
Number of citizen initiated complaints received by the OPRA office	N/A	40	90	100
Number of confirmations for OIG cases received	461	400	400	400
Number of investigations of fraud, waste, discrimination and retaliation, and documentation	461	400	400	400
Number of Office of Police Reform and Accountability (OPRA) engagements in community outreach	50	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent of citizens who feel safe in their neighborhood	N/A	75%	75%	75%

Business Area Program Detail

Business Area : Legal
Bus Area No. : 9000

Real Estate

Description:

Provides services related to land sales and acquisitions, leases, abandonments of City easements, encroachments, rights of entry, abstract/title research, easements and related matters; prepares grant and loan agreements for state and federal housing and community development programs and advises the Housing and Community Development Department on compliance with federal and state regulations related to the programs. Handles legal matters related to planning and development issues, including land development regulations, historic preservation, tax increment reinvestment zones created by the City, and economic development agreements negotiated by the City. Represents the City in a variety of matters involving enforcement of and compliance with local, state and federal environmental and airport laws.

Goal:

Facilitate the City's required real estate transactions within the given fiscal year.

Mayor's Priority: Quality of Life

($ in thousands)

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
General Fund	385	2,307	385	2,410	385	2,015

Staffing:

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
General Fund	12.7	0.0	12.6	0.0	10.2	0.0

Performance Measure:

Performance	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Target	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Target
Number of agreements prepared that support Homeless and Single-Family Housing initiatives	145	92	92	92
Number of development-related easement dedications reviewed and approved	291	300	300	300
Number of real estate transactions facilitated	1,076	1,000	1,000	1,000

Business Area Program Detail

Business Area : Legal
Bus Area No. : 9000

Torts & Civil Rights

Description:

Defends the City and its employees on a wide variety of lawsuits, including claims brought pursuant to Chapter 101 of the Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code and civil rights claims, including 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, that are filed in state and federal courts. Advises various City departments about legal issues.

Goal:

Balance financial risks and exposures to the City concerning lawsuits and settlements.

Mayor's Priority: Government that Works

($ in thousands)

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps	Revs	Exps
General Fund	105	134	208	220	219	219
Property and Casualty Fund	5,882	5,884	7,355	7,355	7,348	7,348
Total	**5,987**	**6,018**	**7,563**	**7,575**	**7,567**	**7,567**

Staffing:

Fund	FY2024 Actual		FY2025 Estimate		FY2026 Budget	
	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs	FTEs	OT FTEs
General Fund	1.1	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
Property and Casualty Fund	14.7	0.0	17.0	0.0	17.3	0.0
Total	**15.8**	**0.0**	**19.0**	**0.0**	**19.3**	**0.0**

Performance Measure:

Performance	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Target	FY2025 Estimate	FY2026 Target
Conservative estimated revenue savings	N/A	N/A	N/A	$1,500,000
Number of civil rights cases defended on behalf of the City of Houston	27	28	28	28
Number of dispositions by motion (granted, non-suit, & voluntary non-suit)	N/A	45	45	45
Number of settlements for torts and civil right cases on behalf of the City of Houston	71	60	60	60
Number of torts cases	188	390	390	390