

State Auditor's Office Update

Fall 2023



Office of the
Washington
State Auditor

Expanding cybersecurity capacity

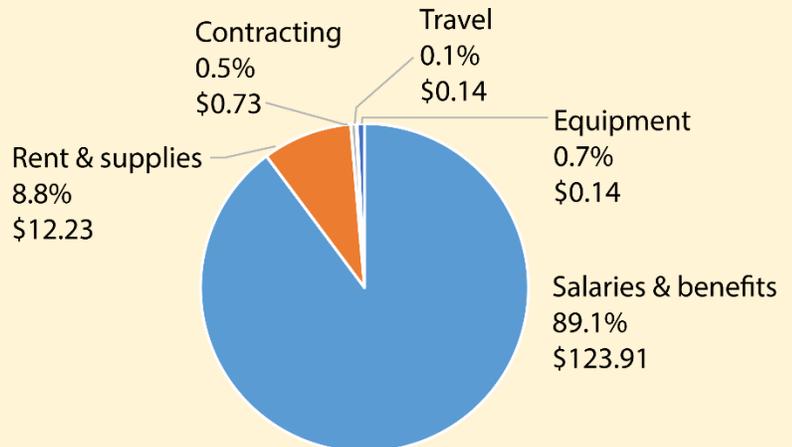
- Introducing cyber check-ups – fast, free independent assessments.
- Performing more cybersecurity audits of local governments, including addressing ransomware attacks that result in “cyber losses.”
- 60 local governments reported they were involved in a cyberattack that resulted in a loss of public funds in the past biennium.
- Hacktober – Cybersecurity Awareness month. We'll be sharing tips, new information and pointing to existing resources to help you stay cyber safe, whether you're working from your office or your home.
- #Becybersmart – Resource Library is always accessible, with items like “How to improve your cybersecurity without breaking your budget.”
- Our cyber-resources are available at no cost to Washington governments.



2024 billing rate

- All state employees received a COLA effective July 1, as well as retention and vaccine payments.
- Correspondingly, the hourly local government rate for 2024 will be \$139.
- All local governments received notification describing all billing rate tiers.
- The hybrid work environment has helped achieve cost savings related to travel.

2024 Local Government Rate Breakdown



Steady investment in better service from SAO

- Financial Intelligence Tool (FIT) now mobile-friendly
- SAO website continuously updated with resources and information, recently upgraded web support from WaTech
- SAOShare a success in secure file sharing
- Instituting A.I. policies and best practices
- Coming in 2024, improved annual filing system with upgraded features to help local governments

