



CITY OF DETROIT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Ellen Ha, Esq., CIG
Inspector General

Kamau C. Marable, MA., CIG
Deputy Inspector General

DATE:
3/22/2023

TO: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division

FROM: Ellen Ha, Esq. CIG
Inspector General

RE: Response to 2023-2024 LPD Budget Analysis and Questions

On Monday, March 20, 2023, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) received the following inquiries from the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) of Detroit City Council pertaining to the administration's budget proposal for the OIG for FY 2023-2024. The following are the OIG's responses to the LPD's inquiries.

1. Q - Please briefly explain the new expense initiatives the Office of the Inspector General is planning to implement in FY 2024. Please provide which appropriation/cost center the new initiatives will affect in FY 2024.

A – We have one appropriation/cost center, and the new initiative is funding for a TASS position that is currently in our FY23 budget. The amount we are requesting for this initiative is \$53,806. We hope to add and fill a much-needed Analyst/Information Technician TASS position to our staff. This individual would assist OIG staff navigating various city systems and assist with the existing systems in our office that operate independently from the rest of the city's IT infrastructure.
2. Q - Please briefly explain the new capital funding requests the Office of the Inspector General is planning to implement in FY 2024. Please provide which appropriation/cost center the new requests will affect in FY 2024.

A - We are not requesting any new capital funding at this time.
3. Q - Please briefly explain the operational reform and savings proposals the Office of the Inspector General is planning to implement in FY 2024. Please provide which appropriation/cost center the new reforms/proposals will affect in FY 2024.

A- We do not have any procedures or processes that require any changes, currently. Likewise, because we have been operating at bare minimum for some time, we do not have any suggestions or proposals to cut anything out of our budget to save any money, at this time.



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4. Q - What are your projected performance metrics for the current fiscal year? What are your target metrics for FY 2024?

A - We will continue to track the number of complaints received and closed, as well as number of investigations or audits initiated and closed. However, because of the nature of our work, performance metrics cannot be solely measured by numbers.

5. Q - Is the recommended budget of \$1,614,911 for FY 2024 sufficient to carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the Office of the Inspector General for FY 2024? If not, please explain what is needed.

A - No, the Administration's recommended budget of \$1.6 million for FY 24 is not sufficient. Based on our analyses of the recommended budget, we are seeking an additional \$87,626, which we believe should be sufficient for the OIG to operate in FY 24. Therefore, we are requesting this honorable body to restore an additional sum of \$87,626, as the Administration's recommended budget is just short of the OIG's initial request to Budget.

6. Q - B54-5: For FY 2024, please explain why Salaries & Wages increases by \$33,526.

A - The increase is due to merit increases and cost of living adjustments built into the budget. Merit increases are necessary to retain some of our staff whom we've invested in their training and work experience.

7. Q - For FY 2024, Professional & Contractual Services will decrease by \$33,820 from \$102,500 in FY 2023 to \$68,680. Please explain the cause for the decrease.

A - According to the Budget Department, our budget request was \$33,820 over the baseline allotted. This overage was caused by the Budget Department not including a budgeted and filled FTE position in their initial baseline budget. The FTE position was filled in early October and therefore was reflected in UltiPro at that time. The missing FTE accounts for \$104,964. The Mayor's Proposed Budget did account for the FTE position, but still penalized us for being over the "baseline" by reducing our contractual line by \$33,820.

8. Q - Is there any new technology that would be beneficial to the Office of the Inspector General if obtained? If so, what technology and how could it improve your operations?

A - Rather than obtaining new technologies, we wish to be provided with direct "Read-Only" access to key databases or software programs used by City agencies that frequently hold information required to complete our investigations. We believe this will expedite the completion of our



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investigations as well as free up the Department's staff to concentrate on their core duties.

9. Q - The Office of the Inspector General publishes a newsletter that informs and educates the reader about your office. Has the publication of this newsletter increased cases filed or complaints since employees are learning about potential indicators of fraud or misconduct?
A - **Although we do not have any concrete empirical evidence that the increase in the number of complaints, we receive is due to the publications of the newsletter, there is an uptick of complaints submitted by City employees and residents.**

One of the many reasons we began publishing the newsletter in addition to the quarterly reports was to demystify the Office and demonstrate to all that our focus is on making City Government better.

We have noticed however an inexplicable decrease from departmental and agency directors. We believe the Good Government newsletter helps compensate for this decrease but does not replace the complaints received from departmental leadership.

10. Q - In your Winter 2023 newsletter, it highlighted that the Office of the Inspector General provides customized training to departments upon request explaining the OIG's history, purpose, and jurisdiction. How many departments requested training in FY 2023?
A - **We have not yet received any requests for training from any department or agency after the newsletter was released. We plan to follow up with individual departments and agencies in the future.**