CITY OF WILLCOX REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Agenda Item:

Tab Number:

Date: 5-6-2013

Date Submitted: 2-22-13 Date Requested: 4-29-13





TO:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

FROM:

City Manager

DISCUSSION: The City maintains several "Funds"; each Fund is treated like a separate company with its own set of financial records (books). There are also several different types of Funds. I have previously discussed the City's four Enterprise funds, the "Trust Funds", the Debt service Funds, and the HURF. The General Fund (GF) is a "Governmental Fund" in the terminology of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA); the main purpose of a governmental fund is to track the available amount of money and match it to the services to be provided.

The GF is where the financial records for everything that is not required to be in a separate fund are maintained. The City of Willcox's GF includes:

Mayor and Council - The elected policy makers;

Administration - Oversees day to day operations of the entire City;

Community Programs – provides for programs not directly delivered by the City; Public Safety Adm. – Oversees the daily operations of the Dispatch, Patrol, Fire, Humane, K-9, and Investigations;

Dispatch- Provides for the Communication to and from Public Safety Officers and coordination of emergency responses within and without the City;

Patrol – Provides for immediate response and protection of the Public by trained Officers,

Fire – Provides for the immediate response in the case of fire, explosions, or other life threatening situations,

Humane – Provides for the protection of the Public from animals, protects and seeks homes for animals, protects animals from abusive situations;

K-9 - Provides for support of the Patrol with a trained Canine unit to assist in finding suspects and protecting Officers and the Public;

Investigations – Provides for the long term investigation of crimes against the Public and the prosecution of Criminals;

Finance - Handles and records all financial transactions within the City;

Legal & Courts – the Prosecution, Legal advice, Judicial system and Jail; Library – Public information/education, recreation;

Swimming Pool - Recreation;

Public Works Adm. – Oversees all the operations of Buildings and Grounds, Enterprise Operations, Vehicles, Cemetery, Golf Course, and Parks; Cemetery – provides for maintenance and operation of the sunset Cemetery; Vehicle maintenance – provides for the maintenance and repair of all City

Vehicles and mechanical tool;

Buildings & Grounds – Provides for all the maintenance and repairs on City owned facilities;

Parks & Recreation – provides for the maintenance of the public parks and support for activities throughout the City; and

Development Services – Provides for the orderly development of the City to ensure municipal services may be provided, that any construction is performed in a manner which protects the public, and that structures are maintained in a safe and sanitary manner.

Transfers – this is used to shift money to the Repair and Demolition Fund #22, the General Fund Capital Improvements Fund #21, and the Special Revenue/Grants Fund #17 (Challenge grants and fireworks).

As can be seen the City's GF provides a broad range of services to the Community. We have previously discussed the Community Programs Department, and the Legal and Courts Department; in the Work Sessions to follow we will be discussing more on each of the other GF Departments and the budgetary needs to perform the services to the Public.

The first attachment is a multiyear projection designed to show some history, current year actual and projections and long term projection of the City's GF. The projection shows that the Opening Balance in the GF has been declining – more money has been spent than has been coming in – deficit spending. This trend is expected to continue until FY 17. This is despite the reduction in expenses from FY 09 through FY 13 (and probably FY 13). This is due to the dramatic reduction in revenue from State shared sources. There is a recovery under way and revenue is increasing. The City has little ability to increase revenue sources in the GF. While the City has reduced services in some areas these areas have been minimized, and the City has increased services in some areas (Demolition and Repair, and Challenge Grants). The deficit has been made up from the Opening Balance of the GF. This is why the City maintains a reserve amount in the Opening Balance; so services may be maintained in the short term during an economic downturn.

There is no requirement for the GF to have a reserve amount. Due to the high level of activity and the lack of ability to generate any money; I recommend that the City Council develop at least a six (6) month reserve of the operational costs. The attached projections show a four (4) month reserve balance.

The Operational budget of the GF is the largest of the Operational Funds that the City maintains. (There are larger Capital Funds; these usually are due to some large project like the Waste Water Treatment plant). This is also the area where most of the direct

interface with the Public occurs. The vast majority of employees (85 positions out of a total of 103 approved city positions [includes part-time positions {30}]) are in the GF. There is a Capital Fund associated with the GF. This Capital Fund is called "Capital Improvements" #21. This fund is slightly different that the Capital Funds we discussed in association with the Enterprise Funds or the HURF. The Capital Fund for the GF is Fund 21. This Fund does involve large improvements made in association with the GF. Fund 21 is not as refined as the other capital funds and does not include all vehicles and lease purchases; which are frequently included in the department operational budgets. The reason for this is the broad diversity of services in the GF and the interest in defining the "Cost of Service" in a specific area within the GF. (The Enterprise Funds and Hurf are very narrowly focused areas of service). While it is a goal to establish a method of capital accumulation for the GF to avoid "spikes" in spending, this has not been done as of this date. This Fund 21 tends to have large expenditures which can be deferred and there are often efforts to use a capital investment in Fund 21 to reduce operating expenses.

Changes to the compensation plan of the City have a very large impact on the GF. There are changes being made to the compensation over which the City has little control: specifically the retirement systems. The Arizona State Retirement systems are some of the best systems from the standpoint of having enough money in the bank to pay for the current and future retiree benefits. The systems annually reevaluate the reserve funds and adjust based upon actuarial estimates. The recent down turns in the market resulted in substantial loses of projected income, although the markets have recovered the "lost income" for a couple of years has to be made up, therefore the employee and the employer (City) contributions have been adjusted upward. The retirement systems have also taken other long range steps to reduce the future liability of the retirement systems. Health care costs continue to grow. The City has been very aggressive in holding down the costs through sharing risk with our employees. The City has been able to minimize any rate increases to the employees while absorbing increases by the Employer (City). The current budget continues this practice.

The second attached sheet shows the GF income. This sheet has actual data for FY 11 & FY12, half a year actual and half a year estimates for FY 13 and estimates beyond FY 13.

The third attachment is projections of the expenses in the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION: Provide input on the proposed work plan, establishment of the Operating Reserve, and approve the FY 14 Budget

FISCAL IMPACT: For FY 14 the estimated Operating Budget will be \$4,170,065 before Capital transfer is put in.

Prepared by: _	Pat	McCo	urt	<u></u>
Approved by:	_/s/	Pat	McCourt	
			City Mana	ger

The General Fund Income Date this sheet 4-2-13

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General Fund Expenses Date of this Sheet 4-23-13

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Keiller Park N Lot
Police Facility*
Public Works Radios
Septic System Circle |
Keiller Park S. Lot
Codification
Cemetery Expansion
City Hall Fence
Fund 22

