

City of Fort Worth
Department of Finance
Capital Projects Fund Reserve Policy



I. **Authority:**

The Fort Worth City Council is responsible for legislation, policy formulation, and overall direction setting of the government. This includes the approval of financial policies which establish and direct the operations of the City of Fort Worth. The City Manager is responsible for carrying out the policy directives of the City Council and managing the day-to-day operations of the executive departments, including the Department of Finance. This policy shall be administered on behalf of the City Manager by the Chief Financial Officer/Director of Finance.

II. **Purpose:**

The City desires to maintain a prudent level of financial resources to guard its stakeholders against service disruption in the event of unexpected temporary revenue shortfalls or unpredicted one-time expenditures. In addition, this policy is intended to document the appropriate Reserve level to protect the City's credit worthiness and provide adequate cash flow based upon the traditional operating cycle. The Capital Project Fund Reserves are accumulated and maintained to provide stability and flexibility to respond to unexpected adversity and/or opportunities and to minimize the costs associated with short-term cash borrowing.

This policy establishes the amounts the City will strive to maintain in its Capital Projects Fund Reserve, how the Reserve will be funded, and the conditions under which the Reserve may be used.

III. **Applicability and Scope:**

This policy shall apply to the Capital Projects Funds under the budgetary and fiscal control of the City Manager and the City Council.

IV. **Glossary** - See definitions related to this policy provided in the appendix

V. **Related Documents and References:**

- A. Operating and Capital Budget Policy
- B. Long-Term Financial Planning Policy
- C. Capital Asset Investment and Management Policy

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VI. Policy:

Reserve Levels - The City will maintain reserves in Capital Projects Funds that will not exceed the amount needed to fully fund the approved projects set forth in the five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

VII. Monitoring Performance

- A. The City will measure its compliance with this policy on an annual basis as of September 30th each year or as soon as practical after final fiscal year-end financial information becomes available. During the course of the fiscal year the Department of Finance shall closely monitor the City's revenues and expenditures to ensure Reserves are not used beyond any planned usage.
- B. If, based on staff's analysis and forecasting, the target level of Reserves is not met at fiscal year-end or is not likely to be met at any point within a five-year time horizon, then during the annual budget process a plan to replenish the Reserve levels will be developed by collaboration among affected departments and the Department of Finance based on the requirements outlined in this policy.
- C. Funding the Reserve - Funding of Reserve targets will generally come from excess revenues over expenditures or one-time revenues.
- D. Periodic Review of the Targets - At a minimum, during the annual financial planning/budget process staff shall review the current and five-year projected Reserves to ensure that they are appropriate given the economic and financial risk factors the City is subject to.

VIII. Pooled Cash

Cash Balance - In order to provide liquidity adequate to meet the needs and demands of providing government services including unanticipated reductions in revenues or unplanned increases in expenditures, Cash Balances will be maintained and managed through the Pooled Cash method in such a way as to minimize short-term borrowing. This reduces overall cost to taxpayers by minimizing interest expense. The Reserve is intended to support this effort and counterbalance the tax collection cycle.

IX. Conditions for Use of Reserves

It is the intent of the City to limit the use of Capital Project Fund Reserves to address non-routine and one-time expenditures.

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X. **Excess of Reserves**

In the event Reserves exceed the minimum balance requirements, at the end of each fiscal year, any excess Reserves may be used in the following ways:

1. Appropriated to lower the amount of bonds or increase the pay-as-you-go contributions needed to fund capital projects in the City's Capital Improvement Plan;
2. To pay for non-routine and one-time expenditures such as land and building purchases, construction and maintenance projects with at least a 10-year life, feasibility, design, and engineering studies related to such projects, capital equipment and vehicles with at least a 10-year life, and technology improvements with at least a 5-year life.

XI. **Authority over Reserves**

The City Council may authorize the use of Reserves. The Department of Finance will regularly report both current and projected Reserve levels to the City Manager and City Council.

XII. **Quality Control and Quality Assurance:**

It is the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer/Director of Finance to ensure the presence of procedures that provides sufficient guidance to affected City personnel to fulfill the intent of this policy.

These policies will be reviewed at least annually and updated on an as-needed basis.

XIII. **Metrics:**

To be developed and managed accordingly.

XIV. **Records:**

There are no records associated with this policy.

XV. **Process Flow Map:**

Not applicable.

XVI. **Forms:**

Not Applicable



- XVII. Appendices:
Not applicable.

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