2027 Proposed Budget: City Attorney's Office

SAINT PAUL
CITY ATTORNEY

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

- **R**espect: We maintain an inclusive culture that honors the rights and experiences of all, encourages dialogue, and fosters patience and humanity.
- **I**ntegrity: 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
- **S**ervice to Community: We work to benefit the community by connecting and engaging with each other and all of Saint Paul.
- **E**quity: 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:** $14,682,881
- **Total Special Fund Budget:** $4,874,543
- **Total FTEs:** 110.00 (including 9.00 in Public Safety Aid Budget)

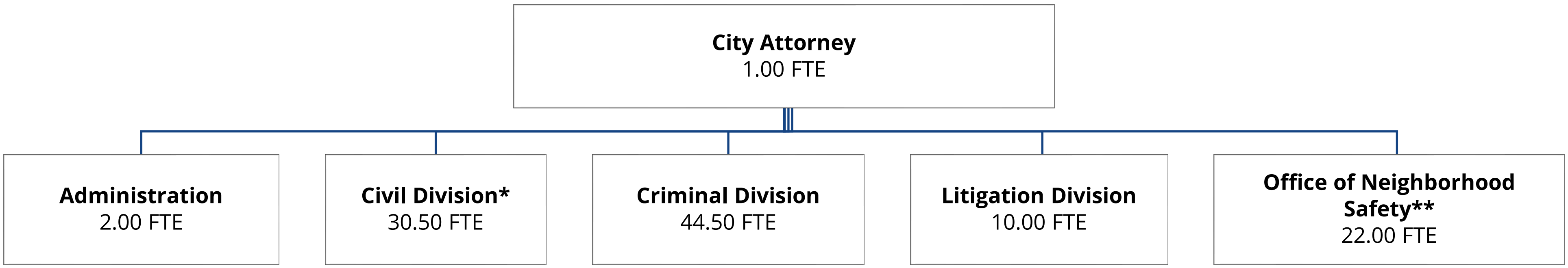
Department Goals

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

Recent Accomplishments

- Support for large development projects: Highland Bridge, Hamms, The Heights, United Village, and Central Station Redevelopment.
- CAO Contracting Team reviews all procurement contracts - 1,402 contracts reviewed last year (increase of 56%).
- Federal Grants Team used legal tools to ensure the City and City values are protected while ensuring grant funds remain available.
- Handled ~12,000 misdemeanor cases last year, serving 4,267 victims.
- Expanded ETHOS and continued to offer alternatives to conviction for low-risk offenders via diversion and restorative practices, with 296 cases in 2025 (compared to 120 cases in 2023, 202 cases in 2024).
- Continued partnership with SPPD for expedited review of Gone on Arrival (GOA) domestic violence related crimes. Developed more programming around swift victim services in these cases.
- In 2025, Litigation Division resolved 20 civil cases. Of those, 17 were resolved without payment by obtaining dismissals.
- Sued federal government arising out of Operation Metro Surge.
- Project: PEACE Life Coaches served 28 clients through 894 service interactions, to help clients improve their lives and escape potentially dangerous situations. As of August 2026, staff completed 690 service interactions with 26 unique clients, ahead of last year's pace.
- ONS launched new Project: PEACE Outreach efforts. Staff have had 2,056 interactions with youth and 295 interactions with adults, expanding program's visibility and engagement in the community.
- In 2025, Familiar Faces conducted 1,513 street outreach interactions with 347 individuals, resulting in 695 instances of service provision and helping 31 individuals to obtain housing. In 2026, Familiar Faces shifted toward more intensive case management. At publishing, staff completed 1,390 interactions and have had 1,279 service provisions, while helping 21 individuals obtain housing, which is projected to house approximately 31% more individuals in 2026 than in 2025.

City Attorney Organizational Chart



Total FTE 110.00

*4.50 FTEs are budgeted for the Public Housing Agency

**9.0 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, and 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 intervention and prevention 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 retaliation prevention, healing, and connection to housing, behavioral health care, and employment pathways. ONS also includes the Familiar Faces initiative, addressing the needs of unsheltered homeless individuals who frequently intersect with hospitals, law enforcement, and emergency services—many of whom are experiencing behavioral health crises.

Fiscal Summary: City Attorney

2027 Proposed Budget

Spending	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year	2026 Adopted FTE	2027 Proposed FTE
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	11,785,162	13,190,470	13,582,282	14,682,881	1,100,599	75.15	77.65
200: CITY GRANTS	940,863	2,829,270	885,112	1,008,745	123,633	5.00	5.50
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	1,207,070	4,628,583	2,865,027	759,631	(2,105,396)	9.00	4.00
710: CENTRAL SERVICE FUND	2,157,915	2,446,601	2,940,330	3,106,167	165,837	13.85	13.85
Total	**16,091,011**	**23,094,924**	**20,272,751**	**19,557,424**	**(715,327)**	**103.00**	**101.00**

Financing	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	54,216	98,252	135,886	92,470	(43,416)
200: CITY GRANTS	168,576	2,829,269	885,112	1,008,745	123,633
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	1,543,207	4,628,583	2,865,027	759,631	(2,105,396)
710: CENTRAL SERVICE FUND	2,342,661	2,446,601	2,940,330	3,106,167	165,837
Total	**4,108,660**	**10,002,704**	**6,826,355**	**4,967,013**	**(1,859,342)**

Budget Changes Summary

The 2027 City Attorney's Office (CAO) budget features an expansion of the data practices team, the addition of an Attorney position, investments in legal software, and continued funding for Immigrant and Refugee and Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) programs. The budget includes current service level adjustments and a decrease in revenue from the Central Service Fund.

Changes to the 2027 General Fund budget include the elimination of a vacant Paralegal I, the repurposing of a Senior Attorney position to an Associate Attorney, and reductions to court costs and general professional services budgets. The Data Practices team expansion includes two new Data Practices Specialists to help manage the City's significant volume of data practice requests. The budget also includes spending on legal software to cover the cost of virtual private network (VPN) licenses to allow staff remote access to secure data, an eDiscovery software, and a cloud-based digital evidence management and case collaboration platform. An additional Attorney position is added to support the increased legal needs of City departments and programs.

Special fund budget changes in the CAO include updates to the Crime Victim Services grant, reflecting an additional Victim Witness Coordinator position. The budget also includes a carryforward of $300,000 for the Immigrant and Refugee program and a Victim Witness Assistant position in the Criminal Backlog Project. Remaining special fund budget changes reflect current service level adjustments.

The Office of Neighborhood Safety's 2027 General Fund budget includes the shift of a 0.5 FTE Program Administrator for the Familiar Faces program. The 2027 special fund budget for ONS includes 3.0 FTE for outreach staffing. Also included are updates to ONS grants expected to expire midyear.

Public Safety Aid: the Office of Neighborhood Safety budget is supplemented in the 2027 budget by investments made from Public Safety Aid. The budget on this page does not reflect these investments. Please see the General Government Accounts section for additional information.

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, a decrease to a transfer from the Central Service Fund, and other expense adjustments.

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
Decrease transfer from Central Service Fund	-	(43,416)	-
Other current service level adjustments	737,188	-	-
Subtotal:	737,188	(43,416)	-

Mayor's Proposed Changes

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE

Data Practices Team

The proposed budget expands the data practices team established in 2026 within the CAO to manage the City's significant volume of data practices requests. The expansion of the team includes two Data Practices Specialists.

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Data Practices Specialists	226,406	-	2.00
Subtotal:	226,406	-	2.00

Legal Technology Investment

The proposed budget includes three investments in legal technology: virtual private network (VPN) licenses to allow staff remote access secure data, eDiscovery software, and a cloud-based digital evidence management and case collaboration platform.

	Spending	Financing	FTE
VPN licenses	7,100	-	-
eDiscovery Software	78,000	-	-
Cloud-based digital evidence management and case collaboration platform	78,000	-	-
Subtotal:	163,100	-	-

Civil Division Staffing

The proposed budget includes the addition of an Attorney in the Civil Division of the CAO, to support the increased legal needs of City departments and programs.

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Attorney	166,548	-	1.00
Subtotal:	166,548	-	1.00

Office of Neighborhood Safety

The proposed budget provides a full year of funding for the Familiar Faces Program Administrator position. The position will be funded by a grant during the first half of 2027, with the General Fund supporting the remainder of the year.

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Program Administrator	101,406	-	0.50
Subtotal:	101,406	-	0.50

Department Budget Reductions

As part of an annual review of department spending, the 2027 budget includes a reduction to the court costs budget, the elimination of a vacant Paralegal I, and the underfill of a Senior Attorney position with an Associate Attorney. The Office of Neighborhood Safety budget reflects a reduction to the general professional services budget.

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Court costs	(44,148)	-	-
Paralegal I	(93,026)	-	(1.00)
Underfill Senior Attorney with Associate Attorney	(75,875)		
General professional services	(81,000)	-	-
Subtotal:	(294,049)	-	(1.00)

Fund 100 Budget Changes Total	**1,100,599**	**(43,416)**	**2.50**

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 a grant from the US Department of Justice in partnership with Ramsey County.

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. Also reflected is midyear expiration of a grant supporting the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS).

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	**Financing**	**FTE**
Adjustments to ONS grant	(54,453)	(54,453)	(0.50)
Other current service level adjustments	59,639	59,639	-
Subtotal:	5,186	5,186	(0.50)

Mayor's Proposed Changes

Victim Witness Support Staffing

The 2027 proposed budget adds additional victim witness support staff funded by the Victims of Crime Act grant.

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	**Financing**	**FTE**
Victim Witness Coordinator	118,447	118,447	1.00
Subtotal:	118,447	118,447	1.00

Fund 200 Budget Changes Total	**123,633**	**123,633**	**0.50**

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

Current Service Level Adjustments

Current service level adjustments include the planned removal of the Criminal Backlog Project, Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) Special Fund projects, and the Immigrant and Refugee Program budgets.

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 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 the end of 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 remaining funds for the Criminal Backlog Project, Office of Neighborhood Safety projects, and Immigrant and Refugee program were removed from the 2027 base budget per the Global Agreement.

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
Planned removal of one-time spending and revenue for the Criminal Backlog Project	(324,887)	(324,887)	(1.00)
Planned removal of one-time spending and revenue for ONS projects	(2,240,140)	(2,240,140)	(8.00)
Planned removal of one-time spending and revenue for the Immigrant and Refugee Program	(300,000)	(300,000)	-
Subtotal:	(2,865,027)	(2,865,027)	(9.00)

Mayor's Proposed Changes

Criminal Backlog Project

The 2027 Mayor's Proposed Budget authorizes the use of remaining unspent funds for the Criminal Backlog Project beyond the planned 2026 sunset.

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
Victim Witness Assistant	93,026	93,026	1.00
Subtotal:	93,026	93,026	1.00

Office of Neighborhood Safety Outreach Staffing

The 2027 Mayor's Proposed Budget authorizes the use of remaining unspent funds for ONS outreach staffing beyond the planned 2026 sunset. One Outreach Supervisor will be funded for all of 2027 and four Familiar Faces staff will be funded for the second half of 2027, when grant funding expires.

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Outreach Supervisor	122,138	122,138	1.00
2 Life Coach Case Workers for half year	134,802	134,802	1.00
2 Outreach Specialists for half year	109,665	109,665	1.00
Subtotal:	366,605	366,605	3.00

Immigrant and Refugee Program

The 2027 Mayor's Proposed Budget authorizes the use of remaining unspent funds for the Immigrant and Refugee Program beyond the planned 2026 sunset.

	Spending	Financing	FTE
One-time funding for Immigration Defense Fund	175,000	175,000	-
One-time funding for naturalization support	125,000	125,000	-
Subtotal:	300,000	300,000	-

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Fund 211 Budget Changes Total	**(2,105,396)**	**(2,105,396)**	**(5.00)**

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

	Change from 2026 Adopted Spending	Financing	FTE
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.			
Current service level adjustments	165,837	165,837	-
Subtotal:	165,837	165,837	-

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Fund 710 Budget Changes Total	**165,837**	**165,837**	**-**

City Attorney Spending Reports

Spending Plan by Department: City Attorney

Budget Year: 2027

Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Spending by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	10,826,002	11,696,170	12,284,876	13,347,846	1,062,970
Services	825,826	1,153,365	1,110,471	834,831	(275,640)
Materials And Supplies	133,335	40,935	40,935	340,204	299,269
Program Expense	-	300,000	146,000	160,000	14,000
Total Spending by Major Account	**11,785,162**	**13,190,470**	**13,582,282**	**14,682,881**	**1,100,599**

Spending by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
10012100 - CITY ATTORNEY GENERAL OPS	10,364,387	11,102,169	11,338,450	12,068,178	729,728
10012200 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY	1,420,775	2,088,301	2,016,185	2,137,921	121,736
10012300 - DATA PRACTICES TEAM	-	-	227,647	476,782	249,135
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**11,785,162**	**13,190,470**	**13,582,282**	**14,682,881**	**1,100,599**

Fund: 200 - CITY GRANTS

Spending by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	324,246	1,350,244	518,666	638,648	119,982
Services	614,428	1,479,026	366,446	368,597	2,151
Materials And Supplies	2,189	-	-	1,500	1,500
Total Spending by Major Account	**940,863**	**2,829,270**	**885,112**	**1,008,745**	**123,633**

Spending by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
20012800 - CRIME VICTIM SERVICES INITIATI	146,772	33,846	139,769	317,855	178,086
20012840 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY GRANTS OR O	721,156	2,406,354	389,746	335,293	(54,453)
20012900 - CITY ATTORNEY GRANTS	72,935	389,070	355,597	355,597	-
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**940,863**	**2,829,270**	**885,112**	**1,008,745**	**123,633**

Spending Plan by Department: City Attorney

Budget Year: 2027

Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Spending by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	734,609	2,604,854	1,733,026	459,631	(1,273,395)
Services	467,052	1,200,863	809,135	300,000	(509,135)
Materials And Supplies	5,409	822,866	322,866	-	(322,866)
Total Spending by Major Account	**1,207,070**	**4,628,583**	**2,865,027**	**759,631**	**(2,105,396)**

Spending by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
21112200 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY	692,906	3,396,386	2,148,877	366,605	(1,782,272)
21112700 - ONS OPIOID SETTLEMENT	-	-	91,263	-	(91,263)
21112820 - CRIMINAL DIVISION BACKLOG	514,164	1,232,197	324,887	93,026	(231,861)
21112900 - IMMIGRATION SUPPORT	-	-	300,000	300,000	-
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**1,207,070**	**4,628,583**	**2,865,027**	**759,631**	**(2,105,396)**

Fund: 710 - CENTRAL SERVICE FUND

Spending by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	2,001,459	2,249,020	2,695,668	2,890,847	195,179
Services	103,914	121,709	131,156	145,230	14,074
Materials And Supplies	18,140	22,479	22,479	22,479	-
Other Financing Uses	34,403	53,393	91,027	47,611	(43,416)
Total Spending by Major Account	**2,157,915**	**2,446,601**	**2,940,330**	**3,106,167**	**165,837**

Spending by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
71012200 - CITY ATTY OUTSIDE SERVICES	2,157,915	2,446,601	2,940,330	3,106,167	165,837
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**2,157,915**	**2,446,601**	**2,940,330**	**3,106,167**	**165,837**

City Attorney Financing Reports

Financing Plan by Department: City Attorney

Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Budget Year: 2027

Financing by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Intergovernmental Revenue	14,375	30,000	30,000	30,000	-
Charges For Services	5,438	14,859	14,859	14,859	-
Other Financing Sources	34,403	53,393	91,027	47,611	(43,416)
Total Financing by Major Account	**54,216**	**98,252**	**135,886**	**92,470**	**(43,416)**

Financing by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
10012100 - CITY ATTORNEY GENERAL OPS	54,216	98,252	135,886	92,470	(43,416)
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**54,216**	**98,252**	**135,886**	**92,470**	**(43,416)**

Fund: 200 - CITY GRANTS

Financing by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Intergovernmental Revenue	168,576	2,439,200	828,212	951,845	123,633
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	390,069	56,900	56,900	-
Total Financing by Major Account	**168,576**	**2,829,269**	**885,112**	**1,008,745**	**123,633**

Financing by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
20012800 - CRIME VICTIM SERVICES INITIATI	103,194	33,845	139,769	317,855	178,086
20012840 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY GRANTS OR O	-	2,406,354	389,746	335,293	(54,453)
20012900 - CITY ATTORNEY GRANTS	65,382	389,070	355,597	355,597	-
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**168,576**	**2,829,269**	**885,112**	**1,008,745**	**123,633**

Financing Plan by Department: City Attorney

Budget Year: 2027

Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Financing by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Other Financing Sources	1,543,207	4,628,583	2,865,027	759,631	(2,105,396)
Total Financing by Major Account	**1,543,207**	**4,628,583**	**2,865,027**	**759,631**	**(2,105,396)**

Financing by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
21112200 - OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY	-	3,396,386	2,148,877	366,605	(1,782,272)
21112700 - ONS OPIOID SETTLEMENT	-	-	91,263	-	(91,263)
21112820 - CRIMINAL DIVISION BACKLOG	1,543,207	1,232,197	324,887	93,026	(231,861)
21112900 - IMMIGRATION SUPPORT	-	-	300,000	300,000	-
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**1,543,207**	**4,628,583**	**2,865,027**	**759,631**	**(2,105,396)**

Fund: 710 - CENTRAL SERVICE FUND

Financing by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Charges For Services	2,313,339	2,446,601	2,765,330	2,896,167	130,837
Miscellaneous Revenue	29,322	-	175,000	210,000	35,000
Total Financing by Major Account	**2,342,661**	**2,446,601**	**2,940,330**	**3,106,167**	**165,837**

Financing by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
71012200 - CITY ATTY OUTSIDE SERVICES	2,342,661	2,446,601	2,940,330	3,106,167	165,837
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**2,342,661**	**2,446,601**	**2,940,330**	**3,106,167**	**165,837**