

# Office of Inspector General for Public Safety

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## Department Overview

The Office of Inspector General for Public Safety (OIG) was established in 2017 as part of the City of Seattle’s police accountability system through (Ordinance 125315). The OIG oversees the management, practices, and policies of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and Office of Police Accountability (OPA), in order to promote fairness and integrity in the delivery of law enforcement services and in the investigation of police misconduct. These goals are achieved through the issuance of systemic recommendations by OIG, aimed to promote lasting reforms which reflect the values of Seattle’s diverse communities. The ordinance cloaks OIG with the responsibility for ensuring “ongoing fidelity” to reforms under the Consent Decree. Since 2021, monitoring the Consent Decree has been performed by a federal court appointed monitor. In 2023 the City filed a motion, and the Court approved, transferring this activity to OIG.

The summation of OIG’s responsibilities include:

- Conducting performance audits and reviews to ensure the integrity of SPD and OPA processes and operations;
- Reviewing OPA’s intake and investigation of SPD misconduct allegations;
- Evaluating SPD response to incidents involving death, serious injury, serious use of force, mass demonstrations, or other issues of significant public concern, to assess the integrity of SPD investigative processes;
- Conducting reviews mandated by the Accountability Ordinance of: 1) SPD acquisition and use of surveillance technologies ([SMC 14.18](#)) and 2) gathering and use of “intelligence” information by SPD ([SMC 14.12](#));
- Ensuring SPD is meeting its mission to address crime and improve quality of life through the delivery of constitutional, professional, equitable, and effective police services that retain the trust, respect, and support of the community;
- Making recommendations to policymakers aimed at increasing fairness, equity, and integrity in the delivery of SPD services and related criminal justice system processes; and
- Conducting continued oversight of the City and SPD’s fidelity to the Consent Decree, by periodical and permanent assessments of the core areas of consent decree (Bias Free Policing, Stops and Detentions, Use of Force, and Crisis Intervention) as previously performed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Police Monitor Team.

## Budget Snapshot

	2022 Actuals	2023 Adopted	2024 Endorsed	2024 Adopted
<b>Department Support</b>				
General Fund Support	3,225,307	3,933,922	3,989,208	4,700,173
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>3,225,307</b>	<b>3,933,922</b>	<b>3,989,208</b>	<b>4,700,173</b>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>3,225,307</b>	<b>3,933,922</b>	<b>3,989,208</b>	<b>4,700,173</b>
Full-Time Equivalents Total*	19.50	22.00	19.00	22.50

\* 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

# Office of Inspector General for Public Safety

## Incremental Budget Changes

### Office of Inspector General for Public Safety

	2024 Budget	FTE
<b>Total 2024 Endorsed Budget</b>	<b>3,989,208</b>	<b>19.00</b>
<b>Baseline</b>		
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	92,875	-
<b>Proposed Technical</b>		
Ongoing Changes from Current Year Legislation	596,448	3.50
<b>Council</b>		
SCERS Contribution Rate Change	(28,358)	-
Consulting Funding for External, Independent Investigations	50,000	-
<b>Total Incremental Changes</b>	<b>\$710,965</b>	<b>3.50</b>
<b>Total 2024 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>\$4,700,173</b>	<b>22.50</b>

## Description of Incremental Budget Changes

### Baseline

#### Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes

Expenditures \$92,875

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 Technical

#### Ongoing Changes from Current Year Legislation

Expenditures \$596,448  
 Position Allocation 3.50

This change includes ongoing budget and/or position changes resulting from current year legislation in 2023, including the Q3 Supplemental Budget Ordinance. Funding is transferred from the Finance General Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement/Police Accountability reserve.

- This technical adjustment adds 3.0 FTE and appropriation authority to OIG as approved in the 2023 Mid-Year Supplemental Budget Ordinance. In 2012 the city and the DOJ entered into a settlement agreement (“Consent Decree”). Since 2012 the Consent Decree has required certain specific actions by the City and SPD. These positions will be assuming the federal monitor's oversight and assessment.
- This technical adjustment adds 0.5 FTE and appropriation authority to OIG as approved in the 2023 Mid-Year

## Office of Inspector General for Public Safety

Supplemental Budget Ordinance. This Communication and Community Engagement Specialist (strategic advisor) will provide racial equity expertise in scoping work projects, as well as strategic engagement with community.

### Council

#### SCERS Contribution Rate Change

Expenditures \$(28,358)

The City’s employee retirement system, the Seattle City Employees Retirement System (SCERS), of which most non-uniformed City employees are members, is a defined benefit pension program funded by a combination of salary-based employer (i.e., the City) and employee contributions, and investment earnings.

The employer portion of the SCERS contribution is funded through the annual budget process as a percentage of salaries based on several factors including reports from the contracted actuary and the City’s long-range financial forecasts. The Mayor’s 2024 Proposed Mid-Biennial Budget included an employer contribution rate of 16.22%, which was determined prior to the actuary’s recommendation but provided for long-term “smoothing” given the City’s long-term financial challenges.

This item reduces the employer contribution rate from the proposed rate of 16.22% to the SCERS minimum actuarial required rate of 15.17%, which was determined to provide sufficient funding to the retirement system to achieve 100% funded status by 2042.

#### Consulting Funding for External, Independent Investigations

Expenditures \$50,000

This Council Budget Action (CBA) adds \$50,000 for external independent investigative entities to handle conflict-of-interest cases when necessary, such as investigations about conduct by the Chief of Police. Ordinance 126628 provides the OIG with authorization to investigate the Chief of Police when necessary, but does not ensure funding to do so. OIG will report to the Public Safety and Human Services Committee, or a successor committee, before May 1, 2024, on whether the addition of \$50,000 is sufficient to pay for the number of conflict-of-interest cases that are projected to occur before year-end 2024.

Funding is transferred from the Finance General Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement/Police Accountability reserve.

### 2023-24 Mid-Biennium Adopted Budget Updates - Expenses

Budget Summary Level	Fund	Budget Process Phase Endorsed	Adopted Changes	Grand Total
Office of Inspector General for Public Safety	00100 - General Fund	3,989,208	710,965	4,700,173
<b>Office of Inspector General for Public Safety Total</b>		<b>3,989,208</b>	<b>710,965</b>	<b>4,700,173</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>3,989,208</b>	<b>710,965</b>	<b>4,700,173</b>