
Glossary of Terms

ACCRUAL BASIS – Sometimes called “full accrual” basis. A basis of accounting in which revenues are recognized when earned regardless of when they are received, and expenses are recorded at the time the liability is incurred, regardless of when it is paid.

ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION – The amount of depreciation that has accumulated to date during the existing useful life of City assets.

ADOPTED BUDGET – The City Council approved annual budget establishing the legal authority for the expenditure of funds, as set forth in the budget resolution adopted by Council.

APPROPRIATION – An authorization by the City Council to make expenditures and to incur obligations for a specific purpose. An appropriation is usually limited in amount as to the time when it may be expended.

APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION – The official enactment by the legislative body establishing the legal authority for officials to obligate and expend resources.

ASSESSED VALUATION – A dollar value placed on real estate or other property by Sacramento County as a basis for levying property taxes.

ASSESSMENT DISTRICT – Not a separate government entity, but rather a defined area of land that will be benefited from the acquisition, construction or maintenance of a public improvement.

AUDIT – A systematic collection of sufficient, competent evidential matter needed to attest to the fairness of management’s assertions in the financial statements or to evaluate whether management has efficiently and effectively carried out its responsibility.

BEGINNING/ENDING FUND BALANCE – Appropriated resources available in a fund from the prior/current year after payment of the prior/current year’s expenses. This is not necessarily cash on hand.

BOND – A City may raise capital by issuing a written promise to pay a specific sum of money, called the face value or principal amount, at a specified date or dates in the future, together with periodic interest at a special rate.

BUDGET – A plan of financial operation listing an estimate of proposed applications or expenses and the proposed means of financing them for a particular time period. The budget is proposed until it has been approved by the City Council.

BUDGET CALENDAR – A schedule of key dates and milestones that a government follows in the preparation and adoption of the budget.

BUDGET MESSAGE – Included in the opening section of the budget, the Budget Message provides the Council and the public with a general summary of the most important aspects of the

budget, changes from previous fiscal years, and the views and recommendations of the City Manager.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT – A permanent addition to the City’s assets, including the design, construction, or purchase of land, buildings, or facilities, or major renovations of the same.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – A financial plan of proposed capital improvement projects with single and multiple-year capital expenditures. This program plans for five years and is updated annually.

CAPITAL OUTLAY – A budget category which budgets all equipment having a unit cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life of over one year. Capital outlay is budgeted in the operating budget.

CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION – Form of lease-purchase financing used to construct or acquire capital facilities and equipment.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) – A federal grant that aims to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded opportunities for persons of low and moderate income. The City of Folsom receives an annual CDBG entitlement from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

DEBT SERVICE – Payment of the principal and interest on an obligation resulting from the issuance of bonds or notes.

DEFICIT – An excess of expenditures or expenses over resources.

DEPARTMENT – A major organizational unit of the City that has been assigned overall management responsibility for an operation or a group of related operations within a functional area.

DEPRECIATION – The decrease in value of physical assets due to use and the passage of time.

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE – Fees placed on the development of land or conditions required for the approval of a development project such as the donation (dedication or exaction) of certain land (or money) to specific public uses. The fees are typically justified as an offset to the future impact that development will have on existing infrastructure.

ENCUMBRANCES – A legal obligation to pay funds for an expenditure that has not yet occurred. They cease to be encumbrances when the obligations are paid or otherwise terminated.

ENTERPRISE FUNDS – This fund type is used to account for operations that are: (a) financed and operated in a manner similar to private sector enterprises and it is the intent of the City that the costs (including depreciation) for providing goods or services to the general public be financed or recovered primarily through the user charges; or (b) the City or an outside grantor

agency has determined that a periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses, and net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes. The City has established the following enterprise funds: water, sewer, solid waste, transit, and recreation.

EXPENDITURE – The outflow of funds paid or to be paid for an asset or goods and services obtained regardless of when the expense is actually paid. This term applies to all funds. Note: An encumbrance is not an expenditure; an encumbrance reserves funds to be expended.

FISCAL YEAR – A 12-month period of time to which the budget applies. For Folsom, the fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) – The decimal equivalent of a part-time position converted to a full-time base. I.e., one person working half time would equate to 0.5 FTE.

FUND – An independent fiscal and accounting entity used to record all financial transactions related to the specific purpose for which the fund was created. The seven generic fund types used by the City are: General Fund, Special Revenue, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Enterprise, Internal Service, and Trust and Agency.

FUND BALANCE – The amount of financial resources available for use. Generally, this represents the detail of all the annual operating surpluses and deficits since the fund's inception. Also known as the financial position, fund balance is the excess of assets over liabilities, and represents the cumulative effect of revenues and other financing sources over expenditure and other financing issues.

GANN APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT – This term refers to Article XIII B of the California State Constitution that places limits on the amount of proceeds from taxes that state and local governmental agencies can receive and spend each year.

GAS TAX – Administered by the State Board of Equalization (SBOE), this is a per gallon tax on fuel used to propel a motor vehicle or aircraft. Use of the revenue is for research, planning, construction, improvement, maintenance, and operation of public streets and highways or public mass transit.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (GAAP) – Uniform minimum standards and guidelines for financial accounting and reporting.

GENERAL FUND – The primary fund of the City used to account for all revenues and expenditures of the City not legally restricted as to use. Examples of departments financed by the General Fund include the City Council, City Manager's Office, Police, Fire, Personnel, Attorney's Office, Finance and others.

GENERAL PLAN – California State law requires each City to adopt a General Plan that describes the direction the City will take concerning its future development.

GOAL – The desired result of accomplishments within a given time frame.

GRANT – Contribution or gift or cash or other assets from another governmental entity to be used or expended for a specific purpose, activity, or facility.

HTE – The City’s primary financial, community development and public safety software vendor.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Facilities on which the continuance and growth of the community depend on, such as roads, water lines, sewers, public buildings, etc.

INTER-FUND TRANSFERS – Monies moved from one fund to another. The money is transferred to finance the operations of another fund or to reimburse the fund for expenses.

INTERNAL SERVICE FUND – Funds established to account for the financing of goods or services provided by one department for other departments within the City on a cost reimbursement basis.

LANDSCAPE AND LIGHTING DISTRICT – An assessment district that is formed for the maintenance of landscaping and street light improvements.

MEASURE A – Sacramento County voters approved a ½ cent sales tax funding source in the late 1980’s to fund specific transportation projects.

MELLO ROOS DISTRICT – The formation of a special tax district for the installation and maintenance of public improvements.

MODIFIED ACCRUAL – An adaptation of the accrual basis of accounting for governmental fund types. Revenues and other financing resources are recognized when they become available to finance expenditures for the current period. Expenditures are recognized when the fund liability is incurred.

MOTOR VEHICLE IN-LIEU – A State vehicle fee imposed on motorists for the privilege of operating a motor vehicle on the public highways. It is imposed “in-lieu” of a local property tax.

MUNICIPAL CODE – A book that contains City Council approved ordinances currently in effect. The Code defines City policy with respect to areas such as planning, zoning, building, etc.

OBJECTIVES – The necessary steps that need to be accomplished to achieve a desired goal.

OPERATING BUDGET – Annual appropriation of funds for on-going program costs, including salaries and benefits, services and supplies, debt service and capital outlay.

OPERATING EXPENSES – Expenditures for materials, supplies, and services which are ordinarily consumed within a fiscal year and which are not included in program inventories.

ORDINANCE – A formal legislative enactment by the City Council. It is the full force and effect of law within City boundaries unless pre-empted by a higher form of law. An ordinance has a higher legal standing than a resolution.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES – Performance measures are an important component of decision making, and at a minimum, they should be based on program goals and objectives, measure program results or accomplishments, provide for comparisons over time, measure efficiency and effectiveness, and be reliable, verifiable, and understandable.

PROPERTY TAX – Property tax is imposed on real property (land and permanently attached improvements such as building) and tangible personal property located within the City.

PROPOSED BUDGET – This refers to the status of an annual budget, which has been submitted by the City Manager and is pending public review and City Council adoption.

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (RDA) – A separate legal entity charged with the responsibility for elimination of blight through the process of redevelopment.

REIMBURSEMENT – The payment of an amount remitted on behalf of another party, department or fund.

RESERVE – An account used to record a portion of the fund's balance that is legally restricted for a specific purpose and is, therefore, not available for general appropriation.

RESOLUTION – A special order of the City Council, which has a lower legal standing than an ordinance.

RETAINED EARNINGS – An equity account reflecting the accumulated earnings of an enterprise or internal service fund.

REVENUE – Amount received for taxes, fees, permits, licenses, interest, and intergovernmental sources during the fiscal year.

REVENUE BONDS – A type of bond usually issued to construct facilities. The bonds are repaid from the revenue produced by the operation of these facilities.

SALARIES AND BENEFITS – A budget category that generally accounts for full-time and temporary employees, overtime, and all employee benefits, such as medical, dental, and retirement.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT – A compulsory levy made against certain properties to defray all or part of the cost of a specific capital improvement or service deemed to benefit primarily those properties.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND – A fund used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

STAFFING – A budget category which generally accounts for full-time and temporary employees.

TAXES – Compulsory charges levied by a government for the purpose of financing services performed for the common benefit.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX (TOT) – A tax imposed on travelers who stay in temporary lodging facilities within the City. Also referred to as a Hotel/Motel Tax.