



## Department of Administrative Hearings â?? BGA Policy 2026 Budget Snapshot

### Description

## Table of contents

- [Departmental Highlights](#)
- [Historical Context](#)
- [Budgeted Position Changes](#)
- [Appropriations](#)
  - [Largest Appropriations](#)
  - [Change from Previous Year](#)

The Department of Administrative Hearings is a quasi-judicial body authorized to administer hearings on ordinance violations that do not include a penalty of imprisonment. Administrative hearings offer an alternative to full court cases for low-level traffic violations, building code violations, and similar non-violent, city-level offenses.

## Departmental Highlights

### Snapshot: Appropriation & Staffing Changes from 2025 Budget

	2025 Budgeted	2026 Proposed	Net Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Rate of Change (2011-2025)	Inflation- adjusted Rate of Change (2011-2024)
Appropriations	\$8,560,776	\$8,389,224	-\$171,552	-2.0%	1.3%	-0.8%
Positions & FTEs	39	39	0	0.0%	-0.8%	NA

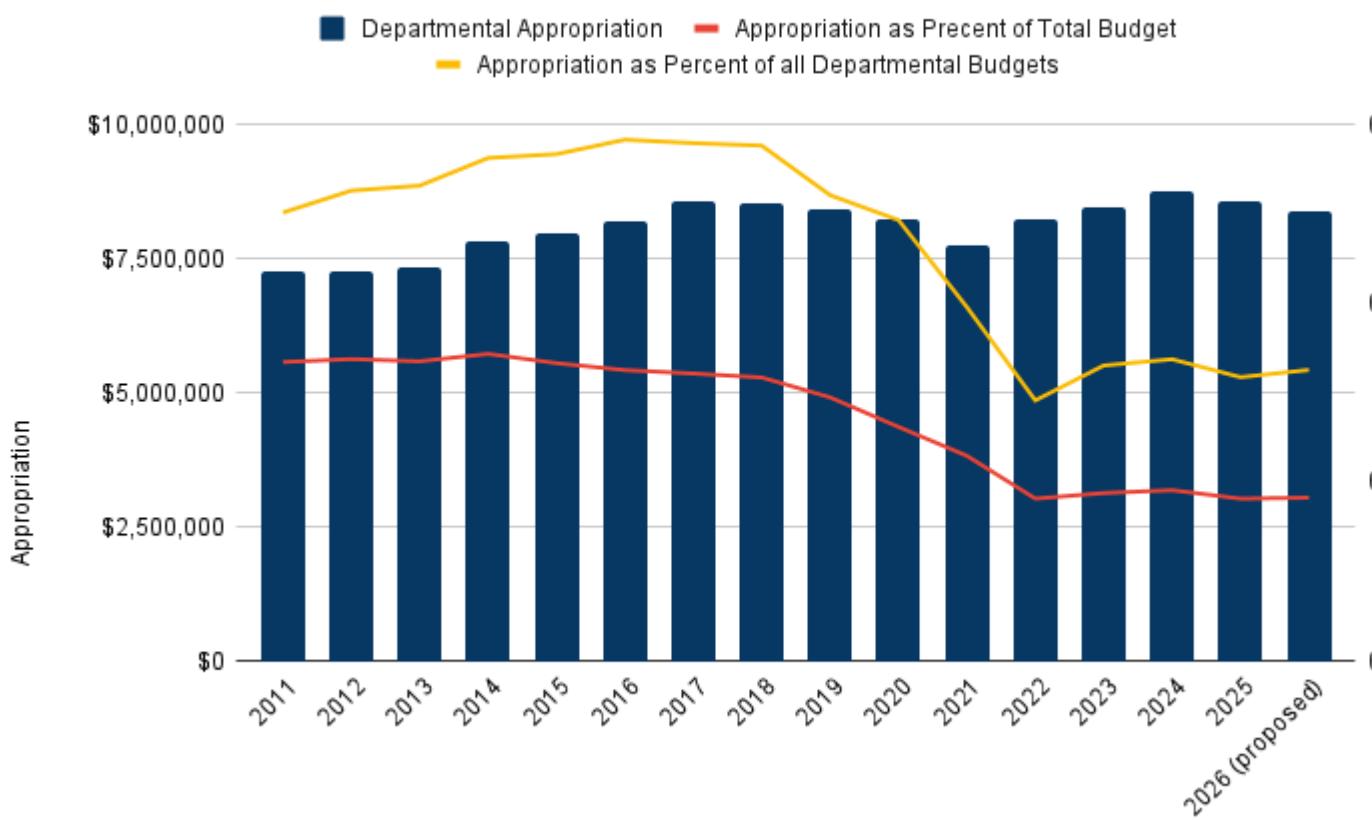
- The 2026 budget proposal makes no changes in DAHâ??s staffing from the previous year. Headcount and titles/positions remain the same.

- As with most departments, personnel costs make up the bulk of DAH's appropriations, with salaries and wages on payroll the largest expense category. Despite a cut this year DAH's professional and technical services appropriation (used for outside contracting) is nearly as large as the salary appropriation, with IT maintenance the third-largest and only other million-dollar-plus departmental appropriation.
- The IT maintenance appropriation saw the largest increase in DAH's budget, up roughly \$188,000 (16%) from the previous year. The professional and technical services appropriation, used for outside contracting, saw the largest reduction, down roughly -\$328,000 (-10.6%).

## Historical Context

DAH's budget has been relatively stable in recent years, growing at an average annual rate of 1.3% from 2011-2025, which adjusted for inflation equates to a -0.8% annual decline. The city budget as a whole grew at an average rate of 8.3% (inflation-adjusted 4.4%) over the same time period.

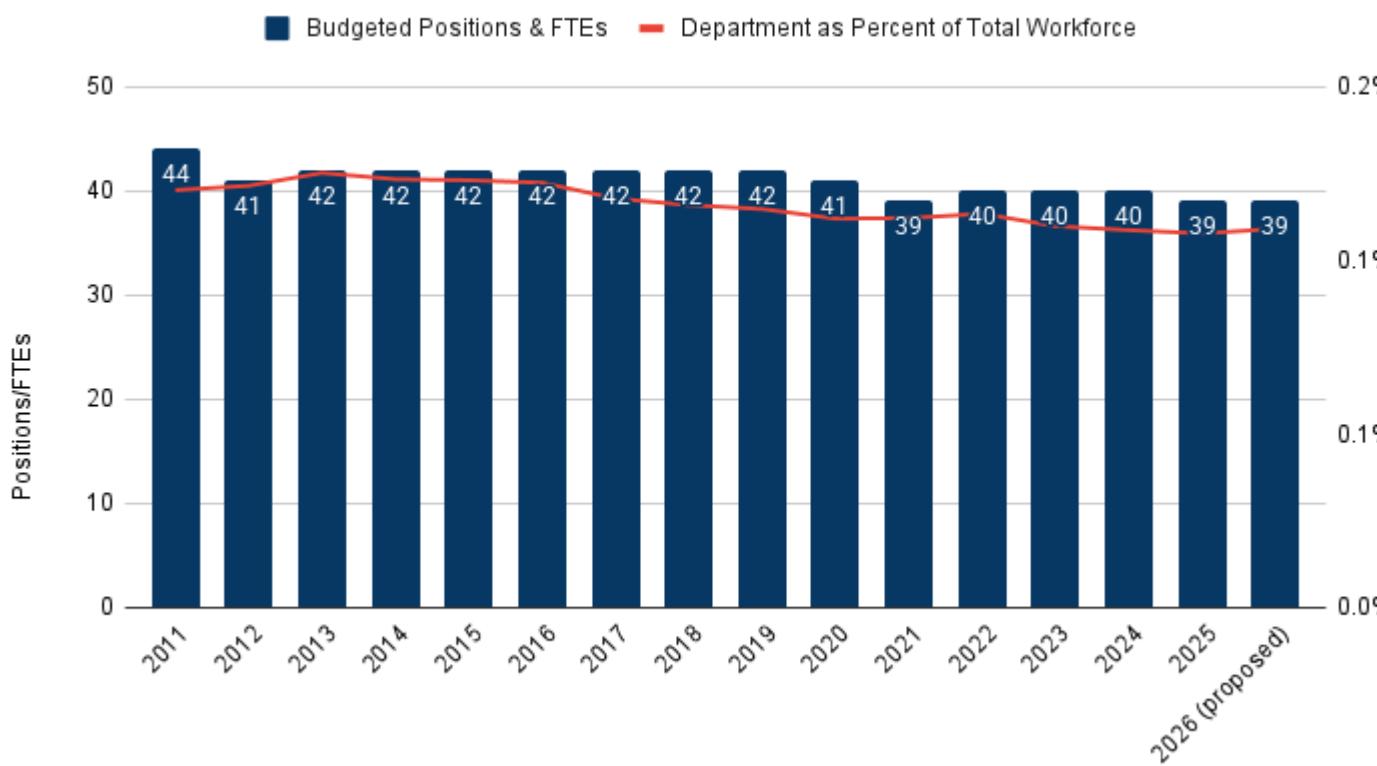
### DAH Appropriation, Chicago City Budgets 2011-2026 (proposed)



Over the past three complete budget years for which local fund actuals/encumbrances data is available, DAH spent on average 83% of its locally funded budget, compared to the citywide average 86.4% local fund spend.

Headcount at DAH has declined slightly over time, down an average of -0.8% annually from 2011-2025, compared to a citywide average annual change of -0.1%. The current budget proposal makes no change in DAH's budgeted positions.

### DAH Budgeted Workforce, 2011-2026 (proposed)



From February through September of 2025, the months for which the city released full-time position vacancy data, DAH averaged a 15.4% vacancy rate, compared to the citywide average of 11.2%.

Six of the department's budgeted full-time positions were persistent vacancies, meaning that the same title/division/section/subsection combination was vacant for all eight months of available data:

## Budgeted Position Changes

The 2026 budget proposal makes no changes in DAH's staffing from the previous year. Headcount and titles/positions remain the same.

## Appropriations

DAH is entirely locally-funded in this year's budget proposal, with all appropriations coming from the Corporate Fund.

## **Largest Appropriations**

As with most departments, personnel costs make up the bulk of DAH's appropriations, with salaries and wages on payroll the largest expense category. Despite a cut this year DAH's professional and technical services appropriation (used for outside contracting) is nearly as large as the salary appropriation, with IT maintenance the third-largest and only other million-dollar-plus departmental appropriation.

In 2024, the most recent complete budget year for which local fund actuals and encumbrances data is available, DAH spent 82.6% of its locally-funded budget.

## **Change from Previous Year**

The IT maintenance appropriation saw the largest increase in DAH's budget, up roughly \$188,000 (16%) from the previous year. The professional and technical services appropriation, used for outside contracting, saw the largest reduction, down roughly -\$328,000 (-10.6%).