

## CITY ATTORNEY

The City Attorney acts as general counsel to the City. The City Attorney's Office utilizes a collaborative approach to providing legal services to the City with Kelly Fernandez, of the law firm of Persson, Cohen, Mooney, Fernandez, and Jackson, P.A., serving as City Attorney and other attorneys in the firm serving as Assistant City Attorneys. While the City Attorney oversees all work product, the Assistant City Attorneys (David Jackson, Dan Lewis, Amy Farrington) primarily handle matters such as procurement, police, airport, and utilities. Certain other legal activities are assigned to outside counsel in order to take advantage of legal specializations. For example, the City has a standing engagement for labor and employment matters with the law firm FordHarrison.

As part of her duties, the City Attorney or attorneys from her office attend all City Council meetings as well as meetings of the Planning Commission and Historic and Architectural Preservation Board. Other responsibilities include the preparation/review of ordinances and resolutions, consultation with city officials and staff, contract preparation/review, and overseeing special counsel assigned to handle litigation, administrative, appellate, and other specialized matters.

The goals and objectives of the City Attorney's Office are as follows:

- 1) To provide prompt and accurate legal advice to elected and appointed City officials and City staff so they can best serve the needs of the citizens and taxpayers of the City.
- 2) To implement and support policy directives of the City Council.
- 3) To ensure legal compliance across all City Departments by monitoring and advising on federal, state, and local requirements, thereby minimizing the City's exposure to legal liability.
- 4) To develop and maintain a budget that adequately covers City legal needs, both by the City Attorney's Office and special counsel, without unnecessary expenditures.
- 5) To provide quarterly legal activity reports on the major activities of the City Attorney's Office.
- 6) To keep Council and senior management informed on the status of all litigation matters being handled or overseen by the City Attorney's Office and achieve beneficial, cost-effective results for the City.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Amended Budget FY 2025	Proposed Budget FY 2026
Operations	386,602	383,647	439,691	441,991
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 386,602</b>	<b>\$ 383,647</b>	<b>\$ 439,691</b>	<b>\$ 441,991</b>

CITY OF VENICE CITY ATTORNEY EXPENDITURES													001-0501	
6 mos. = 50% Unaudited													As of 5/23/25	
Department 0501	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Adopted Budget FY 2025	Amends/ Proj/Enc Rolls to FY 2025	Amended Budget FY 2025	YTD Thru 03/31/25	% YTD FY25	Expected FY 2025	Positive (Negative) Variance	Proposed Budget FY 2026	Incr (Decr) over FY25 Orig Budget	vs. 25 Orig Bud	FY2026 Budget Comments	
Exp - Professional Services	386,602	383,647	439,691	0	439,691	190,395	43%	439,691	0	441,991	2,300	0.5%		
514.31-03 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES / LEGAL	386,602	383,647	439,691	0	439,691	190,395	43%	439,691	0	441,991	2,300	0.5%	FY26: No CPI on retainer +\$100K with 2.3% CPI nonretainer	