



CITY OF ALBANY

Appendix

**ANNUAL BUDGET
FY 2012**

CITY OF ALBANY
ANNUAL BUDGET – 2011/2012
GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS BUDGET

The following is an abbreviated list of the specialized governmental budgeting and accounting terms used in this budget.

ACCOUNT NUMBER – A line item code defining an appropriation.

ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING – a basis of accounting in which revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they are earned and expenses are recognized in the period in which they occur.

AD VALOREM TAXES – Commonly referred to as property taxes. Real and personal property are levied on annually according to the property's valuation and tax rate.

AMORTIZATION – The reduction of debt by regular payments of principal and interest sufficient to retire the debt by maturity.

APD – Albany Police Department

APPROPRIATION – A legal authorization granted by a legislative body to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount and as to the time when it may be expended.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – The formal budgetary document enacted by the legislative body, which contains all approved appropriations for the fiscal year.

ARRA – The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is a direct response to the economic crisis. The recovery Act has three immediate goals: 1) Create jobs and save existing ones, 2) Spur economic activity and invest in long-term growth, 3) Foster unprecedented levels of accountability and transparency in government spending.

ASSESSED VALUATION – A valuation set upon real estate or other property by a government as a basis for levying taxes.

BALANCED BUDGET – A budget in which the estimated current expenditures are equal to or less than the estimated current revenues.

BASE BUDGET – The base budget consists of personal services only. Price and quantity changes are reflected in the base budget but only to the extent that they are in support of personal services. Program and/or capital improvements are not included in the base budget.

BASIS OF BUDGETING – A system used by an individual government to determine when budgetary revenues have been realized and when budgetary expenditures have been incurred.

BOND – A written promise to pay a specified sum of money, called the per value or principal, at a specified date or dates in the future, together with periodic interest at a specified rate.

BONDED DEBT – That portion of indebtedness represented by outstanding bonds.

BUDGET – A service plan for a given period embodying estimated expenditures for providing services and the proposed means of financing them. A balanced budget limits expenditures to available resources.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – A revision to the adopted budget that occurs during the affected fiscal year as approved by the Board of Commissioners via an amendment or a transfer.

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

BUDGET MESSAGE – A general discussion of the proposed budget as presented in writing by the budget making authority to the legislative body.

BUDGETARY BASIS – This refers to the basis of budgeting used to estimate financing sources and uses in the budget.

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

CAD 911 – Computer Aided Dispatch 911-call handling.

CAFR – Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/ASSETS – Construction, renovation, physical improvement projects, vehicles or tangible items such as tools, desks, machinery and equipment costing more than \$5000 each and having a use-life of more than one year.

CDBG – Community Development Block Grant

CIP – Capital Improvement Program

COLA – Cost of Living Adjustment

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW PROJECT (CSO) – A \$38 million project mandated by the state and federal governments requiring Albany to separate its storm drainage and sanitary sewer systems.

COMPLEXITY OF WORK PROCESS/ACTIVITIES – Measures of levels of difficulty associated with work process or activities.

CONTINGENCY – Those funds included in the base budget for the purpose of providing a means to cover minor unexpected costs during the budget year.

DEBT – An obligation resulting from the borrowing of money or from the purchase of goods and services over a period of time. Debts of government include bonds, time warrants, notes, and floating debts.

- A. **General Obligation Debt** is secured by the pledge of the issuer's full faith, credit, and taxing power.
- B. **A Revenue Debt** is a bond, debt, or obligation for which principal and interest are payable exclusively for the earnings of a government enterprise. This term can refer more broadly to any state or local government debt that is not a general obligation.

DEBT LIMIT – The maximum amount of debt that a municipality is permitted by law to incur – also known as “Debt Ceiling.”

DEBT SERVICE – Payment of principal and interest to lenders or creditors on outstanding debt.

DEFICIT – The excess of an entity’s liabilities over its assets or the excess of expenditures or expenses over revenues during a single accounting period.

DEPRECIATION – Expiration in the service life of capital assets attributable to wear and tear, deterioration, action of the physical elements, inadequacy or obsolescence.

EFFECTIVENESS – Depicts the degree to which performance objectives are being achieved or otherwise reflects the quality of local government performance.

EFFICIENCY – Reflects the relationship between work performed and the resources required to perform it; Compares outputs to input.

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

ENTERPRISE FUND – Enterprise funds are used "to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises . . . where the intent of the governing body is that the cost of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed primarily through user charges". Services accounted for in enterprise funds are tangible, and it is possible to determine the extent to which they benefit individual service consumers.

ENTITLEMENT – The amount of payment to which a state or local government is entitled as determined by the federal government.

EQUITY AND AVAILABILITY OF SERVICE TO USERS – Measures referring to fair or equitable distribution of service in different locations or populations.

EXPENDITURES – Decreases in net financial resources. Expenditures include current operating expenses, which require the current or future use of net current assets, debt service, and capital outlays.

EXPENSES – Decreases in net total assets. Expenses represent the total cost of operations during a period regardless of the timing of related expenditures.

EXTERNAL CUSTOMER SATISFACTION – measures of quality from external sources.

FINANCIAL INDICATORS – Comparison of planned vs. actual expenditures, cost, obligations, receipts, allocations or losses.

FISCAL YEAR –The twelve month period to which the annual operating budget applies and at the end of which the city government determines its financial position and the results of its operations.

In Albany, the fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

FIXED ASSETS – Assets of a long-term character which are intended to continue to be held or used, such as land, buildings, improvements other than buildings, machinery, and equipment.

FUND – Governmental accounting systems are organized and operated on a fund basis. A fund is an independent financial and accounting entity. It has a balanced set of accounts and records, cash and other resources together with all related liabilities and residual equities or balances which are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions or limitations. Though funds are independent entities within the financial records of a government, there need not be physical segregation of assets.

FUND ACCOUNTS – All accounts necessary to set forth the financial position and results of operations of a fund

FUND BALANCE – This is the unencumbered balances of appropriation from the prior fiscal year.

GASB – Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

GENERAL FUND – The General Fund provides general-purpose governmental services such as Police, Fire, and Street Maintenance. This fund accounts for the revenues and activities not required by law or administrative decision to be accounted for in a special fund. Ordinarily, the General Fund has a great variety of revenues and is used to finance many more activities than any other fund.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (GAAP) – The accounting rules and procedures adopted by the accounting profession to facilitate uniformity in preparing financial statements.

GENERAL REVENUE – The revenue of a government other than those derived from and retained in an enterprise. If a portion of the net income in an Enterprise Fund is contributed to another non-enterprise fund, such as the General Fund, the amount transferred constitutes general revenue to the government.

GFOA – Georgia Finance Officers Association.

GIRMA – Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency.

GMA – Georgia Municipal Association.

GOALS – A longer-term broader statement of intent.

GOHS – Governor’s Office of Highway Safety

INTERNAL MEASURES OF QUALITY OF PRODUCT SERVICES – Measures of quality from internal sources.

INVESTMENTS – Securities and real estate held for production of revenue in the form of interest, dividend, rentals or lease payments. The term does not include fixed assets used in governmental operations.

JOB FAMILY – Occupational categories that group together positions that have certain common characteristics. Treatment of groups of jobs in this manner provides a more concise and accurate method of evaluating individual jobs.

LEVY – To impose taxes, special assessments of service charges for the support of governmental activities.

LONG-TERM DEBT – Debt with a maturity of more than one year after the date of issuance.

MSA – Metropolitan Statistical Area

MISSION – The reason or purpose for the organizational unit’s existence.

MODIFIED ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING – Basis of accounting according 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, if measurable, except for unmatured interest on general long-term debt and certain similar accrued obligations, which should be recognized when due..

NET INCOME – Proprietary fund in excess of operating revenues, non-operating revenues, and operating transfers-in over operating expenses, non-operating expenses and operating transfers-out.

OBJECTIVES – The specified end result expected and can include the time at which it will be achieved.

OMB – Office of Management and Budget.

OPERATING EXPENSES – Proprietary fund expenses that are directly related to the fund's primary service activities.

OPERATING INCOME – The excess of proprietary fund operating revenues over operating expenses.

OPERATING RATIOS – Efficiency measures such as cost per unit, productivity measures and ratios of direct to indirect cost.

OPERATING REVENUES – Proprietary fund revenues that are directly related to the fund's primary service activities. They consist primarily of user charges for services.

OUTCOMES OF PRODUCT OR SERVICE – Direct results achieved through the provision of goods and services by the City.

OUTPUTS OR FINAL PRODUCTS – Products or services produced, distributed or provided to clients.

PENSION TRUST FUND – The trust fund used to account for public employee retirement systems. Pension trust funds are accounted for in essentially the same manner as proprietary funds, but with an important expanded emphasis on required fund balance reserves.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – A particular value or characteristic used to measure efficiency or effectiveness.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – The regular collection and reporting of a range of data useful in the management and operation of programs.

PROGRAM BUDGET – A budget wherein expenditures are based primarily on programs of work and secondarily on character and object class.

REVENUES – The income attributable to a designated fiscal accounting period that will affect the balance (surplus) or deficit resulting from the operations of that period.

SAIP – Self-Administered Insurance Program

SINKING FUND – Schedule of annual payments required on General Obligation Bonds Payable. Principal and interest are payable from an ad valorem tax upon all property of the City.

SPLOST IV – Special Local Option Sales Tax, the fourth implementation of a one percent sales tax for special projects to help build and maintain the City's infrastructure.

TAD – Tax Allocation District

TAX DIGEST – The total assessed value of all real estate property, motor vehicles, mobile homes, timber and heavy-duty equipment in the city of Albany, Georgia.

TAX LEVY ORDINANCE – An ordinance by means of which taxes are levied.

TAX RATE LIMIT – The maximum rate at which a government may levy a tax. Overall tax rate limits usually restrict levies for all purposes and of all governments, state or local, having jurisdiction in a given area.

TAXES – Compulsory charges levied by a government for the purpose of financing services performed for a common benefit. This term does not include specific charges made against particular persons or property for current or permanent benefits such as special assessments.

TIMELINESS OF PRODUCT OR SERVICE – Measures of timeliness, which may be based on specific standards or past trends.

UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS – State mandated financial reporting format for governments.

WG&L – Water, Gas and Light

WORK/ACTIVITY LEVEL – Work measure that assesses intermediate steps in producing outputs.

WORKLOAD – The amount of work compared to capability.