

CITY OF REDONDO BEACH Budget Response Report

#42

June 13, 2024

Question:

What is the estimated cost to implement the “Long Beach Prosecution Model?”

Response:

This number can only be estimated in general terms using current spending as a guide to what the future spending might be. The recommendations are based on how the current City Attorney would recommend implementing the organizational change needed to restructure the two offices.

The increased cost would come largely from the cost of adding a separate elected official. The anticipated cost for a new City Prosecutor position, with the same salary range as the City Attorney, would be \$359,635 (assuming typical entry level City Management and Confidential Employee Benefits).

Potential savings would arise from a reorganization of the two separate offices. It is recommended that the Law Office Manager position in the City Attorney’s Office be eliminated and replaced by a Legal Secretary Position added to the new City Prosecutor’s Office. The current, long tenured, Law Office Manager is expected to retire before this change could be implemented. Based on the position’s current salary and benefits, this would result in a savings of \$38,736.90, which would partially offset the cost of the new elected Prosecutor position.

However, the potential savings to the City could be much greater if the City Attorney, in a single function office, could reduce the amount spent on outside counsel in litigation matters as a result of no longer having to divide time between prosecution efforts and the civil/municipal legal duties of the City. The fully loaded hourly rate for the City Attorney salary as described above is \$172.90. The hourly rate for outside counsel is significantly higher (up to \$720 currently). The more the City Attorney can reduce the use of outside counsel through an organizational change, the greater the savings would be.