

CORPORATE POLICY



Policy Title: **Definition of Capital**
Policy Category: **Financial Control**
Policy No.: FC-010
Department: Corporate Services
Approval Date: February 17, 2007
Revision Date: August 10, 2015
Author: Cassandra Pacey

Attachments:
Related Documents/Legislation:

Key Word(s): Budget, Capital

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Council for the City of Waterloo is committed to demonstrating financial leadership and sustainability. This policy assists in formalizing a defined and transparent process for defining capital projects.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to define capital projects and minimum threshold to be included in the capital budget.

DEFINITIONS:

Capital Asset:

A capital asset is an item with physical substance (the exception being software) with a useful economic life extending beyond one fiscal year.

Ongoing Maintenance:

Ongoing maintenance includes but is not limited to painting, mechanical maintenance, and replacement of existing parts.

Betterment:

Betterment is a cost incurred to enhance the service potential of a tangible capital asset by either increasing productivity or service capacity and results the extension of the asset life.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all members of the City's organization including members of Council, full, part-time and contract staff.

APPENDIX D

POLICY COMMUNICATION:

Council will receive this policy for approval. If approved, the policy will be posted on the city's intranet. Staff will be advised of the policy via distribution to the Operational Leadership Team and Corporate Management Team.

POLICY:

Minimum Capital Budget Threshold:

The minimum annual dollar amount to be included within the Capital Budget is \$10,000.

Examples of acceptable capital budget items:

There are many projects that may be considered eligible for the capital budget beyond those that fit the definition of an asset.

Examples of acceptable items to be included in the capital budget are as follows:

- Maintenance projects requiring significant funding or will be completed in stages over multiple years.
- Soft projects such as studies and consultant work that are usually the precursor to changes in operations or the implementation of capital projects.
- Projects that are a result of an agreement for services or funding between Municipalities, the Region or other Government body.
- An obligation to make capital expenditures or major maintenance expenditures as part of an agreement to sell or lease a property.
- A project that improves operational effectiveness.

APPENDIX D

COMPLIANCE:

In cases of policy violation, the City may investigate and determine appropriate corrective action.

CORPORATE POLICY



Policy Title: **Capital Budget**
Policy Category: **Financial Control**
Policy No.: **FC-012**
Department: **Corporate Services**
Approval Date: **Feb. 17, 2007**
Revision Date: **Dec. 10, 2018**
Author: **Julie Koppeser**
Attachments:
Related Documents/Legislation:

Key Word(s): Budget, Capital

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Council for the City of Waterloo is committed to demonstrating financial leadership and sustainability. This policy assists in formalizing a defined and transparent process for the development and funding of capital projects.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to govern the items that will assist in creating the capital budget.

DEFINITIONS:

Capital Project:

A capital project is an item identified and funded through the Council Approved Capital Budget or an item funded through the Financial Requests Outside the Budget Process.

Overhead:

A fee applied via a percentage to reimburse the operating budget for internal resource support. Costs include but are not limited to: staff related expenses to manage projects, process & release of payments, design etc...

Internal Resource Support:

Internal Resource Support can include but is not limited to: design services, project management, contract administration, and review of reports.

Mandatory Policy, Municipal Act: No

Policy Administration Team, Review Date: November 6, 2018

Corporate Management Team, Review Date: November 14, 2018

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SCOPE:

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POLICY COMMUNICATION:

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POLICY:

1. That projects appearing in the Capital Budget adhere to the minimum balance threshold identified in the Council approved policy, Definition of Capital (FC-010).
2. Projects will be reviewed and use the criteria below to assist in the decision making of identifying which projects would be automatically funded post Budget Approval (Routine projects) and which projects would need to return to Council with a report before funding is released (Non-Routine projects):
 - a. **Financial Materiality**
 - i. Projects receiving funding greater than \$2.5M over the 1 year period (one year budget approval)
 - ii. Projects receiving funding greater than \$5M over the 3 year period (multiple year budget approval)
 - b. **High Public/Council Interest**
 - c. **Request by Council**
3. That all reserve funds financing capital expenditures must, at a minimum, have a positive balance, with the exception of Development Charges reserve funds which are permitted to carry a negative balance to be recouped over the course of Background Study projection.
4. That expenditures in the capital budget funded through the Capital Reserve Fund or Capital Infrastructure Reinvestment Reserve Fund be inflated according to the third quarter, Toronto construction price index and updated with each budget process.
5. That reserves and reserve funds that provide funding for the capital budget will receive annual transfer allocations as approved within the base Operating Budget or as approved by Council.
6. All proposed capital expenditures accessing Industrial Land Account (ILA) funding are subject to a staff report request to Council and Council approval, prior to commencement of the project, unless approved as Routine.
7. For Capital Project Overhead charges related to projects, refer to the Capital Overhead policy (FC-018).

COMPLIANCE:

In cases of policy violation, the City may investigate and determine appropriate corrective action.

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Capital Budget Assumptions

The following assumptions have been used in creating the current budget and nine year capital forecast.

1. Inflation rate of 2.96% per year.
2. Capital expenditures are indexed according to the Toronto, annual non-residential building construction price index and approved under current legislation.
3. Debt and long term financial obligations with respect to the debt limit have been updated to include the entire capital forecast. The Municipal Act, Regulation 403/02 permits a maximum of 25% of net operating revenues may be used to fund principal and interest charges for debt. The City of Waterloo is well under the legal limit.
4. That the annual contribution from the operating budget to the Capital Reserve Fund and Capital Infrastructure Reinvestment Reserve Fund be increased at the average rate of inflation of 2.96%.
5. Staff will look for opportunities to partner with the community and investigate future city wide parking opportunities.
6. Unless otherwise stated, capital budget figures have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000.