

Budget Policy

Policy Number: 01-01

Date: January 9, 2017

Purpose: The City Manager shall submit an annual budget to the City Council which is within the City's ability to pay. The annual budget should provide for the following:

1. A meeting will be held with the Finance Advisory Committee after June 30 and before joint City Council budget discussions begin to discuss the previous year-end Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, review revenues trends and discuss any new policy recommendations.
2. Management shall prepare a draft of the annual budget for review by the City Council and the Finance Advisory Committee in October/November of each year. The recommended budget should be submitted to the City Council for review and a public hearing in November of each year. The final budget document shall be submitted to the full membership for approval prior to December 31 of each year.
3. The annual budget should effectively communicate meaningful and understandable information to the City residents, City Council, City Staff, and other readers.
4. The annual budget shall be monitored on a monthly basis. Revenue and expenditure budget reports shall be prepared and made available to City management staff for departmental review on a monthly basis. A quarterly budget summary report (Treasurer's Report) shall be presented to the City Council.
5. The annual budget should allow for the implementation of as many of the City Council's goals and objectives from the 2025 strategic plan as financially possible.
6. The annual budget should provide for the adequate funding of all pension plans (IMRF, Police Pension Fund, and Firefighters Pension Fund). An independent actuary should be used to determine the annual City contributions to the Police Pension Fund and the Firefighters Pension Fund and determine if these pension funds are adequately funded.
7. The annual budget should provide funding for the adequate maintenance of municipal equipment, municipal facilities, and infrastructure.

8. The annual budget should set aside-adequate funding (pay-as-you-go funding) for the replacement of major equipment. Annual funding (depreciation funding) for these replacements will eliminate major expenditure jumps in the annual budget when these acquisitions are made.
9. During the budget process, the City will assess the need for contingency funds to be included in the budget to fund unanticipated expenditures that might arise.
10. The annual budget should finance current operating expenditures, excluding major capital expenditures, with current revenues. The use of reserve funds to finance current operating expenditures should be carefully considered and avoided if possible.
11. The City should limit the use of the reserve fund to nonrecurring operating expenditures or capital expenditures, specifically if our anticipated fund balance is below our Fund Balance Reserve Policy of 25%.
12. When the City is required to undertake a budget amendment and/or execute expenditure transfers to ensure that actual expenditures are within approved budgetary limits as authorized by City Council the following procedures will be followed. Administration of these procedures will be the responsibility of the City's Finance Director and the Finance Director will sign off that these procedures have been adhered to for any budget amendments and/or expenditure transfers undertaken by the City. Those procedures are as follows:
 - a. Upon knowledge that a budget amendment and/or expenditure transfer will be required, the City's Finance Director will inform both the Finance Committee and the City Council.
 - b. Documents will be drafted by the Finance Director with the reason for the required budget amendment and/or expenditure transfer, including the specific accounts affected and the dollar amounts of said amendments and/or expenditure transfers.
 - c. Formal City Council review and approval of proposed budget amendments and/or expenditure transfers will be required before any amendments and/or transfers are executed by the Finance Director.