



September 23, 2014

I would like to give you a glance at the 2015 budget for the City of Corsicana. The information below is some of the departmental numbers. If you would like to see the line item budget with a breakdown of all income and expense it is available on the City website at www.cityofcorsicana.com under the Finance Department tab in the Budget section as of September 22, 2014.

The most important job of the City is to help keep citizens safe. 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 \$4,679,297. There are 7,146 single-family homes in the City, which translates into \$655 per home per year dedicated to public safety. The second way to look at expenditures is on per person basis. There are approximately 24,000 men, women, and children in Corsicana which would equal \$195 per person per year for police protection. There is an additional amount of \$274,954 that will be spent on animal services which brings the total to \$206 per person. The Fire Department proposed budget is \$3,368,846. There are 7,146 homes which means the cost to provide fire protection per home is \$518 per home. The cost per person is \$140. There is an additional amount of \$26,852 that will be spent on Emergency Management which brings the total to \$141 per person. The total amount spent on public safety in 2015 will be \$8,349,949 or 48% of the total General Fund expenditures.

The other most important public safety service is Emergency Medical Services. The EMS Department proposed budget is \$4,522,005. Of all the responses made by EMS, 70% are to residents in the City or accidents that occur in the City. The cost of EMS to each home is \$486. The cost per person is \$188 for ambulance service. Of course, a portion of this cost is recovered through fees charged for service.

In addition to public safety, quality of life is important to the Council. The City will invest \$1,879,696 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. The Council decided to invest in keeping areas along highways leading into the City mowed and groomed. Infrastructure is also important and there will be \$2,196,948 spent on streets in 2015. This amount will allow continued progress on street projects already funded by the Council. Plans were made to issue previously approved debt for the bond street program during the 2015 budget year. This money will fund the reconstruction of 24th Street. This debt will be issued during this fiscal year, but the debt service payments will not begin until the following year.

The Council did adopt rate increases in water, sewer and garbage this year. The increase in the garbage was largely due to the renegotiation with Republic Waste of the landfill use agreement. The water and sewer increases were due to the decline in water sales and the need for capital improvement projects to help ensure clean water for the future and adequate sewer service. The proposed rates were compared with cities of similar size and service type prior to making any decision. There will be no increase in the tax rate. This

will be 11 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 19 years with only two rate increases.

The Council's goal is to maintain service, keep the tax rate steady and to fund additional spending and capital projects with the growth in the economy and tax base.

Sincerely,

Chuck McClanahan
Mayor