

Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts

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<http://www.seattle.gov/economic-and-revenue-forecasts>

Department Overview

In July 2021 via Council Bill 120124, the City Council created the Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts. The office's responsibilities, as stated in the legislation, are to staff the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council, perform economic and revenue forecasts, conduct special studies at the request of the Forecast Council and provide ad hoc analytical support on economic and revenue estimation for legislative and executive staff consistent with the work program. Such analyses are to be nonpartisan and confidential to the extent allowed by law.

The legislation also established the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council which shall receive and review the general forecasts of local economic activity and the specific forecasts of the revenues that support the City's general government programs and services. The forecasts approved by the Forecast Council by the Director of the Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts are the official city economic and revenue forecasts and shall serve as the basis for the estimates of revenues described in RCW 35.32A.030 and 35.32A.040, provided that the Mayor or Council shall have the authority to deviate from the official forecasts as provided in Section 3.44.010. The Forecast Council shall be composed of the Mayor or designee, the Director of Finance, the Council President or designee, and the Chair of the City Council Finance Committee or designee. If the Council President and the Chair of the Council Finance Committee are the same individual, the position held by the Chair of the Council Finance Committee shall be determined by the Council President. The Forecast Council shall select one member to serve as Chair of the Forecast Council annually.

Budget Snapshot

	2021 Actuals	2022 Adopted	2023 Proposed	2024 Proposed
Department Support				
General Fund Support	-	634,919	702,468	706,419
Total Operations	-	634,919	702,468	706,419
Total Appropriations	-	634,919	702,468	706,419
Full-Time Equivalents Total*	-	3.00	3.00	3.00

* 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

For its first year of operation, the 2022 Adopted Budget established a budget and staffing for the new Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts (OERF) based on estimated costs for positions, startup expenses and other costs. The 2023-2024 Proposed Budget makes several adjustments to the 2022 Adopted to reflect the actual salaries and costs of running the office given the personnel hired and to meet its intended purpose as described above. The net effect of this reallocation and right-sizing effort is an increase in total budget of approximately \$67,000.

Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts

Incremental Budget Changes

Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts

	Dollars	FTE
2022 Adopted Budget	634,919	3.00
Baseline		
Appropriations for 2022 Annual Wage Increase (AWI)	17,061	-
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	39,862	-
Proposed Operating		
Alignment of Costs	10,626	-
Total Incremental Changes	\$67,549	-
Total 2023 Proposed Budget	\$702,468	3.00

Description of Incremental Budget Changes

Baseline

Appropriations for 2022 Annual Wage Increase (AWI)

Expenditures \$17,061

This centrally administered change adjusts appropriations to reflect an annual wage increase in 2022, as outlined in the agreements between certain City unions, for personnel costs included in this department. These agreements were not finalized until after the 2022 budget had been adopted. This change includes ongoing cost increases to salary, FICA, Medicare, retirement, overtime and temporary labor. There is no increase assumed from 2022 to 2023.

Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes

Expenditures \$39,862

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

Alignment of Costs

Expenditures \$10,626

This is the net increase resulting from several reallocations and adjustments of the baseline 2022, first year budget made to reflect the actual costs of staffing and operating the OERF, which is now fully staffed.

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Expenditure Overview

	2021 Actuals	2022 Adopted	2023 Proposed	2024 Proposed
Appropriations				
ERF - BO-ER-10000 - Economic and Revenue Forecasts				
00100 - General Fund	-	634,919	702,468	706,419
Total for BSL: BO-ER-10000	-	634,919	702,468	706,419
Department Total	-	634,919	702,468	706,419
Department Full-Time Equivalents Total*	-	3.00	3.00	3.00

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Budget Summary by Fund Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts

	2021 Actuals	2022 Adopted	2023 Proposed	2024 Proposed
00100 - General Fund	-	634,919	702,468	706,419
Budget Totals for ERF	-	634,919	702,468	706,419

Appropriations by Budget Summary Level and Program

ERF - BO-ER-10000 - Economic and Revenue Forecasts

The purpose of the Economic and Revenue Forecasts Budget Summary Level is to provide support to the Forecast Council, perform economic and revenue forecasts, conduct special studies at the request of the Forecast Council, and provide ad hoc analytical support on economic and revenue estimation for legislative and executive staff consistent with the work program.

Program Expenditures	2021 Actuals	2022 Adopted	2023 Proposed	2024 Proposed
Economic and Revenue Forecasts	-	634,919	702,468	706,419
Total	-	634,919	702,468	706,419
Full-time Equivalents Total*	-	3.00	3.00	3.00

**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*

