Overview
Through September 2018, the City’s General Fund revenues were 1% higher than last year and expenditures were 1.5% higher than 2017. The year’s revenue results are lower than targets for sales tax revenues and above targets for most other revenue streams. The City’s largest revenue source, sales and use taxes, decreased by 3% year-over-year through September 2018.

The city's second quarter 2018 five-year financial projections showed that 2018 revenue growth is projected to fall behind expenditure growth; this trend is anticipated to continue through the five years from 2019-2023.

With this challenge, staff continues reviewing city operations for efficiencies and improvements in providing city services within current budget constraints. This year's budget sets the stage for a comprehensive conversion which is based upon a fiscally sound plan allowing the city to discuss and address community priorities, support essential services, continue to invest in our personnel, and provide for continued investment in capital improvements.

General Fund Revenues
General Fund revenues are mainly derived from sales and use taxes, property taxes and charges for services. The sales and use tax rate in Littleton is 3% which amounts to 84% of total tax revenues and 71% of total revenues.

The property tax mill levy remains at $6.622 mills per $1,000 of assessed value and has not changed since 1991. This equates to $5,735,510 in property tax revenues which is 12% of total general fund revenues.
Consolidated Special Revenue Fund

This fund pays for a wide variety of special activities that do not fit within normal operating budgets. Some activities include monies received from drug and alcohol law enforcement activities. It also includes funds for cable television equipment and assistance to victims of crime. These revenues and expenditures vary from year to year. The budgeted expenditures in 2019 are $209,390.

Grants Fund

The city receives grants throughout the year. Grants expected to be received in 2019:
- Law enforcement - $90,000
- Public works - $514,750
- Immigrant resources - $15,000

Open Space Fund

The city receives share-back funding of open space monies from Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties. Projects budgeted in 2019 total $1,168,710 and include improvements at Bowles Grove Ballfield, Reynolds Landing, Hudson Gardens, Jackass Gulch and Harlow Park. Also included is $292,230 for South Platte Park management.

Impact Fee Funds

In 2014, the city began collecting six types of impact fees: police, fire, facilities, library, museum, and transportation. These fees are legally restricted to funding capital projects resulting from new growth within the city. In 2019, due to various development projects, $731,700 is anticipated to be collected from impact fee revenues; budgeted expenditures are $1,710,000 and include $1.6 million for building improvements at Littleton Center. Fire Impact Fees will be discontinued effective January 1, 2019.

Sewer Utility Enterprise

This enterprise is the largest of this type which provides for the city’s 50% share of funding for the Littleton/Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant. This regional facility serves the cities of Littleton and Englewood as well as 19 connector districts within the 75 square mile service area of the cities. The plant is managed by the City of Englewood under a joint agreement with the City of Littleton.

Revenues are derived from tap fees collected from new development and user charges for existing customers. Tap fee revenues are expected to decline in 2019 as development slows. A 3% increase in user fees was approved for 2019. Expenditures are projected to be 8% lower than 2018 due to a decrease in plant capital expenditures (mainly the BioGas capital project which was started in 2018.)

Storm Drainage Fund

This fund accounts for construction and maintenance of storm sewer facilities and detention ponds within the city limits. Service fees are collected from landowners within the city to fund these services. Total expenditures in 2019 are budgeted at $1,286,260 with revenues of $1,162,860.

Geneva Village Fund

This fund accounts for the operation of a 28 apartment community for disabled and senior citizens located on the Littleton Center campus. The city does not receive any federal or state subsidies related to this program. Rental payments allow for this fund to be self-supportive. There are no significant improvements scheduled for 2019.

Insurance Funds

For budgeting purposes, the city maintains four insurance funds:
- Employee Health Insurance
- Employee Life AD&D, Long and Short Term Disability, and Unemployment
- Workers Compensation Insurance
- Property and Liability

In 2019, health insurance premiums are slightly decreasing (1.5%). The estimated 2019 ending fund balance is $3 million. Health premiums fund claim payments and help maintain adequate claim reserves.

For all other insurances, expenditures in 2019 are estimated at $2,021,460, a significant decrease from the 2019 Adopted Budget. This is largely due to the dissolution of the fire department at the end of 2018.

Budget Process

The budget process for 2019:
- 9/11/2018 Council Budget Session
- 9/12/2018 Council Budget Session
- 10/16/2018 First Reading for 2019 Appropriation
- 11/6/2018 Public Hearing - Second Reading for 2019 Appropriation
- 12/15/2018 Certification of Mill Levy to County Commissioners

For more information about the City of Littleton’s 2019 Annual Budget, call the finance department at 303-795-3765.

Additional budget information is available on the city website at littletongov.org.