

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](#). OIG’s purpose is to oversee the management, practices, training, supervision, and policies of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and Office of Police Accountability (OPA) in order to promote fairness, legitimacy, and integrity in the delivery of law enforcement services and in the investigation of police misconduct. OIG’s responsibilities include:

- Ensuring SPD is meeting its mission to address crime and improve quality of life through the delivery of constitutional, professional, and effective police services that retain the trust, respect, and support of the community;
- Assuming oversight previously conducted by the federal monitor related to use of force, crowd management, supervision, response to persons in crisis, bias and disparity, and related areas of concern to assure ongoing fidelity to the principles underlying the former Consent Decree, United States of America v. City of Seattle (USDC No. 2:12-cv-01282-JLR);
- Fulfilling obligations to monitor and review SPD acquisition and use of surveillance technology (pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 14.18.060) as it evolves and expands;
- 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;
- Responding to emerging policy projects from council members, community and other key stakeholders;
- Maintaining and promoting use of a hotline and other technologies to receive anonymous reports from the public and City employees; and
- Making recommendations to policymakers aimed at increasing fairness, equity, and integrity in the delivery of SPD services and related criminal justice system processes.

To fulfill these responsibilities, OIG has four operational functions: audits, investigations, compliance and policy, and strategic leadership to include operations and administration, guided by an overarching goal to work toward a sustainable, accountable law enforcement system.

Budget Snapshot

	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Adopted
Department Support				
General Fund Support	4,491,675	5,216,694	5,461,489	5,429,157
Total Operations	4,491,675	5,216,694	5,461,489	5,429,157
Total Appropriations	4,491,675	5,216,694	5,461,489	5,429,157
Full-Time Equivalents Total*	22.50	22.50	22.50	23.00

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** 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 2026 Adopted Budget maintains core services for the Office of Inspector General (OIG). The department will continue to invest in programs to oversee the management, practices, training, supervision, and policies of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and Office of Police Accountability (OPA) and promote fairness, legitimacy, and integrity in the delivery of law enforcement services and in the investigation of police misconduct. The 2026 Adopted Budget is increased by 3% over 2025 for minor Citywide technical changes which are described below.

City Council Changes to the Proposed Budget

Council added funding and position authority to make the Community Engagement Coordinator position full-time.

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Incremental Budget Changes

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	2026 Budget	FTE
Total 2026 Endorsed Budget	5,461,489	22.50
Baseline		
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	(26,240)	-
Adopted Technical		
SCERS Retirement Contribution Rate Reduction	(3,524)	-
Bargained Annual Wage Adjustment to Base Budget	(52,569)	-
Council		
Increase Community Engagement Coordinator Position to Full Time	50,000	0.50
Total Incremental Changes	\$(32,333)	0.50
Total 2026 Adopted Budget	\$5,429,157	23.00

Description of Incremental Budget Changes

Baseline

Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes

Expenditures \$(26,240)

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

Adopted Technical

SCERS Retirement Contribution Rate Reduction

Expenditures \$(3,524)

The City's employee retirement system, the Seattle City Employees Retirement System (SCERS) is a defined benefit pension program funded by a combination of salary-based employer (i.e., the City) and employee contributions, and investment earnings. Based on the updated actuarial valuation for 2025, this item reduces the employer contribution rate from the endorsed rate of 15.17% to the SCERS minimum actuarial required rate of 15.06%.

Bargained Annual Wage Adjustment to Base Budget

Expenditures \$(52,569)

This centrally administered change adjusts base budget appropriations to reflect the proper Annual Wage Increase (AWI) increment for 2026, as outlined in the agreements between the City and the Coalition of City Unions for

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personnel costs. AWI increments are determined based on the average change in the local Consumer Price Index (CPI). This change represents a true-up between the forecasted CPI assumption included in the Endorsed Budget and the actual CPI data.

Council

Increase Community Engagement Coordinator Position to Full Time

Expenditures	\$50,000
Position Allocation	0.50

This item provides \$50,000 in ongoing appropriation and adds 0.5 FTE to increase from half-time to full-time OIG's Community Engagement Coordinator position (Public Relations Specialist, Senior).

The 2023 Mid-Year Supplemental Budget Ordinance (ORD 126876) added funding and position authority for a 0.5 FTE Community Engagement Coordinator position to provide racial equity expertise in scoping work projects, as well as strategic engagement with community. The position is currently vacant, and a full-time position would better attract applicants with desired expertise and ability to develop and manage robust engagement opportunities between OIG and community, and liaise with the engagement teams of Office of Police Accountability (OPA), Community Police Commission (CPC), and the City.

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Expenditure Overview

	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Adopted
Appropriations				
OIG - BO-IG-1000 - Office of Inspector General for Public Safety				
00100 - General Fund	4,491,675	5,216,694	5,461,489	5,429,157
Total for BSL: BO-IG-1000	4,491,675	5,216,694	5,461,489	5,429,157
Department Total	4,491,675	5,216,694	5,461,489	5,429,157
Department Full-Time Equivalents Total*	22.50	22.50	22.50	23.00

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Budget Summary by Fund Office of Inspector General for Public Safety

	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Adopted
00100 - General Fund	4,491,675	5,216,694	5,461,489	5,429,157
Budget Totals for OIG	4,491,675	5,216,694	5,461,489	5,429,157

Appropriations by Budget Summary Level and Program

OIG - BO-IG-1000 - Office of Inspector General for Public Safety

The purpose of the Office of Inspector General for Public Safety Budget Summary Level is to provide civilian oversight of management and operations of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and Office of Police Accountability (OPA) as well as civilian review of criminal justice system operations and practices that involve SPD or OPA.

Program Expenditures	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Adopted
Inspector General for Public Safety	4,491,675	5,216,694	5,461,489	5,429,157
Total	4,491,675	5,216,694	5,461,489	5,429,157
Full-time Equivalents Total*	22.50	22.50	22.50	23.00

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