

BUDGET OVERVIEW

GUIDE TO THE DOCUMENT

City Overview

The city of Davis is a general law city and employs the Council Manager form of government. The City Council is comprised of five council members. One of these serves as the Mayor and another as the Mayor Pro tem. Council members are elected for four-year terms on a citywide basis (called "at-large"). The member elected with the greatest number of votes serves as Mayor Pro tem for the first two years of the term and Mayor for the last two years of the term. The City Council acts as the legislative and policy-making body. Council appoints the City Manager and awards the contract for City Attorney services. The City Manager is the chief administrator and is responsible for implementing the policies and priorities of the City Council. The city agency contains nine (9) departments:

1. City Council
2. City Attorney
3. City Manager's Office
4. Finance
5. Planning & Building
6. Fire
7. Parks & Community Services
8. Police
9. Public Works

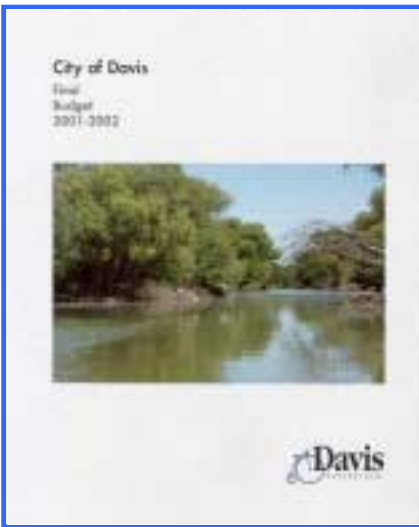
Budget Document

A budget serves many purposes. It is the city's fundamental policy document, annual financial plan and operations guide. In addition to its function as a resource and spending plan for the city, it informs the public about the city's financial strategies and provides the documentation needed for other financial matters, such as audits, loans and grants.

The city's annual budget provides a plan to allocate resources to meet the needs and desires of Davis residents. The budget is one method for the City Council and city staff to respond to the community's needs. It balances city revenues with community priorities and requirements. A budget serves the following purposes:

- Public communication device
- Establishes annual goals and objectives to meet community priorities
- Policy document
- Resource allocation tool
- Spending plan
- Accountability document
- Management tool
- Grants authority to city staff

The annual operating budget is a financial plan for a specific period of time. For Davis, this time period is one fiscal year. The city's fiscal year is July 1st to June 30th.



The goal of the budget is to provide a plan that allocates city resources to meet the needs and desires of Davis residents.

Each fund functions as a separate bank account targeted to a specific purpose or purposes.

over time, a summary of the functions or services provided by each department; and FY 2001-02 listing of all positions and their corresponding salary range.

All Funds Summary

Local government budgets are organized or separated into various funds in order to account for revenues, which are restricted by law as to how they may be spent. Each fund functions as a separate bank account targeted to a specific purpose or purposes. The city's budget is financed by these different funds. This section identifies the various funds, describes their purpose and any restrictions on the use of those funds. Financial summary information is provided for each of these funds. This section also provides a table with a summary of all fund balances, revenues, and expenditures by fund group.

Debt Service

Governments often set aside monies to meet current and future debt service obligations on general government debt. Debt Service funds are used to account for the accumulation of these set aside monies and the subsequent payment of the city's general long-term debt principal and interest. This section identifies all forms of city long-term debt obligations.

Department Operating Budgets

Provides detailed information about each department, including department and division descriptions, FY 2000-01 accomplishments, FY 2001-02 goals or objectives, and a financial summary showing sources of revenue and projected expenditures. In addition, to the nine departments, the operating budgets for the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Davis and the Capital Improvement Projects are found here.

STRUCTURE OF THE CITY'S FINANCES



“...each agency should set aside a portion of their general fund balance for a ‘prudent reserve’.”

Similarities to Personal Financial Planning

One way to view city finances is from the perspective of personal financial planning. It is good financial advice to take time each year to do some financial planning regardless of your personal circumstances (employed, retired, looking for work, student, etc.). A portion of existing resources is used to pay for necessities (utilities, mortgage). Some of your projected income is used for maintenance needs on assets (car repair, plumbing problems). Yet another part of your income is set-aside for future use or anticipated costs (investment for retirement, buying a new car, insurance premiums, roof replacement, etc.).

A city is required to essentially complete the same type of financial planning. Davis keeps track of its activities in self-balancing sets of accounts called funds which are the basic accounting and reporting components in governmental accounting. Funds are designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

Some funds are established to track activities required by law (i.e. gas tax fund), some fulfill revenue requirements (CDBG, childcare grant funds), still others demonstrate prudent administrative practices (such as self-insurance funds for dental, workers' compensation and liability).

Budget years run in fiscal year cycles beginning July 1 and ending June 30. The city budget is approved and balanced by fund. The vast majority of these fund balance dollars are held for future expenses for several reasons. Special taxes, such as the gas tax, are restricted to specific services and must be carried forward for that purpose (in this case, street improvements). Other balances may result from legal requirements, such as payment of long term debts for bonds. Lastly, each agency should set aside a portion of their general fund balance for a “prudent reserve”. Such a reserve provides options for the city to meet unexpected changes in its financial picture. Examples could include a downturn in the economy, an unanticipated cost increase, catastrophic losses, or other unforeseen circumstances.

The city maintains budgetary controls, which ensure compliance with the budget approved by the City Council. All activities of the city are included in the annual appropriated budget. The legal level of budgetary control (that is, the level at which actual expenditures may not legally exceed the appropriated amount) is at the fund level.

Basis of Accounting

Fund Accounting

The accounts of the city are organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures or expenses, as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

The budget is adopted on a modified accrual basis of accounting, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles. Under the modified accrual basis, revenues are recognized when they are susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). "Measurable" means the amount can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred.

Section 7, All Funds Summary, describes the various city funds in greater detail.

Expenditure Control Budgeting

The city has in the past operated under the traditional governmental use-it-or-lose-it system. This means that all appropriated funds are to be spent during that fiscal year. At the end of the fiscal year, any unspent funds are returned to fund balance to be programmed into the following year's budget.

Three years ago a citizens budget committee recommended revisions to the city budget system. Since then, staff has worked with a consultant and the Budget Committee to redesign components of the budget system. While we are still undergoing this process, some changes have been implemented; for example, this budget format has been significantly redesigned. Many programs have been consolidated and staff continues to work on restructuring more consolidations in the future. In addition, we have established incentives in the new budget model to remove the traditional use-it-or-lose-it mentality and encourage departments to seek cost-effective ways of service delivery. Called expenditure control budgeting, this budget system provides departments an increased ability to focus on their work through the following elements:

Base Budget: Each department requests an annual appropriation sufficient to fund current service levels and any other costs the department is responsible for managing. This year's base budget involved taking the FY 2000-01 Final Budget, reducing it for any one-time expenditures, removing the set-aside for employee retirement benefits and adding any ongoing appropriations approved in the 2000-01 Final Budget. (*The city's employer account with the Public Employees' Retirement System has excess assets which are being used to cover the city's share of the retirement payments. While departments were still*

The new budget model encourages departments to seek cost-effective ways of service delivery.

charged for this expense to minimize wild fluctuations in department expenditures, it has become apparent that PERS has sufficient excess assets to continue this process for some time. The city has determined to set aside this retirement reserve in a segregated manner instead of including it in the operating costs for each department.) [For more on the PERS Reserve, see Section 20, Appendices.]

The base budget has also included cost increases beyond our control (such as postal rate increases, vendor service contract rate increases, etc.) and cost increases associated with negotiated bargaining unit agreements.

Carry Over: Under the expenditure control budgeting model, departments are able to keep all or a portion of their savings (i.e. appropriations minus expenditures) and carry this savings into the next fiscal year. The savings may then be used for city services. This mechanism promotes long-term planning and prudent use of General Fund resources.

Internal Rates or Charges: All programs funded through charges back to user operations (i.e., internal service funds such as, self-insurance programs, the vehicle or computer equipment replacement funds, building maintenance programs, etc.) are required to establish rates which provide for adequate resources to pay for the operations and capital requirements for the next year.

Long Range Financial Planning

Last year the city developed a five-year forecasting model for operating revenues and expenditures. The city also produces a five-year capital improvement's plan, which includes debt service.

Reserves

The General Fund maintains a contingency or prudent reserve, with a target of 15% of annual revenue.

Contingency Reserve Policy

The city maintains a contingency reserve for operations to help mitigate the effects of such unanticipated situations as (1) economic downturns, (2) loss of revenues to or imposition of additional costs by other governmental agencies, (3) variances in financial forecasting, and (4) natural disasters. The contingency reserve also provides back-up liquidity to the Risk Management Self-Insurance Fund.

The contingency reserve is funded at a level established by council each June. All uses of the contingency reserve are approved by the City Council.

Long Term Capital Debt

The city of Davis uses long term debt financing only for one-time capital improvement projects and unusual equipment purchases. Long term capital debt complies with applicable federal and State regulations and is repaid over the legal life of the related asset or twenty years whichever is less. Financing is generally conducted on a competitive basis and the city seeks to maintain its current bond rating. Additional detail on existing indebtedness can be found in Section 8 of this budget (Debt Service).

The city maintains a contingency reserve to mitigate the effects of unanticipated situations.

***“...to maximize
...returns in a
safe and prudent
manner...”***

Investments and Cash Management

The city follows the practice of pooling and investing cash of all funds under its control to maximize the return in a safe and prudent manner, while at the same time ensuring that the portfolio is sufficiently liquid to meet day-to-day cash needs. There is diversity in the types and maturates of investments, which are made in accordance with the California Government Code. The remaining final maturity on investments is limited to five years. Currently, the average life of our portfolio is generally about three years. A Treasurer’s Report is submitted to the City Council quarterly, which shows investment activity and the performance of the investment portfolio. The investment policy is reviewed and readopted annually by the City Council, as required by State law. The city’s investment policy is attached as an appendix to this budget. (See Section 20, Appendices.)



Hunt Boyer Mansion located at 604 2nd street.

Presented in a public forum. Public input desired.

“...residents are encouraged to participate in the budget planning process through a variety of avenues.”

and May, the Finance Department compiles all department requests and the city’s financial data to produce a preliminary document.

The City Manager presents this document to the City Council in a public forum, in late May or early June. Included in the City Manager’s presentation are an update of the city’s financial position and long-range plan, review of the national, state and local economies, and discussion of financial policies and department activities.

During June, department managers publicly present their budget requests to the City Council. Budget documents are also made available to the public at city department public counters, in the City Clerk’s Office, local libraries and newspaper offices.

After the council reviews the proposed budget and receives public comment at public hearings, they may direct staff to revise the proposed budget. Then, on or before June 30, the City Council votes to adopt the budget, including any amendments to the proposed budget that may occur, by an affirmative vote of the majority of the five-member City Council. At any meeting after the adoption of the budget, the City Council may amend or supplement the budget by a majority vote of the council.

Upon final adoption by city ordinance, the budget becomes the legal authorization for the various departments to expend revenues, subject to any controls established by the City Manager, City Council and internal audit requirements. The City Council has adopted several financial and budgetary policies which address debt, reserves, and spending authorizations. These help guide long-term planning and are found under “Budget Polices” in the previous section of this Budget Overview.

Citizen Participation

Davis residents are encouraged to participate in the budget planning process through a variety of avenues, such as participating in council-appointed boards and commissions or by attending budget sessions or public hearings at City Council meetings. Citizens may also view and comment on the budget document through the city’s Internet Web page.

Public hearings on the budget occur in June. Citizens have the opportunity to speak about budget issues at these hearings and at virtually any City Council meeting during the year. Council meetings are generally held Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Chambers at City Hall, located at 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis. The council rarely meets on a fifth Wednesday. All council meetings are televised on the local cable access channel 7 and subsequently aired at a later date.

GLOSSARY OF BUDGET TERMINOLOGY

A city budget contains specialized and technical terminology that is unique to public finance and budgeting. Therefore, a glossary is provided to help the reader understand terms and vocabulary that are used in this document. Useful terms relevant to the budget process and/or city government are included.

APPROPRIATION

An authorization made by the City Council which permits the city to incur obligations and to make expenditures of resources.

BENEFITS: FULL TIME (FT) EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVE PAY

Cost to the city for educational incentive pay to eligible public safety employees. For budget purposes, this payment is included as part of the total annual salary for eligible regular full time employees.

BENEFITS: REGULAR FT INSURANCE

Cost to the city for insurance benefits for all regular full time employees. This includes the city's cost for health, dental, disability, life, and workers' compensation insurance.

BENEFITS: REGULAR FT LEAVE TIME

Compensation for all leave time to employees who are appointed to regular full time positions. For budget purposes, the percentage factor to be applied to net work hours is calculated by the Finance Department.

BENEFITS: REGULAR FT RETIREMENT

Cost to the city for Public Employees' Retirement for all regular full time employees. The city participates in the California Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS).

BENEFITS: REGULAR PART TIME (PT) INSURANCE

Cost to the city for insurance benefits for all regular part time employees. This includes health, disability, and workers' compensation insurance.

BENEFITS: REGULAR PT LEAVE TIME

Compensation for all leave to employees who are appointed to regular part time positions. For budget purposes, the percentage factor to be applied to net work hours is calculated by the Finance Department.

BENEFITS: REGULAR PT RETIREMENT

Cost to the city for Public Employees' Retirement for all regular part time city employees.

BUDGET

A financial plan for a specific period of time (one fiscal year) that matches planned revenues and expenditures with various municipal services.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

A legal procedure to revise a budget appropriation. City staff has the prerogative to move expenditures within or between department programs. Increases to the budget must be approved by the City Council.

BUDGET CALENDAR

The schedule of key dates or milestones which the city follows in the preparation, adoption, and implementation of the budget.

BUDGET DOCUMENT

The instrument used by the City Manager and staff to present a comprehensive financial program to the City Council.

BUDGET ORDINANCE

The official enactment by the City Council to establish legal authority for city officials to obligate and expend city resources and funds.

BUDGETED FUNDS

Funds that are planned for certain uses but have not been formally or legally appropriated by the City Council. The budget document submitted for City Council approval is composed of budgeted funds.

Budget Overview

BUDGETARY CONTROL

The control or management of a governmental unit or enterprise in accordance with an approved budget for the purpose of keeping expenditures within the limitations of available appropriations and available revenues.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

A plan for capital expenditures to provide long-lasting physical improvements to be incurred over a period of several future years.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Purchase of equipment (including vehicles), tools, and furniture having a value of \$3,000 or more and a normal useful life of two years or more.

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Expenditures for services which are obtained by an expressed or implied contract, or services which are of such nature that they normally would be obtained by such a contract. Major types of contractual services are advertising, printing and binding services, maintenance and repair services, auto body work, professional services, public utility services, and travel and transportation services.

DEPARTMENT

A separate major administrative section of the city which indicates overall management responsibility for a group of related operations within a functional area. The city's structure has nine departments.

DEPARTMENT SUMMARY

The Department Summary provides a summary of source of funds and expenditures by major category. The source of funds section shows how the fiscal year 1999-00 actual, 2000-01 budget and estimated expenditures, and the proposed 2001-02 budgeted expenditures are being funded. The expenditure section details both human resources and other resources. The human resource category includes regular full-time, regular part-time, special funded, temporary part-time, and overtime. The other resources category includes: supplies/small equipment, internal services, services/other expenditures, and capital outlay

DIVISION

A major administrative section of a department indicating management responsibility for a group of related operations within a department.

DIVISION SUMMARY

Provides a summary of source of funds and expenditures by major category in the same manner as the Department Summary, described above, except that this summary is at the division level.

DWELLING UNIT EQUIVALENT (DUE)

A technique for converting land uses into a unit measure of equivalent number of people (1 DUE = 2.46 people).

ENCUMBRANCE

The commitment of appropriated funds to purchase an item or service. To encumber funds is to set aside or "commit" funds for a future expenditure.

ENTERPRISE FUND

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

EXPENDITURE

Refers to the outflow of funds paid or to be paid for an asset obtained or goods and services obtained, regardless of when the expense is actually paid. This term applies to all funds. Expenditures are recorded in the city's financial records when the goods, services, or assets are received.

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY

A basis for distinguishing types of expenditures. The major expenditure categories used by the city of Davis are human resources including salaries, benefits and overtime: operating expenditures (supplies and services) and capital expenditures.

Budget Overview

FISCAL YEAR (FY)

The time period designated by the city representing the beginning and ending period for recording financial transactions. The city of Davis has specified July 1 to June 30 as its fiscal year.

FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

Technique converting labor work hours into a unit measure of equivalent number of full time employees (1 FTE =2,080 annual hours).

FUND

An accounting entity that has a set of self-balancing accounts and that records all financial transactions for specific activities, revenue sources, or government functions. Eight commonly used types of funds in public accounting are: general fund, special revenue funds, debt service funds, capital projects funds, enterprise funds, trust and agency funds, internal service funds, and special assessment funds.

FUND BALANCE

Refers to the excess of assets over liabilities and encumbrances at the end of the recorded accounting period. Also known as available funds.

GRANT

A donation by a government or other organization to support a particular function. Grants may be classified as either categorical or block, depending upon the amount of discretion allowed the grantee.

HUMAN RESOURCES / PERSONNEL

Costs associated with employees, such as salaries and benefits.

INTERNAL SERVICE FUND

Funds used to account for the financing of goods or services provided by one city department to another on a cost reimbursement basis.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The opening section of the budget which provides the City Council and the public with a general summary of the most important aspects of the budget, changes from the current and previous fiscal year, and the views and recommendations of the City Manager.

LINE-ITEM BUDGET

A budget that lists each expenditure type (salary, supplies, contractual services, etc.) as a separate line item, along with the dollar amount budgeted for each specified category.

OPERATING BUDGET

The portion of the budget pertaining to daily operations that provides basic governmental services. The operating budget contains appropriations for such expenditures as personnel services, materials and supplies, and capital outlay. It does not include Capital Improvement Project expenditures.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

The process of regular and continuous data collection on important aspects of the city's services in order to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of those services

PROGRAM BUDGET

A budget that focuses on the goals and objectives of an agency or jurisdiction at the program level, rather than upon a line-item budget unit or object class of expenditures.

REGULAR FULL TIME

Describes the job status of a city employee as one who works a full weekly schedule (40 hours for non-public safety employees, 54 hours for public safety employees) on a non-temporary basis.

REGULAR PART TIME

Describes the job status of a city employee as one who works a minimum of 20 hours per week on a non-temporary basis.

Budget Overview

REVENUE

Funds the city receives as income. Revenues include such items as taxes, licenses, user fees, service charges, fines and penalties, and grants.

RESERVE

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

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Identifies which revenues the city will use to pay the expenditures of each department. Some department budgets include revenues from one or more sources, which legally, may only be used for specific purposes, while others rely more heavily on the city's General Fund which, may be used for any appropriate purpose.

SUPPLIES / SMALL EQUIPMENT

Items purchased that have a unit value of less than \$3,000 regardless of normal useful life, or have a unit value of more than \$3,000 and a useful life of less than 2 years.

TEMPORARY PART TIME

Describes the job status of an employee as one who works less than full time and in a transitory position.

WORK PAY: REGULAR FULL TIME

Compensation for actual time worked during regular working hours to employees who are appointed to regular full time positions on either a regular full time, probationary, or provisional basis.

WORK PAY: REGULAR PART TIME

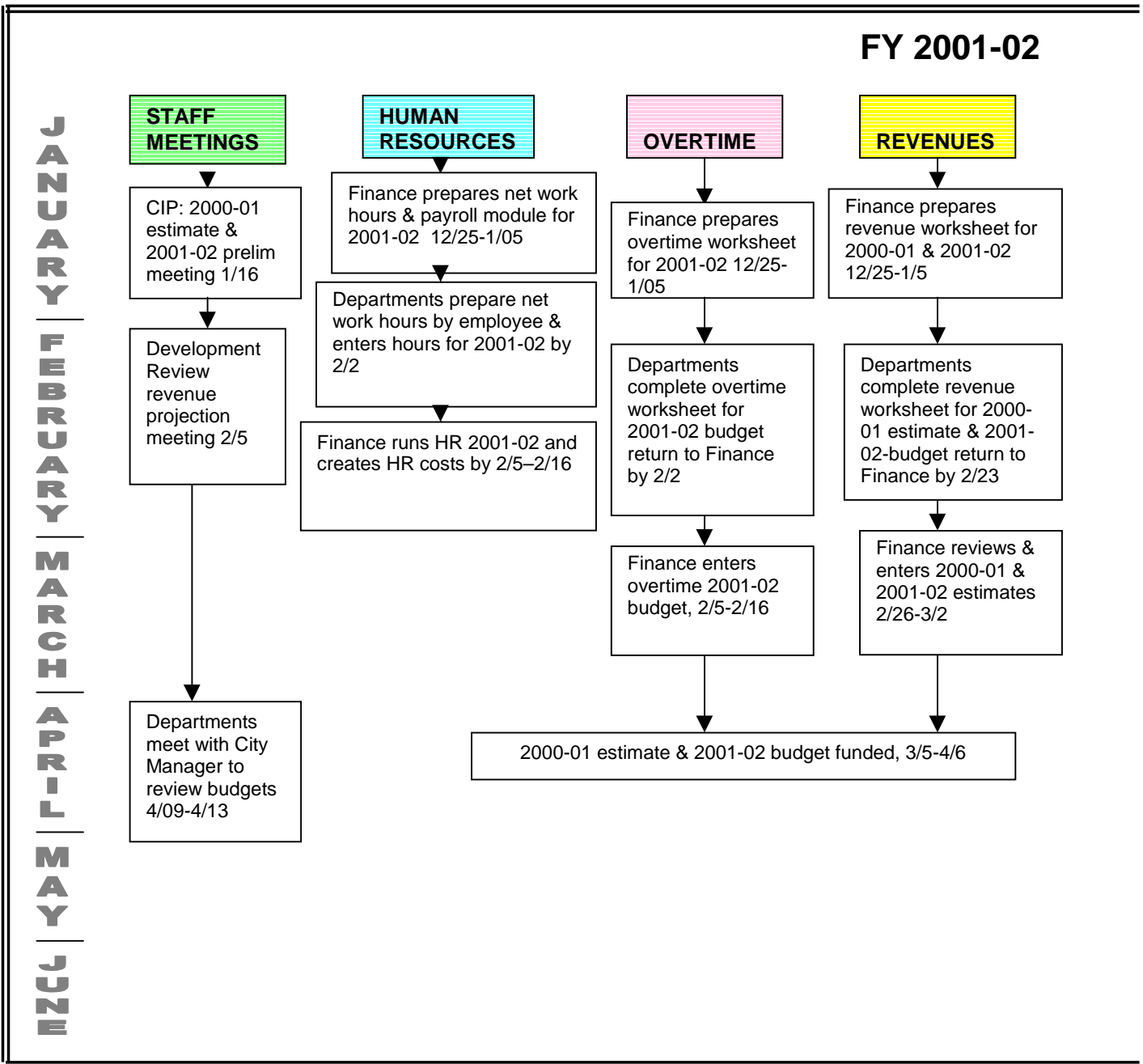
Compensation for actual time worked to employees who are appointed to regular part time positions created with the intent of the employee working 1,040 or more hours, but less than 2,080 hours per year. This also includes employees who previously worked in a regular position at 1,040 hours during the previous fiscal year, who are now performing the same duties as they previously performed, but who are now scheduled to work less than 1,040 during this fiscal year.

WORK PAY: SPECIAL FUNDED FULL TIME

Compensation for actual time worked during regular hours to employees who are filling special funded full time positions. All employees filling these positions will be entitled to all city benefits on the same basis as full time positions. All positions will terminate at the end of the special funding.



Cnawan Stone by Sandra Shannonhouse
Located in the public garden at Central Park



BUDGET CALENDAR

