

Glossary

AGENCY: A unit of organization within the City. Agencies include departments, divisions, and utilities. Each agency is responsible for submitting capital and operating budget requests to the Finance Director. Budget requests include the projected costs of operations for the upcoming fiscal year.

APPROPRIATION: The legislative authority to spend and obligate a specified amount from a designated fund account for a specific purpose.

BORROWING SCHEDULE: The plan for General Fund and Non-General Fund General Obligation (GO) borrowing during the period of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

CANCELLATION: The removal of budget authority for a capital project or program. Authority may be cancelled because a project is delayed, the project is not moving forward, the project has been completed under budget, or there is a change in the scope of the project.

CAPITAL BUDGET: The appropriations for capital projects and programs to build and maintain infrastructure, facilities, and other long-term assets. The capital budget is primarily paid through borrowing. Other funding sources include fees, assessment, and grants.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP): A six-year plan for capital projects and programs. The capital budget is the first year of the CIP. The remaining five years of the CIP are presented as a plan for the future and are not appropriated with the adoption of the capital budget.

CAPITAL PROGRAM: A large-scale continuing work plan that provides for lasting improvements to the City's infrastructure and assets.

CAPITAL PROJECT: A large-scale work plan with a defined start date and end date that provides for lasting improvements to the City's infrastructure and assets.

CARRYFORWARD APPROPRIATION/ REAUTHORIZATION: Funding appropriated in one year that has not been fully expended and is appropriated again, or reauthorized, in the following year for the same purpose. Carry forward appropriations allows agencies to successfully execute capital projects that span multiple years.

CITYWIDE ELEMENT: Major topic areas that influence the quality of life in Madison, as defined by the Imagine Madison Comprehensive Plan. The Citywide Elements are:

- Culture and Character
- Economy and Opportunity
- Effective Government
- Health and Safety
- Green and Resilient
- Land Use and Transportation
- Neighborhoods and Housing

COMPENSATION GROUP: A grouping of job classifications based on shared attributes, professional and supervisory requirements, and work functions that are assigned to established salary ranges in the compensation plan.

DEBT SERVICE: Principal and interest payments on debt incurred by the City.

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE ZONE: Geographically defined areas of the City that have been designated by the Common Council as areas in which development has created or may create the need for capital improvements to be funded in whole or in part by impact fees. The areas may be referenced in the Comprehensive Plan or Master Plan and are shown on a Development Impact Fee Zones Map.

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DIRECT APPROPRIATION: Budget appropriations made for a specific activity or initiative but not housed within a specific agency. These appropriations fall under the purview of the Mayor.

EQUALIZED VALUE: The estimated value of all taxable real and personal property in each taxation district, by class of property, as of January 1, and certified by the State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue on August 15 each year.

EXECUTIVE BUDGET: The Mayor's plan for expenditures and funding sources during the fiscal year. The Mayor presents two executive budgets each year – a capital budget and an operating budget. Both executive budgets are presented to the Common Council for deliberations and amendments. The Common Council adopts the capital and operating budgets each year, at which time the funds are legally appropriated.

EXPENDITURE RESTRAINT INCENTIVE PROGRAM (ERIP): A state aid program that provides funding to municipalities that limit growth in their budgets to a percentage determined through a statutory formula. Prior to 2023 Wisconsin Act 12, the program was known as the Expenditure Restraint Program (ERP).

EXPENDITURE TYPE: The category that describes the type of expenditure being made, for example, Building, Machinery and Equipment, Fiber Network.

FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION (FTE): A term used to express the position count. A person working in a half-time position is considered to be working at 0.5 FTE.

FUNCTION: A grouping of agencies that provide like services. The functions identified within Madison's budget include: Administration, General Government, Planning and Development, Public Facilities, Public Safety and Health, Public Works, and Transportation.

FUND: A sum of money segregated for specific activities. Use of this money requires adherence to special regulations established for each fund. The funds identified within the City of Madison's Budget include: Capital Projects, General, Community Development Authority, Community Development Grants, Convention Center, Debt Service, Fleet Services, Golf Courses, Impact Fees, Insurance, Library, Loans, Metro Transit, Other Grants, Other Restricted, Parking Utility, Public Health Madison & Dane County, Sewer Utility, Stormwater Utility, Water Utility, and Worker's Compensation.

FUNDING SOURCE: Income received which supports an appropriation. Funding sources include property tax, state aid, General Obligation borrowing, federal and state grants, special assessments, and others.

GENERAL FUND: The City's main operating fund into which most of the City's property tax and unrestricted revenues are budgeted to support basic City operations.

GENERAL OBLIGATION (GO) BORROWING: A type of municipal borrowing that is secured by the City's available resources, including tax revenues, to repay the debt.

General Fund GO Borrowing: General Obligation Borrowing that is funded by the City's General Fund which comprises most of the City's tax revenues and unrestricted revenues.

Non-General Fund GO Borrowing: General Obligation Borrowing that is funded by sources other than the General Fund. These include enterprise funds such as Stormwater and Metro.

HOLDING COSTS: Expenses for upkeep and maintenance of the unoccupied areas of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district properties throughout Madison.

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HORIZON LIST: A list of projects not included in the Capital Improvement Plan but that will continue to be studied and analyzed for inclusion in a future CIP. Projects on this list have specific outstanding items that must be addressed prior to inclusion in a future CIP.

IMAGINE MADISON: Madison's Comprehensive Plan, most recently updated in 2023. Imagine Madison is a broad-based plan that creates a vision for a future Madison. The plan outlines policies and actions impacting City budgets, ordinances, and growth. The plan update, which was guided by community input, looks 20 years into the future and seeks opportunities to address long term issues, but focuses on action steps to guide the City's near-term efforts.

IMPACT FEE: A fee imposed on developers in order to pay the capital costs to construct, expand or improve public facilities which are necessary to accommodate new development or any improvements made to existing development in the City as a whole or in designated development impact fee zones. The City currently receives fees from 16 zones that pay for park infrastructure, parkland acquisitions, transportation improvements, Stormwater facilities and sanitary sewer improvements.

LEVY (PROPERTY TAX): Taxes levied on all taxable property within the City of Madison. The annual levy is determined by the amount of funding needed to support ongoing operating functions of the City. The property tax represents approximately 70% of Madison's total General Fund budget.

LEVY LIMIT: A state law providing the maximum amount a municipality may implement as property tax calculated as the prior year levy plus the percentage increase in equalized value from net new construction, with certain exceptions such as general obligation debt service.

MAJOR: A set of like accounts defining the nature of expenditures. Major objects within the City of Madison's chart of accounts include:

Revenues

- General Revenues
- Intergovernmental Revenues
- Charges for Services; Licenses and Permits; and other sources

Personnel Expenses

- Salaries
- Fringe Benefits

Non-Personnel Expenses

- Supplies
- Purchased Services
- Debt and Other Financing
- Inter Departmental Billings
- Inter Departmental Charges
- Transfers Out

MILL RATE: The mill rate is the tax rate expressed in dollars per thousand. The mill rate is calculated by dividing the property tax levy by the total net taxable property value in the City. The mill rate is applied to a property's assessed value to determine the amount of property tax owed.

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE TEAM (NRT): Staff teams that work together to focus on priorities identified by a specific neighborhood. The mission of Neighborhood Resource Teams is to encourage and enhance communication, coordination, and relationship building among City staff, residents, and other stakeholders to promote equity and improve the quality of life for Madison residents.

NET NEW CONSTRUCTION: The percentage calculated from the ratio of new construction value to the total equalized property value in the City, used in calculating state levy limits and expenditure restraint program limits.

OPERATING BUDGET: A plan, approved by the Mayor and Common Council, appropriating funds to agencies for operating costs during the upcoming year. This plan establishes legal expenditure authority for agencies to carry out business as authorized in the adopted budget. Amendments to the operating budget that exceed \$50,000 are subject to super majority approval by the Common Council.

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PAVEMENT RATING: A scale for measuring roadway quality ranging from 0-10, used to document the roadway condition throughout the City of Madison. Pavement ratings are updated biennially.

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX (PILOT): A payment made by entities exempt from the property tax to reflect services received from the City.

RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE (RESJI): An initiative within the City of Madison focused on establishing racial equity and social justice as core principles in all decisions, policies and functions of the City of Madison.

REVENUE BONDS: Debt funding for capital projects and programs that is secured by a specified revenue source, for example, payments made by rate payers for water or sewer services.

SERVICE: An activity or set of activities performed by an agency that has identifiable costs for budgetary purposes and a clear purpose with measurable objectives.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS: Charges designated for improvements and services provided to real property within the City and charged to the property owners. Examples of improvements funded by special assessments include sewer repair and sidewalk replacement.

TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCING (TIF): TIF is a government finance tool that the City uses to provide funds to construct public infrastructure, promote development opportunities, and expand the future tax base. TIF assistance is only used when a proposed development would not occur “but for” City assistance, as proscribed by State Statute. (For a full list of eligible project costs, consult State Statute 66.1105.)

TAX INCREMENT: The amount obtained by multiplying the total county, city, school and other local general property taxes levied on all taxable property within a tax increment district (TID) in a year by a fraction having as a numerator the value increment for that year in the TID and as a denominator that year’s equalized value of all taxable property in the TID. In any year, a tax increment is “positive” if the value increment is positive.

TAX INCREMENTAL BASE (BASE VALUE): The aggregate value, as equalized by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, of all taxable property located within a Tax Increment District (TID) on the date as of which the TID is created.

TAX INCREMENTAL DISTRICT (TID): A geographical area, made up of contiguous whole units of property, identified by the City as appropriate for certain types of development. A TID does not include any area identified as a wetland, as defined in State Statute.

VALUE INCREMENT: The equalized value of all taxable property in a TID in any year minus the tax incremental base. In any year “value increment” is positive if the tax incremental base is less than the aggregate value of taxable property as equalized by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue; it is negative if that base exceeds the aggregate value.

TAXES ON AVERAGE VALUE HOME (TOAH): A calculation used to reflect the impact of budgetary decisions on the property tax levy by calculating the impact on the average assessed property value of a single-family home.