

FY 2020-2022 Proposed Budget

Office of the City Attorney

Budget Engagement Commission

March 19, 2020

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DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Office of the City Attorney strives to provide **excellent and ethical legal advice and representation to City Council and City Departments**. The City Attorney also serves as general counsel to the Successor Agency of the City of Riverside, and **represents the City before various boards, commissions, and judicial tribunals**.

Riverside 2.1 Strategic Goals



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DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The CAO has 39 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The Department is comprised of three divisions to provide support to Council and City Departments:

- Litigation (includes Workers' Compensation and Tort Claims Processing Divisions)
- Public Safety (includes Measure Z and Community Advocacy Program)
- Municipal Services

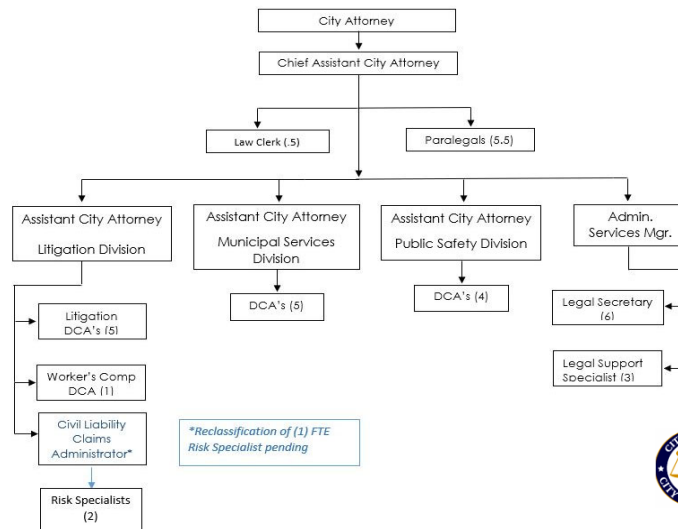


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ORGANIZATION CHART



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PRIORITIES

- Continue to reduce outside litigation costs
- Improve quality of life issues through prosecution of the RMC and Community Livability Programs
- Retain and attract highly qualified and dedicated staff to provide the highest quality of legal services to the City
- Aggressively defend Riverside's interests and resources
- Promote open and honest transparent government
- Aggressively coordinate with City and County Law Enforcement to address Neighborhood Livability issues
- Enhance revenue recovery



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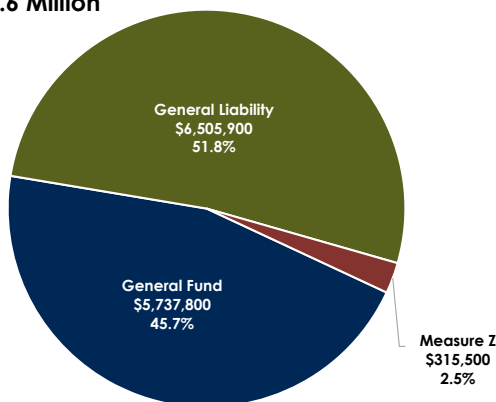
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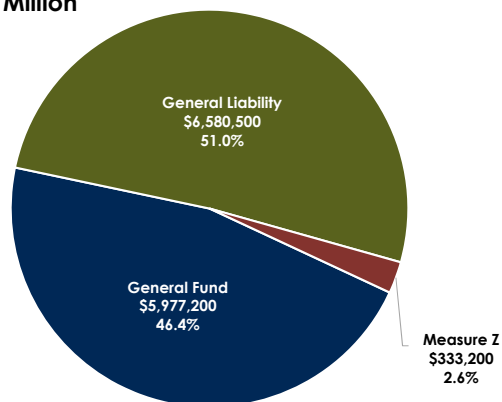
FY 2020-2022 BUDGET OVERVIEW

EXPENDITURES – ALL FUNDS

FY 2020/21
\$12.6 Million



FY 2021/22
\$12.9 Million



Measure Z spending represents Ward Action Team staffing (2.00 FTE)

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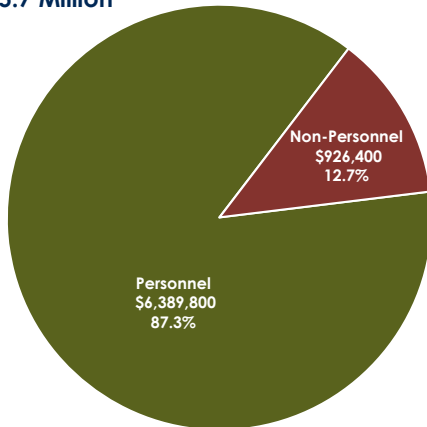


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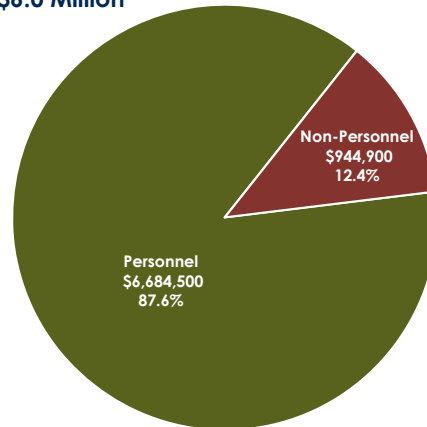
GENERAL FUND BUDGET OVERVIEW

FY 2020/21
\$5.7 Million



Net Charges To/From: (\$1,578,400)

FY 2021/22
\$6.0 Million



Net Charges To/From: (\$1,652,200)

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DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

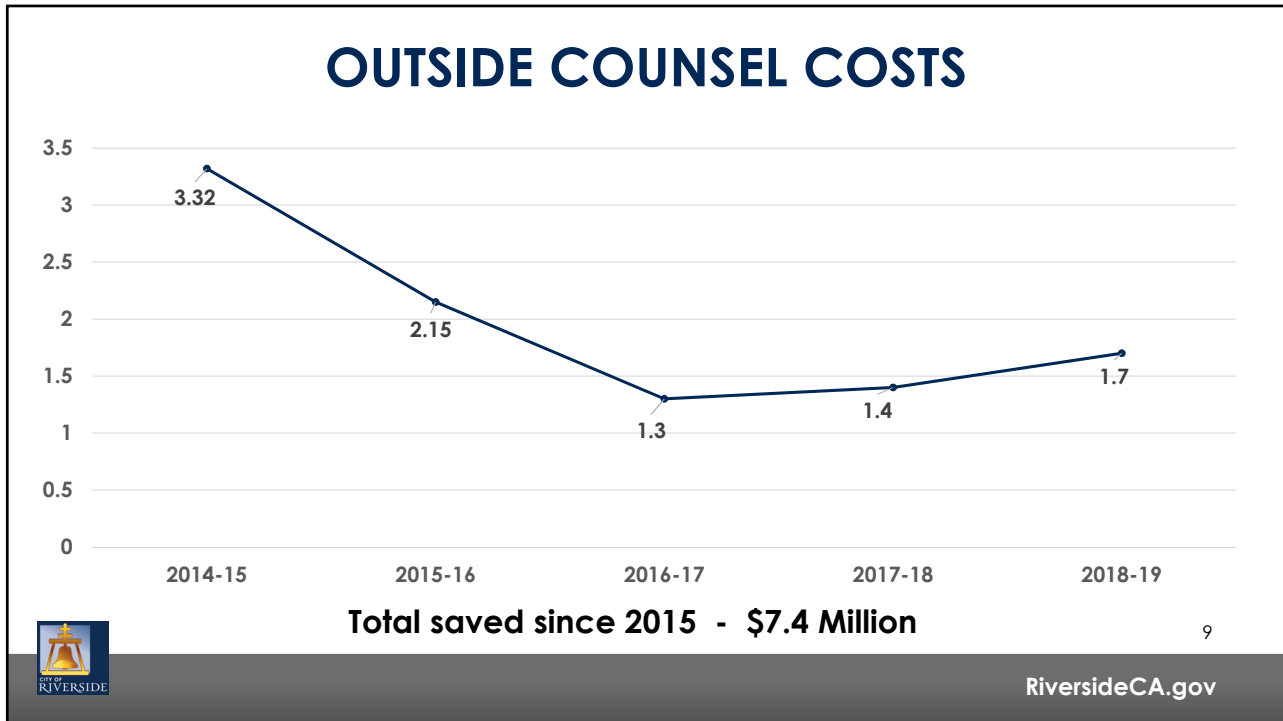
- **Reduction of Outside Counsel Costs**
 - Litigation and Workers' Compensation cases brought in-house (see graph and table)
- **Reduction of Tort Claims Administration Costs**
 - Tort Claims processing brought in-house (see table)
- **Litigation Successes (see slide)**
- **Public Safety Successes (see slide)**
- **Revenue Recovery**
 - Although not a revenue generating department, the CAO returned \$200,000 to the general fund from the recovery of attorney's fee awards, costs, civil penalties and damages; \$88,000 solely from receiverships and marijuana dispensaries actions.



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OUTSIDE COUNSEL COSTS

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Fiscal Year	Defense Costs
2014/15	\$279,603.85
2015/16	\$296,446.66
2016/17	\$366,747.12
2017/18	\$350,588.09
2018/19	\$176,431.88



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TORT CLAIMS PROCESSING

Fiscal Year	Amount
2014/15	\$195,480
2015/16	\$199,596
2016/17	\$199,596
2017/18	\$205,584
2018/19	0
TOTAL	\$800,256



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LITIGATION SUCCESSES

- *City Riverside v Rubidoux Community Services District*
 - **Judgment for Riverside**
- *Onstad v City of Riverside - Excessive Force (Demand \$2 million)*
 - **Settlement \$1**
- *Burtis v City of Riverside – Alleged Dangerous Design (Demand \$2 million)*
 - **Summary judgment granted**



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PUBLIC SAFETY

- **WAT Successes:**
 - Received 344 neighborhood problems – 72% fully resolved
 - Attended 56 community meetings
- **Public Safety Division was first in Western Riverside County to obtain Gun Violence Restraining Orders**
 - Worked closely with Riverside Police Department to take 65 firearms from individuals who present a danger to self-harm or harm to others
- **Defend Lawsuits for City and RPD Officers**
 - Saved \$717,593 in outside counsel costs compared to 2015



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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Special Programs provide funds generally necessary to:
 - Continue implementation of the Community Advocacy and Ward Action Team Programs;
 - Assist with the funding of unanticipated future legal costs and expenses on behalf of other City Departments;
 - Enables the CAO to continue to further the goals and objectives of the Mayor and City Council in improving the quality of life in the City; and
 - Expenditures are largely Council-driven



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