



LAW

Program Goal

The Law Department provides effective legal services to the Mayor and City Council, city manager, departments and advisory boards; interprets and enforces city, state and federal laws as they pertain to city services and activities; and effectively administers and prosecutes criminal cases filed in Phoenix Municipal Court using the prosecutorial function and discretion in a fair, impartial and efficient manner.

Budget Allowance Explanation

The Law Department 2005-06 operating budget allowance of \$20,891,000 is \$1,281,000 or 6.5 percent more than 2004-05 estimated expenditures. The increase is due to inflationary adjustments and the addition of two attorneys and support staff to initiate acquisition actions related to the Light Rail and other projects. Replacement funding was also added for the Victim's Rights Program grant to cover cost-of-living increases, for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant to fund two prosecutors and one legal assistant, which provides coverage for one criminal court room, and for the Community Gun Violence Grant to fund two prosecutors to prosecute gun crimes in federal court. The increase is offset by budget reductions that include reduced funding for replacement furniture and the

elimination of a civil attorney assigned to collect past due taxes as well as a prosecutor assigned to a Municipal Courtroom.

The Law Department 2005-06 budget for court awards funds provides for computerized legal research (\$32,000), criminal justice training (\$4,000) and computer programming including ongoing technical support for the Criminal Division's case management system (\$121,000).

Expenditure and Position Summary

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Operating Expense	\$19,344,000	\$19,610,000	\$20,891,000
Total Positions	245.3	242.0	245.0
Source of Funds:			
General	\$18,255,000	\$18,464,000	\$19,907,000
Court Awards	123,000	152,000	157,000
Grants	965,000	943,000	678,000
Other Restricted	1,000	51,000	149,000

Law Department Major Performance Measures and Service Trends

The following significant performance measures and service trends will be achieved with the 2005-06 budget allowance:

	2003-04	2004-05*	2005-06
Criminal cases sent to diversion	3,568	3,208	3,500
Pre-trial disposition conferences set	59,627	65,000	62,000
New civil cases opened in the fields of condemnation, collection, taxes and civil litigation, excluding liability and other cases assigned to outside counsel	1,282	800	800
Number of defendants submitted for charging review	45,844	42,000	43,000
Number of civil cases closed, including those assigned to outside counsel and handled through the alternative dispute resolution process	804	900	900
Ordinances and resolutions for City Council adoption drafted and reviewed	1,123	1,000	1,000
Number of jury trials prosecuted	381	450	450

*Based on 10 months actual experience.

