

LEGAL

City Attorneys represent the City's interests in all courts in New Mexico, before administrative bodies and other tribunals including legislative bodies, and are responsible for oversight of the civil lawsuits filed against all City Departments. In addition to trial work, the legal services division advises clients on "liability avoidance" in all employment matters, protection of environmental resources, the management of risk in the operation of City services, land use and civil rights matters. To improve neighborhood quality of life and public safety, the safe city strike force program targets properties that pose an extreme nuisance to the neighborhoods and surrounding communities, initiates graffiti vandalism lawsuits and DWI vehicle forfeitures. Attorneys assigned to the safe city strike force also oversee the metropolitan traffic court arraignment program, which negates the need for police officers to be present at traffic arraignments. The Legal Department, through its real property division, is responsible for the management, acquisition, disposal, and coordination of City real property. Finally, the Legal Department's utility franchising office is responsible for negotiating franchise renewals, providing consumer protection to cable subscribers and serves as contract manager for the education and public access channels. The utility franchising office merged with legal services program strategy in FY/05.

MISSION

To provide timely and quality legal services at a reasonable cost to the Mayor's Office, City Council and City agencies and to represent the City of Albuquerque in litigation in state and federal courts and administrative hearings.

FISCAL YEAR 2006 HIGHLIGHTS

The FY/06 proposed budget contains funding for a new attorney assigned to the DWI vehicle forfeiture program within the safe city strike force. The position is needed because of increased enforcement actions, and changes in the DWI vehicle forfeiture law that allows the forfeiture of vehicles after the second DWI arrest. The Law Enforcement Protection Fund within APD, collects auction proceeds from forfeited vehicles, and will use a portion of the proceeds to reimburse the General Fund for the new attorney.

A legal secretary position working with the safe city strike force will move to the Chief Administrative Officer Department assigned to the office of adjudication.

The FY/06 proposed budget for Legal Department is a 3.3% increase over the FY/05 approved budget.

(\$000's)	ACTUAL FY/04	ORIGINAL BUDGET FY/05	REVISED BUDGET FY/05	ESTIMATED ACTUAL FY/05	PROPOSED BUDGET FY/06	PROP 06/ EST ACT 05 CHG
PROGRAM STRATEGY BY GOAL:						
GOAL 2: PUBLIC SAFETY						
GENERAL FUND 110						
Safe City Strike Force	0	899	899	893	947	54
Total General Fund - 110	0	899	899	893	947	54
TOTAL GOAL - 2	0	899	899	893	947	54
GOAL 8: GOVERNMENTAL EXCELLENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS						
GENERAL FUND 110						
Legal Services	4,424	4,861	4,868	4,756	5,010	254
Real Property	382	487	487	483	498	15
Utility Franchising Office	496	0	0	0	0	0
Total General Fund - 110	5,302	5,348	5,355	5,239	5,508	1,216
TOTAL GOAL - 8	5,302	5,348	5,355	5,239	5,508	269
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	5,302	6,247	6,254	6,132	6,455	323
TOTAL FULL TIME POSITIONS	73	76	76	76	76	0