

City approves record budget for 2023-24

June 15, 2023



Crescent City passed a resolution at the Monday council meeting to appropriate a \$47.9 million. The discretionary general fund, which includes Measure S spending, is \$11.052 million. With the exception of the financing and construction of the sewer treatment plant in 2006, the general fund budget established a record for fiscal year 2023/24.

The process in adopting the city's budget was an arduous, intensive and highly scrutinized one. The city manager, finance director, department heads and the Measure S oversight committee met January 30, March 1, March 29 and April 10 to hammer out how the one percent sales tax increase would be blended into the budget. The council held two open workshops May 9 and 11 to discuss and advise the public on how funds will be allocated.

The general fund of just over \$11 million includes public safety (police and fire), community development (code enforcement, building inspection, planning and engineering, streets, economic development), recreation (swimming pool, parks and Cultural Center) and administration. The city reports these services are largely funded through sales tax revenues.

In addition to the general fund traditionally expended pre-Measure S budget, the additional two plus million in S funding has been allocated, accordingly. Here are the disbursements of Measure S funding:

- The fire department budget for next year will be approximately \$630,000 more, which will include three full time career fire captain positions.
- The police department budget will be bolstered approximately \$478 000 and include two new officers, one detective assignment, an expansion of the highly successful K9 program and one vehicle replacement.
- A record \$935,000 will be allocated for street maintenance and repair. Almost one-half of the sales tax revenue increase will be dedicated to city streets.
- Swimming pool budget is allocated at \$575,000

City Finance Director Linda Leaver conservatively estimates the anticipated general fund balance on June 30 will be approximately \$3.808 million.

The city's Lighthouse Cove RV Park is anticipated to run an \$86,000 deficit, next year. The sewer fund is operating on a \$2 million deficit, one-half of the sewer deficit will be addressed in special capital improvement account. The city also passed two additional resolutions selecting annual adjustment factors for calculations for fiscal year 2023/24 and a resolution authorizing the creation of a new fund for volunteer firefighter support.

Noticeably absent during Monday's meeting were public comments. No one in the sparse audience nor through ZOOM offered a comment or opinion on the budget. City Manager Eric Wier shared the hard work credit to his staff and department heads. The city manager called this current budget as transformational and completely transparent.