

City Council

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City Council Department—Budget Overview

Description

The Topeka City Council is the policy-setting body under Topeka's form of government. The nine members of the City Council are elected by district. The City Council is granted its powers and duties through the City's charter ordinances. These powers include: adopting codes, rules and regulations; setting priorities for budget preparation and adopting the annual budget; planning for economic growth, quality of life, and city stability .

Budget Summary by Program

	Actual 2003	Actual 2004	Adopted 2005	Estimated 2005	Adopted 2006
<i>Expenditures</i>					
City Council	202,000	326,710	234,184	263,437	285,621
Total Expenditures	202,000	326,710	234,184	263,437	285,621
Percent Change		61.7%	-28.3%	-19.4%	22.0%
<i>Financing</i>					
General Fund	202,000	326,710	234,184	263,437	285,621
Total Financing	202,000	326,710	234,184	263,437	285,621

Significant Features

- The 2005 Estimated budget exceeds the Adopted budget by \$29,253 to pay the costs of increasing City Council member annual compensation from \$8,000 to \$10,000; an increase in the number of members participating in the City health insurance plan; and a position reclassification. The compensation increase occurred in April 2005 as part of a change to the Council-Manager form of government.
- The 2005 Adopted budget includes \$26,600 for City Council travel and education; cell phones and laptops for council members; council transition costs related to the April 2005 election; and office equipment. Providing laptops will allow the City to move towards a paperless agenda packet.

Personnel Summary by Program (in Full-Time Equivalents)

	Actual 2003	Actual 2004	Adopted 2005	Estimated 2005	Adopted 2006
City Council	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Total FTEs	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

City Council Program Details

Budget Summary by Expenditure Category

	Actual 2003	Actual 2004	Adopted 2005	Estimated 2005	Adopted 2006
Personnel Services	185,412	188,840	191,617	220,840	234,896
Contractual Services	15,366	136,435	26,047	37,121	47,780
Other Payments/Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	1,222	1,435	16,520	5,476	2,945
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Total Program	202,000	326,710	234,184	263,437	285,621

Discussion

The City Council is comprised of nine members elected by district. The City Council is granted the powers and duties as set forth in the City Charter, including: providing for the performance of all duties imposed on the city; adopting codes, rules and regulations to establish proper legislative authority, but not being charged with administrative functions; hiring of the city manager; setting priorities for budget preparation and adopting the annual budgets; overriding the Mayor's veto with a two-third's vote of Council (six votes); investigating affairs and conduct of city offices; and development, in partnership with the Mayor, plans for economic growth, quality of life, and city stability.

The deputy mayor is elected for a one-year term the second Tuesday in April. In 2001 the City Council passed a budget ordinance requiring the Council to set budget priorities by the third Tuesday in May. The City Manager is required to submit the proposed budget by the first Tuesday in July.

City Council staff provides constituent services, handling an average of 100 plus requests for information per month.

Personnel Schedule (in Full-Time Equivalents)

Position Title	Actual 2003	Actual 2004	Adopted 2005	Estimated 2005	Adopted 2006
Office Manager	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Office Specialist	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
Office Assistant II	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Total Program FTEs	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

* The 9.0 elected city council members are not shown as FTE positions.

Notes on Budget and Personnel

- Council member salaries are set by ordinance at \$10,000 per year.
- The increase in contractual services in 2006 is tied to higher IT fees.
- Council staff are budgeted to receive a 2.1 percent cost of living increase plus step in 2006.