



2026 Adopted Budget: City Attorney's Office

Department 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/CAO

- **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:** \$13,582,282
- **Total Special Fund Budget:** \$6,690,469
- **Total FTEs:** 107.00 (including 4.00 in Public Safety Aid Budget)

Department Goals

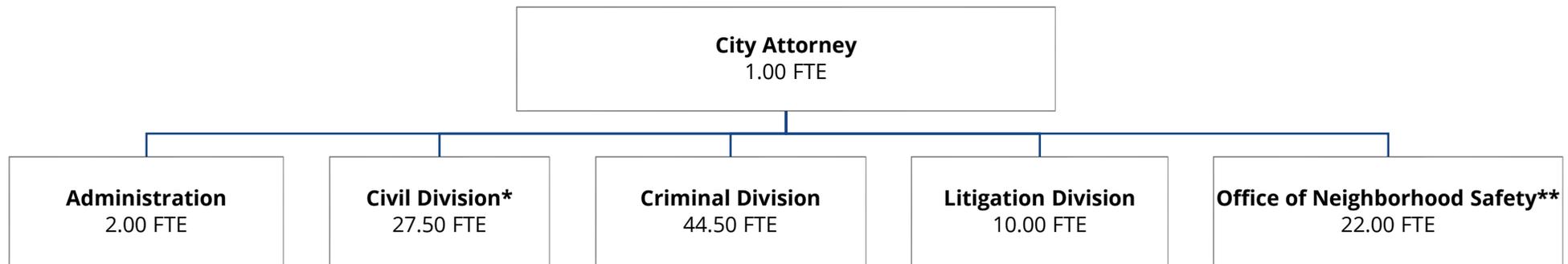
- Innovative Legal Solutions
- Inclusion
- Sustainable Legal Process
- Access to Justice

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

*4.50 FTEs are budgeted for the Public Housing Agency

**4.0 FTE included in this total are budgeted in General Government Accounts funded by the State of Minnesota Public Safety Aid.

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 (ONS) 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.

Fiscal Summary: City Attorney

2026 Adopted Budget

Spending	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year	2025 Adopted FTE	2026 Adopted FTE
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	11,169,756	12,111,201	13,190,470	13,582,282	391,812	75.65	75.15
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	2,865,027	(1,763,556)	14.50	9.00
710: CENTRAL SERVICE FUND	2,039,772	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,940,330	493,729	11.85	13.85
Total	13,623,727	15,044,065	23,094,924	20,272,751	(2,822,173)	105.75	103.00

Financing	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	31,443	79,262	98,252	135,886	37,634
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	2,865,027	(1,763,556)
710: CENTRAL SERVICE FUND	1,799,086	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,940,330	493,729
Total	5,885,666	3,012,127	10,002,704	6,826,355	(3,176,349)

Budget Changes Summary

The 2026 City Attorney's Office (CAO) budget features the addition of three positions, including a Victim Witness Coordinator, an Associate Attorney, and a Community Prosecutor. It also adds \$300,000 of one-time funding for the Immigrant and Refugee Program.

Changes to the CAO General Fund budget include the elimination of 0.5 FTE Law Clerk position and reductions to the travel and training budget and Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) subcontractor budget. There are also increases to current service level expenses to account for inflationary salary and benefit costs and other planned changes.

Adjustments to the special fund budgets include current service level increases to account for inflationary salary and benefit costs, the conclusion of several grants, and the addition of one Victim Witness Coordinator funded by the Victims of Crime Act grant. The Immigrant and Refugee Program received one-time funding for the Immigration Defense Fund (\$175,000) and naturalization support (\$125,000). The budget also removes a \$300,000 software contract. Lastly, an Associate Attorney for the Public Housing Agency and a Community Prosecutor for the Downtown Alliances were added.

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.

100: General Fund

City Attorney

Current Service Level Adjustments

Current service level adjustments include inflationary increases due to salary and benefit costs, adjustments to department contributions to citywide services such as property insurance and telephone monthly charges, an increase to a transfer from the Central Service Fund for the Public Housing Agency (PHA) contract, and other expense adjustments. Starting in 2026, the State of Minnesota will begin offering Paid Leave benefit funded by payroll contributions. The budget reflects this premium. As part of the initial 2026 budget phase, attrition adjustments made in the 2025 Adopted Budget have been partially offset with reductions from underfilled positions.

	Change from 2025 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
State of Minnesota Paid Leave	41,293	-	-
Attrition adjustment	200,000	-	-
Savings from underfilled positions	(70,170)	-	-
Removal of one-time funding for ETHOS	(30,000)	-	-
Increase transfer from Central Service Fund for amended PHA contract	-	37,634	-
Other current service level adjustments	465,735	-	-
Subtotal:	606,858	37,634	-

Mayor's Proposed Changes

Data Practices Team

The proposed budget established a data practices team within the CAO to manage the City's significant volume of data practices requests. This team was intended to 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 removal of a 0.5 FTE vacant Law Clerk, and the repurposing of the Chief Innovation Officer position (budgeted in the Office of Financial Services). The Data Practices Specialists were later removed in the adopted budget.

	Change from 2025 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
Promotion of Senior Attorney to Supervising Attorney	5,179	-	-
Data Practices Specialists	217,078	-	2.00
Eliminate Law Clerk	(35,675)	-	(0.50)
Attrition adjustment	(20,798)	-	-
Subtotal:	165,784	-	1.50

Budget Reductions

As part of an annual review of department spending, the 2026 budget includes reductions to the travel and training budget. The Office of Neighborhood Safety budget includes a reduction to the subcontractor budget.

Travel and training budget	(9,752)	-	-
Subcontractor budget	(154,000)	-	-
Subtotal:	(163,752)	-	-

Adopted Changes

	Change from 2025 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
Data Practices Team			
The two Data Practices Specialists added in the proposed budget were removed in the adopted budget.			
Remove Data Practices Specialists	(217,078)	-	(2.00)
Subtotal:	(217,078)	-	(2.00)
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Fund 100 Budget Changes Total	391,812	37,634	(0.50)

200: City Grants

City Attorney

The City Attorney's Office receives a grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Program (OJP) to provide support for direct services to crime victims. They also receive a grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) to support the implementation of the city's restorative justice program. The department also receives a grant from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) to enhance prosecution response for "gone on arrival" (GOA) domestic violence cases. The Office of Neighborhood Safety receives grants from the US Department of Justice in partnership with Ramsey County.

Current Service Level Adjustments

	Change from 2025 Adopted		FTE
	Spending	Financing	
Removal of one-time grant carryforward	(33,473)	(33,473)	-
Adjustments to ONS grants	(2,017,935)	(2,016,608)	0.25
State of Minnesota Paid Leave	1,327	-	-
Current service level adjustments	20,000	20,000	-
Subtotal:	(2,030,081)	(2,030,081)	0.25

Current service level adjustments include inflationary increases due to salary and benefit costs, adjustments to department contributions to citywide services such as property insurance and telephone monthly charges, and other revenue and expense adjustments. Starting in 2026, the State of Minnesota will begin offering Paid Leave benefit funded by payroll contributions. The budget reflects this premium.

Mayor's Proposed Changes

	Change from 2025 Adopted		FTE
	Spending	Financing	
Victim Witness Coordinator	85,923	85,924	1.00
Subtotal:	85,923	85,924	1.00

Victim Witness Support Staffing

The 2026 budget will add an additional FTE to victim witness support staffing funded by the Victims of Crime Act grant.

Fund 200 Budget Changes Total	(1,944,158)	(1,944,157)	1.25
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211: General Government Special Projects

City Attorney

This fund includes the City Attorney's Office Criminal Backlog Project and the Office of Neighborhood Safety Special Funds.

Current Service Level Adjustments

	Change from 2025 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
Criminal Division Backlog Project			
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 Mayor and 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 City Attorney's Office Special Fund budget includes 1.0 FTEs in 2026 for the criminal division backlog project, reflecting a reduction of 5.50 FTEs due to the planned sunset of the funds.			
Planned reduction of Attorney positions	(982,197)	(982,197)	(5.50)
Carryforward adjustment	74,887	74,887	-
Subtotal:	(907,310)	(907,310)	(5.50)

Office of Neighborhood Safety Special Fund

The Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) has several projects that follow the same funding adjustment as the Criminal Division Backlog project and other formerly ARP-supported projects. A new special fund was established in the 2025 budget to maintain alignment with the Global Agreement and ensure completion under the original ARP spending guidelines. The ONS special fund budget includes 8.0 FTEs in 2026 and programming and operational costs related to the Community Council grants, Project PEACE, and technology systems. The budget also includes the removal of one-time funding for downtown cameras allocated in 2025 and includes an update to reflect spenddown in 2025.

Office of Neighborhood Safety Special Fund updates	(656,246)	(656,246)	-
Removal of one-time funding for downtown cameras	(200,000)	(200,000)	-
Subtotal:	(856,246)	(856,246)	-

Adopted Changes

	Change from 2025 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
Immigrant and Refugee Program			
The 2026 budget repurposes \$300,000 of unspent funding from ONS to bolster the Immigrant and Refugee Program.			
One-time funding for Immigration Defense Fund	175,000	175,000	-
One-time funding for naturalization support	125,000	125,000	-
Repurpose unspent ONS funds	(300,000)	(300,000)	-
Subtotal:	-	-	-

Fund 211 Budget Changes Total

(1,763,556) (1,763,556) (5.50)

710: Central Service Fund

City Attorney

Attorneys and support staff who support outside agencies and certain special fund departments are budgeted here. Agencies and departments are charged for the cost of services received.

Current Service Level Adjustments

Current service level adjustments include inflationary increases due to salary and benefit costs, adjustments to department contributions to citywide services such as property insurance and telephone monthly charges, and other revenue and expense adjustments.

	Change from 2025 Adopted		FTE
	Spending	Financing	
Current service level adjustments	127,143	127,143	-
Subtotal:	127,143	127,143	-

Adopted Changes

Associate Attorney for Public Housing Agency

The 2026 budget adds an additional Associate Attorney based on an amended contract with the Public Housing Agency (PHA) of the City of Saint Paul.

	Change from 2025 Adopted		FTE
	Spending	Financing	
Add Associate Attorney	191,586	191,586	1.00
Subtotal:	191,586	191,586	1.00

Community Prosecutor Funded by Downtown Alliance

The 2026 budget adds a Community Prosecutor funded by the Downtown Alliance.

Add Community Prosecutor	175,000	175,000	1.00
Subtotal:	175,000	175,000	1.00

Fund 710 Budget Changes Total

493,729	493,729	2.00
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City Attorney Spending Reports

Spending Plan by Department: City Attorney

Budget Year: 2026

Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Spending by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	9,437,339	10,612,392	11,696,170	12,284,876	588,706
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	13,582,282	391,812

Spending by Accounting Unit	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	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	-	-	-	227,647	227,647
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	11,169,756	12,111,201	13,190,470	13,582,282	391,812

Fund: 200 - CITY GRANTS

Spending by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	207,029	128,920	1,350,244	518,666	(831,578)
Services	42,817	366,446	1,479,026	366,446	(1,112,580)
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	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	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)

Spending Plan by Department: City Attorney

Budget Year: 2026

Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Spending by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	-	-	2,604,854	1,733,026	(871,828)
Services	163,070	-	1,200,863	809,135	(391,728)
Materials And Supplies	-	-	822,866	322,866	(500,000)
Total Spending by Major Account	163,070	-	4,628,583	2,865,027	(1,763,556)

Spending by Accounting Unit	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
21112200 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY	163,070	-	3,396,386	2,148,877	(1,247,509)
21112700 - ONS OPIOID SETTLEMENT	-	-	-	91,263	91,263
21112820 - CRIMINAL DIVISION BACKLOG	-	-	1,232,197	324,887	(907,310)
21112900 - IMMIGRATION SUPPORT	-	-	-	300,000	300,000
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	163,070	-	4,628,583	2,865,027	(1,763,556)

Fund: 710 - CENTRAL SERVICE FUND

Spending by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	1,913,866	2,262,782	2,249,020	2,695,668	446,648
Services	108,251	116,372	121,709	131,156	9,447
Materials And Supplies	17,656	22,479	22,479	22,479	-
Other Financing Uses	-	35,866	53,393	91,027	37,634
Total Spending by Major Account	2,039,772	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,940,330	493,729

Spending by Accounting Unit	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
71012200 - CITY ATTY OUTSIDE SERVICES	2,039,772	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,940,330	493,729
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	2,039,772	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,940,330	493,729

City Attorney Financing Reports

Financing Plan by Department: City Attorney

Budget Year: 2026

Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Financing by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
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	91,027	37,634
Total Financing by Major Account	31,443	79,262	98,252	135,886	37,634

Financing by Accounting Unit	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
10012100 - CITY ATTORNEY GENERAL OPS	31,443	79,262	98,252	135,886	37,634
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	31,443	79,262	98,252	135,886	37,634

Fund: 200 - CITY GRANTS

Financing by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
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)

Financing by Accounting Unit	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
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)

Financing Plan by Department: City Attorney

Budget Year: 2026

Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Financing by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
Miscellaneous Revenue	50,000	-	-	-	-
Other Financing Sources	3,720,546	-	4,628,583	2,865,027	(1,763,556)
Total Financing by Major Account	3,770,546	-	4,628,583	2,865,027	(1,763,556)

Financing by Accounting Unit	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
21112200 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY	3,770,546	-	3,396,386	2,148,877	(1,247,509)
21112700 - ONS OPIOID SETTLEMENT	-	-	-	91,263	91,263
21112820 - CRIMINAL DIVISION BACKLOG	-	-	1,232,197	324,887	(907,310)
21112900 - IMMIGRATION SUPPORT	-	-	-	300,000	300,000
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	3,770,546	-	4,628,583	2,865,027	(1,763,556)

Fund: 710 - CENTRAL SERVICE FUND

Financing by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
Charges For Services	1,798,964	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,765,330	318,729
Miscellaneous Revenue	122	-	-	175,000	175,000
Total Financing by Major Account	1,799,086	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,940,330	493,729

Financing by Accounting Unit	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
71012200 - CITY ATTY OUTSIDE SERVICES	1,799,086	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,940,330	493,729
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	1,799,086	2,437,499	2,446,601	2,940,330	493,729