



Office of the Auditor

Strategic Business Plan

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

Oklahoma City Vision

Oklahoma City seeks to further progress as a vibrant, diverse, safe, unified, and welcoming community.

Oklahoma City Mission

The mission of the City of Oklahoma City is to provide exceptional service to residents and visitors. We do this by ensuring the safety of the public, delivering quality services, and maintaining infrastructure to support the growth of the city.

Department Mission

The mission of the Office of the City Auditor is to provide independent audit, investigative and advisory services to City Council, appointed officials, and executive managers so they can make better-informed policy and operational decisions on behalf of residents.

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Issues, Strategies, and Results

Issue 1: Accountability

The continuing expectations for government accountability as evidenced by more extensive accounting and auditing regulations, City Council Strategic Priorities and the Leading for Results program, if not addressed, will result in:

- Loss of public trust and confidence that could result in diminished ability to fund infrastructure and service improvements through voter-approved funding
- Diminished service levels that are not efficient or cost-effective
- Decreased employee confidence in City leaders and managers
- The lack of an ethical culture throughout the City leading to an increased risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and significant policy violations

Strategies

- Identify important programs and operations for inclusion in the Audit Plan through a triennial citywide risk assessment
- Plan and deliver audit services using a risk-based approach to ensure audit scope and objectives are defined clearly and focused on important issues or concerns
- Respond to requests for advisory services and investigate potentially unethical or fraudulent acts in a professional, sensitive manner
- Undergo a triennial peer review to ensure audit services are provided in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards
- Communicate with audit clients throughout service delivery to ensure a complete and accurate understanding of conditions, facts and circumstances
- Provide professional opinions and recommendations for improving City programs through published reports
- Provide Hotline information to employees through presentations, posters, brochures, intranet and direct mailings

Strategic Results

Annually, City Council and other City decision makers will continue to benefit from objective, timely and useful audit information as evidenced by:

- At least 90% of City Council and other City decision makers surveyed will rate audit services as “good” or “excellent”
- At least 95% of audit recommendations will be accepted by management

Annually, management and employees will benefit from timely review of reports of fraud, waste, abuse and significant policy violations as evidenced by:

- At least 90% of actionable allegations will be assessed and assigned for investigation within five days of reporting

Issue 2: Complex Information Systems

The continuing reliance on complex information systems combined with rapid technology advancement creates a need for knowledge and expertise to assess controls over information systems that support critical operational and financial activities, which, if not addressed will lead to:

- Increased risks relating to system security, availability and integrity
- Programs failing to meet objectives
- Undetected violations of laws, regulations, and policies

Strategies

- Contract with an information technology expert to update the citywide information systems risk assessment
- Coordinate outsourced assessments of information technology controls

Strategic Results

- By 2026, control assessments will be completed for 75% of information systems rated as high-risk

Accomplishments

Audit Quality

The percentage of audit recommendations accepted by management indicates whether audit services provided are objective, timely and useful. In FY23, management accepted and provided estimated implementation dates for 100% or all 20 recommendations included in four project reports issued during the year. This exceeds the industry benchmark of 95% published by the Association of Local Government Auditors.

When management implements audit recommendations, the result is an improvement in services provided to residents and/or other City departments. For example, a follow up audit report issued in March 2022 found that implementation of our previous recommendations had significantly improved the timeliness of fire code compliance inspections on new construction. Timeliness of inspections had improved from completion of 50% of inspections within three days of request when the audit was originally conducted to completion of 85% of inspections within two days of request after implementation of our recommendations. Additionally, the average number of days from request to inspection completion had improved from 5.7 days to 1.7 days.

Client satisfaction is another indicator of service quality. Audit clients offered positive feedback with audit service ratings of 'good' or 'excellent' on all 13 satisfaction surveys relating to services provided during FY23.

The October 2022 Peer Review confirmed that the department complied with generally accepted government auditing standards in performing audits during the period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022.

The department continues to attract and retain talented personnel. The department's eight auditors have a combined 12 professional certifications, three advanced degrees, and an average of more than 14 years of experience in the department. Additionally, most staff members have held leadership positions in local and/or national audit organizations.

Management Assistance

Other services are provided upon request to assist management with policy or operational improvements while protecting independence to perform future audits. For example, in FY23 the department evaluated controls over performance measures reported for plan reviews conducted by the Public Works Department at management's request. Several suggestions were made to enhance those measures to address specific plan review performance concerns.

Ethics Awareness

The department contributes to maintaining the City's ethical culture. The department received and assessed 31 allegations of unethical conduct reported on the Ethics Hotline during FY23. The department also coordinated a marketing blitz reminding employees of the availability of the Hotline in FY22.

Lines of Business and Programs

Department Organization

Administrative Line of Business

- Executive Leadership Program

Audit Services Line of Business

- Audit Services Program

Ethics Assurance Line of Business

- Ethics Assurance Program

Administrative Line of Business

The purpose of the Administrative Line of Business is to provide leadership, support, and information to the department, so it can achieve its strategic and operational results.

Programs and Key Measures

Executive Leadership Program

 % of key measures and strategic results achieved

Executive Leadership Program

The purpose of the Executive Leadership Program is to provide planning, management, administrative and reporting services to department employees and City leaders so they can achieve strategic goals and key results.

Program Manager: Matt Weller

Program Budget: \$85,049 (FY24)

Program Services:

- Agenda Items
- Annual Report
- Audit Committee Advisements and Support
- Audit Responses
- Budget Proposals
- Continuity of Operations Plan
- Contract Compliance Reviews
- Contracts, Leases, Agreements
- Executive Reports
 - Ad Hoc Reports
 - Performance Audit Reports
 - Special Projects Reports
- FMLA Authorizations
- Grievance Resolutions
- Legislative Recommendations
- Personnel Transactions
- Plans (i.e., Master, Strategic Business Plans)
- Policies & Procedures
- Presentations
- Project & Financial Impact Analyses
- Resident Responses
- Triennial Audit Plan
- Triennial Peer Review

Family of Measures

Results

 % of key measures and strategic results achieved

% of performance evaluations completed by the review date

Audit Services Line of Business

The purpose of the Audit Services Line of Business is to provide independent audit, investigative and advisory services to the City Council and other City decision makers so they can have timely and useful information to better address policy and operational opportunities and/or deficiencies.

Programs and Key Measures

Audit Services Program

-  % of audit recommendations accepted by management
-  % of City Council and other City decision makers rating quality of audit services as “good” or “excellent”

Audit Services Program

The purpose of the Audit Services Program is to provide scheduled (proactive) and unscheduled (responsive) audit, investigative and advisory services to City Council and other City decision makers so they can have timely and useful information to address policy and operational opportunities and/or deficiencies.

Program Manager:	Matt Weller
Program Budget:	\$1,370,482 (FY24)
Program Services:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advisory Services Memoranda ▪ Audit Reports ▪ Committee Advisements ▪ Council Audit Briefings ▪ Departmental Advisements ▪ Information Technology Risk Assessment Contracts ▪ Investigative Reports ▪ Law Enforcement Referrals ▪ Media Responses ▪ Open Records Requests

Family of Measures	
Results	 % of audit recommendations accepted by management
	 % of City Council and other City decision makers rating quality of audit services as “good” or “excellent”
	% of available time on direct services
	% of City Council and other City decision makers rating timeliness of audit services as good or excellent
	% of information systems identified as high risk for which outsourced control assessments have been coordinated
Outputs	# of direct service hours provided

Ethics Assurance Line of Business

The purpose of the Ethics Assurance Line of Business is to provide ethics reporting and advisory services to City decision makers, so they can detect and quickly address all reported cases of fraud, waste, abuse, and significant policy violations.

Programs and Key Measures

Ethics Assurance Program

 % of actionable allegations assessed and assigned for investigation within seven days of reporting

Ethics Assurance Program

The purpose of the Ethics Assurance Program is to provide ethics reporting and advisory services to City decision makers, so they can detect and quickly address all reported cases of fraud, waste, abuse, and significant policy violations.

Program Manager: Matt Weller

Program Budget: \$61,123 (FY24)

Program Services:

- Allegations Dispositions
 - Hotline Marketing and Presentations
 - Bid Tabulations
 - Hotline Operations
 - Ethics Committee Advisements
 - Retirement System Meetings
-

Family of Measures

Results	 % of actionable allegations assessed and assigned for investigation within five days of reporting
Demands	# of actionable allegations received
Outputs	# of allegation dispositions provided