



*Venice of America*

## BUDGETARY POLICIES AND BASIS

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### INTRODUCTION

The City of Fort Lauderdale is a municipality chartered under the laws of the State of Florida in 1911, with the Charter being replaced by a special act of the Florida Legislature in 1957 and substantially revised in 1984.

The Annual Operating Budget is the result of efforts by the Mayor and four City Commissioners as well as City staff to allocate limited resources to best serve the needs of the City of Fort Lauderdale. The Budget therefore reflects the policies adopted by the Commission in response to the needs and concerns communicated to them by the residents of Fort Lauderdale. A Vision Statement has been adopted by the Commission, which summarizes the City's long-term aspirations. The City Commission has appointed a Budget Advisory Board of residents who provide recommendations to the Commission during the year as well as prior to adoption of the Annual Operating Budget.

### FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

The Budget is designed to coordinate with the City's accounting system in order to facilitate an orderly and expeditious transition from budget adoption to financial control. A brief explanation of the types and purposes of budgeted funds is presented below.

#### Governmental Fund Types

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the City are financed. The acquisition, use, and balances of the City's expendable financial resources and the related liabilities (except those accounted for in proprietary funds) are accounted for through governmental funds. The measurement focus is on determination of changes in financial position, rather than net income.

The following are the City's governmental fund types:

*General Fund* - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the City. All general tax revenues and other receipts that are not allocated by law or contractual agreement to another fund are accounted for in this fund. The general operating expenditures, fixed charges, and capital improvement costs that are not paid through other funds are paid from the General Fund.

*Special Revenue Funds* - Special revenue funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than major capital projects) requiring separate accounting because of legal and/or regulatory provisions or administrative action. Funds of this type in the Annual Operating Budget are the Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency and Sunrise Key Safe Neighborhood District.

*Debt Service Funds* - Debt service funds are used to account for the annual payment of principal, interest, and other expenditures on general long-term debt, other than bonds payable from the operations of the enterprise funds. Funds of this type in the Annual Operating Budget are General Obligation Bonds, Excise Tax Bonds, Sunshine State Governmental Financing Commission, and Tax Increment Revenue Bonds.



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Capital Projects Funds - Capital projects funds are used to account for financial resources segregated for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities other than those financed by enterprise operations. While the Annual Operating Budget includes the contribution to these funds from operating sources, the specific appropriations for these funds are only summarized in this document and are included in detail in a separate Capital Improvement Plan which is separately adopted by the City Commission.

### Proprietary Fund Types

Proprietary funds are used to account for the City's ongoing organizations and activities which are similar to those often found in the private sector. The measurement focus is on determination of net income. The following are the City's proprietary fund types:

Enterprise Funds - Enterprise funds are used to account for operations that provide a service to citizens, financed primarily by a user charge, and where the periodic measurement of net income is deemed appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability or other purposes. Funds of this type in the Annual Operating Budget include Sanitation, Water and Sewer, Central Regional Wastewater System, Parking System, Executive Airport, and Stormwater Management.

Internal Service Funds - Internal service funds are used to account for the financing of goods or services provided by one department to other departments of the City or to other governmental units. Funds of this type in the Annual Operating Budget are Insurance (Risk Management), Central Services (Print Shop, Radio, and Telecommunications), and Vehicle Rental (Fleet Management).

### Other Fund Types

In the City's accounting system, there are other fund types which are not included in the Annual Operating Budget. These funds are fiduciary funds and account groups.

Fiduciary Funds - Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held by the City in a trustee capacity for individuals, private organizations, other governmental units, and/or other funds. Funds of this type include the Cemeteries General Reserve Endowment and Perpetual Care Funds, General Employees and Police/Fire Pension Funds, the Arts and Science District Garage, and Deferred Compensation. The Annual Operating Budget reflects the operating budget contributions to the pension plans and deferred compensation. The City contributes no money to the cemeteries funds because the function has been privatized. The Arts and Science District Garage, while managed by the Parking staff, is handled as a separate function on behalf of the Performing Arts Center Authority and the Downtown Development Authority.

Account Groups - Account groups are used to establish accounting controls and accountability for the City's general fixed assets and its general long-term debt. The City's account groups are General Fixed Assets and General Long-Term Debt. The Annual Operating Budget provides for the initial purchase and on-going maintenance of fixed assets. The Annual Operating Budget does not include compensated absences but does reflect the annual principal and interest amounts (debt service) on bonded debt.



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### GENERAL FINANCIAL POLICIES

The purpose is to provide overall financial guidance for the City of Fort Lauderdale, and serve as a basis for future financial decision-making.

#### General Guidelines

- Current, recurring revenues should equal current, on-going expenses.
- One-time revenues can be used to build up the undesignated fund balance or be used for truly one-time expenses without impacting service levels.
- Any year-end surplus should be directed to the undesignated fund balance and not used to finance recurring expenses in the following fiscal year.
- Capital improvements should be financed from current revenues, but may be financed by prudent use of debt instruments that provide for a pay back period, which does not exceed the life of the improvement. Once the City has borrowed for such improvements, debt service becomes a current expense to be covered by recurring revenue.
- Internal service funds are used by the City to provide services within the City organization. Examples include fleet, print shop, radio communications, telephones, and insurance. Charges to City departments should be set to cover all costs. They should have sufficient reserves to cover fluctuations or long-term liabilities such as vehicle replacement and insurance claims.

#### Fund Balance Levels and Appropriation of Fund Balance

- Maintaining a prudent level of undesignated fund balance is necessary to protect the City against reducing service levels, emergencies or natural disasters, unanticipated economic downturns, or unpredicted one-time expenditures. They also provide flexibility to respond to unexpected opportunities.
- The City endorses the General Finance Officers' Association standard of 5% to 15% and has established a minimum undesignated fund balance in an amount equal to 7% of budgeted operating expenditures in the General Fund, or about one month of regular General Fund operating expenditures. Should the projected, or actual undesignated fund balance fall below this minimum, a plan will be submitted by the Director of Finance and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget for the City Manager's consideration to achieve the minimum level within a three-year period. This plan will include a combination of cost reductions, revenue enhancements, and/or service reductions and should be submitted within 30 days of recognition of the fund shortfall. Use of the fund balance below the 7% level is permitted only in case of an emergency, or in the case of an unanticipated economic downturn, which causes a material loss of revenues. Non-recurring revenues should not be used to balance the annual budget for recurring expenses.



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### Funding of Self Insurance Fund

- City managed, self-insured programs are to be funded through fees recovered through the user departments including administrative costs and reserves. These self-insurance programs include workers' compensation, certain health plans, police and employment practices and general liability.
- It is the policy of the City that the self-insured programs of the City be fully funded. An actuarial report will be performed each year. Any current or future deficits that may occur in the worker's compensation or general liability programs will require a financial plan which will require that the fund deficit be eliminated within the next three years. This plan will be presented to the City Manager for consideration. The plan will include options such as increased department contributions, transfer of available equity reserves from other self-insurance programs or transfers from other funds available as a means to fund the deficit.

### Capital Improvement Program

- The City currently prepares a 5-year Capital Improvement Program with each annual budget. The program serves as a general planning guide for the construction of general purpose and utility facility improvements in the City. This provides the City Commission with an assessment of capital needs. Annual contributions to this program from the General Fund are required to maintain facility improvements and infrastructure requirements.
- It is the policy of the City that annual contributions to this program from the General Fund are at a minimum of 1% of the total General Fund expenses. Additional amounts may be made during the fiscal year through budget amendments as desired projects and funding sources become available. However, additional funding from the General Fund will not be permitted if the use of fund balance causes the undesignated fund balance to fall below the 7% minimum requirement. The City Manager may pursue alternate methods of funding these projects through federal, state, or local grants, contributions from developers and other innovative financial options (public/private partnerships).
- The construction of new facilities or buildings and other types of infrastructure or the annexation of property may require additional future operating costs to staff and maintain the facility or property. These costs of staffing and maintaining the facility or property and any associated revenues should be considered prior to construction of the facility or annexation of the property.
- It is the policy of the City that all capital projects or other long-range projects (annexation of property, tax increment areas, etc.) provide an economic evaluation providing information on the potential operating impacts of the project. The evaluation should include any savings or incremental revenue resulting from the project, as well as any new costs. The City Manager should be made aware of the funding source to cover the operating costs of the project.



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- No capital project should be funded unless an economic evaluation has been completed and the necessary funds can be reasonably assumed to be available, when needed.

### Operating Capital Outlay

- Capital outlay needs can also be provided through department line item budgets. This type of capital expenditure includes: equipment replacement, hardware/software needs and other minor facility or building improvements.
- It is the policy of the City to fund operating capital needs from current revenues. The City will include in the operating budget those operating capital needs that are considered “critical” to functional operations of City services. Financing the purchase through bonds, notes or an interfund advance is an option only if the debt service required to pay back the debt can be made from current revenues (does not require the use of fund balance in future years).

### Enterprise Funds

- The City provides a wide variety of services to the residents and visitors including water and sewer, solid waste, storm water, marina, parking facilities, and an executive airport. The cost of these services approximates half of the City’s annual expenditures. The City Commission establishes rates for the use of these services and periodically adjusts the rates based upon user fee rate analyses.
- It is the policy of the City in regard to enterprise funds to establish user fees at an amount sufficient to cover all costs, including indirect costs and any debt service related to investment in these facilities, and to provide for reasonable reserve levels. The City Manager is responsible for conducting periodic reviews of the financial performance of these funds to ensure user fees are adequate, costs are justified, and reserve balances are sufficient to provide for future operations.

### BASIS OF BUDGETING

The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) with the following exceptions:

- Advances from other funds are presented as revenues.
- Encumbrances, advances to other funds, and principal on long-term debt of the proprietary funds are presented as expenditures or expenses.
- Depreciation and compensated absences are not budgeted in any funds.

The GAAP basis of accounting for governmental funds is modified accrual. Under the modified accrual basis, revenues are recognized when they become susceptible to accrual, i.e., measurable and available to finance the City’s operations. Available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period.



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Expenditures (decreases in net financial resources) are recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liabilities are incurred as long as it is measurable. An exception to this is long-term debt and the long-term portion of accumulated compensated absences and longevity pay, which are recognized when due.

In applying the susceptible to accrual concept to intergovernmental revenues, the legal and contractual requirements of the numerous individual programs are used as a guide. There are, however, essentially two types of these revenues. In one, monies must be expended on the specific purpose or project before any amounts will be paid to the City; therefore, revenues are recognized based upon the expenditures recorded. In the other, monies are virtually unrestricted as to purpose of expenditure and are usually revocable only for failure to comply with prescribed compliance requirements. The resources are reflected as revenues at the time of receipt or earlier if susceptible to accrual.

The major utility and franchise taxes are recorded as revenues when earned. Licenses and permits, fines and forfeitures, charges for services, and other revenues (except investment earnings) are recorded as revenues when received in cash because they are generally not measurable until actually received. Property taxes are recorded as revenues in the fiscal year levied, provided they are collected in the current period or within sixty days thereafter. Those remaining uncollected are recorded as deferred revenues. Investment income is recorded as revenue when earned. Special assessments are recorded as revenues only to the extent that individual installments are considered available.

The accrual basis of accounting is utilized by proprietary funds and pension and nonexpendable trust funds. Under the accrual basis, revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they are earned, if objectively measurable, whether collected sooner or later. Expenses, not expenditures, are recognized when the benefits of costs incurred are deemed to have been consumed or expired. Long-term liabilities are accounted for through those funds. Depreciation of fixed assets (including capital outlay equipment purchased in the operating budget) is recorded in the accounts of these funds as well on the straight-line basis over the following useful lives: buildings (40-50 years), improvements (20-50 years), and equipment (3-15 years).

### DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The budget process is guided by direction from the City Commission as it strives to meet the needs of the community at a reasonable price. Every Commission meeting involves deliberation about what services the City should provide, at what level, and at what price. The decisions made by the Commission throughout the year provide a general path for the budget deliberations to follow. City employees provide the perspective of professionals as to the most efficient and effective way to implement Commission policy. Residents have the opportunity to express their preferences for City services and funding mechanisms through formal budget public hearings as well as individual agenda items during the year. In addition, a Budget Advisory Board, comprised of residents and appointed by the Commission, meets regularly to develop recommendations for the budget.



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The budget is designed by the Office of Management and Budget Department of the City, working closely with each department in coordinating the creation of the budget document. The budget process is comprised of five stages, all of which are facilitated by the Research and Budget Division: forecast, request, review, adoption, and monitoring. These steps often overlap one another because the City is always operating in one fiscal year while working on the next and there are many participants involved in the process.

*Forecast stage* - This is the beginning step in the development of the next year's budget. The Office of Management and Budget and the City Manager conducts an interim review with the Department Directors and Budget Coordinators. The budget staff outlines the options for the upcoming budget process using the City's Vision Statement as an overall guide of the City's general direction. After review by the City Manager, a forecast of the General Fund for the next fiscal year is prepared. The forecast is presented to the City Commission at the same time that the Commission provides their priorities for budget development.

*Request stage* - This involves many participants. In February, departments are asked to submit proposals for reorganizing or utilizing temporary and part-time help. In March, the budget staff provides training to employees who are traditionally involved in preparing their own department's budget request. In April, all departments prepare their proposals using on-line budget preparation software and complete justifications on electronic forms. The information assembled also includes revenue projections for each department's area of responsibility.

*Review stage* - This provides for the evaluation of budget requests that have been submitted. Budget staff review the reorganization and position change proposals in March and load any changes into the automated payroll projection system. In May, the City Manager conducts formal budget reviews with each department to better understand their priorities and requests. In June, the management team (City Manager, Assistant City Managers, and the Budget Office) meets frequently to hammer out the decisions necessary to prepare a proposed, balanced budget. Final decisions are made in July so that the City Manager can present his Budget Message to the Commission per City Charter requirements. The Budget Advisory Board, appointed by the Commission, reviews the City Manager's budget and applies the results of their yearlong research in making their recommendations to the Commission in August. The Board often submits recommendations outside of this time frame as consensus is reached on other issues.

*Adoption stage* - This is the final step in the development of the budget. It begins with the City Manager presenting a comprehensive proposal for the coming fiscal year. In July, the Commission accepts the City Manager's proposal and directs that a preliminary millage be calculated and forwarded to Broward County for inclusion in the State-required "Truth in Millage" (TRIM) notice sent to all property owners. The TRIM notice is sent in August and provides the taxpayer with the taxable value of their property, the proposed millage for all taxing jurisdictions, the date, the time, and the location for the first public hearing. The City Commission holds the first hearing and tentatively adopts the millage and the budget. A TRIM advertisement is placed in the City's newspaper of record before the final public hearing. That advertisement provides a budget summary, information about the final public hearing, and a notice of tax increase if applicable. The Commission holds the final public hearing and then adopts the final millage and the budget.



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Monitoring stage - This occurs year round. In October, Finance staff load the adopted budget amounts into the automated financial system for implementation of the budget. In addition, authorized positions are rolled into the payroll/personnel system to provide the guideposts for hiring. The adopted millage is transmitted to Broward County for preparation of billing and collection. The City Manager's Office in conjunction with budget staff determines the appropriate monitoring procedures for the fiscal year (i.e. approval process for budgeted purchases, review of budget shifts within a single department's budget). All during the fiscal year, departmental and Office of Management and Budget staff review purchase and personnel requisitions, have access to financial information on-line, real-time, and monitor Commission agendas for financial impacts. Monthly financial reports are prepared and distributed to the City Commission and departmental staff. Monthly departmental trend analyses are also performed and distributed to the departments, who then provide a response to any issues raised.

Refer to pages B-13 and B-14 for a summary of the budget process and calendar.

### AMENDMENT/TRANSFER PROCESS

The annual operating budget of the City is approved by the City Commission at the fund and department level. Any change in the budget, change between departments, or a change between funds is considered an amendment and must be approved by the City Commission. The City Commission also approves all allocations from General Fund Contingencies.

Budget transfers "within" a department can be approved by the City Manager and/or the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Rationale: Budget transfers provide for ongoing adjustments to the operating budget and enhance reporting and control over expenditure/revenue items at the division/character/subobject level. It does not impact the bottom line for that department.

#### Guidelines:

- All budget transfers will be processed through the OMB.
- The amount "transferred in" must equal the amount "transferred out".
- All budget transfers must have the appropriate approval signatures.
- Departments that submit paperwork for expenditures that exceed the revised budget at the character level, will be required to process a budget amendment/transfer request before the paperwork will be processed.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Expenditures for capital improvements are not included directly in the operating budget. The Annual Operating Budget includes and identifies amounts to be transferred to capital project funds from operating sources. The appropriations for capital improvements are budgeted as part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and prepared and approved separately.



A Capital Improvement Program Committee meets on a regular basis to oversee a five-year CIP, which is updated and presented yearly to the City Commission for approval. A separate CIP document is available which details each project, its purpose, funding sources, timetable, and its effect on future operating budgets. The first year of the CIP is referred to as the capital budget. The CIP and Annual Operating Budget are closely linked as the budget assumes the cost of maintaining and operating new facilities as they are constructed within the CIP. The department representative on the CIP Committee is responsible for incorporating any needed funding for completed projects into the operating budget. Capital projects are budgeted and accounted for in a number of funds. A summary of the CIP is provided beginning on page E - 1.

There are many differences between the operating budget and the capital budget. The operating budget includes expenses that are generally of a recurring nature and are appropriated for one year only. It provides for the provision of all City services, but does not result in the addition of major, physical assets for the community. The capital budget includes one-time costs for projects that may last several years and result in major physical assets being added in the community.

### DEBT POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

There is no statutory or charter debt limitation. The City has established its own policies regarding the utilization of debt instruments. Debt is used for a variety of purposes and in a variety of ways. The principal use of debt by the City has been for making capital expenditures. Because the use of public capital stretches over many years, it is appropriate that those who enjoy the benefits should also pay the costs. This general principle of intergenerational equity, however, must be applied cautiously. The public capital of one generation may be regarded as a dubious asset by the next. Why should those who did not choose to make the expenditures pay for them? Any capital expenditures, the continuing merit of which is in doubt, might more appropriately be paid for by those who chose to make the expenditure. Moreover, this reservation accords with financial conservatism as a public debt based on unwanted capital expenditures is not of very good quality. Another more pragmatic qualification to this general principle is that short-lived capital expenditures may be more easily and appropriately fitted into current budgets than paid for by borrowing. The Commission has agreed to issue debt for recapitalization of existing assets and for most of the Water and Sewer Master Plan. The City determined that the needs for these improvements were such that borrowing was warranted to expedite the implementation of these projects.

The solid financial position of the City along with application of the most current financial management practices has permitted the City to obtain very favorable bond ratings and, consequently, lower interest rates.

The City has adopted the following policy statements as guidelines for the use of debt:

- No borrowing of short-term debt for support of routine operations is to be used unless borrowing can be obtained at a lower rate of interest than invested funds and funds are not available for the routine operations.
- Debt payment shall not exceed the anticipated useful life of an improvement and in no case exceed 30 years.



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- Bond issues shall be scheduled to level annual debt service requirements so that borrowing costs are minimized. This may be modified based on the express purpose of spreading improvement costs equally over a long period of time so that future citizens become responsible for portions of the cost.
- Efforts shall be made to maintain or improve the City's bond rating.
- With each bond offering and at least annually, the City shall fully disclose its financial position and fiscal management practices.

The following policy statements have been adopted by the City as operating guidelines for the level of debt for all direct non-self-supported debt:

- Direct, non-self-supported debt shall not exceed 3% of assessed valuation.
- Direct, non-self-supported debt shall not exceed \$750 per capita.
- Direct, non-self-supported and overlapping debt shall not exceed 5% of assessed valuation.
- Annual debt service requirements shall not exceed 10% of the annual budget.
- Average annual bond maturities shall not exceed 15 years.
- Where required, debt services equal to the highest scheduled principal and interest payment shall be maintained (except assessment debt) or debt service reserve insurance will be obtained.

A summary of the City's bond ratings for outstanding long term debt is as follows:

	<u>BOND RATING</u>		
	<u>Moody's</u>	<u>Standard &amp; Poor's</u>	<u>Fitch</u>
General Obligation	Aa3	AA	N/A
Excise Tax	A1	A+	N/A
Sanitation	Aa3	AA-	N/A
Water & Sewer Bonds	A1	N/A	A1

General Obligation Bonds are secured by the full faith and credit of the City. The outstanding General Obligation Bonds will be repaid from ad valorem taxes. The Excise Tax Bonds are secured by a pledge of certain utility service, cigarette, and franchise taxes. Tax increment bonds are secured by property taxes and a secondary pledge of parking revenue.

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# VISION STATEMENT

## CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

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*In 1995, Fort Lauderdale citizens met as an American Assembly to take part in the process to develop the strategic guide for the City into the 21st century. The Assembly's objectives, to continue the forward momentum gained by the City's 1994 mission and to address current and future challenges, resulted in this vision:*

Fort Lauderdale, the "Venice of America," is a tropical paradise. Its beauty makes it truly distinctive, and the City offers residents and visitors a lasting warm and congenial lifestyle. Fort Lauderdale has become a model for other communities, which emulate not only its citizen involvement, but also its commitment to communication and participation in community planning.

Working relationships with other municipalities and agencies are strong, as we share information and resources for our mutual benefit, coordinate key services, and resolve current and future social service issues. Fort Lauderdale is a model of intergovernmental cooperation.

As the region's natural leader, Fort Lauderdale's prosperous commerce center is considered the hub of South Florida. The City is the governmental, financial and cultural center of the region. Its environment attracts and retains desired business and industry through well-trained, educated workers, available facilities, and other enhancements that encourage desirable development. Our downtown, with corporate headquarters, cultural aspects and amenities along the New River, uptown's dynamic business center, executive airport, an industrial commerce center, as well as our world renowned beach, provide a desirable setting for families to live, work and play.

Partnerships make it possible for Fort Lauderdale to achieve its successes. The high level of cooperation among residents, businesses, schools, religious organizations and the City allow the planning and implementation of programs that enhance the quality of life. Innovative projects have provided solutions to social and safety issues, such as homelessness and community policing. Quality of life, growth management and resource identification and allocation strategies have also been developed. Neighborhood organizations provide a voice for every household throughout the City. The network of neighborhood associations is a family that shares resources, collaborates with other organizations, and provides leadership to empower our entire City. Revitalization of the northwest and other areas of the City has transformed neighborhoods at risk into vibrant centers of economic and cultural richness.

Fort Lauderdale has attracted a diverse population and maintained a hometown feeling even as it provides improved access into and through the City. Neighborhoods are preserved and connected through improved streets and a network of pedestrian and bike paths. Our streetscape and natural habitat are sustained through our urban tree canopy, a source of great pride to the City. Public parks and recreation open space needs are met as we continue our focus on environmental awareness and responsibility. With unsurpassed natural beauty, our waterways provide commerce, employment and recreational activities. Water quality standards are among the highest in the country.

The unique needs of Fort Lauderdale's neighborhoods are met by a highly competitive urban school system, with facilities and resources which reflect the community's total commitment to excellence in education. Standards of excellence ensure students are prepared for life outside the classroom; parents and administrators are accountable for success. The City and the community, through commitments and bonds with educational institutions at all levels, have ensured a quality education is available to everyone.

The City is using rapidly changing technology to provide instant access to information and increased citizen awareness on many levels. We are recognized as one of the safest and cleanest cities in the United States, with residents and businesses creating a clean, safe environment in partnership with the City. Fort Lauderdale is truly a model City for the 21st century.



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### LINKAGES BETWEEN VISION, MISSION, PRIORITIES, AND GOALS/OBJECTIVES

The City of Fort Lauderdale strives to maintain linkages between its vision statement, departmental mission statements, budget priorities, departmental goals and objectives, and resource allocations. The vision statement has set the stage for departmental mission statements, which provide a long-range view of each department's role in achieving the vision. Traditionally, the City Commission identifies some key budget priorities, which are pertinent to the next twelve months of City activity. For FY 2006, these would include public safety services (police and fire-rescue), continued implementation of the Waterworks 2011 master plan, continued implementation of the Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Area, and the opening of new capital facilities such as park bond projects. To address these priorities, departmental objectives for the fiscal year indicate what actions City departments will take during the fiscal year to fulfill the Commission's expectations. The allocation of resources to meet these objectives is summarized in the Budget Message, the Executive Summary, and also in the Departmental Budgets section.

In addition to Commission priorities, the Vision Statement foresees, for example, "the high level of cooperation among residents, businesses, schools, religious organizations and the City allow the planning and implementation of programs that enhance the quality of life." In the departmental section of this document, one of the goals of the Planning Department is to "develop and achieve community input on long range plans, master plans, and implementation strategies that will sustain, manage, and enhance growth of the City". The Division of Administration and Special Facilities of Parks and Recreation has a mission to "Provide residents of Fort Lauderdale and the surrounding areas with the best athletic experience and a safe/clean environment for family activities". The Fire-Rescue Operations of the Fire-Rescue Department has an objective to "reduce emergency response times, where practical, with cost effective technology, resource management, and quality assurance programs."

Other key areas of the City's vision statement which have translated into specific responses in the FY 2005/2006 budget include:

- "Model of intergovernmental cooperation" (See departmental objectives for the City Attorney's Office related to City, State, and Federal laws).
- "Using innovative implementation of new technologies" (See departmental goals of Information Systems; the Finance department's objective related to a improved information management system to increase efficiency, and more accurately allocate costs; and the Procurement Department objective related to continuing to use technology, to obtain greater competitiveness in the marketplace and fully implement on-line requisitions and vendor registration).
- "Provide a desirable setting for families to live, work and play" (See Section D for departmental objectives for Building Department, Fire-Rescue, Parks and Recreation, and Police).



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### BUDGET PROCESS

MONTH	FORECAST STAGE	REQUEST STAGE	REVIEW STAGE	ADOPTION STAGE	MONITORING STAGE
OCT					Load Budget/FAMIS Roll Positions Transmit Millage Monitoring Procedures Budget Adv. Bd. Meetings
NOV					On-Line Review Review Requisitions Commission Agendas Budget Adv. Bd. Meetings
DEC	Outline Process				On-Line Review Review Requisitions Commission Agendas Budget Adv. Bd. Meetings
JAN	Prepare Forecast				Budget Coordinators Mtg. Review Requisitions Commission Agendas Budget Adv. Bd. Meetings
FEB		Reorganizations Position Changes			On-Line Review Review Requisitions Commission Agendas Budget Adv. Bd. Meetings
MAR	Commission Workshop	Train Staff Load Reorganizations	Review Reorganizations		On-Line Review Review Requisitions Budget Adv. Bd. Meetings
APR		Department Requests			On-Line Review Review Requisitions Budget Adv. Bd. Meetings
MAY			City Manager Reviews Adjustments for Commission Priorities		On-Line Review Review Requisitions Budget Adv. Bd. Meetings
JUN		Department Goals Objectives	Management Team Meetings		Revise Dept. Projections Budget Adv. Bd. Meetings
JUL			Balance the Budget	City Mgr. Message Tentative Adoption	Budget Adv. Bd. Meetings
AUG			Budget Advisory Board Recommendations	TRIM Notice	Prepare Budget Document
SEPT			Commission Workshop	Public Hearings TRIM Ad Final Adoption	Budget Amendments Publish Budget Document



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### BUDGET PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR

#### FY 2005/2006 OPERATING BUDGET

##### DATE: 2005

##### ACTIVITY

- October      Prepare Truth in Millage (TRIM) compliance packet for Florida Dept of Revenue.  
Publish the FY 2005/2006 Budget Document  
Comply with GFOA requirements for submission for the budget award.  
Prepare monthly financial report.  
Monitor FY 2004/2005 year-end and prepare any needed budget amendments.  
Budget Advisory Board meets.
- November     Prepare monthly financial report.  
Budget Advisory Board.
- December     Prepare monthly financial report.  
Budget Advisory Board meets.

##### DATE: 2006

- January       Prepare monthly financial report.  
Prepare forecast.  
Prepare first quarter revenue and expenditure data.  
Prepare monthly departmental trend analysis.  
Budget Advisory Board meets.
- February      Prepare monthly financial report.  
Begin/Complete interim reviews with each department.  
Departments prepare proposed reorganization and position change requests.  
Initial FY 2006/2007 Budget Discussions held with the City Manager and the Executive Management Team.  
Prepare monthly departmental trend analysis.  
Budget Advisory Board meets.



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**DATE: 2006**

**ACTIVITY**

March	<p>Prepare monthly financial report.</p> <p>Enter reorganizations and position changes into the Bprep system.</p> <p>Finalize FY 2006/2007 budget process.</p> <p>Along with Information Systems and outside consultant, work on enhancements to the payroll projection system.</p> <p>Provide Budget Forms and Bprep On-line training to all budget preparers.</p> <p>City Commission Workshop</p> <p>City Commission reaches consensus on FY 2006/2007 budget priorities.</p> <p>Departments begin preliminary preparation of budget requests.</p> <p>Prepare monthly departmental trend analysis.</p> <p>Budget Advisory Board meets.</p>
April	<p>Prepare monthly financial report.</p> <p>Budget kickoff occurs with all forms and spending guidelines distributed.</p> <p>Provide budget preparation assistance to the departments.</p> <p>Prepare monthly departmental trend analysis.</p> <p>Budget Advisory Board meets.</p>
May	<p>Prepare monthly financial report.</p> <p>Departments submit budget requests.</p> <p>Budget Office conducts technical budget reviews with departments.</p> <p>Analyze budget requests.</p> <p>Conduct budget reviews with departments and the City Manager.</p> <p>Prepare monthly departmental trend analysis.</p> <p>Budget Advisory Board meets.</p>
June	<p>Broward County Property Appraiser provides preliminary property valuation.</p> <p>Prepare monthly financial report.</p> <p>Complete budget reviews with departments and the City Manager.</p> <p>Executive Management Team receives update of budget development status.</p> <p>Departments revise budget estimates.</p> <p>Departments submit goals and objectives for FY 2006/2007.</p> <p>Prepare any needed budget amendments.</p> <p>Prepare monthly departmental trend analysis.</p> <p>Budget Advisory Board meets.</p> <p>Begin budget balancing.</p>



## BUDGETARY POLICIES AND BASIS

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*Venice of America*

**DATE: 2006**

**ACTIVITY**

July	<p>Prepare monthly financial report.</p> <p>Broward County Property Appraiser certifies the property tax roll on July 1.</p> <p>Complete budget balancing.</p> <p>City Manager presents proposed budget to the City Commission.</p> <p>City Commission adopts proposed millage to be advertised in the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice.</p> <p>Prepare monthly departmental trend analysis.</p> <p>Budget Advisory Board meets.</p>
August	<p>Transmit DR420, Certification of Proposed Millage to Property Appraiser.</p> <p>Prepare monthly financial report.</p> <p>Property Appraiser distributes TRIM notices to all property owners.</p> <p>Prepare monthly departmental trend analysis.</p> <p>Budget Advisory Board meets.</p> <p>Prepare for public hearings.</p>
September	<p>Prepare monthly financial report.</p> <p>Prepare budget amendments needed.</p> <p>City Commission holds 1st public hearing and tentatively adopts millage and budget.</p> <p>Certify fire assessment fees for the City of Fort Lauderdale.</p> <p>Certify Water Management District fees for Lauderdale Isles.</p> <p>City advertises budget in newspaper of record to meet TRIM requirements.</p> <p>Prepare monthly departmental trend analysis.</p> <p>Budget Advisory Board meets.</p> <p>City Commission holds 2nd public hearing and adopts final millage and budget.</p> <p>Certify millage with the County within 3 days of final adoption.</p>
October 1	<p>Beginning of FY 2006/2007.</p>