


To the Mayor and Members of the City Council
February 1, 2022

Page 1 of 3

**SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL STAFFING AND OPERATING BUDGETS IN
PEER CITIES**

This Informal Report provides an overview of city council funding and resources for six of Fort Worth's peer cities: San Antonio, Dallas, Austin, El Paso, Arlington, and Plano. The table below summarizes the compensation and staffing levels for these peer cities, as well as how much each department budgets for Operating and Maintenance (O&M) expenditures.

City	Population	Council Members	Council Member Compensation	Council Aides	Other Department Positions	O&M Budget
San Antonio	1,434,625	10	\$ 45,722	Yes - Not APs	89	\$ 2,457,254
Dallas	1,304,379	14	60,000	Yes - APs	16	403,300
Austin	961,855	10	81,535	Yes - Not APs	59	850,337
El Paso	678,815	8	45,300	Yes - APs	7	183,305
Arlington	394,266	8	2,400	No	4	39,105
Plano	285,494	7	12,000	No	2	103,807
Fort Worth	918,915	8	25,000	Yes - APs	7	171,714

The information in this summary table is broken down in the sections below. For comparison, each of Fort Worth's eight council districts has an O&M budget of approximately \$10,000, while the Mayor's Office has an O&M budget of \$92,000. These amounts mostly cover expenses for cell phones and trainings/workshops.

San Antonio

In addition to their annual stipend of \$45,722, each of San Antonio's 11 offices of elected officials (10 council districts + mayor) receives approximately \$675,000 for personnel services. These funds are used to pay for up to 7.5 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) per office, which includes council aides, chiefs of staff, policy directors, etc. In addition to their salary, support staff receive full benefits including health insurance, IRA contributions, and vehicle/parking/phone stipends. These FTEs, currently numbered at 71, are considered temporary positions and their incumbents are not counted as city employees.

In addition to the 71 staff members mentioned above, the Mayor and Council Department includes an additional 18 FTE's acting in various support roles. In total, there are 89 positions supporting San Antonio's Mayor and City Council.

San Antonio's O&M budget of \$2,457,254 provides each office of elected officials approximately \$220,000 in additional funding, broken down as follows:

- \$50,000 for a discretionary project fund, which allows council members to provide financial support for community events and education.
- \$90,000 for the city's allocated expenses (computer equipment, building rental, electricity, etc.)
- \$55,000 for travel, training, printing, and other services.
- \$25,000 for meals, office supplies, software, and other commodities.

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****February 1, 2022**

Page 2 of 3

**SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL STAFFING AND OPERATING BUDGETS IN
PEER CITIES****Dallas**

Dallas's Mayor and City Council Department includes communication and public engagement functions, although 16 positions are committed to supporting the city council. These positions include 14 city council liaisons, a department manager, and a department director. Each district also has a council aide, which is included as an approved position/city employee.

In addition to each council member's \$60,000 stipend, the department provides approximately \$26,900 in O&M expenses per council member and mayor:

- \$16,000 for travel, training, printing, and other services.
- \$8,000 for meals, office supplies, software, and other commodities.
- \$2,900 for the city's allocated expenses (computer equipment, building rental, electricity, etc.)

Austin

Each of Austin's ten council members receives an annual stipend of \$81,535, as well as 5 FTEs to create a support staff. The support staffs mostly consist of a chief of staff, policy advisors, and communication liaison positions. Including the mayor's staff of 9 FTEs, the department totals 59 support staff positions, all of whom are city employees. Council aides, which are optional, and council members are counted as temporary staff.

Austin's O&M budget of \$850,337 provides each office about \$77,000 in additional funding:

- \$28,000 for travel, training, printing, and other services.
- \$17,000 for meals, office supplies, software, and other commodities.
- \$32,000 for the city's allocated expenses (computer equipment, building rental, electricity, etc.)

El Paso

The eight council members in El Paso each receive approximately \$45,300 annually. However, the exact amount changes every year, since it is based on the median household income in El Paso. In addition to council aides, the department includes seven support staff positions: four administrative assistants, a chief of staff, a secretary, and a public affairs specialist. Council members, their aides, and the mayor are all full-time city employees.

El Paso's O&M budget of \$183,305 provides each office about \$20,000 in additional funding:

- \$5,000 for travel, training, printing, and other services.
- \$5,000 for meals, office supplies, software, and other commodities.
- \$10,000 for community service projects within each member's district.

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****February 1, 2022**

Page 3 of 3

**SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL STAFFING AND OPERATING BUDGETS IN
PEER CITIES****Arlington**

Arlington's eight council members receive \$200 a month, or \$2,400 annually. Arlington city council members do not have aides/assistants, although four positions support their functions. These positions include two council coordinators, one council assistant, and one executive assistant to Mayor and Council.

The O&M budget for Arlington's Mayor and Council division provides about \$4,900 a year for each council member. However, these amounts mostly cover meals and travel. Council members have no discretionary funding for projects and events.

Plano

Plano's seven council members receive \$1,000 a month, or \$12,000 annually. Plano city council members do not have aides, although two executive administrative positions support the mayor and city council.

The O&M budget for Plano's City Council department provides nearly \$13,000 a year for O&M expenditures. However, these amounts mostly cover meals, travel, and supplies. Council members have no discretionary funding for projects and events.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark McAvoy, Director, Planning and Data Analytics Department, at (817) 392-6222.

David Cooke
City Manager