



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.

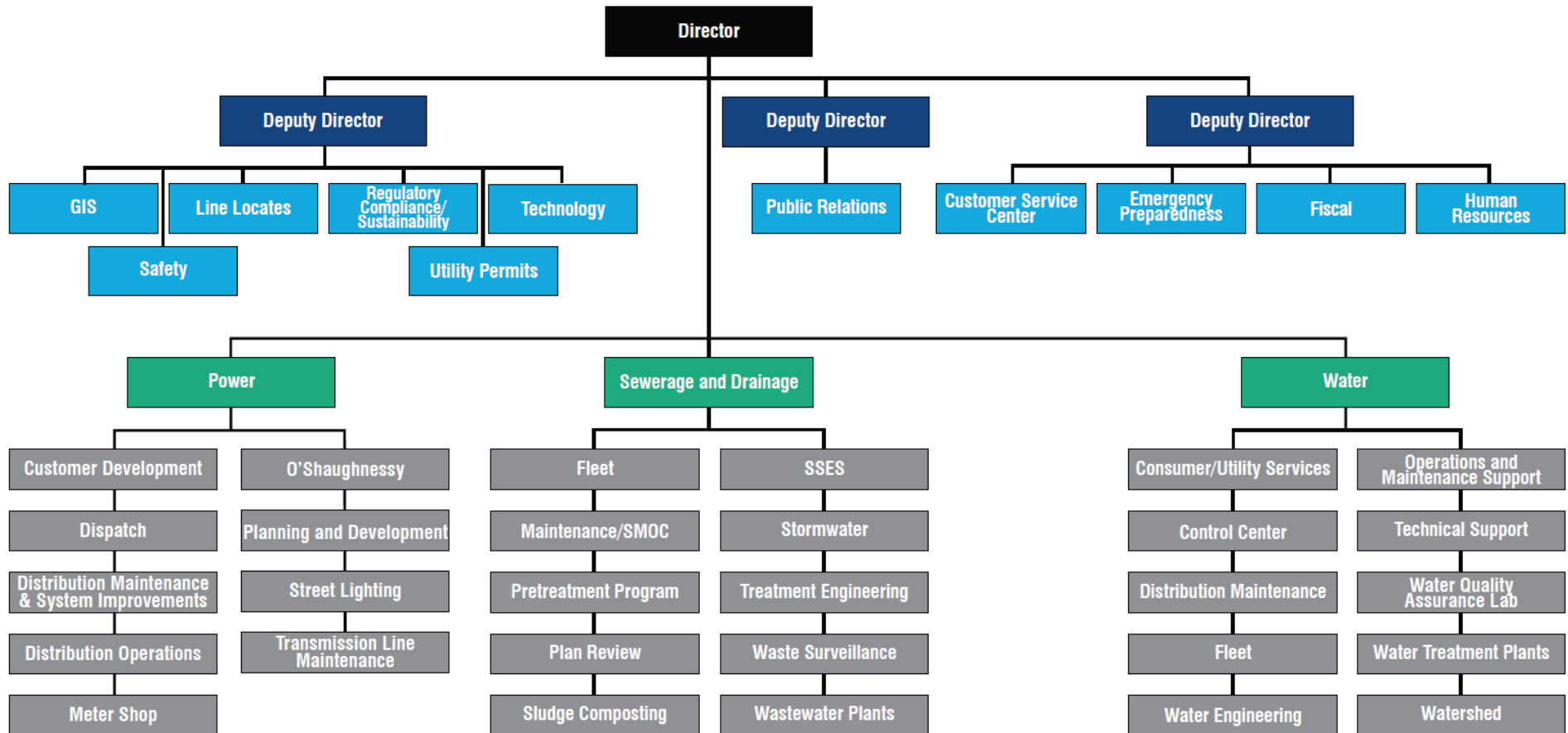
The department is comprised of the Director's Office and four divisions. The **Director's Office** provides overall direction for the department. Fiscal, human resources, public information, technology, regulatory compliance, emergency preparedness, and customer service are all coordinated by this office. 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	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Proposed
Water Operating Fund	188,248,402	187,500,142	224,590,447	241,316,056
Electricity Operating Fund	80,791,302	86,541,862	96,168,879	101,395,121
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund	269,112,308	266,305,627	320,236,603	326,205,539
Storm Sewer Operating Fund	43,311,465	38,768,120	45,534,274	47,022,409
Department Total	\$ 581,463,477	\$ 579,115,752	\$ 686,530,203	\$ 715,939,125

Public Utilities



2022 BUDGET NOTES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Sewer and Water Advisory Board (SWAB) will recommend to Columbus City Council increases to water of four percent, storm rates of three percent, and sanitary sewer rates of four percent, respectively for 2022. In addition:

- The 2022 Director's Office \$35.0 million budget is 1.6 percent higher than the 2021 budget.
- Increases include costs for Work Asset Management (WAM) implementation and purchases for consumable COVID-19 supplies.
- The 2022 budget provides \$22.9 million in personnel funding for 239 full-time and 8 part-time positions.

WATER

The division's 2022 budget is 7.8 percent higher than in 2021. 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 46.1 percent of the water division's \$227.7 million budget. In addition:

- The 2022 budget includes \$44.8 million for personnel, providing funding for 467 full-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 2022 budget includes almost \$1.35 million to cover the cost of the enhanced meter reading program.
- The 2022 budget includes additional funding for chemicals due to the increase in cost as well as the increase in water usage.

POWER

The division's largest expense in the 2022 budget is for the purchase of generated electric power for resale. The budget includes \$56.4 million for this expense, or just over 56.8 percent of the total budget.

- The 2022 budget includes \$11.9 million for personnel for 110 full-time and 1 part-time positions.
- Included in the 2022 budget are resources to provide maintenance and energy to over 57,000 city streetlights.

SANITARY SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The division's 2022 budget is 1.9 percent higher than the 2021 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 54.4 percent of the division's operating budget of \$311.1 million. In addition:

Utilities

- The 2022 budget includes \$45.2 million for personnel, providing funding for 470 full-time and 14 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 \$660,000 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 \$54.9 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 2022, debt service payments amount to \$14.4 million. In addition:

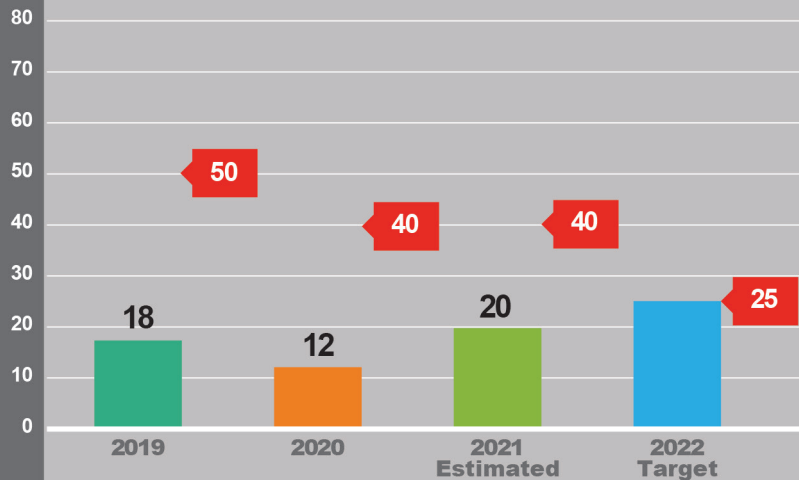
- The budget includes funding for 26 full-time and 2 part-time positions.



PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Water Quality

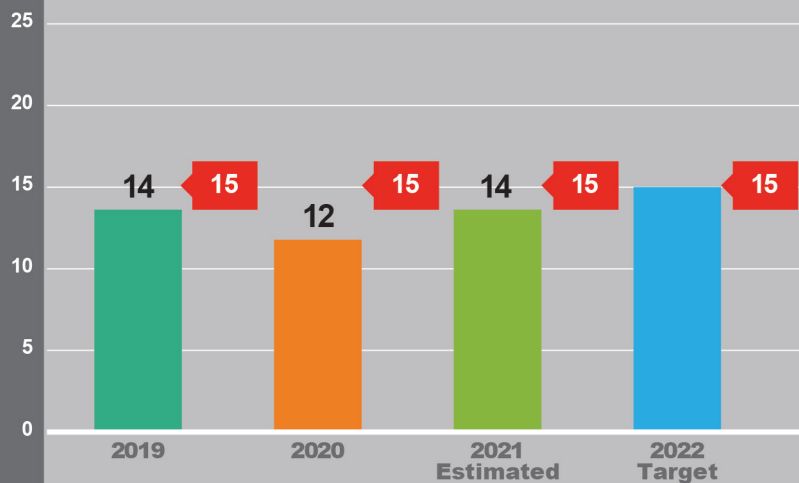
Number of water quality complaints per month



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 2022 target for this measure was reduced to 25.

Water Distribution Mains

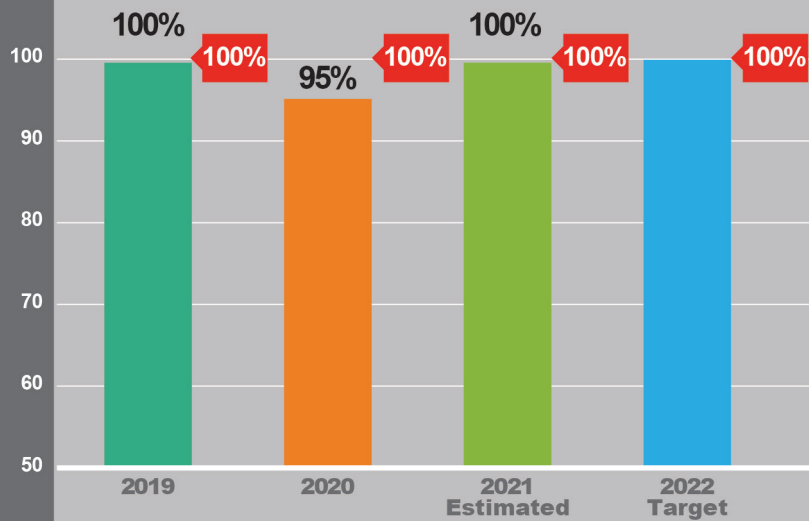
Annual number of breaks or leaks per 100 miles of water distribution mains (*city lines only*)



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 2019, and will continue for 2022.

Water-in-Basement Complaints

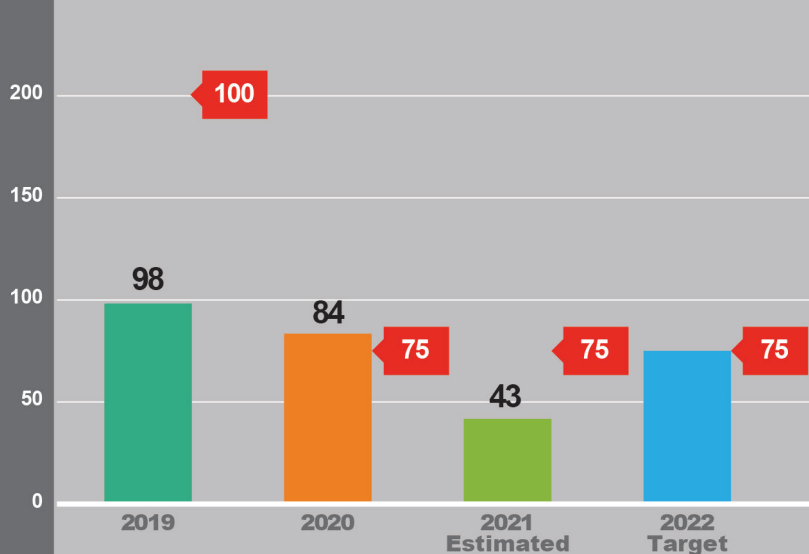
Percent of "water in basement" complaints investigated within 24 hours



Water-in-basement complaints are expected to be investigated within 24 hours of being reported. In 2022, the Division of Sewerage and Drainage will maintain its high standard of 100 percent.

Sewer Overflow Prevention

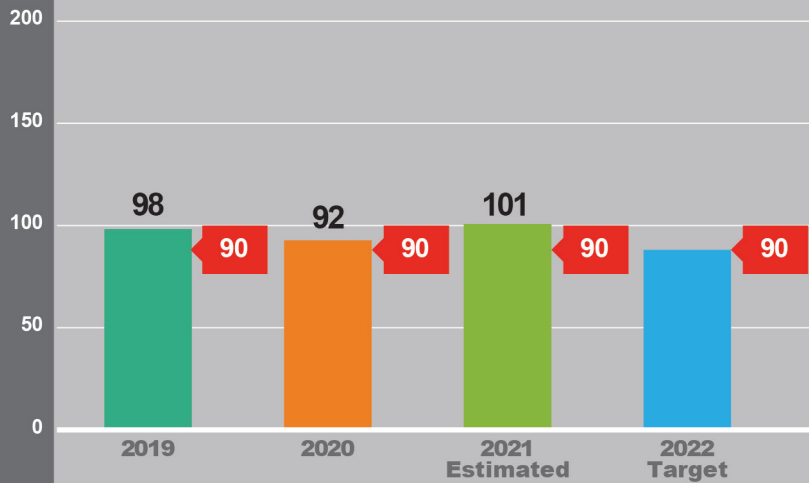
Annual number of combined sewer overflows



The Division of Sewerage and Drainage manages an extensive capital improvements program aimed at reducing combined sewer overflows (CSO). In 2021, the division implemented measures to significantly reduce CSO activations, and will maintain its high standard of 75 in 2022.

Electric Power Outage Remediation

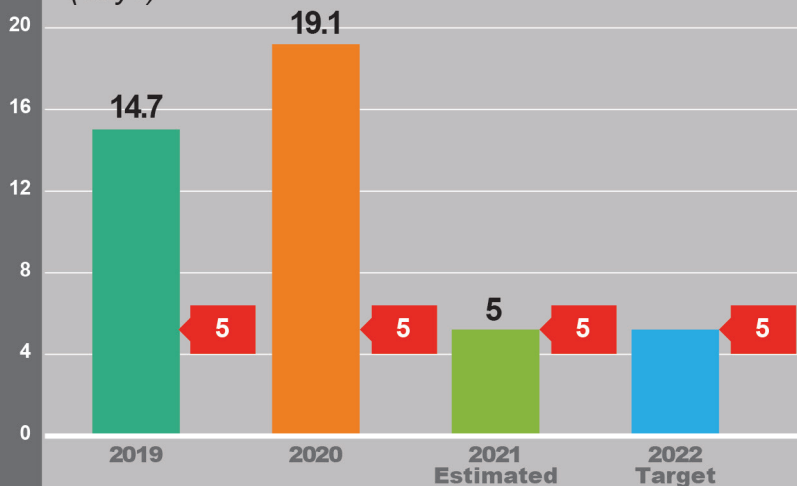
Average duration of electricity outage (*minutes*)



The Division of Power's aim is to minimize the length of time of any power outage. The target for this measure in 2022 is 90 minutes or less. The 2021 estimate reflects actual data for January 1-June 30, 2021.

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 2022, 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	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Projected	2022 Proposed
Water Operating Fund					
Director's Office	\$ 10,741,559	\$ 10,485,940	\$ 13,490,790	\$ 10,742,751	\$ 13,664,439
Water	177,506,843	177,014,202	211,099,657	202,991,784	227,651,617
Water Fund Subtotal	188,248,402	187,500,142	224,590,447	213,734,535	241,316,056
Electricity Operating Fund					
Director's Office	1,716,002	1,589,548	2,094,865	1,765,537	2,128,512
Power	79,075,300	84,952,314	94,074,014	89,810,043	99,266,609
Electricity Fund Subtotal	80,791,302	86,541,862	96,168,879	91,575,580	101,395,121
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund					
Director's Office	12,303,740	11,654,056	14,954,527	11,860,080	15,153,882
Sanitary	256,808,568	254,651,571	305,282,076	294,815,315	311,051,657
Sanitary Sewer Fund Subtotal	269,112,308	266,305,627	320,236,603	306,675,394	326,205,539
Storm Sewer Operating Fund					
Director's Office	3,209,552	3,071,627	3,882,556	3,160,855	4,039,912
Storm	40,101,913	35,696,493	41,651,718	39,168,574	42,982,497
Storm Sewer Fund Subtotal	43,311,465	38,768,120	45,534,274	42,329,428	47,022,409
Department Total	\$ 581,463,477	\$ 579,115,752	\$ 686,530,203	\$ 654,314,937	\$ 715,939,125



Financial Summary by Area of Expense					
Division	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Projected	2022 Proposed
Directors Office					
Water Operating Fund					
Personnel	\$ 8,063,080	\$ 7,888,464	\$ 8,659,039	\$ 7,841,145	\$ 8,882,749
Materials & Supplies	175,511	351,043	306,301	286,934	292,529
Services	2,428,864	2,246,000	4,524,092	2,613,314	4,487,803
Other	665	433	1,358	1,358	1,358
Capital	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	73,440	-	-	-	-
Water Operating Fund Subtotal	10,741,559	10,485,940	13,490,790	10,742,751	13,664,439
Electricity Operating Fund					
Personnel	1,257,991	1,226,969	1,355,098	1,230,926	1,396,528
Materials & Supplies	21,007	15,994	24,586	21,238	22,411
Services	425,353	346,516	714,967	513,159	709,359
Other	105	68	214	214	214
Capital	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	11,546	-	-	-	-
Electricity Operating Fund Subtotal	1,716,002	1,589,548	2,094,865	1,765,537	2,128,512
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund					
Personnel	9,131,480	8,922,389	9,714,820	8,780,802	9,958,842
Materials & Supplies	155,475	113,695	175,231	153,792	159,804
Services	2,933,704	2,617,487	5,062,954	2,923,964	5,033,713
Other	745	486	1,522	1,523	1,523
Capital	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	82,336	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund Subtotal	12,303,740	11,654,056	14,954,527	11,860,080	15,153,882
Storm Sewer Operating Fund					
Personnel	2,399,398	2,338,922	2,485,999	2,341,034	2,655,691
Materials & Supplies	39,108	30,072	46,734	41,172	42,614
Services	748,891	702,504	1,349,417	778,242	1,341,201
Other	199	130	406	406	406
Capital	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	21,956	-	-	-	-
Storm Sewer Operating Fund Subtotal	3,209,552	3,071,627	3,882,556	3,160,855	4,039,912
Director's Office Subtotal	27,970,853	26,801,172	34,422,738	27,529,221	34,986,745

Financial Summary by Area of Expense, cont.						
Division		2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Projected	2022 Proposed
Water						
	Personnel	44,973,167	43,480,789	43,663,743	41,138,085	44,778,360
	Materials & Supplies	18,470,634	18,288,180	20,265,220	21,086,928	23,213,040
	Services	33,897,606	35,280,667	44,575,302	41,046,497	52,895,008
	Principal	55,068,841	60,343,453	64,714,789	63,840,841	67,542,619
	Other	23,080	3,611	56,000	24,935	54,000
	Capital	1,084,492	2,005,937	1,743,770	1,741,746	1,830,200
	Interest	23,989,023	17,611,565	36,080,833	14,607,470	37,338,390
	Transfers	-	-	-	19,505,281	
	Water Subtotal	177,506,843	177,014,202	211,099,657	202,991,784	227,651,617
Power						
	Personnel	10,455,132	10,457,539	11,744,796	10,150,307	11,941,013
	Materials & Supplies	54,159,352	59,071,799	57,820,000	58,036,191	61,398,186
	Services	9,858,606	10,869,122	17,389,968	15,814,817	17,540,967
	Principal	418,271	553,271	888,271	888,271	1,368,271
	Other	6,854	506	20,700	20,100	20,700
	Capital	4,176,267	3,999,340	5,436,000	4,899,703	5,714,000
	Interest	818	736	774,279	654	1,283,472
	Power Subtotal	79,075,300	84,952,314	94,074,014	89,810,043	99,266,609
Sanitary						
	Personnel	43,004,066	42,570,327	44,494,998	41,234,870	45,259,625
	Materials & Supplies	9,001,555	8,620,931	12,614,427	12,748,665	13,338,385
	Services	45,849,634	47,477,506	57,130,420	55,794,980	54,888,928
	Principal	97,303,949	104,788,088	118,473,688	117,225,897	121,186,087
	Other	254,728	320,275	158,800	118,756	156,800
	Capital	4,552,769	3,699,293	1,656,620	959,596	2,070,000
	Interest	35,284,442	27,797,640	49,856,398	28,275,260	48,105,107
	Transfers	21,557,425	19,377,511	20,896,725	38,457,291	26,046,725
	Sanitary Subtotal	256,808,568	254,651,571	305,282,076	294,815,315	311,051,657
Storm						
	Personnel	2,367,978	2,355,304	2,590,216	1,977,962	2,602,443
	Materials & Supplies	49,736	58,850	95,616	95,616	148,809
	Services	22,696,939	21,468,145	24,382,057	23,000,271	25,736,392
	Principal	10,549,000	10,055,137	9,980,195	9,800,510	10,080,915
	Other	-	-	20,000	85,000	20,000
	Capital	90,233	40,825	-	-	35,400
	Interest	4,348,029	1,718,232	4,583,634	2,549,630	4,358,538
	Transfers	-	-	-	1,659,585	-
	Storm Subtotal	40,101,913	35,696,493	41,651,718	39,168,574	42,982,497
Department Total		\$ 581,463,477	\$ 579,115,752	\$ 686,530,203	\$ 654,314,937	\$ 715,939,125

Department Personnel Summary								
	2019 Actual		2020 Actual		2021 Budget		2022 Proposed	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Dept of Public Utilities								
Director's Office	200	4	196	4	239	8	239	8
Water	413	6	390	6	468	17	467	22
Power	95	1	89	1	110	4	110	1
Sanitary	412	0	393	0	472	6	470	14
Storm	21	0	21	0	26	2	26	2
Total	1,141	11	1,089	11	1,315	37	1312	47

Please note: In addition to the positions listed above in the 2019 column, funding was included for two positions in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Operating Budget by Program					
Program	2021 Budget	2021 FTEs	2022 Proposed	2022 FTEs	
Utilities Administration	\$ 10,365,559	27	\$ 12,600,643	28	
Fiscal	4,872,319	37	5,269,563	37	
Human Resources	3,818,000	33	3,611,780	32	
Internal Services	95,826,714	0	95,470,885	0	
Regulatory Compliance	3,730,952	30	3,745,482	30	
Public Relations	533,165	4	405,774	3	
Sustainability	725,827	5	719,872	5	
Emergency Preparedness	1,129,887	10	1,148,469	10	
Septic Tank Elimination Program	160,000	0	160,000	0	
Customer Service	34,568,597	247	33,842,674	248	
Maintenance	20,286,773	165	20,415,383	163	
Engineering and Development	77,561,743	133	79,331,064	134	
Fleet Management	3,185,910	30	2,827,875	26	
Water Distribution	59,932,720	273	70,835,193	277	
Wastewater Treatment	39,343,712	225	40,256,816	223	
Stormwater Management	3,352,667	26	4,174,993	26	
Electricity Distribution	15,253,523	52	16,934,534	41	
Street Lighting	5,495,323	18	6,779,501	29	
COVID-19	138,000	0	98,500	0	
Debt Management	306,248,812	0	317,310,124	0	
Department Total	\$ 686,530,203	1,315	\$ 715,939,125	1,312	

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.



2022 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

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