



Unified Government of Wyandotte County
and Kansas City, Kansas

Commission Resolution:
R-35-18
Adopted: 07/26/2018

Expenditure Policy

I. Authority:

The Mayor and the Board of Commissioners are 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 Unified Government (UG). The County Administrator is responsible for carrying out the policy directives of the UG Board of Commissioners and managing the day-to-day operations of the executive departments, including the Finance Department. This policy shall be administered on behalf of the County Administrator by the Chief Financial Officer and the Budget Director.

II. Purpose:

A fundamental level of integrity, directness, and transparency must characterize how local governments spend the public funds entrusted to their stewardship. Beyond that, however, expenditures must be directed to services that citizens prefer. The Expenditure Policy establishes standards and guidelines that support efficiency in government services delivery.

III. Applicability and Scope:

This policy shall apply to all Funds under the budgetary and fiscal control of the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners.

IV. Policy:

A. Funding Operations: A primary goal of the Unified Government is to provide both equitable and cost-effective services to citizens to ensure the ongoing health, safety, and welfare of residents. The Unified Government recognizes that to provide its services in an era of declining revenues and increased costs, tax levies may be increased. It is the goal of the Board of Commissioners that operating expenditures for all related funds must be supported by the operating revenues generated by the respective fund, and that expenditures will not expand beyond the Government's ability to pay for them with current revenues.

Each year the UG Commission adopts an operating budget and a 5-year Capital Maintenance Improvement Program to fund these services. Maintenance, equipment and other capital improvements, including debt financed projects, are funded at targeted levels for current and future years. Grant funds are also utilized to provide services. When a grant concludes staff will evaluate the program for future continuation.

B. Personnel Compensation and Authorization: The UG recognizes that personnel represent our greatest asset to providing excellent customer service and promoting organizational values. This policy directs that the Government: a) maintain

compensation packages that are sufficient to attract and retain quality employees; b) ensure that compensation packages are competitive with other public-sector employees; and c) establish the personnel budgets necessary to provide quality service.

Because the largest expense in the Unified Government is related to employee pay and benefits, the Commission acknowledges that reduction in those areas might be necessary to minimize the tax burden. When those instances arise, employees will be treated in a fair and respectable manner. The Government expects to provide a competitive compensation package that is sufficient in attracting and retaining quality employees in the public sector. Personnel budgets will be maintained to fund Commission authorized positions and salary adjustments. Staff positions should not exceed the authorized level indicated in the funded personnel inventory. New grant funded position requests require both commission and administration approval. Administration will authorize the filling of vacant positions, giving consideration to budget availability.

- C. Funding Non-Current Liabilities:** Maintenance and replacement funding will be prioritized each year to ensure that capital facilities and equipment are sufficiently maintained. Capital improvement budgets will be strategically invested to support the commission and community vision. The UG recognizes that pension/other post-employment benefits (OPEB) costs are a significant future liability. It is important to review policies to minimize future cost impacts.
- D. Efficiency:** The Unified Government will endeavor to achieve service levels that will make efficient use of its limited resources. In such, the staff are committed to:

 - a. analyzing systems and procedures to remove unnecessary requirements;
 - b. evaluating new technologies and capital investments;
 - c. developing skills and abilities of Unified Government employees;
 - d. developing methods of recognizing and rewarding exceptional employee performance;
 - e. establishing a systematic, ongoing process for periodic final reviews of operations; and
 - f. maintaining the right balance between centralization and decentralization in managing the Government's support services functions.
- V. Quality Control and Quality Assurance:**
It is the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer and the Budget Director to ensure the presence of procedures that provide sufficient guidance to affected Unified Government personnel to fulfill the intent of this policy. These policies will be reviewed at least annually and updated on an as-needed basis.
- VI. Metrics:**
To be developed and managed accordingly.

VII. Definitions and Acronyms:

- A. Adopted Budget Resolution - The formal statement approved by the Board of Commissioners which shows budgeted revenues and expenditures/expenses for the upcoming fiscal year by Fund.
- B. Balanced Budget - A budget is balanced when the sum of estimated revenues and appropriated Fund Balances/Net Position is equal to appropriations.
- C. Capital Maintenance and Improvement Plan (CMIP) - A plan that describes the capital projects and associated Funding sources the Unified Government intends to undertake in the current year plus five additional future years, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities, equipment and other capital assets, and the maintenance thereof.
- D. Fund - An independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording cash and/or other resources, together with all related liabilities, obligations, reserves, and equities which are segregated for the purpose of carrying out specific activities or attaining certain objectives. Funds can be divided into various types, depending on their purpose. These types include Governmental (general Fund, special revenue Funds, capital project Funds, debt service, proprietary Funds (internal service and enterprise Funds) and Fiduciary Funds (trust Funds, agency Funds).
- E. Legal Level of Control - The lowest level of budgetary detail at which a local government's management or budget officer may not reassign resources without approval of the governing authority.
- F. Non-Recurring Expenditures – Expenditures that are one-time in nature causing a spike in costs. Recurring expenditures will show mild fluctuations depending on the economy and other factors that fluctuate within a range such as one to five percent. This type of fluctuation is distinguished from an expenditures spike that shows unusually large increases for one or two years (over five percent). Economic booms and recessions can create such expenditures spikes. The increased expenditure (above the normal fluctuation) will be considered one-time or non-recurring expenditures.
- G. Operating Expenditures - Expenditures from personnel costs, contractual services, commodities and similar uses. Operating expenditures exclude capital outlay, equipment acquisitions, transfers-out, long-term debt payments used to finance capital projects and other financial uses
- H. Other Financing Uses - The other financing uses category normally is used only for items that authoritative reporting standards have identified as such. Those items are: the issuance of long-term debt; inception of a capital lease; debt service on demand bonds reported as Fund liabilities; and transfers.
- I. Program - A set of activities, operations, or organizational units designed and directed to accomplish a specific service outcomes or objectives for a defined customer.

VIII. Related Documents and References:

- A. Budget process manuals and budget resolutions
- B. Operating and Capital Budget Policy
- C. Revenue and User Fee Policy
- D. Long-Term Financial Planning Policy
- E. County Administrator policies as applicable