

COUNCIL REPORT – OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR

Edmonton

OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR 2023-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

RECOMMENDATION

That Audit Committee recommend to City Council Budget.

That the Office of the City Auditor's 2023-2026 Proposed Operating Budget, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the December 6, 2022, Office of the City Auditor report OCA01598, be approved.

Report Purpose

Council decision required

Executive Summary

This report presents the Office of the City Auditor's recommended budget for 2023-2026.

REPORT

The Office of the City Auditor has submitted its complete budget documents through the City's budget process for formal consideration during City Council's budget deliberations.

In 2021, Council approved a service package for resourcing to support the effective execution of the Office of the City Auditor's strategic plan, which included funding for a data scientist and subject matter expertise to supplement our work. For the 2023-2026 budget, there are no service packages for growth, new services, and changes to FTE. The budget changes in 2023-2026 are mainly attributed to:

- personnel cost increases due to wage progression that is consistent with the progression applied through the City,
- technology hardware / software inflation, and
- adjustments to budgeted interdepartmental charges (e.g. staff support, parking) based on estimated usage levels.

OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR 2023 - 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

Approximately 88 percent of the Office of the City Auditor’s budget consists of salary and benefits, of which 70 percent of these resources are dedicated to value-for-money audits. These audits determine whether a department, service or program operates efficiently, effectively, and economically and whether risks are appropriately mitigated. Our audit reports have been a catalyst for change - both immediate and lasting. The issues that we have been involved with over the past few years have become more diverse, complex, strategic, and political. With our current resources and the amount of time that the Office of the City Auditor is able to dedicate to value-for-money audits, the City is obtaining value for the resources allocated.

In 2025, the Office of the City Auditor will undergo its fifth external quality assessment since 2006 in early 2020. The external quality assessment will include a complete review of the Office of the City Auditor’s plans, policies, procedures, and methodologies. The results of the external quality assessment will be reported to City Council through the Audit Committee.

POLICY

Bylaw 16097, Audit Committee Bylaw, Section 14(g) states that the “Committee will review all reports from the City Auditor which will include reports from the City Auditor dealing with budget and staffing of the Office of the City Auditor.”

ATTACHMENT

1. Office of the City Auditor - 2023-2026 Proposed Operating Budget