

SUMMARIES

CITY OF KEARNEY BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT AND PROCEDURES

The City of Kearney follows the Statutes of the State of Nebraska (Article 5, et. seq., Nebraska Budget Act) in the preparation of the budget and audit for each fiscal year. An outline of the general accounting and budgeting principles and procedures follows and includes both the statutory requirements and the unique customs of the City of Kearney.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR GOVERNMENTS

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) are the accounting rules followed by most accountants in both business and government. GAAP provides a set of uniform minimum standards and guidelines for financial accounting and reporting; therefore, all financial statements prepared on a GAAP basis for similar entities are comparable. GAAP for business and GAAP for governments are different. GAAP for governments emphasizes fund accounting and reporting, "financial flow" operating data (revenues and expenditures), and compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. GAAP for business enterprises emphasize accounting and financial reporting for a business as a whole and the "capital maintenance" operating data (revenues and expenses). GAAP for governments is established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, which assumed responsibility from the National Council on Governmental Accounting in 1984.

Since the primary objective of a government is to provide services to its constituents within the guidelines of financial constraints, the purpose of the budget is to indicate where the money to operate the government comes from and how it will be spent. An audit by an independent Certified Public Accountant at the end of the budget year is essential to demonstrate the accountability of the government use of the public resources.

The use of fund accounting is one of the major differences between governmental and commercial accounting. It requires a separate record keeping for each individual fund. Each fund operates as a self-contained entity with its own revenue sources, expenses, assets, liabilities and fund balance. Even though the actual cash is contained in one bank account, a "separate accounting" is kept of all funds by the use of the computerized accounting system. Funds are segregated for the purpose of carrying on a particular activity. Governments try to maintain a minimum number of funds. The accounting rules that governments follow are applied differently to each fund, and relate to the basis of accounting and measurement focus of each fund type (a glossary of terms is presented near the back of the budget document).

THE ANNUAL BUDGET

The Mayor and Council establish the program priorities and the guidelines within which the budget for the next fiscal year is to be prepared. The City Manager distributes the budget information and guidelines to department heads. The department heads submit their budget requests to the City Manager and the Director of Finance and Administration. The Director of Finance and Administration prepares estimates of revenues. The City Manager checks the accuracy and validity of departmental requests for both operational and capital expenditures. The department heads prepare the schedule for vehicle and/or equipment due for replacement from the five-year Long Range Goals and Capital Improvement Program. The City Manager and the staff prepare a proposed budget by consolidating the budget requests for the current year and the five-year Long Rang Goals and Capital Improvement Program. This is reviewed with the department heads and the final draft is prepared.

Budgets are prepared this year for **Governmental Funds** (General Fund - General; Special Revenue Funds - Transportation, Economic Development Grant, Lottery Trust, Natural Disaster, Off-Street Parking District No. 1; Capital Projects Funds - Police Reserve, Fire Reserve, Cemetery Reserve, Park & Recreation Development, Street Improvement, Special Sales Tax – Capital Improvements/Equipment, and Restaurant Occupation Tax Project; Debt Service Funds - Public Safety Tax Anticipation Bond, and Various Purpose Bond), **Proprietary Funds** (Enterprise Funds - Golf, Sanitation, S.W.D.F. Operation & Maintenance, S.W.D.F. Retained Revenue, Sanitary Sewer Operation & Maintenance, Sanitary Sewer Retained Revenues, Sanitary Sewer Revenue Bond, Sanitary Sewer Revenue Bond Reserve, Water Operation & Maintenance, Water Retained Revenues, Water Revenue Bond, Water Revenue Bond Reserve, Storm Water Utility, and Kearney Regional Airport; Internal Service Funds - Health Insurance, Property & Casualty Insurance, Workers Compensation Insurance, Central Stores, and Vehicle Maintenance), and **Fiduciary Funds** (Pension (And Other Employee Benefit) Trust Funds - Police Pension; Agency Funds - Sales & Use Tax).

A legal notice is published to announce the availability of the proposed budget for review by the general public. This notice also specifies the time, date and place of the public hearing on the budget and the proposed property tax requirement. The public hearing is held on the proposed budget and proposed property tax requirement.

The Mayor and Council adopts, or amends and adopts, the budget and sets the tax requirement for the next fiscal year. The adopted budget is filed with the State Auditor, County Clerk and City Clerk and is placed at the Kearney Public Library and Information Center for check-out. The budgeted figures are entered into the accounting system and the departments are informed of the amount of funds allocated to them.

The new fiscal year begins on October 1.