



Legal Department 2024 Budget Presentation

Monday, November 13, 2023



BLOOMINGTON.
tomorrow. together. ●

Mission: To enhance public safety and quality of life for Bloomington residents through fair and effective prosecution of crimes and civil administrative offenses occurring in the community, to protect the City's assets by proactively providing timely and effective legal counsel to the City, its elected officials, staff and boards and commissions, and to assist in the vigorous defense of claims brought or threatened against the City, all in a highly cost-effective, collaborative, and focused manner.



BLOOMINGTON.
tomorrow. together. ●

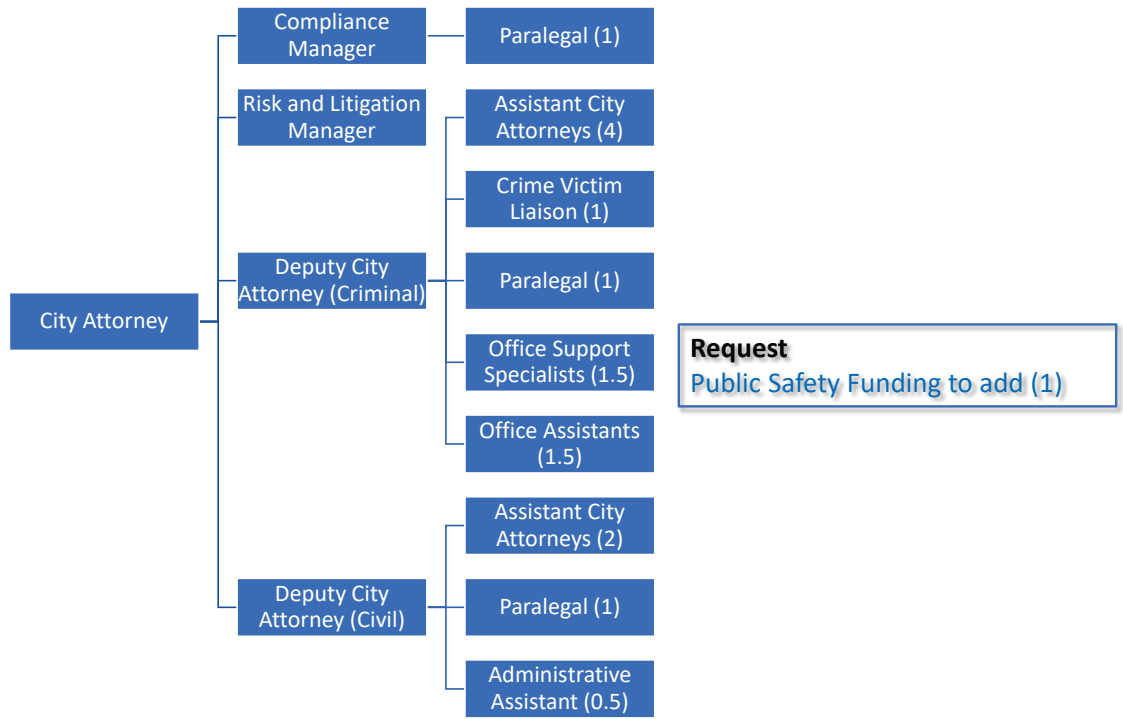
AGENDA

- 2024 vs 2023 Budget Request
- Staffing
- Explanation of 2024 Budget Increases
- New Initiatives
- Challenges
- ESST Update
- Discussion



Legal Department - General Fund 2024 Budget Request

	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	\$ from 2023	% from 2023
Revenues				
Program Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Permits and Licenses	-	-	-	0.00%
Intergovernmental	-	151,258	151,258	0.00%
Other Revenues	8,000	-	(8,000)	-100.00%
Transfers from Other Funds	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Revenues	8,000	151,258	143,258	1790.73%
Expenditures				
Salaries and Benefits	2,348,245	2,520,276	172,031	7.33%
Materials, Supplies, & Services	224,400	351,558	127,158	56.67%
Internal Charges	282,589	293,630	11,041	3.91%
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	0.00%
Transfer to Other Funds	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,855,234	\$ 3,165,464	\$ 310,230	10.87%
Less Expenses Charged to Other Funds	(407,205)	(417,708)	(10,503)	2.58%
Net Total Expenditures	\$ 2,448,029	\$ 2,747,756	\$ 299,727	12.24%
Revenues less Expenditures	\$ (2,440,029)	\$ (2,596,498)	\$ (156,469)	6.41%



Explanation of 2024 “Budget Increases”

- Add 1 FTE for discovery request processing
 - Current staffing: 1.5 FTE
 - Requested staffing: 2.5 FTE
 - Reason: Exponential increase in digital data
 - Source: State public safety funding (2 years)
- Additional restorative court social worker
 - *Hennepin county employee* with City cost share requirement
 - Reason: Doubles existing resources b/c existing social worker at max case load
 - Source: State public safety funding (2 years)

New Initiatives

- Deploy new contract management system
- Deploy expanded administrative hearing officer program
- Respond to legislative changes
- Establish AI guidance
- Integrate improved internal workflows (i.e., grants, housing, subsidies)
- Develop Tribal Law/Relations learning and training opportunities
- Assist in the expansion of a County wide restorative court



Challenges

- Short term funding used for long term staffing needs
 - CVL grant funding unpredictable & significant reporting requirements for \$
 - Ongoing statutory obligations funded with one time money
 - Reliance of one-time public safety funding
 - Eases impact on levy
- Unexpected technology changes from justice partners
 - Short notice for implementation changes
 - Existing integrations now useless, new \$ needs to be found for new integration
 - Decreased efficiencies
- External legal assistance needs
 - Litigation outside of LMCIT coverage
 - Internal investigations
 - Temporary absences assistance
 - Administrative hearing officers



ESST Update – Past Direction

- 2021-2022: Stakeholder Task Force, ESSL ordinance prepared
- June 2022: Council unanimously adopted ESSL ordinance
- Fall 2022: 2 FTEs hired (1 attorney, 1 paralegal)
- January-June 2023:
 - Initial rules, FAQs, QR, website, posters prepared & disseminated
 - Outreach & education commenced
 - Sent introduction letters and emails to businesses
 - Numerous *Bloomington Briefing* stories
 - Trained MOA tenants and external partners
 - Visited 500+ businesses
 - First Amendment to ESSL unanimously adopted by Council
- May 2023: Governor signed statewide ESST



ESST Update - Current

- Summer & Fall 2023: continued outreach & education
 - Responded to 200+ inquiries from ERs and EEs (emails & calls)
 - Complaint intake, investigation, and enforcement tracking system established
 - Multi-language print and video educational resources are in development, have been created, and being disseminated
- September 2023: Council unanimously adopted Second Amendment to ESST to align with new state law & to eliminate administrative burdens (eff. Jan. 2024)
- Fall 2023: compliance sampling
 - 28 follow up visits to businesses (11 possible violations found)
 - Feedback: enforcement ensures a level playing field among businesses
 - Survey



ESST Update – Next Steps

- **Statewide** ESST effective January 1, 2024
 - Education and outreach phase in 2024
 - Financial penalties imposed beginning in 2025
 - Rulemaking to start in FY2025
 - State is hiring 4 FTEs *dedicated* ESST investigators to handle MN complaints
 - State assumed workers in jurisdictions with local ESST would contact local jurisdiction with complaints and for enforcement (9.6 investigators total being hired)
 - State considered Minneapolis’ workflow/staffing using number of employees and investigative time estimates
 - Comparison: Minneapolis has 1.8 FTE dedicated ESST investigators (3.0 FTE investigators total; 60% of cases are ESST)
- **Bloomington** ESST ordinance
 - Initial rules will be updated to address recurring questions
 - Direction requested from City Council

For more information scan the QR below.



BLOOMINGTON.
tomorrow. together. ●

Discussion



BLOOMINGTON.
tomorrow. together. ●