

# Office of the City Auditor

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## Department Overview

The Office of City Auditor was established by City Charter and serves as Seattle's independent performance audit function. The City Auditor is appointed by the City Council to a four-year term of office.

The Office of City Auditor seeks to promote honest, efficient management and full accountability throughout City government. It serves the public interest by providing the City Council, the Mayor and City employees with accurate information, unbiased analyses and objective recommendations on how best to use public resources.

The Office of City Auditor conducts audits of City departments, programs, grantees and contracts, as well as some non-audit projects. Most of the office's work is performed in response to specific concerns or requests from City Councilmembers, but the City Auditor also independently initiates work to fulfill the office's mission. If resources are available, the City Auditor responds to requests from the Mayor, City departments and the public.

Through its work, the Office of City Auditor answers the following types of questions:

- Are City of Seattle programs being carried out in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and is accurate information furnished to the City Council and Mayor on these programs?
- Do opportunities exist to eliminate inefficient use of public funds and waste?
- Are programs achieving desired results?
- Are there better ways to achieve program objectives at lower costs?
- Are there ways to improve the quality of service without increasing costs?
- What emerging or key issues should the City Council and Mayor consider?

## Budget Snapshot

	2022 Actuals	2023 Adopted	2024 Endorsed	2024 Adopted
<b>Department Support</b>				
General Fund Support	2,447,978	2,276,049	2,304,507	2,329,573
Other Funding - Operating	75,020	-	-	-
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>2,522,998</b>	<b>2,276,049</b>	<b>2,304,507</b>	<b>2,329,573</b>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>2,522,998</b>	<b>2,276,049</b>	<b>2,304,507</b>	<b>2,329,573</b>
Full-Time Equivalents Total*	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

\* FTE totals are provided for informational purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here

## Incremental Budget Changes

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	2024 Budget	FTE
<b>Total 2024 Endorsed Budget</b>	<b>2,304,507</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Baseline</b>		
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	(901)	-
<b>Council</b>		
Add Funding for Staffing Costs	40,000	-
SCERS Contribution Rate Change	(14,033)	-
<b>Total Incremental Changes</b>	<b>\$25,066</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total 2024 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>\$2,329,573</b>	<b>10.00</b>

## Description of Incremental Budget Changes

### Baseline

#### Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes

Expenditures \$(901)

Citywide technical adjustments made in the baseline phase reflect changes to internal services costs, including rates from the Department of Finance & Administrative Services, Seattle Information Technology Department, Seattle Department of Human Resources, and for healthcare, retirement, and industrial insurance charges for the department.

### Council

#### Add Funding for Staffing Costs

Expenditures \$40,000

This Council Budget Action (CBA) adds \$40,000 General Fund ongoing to the Office of City Auditor (AUD) for staffing costs. These funds will be used for staff recruitment and retention, enabling a competitive salary for a vacant auditor position, and salary adjustments to advance pay equity. In recent years, about half of AUD’s staff retired and the office seeks to hire experienced candidates for jobs requiring significant training and skills to comply with U.S. Comptroller General’s Government Auditing Standards. This funding will allow AUD to either hire a more experienced candidate or fill a vacant position so that the office can conduct more performance audits and special projects in 2024 and in future years.

#### SCERS Contribution Rate Change

Expenditures \$(14,033)

The City’s employee retirement system, the Seattle City Employees Retirement System (SCERS), of which most non-uniformed City employees are members, is a defined benefit pension program funded by a combination of salary-based employer (i.e., the City) and employee contributions, and investment earnings.

The employer portion of the SCERS contribution is funded through the annual budget process as a percentage of salaries based on several factors including reports from the contracted actuary and the City’s long-range financial

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forecasts. The Mayor’s 2024 Proposed Mid-Biennial Budget included an employer contribution rate of 16.22%, which was determined prior to the actuary’s recommendation but provided for long-term “smoothing” given the City’s long-term financial challenges.

This item reduces the employer contribution rate from the proposed rate of 16.22% to the SCERS minimum actuarial required rate of 15.17%, which was determined to provide sufficient funding to the retirement system to achieve 100% funded status by 2042.

### 2023-24 Mid-Biennium Adopted Budget Updates - Expenses

Budget Summary Level	Fund	Budget Process Phase Endorsed	Adopted Changes	Grand Total
Office of the City Auditor	00100 - General Fund	2,304,507	25,066	2,329,573
	00155 - Sweetened Beverage Tax Fund	0	0	0
<b>Office of the City Auditor Total</b>		<b>2,304,507</b>	<b>25,066</b>	<b>2,329,573</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>2,304,507</b>	<b>25,066</b>	<b>2,329,573</b>