

Budget

Following a series of workshops and public meetings, the City Council adopted the City of Clearwater's \$341 million Annual Operating and Capital Improvement Budget for fiscal year 2004-05 on September 16, 2004. For the third consecutive year, the ad-valorem tax rate will remain at 5.753 mills.

The General Fund provides money for city operations of a non-proprietary nature. Major revenue sources for this fund include property taxes, franchise and utility fees, and communications and sales taxes. The major operating activities supported by the General Fund include public safety operations of police and fire services; quality of life services of parks

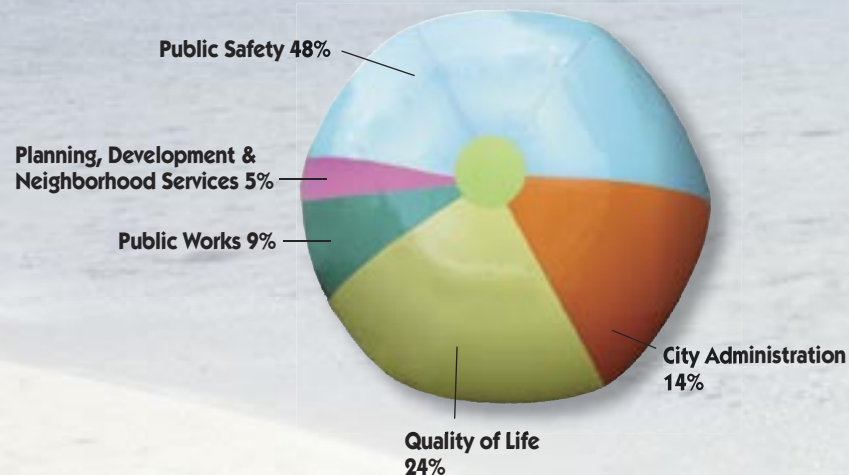
and recreation, the library and Pier 60; public works operations of transportation and engineering services; planning, development, and neighborhood services; and city administrative functions.

The General Fund budget of \$102.5 million represents an increase of 3% over the previous year. A healthy 12% increase in taxable property values over last year will yield an estimated additional \$4 million for the General Fund. The new budget reflects substantial long-term annual savings of more than \$650,000 generated through organizational changes as well as the elimination of several vacant positions. The most significant change is the transfer of the Martin Luther

King Community Center operation to a not-for-profit agency. The only new program in General Fund operations is the "downtown patrol team," a sergeant and five police officers who cover the downtown area.

There are a number of new capital improvement projects in the FY 2004/05 budget. These include replacement of a fire heavy rescue unit, construction of new public restrooms on Clearwater Beach, replacement of the Long Center playground, network and telecommunications upgrades for city equipment, estuary restoration on Stevenson's Creek, and improvements to the city's water distribution system.

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES
FY 2004/5 Operating Budget \$102.5 Million



GENERAL FUND REVENUES
FY 2004/5 Operating Budget \$102.5 Million

