

## Managing Your Limited Resources Without Outside Help: A few practical ideas

### **Revenue raising measures:**

#### Some options for collections for fire and ambulance runs

- Collect from insurance companies for fire (structural, auto accidents, and hazardous materials) and ambulance runs
  - Outside city fire; city limits ambulance
  - Inside city limits for fire and ambulance runs
- Bill runs for fire and ambulance outside of city limits for those without insurance
- Hire outside licensed insurance adjusters (add collection costs on top of insurance coverage via HB1800) or use in-house staff
- Add a fee for fire protection to municipal utility bills (new territory here)

#### Some other revenue ideas

- Replace water meters, municipal electric or gas meters. Review full cost of utilities including depreciation and replacement reserves. Collect overdue fines, fees, and water bills.
- Use technology as your friend – automated meter reading to find leaks, reduce staff and increase accuracy of meter reading. Use digi-tickets to increase productivity of enforcement staff.
- Enact procedures to place the cost of bad debt collection on the customer rather than the city (new 2009 via HB 1800)
- Review all fees and fines to determine if they are sufficient to cover costs
- Increase court fines (\$25-\$30 via HB 1800)
- Raise utility rates. Restructure rates. Many grant providers require local effort to qualify for grants. Phase in progressive rates to keep up with costs. Raise water and sewer rates during the winter to avoid sticker shock.
- Use regionalization, inter-local agreements, and equipment sharing to reduce costs
- Sell unused and/or surplus properties
- Partner with private enterprise to sponsor services, like naming rights to ball parks or ads along the outfield.
- Trade services, example Boy Scouts, maintain park for use of building for meetings at no additional costs. Municipalities cannot give gifts but they can trade for benefits for a public purpose.
- Lower insurance costs with higher deductibles, promote wellness programs to lower costs
- Refinance long-term debt (if possible)
- Cross-train employees to allow more flexibility and keep valued employees

- Go from paper to electronic anywhere you can, citizen & employee newsletters, council agendas, ordinances on line. Put information on your website and encourage people to go there first.
- Develop a good grant writer and give them time to find and work grants.

**Possible, but not always recommended, emergency cost cutting measures.** Some are save now, pay later.

- Review and prioritize all contracts for services.
- Hiring freeze, furloughs, layoffs
- Postpone raises or cost of living increases for employees
- Defer maintenance and capital improvements
- Reduce services.