

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 2009-10 operating budget allowance of \$23,961,000 is \$2,352,000 or 10.9 percent more than 2008-09 estimated expenditures. The increase is primarily due to increases in federal and state grants and is partially offset with budget reductions including the suspension of 28 positions consisting of attorneys, legal and administrative support staff, and case management staff assigned to various trial courtrooms and civil litigation issues. In addition, funding was reduced for outside legal services, other commodities and educational material. These reductions will increase attorney caseloads and impact the department's ability to train staff and hire outside legal counsel for critical and complex cases.

Expenditure and Position Summary

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Operating Expense	\$22,192,000	\$21,609,000	\$23,961,000
Total Positions	250.0	222.0	222.0
Source of Funds:			
General	\$21,324,000	\$20,632,000	\$21,295,000
Court Awards	217,000	242,000	253,000
Federal and State Grants	564,000	647,000	2,345,000
Other Restricted	87,000	87,000	68,000
Federal Transit Authority	—	1,000	—

Law Department Major Performance Measures and Service Levels

The following significant performance measures and service trends will be achieved with the 2009-10 budget allowance:

	2007-08	2008-09*	2009-10
Criminal cases sent to diversion	3,650	4,200	4,600**
Pre-trial disposition conferences set	56,000	55,000	55,000
New civil cases opened in the fields of condemnation, collection, taxes and civil litigation, excluding liability and other cases assigned to outside counsel	1,400	830	830
Number of defendants submitted for charging review	37,000	53,000	53,000
Number of civil cases closed, including those assigned to outside counsel and handled through the alternative dispute resolution process	1,200	1,600	1,600
Ordinances and resolutions for City Council adoption drafted and reviewed	1,400	1,300	1,300
Number of jury trials prosecuted	240	200	200

*Based on 10 months actual experience.

**The Prosecutor's Office is in the process of completing a Request for Proposal selection process for an Underage Drinking Diversion Program. It is anticipated that in 2009-10, 400 new cases will be sent to diversion upon implementation.