ANNUAL BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLAN OF THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004



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GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

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City of Flagstaff
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For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 1, 2002

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The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Presentation Award to the City of Flagstaff, Arizona for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications device.

The award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	
Budget Award	
Table of Contents	
Users Guide	
City of Flagstaff Organizational Chart	
Council Comments	xii
TRANSMITTAL	
City Manager's Budget Message	1
Mission Statement	
Budget Highlights and Accomplishments	
BUDGET OVERVIEW	9
Financial Resources Available	9
Total Appropriations	9
Operating Expenditures by Department	10
Budget Format and Process	11
Format	11
Process	12
Assumptions and Strategies	
Economic Overview	13
Revenue Forecast	13
Expenditures	14
Fund Summaries	
General Fund	
Highway User Revenue Fund	16
Transportation Fund	
Library Fund	
BBB Funds	
Other Funds	
Utilities Fund	
Environmental Services Fund	
Airport Fund	
Stormwater Fund	
Revenues	
General Fund	
BBB	
Street Fund	
Enterprise Funds	27

Capital Budget	29
Relationship between Operating and	
Capital Budget	29
Capital Improvement Plan	
FY 2004 Capital Improvement Plan	
Capital Plan Implications	
Debt	
Debt Capacity	
Current Debt Position	
Debt Service	
Debt del vice	02
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	33
Fiscal Policies	
General	
Enterprise Funds	
Real Estate Proceeds Fund	
Debt Performance	
Debt Management	
Fund Balances and Reserves	
Expenditure Limitation Control	
Budget Policies	
Revenue Distribution	
Contributions to Art in Public Places	
Operating Budget Impact	
Minimum Levels of Capital Investment	36
ISSUES AND UPDATES	37
Personal Service Costs	
Pay Plan	
Health Insurance	
Reclasses, Reranges, Retitles, RezonesReorganizations	
Position Additions/Deletions	
Cost Allocation	
Five-Year Fleet Management	
Five-Year Information Systems	
2003 Updates	
Planning and Special Projects	
Capital Improvement Division Cost Allocation	
Environmental Services	
Fleet Services-Use of Biodiesel	
Stormwater Management	
Capital Financing/Bond Program	50
E-Government	51

2004 Issues	51
Pulliam Airport Runway Extension	
Credit Card Acceptance	
Visitor Center	
Fire Risk and Forest Health	
Homeland Security	
Drug Cases and Probation at the Flagstaff Municipal Court	
Parks and Recreation Murdock Summer Program	
Phase Out Plans and Budget Reductions	54
Revenue Growth Strategies	
Transportation Plan	
Water Policy Development and Conservation	
Workforce Reduction and Development	
FINANCIAL SUMMARIES	
Total Resources and Appropriations Summary	57
Tax Levy	
Revenues and Other Than Property Taxes	
Transfer and Proceeds from Other Sources	
Grant Revenue	
Appropriations by Fund	
Appropriations by Department	
Capital Equipment	
Capital Improvement Plan	
Debt Service	
Capital Leases and Loans	
Summary of All Fiscal Activity	
DEPARTMENTAL DETAIL	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	
City Manager (01)	85
City Clerk (02)	
Capital Improvement (03)	
Human Resources (04)	
Risk Management (05)	
Law (07)	
City Court (65)	
Tourism - CVB (84)	
Tourism - Visitor Services (85)	
MANAGEMENT SERVICES	
Information Systems (08)	
Management Services (09)	
Tax, Licensing, & Revenue (10)	111
Library (11 & 12)	113
Finance and Budget (13)	116

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Metropolitan Planning Organization (14)	121
Community Development Administration (15)	
Engineering (16)	
Building Inspection (17)	
Planning (18)	131
Community Redevelopment (31)	
Arts and Science (71)	
Stormwater Utility (98)	137
FIRE DEPARTMENT	
Fire (21)	141
POLICE DEPARTMENT	
Police (22)	
Police Grant (23)	150
PUBLIC WORKS	
Public Works Administration (25)	153
Parks (26)	155
Fleet Management (27)	157
Cemetery (28)	159
Facilities Maintenance (29)	
Recreation (30)	
Street Maintenance and Repairs (32)	
Airport (38)	
Environmental Services (41)	168
UTILITIES	
Utilities Administration (42)	
Lake Mary Treatment Plant (47)	
Customer Service (48)	
Water Distribution Services (49)	179
Booster Stations (50)	181
Wastewater Treatment Plants (53)	
Wastewater Collection (54)	
Wastewater Monitoring (55)	187
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	
Council and Commissions (63)	
Contributions to Other Agencies (64)	
Non-Departmental (66)	
Firemen's Pension (68)	
Economic Development General Administration (78)	
Transit (97)	199

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	
FY 2004 Capital Improvement Program	201
Schedule of Capital FY 2004	202
FY 2004 Capital Project Description	218
Capital Improvement Program Summary	229
Schedule of Capital Program Listings	230
Financing the Capital Plan	239
General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds	239
Highway User Revenue (HURF) Bond	239
Junior Lien Bonds Payable From Highway User Tax Revenues	239
Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds	
Special Improvement/Assessment Districts	239
Municipal Facilities Corporation (MFC) Bonds	240
Certificates of Participation	240
Lease Financing	240
Grants	240
Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA)	241
State Revolving Loan Fund	241
Pay-As-You-Go Financing	
Five-year Projections by Fund	241
COMMUNITY PROFILE	
Community Profile	268
Major Taxpayers 2002 Tax Year	
General Obligation Debt Servicing	
Miscellaneous Statistical Data	
Property Tax Rates and Tax Levies - All Overlapping Governments	274
Ten-Year Resume of Population, Assessed Valuations, Tax Rates and	
Property Tax Collections and Per Capita Property Tax	275
Retail Sales Tax Rates-Direct and Overlapping	
Bonds Payable-Past 5 Years	
Bonded Debt-Interest/Coupon Rate by Issue and Year	277
Consumer Price Index	278
APPENDICES	
A-Authorized Personnel/Positions Summary	279
B-Job Classification Ranges & Pay Plan	
C-Resolution for Budget Adoption	
D-Property Tax Levy Ordinance	
E-Full-Cost Plan Summary of Allocation Basis	297
F-Glossary	
G-List of Acronyms	
H-Council Goals	
I-Citizen Survey 2002	
J-Performance Measurement Through ICMA-CPM	

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA DIVISION SUMMARY CROSS REFERENCE INDEX IN CONSECUTIVE NUMBER ORDER

_#	DIVISION	PAGE
1	City Manager	85
2	City Clerk	
3	Capital Improvement	90
4	Human Resources	92
5	Risk Management	94
7	Law	96
8	Information Systems	107
9	Management Services Administration	109
10	Tax, Licensing, & Revenue	111
11	Library	113
12	Library Grants	113
13	Finance and Budget	116
14	Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)	121
15	Community Development Administration	123
16	Engineering	125
17	Building Inspection	128
18	Planning	131
21	Fire Department	141
22	Police Department	
23	Police Grant	
25	Public Works Administration	
26	Parks	
27	Fleet Management	
28	Cemetery	
29	Facilities Maintenance	
30	Recreation	
31	Community Redevelopment	
32	Street Maintenance & Repairs	164
38	Airport	
41	Environmental Services	
42	Utilities Administration	
47	Lake Mary Water Plant	
48	Customer Service	
49	Water Distribution System	
50	Booster Stations	
53	Wastewater Treatment Plants	
54	Wastewater Collection	
55	Wastewater Monitoring	187

#	DIVISION	<u>PAGE</u>
63	Council & Commissions	190
64	Contributions to Other Agencies	193
65	Court	98
66	Non-Departmental	195
68	Firemen's Pension	197
71	Arts and Science	136
78	Economic Development Administration	198
84	Tourism - CVB	101
85	Tourism -Visitor Services	103
97	Transit	199
98	Stormwater Utility	137

USERS GUIDE

The budget document serves a myriad of purposes. Most important is its use as a communications device. The budget presents the public an opportunity to review the types of services and level of service provided within the financial constraints of the community. The allocation of financial resources translates into what services will be provided to the community. As community needs and demands for service change, the allocation of resources should respond accordingly. Therefore, this document attempts to communicate financial information to allow for informed citizenry.

Transmittal - The City Manager's message and Budget Summary provides readers with a synopsis of the resource allocation priorities established by the City Council for fiscal year 2004.

Budget Overview - The *overview* provides an overview of the key policy issues, priorities and strategies which shaped the fiscal year 2004 budget, the budget process fiscal policies, revenue assumptions, and expenditure highlights.

Issues and Updates - Excerpts from the Council Review and Discussion Book used during the two weeks of study sessions discuss specific Council decision/directions impacting the prior and current fiscal year budgets.

Financial Summaries - The *schedules* consolidate the major financial information and operating data elements. Several schedules also serve to meet state statutory reporting requirements. The *expenditure summaries* are used primarily for operational purposes, e.g., monitoring expenditures at a fund level and at a category level, and maintaining accountability at a department level, with managers accountable at the cost center level.

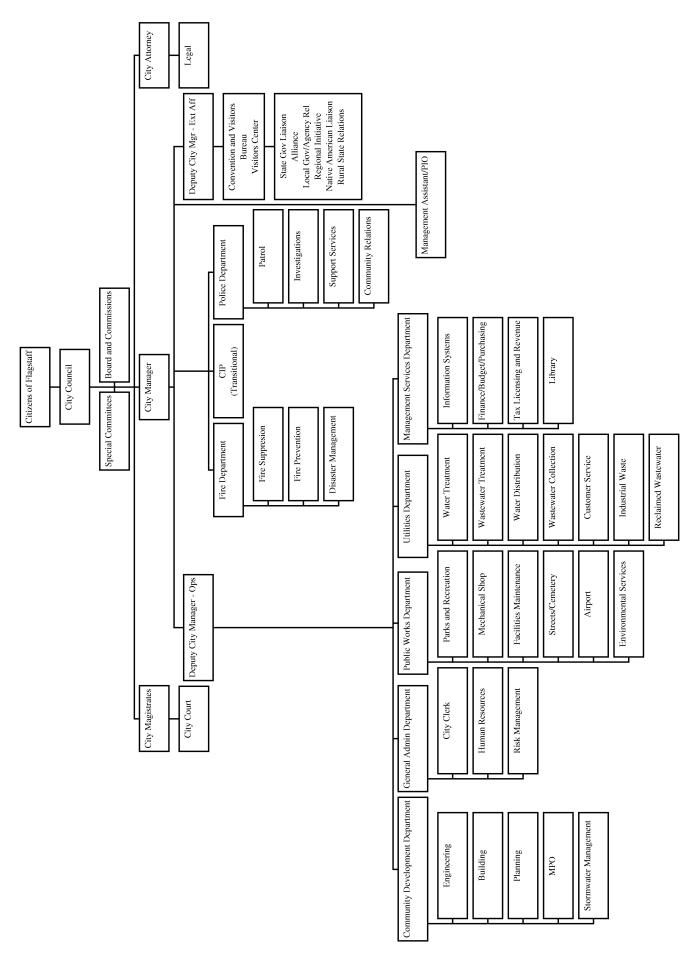
Department Detail - Each operating *Division Summary* provides a description, goals and objectives, major accomplishments of fiscal year 2003, performance indicators, expenditure history and budget, commentary on significant changes, and sources of funding.

Capital Improvements - The current year portion of the five-year *capital improvement program* is listed, along with location maps and funding source. A more detailed project-planning sheet is available in the separately published five-year Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.

Community Profile - The *profile* provides background information so that the budget can be viewed in the context of the factors that shape and affect budget decisions, priorities, and financial parameters within which the community operates. Also provided are select statistical tables providing historical trend information on tax rates, expenditures, and assessed valuations of property.

Appendix - In the *appendices* the user will find a glossary of budget terminology, ordinances/resolutions adopting the levies and budget, a summary of authorized personnel/positions by department, the city pay plan, and a summary of the cost allocation basis. Please.

For additional information, please call the Finance and Budget Office directly at (928) 774-5281 extension 7323. This budget document may also be viewed on the City of Flagstaff website, www.flagstaff.az.gov, in Adobe Acrobat format.



City Council



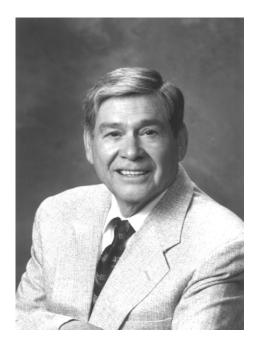
Mayor Joseph C. Donaldson

The Council was faced with a "rude awakening" this budget year, forcing us to direct the City Manager to scrutinize the development of the budget even more closely. One of the City's revenue sources, "State Shared Revenue," was cut drastically because of a downturn in State revenue receipts and the City's decreased population based on the last census. Add to this a program cost shift from the Federal Government to the State, lack of local economic growth and increased City operational costs; the City Manager and staff had their work cut out to achieve a conservative and "balanced" budget.

Working as a team with the City Manager and staff, the Council was able to accept and adopt a budget that made good fiscal sense for our community. The Council, in collaboration with the City Manager, was able to establish priorities and agree upon cost adjustments to bring spending in line with expected and projected revenues. Was the process difficult? Yes. The Council directed

the City Manager to eliminate underutilized programs and services although of importance to some users, and to evaluate and justify all anticipated spending. The City Manager was also directed to identify areas where revenue resources might be developed to fund provided services.

As Mayor of the City of Flagstaff, I am very pleased the City Council, City Manager and City staff can work as a team to face the financial challenges of providing a balanced budget during tough economic times.



Vice-Mayor Libby Silva

Thanks to all City for looking very hard at ways and means to balance their own budget. It's really hard to balance a budget when the impacts of State budget shortfalls affect our City finances. Cuts in aid, funding and other support for City government are being made at the State level. The cuts from the State are not unexpected although you never know how bad the cuts are until you start working on the City budget. Some cuts had to be

made in our City budget, but nothing too drastic.

Parks & Recreation had to raise some fees and shorten hours of operation in some areas, however, I hope those changes won't affect the community too much.

We will continue to provide the many programs and much needed services in our community. Sunnyside Redevelopment Phase II and III will continue with no interruptions. And, we very excited about the start of construction this year on the long awaited Fourth Street Overpass Project.



Councilmember Karen K. Cooper

Faced with decreased revenues and rising expenses, our 2003-04 City Budget reflects the need to adjust spending while meeting our ongoing priorities. (As a recent retiree, I'm familiar with this dilemma!)

Federal and State deficits, flat sales taxes, and our lower-than-expected census count have impacted our

City Council

income. In preparing the budget, departments were asked to carefully analyze ways to cut costs and reduce staffing in the coming year. Fees and service rates were adjusted and some purchases were delayed. While merit raises and benefits for employees were added, market salary adjustments were postponed. In these tough financial times, the City is financially sound and able to continue to provide a high level of service to its citizens without a property tax rate increase.



Councilmember Al White

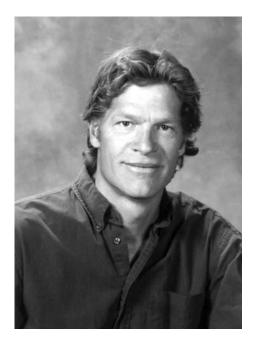
There is good news and bad news with this year's budget. The good news is that the City of Flagstaff is solvent with a balanced budget and money devoted to projects we hope will address the bad news.

The bad news is this: An over reliance on sales tax revenues, combined with increasing shortages in State Shared Revenues, has not produced General Fund operational money consistent with our growth rate; a growth rate lower than the valley or Tucson.

Our community reinvestment projects will help boost sales tax but not for some time. The hard choices to be made revolve around the question of service levels to be maintained and how best to pay for them. Cutting true waste and needed alternative revenue streams are all part of that discussion.

To compound things, our community has always looked ahead and many more projects are being considered in order to implement our regional plan. To this end, we are examining short term and long term needs for bonding.

It is important to get involved. I think the ultimate good news is that we are a city of caring people. I trust that when we work together we can determine our needs and our wants, put together a plan to get there, and come up with an equitable means to pay for it. It is time to give to Flagstaff, not take away from it.



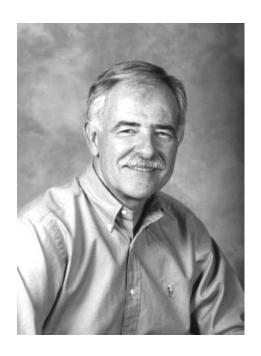
Councilmember Art Babbott

This has been a productive year on the City Council given the realities of revenue reductions at the Federal, State, and Local level. The Council continues to plan the future of Flagstaff based on the Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan that was approved by voters two years ago. This framework allows us to prioritize the "how and where" of growth so development not sporadic, is unplanned, and sprawl based. The Council also approved two significant mixed income housing developments, started the Fourth Street Overpass Project, reduced resource protection requirements for land appropriate for light manufacturing and technology business', dedicated new Parks and Recreation facilities, and created the Open Space Commission.

Some of my upcoming goals for this coming fiscal year include supporting the newly formed Neighborhood Associations in Plaza Vieja and the Southside; continuing our support to strengthen local efforts by the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association; advocating for a Meet and Confer Ordinance for employee groups; ensuring that any future Bond fiscally responsible, be keeping the Murdock Center open for Southside Residents and Parks and Recreation use, expanding Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS) and advocating that if employee reductions are necessary for the City, they come from all levels of City government.

Thanks to everyone in the City who has contributed their input and energy into making Flagstaff a great Community!

City Council



Councilmember Joseph Haughey

This year's Flagstaff City budget process has been both challenging and rewarding. As a Council, in cooperation with the City Manager and Department Heads, we discerned community priorities for the coming We maintained the basic years. services of Public Safety, Health and while Welfare balancing anticipated revenues and expenses to provide a balanced budget. About 30 employees will be reduced in the City staff over the next two years through retirements and consolidation of tasks. This will allow us to provide services and operate without raising taxes recognizing there are other needs in the community.

We hope to address those other needs through a Bond Election next spring, looking ahead for years to come. In the meantime, rest assured that you have dedicated, concerned City employees providing necessary services to the Citizens of Flagstaff, which makes this a great place to live and work.



Councilmember Kara M. Kelty

The economic situation in Arizona has changed tremendously in the past several years and Flagstaff is no exception to this trend. This year's budget process differed from years past in that there was a need for a combination of service cuts and fee increases in order to close the gap caused by a loss of around \$930,000 in State Shared Revenues as well as increased contributions to employee medical, dental and retirement funds. While it is always difficult to consider and execute service cuts, it is the responsibility of City Council to ensure that City government operates efficiently and does not grow beyond its means.

Through the budget process I learned that even though Flagstaff did experience a budget shortfall, we are weathering the financial storm better than most municipalities. Most notably, there have not yet been any lay-offs. Instead, the City is planning to phase out almost 30 positions through retirement or attrition. The Human Resources Department will be

workforce implementing development program in which current City employees will be eligible to receive training to transition to other positions. While every effort is being made to protect City staff from lay-offs, the employees themselves are still suffering the consequences of this economic downturn. Cost of living increases were not budgeted for this year and employee contributions to medical plans and to the Arizona State Retirement System have increased, leaving some employees with less take home pay than last fiscal year. Others adversely affected by the budget shortfall include the Parks and Recreation Department, which had to cut about \$230,000 from their budget. While they did this by eliminating programs with poor attendance, and by closing the Murdock Center, it was still a difficult blow for the department and for the community.

While the economic outlook may appear challenging, the City Council recognized that balancing the budget included making investments for future economic and community development in Flagstaff. For that City Council reversed reason, recommendations to cut contributions to the Greater Flagstaff Economic Council and the Flagstaff Cultural Other Partners. community investments budgeted for this coming year include redevelopment projects downtown, East Flagstaff, and the commencement of Phase II of the Southside Area Planning Effort.