

2026 Proposed Budget: City Attorney

Department Mission: Mission: We seek justice through law, balancing accountability and equity and building prosperity while protecting the interests of the entire Saint Paul community.

Learn More: stpaul.gov/departments/city-attorney

- **Respect:** We maintain an inclusive culture that honors the rights and experiences of all, encourages dialogue, and fosters patience and humanity.
- **Integrity:** We strive for excellence through perpetual improvement, scholarship, intellectual curiosity, and proactive collaborative solutions. We are accountable and faithful to the rule of law and professional ethics
- **Service to Community:** We work to benefit the community by connecting and engaging with each other and all of Saint Paul.
- **Equity:** We endeavor to provide just and balanced treatment for all residents by dismantling barriers to resources and opportunities and fostering a safe and inclusive community.

Department Facts

- **Total General Fund Budget:** \$13,799,360
- **Total Special Fund Budget:** \$6,485,358
- **Total FTEs:** 103.00

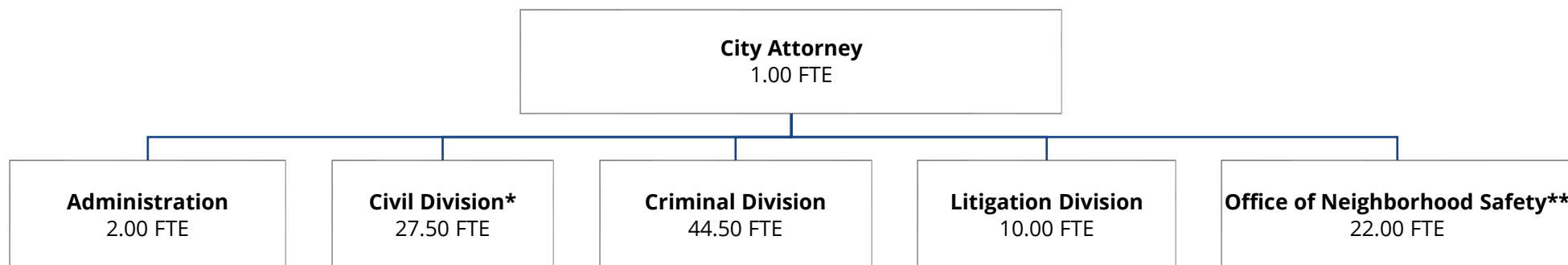
Department Goals

- Innovative Legal Solutions
- Inclusion
- Sustainable Legal Process
- Access to Justice

Recent Accomplishments

- Advised City departments on eligibility and compliance with the allocation of ARPA funds approximating \$164 million dollars.
- Participated in the negotiation and drafting of legal documents for large development projects including Highland Bridge, The Heights, United Village, Hamm's Site Redevelopment and the Central Station Redevelopment.
- Provided legal support and advice for PED's active Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants, which totaled approximately \$8.7 million in entitlement grant funds and \$6.8 million in supplemental emergency grant funds.
- Handled approximately 11,000 misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor cases per year. In 2024, the CAO served 4,205 crime victims.
- Expanded ETHOS and continued to offer alternatives to conviction for low-risk offenders via Diversion, with 202 cases in 2024 (compared to 120 cases in 2023).
- In 2024, the Litigation Division resolved 27 civil lawsuits. Of those lawsuits, 45% were resolved by negotiated settlements; and 55% were resolved by obtaining dismissals without payments or adverse rulings. Litigation payments made in 2024 totaled 39% less than the amount paid in 2023. In 2025, 16 cases have concluded without any adverse rulings or liability payments.

City Attorney Organizational Chart



Total FTE 107.00

*3.50 FTEs are budgeted for the Public Housing Agency

**4.0 FTEs are budgeted in the Public Safety Aid fund.

Department Division Descriptions

The City Attorney's Office is managed by the City Attorney and department support staff. It includes the following divisions:

- **Civil Division:** The Saint Paul City Attorney's Office Civil Division provides legal advice to the city's elected officials, departments, boards, and commissions.
- **Criminal Division:** The Criminal Division of the Saint Paul City Attorney's Office strives to protect the residents of the City from the negative effects of crime. The Criminal Division handles the prosecution of misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor cases, criminal appeals and post-conviction matters, court and jury trials, victim services. The Criminal Division is committed to equitable prosecution interventions, including ETHOS and alternatives to traditional prosecution.
- **Litigation Division:** The Saint Paul City Attorney's Office Civil Litigation Division provides the highest quality legal services in its representation of the City, its employees, and public officials in civil cases at the trial and appellate level in federal and state courts and administrative proceedings. Attorneys defend a myriad of legal issues, including cases that involve property damage, claims of constitutional and civil rights violations, issues arising under the Americans with Disability Act, wrongful death, personal injury, and commercial and construction disputes.
- **Office of Neighborhood Safety:** The Office of Neighborhood Safety leads the advancement of the Community-First Public Safety framework through the coordination of Community-First investments, including violence prevention strategies and alternative response, in close collaboration with partner departments. Project PEACE, Saint Paul's targeted gun violence intervention initiative, engages individuals at highest risk for involvement in violence, providing trauma-informed services focused on conflict mediation, retaliation prevention, healing, and connection to housing, behavioral health care, and employment pathways supporting zero retaliatory homicides among engaged participants and 22% citywide reduction in gun homicides. ONS also includes the Familiar Faces initiative, addressing the needs of individuals who frequently intersect with hospitals, law enforcement, and emergency services—many of whom are unsheltered and experiencing behavioral health crises.

2026 Proposed Budget CITY ATTORNEY

Fiscal Summary

Spending	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year	FY 2025 Adopted Budget FTE	FY 2026 Proposed Budget FTE
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	11,169,756	12,111,201	13,190,470	13,799,360	608,890	75.65	77.15
200: CITY GRANTS	251,128	495,366	2,829,270	885,112	(1,944,158)	3.75	5.00
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	163,070	-	4,628,583	3,026,502	(1,602,081)	14.50	9.00
710: CENTRAL SERVICE FUND	2,039,772	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,573,744	127,143	11.85	11.85
Total	13,623,727	15,044,065	23,094,924	20,284,718	(2,810,206)	105.75	103.00

Financing	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	31,443	79,262	98,252	97,569	(683)
200: CITY GRANTS	284,591	495,366	2,829,269	885,112	(1,944,157)
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	3,770,546	-	4,628,583	3,026,502	(1,602,081)
710: CENTRAL SERVICE FUND	1,799,086	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,573,744	127,143
Total	5,885,666	3,012,127	10,002,704	6,582,927	(3,419,777)

Budget Changes Summary

The 2026 proposed City Attorney's Office (CAO) General Fund budget includes current service level adjustments for salaries and benefits. As part of the initial 2026 budget phase, \$200,000 in attrition adjustments made during the Council phase of the 2025 budget are replaced with \$70,170 in reductions from underfilled positions. Starting in 2026, the State of Minnesota will offer Paid Leave benefits funded by payroll contributions. The budget reflects this premium, totaling \$41,293 for the CAO. The proposed budget removes one-time funding for the ETHOS program, a planned reduction of \$30,000.

The proposed budget establishes a data practices team within the CAO to manage the City's significant volume of data practices requests. This team will be composed of a Supervising Attorney (promoted from a Senior Attorney) and two Data Practices Specialists. The costs of establishing are offset by an increase in attrition, the elimination of a 0.5 FTE vacant Law Clerk, and the elimination of the Chief Innovation Officer (budgeted in the Office of Financial Services). Proposed spending reductions include \$9,752 in travel and training and a reduction of \$154,000 in contracted services for the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS).

Adjustments to the special fund budgets include current service level adjustments for salaries and benefits, the conclusion of several grants, and the addition of one Victim Witness Coordinator funded by the Victims of Crime Act grant.

Due to changes in the American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds guidance around obligating funds, the City made the decision in 2024 to change the funding source for several projects formerly supported with ARP. To ensure that the projects and initiatives included in the Global Agreement between the Mayor and City Council on the use of ARP funds are completed as planned, the City created a new Special Fund for each former ARP project included in this change. These funds will continue to be spent according to the uses that were included in the Global Agreement, and all funds must be spent by 2026 in alignment with the original ARP guidelines. City staff will continue to collect quarterly and annual reporting from each project and provide corresponding reports to Council. The CAO's criminal backlog project includes a decrease in 5.5 FTEs due to the planned sunset of the funds.

City Attorney Spending Reports

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Spending Plan by Department

Department: CITY ATTORNEY
Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Budget Year: 2026

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
EMPLOYEE EXPENSE	9,437,339	10,612,392	11,696,170	12,501,954	805,784
SERVICES	1,566,314	1,149,472	1,153,365	1,110,471	(42,894)
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	166,103	40,935	40,935	40,935	-
PROGRAM EXPENSE	-	300,000	300,000	146,000	(154,000)
OTHER FINANCING USES	-	8,402	-	-	-
Total Spending by Major Account	11,169,756	12,111,201	13,190,470	13,799,360	608,890

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
10012100 - CITY ATTORNEY GENERAL OPS	9,277,746	10,090,873	11,102,169	11,338,450	236,281
10012200 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY	1,892,010	2,020,328	2,088,301	2,016,185	(72,116)
10012300 - DATA PRACTICES TEAM	-	-	-	444,725	444,725
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	11,169,756	12,111,201	13,190,470	13,799,360	608,890

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Spending Plan by Department

Department: CITY ATTORNEY

Fund: 200 - CITY GRANTS

Budget Year: 2026

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
EMPLOYEE EXPENSE	207,029	128,920	1,350,244	508,075	(842,169)
SERVICES	42,817	366,446	1,479,026	377,037	(1,101,989)
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	1,283	-	-	-	-
Total Spending by Major Account	251,128	495,366	2,829,270	885,112	(1,944,158)

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
20012800 - CRIME VICTIM SERVICES INITIATI	134,604	139,769	33,846	139,769	105,923
20012840 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY GRANTS OR O	-	-	2,406,354	389,746	(2,016,608)
20012900 - CITY ATTORNEY GRANTS	116,524	355,597	389,070	355,597	(33,473)
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	251,128	495,366	2,829,270	885,112	(1,944,158)

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Spending Plan by Department

Department: CITY ATTORNEY

Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Budget Year: 2026

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
EMPLOYEE EXPENSE	-	-	2,604,854	1,658,139	(946,715)
SERVICES	163,070	-	1,200,863	745,497	(455,366)
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	-	-	822,866	622,866	(200,000)
Total Spending by Major Account	163,070	-	4,628,583	3,026,502	(1,602,081)

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
21112200 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY	163,070	-	3,396,386	2,685,239	(711,147)
21112700 - ONS OPIOID SETTLEMENT	-	-	-	91,263	91,263
21112820 - CRIMINAL DIVISION BACKLOG	-	-	1,232,197	250,000	(982,197)
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	163,070	-	4,628,583	3,026,502	(1,602,081)

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Spending Plan by Department

Department: CITY ATTORNEY

Fund: 710 - CENTRAL SERVICE FUND

Budget Year: 2026

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
EMPLOYEE EXPENSE	1,913,866	2,262,782	2,249,020	2,373,753	124,733
SERVICES	108,251	116,372	121,709	124,802	3,093
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	17,656	22,479	22,479	22,479	-
OTHER FINANCING USES	-	35,866	53,393	52,710	(683)
Total Spending by Major Account	2,039,772	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,573,744	127,143

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
71012200 - CITY ATTY OUTSIDE SERVICES	2,039,772	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,573,744	127,143
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	2,039,772	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,573,744	127,143

City Attorney Financing Reports

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: CITY ATTORNEY
Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Budget Year: 2026

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
Financing by Major Account					
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	23,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	-
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	8,416	14,859	14,859	14,859	-
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	27	-	-	-	-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	-	34,403	53,393	52,710	(683)
Total Financing by Major Account	31,443	79,262	98,252	97,569	(683)

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
Financing by Accounting Unit					
10012100 - CITY ATTORNEY GENERAL OPS	31,443	79,262	98,252	97,569	(683)
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	31,443	79,262	98,252	97,569	(683)

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: CITY ATTORNEY

Fund: 200 - CITY GRANTS

Budget Year: 2026

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
Financing by Major Account					
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	284,591	438,466	2,439,200	828,212	(1,610,988)
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	-	56,900	390,069	56,900	(333,169)
Total Financing by Major Account	284,591	495,366	2,829,269	885,112	(1,944,157)

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
Financing by Accounting Unit					
20012800 - CRIME VICTIM SERVICES INITIATI	173,109	139,769	33,845	139,769	105,924
20012840 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY GRANTS OR O	-	-	2,406,354	389,746	(2,016,608)
20012900 - CITY ATTORNEY GRANTS	111,482	355,597	389,070	355,597	(33,473)
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	284,591	495,366	2,829,269	885,112	(1,944,157)

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: CITY ATTORNEY

Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Budget Year: 2026

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
Financing by Major Account					
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	50,000	-	-	-	-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	3,720,546	-	4,628,583	3,026,502	(1,602,081)
Total Financing by Major Account	3,770,546	-	4,628,583	3,026,502	(1,602,081)

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
Financing by Accounting Unit					
21112200 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY	3,770,546	-	3,396,386	2,685,239	(711,147)
21112700 - ONS OPIOID SETTLEMENT	-	-	-	91,263	91,263
21112820 - CRIMINAL DIVISION BACKLOG	-	-	1,232,197	250,000	(982,197)
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	3,770,546	-	4,628,583	3,026,502	(1,602,081)

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: CITY ATTORNEY
Fund: 710 - CENTRAL SERVICE FUND

Budget Year: 2026

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
Financing by Major Account					
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	1,798,964	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,573,744	127,143
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	122	-	-	-	-
Total Financing by Major Account	1,799,086	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,573,744	127,143

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
Financing by Accounting Unit					
71012200 - CITY ATTY OUTSIDE SERVICES	1,799,086	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,573,744	127,143
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	1,799,086	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,573,744	127,143