CITY OF SAN DIMAS

Glossary of Budget Terms

Amendment An amendment is a change in the budget that occurs after its initial adoption. Such a change will consist of an increase or decrease in revenues that are recognized or in the level of authorized expenditures. City staff may implement some amendments, but most require formal action by the City Council.

Appropriation An authorization by the City Council to make expenditures/expenses and to incur obligations for a specific purpose within a specific time frame.

Assessed Valuation A dollar value placed on real estate or other property by Los Angeles County as a basis for levying property taxes.

Audit A review of the City's accounts by an independent auditing firm to substantiate fiscal year end funds, salaries, reserves and cash on hand and to determine whether the financial statements of a government are presented fairly in conformity with GAAP.

Beginning/Ending Fund Balance Unencumbered resources available in a fund from the prior/current fiscal year after payment of the prior/current fiscal year's expenditures/expenses. This is not necessarily cash on hand but the amount of financial resources available for use. Generally, this represents the detail of the entire annual operating surpluses and deficits since the funds's inception.

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 specific date or dates in the future, together with periodic interest at a special rate.

Budget A fiscal plan of financial operation listing an estimate of proposed applications or expenditures 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.

Capital Expenditure Expenditures resulting in the acquisition of or addition to the government's general fixed assets.

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 same.

Capital Outlay A budget appropriation category which budgets all equipment having a unit cost of more than a pre-approved amount and an estimated useful life over a pre-approved period.

Debt Service Payment of the principal and interest on an obligation resulting from the issuance of bonds, notes, or certificates of participation (COP's).

Debt Service Fund This fund type is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest.

Deficit An excess of expenditures over revenues (resources).

Department An organizational unit comprised of divisions or programs. It is the basic unit of service responsibility encompassing a broad mandate of related activities.

Division A sub-section (or activity) within a department which furthers the objectives of the City Council by providing specific services.

Expenditure The actual spending of Governmental funds set aside by appropriation.

Fee A fee is a charge imposed by the City on the beneficiary of a service it provides. Its purpose is to help recover some or all of the cost incurred by the City in providing a service. By law, a fee may not exceed the cost of providing a service.

Fiscal Year A twelve-month period of time to which a budget applies. In the City of San Dimas the fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

Fixed Asset Long-lived tangible assets obtained or controlled as a result of past transactions, events or circumstances. Fixed assets include buildings, equipment, and improvements other than buildings and land. In the private sector, these assets are referred to most often as property, plant and equipment.

Full Time Position A full time position is one in which an employee is budgeted to work 40 hours per week or 2,080 hours each year. All full time positions receive benefits such as holiday, vacation, sick pay, retirement benefits, health insurance, etc.

Fund An independent fiscal and accounting entity used to record all financial transactions related to the specific purpose for which the fund was created.

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. This fund is used to offset the cost of the City's general obligations. Examples of divisions financed by the General Fund include Administration, City Council, Planning, Public Safety, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation.

Grant Contributions of cash or other assets from another governmental entity to be used to expend for specific purpose, activity, or facility. An example is the Community Development Block Grant provided by the Federal Government.

Interfund Transfer Monies transferred from one fund to another. Such money is transferred to finance the operations of another fund or to reimburse the fund for certain expenditures/expenses.

Line-Item A line-item is the detailed grouping of expenditures used in the City's accounting system. It is subordinate to an expense category. Typical line items are: professional services, office supplies, travel, postage, office equipment, motor vehicles, etc.

Municipal Code A book that contains the City Council approved ordinances currently in effect. The Code defines City policy with respect to areas such as planning, etc.

Ordinance A formal legislative enactment by the City Council. It has 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 that of a Resolution.

Part Time Position A part time position is one in which an employee is budgeted to work less than 20 hours per week or for less than six months during the year. Part time employees do not receive

benefits such as holiday, vacation, sick pay, retirement benefits, health insurance, etc. but do receive medicare benefits and a po
rtion of their earnings deposited in a deferred compensation plan instead of social security.

Personal Services A budget category which generally accounts for full time, regular part time and part time employees, overtime expense, and all employee benefits, such as medical, dental and retirement.

Project Area A redevelopment project area is an area of the City that has been established by the adoption of a Redevelopment Plan and within which the Redevelopment Agency is authorized to use special powers granted by State law.

Reclassification The City maintains a classification system for all positions which establishes job titles, general duties and responsibilities, and compensation. Occasionally, employees are found to be working tasks or functions that fall outside their existing classification. When this occurs, a study is conducted by the Personnel Division and recommendation is made for proper classification.

Redevelopment This term refers to activities undertaken to renovate blighted areas within the City and to provide housing to low and moderate income persons. Blight consists of a variety of conditions that constitute a serious physical, social, and economic burden on the community and that cannot be corrected by private enterprise acting alone. Redevelopment activities may include, but are not limited to, the acquisition and conveyance of property, site clearance, and the provision of streets, utilities, parks, and other public improvements.

Regular Part Time Position A regular part time position is one in which an employee is budgeted to work 20 hours or more per week. Regular part time employees receive retirement benefits, medicare benefits, and a portion of their health insurance should they elect to enroll through the City's plan.

Reserve An account used to record a portion of the fund balance as legally segregated for a specific use.

Resolution A special order of the City Council which has lower legal standing than an Ordinance.

Revenue Bonds A type of bond usually issued to construct facilities. The bonds are repaid from the revenue produced by the operation of facilities.

Single Audit An audit performed in accordance with the Single Audit Act of 1984 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-128, Audits of State and Local Governments. The Single Audit Act allows or requires governments (depending on the amount of federal assistance received) to have one audit performed to meet the needs of all federal grantor agencies.

Special Revenue Funds This fund type collects revenues that are restricted by the City, State, or Federal Government as to how the City might spend them.

Tax A tax is a levy imposed by a local government in conformance with the Government Code to raise revenue for public purposes. There are two types of taxes: general taxes are imposed for general governmental purposes, and special taxes are imposed for specific purposes.