

Your City News...

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The Cost of Providing Services

Larry Rains, City Manager

My last article focused on the tax base and revenue sources which generate funding for the public services and programming provided to the citizens of Willcox. In this article, we will list specific services and outline the expenditures of each. To maintain consistency with last quarter's newsletter, we will focus on the General Fund and HURF (streets) Fund.

Some important details to remember throughout this article are: 1) The City must develop and publish an annual budget that outlines the revenues and expenditures projected for that particular year. The budget must be made available for public comment at various public hearings typically held in July and August of each year; 2) State statute requires the budget to be balanced. The projected expenses must equal the anticipated revenues for the year. Based on the expected revenues, each department establishes the service and programming levels based on the allocated revenue source.

In Willcox, the General Fund is very active and can become quite complex due to the range of functions that it covers. It accounts for most of your government's activities, such as administration, public safety, and parks and recreational services. These functions represent a large portion of the City's current operating expenditures.

Your City specifically provides 17 different services and programs under six general fund departments. Listed below is a summary of the departments and functions of each, and a pie chart outlining the percentage of annual budget expenditures for each department compared to that of the total fund:

Administration:

- City Council
- Administration (City Mgr, Attorney, Clerk)



Public Safety:

- Administration
- Patrol
- Investigations
- Communications
- Fire
- Code Enforcement
- Humane
- Jail

Public Services and Works:

- Parks and Recreation
- Building and Grounds
- Building Inspection
- Swimming Pool

Library:

- Library

Magistrate:

- Magistrate Court

Community Programs:

- Community Programs (programs, economic development, street improvements)

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The Highway Users Fund (HURF) has a State constitutional restriction on the use of revenues which requires that these funds be used solely for street and highway purposes. Eligible expenditures would include the cost of construction, maintenance and repair of streets, safety items such as lighting, and payment of interest and principal on highway bonds.

You may recall from the last article, the total amount of revenue distributed to this Fund by the State is \$426,000. However, the total expenses for fiscal year 2001-2002 are \$611,420. This has transpired because of a transfer of cash from the general fund that has been approved by the Mayor and Council. Looking at the Community Programs description previously listed, you will find that street improvements are included in the functions of that department. In fact, a transfer of \$185,000 is made to allow the Streets department to accomplish more street improvements on an annual basis.

Because there is only one (1) primary function in this fund, a summary of the expenditure components has been individually itemized.

Street and Right-of-way Maintenance and Improvements	
Street improvements	\$ 100,000
Street preservation	44,835
Street patching	40,000
Unpaved road maintenance	4,000
Drainage cleaning	15,000

Operational Costs	
Employee related costs	\$ 171,540
Equipment related costs	35,395
Street lights	51,000
Fort Grant contract	4,000
General insurance	5,650
Capital purchases	10,000

Debt Service	
Bond payment	\$ 130,000

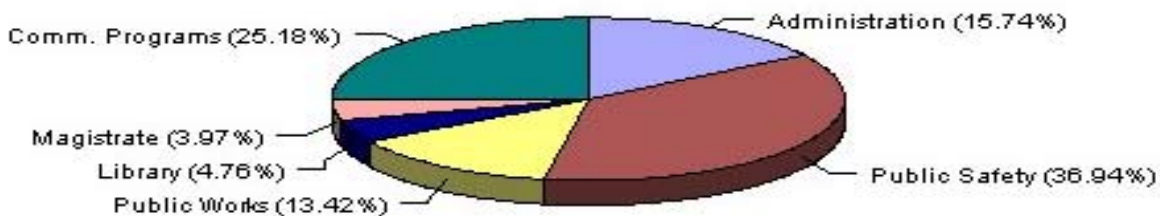
As you can see, the operational and debt service costs assume the majority of the funding provided through state gas tax funds. The street improvement and repair programs are primarily funded by the transfer of city sales tax dollars collected through the general fund.

The majority of the services and programs provided to the residents of this community are done through these two funds. On most occasions, the following services and programs are offered to city and county residents alike, and are provided in an efficient, cost effective manner 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year:

- When you drive the street that takes you to Keiller Park.
- When you travel to the library to check out your favorite book or log onto the Internet.
- When you request a police officer or fire department at 3:00 a.m.
- When you drop the kids off for a day at the swimming pool.

So, have I answered the question of “How can other cities provide certain services and programs that Willcox does not, when the communities appear to be the same size?” Well, I am hopeful that these two articles have provided sufficient information to allow you to better understand some of

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the working dynamics of your local government. I am confident you will understand that other communities of the same size school district or similar populations probably have a larger incorporated limits, thus having a larger tax base. And, as we have learned, the greater the population and tax base the easier it is to provide more services and programs.

I would like to close this article by stating that it is our organization's goal to be able to deliver the essential public services, and those required to fit the unique needs of the local city residents, at the optimum level needed to maintain a high quality of life and collectively make our city a better place to live.

New staff



Filling the newly created position of Human Resources Technician, **Esther McGuire** brings to the job a positive, professional attitude and experience in working with people.

Toni Romero is originally from Phoenix. After spending twenty years in the Navy, he and his family have relocated to Willcox to live near Toni's retired father. In addition to the many duties Toni enjoys as Head Court Clerk, he is also a volunteer firefighter.



Election Year in Willcox

Cristina G. Whelan, C.M.C.

The 2002 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2002. The polling place is the Willcox Community Center Lounge, 312 W. Stewart, Willcox, AZ for all registered voters residing in the incorporated City limits. The last day to register to vote is February 11, 2002 and forms are available at City Hall, Library, Magistrate Court, Public Services & Works, Public Safety and Motor Vehicle. There are 4-seats and 7-candidates: Roy Ard, Tim

Atwell, Brent Callen, Marlin "Mick" S. Easthouse, Frank Petersen, Joseph A. Long and Lorin Price. Early ballots (Make your request to the City Clerk verbally or in writing. A reason is not required.) are available starting February 7, 2002 and last day to vote in City Clerk's office is March 8, 2002. If necessary, a General Election will be held on May 21, 2002. Call City Clerk Cristina G. Whelan, CMC 384-4271 ext. 304 for more information.

Department of Public Services and Works

Frank R. Gonzales, Director

The upgrade of the Waste Water Treatment Plant is proceeding according to the schedule. The effluent pump station at Twin Lakes Golf Course is almost complete and the interior of the new laboratory is under construction. The new head works at the Treatment Plant is approximately 25% complete.

Parks and Recreation Section has removed the playground equipment at the "Kiddie Corral" at Keiller Park and has erected new equipment. The equipment was selected by the Parks and Recreation Commission



Mario Hernandez removing rocks from the sand around the new playground equipment.



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City Council and Commissions Schedule

Name	Location	Day	Time
Parks and Recreation Commission	Library Conference Room 207 W. Maley Street	1st Tuesday	5:00 p.m.
Mayor and City Council	Council Chambers 207 W. Maley Street	1st & 3rd Monday	7:00 p.m.
Willcox Historic Preservation Commission	Library Conference Room 207 W. Maley Street	3rd Tuesday	Noon
Willcox Public Library Commission	Library Conference Room 207 W. Maley Street	3rd Wednesday	6:00 p.m.
Planning and Zoning Commission	Council Chambers 207 W. Maley Street	4th Wednesday	7:00 p.m.