Andrea Scheele, Executive Director (206) 233-7118

http://www.seattle.gov/civil-service-commission
https://www.seattle.gov/public-safety-civil-service-commission

Department Overview

The Civil Service Commissions Department (CIV) is the department that houses two City Charter-mandated commissions, the Seattle Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Seattle Public Safety Civil Service Commission (PSCSC). The Seattle Municipal Code and Washington law require the commissions to provide fair and impartial appeal hearings on serious disciplinary decisions and other civil service issues. The CSC conducts appeal hearings of alleged violations of the City's personnel rules, disciplinary actions, and alleged violations of the Personnel Ordinance. The PSCSC directs the civil service system for sworn personnel of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and uniformed personnel of the Seattle Fire Department (SFD). The PSCSC also conducts appeals related to serious disciplinary decisions, examination and testing, and other civil service issues.

Budget Snapshot						
		2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Proposed	2026 Proposed	
Department Support						
General Fund Support		808,713	881,534	2,505,942	2,551,829	
	Total Operations	808,713	881,534	2,505,942	2,551,829	
	Total Appropriations	808,713	881,534	2,505,942	2,551,829	
Full-Time Equivalents To	otal*	3.00	3.00	9.00	9.00	

^{*} 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

Budget Overview

The City's 2025-2026 Proposed Budget returns the Fire and Police Exams unit from the Seattle Department of Human Resources back to CIV, as had been the historical organization prior to 2002. This action will simplify the City's organizational structure so that CIV will be the sole department developing and administering entry-level and promotional civil service exams. This aligns the roles and responsibilities of CIV and authority of the Public Safety Civil Service Commission. Otherwise, CIV will maintain its core services at its current levels, as required by City Charter, municipal code, and State law.

The 2025-2026 Proposed Budget makes technical adjustments to the CIV budget including an annual wage increase for staff and increased costs for internal central services.

Incremental Budget Changes

Civil Service Commissions

Civil Service Commissions					
	Dollars	FTE			
2024 Adopted Budget	881,534	3.00			
	-	-			
Baseline					
Bargained Annual Wage and Market Wage Increases to Base Budget	89,524	-			
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	(22,608)	-			
Proposed Operating					
Transfer Fire & Police Exams Unit from SDHR to CIV	1,503,117	6.00			
Space Modifications	60,200	-			
Proposed Technical					
Final Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	(5,825)	-			
	4				
Total Incremental Changes	\$1,624,408	6.00			
Total 2025 Proposed Budget	\$2,505,942	9.00			
Total 2023 Floposed budget	32,303,342	3.00			

Description of Incremental Budget Changes

Baseline

Bargained Annual Wage and Market Wage Increases to Base Budget

Expenditures \$89,524

This centrally administered change adjusts appropriations to reflect the Annual Wage Increases and Market Adjustments, as outlined in the agreements between the City and the Coalition of Unions or other standalone Unions, for personnel costs included in this department's baseline budget. This includes increases to salary, FICA, Medicare, retirement, overtime and temporary labor.

Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes

Expenditures \$(22,608)

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. These adjustments reflect initial assumptions about these costs and inflators early in the budget process.

Proposed Operating

Transfer Fire & Police Exams Unit from SDHR to CIV

Expenditures \$1,503,117
Position Allocation 6.00

This item transfers 6 full-time positions and the associated budget in SDHR's Fire and Police Exams Unit including one Manager 2, General Govt, three Personnel Analyst, Sr, and two Personnel Analysts to CIV. This transfer aligns the core duties of the department to develop and administer entry-level and promotional civil service exams with their direct management of the Fire and Police Exams Unit. CIV will have direct management of the staff in the unit and reduce the interdepartmental coordination needed with SDHR by transferring the unit. This change is designed to increase quality and efficiency in the police examination and application process while maintaining accountability.

Space Modifications

Expenditures \$60,200

This item appropriates one-time funding of \$60,200 for necessary modifications to CIV's office space to accommodate the addition of 6.0 FTE being transferred from SDHR to CIV.

Proposed Technical

Final Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes

Expenditures \$(5,825)

Citywide technical adjustments made in the proposed 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 for the department. These adjustments reflect final decisions about these costs made during the Proposed Phase of the budget process.

Expenditure Overview					
	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Appropriations	Actuals	Adopted	Proposed	Proposed	
CIV - BO-VC-V1CIV - Civil Service Commissions					
00100 - General Fund	808,713	881,534	2,505,942	2,551,829	
Total for BSL: BO-VC-V1CIV	808,713	881,534	2,505,942	2,551,829	
Department Total	808,713	881,534	2,505,942	2,551,829	
Department Full-Time Equivalents Total*	3.00	3.00	9.00	9.00	

^{*} 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

Budget Summary by Fund Civil Service Commissions					
	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Proposed	2026 Proposed	
00100 - General Fund	808,713	881,534	2,505,942	2,551,829	
Budget Totals for CIV	808,713	881,534	2,505,942	2,551,829	

Revenue Overview					
2025 Estim	ated Revenues				
Account		2023	2024	2025	2026
Code	Account Name	Actuals	Adopted	Proposed	Proposed
341900	General Government-Other Rev	207,221	245,405	247,422	258,553
Total Revenues for: 00100 - General Fund		207,221	245,405	247,422	258,553
Total CIV Resources		207,221	245,405	247,422	258,553

Appropriations by Budget Summary Level and Program

CIV - BO-VC-V1CIV - Civil Service Commissions

The purpose of the Civil Service Commissions Budget Summary Level is to fund the work of two independent commissions, the Public Safety Civil Service Commission (PSCSC) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The PSCSC develops and administers entry and promotional civil service exams for ranks in the Seattle Police and Fire Departments and conducts hearings on employee appeals of discipline and other employment matters. The CSC conducts hearings on employment-related appeals filed by covered employees, investigates allegations of political patronage in hiring, and advises on the administration of the City's personnel system.

Program Expenditures	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Proposed	2026 Proposed
Civil Service Commissions	808,713	881,534	2,505,942	2,551,829
Total	808,713	881,534	2,505,942	2,551,829
Full-time Equivalents Total*	3.00	3.00	9.00	9.00

^{*}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