



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

2019 - 2020 BIENNIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

Commitment to Public Safety

As the fastest growing city in America, Seattle has new 'big city' challenges. Every day, we ask our police and firefighters to meet these challenges in a complex and changing environment. Mayor Durkan's proposed budget grows the City's considerable investments in public safety, including increased funding for both the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and the Seattle Fire Department (SFD).

Seattle Police Department

Mayor Durkan worked closely with Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best to focus on SPD's public safety service delivery goals, and in 2019, the Seattle Police Department's budget will grow by 10% over 2018. Under Chief Best, SPD is strengthening its community outreach and community-based policing efforts. SPD will continue its focus on prevention and intervention, restorative justice, and community engagement initiatives, while ensuring that community outreach is at the heart of SPD's culture. Identifying efficiencies throughout the budget has allowed the Mayor to make targeted investments in SPD's priority areas, including:

- Supporting the expansion in size of the current police force by 40 officers to continue focus on public safety;
- A fair contract for our officers who have been without a contract and raise since 2014;
- Replacing outdated technology systems;
- Reaffirming ongoing commitment to the goals of the federal Consent Decree; and
- Advancing the department's community engagement and collaborative policing initiatives.

New Contract for Our Officers

While Seattle is the fastest growing city in the country, Seattle police officers have been without a contract since 2014. Since taking office, Mayor Durkan has prioritized negotiating a fair contract that recognizes the difficult work we ask officers to perform, continues the important job of reform and helps ensure Seattle can hire and retain the best police officers. The proposed budget includes, in reserves, the resources needed to meet the City's commitment under the tentative contract recently negotiated with the Seattle Police Officer's Guild (SPOG). The budget provides the funding needed both to make retroactive salary payments since the previous contract ended and to address changes in personnel costs in 2019 and 2020.

Additional Patrol Officers

Seattle police officers work every day to keep our residents, neighborhoods and businesses safe. Since 2014, the police force has grown by approximately 100 officers. The proposed budget adds funding to hire and train 10 new officers in 2019 and 30 in 2020, above 2018 staffing levels. With a tentative new contract in place, this adjustment in sworn hiring allows SPD to expand its recruitment efforts and engage in diverse recruiting techniques to expand its ranks through the biennium.

Ongoing Support of Department of Justice Consent Decree Goals and Reforms

In January 2018, the department was found to be in "full and effective" compliance with the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement, initiating the two-year sustainment period.

The proposed budget will set out a roadmap of funding for activities pertaining to sustainment, reinforcing implemented reforms and investing in accountability structures within the department. The budget permanently adds capacity to the Data Driven Unit in support of their work in crime analytics and data-driven policing, adoption of which was a core

tenant of Consent Decree reforms. The budget also expands capacity of the SPD Human Resources section in leadership and organizational development for sworn and civilian leaders and managers alike. The Mayor's budget also includes strong support for the needs and vision of the newly formed Office of Inspector General as well as ongoing support for the Community Police Commission and Office of Police Accountability.

Focus on Community Policing and Community Service Officer Program

The Chief is in the process of making strategic changes to leadership and operational structures which will further strengthen the department's ability to collaborate and partner with the community on public safety issues, including the creation of a new Collaborative Policing Bureau. The new bureau will combine the department's community engagement and outreach elements and house the new Community Service Officers (CSO) program, allowing for more effective dialogue and partnership with people throughout the city.

The CSO program was eliminated in the early 2000's due to budget cuts. The Mayor's budget provides the resources needed to implement a new CSO Program under the vision of Chief Best. CSOs played an important role in assisting SPD officers in enhancing the safety of individual Seattle residents and the health of our collective neighborhoods and served an important function as liaisons between specific communities and SPD overall. Twelve CSOs, including two supervisors, will be brought on board to initiate the program, which will support the department's community-oriented policing strategies and expand the reach of current community engagement.

New Technology Investments

SPD's existing mobile data terminal and in-car video systems, which operate in all patrol cars, are at the end of their useful life and need to be replaced. The proposed budget provides the resources needed for these essential technology upgrades.

Seattle Fire Department

The hard-working men and women of the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) provide fire protection and prevention, technical rescue and emergency medical services for our businesses and neighborhoods. SFD maintains 33 fire stations with more than 800 uniformed personnel, which allows for optimal response times to emergencies.

Additional Recruiting Class

SFD has a minimum daily staffing requirement of 214 firefighters. As part of the proposed budget, Mayor Durkan is focused on adding recruits to reduce the demand on current firefighters who are working unsustainable schedules. The budget adds funding for 35 additional recruits, for a total of 60 new recruits, in both 2019 and 2020.

Additional Staffing

The City's construction boom has increased demand for the review of construction-related documents. The number of plan reviews completed by the Seattle Fire Marshal increased by 59% from 2010 to 2017, and the number of compliance inspections more than doubled. The Mayor's proposed budget adds staff in the Fire Prevention Division (FPD) to meet current workload and support fire and life safety codes and inspections by improving the City's fire prevention and code compliance initiatives.

New Vault Response Team

SFD has marine, hazardous materials, high-angle, tunnel and confined-space rescue teams. This year, SFD negotiated an agreement with Seattle City Light that created the new Vault Response Team (VRT). The proposed budget allows Seattle City Light and the Seattle Fire Department to have a unified approach to effectively fight fires in underground electrical vaults