

FUND BALANCE RESERVE POLICY

Fund balance is the uncommitted resources of a fund. It is the policy of the City to construct the various fund budgets in such a way that there will be sufficient uncommitted resources to cover cash flow needs at all times, regardless of seasonal fluctuations in expenditures or revenues, to provide adequate reserves for emergency needs, and to provide on-going investment earnings.

Adequate fund balance and reserve levels are a necessary component of the City's overall financial management strategy and a key factor in external agencies' measurement of the City's financial strength. Maintenance of fund balance for each accounting fund assures adequate resources for cash flow and to mitigate short-term effects of revenue shortages. Reserve funds are necessary to enable the City to deal with unforeseen emergencies or changes in condition.

The City maintains reserves required by law, ordinance and/or bond covenants. All expenditures drawn from reserve accounts require prior Council approval unless previously authorized by the City Council for expenditure within the City's annual budget. If reserves and/or fund balances fall below the required levels as set by the policy, the City shall include within its annual budget a plan to restore reserves and/or fund balance to the required levels.

The Fund Balance Reserve Policy specifies individual fund requirements as follows:

- **Contingency Fund Reserves:** The City maintains a Contingency Fund reserve equal to \$1,000,000 to provide a financial cushion to cover revenue shortfalls resulting from unexpected economic changes or recessionary periods or to provide funds in the event of major unplanned expenditures the City could face as a result of landslides, earthquake or other natural disaster.
- **General Fund Operating Reserves:** The City maintains a General Fund Operating Reserve to provide for adequate cash flow, budget contingencies, and insurance reserves. The cash flow reserve within the General Fund is an amount equal to two months of budgeted operating expenditures.
- **Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax Reserves:** The City maintains a Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax Reserve in an amount equal to six months' revenues in ending fund balance. (For example, the 2019 budgeted expenditures cannot exceed half of the 2017 actual revenues receipted into the fund.)
- **Technology Replacement Reserves:** The City maintains a Technology Replacement Reserve for replacement of entity-wide computer hardware, software, or telephone equipment identified in the City's Technology Replacement listing. The required level of reserve will equal each year's scheduled replacement costs. For example, if the 2019 equipment replacement costs are budgeted at \$100,000, the fund reserve balance must equal or exceed \$100,000.

2019 Budget

- **Health Self-Insured Administration Reserves:** The City maintains a Health Self-Insured Administration Reserve to provide Washington State mandated reserves for the City's self-insured dental and vision benefits for City Employees. The City maintains a reserve equal to 16 weeks of budgeted expense as required by Washington State's Office of Financial Management. The City reviews the required reserve level annually and adjusts it to meet the State's requirements (Washington Administrative Code, WAC 82.60).
- **Equipment and Vehicle Replacement Reserves:** The City maintains fully funded reserve for the replacement of vehicles and equipment identified on the City's equipment replacement listing. The required level of reserve equals each year's scheduled replacement costs. For example, if the 2019 equipment replacement costs are budgeted at \$100,000, the fund reserve balance must equal or exceed \$100,000. Contributions are made through assessments to the using funds and are maintained on a per asset basis.
- **Surface Water Utility Fund Reserves:** The City maintains an operating reserve within the Surface Water Utility Fund of an amount equal to no less than 20% of budgeted operating revenues.