Overview

Through September 2019, the city’s General Fund revenues were lower by 23% and expenditures were lower by 14% from the prior year due to the discontinuation of fire services. Excluding fire-related items, the year-to-date revenues are higher by 3.9% and the expenditures are higher by 4.3%. This year’s revenue results are slightly higher than budgeted targets for sales taxes and most other revenue streams. The City’s largest revenue source, sales and use taxes, increased by 4.2% (year-over-year) through September 2019.

The city’s second quarter 2019 five-year financial projections showed that 2019 revenue growth is projected to fall behind expenditure growth; this trend is anticipated to continue through the five years from 2020-2024.

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 conversation 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

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 82% of total tax revenues and 78% of total revenues.

The property tax mill levy was reduced to 2.0 mills per $1,000 of assessed value as a result of the fire inclusion in 2019. This equates to $1,893,250 in property tax revenues which is 4% of total general fund revenues.

2020 Budget in Brief

After many hours of meetings, the city manager and city department director’s have created a budget for the City of Littleton. The budget consists of 12 funds and enterprises as listed below.

Expenditures by Fund/Enterprise:

- General Fund
- Capital Projects
- Conservation Trust
- Consolidated Special Revenue
- Grants
- Open Space
- Impact Fees
- Sewer Utility
- Storm Drainage
- Geneva Village
- Employee Insurances
- Property and Liability Insurance

Total: $92,449,525

Capital Projects Fund

Project requests for 2020:

Public Works
- Committed street maintenance $3,100,000
- Pavement management $1,488,000
- Traffic signal program $175,000
- Rio Grande Bridge $193,600
- Traffic calming $25,000

Public Safety
- Equipment replacements $99,100
- E-911 Radio replacements $103,000

General
- Technology $370,000
- Courthouse software $150,000
- Courthouse software $150,000
- Building improvements $300,000
- ADA improvements $100,000
- Fleet vehicles and equipment $850,000

Capital Projects Total: $7,063,700

Conservation Trust Fund

The city receives a distribution of state lottery funds for open space and recreation purposes. Park land maintenance and South Platte Park management are budgeted at $150,000 for 2020.

2020 Revenues

- Property Taxes
- Charges for Services
- Franchise Fees
- Investment Earnings

Overview

- Sales & Use Tax
- Property Taxes
- Charges for Services
- Franchise Fees
- Investment Earnings

2020 Expenditures by Function

- Water 1%
- Waste Disposal 1%
- General Government 20%
- Highways and Streets 12%
- Public Safety 18%

General Fund Expenditures

Daily operations such as police, fire, street maintenance, planning, code enforcement, economic development, municipal court, library, museum and other general government expenditures are paid from the city’s General Fund. In addition, the General Fund includes support services such as city council, city attorney, city manager, communications and marketing, human resources, information technology, finance, facilities management and city clerk.

Personnel costs amount to approximately 67% of total General Fund expenditures.

Finance Department

2255 W. Berry Ave.
Littleton, CO 80120

Phone: 303-795-3765
Fax: 303-795-3815
www.littletongov.org

E-mail: someone@example.com
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 2020 are $325,190.

Grants Fund

The city receives grants throughout the year. Grants expected to be received in 2020 include:
- Law enforcement - $100,000
- Public works - $3,390,760
- Immigrant resources - $142,410

Open Space Fund

The city receives share-back funding of open space monies from Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties. Projects budgeted in 2020 total $1,042,000 include improvements at Hamlet Park, Reynolds Landing, Writer’s Vista Park, Berry Park, Southbridge Park and Ida Park. Also included is $493,850 for South Platte Park management.

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 2020 as development slows. A 3% increase in user fees was approved for 2020. Expenditures are projected to be 8% higher than 2019 due to a decrease in plant capital expenditures.

Impact Fee Funds

In 2014, the city began collecting six types of impact fees: police, facilities, library, museum, and transportation. These fees are legally restricted to funding capital projects resulting from new growth within the city. In 2020, due to various development projects, $992,420 is anticipated to be collected from impact fee revenues; budgeted expenditures are $610,000 and include $320,000 matching funds for transportation grant projects, $250,000 for improvements to the library and $40,000 for an impact fee study.

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 2020 are budgeted at $1,233,750 with revenues of $1,279,790.

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 2020.

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 2020, health insurance premiums will decrease 8% from 2019. The estimated 2020 ending fund balance is $2.7 million. Health premiums fund claim payments and help maintain adequate claim reserves.

For all other insurances, expenditures in 2020 are estimated at $1,841,180, a slight decrease from the 2019 Adopted Budget.

Impact Fee Funds

In 2014, the city began collecting six types of impact fees: police, facilities, library, museum, and transportation. These fees are legally restricted to funding capital projects resulting from new growth within the city. In 2020, due to various development projects, $992,420 is anticipated to be collected from impact fee revenues; budgeted expenditures are $610,000 and include $320,000 matching funds for transportation grant projects, $250,000 for improvements to the library and $40,000 for an impact fee study.

Budget Process

The budget process for 2020:
- 9/07/2019 Council Budget Session
- 9/24/2019 Council Budget Session
- 10/01/2019 First Reading for 2020 Appropriation
- 10/15/2019 Public Hearing - Second Reading for 2020 Appropriation
- 12/15/2019 Certification of Mill Levy to County Commissioners

For more information about the City of Littleton’s 2020 Annual Budget, call the finance department at 303-795-3765. Additional budget information is available on the city website at littletongov.org.