

June 2013

City Newsletter

Staying Connected with the Citizens of Orem

Mayor's Message



As Mayor, I take my responsibilities surrounding the budget very seriously. As a taxpaying citizen in Orem, I also want to make sure that we are wise with these funds and not wasting any money in Orem. To make sure we're not falling into this trap, I asked a few local professionals to review our finances from an independent perspective to see if they could find any improvements that would help

us run "leaner and meaner." I call this group the Mayor's Budget Advisory Committee.

The members of the Mayor's Budget Advisory Committee are Val Hale, President of the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce; Tom Macdonald, Business Executive and Board Member of Canyon Park Technology Center; Steve Shallenberger, Founder of Eagle Systems International; and Tim Larsen, Managing Partner at Squire and Company. This group was tasked with reviewing our budget Guiding Principles and our proposed city budget to see if changes or improvements could be made. I've appreciated their time and feedback in this important process.

After reviewing city budget Guiding Principles, documents, and finances, the Advisory Committee concluded that the city is running very efficiently. Additionally, they have indicated that more cuts to the budget cannot be made without reducing city services to below-critical levels. In fact, they expressed concern that we are not sufficiently funding areas such as infrastructure improvements (roads, parks, and buildings), critical equipment for public safety, vehicle replacements, and employee compensation. We will have to address these issues in the near future. I appreciate their suggestions for areas of improvement and I've asked our City Manager and staff to look at these suggestions and potential ways to incorporate them into our budget and operations.

I'm grateful to this group of respected business leaders for their time and concern for our community. The city council and city employees

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Summer Music Series

Join us for free concerts every Monday and Thursday this Summer at The Stage at City Center Park! Brought to you by the Orem Public Library and Orem Arts Council. [Click here to see the concert schedule.](#)

Meet the Candidates

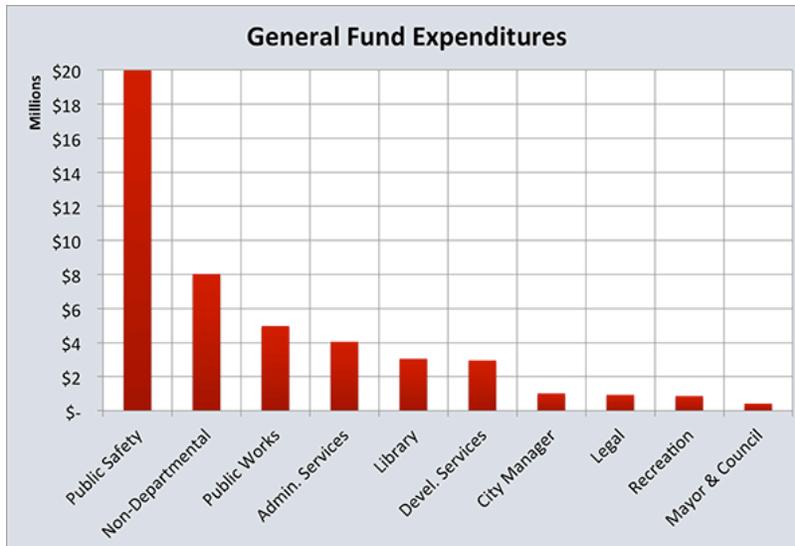
With 4 candidates for Mayor and 17 candidates for City Council, Orem is holding a Meet the Candidates Night on July 11th at the Senior Friendship Center. Come at 7 p.m. to meet those who

are working hard to keep the public's trust and know that you will see that reflected in this year's budget.

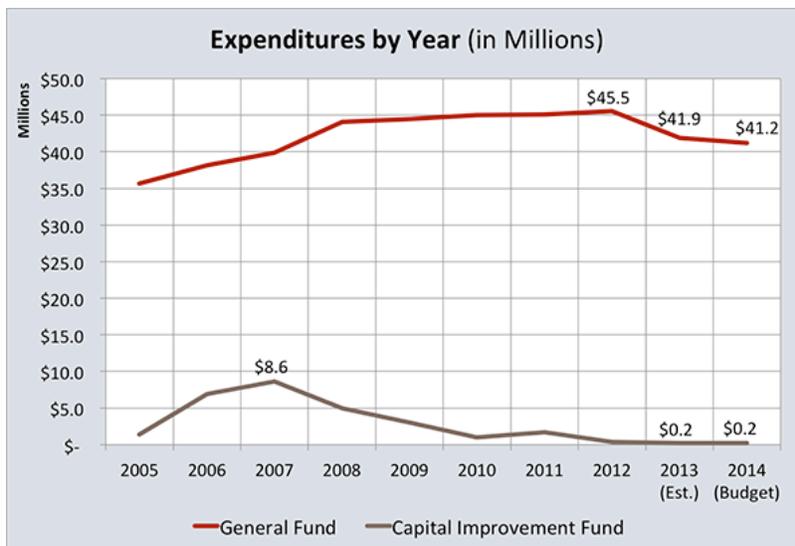
Sincerely,
Mayor Jim Evans

2013–2014 City Budget Highlights

On June 11th, the City Council approved a final budget for 2013–2014. The budget year will begin July 1, 2013, and end on June 30, 2014. Here are a few of this year's budget highlights.



General Fund expenditures are budgeted at \$46.38 million. Of that amount, 43 percent will be spent on public safety. Non-departmental expenses include bond payments, Utopia obligations, city vehicle replacements, benefits to retirees, insurance expenses, and transfers to other funds that support city operations. Because the property tax increase is currently on referendum, budgeted expenditures are based on the current property tax rate.



are running for office before the primary election on August 13th. [For a list of the candidates for office, click here.](#)

Current and Upcoming Events

Jun 5–Jul 10: "Stories in Stitches" Quilt Show
[More Information](#)

Jun 26: Bean Museum Wildlife Hour Kickoff, Orem Public Library, 2 p.m.

Jul 4–7: Colonial Heritage Festival, SCERA Park 9 a.m.–8 p.m. daily
[More Information](#)

Jul 9: City Council

Jul 11: Meet the Candidates Night, Senior Friendship Center, 7 p.m.

Jul 23: City Council

Jul 29: Last day to register to vote in city primary election
[More Information](#)

Jul 30–Aug 9: Early voting for city primary election
[More Information](#)

August 13: Primary Election Day, 7 a.m.–8 p.m.
[More Information](#)

Stay Connected



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Total General Fund expenditures are down over \$4 million since 2012. The city has nearly \$1.8 million in capital needs, including park improvements, safety equipment for firefighters, and senior center repairs. However, capital improvements are budgeted at just \$240,000, down from a high of \$8.6 million in 2007. The city is looking for long-term solutions to the lack of funding in these areas.

Over 67 percent of expenditures go toward personnel costs, which includes compensation for police, firefighters, and other city employees. Due to budget constraints, the city was required to eliminate 18 full-time positions since last year, reducing expenses by over \$1.6 million. The city currently has 388 employees, down from a high of 422 in 2009.

For more information on the 2013–2014 budget, visit the [budget page](#) of the city's website.

What is the CARE Program?

In November 2005, Orem voters approved a 1/10th of 1% local sales and use tax for the purpose of enhancing recreation and cultural arts in the City of Orem. With this funding, the Cultural Arts and Recreation Enrichment (CARE) Grant Program was created.

Under state law, CARE funds can be used by private non-profit cultural organizations for programs and operations, or by government entities (including the City of Orem) for construction or operation of government-owned recreational and cultural facilities.

Organizations can apply to receive CARE Grants of three kinds: Mini Grants (\$4,999 or less to a nonprofit organization), Major Grants (\$5,000 or more to a nonprofit organization), and Facilities Grants (available for government facilities).

Because the CARE Program is supported through a local sales tax, everyone who shops in Orem contributes to our cultural and recreational opportunities, including those who don't live within city boundaries. Because Orem is a shopping destination for non-residents, this means more money for CARE recipients.

Did you know that for every \$10 spent in Orem, just \$.01 is collected for the CARE Program? This one cent pays for numerous recreation and arts experiences enjoyed by residents throughout the city.

Since CARE was authorized, the community has benefitted from the CARE Program. Funding has been used to offer new cultural opportunities for Orem residents, to increase the quality of local programs, and to provide for new city-owned facilities.

Many CARE Programs also reach out to youth, providing them with formative experiences in the arts. In fact, 43 percent of those served by major grants are under age 18. Arts organizations hold numerous

classes for youth in art, drama, dance, singing, film, photography, and other subjects.



2013–2014 CARE Recipients

On May 14th, the Orem City Council approved CARE grants for the coming budget year. Over \$1.8 million was granted to organizations that provide cultural and recreational opportunities in Orem. Mini grants and major grants will allow arts organizations to provide the kinds of high-quality events that make Orem the cultural hub of the valley! The recreation facilities grant will allow Orem to expand and remodel the indoor pool at the recreation center, add shade canopies to bleachers at city ball fields, and build a new dog park at SCERA Park. The Center for Story facilities grant will also help Orem to add a performance auditorium to the library. However, the majority of this project will be funded by grants and private donations.

2013-2014 CARE Grants

Mini Grants (under \$5,000)		Major Grants (\$5,000 and above)	
Roots of Freedom	\$4,999	SCERA Theater	\$510,000
Colonial Heritage Foundation	\$4,999	Hale Centre Foundation	\$388,000
L&D Performing Arts	\$4,999	Utah Regional Ballet	\$40,000
Utah Storytelling Guild	\$4,500	Utah Valley Symphony	\$8,000
Latinos in Action	\$4,500		
Resonance Story Theater	\$4,500	Facilities Grants	
Chauntenette Women's Chorus	\$4,500	Recreation Facilities	\$500,000
Wasatch Chorale	\$4,500	Center for Story	\$300,000
Utah Valley Civic Ballet	\$4,500		
Utah Lyric Opera	\$4,500	Totals	
Utah Baroque Ensemble	\$4,500	Total Facilities	\$800,000
The Orem Chorale	\$4,500	Total Major Grants	\$946,000
Center Stage Performing Arts	\$4,500	Total Mini Grants	\$62,285
The Provo Orem Word	\$1,288	Administrative Costs	\$24,750
Utah Film Center	\$1,000	TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	\$1,833,035

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