

General Government Accounts

To budget for services provided on a city-wide basis and not directly associated with an operating department or office.

About the General Government Accounts

What We Do (Description of Services)

The budgets in the General Government Accounts represent necessary spending and financing that exist across the City and are not necessarily assignable to a specific department. These budgets include:

- Pass through of the employer share of citywide employee insurance, retiree insurance, pension and other benefit costs, recovered through the fringe benefit allocation system.
- Citywide tort liability costs that are not department-specific.
- Funding for citywide elections.
- Spending related to legal services provided by non-city attorneys (outside counsel).
- Funding for the Civic Organizations Partnership Program and Neighborhood Crime Prevention Program.
- Support for the financial forms and reports used by all departments.
- Costs of the City's memberships in municipal organizations, such as the League of Cities and the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities.
- Costs for legislative analysis and support for the overall financial good and betterment of the City,
- Fees paid to the State for the citywide financial audit.
- Costs of the Charter Commission and the Capital Improvement Budget committee.
- Business parking costs for City Councilmembers and the pass through of employees' payments for the MetroPass Program
- Charges for the maintenance and upkeep of City Hall.
- General fund share of expenses related to enterprise-wide technology investment.

2007-2008 Accomplishments

The following was accomplished in 2008:

- Working with the City's labor union representatives, city staff have managed the financial control of the costs related to city employee fringe benefits, including pensions, insurance, workers' compensation and severance pay.
- The audit of the City's 2007 financial records is complete, and the annual financial report has been prepared, printed and distributed.
- Tort claims levied against the City and approved by the City Council have been managed, and claimants paid from department budgets or the citywide budget.
- The City's interests and share of costs for the operation of City Hall have been managed.
- The citizen participation program and the neighborhood crime prevention programs were funded.
- Election services to the citizens of Saint Paul were provided.

Statistical Profile

• New Citywide Tort Cases	37
• Citizen Participation District Programs	17
• Neighborhood Crime Prevention Organizations	25
• Participants in the Non-profit Contract Program	35
• City Share of Space in the City Hall Courthouse	35%

General Government Accounts

Department/Office Director: **MARGARET M KELLY**

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2009	Change from	
		2nd Prior	Last Year	Adopted	Mayor's	Council	Mayor's	2008
		Exp. & Enc.	Exp. & Enc.		Proposed	Adopted	Proposed	Adopted
Spending By Unit								
001	GENERAL FUND	11,929,660	3,857,856	7,002,410	6,386,205	7,393,068	1,006,863	390,658
720	DEBT-CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	31,696						
Total Spending by Unit		11,961,355	3,857,856	7,002,410	6,386,205	7,393,068	1,006,863	390,658
Spending By Major Object								
	SALARIES	3,781	169,833	176,527	179,025	179,025		2,498
	SERVICES	2,582,231	2,472,338	3,063,404	3,260,928	3,260,928		197,524
	MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	37,410	24,587	26,404	24,404	24,404		-2,000
	EMPLOYER FRINGE BENEFITS	57,882	110,624	146,845	137,056	78,465	-58,591	-68,380
	MISC TRANSFER CONTINGENCY ETC	2,529,423	1,080,474	3,589,230	2,784,792	3,850,246	1,065,454	261,016
	DEBT	6,718,934						
	STREET SEWER BRIDGE ETC IMPROVEMENT							
	EQUIPMENT LAND AND BUILDINGS	31,696		0	0	0		
Total Spending by Object		11,961,355	3,857,856	7,002,410	6,386,205	7,393,068	1,006,863	390,658
Percent Change from Previous Year			-67.7%	81.5%	-8.8%	15.8%	15.8%	5.6%
Financing By Major Object								
	GENERAL FUND	11,929,660	3,857,856	7,002,410	6,386,205	7,393,068	1,006,863	390,658
	SPECIAL FUND							
	TAXES							
	LICENSES AND PERMITS							
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE							
	FEES, SALES AND SERVICES	2,980	27,291					
	ENTERPRISE AND UTILITY REVENUES							
	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	9,725	13,738					
	TRANSFERS							
	FUND BALANCES							
Total Financing by Object		11,942,365	3,898,885	7,002,410	6,386,205	7,393,068	1,006,863	390,658
Percent Change from Previous Year			-67.4%	79.6%	-8.8%	15.8%	15.8%	5.6%

2009 Budget Plan

2009 Goals

- The City Council staff will manage the Civic Organization Partnership Program and the budget for the Charter Commission.
- The City Attorney's Office will oversee the Tort Liability budget and administer the budget for any use of law firms and expert legal service outside of the City Attorney staff.
- The City Clerk will be responsible for the elections services budget.
- The Office of Financial Services will work with the budgets for pensions, severance pay, the state auditor, the Capital Improvement Budget committee, financial forms, employee parking and refunds, enterprise technology investment, property assessments and the operation and maintenance of the City Hall building.
- Mayor's Office staff will control the budget for the City's municipal memberships.
- Human Resources (Risk Management) will lead the citywide effort to control the costs associated with workers' compensation, employee and retiree health insurance, torts and unemployment compensation, and manage the surety bonds budget.
- Planning and Economic Development staff will direct the budget for Citizen Participation and the Neighborhood Crime Prevention program.
- The Intergovernmental Relations function will work with staff from all departments to coordinate city efforts at the State and Federal levels of government.

2009 Budget Explanation

Base Adjustments

The 2008 adopted budget was adjusted to set the budget base for 2009. The base includes the anticipated growth in salaries and fringes for 2009 for employees related to the bargaining process. It also includes inflation on services and materials.

Mayor's Recommendation

The proposed general fund budget for the General Government Accounts is \$6,386,205, a decrease of \$616,205 from the 2008 adopted budget. Significant changes include the reduction of one-time resources budgeted in 2008 for contingency and the Civic Organization Partnership Program, as well as an increase of \$108,000 to pay the City share of City Hall/Courthouse improvements. Finally, \$75,000 was added to fund outside counsel costs due to a possible lawsuit related to the mortgage foreclosure crisis.

Council Actions

The City Council adopted the General Government Accounts budget and recommendations as proposed by the Mayor and approved the following changes:

- Placed \$1,014,454 in general contingency and \$238,467 in specified contingency to prepare for potential revenue adjustments during 2009.
- Reduced worker's compensation spending by \$58,591 to reflect updated projections.

The 2009 adopted budget is \$7,393,068, which is entirely contained in the general fund.