

FINANCIAL POLICIES

The City of Kenosha's financial policies set forth the basic framework for the overall fiscal management of the City. Operating concurrently with changing circumstances and conditions, these policies assist the decision making process of the City Council. These policies provide guidelines for evaluating both current activities and proposals for future programs.

Most of the policies represent long standing principles, traditions and practices, and have followed generally accepted accounting principles. The policies have guided the City in the past and have helped maintain financial stability over a long period of time.

OPERATING BUDGET POLICES

- The City will prepare an annual budget for all operating funds in accordance with §2.02 of the Code of General Ordinances, which incorporates, by reference, §65.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

The ordinance, in general requires:

1. A budget for governmental and proprietary funds.
 2. A budget available for public inspection.
 3. A public hearing prior to adoption by the Common Council.
 4. An itemization of all indebtedness, expenditures, revenues, and anticipated surpluses.
 5. A two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the entire membership of the Common Council to modify an adopted appropriation.
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- The City will maintain a budgetary control system to ensure adherence to the adopted budget and will prepare regular reports comparing actual revenues and expenditures to budgeted amounts.
 - A contingency account will be maintained in the annual operating budget to provide for unanticipated expenditures of a nonrecurring nature or to meet unforeseen increases in service delivery costs. Transfers from the contingency account must be approved by the Common Council.
 - Budget amendments and transfers between departments are initiated by the department. After review by the Finance Department, the transfer is forwarded to Administration for recommendation of approval to the Finance Committee, with final approval by the Common Council.
 - Budget transfers within departments are initiated by the department. The Finance Department reviews for availability of funds and approves. Transfers from personal services accounts to other accounts within the department must be reviewed and

approved by Administration.

- Carry over of prior year budget fund authorization is initiated by the department. The requests are reviewed by the Finance Department and Administration for recommendation of approval to the Finance Committee with final approval by the Common Council.
- Budgets are classified as either lapsing (spending authority terminates at the year end) or non-lapsing (spending authority continues through the life of the project). All lapsing budgets are prepared for fiscal year operations beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

Lapsing Appropriation

General Fund

Various Special Revenue Funds

Debt Service Funds

Proprietary Funds

Internal Service Funds

Budgeted revenues and appropriations for the ensuing year for this classification are established on a modified accrual basis of accounting. Proprietary fund budgets generally serve as a financial plan with revenues and costs varying with the demand for service.

Non-Lapsing Appropriations

Capital Project Funds

Community Development Block Grant

Budgets for this classification are established as a project-length budget which authorizes total expenditures over the duration of a project rather than year to year.

- Operating budgets are adopted on a fund/department/division(program) basis.
- Increases to the adopted budgets are made only in the following situations:
 - emergency situations
 - nonrecurring appropriations with offsetting revenues
 - carry over of prior year appropriations

OPERATING BUDGET PROCESS

The following established the City's operating budget for the ensuing fiscal calendar year.

- The City's operating budget process begins with the development of the budget calendar and instructions to department heads regarding the expenditure policy of the Mayor. This policy will include fiscal and operational guidelines as well as guidelines relating to budgetary increases, etc.
- Departments prepare budget requests and estimated projections, which provide the Departments of Administration and Finance with information to analyze the requests against previous budget years and against the total overall needs of the City.
- The Mayor, City Administrator, Director of Finance and Director of Personnel review department budgets with each department head and staff.
- Upon completion of these deliberations, the Finance Department will prepare the Executive Budget for presentation by the Mayor to the legislative body. The legislative body refers the Executive Budget to various standing committees and then to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is responsible for review of the Executive Budget and referral to the Common Council for adoption.
- The City holds a public hearing on the budget and the Committee of the Whole meeting to deliberate the Executive Budget and any amendments recommended by the Finance Committee.
- The budget is adopted by the Common Council through an appropriation resolution.
- Once the budget is adopted, the Finance Department makes the adopted version of the budget document available to all departments, legislative body and the public.

OPERATING BUDGET PREPARATION CRITERIA

The following budget criteria was established by the Mayor prior to the preparation of the 2011 Budget.

Budgets for 2011 must meet the requirements under the Expenditure Restraint Program and the State of Wisconsin tax levy freeze.

CITY OF KENOSHA – 2011
OPERATING BUDGET PREPARATION TIMETABLE

October 4	Mayor to distribute Operating Budget to the Common Council
October 8	Publication of Public Hearing Notice and Budget Summary in official newspaper.
October 25 - November 3	Committees review Proposed Budgets
November 10	Executive Proposed Budget presented to the Finance Committee with department heads in attendance.
December 1	Public Hearing and Committee of the Whole meeting.
December 2	Adoption of operating budget by Common Council.