

BUDGET HEARING
FY 2004 BUDGET REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (OCFO)

Before the
Committee on Finance and Revenue
Council of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Jack Evans, Chairman

April 4, 2003, 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers



Testimony of
Anthony F. Pompa
Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Office of Financial Operations and Systems

Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer
Government of the District of Columbia

Good morning, Chairman Evans and committee members. My name is Anthony Pompa. I am the deputy chief financial officer for the Office of Financial Operations and Systems (OFOS), and I am pleased to present the following testimony about the FY 2004 budget request for OFOS and related matters for the record.

FY 2004 Budget Request

For FY 2004, OFOS is requesting a total budget of 134 FTEs and \$11.8 million. This represents a decrease of 14 FTEs and about \$314,000, which are the direct result of budget reductions throughout the Office of the Chief Financial Officer from the FY 2003 operating budget. This level of funding supports two major departments within OFOS: the Office of Financial Operations (Controller) and the Office of Pay and Retirement Services (OPRS).

FY 2003 Accomplishments

As I stated at your March 2003 oversight hearing, we continue to make improvements in overall operations in Fiscal Year 2003. The monthly closings continue, while the March interim closing is currently in progress. We also plan to prepare the interim financial statements as of June 2003, in July 2003. The Accounting Systems Managers (ASMs) are providing training to agencies while support to the central financial offices is ongoing. The Office of Pay and Retirement Services (OPRS) continues to meet all payrolls on time, while exploring new avenues for active payroll and pension management for agencies throughout the city.

OFOS Programs

As we continue to routinely produce the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), we are publishing interim and year-end closing instructions on the intranet, allowing agencies to electronically download instructions and submit the majority of requirements electronically. This method facilitates review of instructions by agencies and allows timely feedback from them for clarification and improvements.

In FY 2004 we will continue to provide general SOAR training for employees, as well as targeted training to assist agencies with their specific accounting requirements. Specialized training is being conducted, and other training tailored to meet agencies' requirements is planned.

The Accounting Systems Management (ASM) program remains strong. ASMs are assigned to agencies, not only to advise on day-to-day recording of accounting transactions, but also to provide on-the-spot training. Throughout the interim and year-end closings, ASMs will review agency closing packages to ensure their completeness and accuracy. ASMs, along with other OFOS staff, have formed temporary trouble-shooting teams to assist specific agencies as required and/or requested.

In FY 2004, this office will continue to support the efforts of the District's Administrative Systems Modernization Program (ASMP), by providing expert knowledge in payroll processing and accounts payable operations; recommending ASMP interfaces into SOAR; and advising on funding approval thresholds for various types of procurement actions within the ASMP framework.

The Office of Pay and Retirement Services (OPRS) will remain fully engaged with the consolidation of pay schedules and updating the payroll system to support payment from the revised schedules. Throughout FY 2004, OPRS will continue to serve District employees, as well as annuitants of several federal agencies. Additionally, through OPRS, work will continue with the U.S. Treasury to provide support to annuitants and to enhance the current retirement pay system. This division will continue to support the DCPS initiative to convert to its own payroll system. OPRS plays an integral role in the District's effort to simplify its approach to premium pay types, and as mentioned above, is very active in the District's ASMP initiative.

This concludes my formal testimony for the record. I will be happy to answer any questions you or the other members may have.

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