



Department Description

The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) protects surface water quality, promotes public health and safety, and sustains economic development. The department is responsible for collecting and treating wastewater generated within the City of Columbus and 25 suburban communities, as well as those unincorporated areas of Franklin County. DPU provides safe and reliable drinking water within the City of Columbus and to various suburban communities through 24 water service agreements (18 full-service and 6 master meter).

The Department of Public Utilities manages stormwater within the city to mitigate flooding and water quality impacts, educates the public on watershed stewardship and water conservation, and regulates industrial water pollution discharged to sewers. In addition, DPU supports fire suppression activities with reliable fire hydrants, provides and maintains more than 57,000 street lights, and offers dependable electrical power at a competitive price.

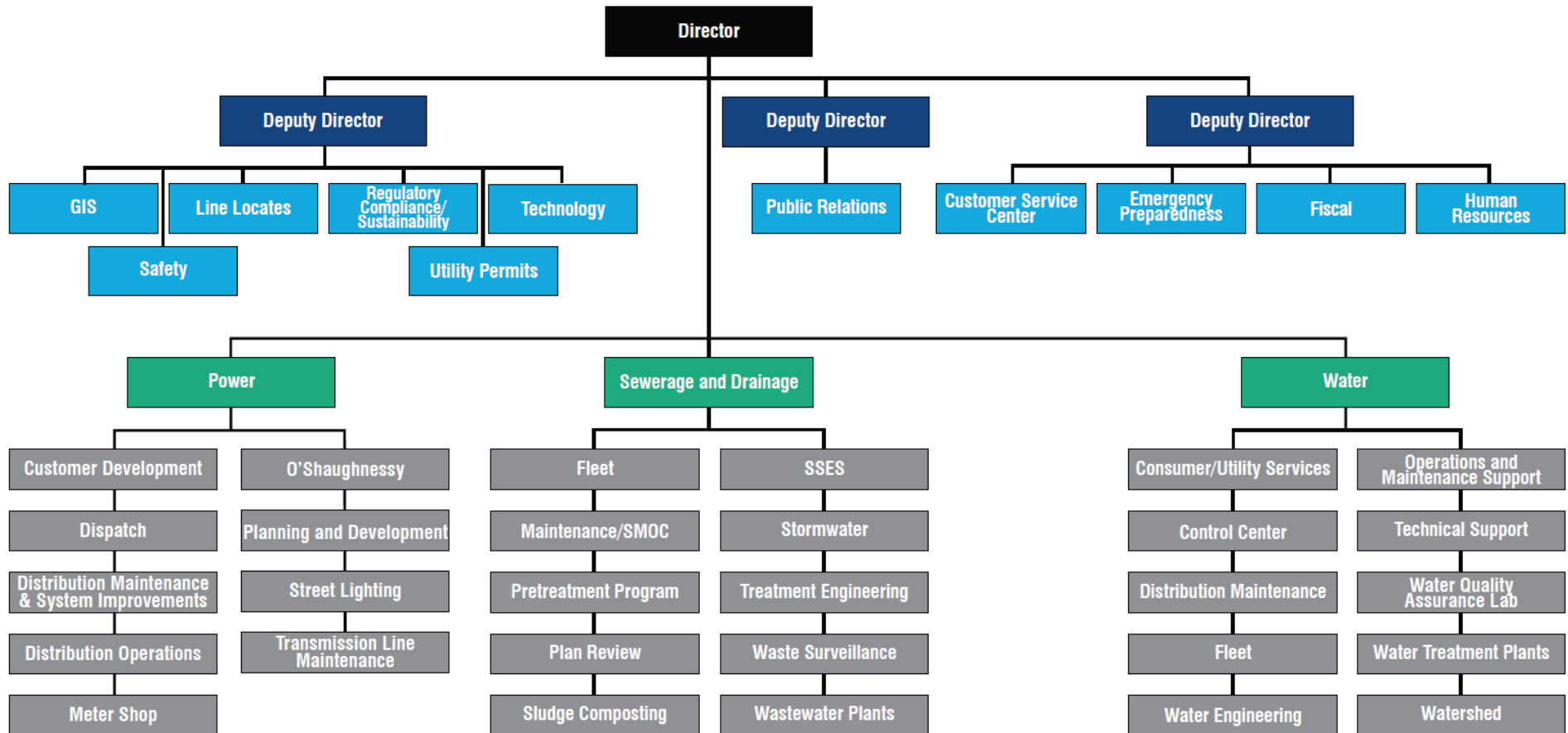
The department is comprised of the Director's Office and four divisions. The **Director's Office** provides overall direction for the department. Fiscal, human resources, public information, technology, regulatory compliance, emergency preparedness, and customer service are all coordinated by this office. The **Division of Water** oversees the treatment and distribution of drinking water through three water treatment plants. The division is responsible for infrastructure maintenance and improvements, water source protection programs, and water quality monitoring. The **Division of Power** is a full-service, publicly owned electrical utility that delivers power to industry and residential customers through its own distribution system. The division also serves the community by providing the city's street light system. The **Division of Sanitary Sewerage and Drainage** manages wastewater collection and treatment at two treatment plants. The **Division of Stormwater** oversees stormwater collection systems.

Department Mission

To enhance the quality of life, now and into the future, for people living, working, and raising families in central Ohio through the economic, efficient, and environmentally responsible stewardship of superior public utilities.

Budget Summary				
Fund	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Proposed
Water Operating Fund	187,500,142	205,996,373	241,316,056	244,648,718
Electricity Operating Fund	86,541,862	85,722,583	101,395,121	110,310,951
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund	266,305,627	295,260,239	326,205,539	348,632,037
Storm Sewer Operating Fund	38,768,120	39,727,586	47,022,409	47,483,923
Department Total	\$ 579,115,752	\$ 626,706,781	\$ 715,939,125	\$ 751,075,629

Public Utilities



2023 BUDGET NOTES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Sewer and Water Advisory Board (SWAB) has recommended to Columbus City Council increases to water of four percent, storm rates of two percent, and sanitary sewer rates of five percent, respectively for 2023. In addition:

- The 2023 Director Office's \$37.9 million budget is 8.2 percent higher than the 2022 budget.
- Increases include costs for Work Asset Management (WAM) implementation.
- The 2023 budget provides \$25.4 million in personnel funding for 246 full-time and 12 part-time positions.

WATER

The division's 2023 budget is 1.1 percent higher than in 2022. The division continues to focus on the implementation of its capital improvement program which increases the safety and capacity of the drinking water system. Debt service payments represent 46.4 percent of the water division's \$230.2 million budget. In addition:

- The 2023 budget includes \$45.6 million for personnel, providing funding for 467 full-time and 18 part-time positions. These employees are responsible for the administration, distribution, maintenance, supply, and safety in order to provide the Columbus metropolitan area with clean and reliable drinking water.
- The 2023 budget includes almost \$1.35 million to cover the cost of the enhanced meter reading program.
- The 2023 budget includes \$21.8 million for water treatment chemicals, which is greater than a 15.9 percent increase over 2022 appropriations. This is due to significant cost increases across a variety of chemicals.

POWER

The division's largest expense in the 2023 budget is for the purchase of generated electric power for resale. The budget includes \$59.0 million for this expense, or approximately 55.2 percent of the total budget:

- The 2023 budget includes \$10.7 million for personnel for 110 full-time and 1 part-time position.
- Included in the 2023 budget are resources to provide maintenance and energy to over 57,000 city streetlights.

SANITARY SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The division's 2023 budget is 7 percent higher than the 2022 budget. A significant portion of this budget is comprised of funds for debt service payments, reflecting the division's extensive capital improvement program. Debt service costs associated with maintaining and improving the city's wastewater system comprise over 51.6 percent of the division's operating budget of \$332.8 million. In addition:

- The 2023 budget includes \$46.8 million for personnel, providing funding for 470 full-time and 2 part-time positions. These employees are responsible for the administration, maintenance, safety, and operation of the city's wastewater treatment plants, a compost facility, and approximately 4,405 miles of sewer lines.
- Funding of \$250,000 is included for the Project Dry Basement program. This program provides backflow prevention devices for single and two-family homes in Columbus that have experienced sewer backups during wet weather or blockages.
- Services are projected to be \$62.4 million and provide for various professional service contracts including, equipment rental, specialty maintenance services, organic waste processing, and biosolid removal.

STORMWATER

As with the other divisions of this department, a significant portion of the operating budget for the Stormwater Division is devoted to debt service payments. In 2023, debt service payments amount to \$14.8 million. In addition:

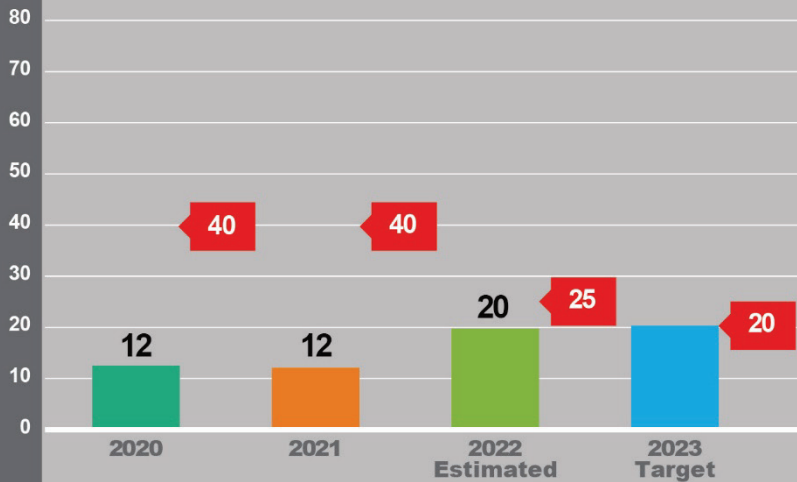
- The budget includes funding for 26 full-time and 2 part-time positions.



PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Water Quality

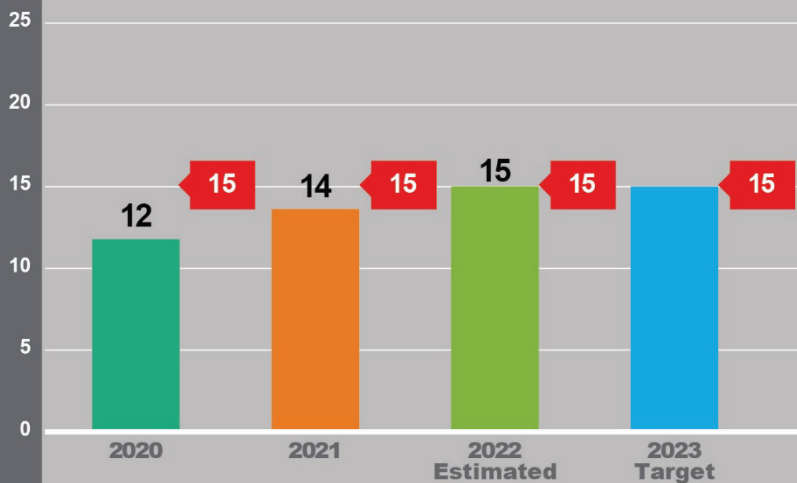
Number of water quality complaints per month



This measure reflects the monthly average number of water quality complaints received by the Division of Water. External conditions can cause the actual number of complaints to vary. With ozone/BAF treatment the water quality complaints continue to stay low. The 2023 target for this measure was reduced to 20.

Water Distribution Mains

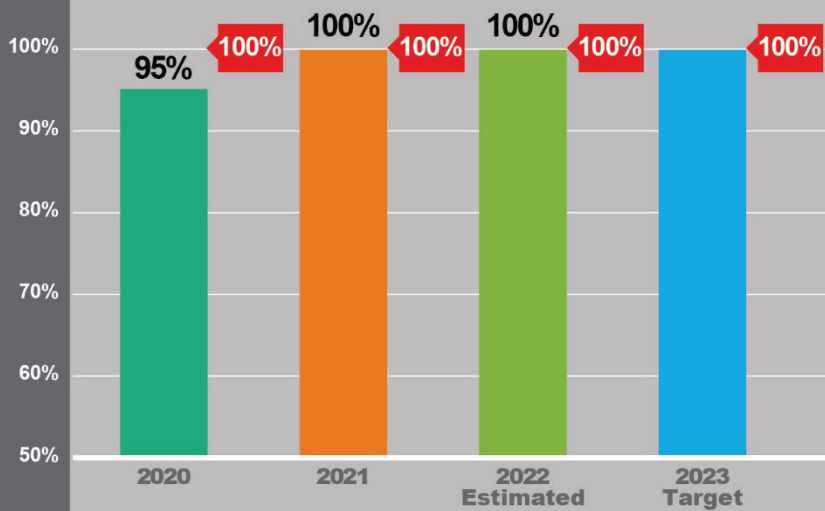
Annual number of breaks or leaks per 100 miles of water distribution mains (*city lines only*)



The number of water line breaks or leaks in the distribution system is consistently under 20 per 100 miles each year. The measure reflects city lines only and the target was reduced to 15 or fewer per 100 miles in 2020. This goal is projected to be reached in 2022, and will continue for 2023.

Water-in-Basement Complaints

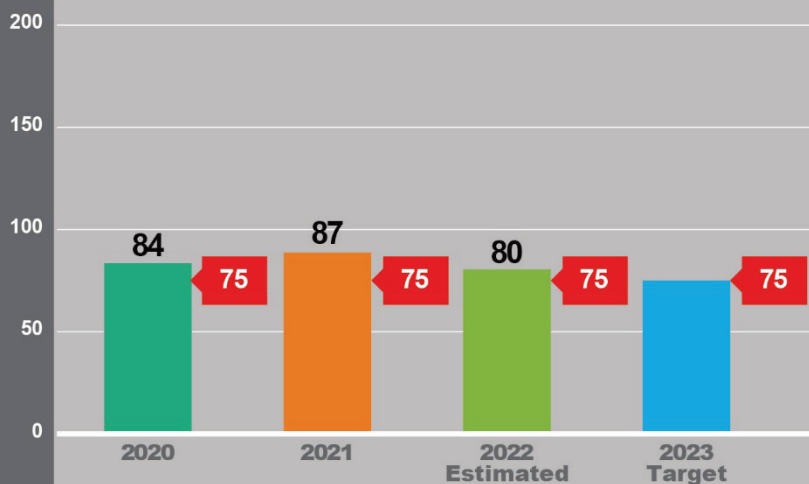
Percent of "water in basement" complaints investigated within 24 hours



Water-in-basement complaints are expected to be investigated within 24 hours of being reported. In 2023, the Division of Sewerage and Drainage will maintain its high standard of 100 percent.

Sewer Overflow Prevention

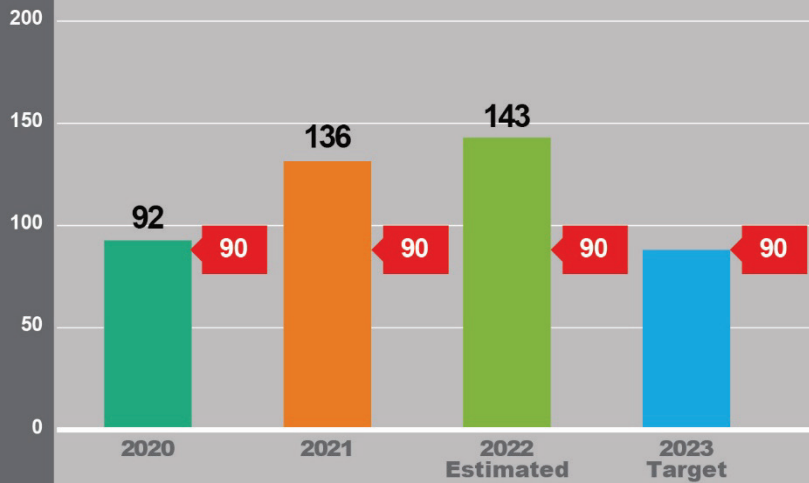
Annual number of combined sewer overflows



The Division of Sewerage and Drainage manages an extensive capital improvements program aimed at reducing combined sewer overflows (CSO). The Division implemented measures to significantly reduce CSO activations, and will maintain its high standard of 75 in 2023.

Electric Power Outage Remediation

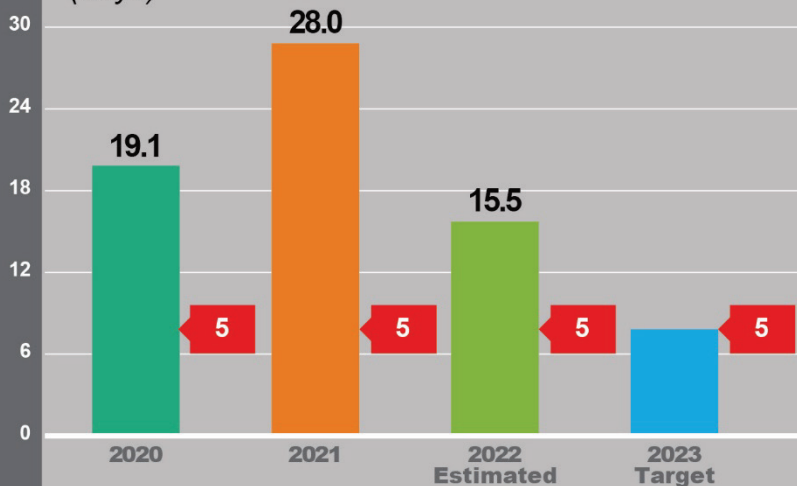
Average duration of electricity outage (*minutes*)



The Division of Power's aim is to minimize the length of time of any power outage. The target for this measure in 2023 is 90 minutes or less. The 2022 estimate reflects actual data for January 1 to June 30, 2022.

Streetlight Maintenance and Repair

Response time for streetlight outage repair (*days*)



The Division of Power maintains an extensive street lighting system. This measure reflects the number of days to respond to a streetlight outage. In 2023, the division will continue to strive to meet the target maximum timeframe to address a streetlight issue in five days.

Utilities

Financial Summary by Fund					
Fund	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Projected	2023 Proposed
Water Operating Fund					
Director's Office	\$ 10,485,940	\$ 10,365,120	\$ 13,664,439	\$ 12,491,126	\$ 14,411,604
Water	177,014,202	195,631,253	227,651,617	216,200,972	230,237,114
Water Fund Subtotal	187,500,142	205,996,373	241,316,056	228,692,099	244,648,718
Electricity Operating Fund					
Director's Office	1,589,548	1,629,568	2,128,512	2,111,259	3,390,929
Power	84,952,314	84,093,015	99,266,609	95,606,501	106,920,022
Electricity Fund Subtotal	86,541,862	85,722,583	101,395,121	97,717,760	110,310,951
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund					
Director's Office	11,654,056	11,620,689	15,153,882	13,837,617	15,844,434
Sanitary	254,651,571	283,639,550	311,051,657	300,049,644	332,787,603
Sanitary Sewer Fund Subtotal	266,305,627	295,260,239	326,205,539	313,887,261	348,632,037
Storm Sewer Operating Fund					
Director's Office	3,071,627	3,098,850	4,039,912	3,687,424	4,224,533
Storm	35,696,493	36,628,735	42,982,497	42,167,384	43,259,390
Storm Sewer Fund Subtotal	38,768,120	39,727,586	47,022,409	45,854,808	47,483,923
Department Total	\$ 579,115,752	\$ 626,706,781	\$ 715,939,125	\$ 686,151,928	\$ 751,075,629



Financial Summary by Area of Expense					
Division	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Projected	2023 Proposed
Directors Office					
Water Operating Fund					
Personnel	\$ 7,888,464	\$ 7,701,354	\$ 8,882,749	\$ 7,818,533	\$ 9,421,660
Materials & Supplies	351,043	146,608	292,529	201,057	568,635
Services	2,246,000	2,516,826	4,487,803	4,470,855	4,338,859
Other	433	332	1,358	-	970
Capital	-	-	-	680	81,480
Water Operating Fund Subtotal	10,485,940	10,365,120	13,664,439	12,491,126	14,411,604
Electricity Operating Fund					
Personnel	1,226,969	1,210,780	1,396,528	1,321,494	2,576,168
Materials & Supplies	15,994	23,049	22,411	33,983	60,385
Services	346,516	395,687	709,359	755,667	741,413
Other	68	52	214	-	153
Capital	-	-	-	115	12,810
Electricity Operating Fund Subtotal	1,589,548	1,629,568	2,128,512	2,111,259	3,390,929
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund					
Personnel	8,922,389	8,634,250	9,958,842	8,661,338	10,562,884
Materials & Supplies	113,695	164,368	159,804	222,730	323,610
Services	2,617,487	2,821,699	5,033,713	4,952,795	4,865,502
Other	486	372	1,523	-	1,088
Capital	-	-	-	754	91,350
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund Subtotal	11,654,056	11,620,689	15,153,882	13,837,617	15,844,434
Storm Sewer Operating Fund					
Personnel	2,338,922	2,302,467	2,655,691	2,308,058	2,816,819
Materials & Supplies	30,072	43,831	42,614	59,353	86,294
Services	702,504	752,453	1,341,201	1,319,812	1,296,770
Other	130	99	406	-	290
Capital	-	-	-	201	24,360
Storm Sewer Operating Fund Subtotal	3,071,627	3,098,850	4,039,912	3,687,424	4,224,533
Director's Office Subtotal	26,801,172	26,714,227	34,986,745	32,127,426	37,871,500

Utilities

Financial Summary by Area of Expense, cont.						
Division		2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Projected	2023 Proposed
Water						
	Personnel	43,480,789	40,320,105	44,778,360	40,206,460	45,611,403
	Materials & Supplies	18,288,180	19,493,772	23,213,040	26,627,645	26,335,900
	Services	35,280,667	36,299,550	52,895,008	44,440,914	49,056,787
	Principal	60,343,453	63,840,841	67,542,619	67,040,648	68,997,623
	Other	3,611	18,686	54,000	29,558	54,000
	Capital	2,005,937	1,545,547	1,830,200	1,830,200	2,250,550
	Interest	17,611,565	14,607,470	37,338,390	36,025,548	37,930,851
	Transfers	-	19,505,281	-	-	-
	Water Subtotal	177,014,202	195,631,253	227,651,617	216,200,972	230,237,114
Power						
	Personnel	10,457,539	9,602,059	11,941,013	9,472,127	10,671,341
	Materials & Supplies	59,071,799	58,654,209	61,398,186	62,612,445	66,088,180
	Services	10,869,122	11,772,373	17,540,967	15,542,358	19,049,351
	Principal	553,271	888,271	1,368,271	1,368,271	1,653,271
	Other	506	20,000	20,700	4,120	20,700
	Capital	3,999,340	3,155,449	5,714,000	5,308,391	8,142,800
	Interest	736	654	1,283,472	1,298,789	1,294,379
	Power Subtotal	84,952,314	84,093,015	99,266,609	95,606,501	106,920,022
Sanitary						
	Personnel	42,570,327	40,247,537	45,259,625	38,230,673	46,862,257
	Materials & Supplies	8,620,931	9,354,071	13,338,385	12,071,921	14,763,429
	Services	47,477,506	48,469,981	54,888,928	56,012,460	62,388,121
	Principal	104,788,088	117,225,897	121,186,087	119,788,344	121,533,805
	Other	320,275	77,427	156,800	112,029	124,500
	Capital	3,699,293	1,664,025	2,070,000	1,922,345	3,407,702
	Interest	27,797,640	28,332,139	48,105,107	45,865,147	50,152,622
	Transfers	19,377,511	38,268,472	26,046,725	26,046,725	33,555,167
	Sanitary Subtotal	254,651,571	283,639,550	311,051,657	300,049,644	332,787,603
Storm						
	Personnel	2,355,304	2,013,378	2,602,443	2,087,919	2,594,043
	Materials & Supplies	58,850	29,506	148,809	148,809	125,899
	Services	21,468,145	20,460,551	25,736,392	25,621,667	25,471,791
	Principal	10,055,137	9,800,510	10,080,915	10,080,915	10,083,343
	Other	-	75,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Capital	40,825	27,958	35,400	38,292	216,000
	Interest	1,718,232	2,562,248	4,358,538	4,169,782	4,748,314
	Transfers	-	1,659,585	-	-	-
	Storm Subtotal	35,696,493	36,628,735	42,982,497	42,167,384	43,259,390
Department Total		\$ 579,115,752	\$ 626,706,781	\$ 715,939,125	\$ 686,151,928	\$ 751,075,629

Department Personnel Summary								
	2020 Actual		2021 Actual		2022 Budget		2023 Proposed	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Dept of Public Utilities								
Director's Office	196	4	192	1	239	8	246	12
Water	390	6	382	2	467	22	467	18
Power	89	1	82	1	110	1	110	1
Sanitary	393	0	358	1	470	14	470	2
Storm	21	0	21	0	26	2	26	2
Total	1,089	11	1,035	5	1,312	47	1,319	35

Operating Budget by Program					
Program	2022 Budget	2022 FTEs	2023 Proposed	2023 FTEs	
Utilities Administration	\$ 12,600,643	28	\$ 13,882,258	34	
Fiscal	5,269,563	37	5,282,718	37	
Human Resources	3,611,780	32	4,176,306	34	
Internal Services	95,470,885	0	101,077,053	0	
Regulatory Compliance	3,745,482	30	4,061,702	3	
Public Relations	405,774	3	414,958	14	
Sustainability	719,872	5	1,975,956	11	
Emergency Preparedness	1,148,469	10	1,347,763	0	
Septic Tank Elimination Program	160,000	0	652,500	229	
Customer Service	33,842,674	248	34,085,696	162	
Maintenance	20,415,383	163	21,790,000	134	
Engineering and Development	79,331,064	134	80,966,576	25	
Fleet Management	2,827,875	26	3,023,930	286	
Water Distribution	70,835,193	277	69,323,017	224	
Wastewater Treatment	40,256,816	223	46,021,094	26	
Stormwater Management	4,174,993	26	4,057,407	40	
Electricity Distribution	16,934,534	41	21,503,284	30	
Street Lighting	6,779,501	29	7,328,756	30	
COVID-19	98,500	0	96,300	0	
Debt Management	317,310,124	0	329,949,375	0	
Department Total	\$ 715,939,125	1,312	\$ 751,016,649	1,319	

For additional financial information related to the Department of Public Utilities, please refer to the water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and electricity operating fund summaries contained within the Enterprise Funds section. Program descriptions begin on the following page.



2023 PROGRAM GUIDE

UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION

To provide administrative support services for the Department of Public Utilities.

FISCAL

To ensure the financial integrity of the department. Includes budgeting, auditing, accounting, procurement, and debt service.

HUMAN RESOURCES

To ensure the effective and efficient management of human resources and safety for the department. Includes labor relations, payroll, benefits, training, selecting employees, classification management, compensation, organizational development, safety, and industrial hygiene.

INTERNAL SERVICES

To account for the internal service charges of the department to maintain operations.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

To ensure regulatory compliance and support to all divisions in the areas of environmental and other regulations.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

To provide information to residents of the City of Columbus and contracting areas regarding the department's water, power, and sewerage and drainage systems.

SUSTAINABILITY

To promote green infrastructure and conservation technologies in the department.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Coordinates all emergency preparedness activities for the department.

SEPTIC TANK ELIMINATION PROGRAM

A partnership with Columbus Public Health to protect area water sources by eliminating onsite sewage treatment systems and connecting these properties to the city's sanitary sewer. The city offers a no-interest loan program to assist homeowners with associated expenses.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

To support managers of the other divisions by providing timely and accurate information related to the core business functions of the utility for daily operational decisions and long-term strategic planning.

MAINTENANCE

To provide general maintenance for the department and division facilities including upkeep of buildings, heating, cooling, and ventilation, lighting, parking lot maintenance, and grounds and green space maintenance.

ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT

To provide engineering support and development to the department's capital program and to ensure project engineering plans and specifications are in proper form and accordance with all applicable rules and regulations.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

To provide assistance in all phases of fleet management for the department including coordination with the Fleet Division in the Department of Finance and Management, development and review of specifications, and assistance and execution of vehicle procurement related functions.

WATER DISTRIBUTION

To ensure the residents of the Columbus Metropolitan Area have an uninterrupted distribution of safe, reliable water and that the infrastructure of the utility is maintained.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

To promote the health and safety of residents of the Columbus Metropolitan Area through the effective treatment of wastewater.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

To provide effective stormwater collection services to the community within the corporate limits of Columbus.

ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION

To ensure that customers receive safe and reliable electric power and that neighborhoods receive modern street lighting.

STREET LIGHTING

To promote public safety through the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of an efficient and reliable street lighting system.

COVID-19

To account for the expenses necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

DEBT MANAGEMENT

To service and track all required debt service obligations (principal and interest) per bond covenant requirements, policies, and procedures. Ensure debt from bonds and loans are used to finance the department's capital program, including those projects in all divisions.

Utilities

This page has been intentionally left blank.