



**Financial Management Policy
For the City of Sanger, Texas**

Introduction

The City of Sanger, Texas financial policies set forth the basic framework for the fiscal management of the City. These policies were developed within the parameters established by applicable provisions of the Texas Local Government Code and the Sanger City Charter. The policies are intended to assist the City Council and city staff in evaluating current activities and proposals for future programs. The policies are to be reviewed on an annual basis and modified to accommodate changing circumstances or conditions.

The scope of these policies generally spans accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, operating and capital budgeting, revenue management, expenditure control and debt management, all to make it possible both: (a) to present fairly and with full disclosure the financial position and results of financial operations of the City in conformity to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), and (b) to determine and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions.

It is the goal of the Statement of Financial Management Policies to enable the City to adhere to the principles of sound municipal finance and to continue its long-term stable and positive financial condition.

Annual Budget

1. The fiscal year of the City of Sanger shall begin on October 1 of each calendar year and will end on September 30 of the following calendar year. The fiscal year will also be established as the accounting and budget year.
2. The City Manager, prior to August first of each year, shall prepare and submit to the City Secretary the annual budget covering the next fiscal year. The budget shall provide a complete financial plan of all city funds and activities and, except as required by law or the City Charter, shall be in such form as the Council may require. The budget shall contain the following information:
 - a. The City Manager's budget message outlining the proposed financial policies for the next fiscal year with an explanation of any changes in expenditures from the previous year, any major changes in policies, and a complete statement regarding the financial condition of the City. (Proposition 1 approved at an election held November 7, 2006 and certified by Resolution 11-19-06 adopted November 20, 2006.)
 - b. An estimate of all revenues from taxes and other sources, including the present tax structure, rates, and property valuations for the ensuing year;
 - c. A carefully itemized list of proposed expenses and revenues by fund, service type, and project for the budget year, as compared to actual expenditures and revenues of the last ended fiscal year and the projected final expenditures and revenues for the current fiscal year;
 - d. A description of all outstanding bond indebtedness, showing amount, date of issue, rate of interest, and maturity date; also any other indebtedness which the City has incurred and which has not been paid;

- e. A statement proposing any capital expenditures deemed necessary for undertaking during the next budget year and the recommended provision for financing; and
 - f. Such other information as is required by City Council or deemed desirable by the City Manager.
3. The City Manager's budget should assume, for each fund, operating revenues that are equal to or exceed operating expenditures. The City Manager's budget message shall explain the reasons for any fund that reflects operating expenditures exceeding operating revenues.
4. The City Council shall hold a public hearing on the budget, as submitted, at the time and place so advertised in the official newspaper, which will be no less than seven (7) days or more than fifteen (15) days after the date of notice. All interested persons shall be given the opportunity to be heard, either for or against, any item of the proposed budget.
5. The budget and tax rate may be adopted at any regular or special meeting of the Council prior to the beginning of the budgeted fiscal year by a majority vote of a two thirds (2/3) quorum. The Council may amend the proposed budget by increasing, decreasing, or removing any programs or amounts, except for expenditures required by law, for debt service, or for estimated cash deficit. No amendment to the budget shall increase the authorized expenditures to an amount greater than the total of estimated income plus funds available from prior years.
6. If the Council fails to adopt a budget by the beginning of the fiscal year, the budget currently in place for the preceding year shall remain in place on a month-to-month basis until such time as a new budget has been adopted.
7. On final adoption, the budget shall be in effect for the budget year. Final adoption of the budget by the City Council shall constitute the official appropriations for the current year and shall constitute the basis of the official levy of the property tax. Under conditions which may arise, the City Council may amend or change the budget to provide for any additional expense.

Capital Program

1. The City Manager shall submit a five-year capital improvement program (CIP) as an attachment to the annual budget. The CIP shall induce the following:
 - a. A clear, general summary of its contents;
 - b. A list of all capital improvements which are proposed for the five (5) fiscal years including the budget year, with appropriate supporting information as to the necessity for such improvements;
 - c. Cost estimates, method of financing and recommended time schedules for each improvement; and
 - d. The estimated annual cost of operating and maintaining the facilities to be constructed or acquired.

Basis of Accounting and Budgeting

1. The City's finances shall be accounted for in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).
 - a. The accounts of the City are organized and operated on the basis of funds and account groups. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements. Account groups are a reporting device to account for certain assets and liabilities of the governmental funds not recorded directly in those funds.
 - b. Governmental fund types use the flow of current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are

recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they are “measurable and available”). “Measurable” means the amount of the transaction can be determined and “available” means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. Substantially all revenues are considered to be susceptible to accrual. Ad valorem, sales, hotel, franchise and tax revenues recorded in the General Fund and ad valorem tax revenues recorded in the Debt Service Fund are recognized under the susceptible to accrual concept. Licenses and permits, charges for services, fines and forfeitures, and miscellaneous revenues (except earnings on investments) are recorded as revenues when received in cash because they are generally not measurable until actually received. Investment earnings are recorded as earned since they are measurable and available. Expenditures are recognized when the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, which are recorded when due, and compensated absences, which are recorded when payable from currently available financial resources.

- c. The City utilizes encumbrance accounting for its governmental fund types, under which purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation.
 - d. The City’s proprietary fund types are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus and use the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred.
 2. The City’s annual budgets shall be prepared and adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for all governmental and proprietary funds
 3. The issuance of Statement 34 by GASB has influenced the creation and reporting of individual funds. GASB 34 essentially mandates dual accounting systems: one for government-wide (i.e. the government as a single entity) reporting and another for individual fund reporting. Under GASB 34 for individual funds, the City will continue utilizing the accounting and budgeting processes as described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section. However, because GASB 34 mandates the flow of economic resources measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting for the government-wide reporting, extensive reconciliation must be performed to present aggregated fund information in the government-wide reporting model. Therefore, individual operating funds will be created with the objective of reducing fund to government-wide reconciliation as much as possible. When appropriate, individual funds will be examined as to whether it will be appropriate to account for them as proprietary fund types. Also, the City will limit the use of internal service funds and incorporate the financial transactions of those funds into other governmental funds.

Budget Administration

1. All expenses of the City shall be made in accordance with the adopted annual budget. Budgetary control is maintained at the individual expenditure account level by the review of all requisitions of estimated purchase amounts prior to the release of purchase orders to vendors.
2. The following represents the City’s budget amendment policy delineating responsibility and authority for the amendment process. Transfers between expenditure accounts in one department may occur with the approval of the City Manager and Finance Director. Transfers between operating departments may occur with the approval of the City manager and Finance Director provided that a department’s total budget is not changed by more than \$50,000. Transfers between funds must be accomplished by budget amendment approved by the City Council. Budget amendments calling for new fund appropriations must also be approved by the City Council.

Financial Reporting

1. At the close of each fiscal year, and at such other times as it may be deemed necessary, the Council shall direct that an independent audit be made on all accounts of the City by a certified public accountant. The certified public accountant shall have no personal interest directly or indirectly, in the financial affairs of the City or any of its officers and shall report directly to the Council. Upon completion of the audit, a summary of the results thereof shall be placed on file in the City Secretary's office for public record. A copy of the comprehensive financial annual report shall be available at City Hall.
2. The City Manager shall submit to the Council a monthly report of the financial condition of the City by department for the fiscal year-to-date. The financial records of the City will be maintained on a modified accrual basis to support this type of financial management. The City Manager shall make available to the Council the monthly cash disbursements journal of the City of all funds and accounts.

Revenues

1. To protect the City's financial integrity, the City will maintain a diversified and stable revenue system to shelter it from fluctuations in any one revenue source. Recognizing that sales tax is a volatile, unpredictable source of revenue, the City will attempt to reduce its dependence on sales tax revenue.
2. For every annual budget, the City shall levy two property tax rates: operation/ maintenance and debt service. The debt service levy shall be sufficient for meeting all principal and interest payments associated with the City's outstanding general obligation debt for that budget year. The debt service levy and related debt service expenditures shall be accounted for in the Debt Service Fund. The operation and maintenance levy shall be accounted for in the General Fund. City Council will consider exceeding the rollback rate only after options have been presented by staff to avoid the rollback by increasing revenue from other sources or reducing expenditures.
3. The City will maintain a policy of levying the lowest tax rate on the broadest tax base. Minimal exemptions may be provided to homeowners, senior citizens, and disabled veterans. The City may consider providing tax abatements or other incentives to encourage development.
4. The City will establish user charges and fees at a level that attempts to recover the full cost of providing the service.
 - a. User fees, particularly utility rates, should identify the relative costs of serving different classes of customers.
 - b. Where possible, utility rates should be designed to reduce peak (hour and day) demands on the utility systems.
 - c. The City will make every reasonable attempt to ensure accurate measurement of variables impacting taxes and fees (e.g. verification of business sales tax payments, verification of appraisal district property values, and accuracy of water meters).
5. The City will attempt to maximize the application of its financial resources by obtaining supplementary funding through agreements with other public and private agencies for the provision of public services or the construction of capital improvements.
6. The City will consider market rates and charges levied by other public and private organizations for similar services in establishing tax rates, fees and charges.
7. When developing the annual budget, the City Manager shall project revenues from every source based on actual collections from the preceding year and estimated collections of the current fiscal year, while taking into account known circumstances which will impact revenues for the new fiscal year. The revenue projections for each fund should be made conservatively so that total actual fund revenues exceed budgeted projections.

Operating Expenditures

1. Operating expenditures shall be accounted, reported, and budgeted for in the following major categories:
 - a. Operating, Recurring Expenditures
 - i. Salaries and Benefits
 - ii. Supplies and Materials
 - iii. Maintenance and Operations
 - iv. Contractual Services
 - v. Utilities
 - vi. Capital Replacement
 - vii. Other Expenses
 - b. Operating, Non-Recurring Expenditures
 - i. Capital Equipment
2. The annual budget shall appropriate sufficient funds for operating, recurring expenditures necessary to maintain established (i.e. status quo) quality and scope of city services.
3. The City will constantly examine the methods for providing public services in order to reduce operating, recurring expenditures and/or enhance quality and scope of public services with no increase to cost.
4. Salaries and benefits expenditures will reflect the minimum staffing needed to provide established quality and scope of city services. To attract and retain employees necessary for providing high-quality service, the City shall maintain a compensation and benefit package competitive with the public and, when quantifiable, private service industries.
5. Supplies and materials expenditures shall be sufficient for ensuring the optimal productivity of City employees.
6. Maintenance and operations expenditures shall be sufficient for addressing the deterioration of the City's capital assets to ensure the optimal productivity of the capital assets. Maintenance should be conducted to ensure a relatively stable level of maintenance expenditures for every budget year.
7. Utility expenditure providers shall, when options are available, be selected on the basis of the provider's competitive pricing and service.
8. The City will utilize contractual services for the provision of city services whenever private contractors can perform the established level of service at less expense to the City. The City will regularly evaluate its agreements with private contractors to ensure the established levels of service are performed at the least expense to the City.
9. Capital equipment is defined as equipment that exceeds \$5,000 and has a useful life of at least one year. Bulk purchases of smaller equipment with a useful life of at least one year will be capitalized if the total amount of the purchase exceeds \$25,000. Existing capital equipment shall be replaced when needed to ensure the optimal productivity of City employees.
10. Expenditures for additional capital equipment shall be made only to enhance employee productivity, improve quality of service, or expand scope of service.
11. Expenditures for other expenses not included in the categories above shall be made strictly on the basis of economic and business merit, ensuring the best possible return on each dollar spent.
12. To assist in controlling the growth of operating expenditures, operating departments will submit their annual budgets to the City Manager during the budget preparation process. Departments shall provide justification where projected expenditures exceed prior year budgeted amounts.

Fund Balance

1. The annual budget shall be presented to City Council with each fund reflecting an ending fund balance which is no less than 25 percent of that fund's annual operating expenditures. To satisfy the particular needs of individual funds, ending fund balances may be established which exceed the 25 percent minimum.
2. Fund balance that exceeds the minimum level established for each fund may be appropriated for non-recurring capital projects or programs, reserves or as the Council directs.
3. The City will exercise diligence in avoiding the appropriation of fund balance for recurring operating expenditures. In the event fund balance is appropriated for recurring operating expenditures to meet the needs of the Sanger community, the budget document shall include an explanation of the circumstances requiring the appropriation and the methods to be used to arrest the future use of fund balance for operating expenditures.

Fund Transfers

1. With the exceptions noted below, there will be no operating transfers between funds. Any costs incurred by one fund to support the operations of another shall be charged directly to the fund.
2. Fund transfers may occur when surplus fund balances are used to support non-recurring capital expenses or when needed to satisfy debt service obligations.
3. Transfers are permitted between funds to support economic development programs.
4. Transfers are permitted from the Enterprise Fund to other funds to cover the cost of operations.

Debt Expenditures

1. The City shall have the right and power, except as prohibited by law or the City Charter, to borrow money by whatever method it may deem to be in the public interest.
2. The City shall have the power to borrow money on the credit of the City and to issue general obligation bonds for permanent public improvements or for any other public purpose not prohibited by law and the City Charter and to issue refunding bonds to refinance outstanding bonds previously issued. All such bonds or certificates of obligation shall be issued in conformity with the laws of the State of Texas and shall be used only for purposes for which they were issued. General obligation bonds shall not be issued without an election. In all cases when the City Council shall order an election for the issuance of bonds of the City, it shall, at the same time, state whether or not a tax rate increase is anticipated for the purpose of paying the principal and interest on the bonds and to create a sinking fund for their redemption.
3. The City shall have the power to borrow money for the purpose of constructing, purchasing, improving, extending or repairing public utilities, recreational facilities, or any other self-liquidating municipal function not prohibited by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas, and to issue revenue bonds to evidence the obligation created thereby. Such shall be a charge upon and payable from the properties, or interest therein pledged, or the income therefrom, or both. The holders of the revenue bonds shall never have the right to demand payment thereof out of moneys raised or to be raised by taxation. All such bonds shall be issued in conformity with the laws of the State of Texas and shall be used only for the purpose for which they were issued.
4. When needed to minimize annual debt payments, the City will obtain insurance for new debt issues.

Capital Project Expenditures

1. The City will develop a multi-year plan for capital projects, which identifies all projects likely to be constructed within a five-year horizon. The multi-year plan will reflect for each project the likely source of funding and attempt to quantify the project's impact to future operating expenditures.
2. Capital projects will be constructed to:

- a. Protect or improve the community's quality of life.
 - b. Protect or enhance the community's economic vitality.
 - c. Support and service new development.
3. To minimize the issuance of debt, the City will attempt to support capital projects with appropriations from operating revenues or excess fund balances (i.e. "pay-as-you-go").

Purchasing

1. All purchases and contracts over \$3,000 shall conform to Chapter 252, Subchapter B of the Local Government Code of Texas, as amended. Purchases of goods or services over \$50,000 shall be submitted to the City Council for approval. The adoption of the annual budget gives the City Manager the authority to approve all other purchases for goods or services in accordance with each department's approved budget.
2. Purchases of goods or services at a total cost of \$1,000 or more must be made through the City's purchase order system. Written purchase orders shall also be used for vendors requiring formal City authorization regardless of dollar amount.
3. Purchases of goods or services at a total cost of less than \$1,000 may be made via a written Accounts Payable Voucher, signed and submitted by the applicable Department Director to the Finance Department.
4. All invoices approved for payment by the proper City authorities shall be paid by the Finance Department within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt in accordance with provisions of Article 601f, Section 2 of the State of Texas Civil Statutes.