

FY 2019/2020 Budget Policies

In accordance with the State Uniform Budget and Accounting Act (Public Act 2 of 1968), the City of Lansing's annual appropriations, as set forth in the annual budget resolution, shall be made in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and shall apply to all funds except internal service funds, debt service funds, permanent funds, and trust and agency funds.

The City's fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. In accordance with the City Charter, on or before the fourth Monday in March, the Mayor submits to the City Council a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following July 1. No later than the third Monday in May, the Council adopts the budget and sets the property tax rates for the ensuing fiscal year.

Appropriations are set forth in the annual budget resolution. Authority to transfer between appropriations is dictated by City Charter; however, additional administrative budget transfer authority is granted for the following instances. The Administration is requested to submit to Council quarterly reports of such transfers.

Wastewater Funds – the transfer residual State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan and/or bond proceeds between projects and project segments.

Flood Control – the transfer of funds for flood control and/or storm sewer purposes to address flooding or unanticipated storm sewer maintenance needs.

Major and Local Street (Act 51) Funding – Transfer authority is not limited by departmental allocation, and administrative authority is included for appropriation of MDOT special authorization funding.

Parking System – the transfer of capital project accounts from operating accounts is permitted to meet bid or unforeseen capital needs.

Debt Service Funds – the transfer of residual balances between general obligation bond debt service accounts.

Vacancy Factor/funded and unfilled Positions - The budget includes an attrition vacancy allowance of \$700,000. The Administration is requested to provide Council on July 1, 2019 and on a quarterly basis, thereafter, a list of vacant positions by department. The Administration is also requested to provide, on a quarterly basis, a detailed list by Department of all positions by title, FTE, wages and fringes, and impact on programs and/or services which are included within this allowance. The personnel wages and

fringes associated with all positions identified above as of July 1, 2019 and any such position vacated, thereafter, shall be placed in a budget control account, and will require City Council approval for expenditure.

In addition, administrative authority is granted for the transfer of wage and fringe benefit reserves to departmental budgets upon settlement of a collective bargaining agreement.

Carryforwards

Authority is granted to reappropriate available capital project balances as of June 30, 2019 into the FY 2020 budget. All non-capital balances require City Council approval to carryforward, except for encumbered (purchase order) obligations less than \$5,000 and not more than 8 months old.

- Human Services and Community Supported Agencies Funding

The plan for funding Agencies submitted to Council designate particular Agencies. If any agency does not apply for or use their funding, all funds will remain in their respective account(s) for additional appropriation and approval by Council for Human Services and Community Supported Agencies use pursuant to the Charter transfer authority. The Administration/Human Relations Community Services Department is requested to submit to Council a quarterly report on the status of the Human Services and Community Supported Agencies' funding. This report should include the accounting level detail appropriation; amount spent, balance, and a notation as to whether the balance of funds is expected to be spent by the end of the Fiscal Year; if not, why.

General Fund Reserve Policy

The City's General Fund reserves consist of the General Fund fund balance and the Budget Stabilization Fund. Use of and contributions to the Budget Stabilization Fund are dictated by Ordinance section 218.05.

The targeted unrestricted balance for the combination of the General Fund fund balance and the Budget Stabilization Fund is a minimum of 12% of General Fund expenditures and a maximum of 15% of General Fund expenditures. If events necessitate that the combined balances drop below 12% of General Fund expenditures, annual appropriations of a minimum of \$500,000 will be made until the 12% target is reached. In the event that combined reserves are projected to exceed 15% of General Fund revenues, the excess amount will be used to supplement pension and/or retiree healthcare prefunding.

Debt Management

Appropriations are made to adequately fund annual debt service obligations. Adherence will be made to required debt service reserves, where applicable, as well as to the provision of annual disclosures as required by outstanding bond obligations.

Investment Policy

Management of cash investments is governed by the City's investment policy and in accordance to State statute, with the objective being the maximization of return on the City's governmental funds through pooling of funds where appropriate and permitted, monitoring of interest rates and fee structures. Investments of the Employee Retirement System, the Police and Fire Retirement System, and the VEBA, are governed those respective boards and dictated by their respective investment policies.

Strategic Planning and Budget Development

In working toward the goal of the incorporation of strategic planning into the budget process, this next year, Administration is encouraged to work towards developing a multi-year budgeting process. This process should align the City's master plan, strategic goals, and performance metrics to short-term and long-term budget priority-setting by Council in accordance with Financial Health Team recommendations.

Civil Actions, Claims, and Damages

Whenever a claim is made or any civil action is commenced against the Mayor, a City Council member, a non-bargaining unit employee, or a Lansing retirement board trustee (collectively in this provision "the Employee") for damages caused by an act or acts of the Employee within the scope of his or her authority and while in the course of his or her employment with the City or his or her duties on behalf of the retirement board, the City will pay for, engage, or furnish the services of an attorney to advise the Employee as to the claim and to appear for and represent the Employees in the action. If the City Attorney does not provide the attorney services, the attorney selection shall be made by the City Attorney in the manner the City Charter requires. The City may compromise, settle, and pay a claim before or after the commencement of any civil action. Whenever any judgment for damages caused by the act or acts of the Employee covered under this provision is awarded against the Employee as the result of a civil action, the City will indemnify the Employee or will pay, settle, or compromise the judgment. The City's obligations under this provision, however, is contingent upon the Employee giving prompt notice of the commencement of the action and upon the Employee cooperating in the preparation, defense, and settlement of the action. The term "scope of authority" under this provision does not include any act or acts of Employee (i) fraud, (ii) dishonesty, (iii) willful, intentional, or deliberate violation of the law or breach of fiduciary duty, (iv) criminal act, or (v) traffic violation; nor does this provision abrogate or diminish governmental immunity.

Grants

In order to receive timely Council consideration of the approval of any grant award, every application for any grant requiring legislative approval shall be submitted to Council, and, upon notification of the award of such a grant, the acceptance shall be submitted to Council. Once accepted administrative authority is granted to create necessary accounts and transfers in accordance with the requirements of the grantor. Any grant that can be applied for administratively should be submitted for Council review within 10 days of the application.

Transparency and Accountability in Government

Council will review, and when necessary, pass policies, procedures and ordinances to achieve improved transparency and accountability with respect to economic incentives, outsourcing of service and contracting within City government.

Non-Motorized Vehicle Safety

Public Service is encouraged to develop a strategy and program to protect bike lanes at busy intersections to increase rider safety and educate motorists on proper interaction with bike lanes at intersections. If possible, the barriers should be removable to facilitate street sweeping and snow plowing.

Environmental Stewardship

The City of Lansing is concerned about its environment and strives to be a good steward of such. The City recognizes the importance of sustainability as determined in its commitment to the goals in the Paris Agreement. The City will recognize a proactive approach and work to use \$175,300 of non-general fund dollars to reduce the City's net emissions output, increase its energy efficiency and improve its wastewater treatment and waste management programs.

Lansing Home Ownership Program for Employees (L-Hope)

L-Hope shall cover these groups, all full time and part time year round employees, whose bargaining units have agreed to participate in the program, and the following non-bargaining employee groups: Executive Management Group, Non-Bargaining Group, Mayoral Staff, District Court employees, and the City Council Staff employees, and shall continue as funded.

Chief Strategy Officer

The Lansing City Council is establishing a Chief Strategy Officer. City Council will work with the Administration, Financial Health Team and Unions to establish an ordinance and/or contract outlining expectation and reporting. This process will begin no later than June 30, 2019.

After the establishment of a Chief Strategy Officer, City Council will also consider the appointment of a standing committee to exam the recommendations from the Chief Strategy Officer and issues involving the long term liabilities.