

GLOSSARY OF FINANCIAL TERMS

Accrual Basis - A basis of accounting in which revenues and expenditures are recorded at the time they occur as opposed to when cash is actually received or spent.

Adjusted Budget - The adopted budget plus any modifications (increases, decreases and transfers) approved by the City Council during the fiscal year.

Allocation of Funds - A legal authorization granted by the City Council to make expenditures of resources and to incur obligations for a specific purpose.

Appropriation - Setting aside funds for a specific purpose or program. An allocation of funds makes them available for expenditure.

Appropriation Without Regard To Fiscal Year - An appropriation for a specific amount that is available from year to year until fully expended. Example: capital projects and grants appropriated for the total amount of the project or grant often span more than one fiscal year eliminating the need to re-appropriate them each year.

Assessed Valuation - The valuation set upon real estate and certain personal property by the County Assessor as a basis for levying property taxes.

Assessed Valuation (Secured) - That part of the assessment roll property the taxes on which are a lien on real property sufficient to secure payment of taxes.

Assessed Valuation (Unsecured) - The remainder of the assessment roll that is not on the secured roll. The taxes on the unsecured roll are a personal liability of the assessed owner.

Attrition - A method of achieving a reduction in personnel by not refilling the positions vacated through resignation, reassignment, transfer, retirement, or means other than layoffs.

Audit - An examination performed by an independent certified public accountant to determine the accuracy and validity of records and reports or the conformity of procedures with established policies.

Authorized Positions - Employee positions authorized in the adopted budget which will be filled during the year.

Balanced Budget - A balanced budget in governmental funds requires operating revenues to fully cover operating expenditures. A balanced budget in the enterprise funds requires that there are enough revenues to pay operating expenses exclusive of depreciation and debt service.

Betterment - An addition made to, or changes made in, a fixed asset that will either increase the useful life of the asset or increase its efficiency.

Bond - A long-term promise to repay a specified amount (the face amount of the bond) on a particular date (the maturity date). The most common types of bonds are general obligation and revenue bonds. Bonds are primarily used to finance capital projects.

Bond Refinancing - The complete or partial payoff of one bond issue and re-issuance of another bond, to obtain better interest rates and/or bond conditions.

Budget - A plan of financial activity for a specified period of time (fiscal year or biennium) indicating all planned revenues and expenses for the budget period and matching those projected revenues and planned expenditures to municipal services, goals, and objectives.

Budget Adjustment - A financial planning tool that allows the City to amend or supplement the budget at any time after it is adopted as circumstances may change throughout the fiscal year. It may be used to create a budget for a new account established after the beginning of a new fiscal year, and it may also be used to transfer funds between general fund accounts belonging to the same chart of accounts

Budget Calendar - A schedule of key dates a government follows in the preparation and adoption of the budget.

Budget Document - The instrument used by the budget-making authority to present a comprehensive financial program to the City Council.

Budget Surplus - The difference between operating revenues and operating expenditures. The Budget Surplus may be used for ongoing expenses (as opposed to year-end balance, which may be used only for one-time expenses).

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – a state statute enacted in 1970 that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible (ceres.ca.gov/ceqa).

California Transportation Commission (CTC) – the agency responsible for programming and allocating funds for the construction of highway, passenger rail and transit improvements throughout California (www.catc.ca.gov)

Callable - A portion of a bond due to be repaid before the specified due date in the bond contract.

Capital Assets - Assets of significant value and having a useful life of several years. Capital assets are also referred to as fixed assets.

Capital Grants - External grants that are restricted by the grantor for the acquisition and/or construction of fixed assets.

Capital Equipment - Equipment (fixed assets) with an initial individual cost of \$5,000 or more and an expected useful life greater than two years, such as automobiles, microcomputers and furniture.

Capital Improvement - Expenditures related to the acquisition, expansion or rehabilitation of an element of the government's physical plant; sometimes referred to as infrastructure.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) - A plan for capital outlay to be incurred each year over a fixed number of years to meet capital needs arising from the government's long-term needs.

Capital Expenditure/Outlay – Expenditure for tangible property with an initial cost of \$5,000 or more and have a useful economic lifetime of more than one year.

Capital Project - Major construction, acquisition, or renovation activities which add value to a government's physical assets or significantly increase their useful life, also called capital improvements.

Capital Projects Fund - A fund created to account for all resources and expenditures used for the acquisition of fixed assets except those financed by enterprise funds.

Capital Reserve - An account used to segregate a portion of the City's equity to be used for future capital replacement purposes.

City Council - Comprised of the Mayor and four City Councilmembers who are elected at large by registered voters of the City. Councilmembers each serve a four-year term and the mayor serves a two-year term. The City Council adopts legislation, sets policy, adjudicates issues and establishes the budget of the City.

Community Development Block Grant - CDBG – provides eligible cities and urban counties with annual direct grants to revitalize neighborhoods; expand affordable housing and economic opportunities; and/or improve community facilities and services, principally to benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - CAFR – the summarization of the City's financial activity for the previous fiscal year which also includes a summarization of significant milestones that were accomplished during the year by department, fiscal policies, and statistical information. The CAFR is prepared by December of each year.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) - A statistical description of price levels provided by the US Department of Labor. The index is used as a measure of the increase in the cost of living (i.e., economic inflation).

Contingency Reserve - A budgetary reserve set aside for emergencies or unforeseen expenditures not otherwise budgeted.

Contractual Services - Services rendered to a government by private firms, individuals, or other governmental agencies.

Contributed Capital - An equity account recording resources externally restricted for the acquisition or construction of capital assets, including Capital Grants, contributions from developers and customers, and tax levies restricted to capital purposes. The account also records current resources furnished to an internal service fund for working capital.

Cost Allocation - A method used to charge General Fund costs budgeted in one department to another department or another fund.

Cost-of-living Adjustment (COLA) - An adjustment in salaries to offset the adverse effect of inflation on compensation.

Council/Manager - Form of Government where the City Manager is an employee of the Council who is the administrator of the city.

Debt Service - Payment of interest and principal on borrowed money according to a predetermined payment schedule.

Dedicated Tax - A tax levied to support a specific government program or purpose.

Department - The basic unit of service responsibility, encompassing a broad mandate of related service responsibilities.

Depreciation - The process of estimating and recording the expiration in the service life of capital assets attributable to wear and tear, deterioration, action of the physical elements, inadequacy or obsolescence. The cost of the fixed asset's lost usefulness is the depreciation or the cost to reserve in order to replace the item at the end of its useful life.

Disbursement - The expenditure of monies by cash from an account.

Discretionary Funding Opportunities - Pertains to funds, grants or other resources that are not restricted as to use.

Division - Can be a subunit of a department which encompasses a substantial portion of the duties assigned to a department

Encumbrance - An amount of money committed for the payment of goods and services not yet received or paid for.

Enterprise Fund - A proprietary accounting fund in which the services provided are financed and operated similarly to those of a private business. The rate schedule for these services is established to ensure that revenues are adequate to meet all necessary expenditures.

Environmental Impact Report - EIR – a public document used by governmental agencies to analyze the significant environmental effects of a proposed project, to identify alternatives and disclose possible ways to reduce or avoid potential environmental damage. The California Environmental Quality Act requires an EIR whenever the initial study or other evidence in the record has produced substantial evidence that the proposed project might produce significant environmental effects.

Expenditure - The actual payment for goods and services.

Expense - Charges incurred (whether paid immediately or unpaid) for operations, maintenance, interest or other charges.

Face Value - The amount of principal that must be paid at maturity for a bond issue.

Fees - A general term used for any charge levied by government for providing a service or permitting an activity.

Fiscal Year - A twelve-month period designated as the operating year for accounting and budgeting purposes in an organization. The City of Fort Bragg's budget year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

Fixed Assets - Assets of long-term character which are intended to continue to be held or used, such as land, buildings, machinery, furniture, and other equipment.

Full Faith and Credit - A pledge of a government's taxing power to repay debt obligations.

Full-time Equivalent Position (FTE) - A full-time or part-time position converted to the decimal equivalent of a full-time position based on 2,088 hours per year. For example, a part-time person working 20 hours per week would be the equivalent of 0.5 of a full-time position.

Fund - A self-balancing set of accounts to record revenues and expenditures associated with a specific purpose.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) - Uniform minimum standards for financial accounting and recording, encompassing the conventions, rules, and procedures that define accepted accounting principles.

Gas Tax - State tax received from gasoline sales utilized solely for street related purposes, such as new construction, rehabilitation or maintenance.

General Fund - The principal operating fund of the City used for general governmental operations (as opposed to all other City funds, which are designated as "Special Funds").. Taxes and fees that generally have no restriction on their use support it.

General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds - This type of bond is backed by the full faith, credit and taxing power of the government issuing it.

General Plan - A comprehensive, long-range, policy document required by state law. The document establishes the City's overall spatial and temporal development pattern.

Geographical Information System (GIS) – A computer system capable of assembling, storing, manipulating and displaying geographically referenced information.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) - Professional association of state/provincial and local finance officers in the United States and Canada (www.gfoa.org).

Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) – Organized in 1984 by the Financial Accounting Foundation to establish standards of financial accounting and reporting for state and local governmental entities (www.gasb.org).

Grants - A contribution by a government or other organization to be used or spent for a specified purpose, activity, or facility.

HOME Program - Federal housing assistance program that provides funds to low- and very low-income families for both rental units and privately owned dwellings.

Improvement - This refers to permanent items that are purchased or constructed and are attached to land or annexations to land which are intended to remain attached or annexed.

Indirect Cost - A cost necessary for the functioning of the organization as a whole, but which cannot be identified with a specific product, function or activity.

Infrastructure - The physical assets of a government (e.g. streets, water, sewer, public buildings, and parks).

Interfund Transfers - The movement of monies between funds of the same governmental entity.

Intergovernmental Revenues - Funds received from federal, state and other local government sources in the form of grants, entitlements, shared revenues, or payments in lieu of taxes.

Internal Service Charges - The charges to user departments for internal services provided by another government agency, or department of the same agency.

Internal Service Fund - A fund used to account for the financing of goods or services provided to other funds, departments or governments on a cost reimbursement basis.

Level of Services - Generally used to define the existing or current services, programs and facilities provided by government.

Levy - To impose taxes, special assessments or services for the support of governmental activities.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) – reviews proposals for the formation of new local governmental agencies and changes of organization in existing agencies (www.oclafco.org).

Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) – a voluntary program created by statute in 1977 in which participating agencies (local governments and special districts) invest public funds.

Long-term Debt - Debt with a maturity of more than one year after the date of issuance.

Major Fund - A fund that comprises more than 10% of total citywide budgeted revenues and transfers-in and/or 10% of total budgeted appropriations and transfers-out.

Mandates - A legal obligation.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – an agreement outlining the terms of employment entered into between the City and employees of various bargaining units.

Mission Statement – A broad statement of the intended accomplishment or basic purpose of a program.

Modified Accrual Accounting - A basis of accounting to which (a) revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they become available and measurable and (b) expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which the fund liability is incurred, or measurable, except for un-matured interest on general long-term debt and certain similar accrued obligations, which should be recognized when due.. Since this type of accounting basis is a conservative financial approach, it is recommended as the standard for most governmental funds.

Obligations - Amounts that a government may be legally required to meet out of its resources. They include not only actual liabilities, but also encumbrances not yet paid.

Operating Budget - The portion of the budget that pertains to daily operations that provide basic governmental services.

Operating Expenses - The cost for administration, personnel, maintenance, material, depreciation, and equipment required for a department to function. The day-to-day costs of delivering City services.

Operating Revenue - Funds that the City receives as income to pay for ongoing operations. It includes such items as taxes, fees from specific services, interest earnings, and grant revenue. They are used to pay for day-to-day services.

Ordinance - A formal legislative enactment by the City Council. If it is not in conflict with any higher form of law, such as a state statute or constitutional provision, it has the full force and effect of law within the boundaries of the municipality to which it applies. (Per City Charter, all legislation and appropriations of money shall be by ordinance, save where there is a special fund created for a particular purpose.)

Pavement Management System (PMS) – A computer-assisted decision-making process designed to help cities and counties prevent pavement problems through maintenance and repair in a timely, cost-effective manner.

Pavement Quality Index (PQI) – A scale from 1 to 10 that measures the structure, surface condition and riding comfort of the roadway.

Performance Budget - A budget wherein expenditures are tied to the measurable performance of activities and work programs.

Performance Measurements - Statistical measures that are collected to show the impact of dollars spent on City services.

Personnel Expenses - Salaries and fringe benefits, such as pensions and insurance, for full-time and part-time employees of the City.

Prior-Year Encumbrances - Obligations from previous fiscal years, in the form of purchase orders or contracts, which are chargeable to an appropriation and for which a part of the appropriation is reserved. They cease to be encumbrances when the obligations are paid or otherwise terminated.

Program - Represents major areas or support functions that can be defined as a service provided to citizens, other departments or other agencies. A program may be an entire department; or if a department encompasses significantly diverse responsibilities or large work forces, a single department may be divided into two or more programs.

Program Budget - A budget wherein expenditures are displayed primarily on programs of work and secondarily by the character and object class of the expenditure.

Property Tax - An ad valorem (value-based) tax imposed on real property and tangible personal property within the City's jurisdiction. It includes two major elements: secured or real property (e.g., house and land on which the house was built), and unsecured or personal property (e.g., machinery).

Proposition 13 - On June 6, 1978, the California electorate approved Proposition 13, the "People's Initiative to Limit Property Taxation," which limited the tax rate for real estate as follows: the maximum amount of any tax on real property shall not exceed 1% of the full cash value of such property.

Proposition 218 - On November 5, 1996, the California electorate approved Proposition 218, the self-titled "Right to Vote on Taxes Act." Proposition 218 added articles XIII C and XIII D to the California Constitution and made numerous changes to local government finance law. Public officials are required to conduct the public's business in compliance with Proposition 218.

Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) - Provides retirement and health benefit services to members from the state, school districts and local public agencies (www.calpers.ca.gov).

Ralph M. Brown Act - The Brown Act is a California law that insures the public can attend and participate in meetings of local government.

Redevelopment Agency (RDA) - Formerly charged with the oversight for the redevelopment process for the City of Fort Bragg. In June 2011, the Redevelopment Dissolution Act, AB1x26, was signed by the Governor and later upheld by the California Supreme Court. As a result, all redevelopment agencies in California were dissolved effective February 1, 2012.

Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) - a federal and state funded grant program used for projects located on highway systems (classified higher than local roads or rural minor collectors), bridges on any public highway, and transit systems.

Reserve - An account used to either set aside budgeted revenues that are not required for expenditure in the current budget year or to earmark revenues for a specific future purpose.

Resolution - A special or temporary order of a legislative body--an order of a legislative body requiring less legal formality than an ordinance or statute.

Resources-Total amounts available for appropriation including estimated revenues, fund transfers, and beginning balances.

Revenue - Sources of income financing the operations of government.

Revenue Bonds - A type of bond that is backed by the revenues from a specific enterprise or project, such as a water utility.

Sales & Use Tax - An excise tax which applies to all retail sales of merchandise. Retailers are liable for reporting and payment of the tax.

Special Revenue Fund - A governmental accounting fund used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than special assessments, expendable trusts, or for major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditure for specified purposes.

Taxes - Compulsory charges levied by a government for the purpose of financing services performed for the common benefit. This term does not include specific charges made against particular persons or property for current or permanent benefits such as special assessments. Neither does the term include charges for services rendered only to those who pay, for example, sewer service charges.

Transfers In/Out - A transfer of resources between different City funds (see glossary definition of "Fund"). A transfer of cash from the City's General Fund to a City Special Fund, for example, would be designated as a transfer-out in the General Fund, and then a transfer-in in the receiving Special Fund.

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) - A tax applied to the cost of hotel or other lodging stays of less than 30 days. Also known as Hotel or Bed Tax.

Transportation Subventions - Funds from outside sources used to construct transportation improvements that must be used for specific projects.

Trust and Agency Fund - A fiduciary accounting fund used to account for cash and other assets received and held by the City acting in the capacity of trustee or custodian.

Unencumbered Appropriation - That portion of an allocation not yet expended or committed to a specific purpose.

Unexpended Appropriation - That portion of an allocation not yet actually paid.

Unencumbered Balance - The amount of an appropriation that is neither expended nor encumbered. It is essentially the amount of money still available for future purposes.

Unreserved Fund Balance - The portion of a fund's balance that is not restricted for a specific purpose and is available for general appropriation.

User Charges - The payment of a fee for direct receipt of a public service by the party who benefits from the service.

Utility Fund - See Enterprise Fund.

Year-End Surplus - Funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year that are available for allocation or for one-time purchases (not for on-going programs or services).

