

General Government Accounts

To budget for services provided on a city-wide basis and not directly associated with an operating department or office.

About the General Government Accounts

What We Do (Description of Services)

The budgets in the General Government Accounts represent necessary spending and financing that exist across the City, and are not necessarily assignable to a specific department. These budgets include:

- Pass through of the employer share of citywide employee insurance, retiree insurance, pension and other benefit costs, recovered through the fringe benefit allocation system
- Citywide tort liability costs that are not department-specific
- Funding for citywide elections
- Spending related to legal services provided by those other than staff attorneys
- Funding for the citizen participation, Civic Organizations Partnership Program and Neighborhood Crime Prevention Program.
- Support for the financial forms and reports used by all departments
- Costs of the City's memberships in municipal organizations, such as the League of Cities and the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities,
- Costs for legislative analysis and support for the overall financial good and betterment of the City,
- Fees paid to the State for the citywide financial audit
- Costs of the Charter Commission and the Capital Improvement Budget committee
- Business parking costs for City Councilmembers and the pass through of employees' payments for the MetroPass Program
- Charges for the maintenance and upkeep of City Hall.
- General fund share of expenses related to enterprise-wide technology investment.

2006-2007 Accomplishments

The following was accomplished in 2006:

- Working with the City's labor union representatives, city staff have managed the financial control of the costs related to city employee fringe benefits, including pensions, insurance, workers' compensation and severance pay.
- The audit of the City's 2006 financial records is complete, and the annual financial report has been prepared, printed and distributed.
- Tort claims levied against the City and approved by the City Council have been managed, and claimants paid from department budgets or the citywide budget.
- The City's interests and share of costs for the operation of City Hall, including security issues in the aftermath of 9/11/01, have been managed.
- The citizen participation program and the neighborhood crime prevention programs were funded.
- Election services to the citizens of Saint Paul were provided.

Statistical Profile

• New Citywide Tort Cases	39
• Citizen Participation District Programs	17
• Neighborhood Crime Prevention Organizations	25
• Participants in the Non-profit Contract Program	35
• City Share of Space in the City Hall Courthouse	35.26%

Key Performance Measures

Performance Objective: Keep the yearly increased cost of retiree health insurance below national health care cost inflation				
Performance Indicator: : % change per year				
MEASURES:	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Estimated	2008 Projected
% increase in cost of retiree health insurance	-0.26%	-10.02%	2.59%	8.96%

Performance Objective: Keep the cost of employee health insurance at or below the national health care cost. (MN State law requires early retirees to be placed in same pool as active employees, which increases the City's average cost, comparatively)				
Performance Indicator: Cost per employee (\$)				
MEASURES:	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Estimated	2008 Projected
Cost per employee - City	7,393	6,321	6,658	7,485
Cost per employee - national average (govt)	6,908	n/a	n/a	n/a

2008 Budget Plan

2008 Priorities

- The City Council staff will manage the Civic Organization Partnership Program and the budget for the Charter Commission.
- The City Attorney's Office will oversee the Tort Liability budget and administer the budget for any use of law firms and expert legal service outside of the City Attorney staff.
- The City Clerk will be responsible for the elections services budget.
- The Office of Financial Services will work with the budgets for pensions, severance pay, the state auditor, the Capital Improvement Budget committee, financial forms, and employee parking and refunds and enterprise technology investment.
- Mayor's Office staff will control the budget for the City's municipal memberships and dues.
- The Real Estate Unit of Public Works will deal with exempt and forfeited property assessments and the service and operations of the City Hall building.
- Human Resources (Risk Management) will lead the citywide effort to control the costs associated with workers' compensation, employee and retiree health insurance, torts and unemployment compensation, and manage the surety bonds budget.
- Planning and Economic Development staff will direct the budget for Citizen Participation and the Neighborhood Crime Prevention program.
- The Intergovernmental Relations function will work with staff from all departments to coordinate city efforts at the State and Federal levels of government.

2008 Budget Explanation

Base Adjustments

The 2007 adopted budget was adjusted to set the budget base for 2008. The base includes the anticipated growth in salaries and fringes for 2008 for employees related to the bargaining process. It also includes 2.5% inflation growth on services and 3% on goods and materials.

Mayor's Recommendation

The proposed general fund budget for the General Government Accounts is \$6,736,526, an increase of \$1,899,392 from the 2007 adopted budget. Two significant changes are included in the proposed budget. First, the general fund share of costs associated with the new Enterprise-wide Technology Initiative are centralized in a general government activity and increased by a net of \$149,277 over the 2007 adopted budget.

Also, spending is increased by \$722,568 for improvements in City Hall, financed by a loan from the Public Works sewer fund. The funding will pay for general build-out costs, increased bandwidth in City Hall offices and technology enhancements in City Hall conference rooms.

2008 Budget Plan (continued)

2008 Budget Explanation (continued)

Council Actions

The City Council adopted the General Government Accounts budget as proposed by the Mayor and approved the following additional changes:

- Restored ongoing funding totaling \$99,500 and added \$245,171 in one-time funding for the Civic Organizations Partnership Program (COPP).
- Placed \$85,000 in contingency for use in financing a liaison to District Councils.
- Placed \$408,781 into a City Council contingency for unanticipated expenses in 2008.
- Accepted a recommendation by the Mayor to place \$150,000 into a Mayoral contingency to cover higher than expected personnel costs associated with union contract settlements.
- Accepted a technical change to increase Police Pension Aid revenues by \$930,000, consistent with projected collections.
- Accepted a technical change to shift a \$722,568 loan to be used for City Hall improvements to a Public Works special fund. Loan repayments will be paid from General Government Accounts beginning in 2009.

The adopted budget is \$7,002,410, all of which occurs in the general fund.