



To: Cuyahoga County Council
From: Greg Huth, Director
Re: 2022 – 2023 Budget Statement
Date: October 25, 2021

The Law Department's overall budget increases by approx. 2.5% over the 2021 adopted budget. There are, however, internal variances:

- The Law Department's 2022 recommended operating budget (LW100100) is approx. 16% less than the 2021 adopted budget; due, largely, to fewer attorney positions within the Department (note that this has been the case throughout 2021 and most of 2020).
 - There are 20 FTEs in the Law Department: one Administrative Assistant, two paralegals, two claims adjusters, and 15 attorneys, including myself and the Director of Risk Management. This budget covers 13 of the attorneys; one of the 13, Anka Davis, is housed in Public Works and PW reimburses Law for her services. One of the two Department attorneys not on this budget is funded through HHS and the other is funded through DCFS.
 - The "Other Expenditures" in this budget includes the Matrix work-flow management and Lexis legal research software packages. The Lexis contract is county-wide and includes the services provided to the County Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender, Inspector General, Council staff, Law Library staff and patrons, and the Courts (no longer charged back).
- The Risk Management budget (LW100120) is for the agreement with our insurance broker, Hylant, which covers our insurance premiums. The approx. 58% increase in this budget is to cover expected increases in premiums and bonds. The insurance market is adjusting to a variety of volatile risks, including property damage due to an increase in catastrophic storms and fires and increased costs to rebuild after a damaging event. Also, Cyber liability insurance premiums increased 30% nationally last year and continue to go up due to the increase in the number of ransomware attacks and an increase in payouts in response to those attacks. The Hylant contract includes three, one-year renewal options. We'll be coming to you soon to exercise one of those options to extend the contract through 2022.
- The Risk Self-Insurance budget (LW100215) is status quo. This budget funds the administrative settlements authorized under County Code Section 109.01, including the various cases settled by the County Prosecutor and verified property damage claims brought against the County.

My 2020 budget presentation included a request for software to enhance management of the growing number of public records requests (PRR). I'm happy to report that, with the assistance of the Office of Innovation and Matrix Pointe Software, and the creative and dedicated effort of many of the Assistant Law Directors and one of our paralegals, Katrina Stinnett, we were able to address this need with no additional expense other than staff time. Essentially, the Law Department served as Matrix's guinea pig as it developed a module for the existing system dedicated to the public-records process. We now have use of the Matrix Public Records software at no additional charge. The new software combined with a top-to-bottom review of the PRR process has greatly improved efficiencies in this area.