

CITY OF MUSCATINE
FUND STRUCTURE OVERVIEW
AND
BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETING

FUND STRUCTURE OVERVIEW:

The accounting system and the budget appropriation process are structured according to the basic guidelines established by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The format includes the basic funds and fund types which follow.

The City's governmental funds are as follows:

General Fund - This fund accounts for all transactions of the city that pertain to the general administration of the city and the services traditionally provided to its citizens. This includes general administration, police and fire protection, streets, public building operations and maintenance, and parks and recreation.

Special Revenue Funds - These funds are utilized to account for revenues derived from specific sources which are usually required by law or regulation to be accounted for as separate funds. For the City of Muscatine these funds include the Community Block Grant Fund, Road Use Tax Fund, Local Option Sales Tax Fund, Municipal Housing Program Funds, Equipment Replacement Fund, Computer Replacement Fund, Employee Benefits Fund, Emergency Tax Levy Fund, Tax Increment Funds, Police Forfeiture Fund and Law Enforcement Block Grant Fund.

Debt Service Fund - This fund accounts for the accumulation of revenues for and payment of principal and interest on general obligation long term debt.

Capital Projects Fund - These funds are utilized to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of capital facilities or other major fixed assets.

The City's business-type funds include the following:

Enterprise Funds - These funds are utilized to account for operations and activities that are financed and operated in a manner similar to a private business enterprise, and where the cost of providing goods and services to the general public on a continuing basis is expected to be recovered primarily through user charges. The City has also established Enterprise Funds when it was advantageous to segregate revenues earned and expenses incurred for an operation for purposes of capital maintenance, public policy, management control or accountability. Enterprise Funds for the City include the Water Pollution Control, Collection and Drainage, Solid Waste Management Funds, Airport Operations, Parking Operation, Transit Operations, Golf Course, Boat Harbor, Marina Operations, and Ambulance Operations Funds.

Internal Service Funds - These funds are established to finance and account for services and/or commodities furnished by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the city. The Internal Service Funds of the City are the Equipment Services, Health Insurance, and Dental Insurance funds.

The City's other funds include the following:

Former Expendable Trust Funds – Although reflected in this budget document as trust funds, these former expendable trusts are now reflected on the City's fiscal year-end financial statements as special revenue funds. These funds are used to account for assets held by the City in a trustee or custodial capacity where both the principal and interest may be expended for purposes in the trust agreement. Budgeted Trust Funds include the Insurance Trust, Library Trust Funds, the Art Center Trust Funds with the exception of the McWhirter-Gilmore Trust, the Perpetual Care Interest Trust and the Parks and Recreation Trust.

Permanent Funds – These funds account for resources that are legally restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the government's programs. These funds were formerly classified as non-expendable trust funds. The Permanent Funds of the City include the Perpetual Care Fund, the Mc-Whirter-Gilmore Art Center Trust and the Cemetery Special Trusts.

Accounting for financial activities of the City and the budget appropriation process are also presented according to classifications required by the State of Iowa. Revenues are credited to individual fund types while expenditures/expenses are recorded according to functional areas within specific funds for budgetary control purposes. All of the City's funds, with the exception of the Equipment Services Internal Service Fund, are considered appropriated funds according to the criteria established by the State. This budget document was prepared according to these criteria. The following functional areas are included in the budget:

General Government - This function provides for the operation of the government and assures the general administration of the municipality. Activities included in this function are mayor and council, legal services, city administrator, human resources, wellness program, finance, computer operations, risk management, and buildings and grounds.

Public Safety - This function provides for services to reduce the amount and effects of external harm to individuals and damage to property, and in general to promote an atmosphere of personal security from external events. Police, animal control, communications, fire, and civil defense activities are included in this function.

Culture and Recreation - This function promotes the general well being of the City and encourages the fullest development of cultural and educational potentials of the citizens in the community. This function includes the activities of library, art center, parks and recreation, and cemetery.

Public Works - This function provides for safe and well-maintained infrastructure for the City. Activities included in this function are public works administration, roadway maintenance, snow and ice control, street cleaning, traffic control and engineering.

Community and Economic Development – This function provides for planning and development of the City including the social, physical and economic needs of the City. Activities included in this function are Planning, Zoning and Building Safety, Economic Development, the Section 8 Housing Program and the Tax Increment Funds.

Health and Social Services – This function provides for assistance to service agencies involved in providing health and social services in the community. For the City, this function includes the Economic Well-Being activity.

Debt Service – This function provides for the accumulation of resources for and the payment of principal and interest on long-term debt of the City.

Capital Projects – This function provides for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities or equipment for the City.

Business-Type Activities – This function includes activities of the City that are financed in whole, or in part, by fees charged to external parties for goods or services. These activities are accounted for as enterprise funds and include the Airport, Transit, Parking, Golf Course, Boat Harbor, Marina, Ambulance, Refuse Collection, Landfill, Transfer Station, Water Pollution Control, and Collection and Drainage Funds.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETING:

The City of Muscatine uses the modified accrual basis of accounting to budget and account for transactions of the governmental funds. Under this basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (when they are measurable and available) and expenditures are recognized when the fund liability is incurred. For the City's proprietary funds the City uses the accrual basis of accounting. Under this basis, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred. The City prepares the budgets for proprietary funds consistent with this basis except that capital outlay items are included in the budget and depreciation is excluded.

The City prepares its budget on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles except that the City also recognizes encumbrances for budgetary purposes. Encumbrances include supplies ordered but not yet received, and services contracted but not yet expended by the City. Encumbrances are charged against a budget or appropriation for accounting purposes. Accordingly, expenditures/expenses in this document include encumbered expenditures/expenses. Encumbrances do not lapse at year-end and provide authorization for expenditures/expenses for the following year.

The City appropriates funds for capital projects on a fiscal year basis. The Capital Projects section of this document includes descriptive information on each project with estimated costs and financing sources. Included on separate schedules are project cost estimates by fiscal year for both the revised 2006/2007 and upcoming 2007/2008 fiscal years.