

GLOSSARY OF BUDGET TERMINOLOGY

AD VALOREM TAX

A tax computed from the taxable or assessed valuation of real land and improvements and personal property.

APPROPRIATION

An authorization made by the City Council that permits officials to incur obligations against and make expenditures of governmental resources.

ARBITRAGE

The interest earnings derived from invested bond proceeds or debt service fund balances.

ASSESSED VALUATION

This represents the total valuation of land and improvements and personal property less all properties exempt from tax. Also identified as taxable valuation.

BOND

A written promise to pay a sum of money on a specified date at a specified interest rate. General Obligation (GO) and Revenue Bonds are used for funding permanent capital improvements such as buildings, streets, and bridges.

BUDGET

A financial plan for a specified period of time that matches all planned revenues and expenditures with various municipal services. It is the primary means by which most of the expenditure and service delivery activities of a government are controlled.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUND

Capital construction funds are used to pay for capital projects which are not debt financed. Funding is usually derived from operating fund transfers.

CAPITAL GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Contributions by individuals or organizations for the purpose of funding capital improvements within the scope of interest of the donor.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

The City's plan to finance major infrastructure development and improvement. It is primarily funded through General Obligation Bonds and Revenue Bonds.

CERTIFICATE OF OBLIGATION (CO)

A written promise secured by the full faith and credit of the City. Used for funding permanent capital improvements. Debt Service is paid from ad valorem taxes or operating revenues.

COMMERCIAL PAPER

A short-term promissory note offering flexibility to borrow as needed at the time of the actual award of projects instead of sale of bond. Used for interim financing for water and wastewater improvements.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG)

Federal funds available to municipalities specifically for activities and programs to create viable urban communities for low and moderate income persons.

CONTINGENCY RESERVE

A budgetary reserve which provides for unanticipated expenditures of a non-recurring nature.

CONTRACTUAL SERVICE

The cost related to services performed for the City by individuals, businesses, or utilities.

DEBT SERVICE

Sometimes referred to as the Interest and Sinking Fund, it is used to account for the accumulation of financial resources to meet the requirements of general obligation debt service and debt service reserve.

DEPARTMENT

A major administrative division of the City that indicates overall management responsibility for an operation or a group of related operations within a functional area.

EMERGENCY RESERVE

A budgetary reserve which provides for temporary financing of unforeseen needs of an emergency nature, unanticipated fluctuations in revenue, and individual judgment/settlement payments exceeding a \$5,000,000 liability cap.

ENCUMBRANCE

The commitment of appropriated funds to purchase an item or service.

ENTERPRISE FUND

These funds are fully supported by charges for service. Each fund establishes revenue-based fees and charges to recoup the costs of providing the services.

EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION NOTES

Short term note financing secured by the full faith and credit of the City used for funding capital equipment purchases. Debt service requirements are met with ad valorem or operating transfers from fee supported funds.

FIDUCIARY FUND

This type of fund accounts for assets held by the City in a trustee or agency capacity.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

The City maintains Financial Management Performance Criteria (FMPC), established in the late 1970's to reflect financial policies that the City believes necessary for planning purposes and to measure sound financial condition. These criteria are applied to the ongoing management of the City's finances and covers the following aspects of financial management: operating programs; capital and debt management; accounting, auditing and financial planning; cash management; grants and trusts; and, Dallas Water Utilities.

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FINES AND FORFEITURES

Charges levied by City departments to individuals and businesses that are resolved through payment or loss of property.

FISCAL YEAR

The twelve-month period beginning October 1st and ending the following September 30th to which the annual budget applies.

FRANCHISE FEE

A fee levied by the City Council on businesses that use the City's right-of-way to deliver services. This fee is usually charged as a percentage of gross receipts.

FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS (FTE)

A unit used to quantify staffing. One FTE is a full year, 40 hour per week position. A part-time position working 20 hours per week or a temporary full-time position working six months would be 0.5 FTEs.

FULL YEAR FUNDING

The additional required funding necessary for twelve full months of operations related to positions and/or program funding added in the previous fiscal year. This funding complements prior year funding.

FUND

A fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts (assets, liabilities, fund balance) which are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions, or limitations.

FUND BALANCE

The difference between a fund's assets and liabilities. For the purposes of this document, two different calculations are utilized. For the General Fund, the unreserved undesignated portion of fund balance is reported. For all other funds, fund balance is reported as current assets less current liabilities less reserves for encumbrances.

GENERAL CAPITAL RESERVE

Depository for proceeds from property sale, abandonments, or reimbursements of prior loans/advances providing funds for Capital Improvements and/or to provide interim financing for Capital Projects.

GENERAL FUND

This is the main operating fund of the City. It accounts for basic operating services such as Police, Fire, Streets, Sanitation, Code Enforcement, Park and Recreation, Library, Environmental and Health Services, and others.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

Bonds used for funding permanent public capital improvements such as buildings, streets, and bridges. The repayment of these bonds is made from the levy of property tax. Voter approval is required to issue these bonds.

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GRANT

A contribution by a government or other organization to support a particular function. Typically, these contributions are made to a local government from the state or federal government.

IN SERVICE DATE

Date on which a City facility is available to the public.

INTER-DEPARTMENT FINANCING

Short-term interim financing from one City department to another City department (necessary due to timing of project with permanent financing mechanism) with the repayment of the loan plus interest once permanent financing is in place.

INTEREST EARNED

Assets collected through investment of cash.

INTERFUND REVENUE

Assets transferred from one fund to another for services rendered.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE

Money collected from other governmental entities.

LIABILITY RESERVE

Funds reserved for outstanding current and forecasted future liabilities.

MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Basis of accounting according to which (a) revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they became available and the measurable and (b) expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which the fund liability is incurred, if measurable, except for unmatured interest on general long-term debt and certain similar accrued obligations, which should be recognized when due.

OBJECTIVE

A specific statement describing what is to be achieved, by how much, and within what time frame. Objectives should be results-oriented, specific, measurable, and relevant to the goals of the programs to which they relate.

OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COST

Operational cost incurred by a facility for one year.

OPERATING BUDGET

The personnel, supply, service, and short term capital expenditures of a department.

PROGRAM

A sub-unit of a department.

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PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (PID)

A specific neighborhood where property owners have petition the City to authorize a special assessment on the property within that neighborhood to generate funds for public amenities and services.

REIMBURSEMENT

Payment from one fund or department to another for a specific purpose.

REVENUE BONDS

Bonds used for funding permanent capital improvements for an enterprise fund, such as water and wastewater, aviation, and convention center improvements. The repayment of these bonds is made from the revenues of the enterprise fund.

SALES TAX

Charges levied by the City of Dallas for the purpose of funding services performed for the common good of the City.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF)

A specific neighborhood where property tax revenue above a base value is designated for public infrastructure improvements in an effort to encourage new private development.