

City of Willcox Newsletter July 2012

Willcox City Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13

Ruth Graham, Director of Finance

On July 16, 2012, the Willcox City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget. The budget (net of inter-fund transfers) totals \$22,286,659, a decrease of about **\$7.4 million**; last year's budget totaled \$29,762,853. Of that decrease, \$7 million is due to the difference in allowance for capital projects in the Gas and Water Utilities. For several years, the Gas Fund budget has included a \$3 million allowance for a gas regulator station. Several months ago, an engineering analysis of the gas system recommended holding off on making major changes, and \$3 million in capital was removed from the budget. In addition, last year we budgeted \$16 million for a new sewer plant; planning continued and the estimate for the FY13 budget is \$12 million, a reduction of \$4 million.

The City Budget consists of 13 budgets for the Funds managed by the City. By fund number:

- (1) General (Fund 10): this includes City Administration, City Council, Community Programs, Police and Fire, Finance, Library, Public Works Administration, Swimming Pool, Cemetery, Vehicle Maintenance, Buildings & Grounds, and Parks.
- (2) Streets or HURF (Fund 15): this fund manages construction, preservation and maintenance of city roadways. We have 33 miles of paved streets, 4 miles of unpaved streets and 28 miles of alley ways. The State has eliminated lottery revenue sharing funds for streets, and the rate of state tax on a gallon of fuel has not changed in decades, while roadway maintenance and construction costs have increased, and vehicles have become more fuel efficient. City sales tax revenues are allocated 2/3 to the General Fund and 1/3 to the Streets fund.
- (3) Grants (Fund 16): this fund manages grant monies received from outside sources, including federal, state, and railroad grants. Matching funds for the projects are provided by other departments, and shown as transfer revenue into the grants fund.
- (4) Special Revenue Grants (Fund 17): this fund manages monies raised or contributed for a specific purpose, such as the golf course and fireworks.
- (5) Debt Service (Fund 20): this fund manages secondary property tax collections and distributions for GO (government obligation) bond payments.
- (6) Capital Improvements (Fund 21): general fund capital projects. For FY13, scheduled improvements include renovation of the old Border Patrol building, Keiller and Hazel Johnson Park improvements, and upgraded radios for Public Works to meet current code requirements.
- (7) Repair & Demolition (Fund 22): a new fund, this is an allowance for expenses required to repair or demolish buildings in the City.
- (8) Gas Utility (Fund 50): manages the distribution of natural gas and maintains the system.
- (9) Water Utility (Fund 51): manages the distribution of water to residents and businesses and maintains the system.
- (10) Sewer (Fund 52): this system manages the City's sewer systems. The current Waste Water Treatment Plant is under Notices of Violation (NOV's) from the Arizona Department of Water Quality (ADEQ). Construction of a new plant is anticipated, and work has been done to determine the type of plant that would best fit the needs of Willcox, and to secure funding for the project.
- (11) Solid Waste/trash (Fund 53): this fund manages our solid waste collections.
- (12) Magistrate Court (Fund 61): this is a fiduciary fund, or funds the city holds on behalf of others. Receipts from cases active at the time of the turnover to the County are recorded in this fund, and

distributions made to the state and the City as required. (13) Firemen's Pension Fund (Fund 72): this is also a fiduciary fund that holds the contributions of volunteer firefighters for Willcox as well as the City's matching pension contributions for the fund.

The Mayor and Council have continued to budget within the limits of funds available and yet maintain the same level of services provided to the residents of Willcox. The City maintains the parks and rodeo grounds, and provides the Community Center for many events. It works with the school to share soccer and tennis facilities and to provide a School Resources Officer. The City also supports youth programs through WASA and provides a public pool. Library services are available six days a week and improvements have been made to the Library including a solarium and new carpeting. Wi-Fi access and public computers are provided; a series of brown bag lunch speakers are coming in on many areas of interest; and the children and teen programs are active. Meetings rooms are available and projection equipment provided. The City website provides information about budgets, bid requests, job openings, Council meeting information, business permit forms and other information. Public Works maintains the city's parks, equipment and buildings, and replace aging equipment. Public Safety maintains around-the-clock coverage for our citizens, and provides assistance to those in need that come to the police station.

The Streets Department has maintained and improved the roadways, and continued an active plastic seal program to maintain streets. Grants were secured to replace street signs, add curbing and gutter, and add sidewalks on several streets. The Gas Utility continues to upgrade and replace lines. The Water Utility is adding a self-serve water service on the west side of town. The Sewer Department secured a \$1 million WIFA loan in 2010 that is being used to finance engineering costs, and the City has applied to the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and USDA-Rural for additional loan and grant funds.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk

City Council Meetings

Monday
Aug 6, 2012

&

Monday
Aug 20, 2012

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
300 West Rex Allen Drive