

# **CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

## **DEPARTMENT MISSION**

The General Counsel and Litigation Divisions are dedicated to resolving legal matters by providing comprehensive, cost efficient, top quality legal representation and advice to City Council, Management, Boards and Commissions and all others to whom we provide legal services in the City. The Community Advocacy Division is committed to the proactive use of the law to resolve community based problems.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

### **Legal Services**

The City Attorney's Office represents the City of Dallas in all legal matters other than tax collections, bond related matters and workers' compensation claims. This encompasses prosecution of cases in municipal court and civil litigation in state and federal courts; furnishing legal opinions to the City Council, city officials, and departments; preparing, reviewing and approving as to form ordinances, contracts, resolutions, and other legal documents and transactions; proactive code enforcement, collecting certain delinquent accounts and invoices due to the City; furnishing legal representation for D/FW International Airport, all City boards and commissions, departments and employees; and representing the City before the Texas Legislature, U.S. Congress, and state and federal regulatory agencies.

## **OBJECTIVES FOR FY 2003-2004**

- Provide objective, sound legal advice and opinions to the Mayor, City Council, City Manager's Office and other City departments, Boards and Commissions
- Minimize the amount paid by the City for settlements and judgments for claims and lawsuits
- Effectively manage cases on the Municipal Court trial and motion dockets
- To be proactive in the management of certain disputes involving the City so as to decrease the litigation caseload by prudent settlement and trial of cases
- Continue to focus on the City's housing demolition ordinance and other code compliance initiatives
- Promote and manage the Community Advocacy Division to emphasize community involvement and support
- Minimize the number of cases/litigation matters outsourced to outside counsel
- Explore and implement more efficient cost effective ways to manage litigation

## CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### MAJOR BUDGET ITEMS

- Add 1.0 regular FTE (Assistant City Attorney) and \$25,417 for full year funding for the newly created Dallas Municipal Magistrate Court
- Add \$49,780 for cash match funding for various grants
- Add \$25,000 for electronic legal research tools
- Save \$110,650 as a result of transitioning Employee Health Benefits to a Catastrophic Coverage Program with a Preventive Care component
- Save \$127,958 by implementing Service Incentive Pay program that is consistent with the State mandated Uniform Service Incentive Pay program
- Save \$3,359 as a result of changes in fleet maintenance operations
- Reduce Capital Improvement Programs reimbursement by \$146,314

## CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### EXPENDITURES (By Category)

	FY 2001-02 Actual	FY 2002-03 Budget	FY 2002-03 Estimate	FY 2003-04 Adopted
Salaries and Benefits	10,579,599	10,138,883	9,733,404	9,739,837
Supplies and Materials	147,995	137,003	206,499	136,867
Other Services and Charges	353,445	364,390	471,329	447,226
Capital Outlays	4,551	19,000	19,000	0
Reimbursements	(604,436)	(652,660)	(553,616)	(400,982)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>10,481,154</u>	<u>10,006,616</u>	<u>9,876,616</u>	<u>9,922,948</u>

### EXPENDITURES (By Program)

Legal Services	10,481,154	10,006,616	9,876,616	9,922,948
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>10,481,154</u>	<u>10,006,616</u>	<u>9,876,616</u>	<u>9,922,948</u>

### FTEs (By Type)

Regular	123.1	121.4	117.4	122.4
Overtime	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary Help	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Day Labor	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>124.1</u>	<u>122.4</u>	<u>118.4</u>	<u>123.4</u>

### FTEs (By Program)

Legal Services	124.1	122.4	118.4	123.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>124.1</u>	<u>122.4</u>	<u>118.4</u>	<u>123.4</u>

### GENERAL FUND

**9,922,948**

### ADDITIONAL OPERATING RESOURCES

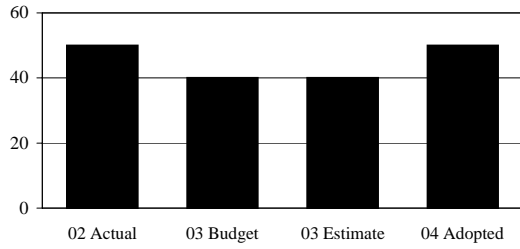
CITY OF DALLAS CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED A.C.T.I.O.N TEAM AWARD	596,100
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT	344,222
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROSECUTION	62,084
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS SERVICES	97,778
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATED HEALTHCARE	39,644
ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM	74,618
GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION	124,965
JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT	110,297
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION	106,966
VICKERY MEADOW COMMUNITY PROSECUTION	6,785
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>1,563,459</u>

### TOTAL OPERATING RESOURCES

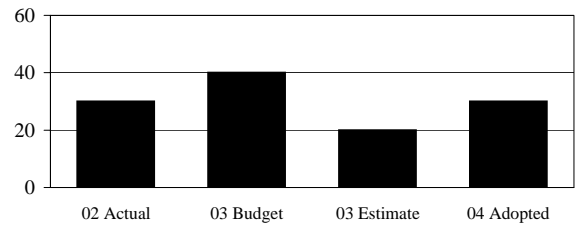
**11,486,407**

# CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**Chapter 54 Code Lawsuits Filed per Calendar Year**



**Public Nuisance Suits per Calendar Year**



**Structures Demolished or Slated to be Demolished per Calendar Year as a result of amendments to Chapter 27 of the Dallas City Code**

