

Department of LAW

Office of the County Attorney

2019 Executive Proposed Budget

Core Programs & Functions

- The Law Department, Office of the County Attorney, is charged by law to serve as legal counsel to the County Executive, the Board of Legislators, and to the County and all of its constituent departments, agencies and boards.
- Under the direction and supervision of the County Attorney, the Law Department is currently organized into four bureaus:
 - Litigation Bureau,
 - Appeals, Opinion and Legislation Bureau,
 - Contracts and Real Estate Bureau,
 - Family Court Bureau.
- Each bureau has the responsibility for handling specific types of legal matters on behalf of the County, including providing legal advice to County officials and employees in order to assist them on various projects the County is undertaking or contemplating undertaking; preparation and review of legal documents, drafting of legislation; researching and preparing legal opinions, and advocating on behalf of the County in Family court trial and appellate courts, including special administrative proceedings.
- The Office of Risk Management is responsible for managing a comprehensive risk management program for the County, which includes the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the policies as they relate to insurance, safety, claims and the settling of losses.
- The office continually determines and analyzes all casualty risks of loss to which the County's assets are exposed and evaluates such risks to determine whether they can be eliminated or minimized; investigates and manages claims of general, automobile, public officials and malpractice liability and administers the County's self insurance program.

Budget Summary

ITEM	2018	2019
Operating Positions	87	91
Trust Positions		
TOTAL POSITIONS	87	91
Personal Service	\$8,454,523	\$9,209,757
Equipment	\$47,142	\$40,100
Materials & Supplies	\$68,979	\$64,850
Contractual Expenses	\$1,221,992	\$1,793,100
Inter-Departmental Charges	\$759,993	\$828,236
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$10,552,629	\$11,936,043

Budget Summary

ITEM	2018	2019
Inter-Departmental Revenue	\$9,857,162	\$10,816,132
Departmental Revenue	\$3,269,401	\$3,534,384
State & Federal Aid		\$890,793
TOTAL REVENUE	\$13,126,563	\$15,241,309
DEPARTMENT TAX LEVY	-\$2,573,934	-\$3,305,266

New Initiatives & Highlights

- Increased diversity in hiring.
- Enforcement of defense and indemnity right of county.
- Enforcement of rights under and with surety bonds.
- With respect to the 6-N fund, favorable results and settlements in litigated matters continue to result in considerable monetary advantage to the County. The latest actuarial analysis provided to the county dated July 7, 2017 shows that the unallocated reserve in the fund stands at \$21.696 million. This is a decrease in reserves of approximately \$1.8 million over the past year. The actuary concluded in a July 2017 report “It is clear the 6N Fund has significant equity (i.e., 21.7 million) to forego funding for at least two years.”
- Negotiation of Liberty Bus contract renewal saving \$20 million over five years. Procured new liability insurance saving \$900,000 in addition to reducing the deductible amount for bus accident cases from \$250,000 to \$100,000.
- Analyze and monitoring of Standard Amusements contract for the operation of Playland Park.
- Analysis of various Airport matters relating to governance, supporting master plan and various leases of airport property as well as ongoing issues at airport.
- Advise on various proposal for leasing and development of the undeveloped property at the Valhalla campus.
- More intensive evaluation of cases for final settlement.
- Drafting more legislation for Board of Legislature.