

# **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 prosecuting 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 2004-2005**

- Provide objective, sound legal advice and opinions to the Mayor, City Council, City Manager's Office and other city departments, and 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 referred to outside counsel
- Explore and implement more efficient cost effective ways to manage litigation
- Develop and administer new civil adjudication process for disposition of property code violations

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## **MAJOR BUDGET ITEMS**

- Add 4.0 regular FTEs (2 Assistant City Attorneys, Legal Assistant, Secretary, Clerk) and \$240,339 to implement civil adjudication process for property code violations
- Add 1.6 regular FTEs (2 IT Analysts) and \$50,002 to migrate from an Apple mainframe to Windows applications
- Add 0.8 regular FTEs (Code Inspector) and \$39,418 for code enforcement activities
- Add \$93,448 for increased cost of employee health benefits
- Add \$109,243 for cash match funding for various grants
- Delete 1.4 regular FTEs and \$463,981 to maintain current level of service

## CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### EXPENDITURES (By Category)

	FY 2002-03 Actual	FY 2003-04 Budget	FY 2003-04 Estimate	FY 2004-05 Adopted
Salaries and Benefits	9,587,458	9,775,694	9,623,851	10,413,241
Supplies and Materials	253,936	136,867	226,231	245,670
Other Services and Charges	478,219	447,226	511,807	592,064
Capital Outlays	12,419	0	0	0
Reimbursements	(542,764)	(400,982)	(400,982)	(580,106)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>9,789,268</u>	<u>9,958,805</u>	<u>9,960,907</u>	<u>10,670,869</u>

### EXPENDITURES (By Program)

Legal Services	9,789,268	9,958,805	9,960,907	10,670,869
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>9,789,268</u>	<u>9,958,805</u>	<u>9,960,907</u>	<u>10,670,869</u>

### FTEs (By Type)

Regular	121.4	122.4	122.4	127.4
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>122.4</u>	<u>123.4</u>	<u>123.4</u>	<u>128.4</u>

### FTEs (By Program)

Legal Services	122.4	123.4	123.4	128.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>122.4</u>	<u>123.4</u>	<u>123.4</u>	<u>128.4</u>

### GENERAL FUND

**10,670,869**

### ADDITIONAL OPERATING RESOURCES

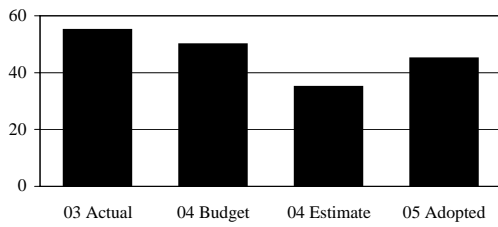
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT	617,891
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMUNITY COURT	341,908
ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM	77,376
ENHANCED ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM	49,812
FAMILY ADVOCACY UNIT	128,049
VICKERY MEADOW COMMUNITY PROSECUTION	96,917
VICTIM COORDINATOR AND LIAISON	21,059
YOUTH FIRST	182,691
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>1,515,703</u>

### TOTAL OPERATING RESOURCES

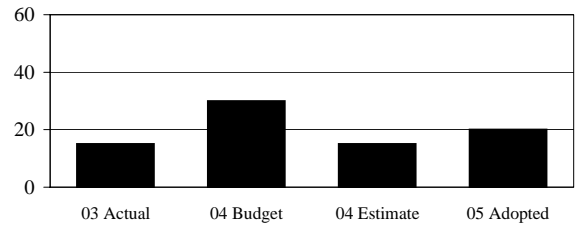
**12,186,572**

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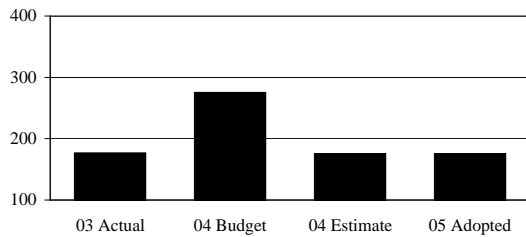
**Chapter 54 Code Lawsuits Filed per Calendar Year**



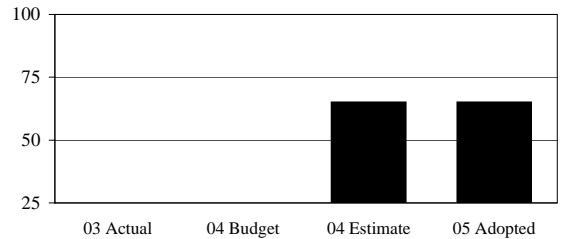
**Public Nuisance Suits per Calendar Year**



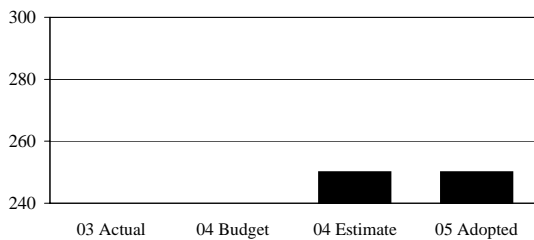
**Structures Demolished or Slated to be Demolished per Calendar Year as a result of amendments to Chapter 27 of the Dallas City Code**



**\*Properties Addressing Violations without Litigation per Calendar Year**



**\*Cases Filed per Calendar Year as a result of amendments to Chapter 27 of the Dallas City Code**



\*Reflects new graphs, data available for 04 estimate and 05 adopted only