

Glossary & Acronyms





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Glossary

ACCOUNT - A record in the general ledger that is used to collect and store similar information.

ACCOUNTING PERIOD - A period of time where the City determines its financial position and results of operations.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - A current liability account that will show the amount owed for items or services purchased on credit.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES - A current asset resulting from selling goods or service on credit.

ACTUARIAL - A person or methodology that makes determinations of required contributions to achieve future funding levels that address risk and time.

AD VALOREM - "In proportion to the value".

AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX - Real estate and personal property taxes. The taxes are assessed on a portion of the value of the property. Local governments set the levy.

ADOPTED BUDGET - The proposed budget that is formally approved by City Council.

AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE - The sum of all property tax levies imposed by the governing body. State law limits the aggregate rate for a county or municipality to \$10 per \$1,000 worth of assessed taxable value.

ALLOCATE - To assign costs to a product, department or customer on an arbitrary basis.

AMENDED BUDGET - The adopted budget which is formally adjusted by City Council.

AMORTIZATION - The paying off of debt in regular installments over a period of time.

APPROPRIATION - An authorization granted by a legislative body to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is limited to the amount of time when it may be expended.

ASSESSMENT (ASSESSED VALUE) - The value for tax purposes determined by the property appraiser for a given piece of real or personal property.

ASSET - Property owned by the City, which has monetary value.

BALANCED BUDGET - When revenues equal expenditures

BACK LOADING (Back-end Load) - To defer payment of something until the end of a budget period or the end of a contract.

BALANCE SHEET - One of the main financial statements. The balance sheet reports the assets, liabilities and equity at a specific point in time.

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER (BAC) - A unique partnership between the City and the University of Central Florida Small Business Development Center. The Center's mission is to help grow local businesses.

BOND - A security that represents an obligation to pay a specified amount of money on a specific date in the future.

BOND PROCEEDS – Money paid to the issuer by the purchaser for a new issue of municipal bonds. Used to finance a project or purpose for which the bonds were issued and to pay certain costs of the issuance.

BUDGET - A statement of the financial position of a sovereign body for a definite period of time based on estimates of expenditures during this period and proposals to finance them. The amount of money that is available for, required for, or assigned to a particular purpose.

BUDGET CALENDAR - The schedule of key dates or milestones, which the City follows in the preparation and adoption of the budgets.

BUDGETARY CONTROL - The control or management of a governmental unit or enterprise in accordance with an approved budget for the purpose of keeping expenditures within the limitations of available appropriations and available revenues.

BUDGET DOCUMENT - The official written statement prepared by the budget office and supporting staff, which presents the proposed budget to the City Council.

CAPITAL BUDGET - A plan of proposed capital expenditures and the means of financing them. The capital budget is enacted as part of the City's consolidated budget, which includes both operating and capital outlays. The capital budget should be based on a capital improvement program (CIP).

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT - Equipment with a value in excess of \$5,000 and an expected life of more than 2 years such as automobiles, computers and furniture. This equipment is budgeted for in the Operating Budget.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS - Physical assets, constructed or purchased, that have a minimum useful life of 2 years and a minimum cost of \$5,000.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND - A budget fund providing for future improvements such as construction of new facilities, acquisition of new equipment, and expansion of services.

CAPITAL OUTLAY - The cost of acquiring land, buildings, equipment, furnishings, etc.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Have long range returns, useful life spans, are relatively expensive, and have physical presence such as buildings, roads, sewage systems, water systems, etc.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - A comprehensive five (5) year plan of capital projects which identifies priorities as to need, method of financing and cost and revenue that will result during the five (5) years. The program is a guide for identifying current and future fiscal year requirements and becomes the basis for determining the Annual Capital Budget.

CASH FLOW - Actual changes in cash as opposed to accounting revenues and expenditures.

COMMERCIAL PAPER - An unsecured, short-term debt instrument issued by a corporation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) – Residential housing rehabilitation and entitlement program, funded by federal contributions.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA (CRA) - A dependent special district in which any future increases in property values are set aside to support economic development projects within that district.

COMPETITIVE SALE - In a competitive sale, bonds are advertised for sale. The advertisement, by way of a notice of sale, includes both the terms of the sale and the terms of the bond issue.

CONSTRUCTION FUNDS - Established to account for all resources, principally bond proceeds and construction grants, which are used for the acquisition of capital facilities and projects.

CONTINGENT LIABILITY - A potential liability dependent upon some future event occurring.

CONTINGENCY - An appropriation of funds to cover unforeseen events that occur during the fiscal year.

CREDIT ENHANCEMENT - A method whereby an entity attempts to improve its' debt or creditworthiness. Through credit enhancement, the lender is provided with reassurance that the borrower will honor the obligation through additional collateral, insurance, or a third party guarantee. Credit enhancement reduces credit/default risk of a debt, thereby increasing the overall credit rating and lowering interest rates.

CURRENT VALUE - The present fair market value.

DEBT RATIO - The ratio of total liabilities to total assets.

DEBT SERVICE - The expense of retiring such debts as loans and bond issues. This includes principal and interest payments.

principal and interest.

DEBT SERVICE FUND - The funds created to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt

DEPARTMENT - An organizational unit responsible for carrying out a major governmental function, such as Fire or Public Works.

DEPRECIATION - The periodic expiration of an asset's useful life. Depreciation is a requirement in proprietary-type funds, such as enterprise and internal service funds. It is not used in any other fund. Depreciation is a non-cash expense and while it is recorded in the annual financial statements, it is not budgeted.

ENTERPRISE FUND - A fund that establishes a separate accounting and financial reporting mechanism for municipal delivery of goods or services.

ESTIMATED REVENUES - Projections of funds to be received during the fiscal year.

EXEMPTION - Amounts that state law determines should be deducted from the assessed value of property for tax purposes. Tax rates are applied to the balance, which is called the non-exempt portion of the assessment. Some of these exemptions include homestead, agricultural, widows, and disability.

EXPENDITURES - The cost of goods delivered or services rendered including operating expenses, capital outlays and debt service.

FINAL MILLAGE - The tax rate adopted in the second public hearing of a taxing agency.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE - The act of releasing all relevant information pertaining to the City that may influence an investment decision.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Balance sheet, income statement, statement of cash flows, statement of retained earnings and statement of equity.

FISCAL YEAR - The twelve-month period to which the Annual Budget applies. The City's fiscal year begins October 1st and ends September 30th.

FIXED ASSETS - Assets of long-term character which are intended to continue to be held or used, such as land, buildings, machinery, furniture and other equipment.

FLEET - The vehicles owned and operated by the City.

FRANCHISE FEES - Fees levied on a corporation in return for granting privilege, sanctioning a monopoly, or permitting the use of public property, usually subject to regulation.

FULL FAITH AND CREDIT - A pledge of the general taxing power of a government to repay debt obligations (typically used in reference to bonds).

FUNCTION - A major class or grouping of activities directed toward a common goal such as public safety. For the purposes utilized in budgetary analysis, the categories have been established by the State of Florida and financial reports must be grouped according to those established functions.

FUND - An accounting entity that has a set of self-balancing accounts and that records all financial transactions or specific activities or government functions. Eight commonly used funds in public accounting are: General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, Capital Project Funds, Enterprise Funds, Trust and Agency Funds, Internal Service Funds and Special Assessment Funds.

FUND BALANCE (EQUITY) - Fund equity for governmental funds and trust funds, which reflect the accumulated excess of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other uses for general governmental functions.

GAINS - A gain is measured by the proceeds from a sale minus the amount showing on the books. Since the gain is outside the main activity of a business it is reported as other revenue on the income statement.

GENERAL FUND - The largest fund within the City, the General Fund accounts for most of the financial resources of the government. General Fund revenues include property taxes, licenses and permits, local taxes, service charges and other types of revenue. This fund usually includes most of the basic operating services, such as fire and police protection, finance, parks and recreation, public works and general administration.

GENERAL LEDGER - The part of the accounting system which contains the balance sheet and income statement accounts used for recording transactions.

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS BONDS - Bonds that finance a variety of public projects such as streets, buildings and improvements. The repayment of these bonds is usually made from the General Fund, and these bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the issuing government.

GRANT - An award of financial assistance given by an organization (often a Government Department) for a specific purpose.

IMPACT FEES - A contribution toward the equitable share of the cost of capital improvements required to serve new customers.

INCOME STATEMENT - One of the main financial statements. Also referred to as the profit and loss statement. Reports the revenues, gains, expenses, losses, net income and other totals for a period of time.

INDIRECT COSTS - Costs associated with, but not directly attributable to, providing a product or service. These are usually costs incurred by other departments in the support of operating departments.

INFRASTRUCTURE - Facilities on which the continuance and growth of a community depend on such as roads, water-lines, etc.

INTERFUND TRANSFERS - Transfers among funds. These are utilized to track items for management purposes. They represent a “double counting” and, therefore are subtracted when computing a “net” operating budget.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE - Funds received from Federal, State and other Local Government sources in the form of grants, shared revenues and payments in lieu of taxes

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - A contractual agreement between two or more governmental entities.

INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS - The funds established for the financing of goods or services provided by one department to other departments within the City on a cost reimbursement basis. Examples are the Fleet and the Insurance Fund.

JUST VALUE - Value of a piece of property as determined by the property appraiser, before reductions for legislatively imposed restrictions on valuation increases or other limitations.

LONG-TERM DEBT - Loans and financial obligations lasting over one-year. Long-term debt for the City would include any financing or leasing obligations that are to come due in a greater than 12-month period. Such obligations would include bond issues or long-term leases that have been capitalized on the balance sheet.

MILL - A ratio of one (1) to one thousand (1,000).

MILLAGE RATE - For property tax purposes, a rate established per \$1,000 of assessed taxable value. A property tax millage rate of 3.5 mills for example, would mean property with a taxable value of \$100,000 would pay \$350 in property taxes.

NET - Remaining amount after all deductions.

OPERATING EXPENSES - These are the expenses of day-to-day operations and exclude personal services and capital costs.

PERSONAL PROPERTY - Livestock, commercial equipment and furnishings, attachments to mobile homes, railroad cars, and similar possessions that are taxable under State law.

PERSONAL SERVICES - Costs related to compensating employees, including salaries, wages and benefit costs.

PROPOSED MILLAGE - The tax rate certified to the property appraiser by each taxing agency within a county. Proposed millage is to be sent to the appraiser within 35 days after a county's tax roll is certified by the State Department of Revenue and is listed on notices sent to property owners. No taxing agency may approve a levy that is larger than the one it originally proposed.

PROPRIETARY FUND – Fund that is used for “business like” activities. This includes Enterprise Funds and Internal Service Funds.

REAL PROPERTY - Land and the buildings and other structures attached to it that are taxable under state law.

REFUNDING - Retiring an outstanding bond issue at maturity by using money from the sale of a new bond offering.

REVENUE - Additions to assets which:

- a. Do not increase any liability.
- b. Do not represent the recovery of an expenditure.
- c. Do not represent the cancellation of certain liabilities or decrease assets.
- d. Do not represent contributions of fund capital in enterprise and internal service funds.

REVENUE BOND - A municipal bond supported by the revenue from a specific project, such as a toll bridge, highway or local stadium. Revenue bonds are municipal bonds that finance income-producing projects and are secured by a specified revenue source. Typically, revenue bonds can be issued by any government agency or fund that is run in the manner of a business; those entities having both operating revenues and expenses. Revenue bonds differ from general obligation bonds (GO bonds) that can be repaid through a variety of tax sources.

REVENUE ESTIMATE - A formal estimate of how much revenue will be earned from a specific revenue source for some future period; typically, a future fiscal year.

ROLLED BACK RATE - The millage necessary to raise the same amount of Ad Valorem Tax Revenue as the previous year, excluding taxes from new construction.

SECONDARY MARKET - Is a market where investors purchase securities or assets from other investors, rather than from issuing company directly. The national exchanges, such as, the New York Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ are secondary markets. Secondary markets exist for other securities as well, such as, when funds, investment banks, or entities such as Fannie Mae purchase mortgages from issuing lenders. In any secondary market trade, the cash proceeds go to an investor rather than to the underlying company/entity directly.

SHORT- TERM DEBT - An account shown in the current liabilities portion of a company's balance sheet. This account is comprised of any debt incurred by a company that is due within one year. The debt in this account is usually made up of short-term bank loans taken out by a company

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT - A levy against certain properties to defray part or all of the cost of a specific improvement or service that will primarily benefit those properties'.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - The special revenue funds account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditure for specified purposes.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT (SAD) – An area in which the market value of real estate is enhanced due to the influence of a public improvement and in which a tax is apportioned to recover the costs of the public improvement.

STATE REVENUE SHARING - Allocations to municipalities from a trust fund primarily supported by State cigarette and motor fuel taxes.

SURTAX – Additional amount charged locally above state minimum tax often used with sales taxes.

TAX INCREMENT DISTRICT - An area that has been declared “blighted” and is eligible to use tax increment financing to aid in redevelopment.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) - Property tax revenue generated by the tax on increases in property value above the base value at the time a tax increment district is established. This revenue is used to fund projects in the district.

TAX BASE - The total property valuations on which each taxing agency levies its tax rates.

TAX ROLL - The certification of assessed/taxable values prepared by the Property Appraiser and presented to the taxing authority by July 1 of each year.

TAXABLE VALUE - The assessed value less homestead and other exemptions, if applicable.

TENTATIVE MILLAGE - The tax rate adopted at the first public hearing of a taxing agency. Under State law, the agency may reduce, but not increase, the tentative millage during the second budget hearing.

TRUTH IN MILLAGE (TRIM) - State law establishing mandatory procedures, including advertising requirements and the holding of public hearings, for adoption of budgets and tax rates.

USEFUL LIFE - The period of time that a fixed asset is expected to be in use.

USER FEE - Charges for specific services rendered only to those paying such charges as, for example, sewer service charges.

UTILITY TAXES - Municipal charges levied by the City in each and every purchase of a public service within the corporate limits of the City. Public service is electricity, gas, fuel oil, water, and telephone service.

VOTED MILLAGE - Property tax levies authorized by voters within a taxing agency. Bond issues that are backed by property taxes are a common form of voted millage in the State. Such issues are called general obligation bonds.

WETLANDS MITIGATION- Any action required to reduce the impact of development on a wetland. Mitigation actions include creation of new wetlands or improvement of existing wetlands.

WHITE FLEET - This term refers to fleet, specifically trucks, vans and cars, used for City business.

WORKING CAPITAL - A financial metric which represents operating liquidity available to a business.

YIELD - The income return on an investment. This refers to the interest or dividends received from a security and are usually expressed annually as a percentage based on the investment's cost, its current market value or its face value.

Acronyms

APB (Accounting Principles Board)

ARC (Architectural Review Committee)

BAC (Business Assistance Center) – Palm Coast Business Assistance Center was started in 2011 through a unique partnership between the city and the University of Central Florida Small Business Development Center. The Center's mission is to help grow local businesses.

CADD (Computer Assisted Design and Drafting)

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) – Residential housing rehabilitation and entitlement program.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

CIP (Capital Improvement Program) - A comprehensive five (5) year plan of capital projects which identifies priorities as to need, method of financing and cost and revenue that will result during the five (5) years. The program is a guide for identifying current and future fiscal year requirements and becomes the basis for determining the Annual Capital Budget.

CO (Certificate of Occupancy)

CPI (Consumer Price Index) - This is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

CPA (Certified Public Accountant) - As designation awarded by on of 50 U.S. states to a college graduate who has passed the rigorous uniform CPA exam and has met the required work experience.

CRA (Community Redevelopment Area) A dependent special district in which any future increases in property values are set aside to support economic development projects within that district.

GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles)

GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board)

GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association)

GIS (Geographical Information Systems)

FASB (Financial Accounting Standards Board)

FDEP (Florida Department of Environmental Protection)

FTE (Full-time equivalent employees) - This is calculated by taking the total number of work-hours divided by the standard workweek (usually 40 hours). It is used for ease of comparison; i.e. two part-time people working 20 hours per week equal one FTE.

FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act)

FIFO (First in first out)

FUTA (Federal Unemployment Tax Act)

FY (Fiscal Year) - The twelve-month period to which the Annual Budget applies. The City's fiscal year begins October 1st and ends September 30th.

IRS (Internal Revenue Service) - The U.S. government agency responsible for federal income tax regulations.

ISO (Insurance Services Office, Inc.) – ISO is an independent statistical, rating, and advisory organization that serves the property and casualty insurance industry.

ISP (Internet Service Provider)

MBS (Mortgage Backed Securities) -Based on mortgages that are guaranteed by a government agency or GSE for payment of principal and a guarantee of timely payment.

NSP (Neighborhood Stabilization Program)

NOI (Net Operating Income)

PM - (Performance Measure) Measurement used to track performance towards City Council goals.

PO (Purchase Order)

SAD (Special Assessment District) – An area in which the market value of real estate is enhanced due to the influence of a public improvement and in which a tax is apportioned to recover the costs of the public improvement.

SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission)

SHIP - (State Housing Initiative Partnership)

SRF - (State Revolving Fund) - Loan program

TIF (Tax Increment Financing) - The tax increment above the base year valuation in a CRA which is used to eliminate the blight conditions.

TRIM (Truth in Millage) - State law establishing mandatory procedures, including advertising requirements and the holding of public hearings, for adoption of budgets and tax rates