



September 18, 2015

Dear Citizens:

The City Council has been working diligently on the 2016 Budget for the City of Corsicana. The line item budget with a breakdown of all income and expense is available on the City website at www.cityofcorsicana.com under the Finance Department tab in the Budget section as of September 18, 2015.

The Council still considers the most important part of the budget to be Public Safety. The Council, and previous Councils, have dedicated a large percentage of the total budget for Police, Fire, Animal Control, Animal Shelter and Emergency Management. The Police Department proposed budget is \$4,882,323. There are 7,119 single-family homes in the City, which translates into \$685 per home per year dedicated to public safety. The second way to look at expenditures is on a per person basis. There are approximately 24,000 men, women, and children in Corsicana which would equal \$203 per person per year per person for police protection. This represents an increase over last year of \$8 per person. There is an additional amount of \$281,259 that will be spent on animal services which brings the total to \$215 per person. The Fire Department proposed budget is \$3,353,846. There are 7,119 homes, which would mean the cost to provide fire protection per home is \$471 per home. The cost per person is \$140. There is an additional amount of \$19,640 that will be spent on Emergency Management which brings the total to approximately \$141 per person. This amount is very close to the budgeted amount for last year. The total amount spent on public safety in 2015 will be \$8,537,068 or 50% of the total General Fund expenditures.

The other most important public safety service is Emergency Medical Services. The EMS Department proposed budget is \$5,633,293. Of all the responses made by EMS, 70% are to residents in the City or accidents that occur in the City. Of course, a portion of this cost is recovered through fees charged for service and the City has negotiated an agreement with the County to provide service to county residents.

In addition to public safety, quality of life is important to the Council. The City will invest \$1,769,682 in leisure and cultural activities which includes park maintenance, swimming pools, senior activities and library service. This portion of the budget also includes mowing and maintenance of the entrances to the City. Infrastructure is also important and there will be \$2,053,785 spent on streets in 2016 in the regular budget. The Council will consider adopting a Street Improvement Fee of \$8 per household or business to provide funding of approximately \$800,000 for additional street projects. The fee will go directly to a separate fund to allow the Council to account for the revenues and expenditures and track how the money is spent. The additional funding will allow new street projects and continued progress on the Five Year Plan already approved by the Council. In addition, work will continue on the reconstruction of 24th Street. In order for this work to continue, plans are to issue debt for the next phase of the street bond program during the 2016 budget year. This debt will be issued during fiscal year 2016, but the debt service payments will not begin until the following year.

The Council did not adopt any rate increases this year. There will be no increase in the tax rate. This will be 12 years in a row that the ad valorem tax rate has not been increased. The rate will be \$0.6272. The last increase was in 2004. Prior to that, the rate stayed at \$0.5995 for an eight year period. This represents 20 years with only two rate increases. The Council's goal is to maintain service and keep the tax rate steady.

Warmest regards,

Chuck McClanahan
Mayor