

Agency 144

Municipal Research Council

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2005-07 Expenditure Authority			4,921	4,921
Total Maintenance Level			4,925	4,925
Difference			4	4
Percent Change from Current Biennium			0.1%	0.1%
Performance Changes				
Staff Attorney Retention			66	66
Compensation Revisions			314	314
Website Search Engine			76	76
Subtotal			456	456
Total Proposed Budget			5,381	5,381
Difference			460	460
Percent Change from Current Biennium			9.3%	9.3%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Municipal Research Services			5,381	5,381
Total Proposed Budget			5,381	5,381

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Staff Attorney Retention

In an effort to retain its legal staff and provide consistent, reliable customer service, the Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC) will increase salaries for these staff at the start of the biennium. The 1.6 percent increase for legal staff is in addition to increases provided to all staff in the next recommended item. (County Research Services Account-State, City and Town Research Services Account-State)

Compensation Revisions

MRSC will provide all staff with a three percent salary increase. (County Research Services Account-State, City and Town Research Services Account-State)

Website Search Engine

The Council's website search engine was upgraded on a trial basis in the 2005-07 Biennium. The new software significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of site searches and will be retained in the 2007-09 Biennium. (County Research Services Account-State, City and Town Research Services Account-State).

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Municipal Research Services

The Municipal Research Council is composed of legislators, city and county officials, and one member appointed by the Governor. The council's primary purpose is to provide Washington's local officials with professional advice, research, and information on topics related to local government. The council has no independent staff, but contracts with the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development and with the Municipal Research and Services Center, a private non-profit agency in Seattle. Through the center, the council responds to requests for advice and information on municipal law, finance, growth management, public works, management, and operations. The center's library holds the state's largest collection of municipal reference materials, with over 12,000 volumes. The center also publishes many research articles and operates a web site that received 2.17 million visitors in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003. These consolidated services reduce the need for local staff and are especially crucial to smaller units of local government. (County Research Services Account-State, City and Town Research Services Account-State)