

Budget Organization and Glossary of Terms

Introduction

This chapter is a guide to the organization of Boston city government and the FY09 Operating Budget.

The City of Boston, incorporated as a town in 1630 and as a City in 1822, now exists under Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909 and Chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948 of the Commonwealth which, as amended, constitute the City's Charter. The chief executive officer of the City is the Mayor. Reelected in November 2005, Mayor Thomas M. Menino is serving a four-year term ending in January 2010. The Mayor has general supervision of and control over the City's boards, commissions, officers, and departments. The portion of the budget covering appropriations for all departments and operations of the City, except the School Department, is prepared under the direction of the Mayor.

The legislative body of the City is the Boston City Council, which consists of thirteen members serving two-year terms. Four councilors are elected at-large and nine are elected from geographic districts. The City Council may enact ordinances and adopt orders that the Mayor may either approve or veto. Ordinances and orders, except for orders for the borrowing or appropriation of money, may be enacted by the City Council over the Mayor's veto by a two-thirds vote. The City Council may reject or reduce a budget submitted to it by the Mayor, but may not increase it.

Organization of City Government: The Mayor's Cabinet

Mayor Menino established a cabinet form of government to recognize the major functional responsibilities of City government, to facilitate improvements in the conduct of the executive and administrative business of the City, and to eliminate duplication and waste.

The structure of the Mayor's cabinet is illustrated in the citywide organizational chart displayed on the next page. A description of the members of the Mayor's cabinet and the City departments for which each has authority follows.

Director of Administration & Finance

The Director of Administration & Finance, who also serves as Collector-Treasurer, oversees all City financial matters, including the functions of the Treasury, Assessing, Auditing, and Purchasing Departments, as well as the Office of Budget Management (OBM), and the State-Boston Retirement Board. The Retirement Board, an independent board under Chapter 306 of the Acts of 1996, is funded through investment earnings, but remains part of the Administration & Finance Cabinet.

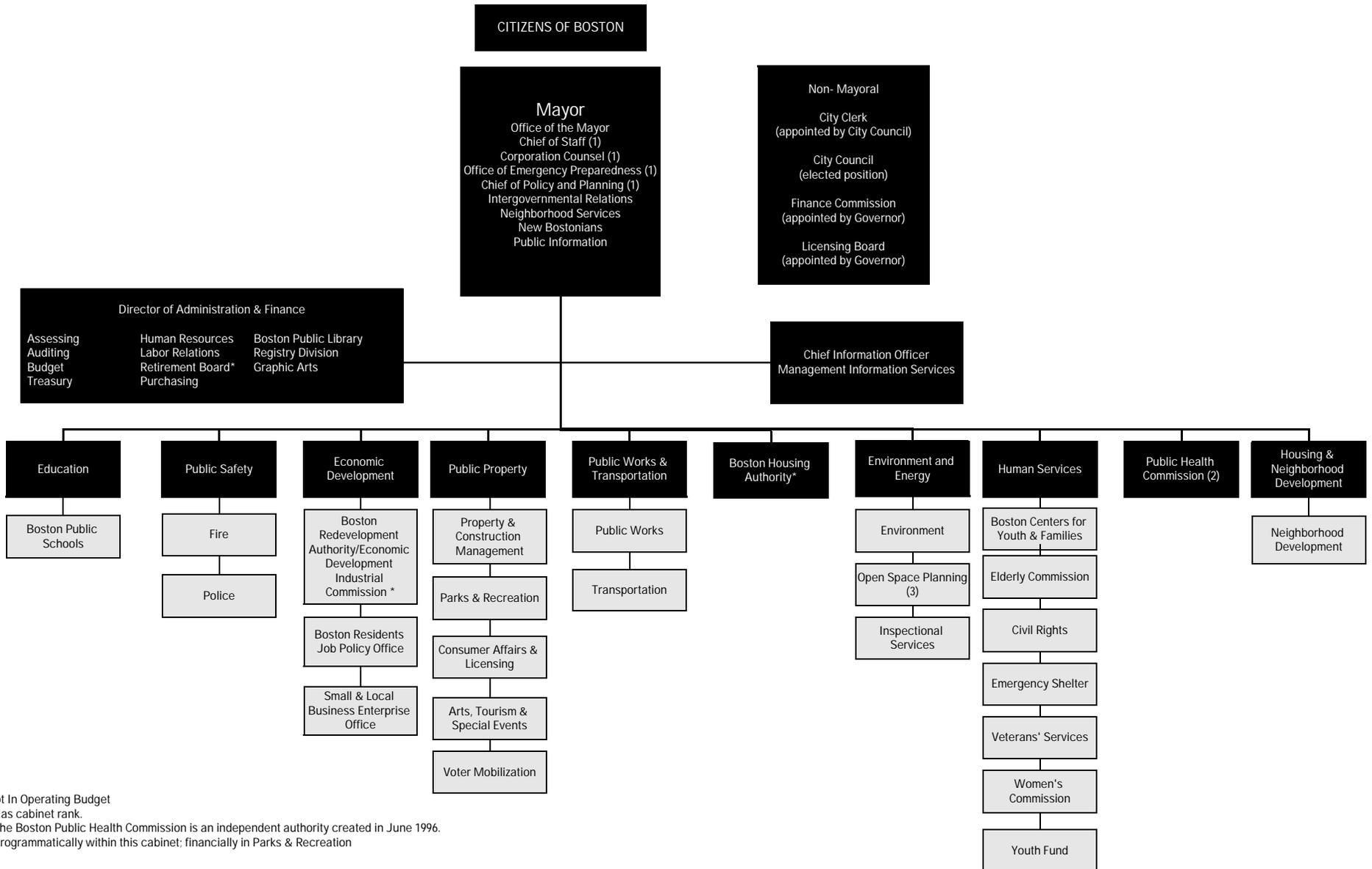
The Director of Administration & Finance also oversees Human Resources (including Workers' Compensation, Health Insurance, the Workers' Compensation Fund, and Unemployment Compensation), Graphic Arts, the Boston Public Library, Registry Division, and the Office of Labor Relations.

The Director of Administration & Finance reports directly to the Mayor.

Chief Information Officer

The Chief Information Officer oversees the Management and Information Services (MIS) Department. The CIO is responsible for leveraging the use of technology and information, as well as working to improve business practices and service delivery.

ORGANIZATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT



* Not In Operating Budget

(1) Has cabinet rank.

(2) The Boston Public Health Commission is an independent authority created in June 1996.

(3) Programmatically within this cabinet; financially in Parks & Recreation

Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools

The Education Cabinet is responsible for managing the Boston Public Schools. The Superintendent is appointed by the Boston School Committee and serves as the chief executive officer of the Boston Public Schools. The Superintendent is responsible for the development of a plan for schools and other City and non-City agencies to develop cooperative programs to guarantee that Boston's children succeed in meeting high standards of performance in school.

Commissioners of Public Safety

The City's Police and Fire Departments provide and promote public safety and protection services, firefighting, and fire prevention services. The Police Commissioner and Fire Commissioner both serve on the Mayor's cabinet.

Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority

The Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) serves on the Mayor's cabinet as the Chief of Public Housing. The BHA is an independent authority overseeing public housing developments and senior housing locations throughout the City.

Chief of Public Health

The executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) oversees the delivery of services that impact public health. The BPHC serves as the board of health of the City. BPHC collaborates with area hospitals, community health centers, and community-based organizations to ensure the availability and accessibility of community-based health care, disease and injury prevention, health promotion, and health education services. The BPHC provides emergency medical services for the City.

Chief of Public Works & Transportation

This cabinet includes the Public Works Department, the Transportation Department, Central Fleet Maintenance, and Snow Removal.

Chief Economic Development Officer

The Chief Economic Development Officer is accountable for the planning and development functions of the City. The Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) serves as the cabinet chief. The Economic Development Cabinet is composed of the Boston Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (BRA/EDIC), the Small & Local Business Enterprise Office, and the Boston Residents Jobs Policy Office.

Chief of Public Property

The Public Property Cabinet provides administrative functions and maintenance of physical assets and is comprised of the Parks and Recreation Department, Property & Construction Management, Consumer Affairs & Licensing, the Office of Arts, Tourism & Special Events, and the Department of Voter Mobilization (formerly known as the Election Department). The cabinet is a key participant in supporting cross-departmental and citywide inter-agency coordinated efforts, including major event production, seasonal clean-ups, and neighborhood enhancement initiatives.

Chief of Environment and Energy

The Environment and Energy Cabinet is made up of the Environment Department and the Inspectional Services Department. Other programs in the cabinet include the recycling program of the Public Works Department as well as the Open Space Planning and Olmsted Park Revitalization programs of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Chief of Environment and Energy oversees the City's relationships with the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission.

Chief of Human Services

The Human Services Cabinet includes Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the Elderly Commission, the Emergency Shelter Commission, the Women's Commission, Veteran's Services, the Youth Fund, and the Office of Civil Rights.

Chief of Housing and Neighborhood Development

The Chief of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Cabinet oversees the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND). Through its diverse programs, the department invests public resources strategically to strengthen the City's neighborhoods. Programs aim to develop and preserve local businesses and improve housing stock and housing investment. In addition, the department assists people seeking housing and assists tenants with problem resolution and mediation with landlords.

Corporation Counsel

The Corporation Counsel supervises all City attorneys and legal affairs and represents the City of Boston in litigation. The Law Department provides an array of legal services, including formal and informal opinions and advice to the Mayor, the City Council, the Boston School Committee, and other officials in matters relating to their official duties. The department also represents the same parties in litigation, reviews all City contracts, pursues claims on behalf of the City through affirmative litigation, and initiates foreclosure proceedings on tax delinquent property.

Mayor's Chief of Staff

The Mayor's Chief of Staff is the chair of the Mayor's cabinet. The Chief of Staff oversees the day-to-day operations of the Mayor's Office and responds to requests and critical issues efficiently and effectively. The Mayor's Office includes the Office of the Mayor, the Offices of Emergency Preparedness, Neighborhood Services, Public Information, Intergovernmental Relations, and New Bostonians.

An All-Funds Budget

The City of Boston presents a fully integrated budget - including capital, operating, and external funds - to show the total funding available to departments to fulfill their missions.

The operating budget funds personnel and non-personnel expenses so City departments can

provide goods and services to the public. The capital budget funds new construction or

renovations to existing city-owned facilities (e.g., police and fire stations, and schools), infrastructure improvements (e.g., roads, sidewalks, and lights), and major equipment purchases such as fire-fighting apparatus. The external funds budget describes the projects and programs that departments will be undertaking in the next fiscal year with funding received from the state, federal, or other non-general fund sources.

Organization of the Budget

The City of Boston's program budget provides a wealth of information related to City services and their associated costs. The operating and capital budgets present the recommended resource allocations in terms of personnel, facilities, goods, and services. The budget document also describes the services provided by each City department and the performance targets that will be achieved in FY09.

The Operating and Capital Budget Document: Organization of the Volumes

Volume I provides information on the FY09 budget and the context in which it is prepared. Sections include:

- Mayoral Transmittal Letters
- Executive Summary
- Summary Budget
- City Council Orders
- Revenue Estimates and Analysis
- Innovations in Education
- Budget and Performance Goals
- Financial Management
- Capital Planning
- Statutes and Ordinances
- Boston's People and Economy
- Budget Organization and Glossary

In Volumes 2 and 3, cabinet and departmental budgets are presented by cabinet. The cabinet presentation includes cabinet mission and initiatives, followed by a table displaying total operating, external and capital budgets. The budget presents FY06 actual results through the FY09 budgets.

Departmental Operating Budgets

Activities and services of the City are grouped into programs for budgeting and management purposes. The operating budget for each department is presented by program.

A “program” is defined as an organized group of activities directed toward attaining one or more related objectives, and the resources to execute them.

A program can consist of direct services to the public and neighborhoods of the City (e.g. police patrol or tree maintenance), or traditional city staff functions (e.g. administrative services or engineering and design).

Some city activities may not be defined as separate programs even though they may be self-contained operations. For example, a fire station is not a separate program, although for accounting purposes it is a cost center within the Fire Department’s Fire Suppression program.

Program budgets serve as the basic building blocks of the budget. There are three additional organizational levels above the program level in the budget. The three levels are:

- The Division Level for units within some departments.
- The Department Level, which includes departments, commissions, and other offices.
- The Cabinet Level, which includes functionally-related departments.

Description of Organization and Definition of Categories

This section outlines the information reported within each department and program in the budget.

Department or Division Level

Department Mission: The mission statement is a fundamental statement of purpose.

Performance Strategies: These strategies reflect stated goals for which the department or division is held accountable.

Description of Service: The description of services provides a general overview of the department and its responsibilities, and lists examples of major services provided.

Authorizing Statutes: This section lists statutes and ordinances that create departments as well as endow them with legal powers.

Operating Budget: The operating budget presentation includes a table displaying total operating and external budgets by program beginning with FY06 actual expenses through the FY09 budget.

Program Level

Program Description: This section presents a general overview of the program, including its responsibilities and major services provided.

Program Strategies: Each program identifies its strategies to further the department’s mission.

Performance Measures: Performance measures demonstrate a program’s progress in implementing their strategies. Performance measures may gauge workload, effectiveness, efficiency or productivity. Some performance measures also show the changing context in which programs are working.

Financial Data

The financial data tables identify the major groups and expenditure account codes (for example, Personnel Services/Overtime, Supplies and Materials/Office Supplies), historical expenditures in each, and the proposed appropriations in each group and account in FY09.

Two financial data sheets are provided for the FY09 operating budget: Department History and Department Personnel.

Department History

Expenditure account codes are listed within six expenditure groups. Dollar amounts are shown for:

- FY06 actual expenditures,
- FY07 actual expenditures,
- FY08 appropriations,
- FY09 recommended budgets, and
- The difference between the FY08 appropriation and the FY09 recommended appropriation.

Department Personnel Data

Personnel data shows funding for permanent positions, including existing and proposed positions. All permanent positions are listed by

union and salary grade within the department or division. The total salary request is listed for these positions.

For each position shown, the following information is provided:

Title: The civil service/personnel system job title for the position.

Union Code and Grade: The union code (including exempt and CDH for department head) and code for the salary grade of the position.

Position and Salary Requirement: These columns show the number of permanent positions for which funding is available and the total funding provided for that title for the upcoming fiscal year.

Total Funding: The total funding for permanent employees, shown at the bottom right of the personnel sheet, reflects the amount of funding required to support personnel prior to adjustments. This figure may be adjusted by differential payments, other payments, chargebacks, and salary savings.

Differential Payments: Employees who are serving temporary job titles or who are entitled to additional payments based on the shifts they work receive differential payments (e.g., night shifts). This figure is added to the permanent employee line.

Other: The permanent employee line contains other payments such as sick leave and vacation buybacks.

Chargebacks: Some personnel costs are charged to another fund or appropriation. These costs or reimbursements are included in the permanent employees line.

Salary Savings: This figure reflects savings due to vacancies. The amount is estimated based on experience in prior fiscal years and subtracted from the total salary requirements.

External Funds

The financial data identify the major groups and expenditure account codes for external funds expenditures. Historical expenditures and the proposed appropriations in these accounts in FY09 personnel data show permanent positions, including existing and proposed positions, funded with external funds. All permanent positions are

listed by union and grade within the department or division. The total salary request is listed for these positions by job title. The External Funds Projects page lists a description of each project's mission.

Capital Budget

The capital budget section provides an overview of projects and major initiatives for departments charged with managing facilities and major equipment assets. Dollar amounts are shown for:

- FY06 actual capital expenditures,
- FY07 actual capital expenditures,
- FY08 estimated capital expenditures,
- FY09 projected capital expenditures

Following this overview are capital project profiles, including descriptions of each project mission, the department managing the project, and the status and location of each project. A table summarizes the total capital funds authorized for projected expenditures in FY09 and for future years, as well as whether the source is City authorization or other funding such as federal and state infrastructure grants or trust funds. A listing of actual and planned capital expenditures in comparison to authorized dollars is also provided.

Glossary of Terms

Account: A classification of appropriation by type of expenditure.

Account Number: The number by which the Auditor categorizes an appropriation. For budget purposes, this is also known as appropriation code.

Accrual Basis: The basis of accounting under which transactions are recognized when they occur, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Allotment: The amount that can be expended quarterly for personnel as submitted to the City Auditor at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Appropriation: The legal authorization to expend funds during a specific period, usually one fiscal year. In the City of Boston, the City Council is the appropriating authority.

Authorization: The legal consent to expend funds.

Level-Service Budget: A budget that describes the funding required for maintaining current levels of service or activity.

Bond: An interest-bearing promise to pay, with a specific maturity.

Bonds Authorized and Unissued: The portion of approved bond authorizations or loan orders that have not yet been borrowed for or issued as bonds.

Budget: A formal estimate of expenditures and revenues for a defined period, usually for one year.

Budget Amendment: A change from originally budgeted quotas requested by departments to the Human Resources Department and the Office of Budget Management who authorize these changes.

Capital Budget: A plan for capital expenditures for projects to be included during the first year of the capital program.

Capital Plan: A multi-year plan of proposed outlays for acquiring long-term assets and the means for financing those acquisitions, usually by long-term debt.

Capital Improvement: An expenditure that adds to the useful life of the City's fixed assets.

Capital Improvement Program: A multi-year plan for capital expenditures to be incurred each year over a fixed period of years to meet capital needs.

Cash basis: A basis of accounting under which transactions are recognized only when cash changes hands.

Chapter 90 Funds: A state-funded program for payments to cities and towns for 100% of the costs of construction, reconstruction, and improvements to public ways.

Chargeback: A method of billing departments for costs incurred by them for which they are not billed directly (e.g., telephone, postage, and printing). This method can also be used for departmental expenditures that are paid for with external or capital funds.

Cherry Sheet: Originally printed on a cherry-colored form, this document reflects all Commonwealth charges, distributions and reimbursements to a city or town as certified by the state Director of the Bureau of Accounts.

Collective Bargaining: The process of negotiations between the City administration and bargaining

units (unions) regarding the salary and fringe benefits of city employees.

Commission: An appointed policy-setting body.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): A federal entitlement program that provides community development funds based on a formula.

Credit Balance: Account or departmental deficit. See departmental deficit.

Credit Rating: A formal evaluation of credit history and capability of repaying obligations. The bond ratings assigned by Moodys Investors Service, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings.

Credit Transfer: The transfer of appropriations from one expenditure account code to another within a department.

Debit Transfer: The transfer of actual expenditures from one expenditure account code to another within or between departments.

Debt Limit: The maximum amount of debt that a governmental unit may incur under constitutional, statutory, or charter requirements. The limitation is usually a percentage of assessed valuation and may be fixed upon either gross or net debt.

Debt Outstanding: The general obligation bonds that have been sold to cover the costs of the City's capital outlay expenditures from bond funds.

Debt Service: The annual amount of money necessary to pay the interest and principal on outstanding debt.

Department: A major service-providing entity of city government.

Departmental Deficit: A condition that exists when departmental expenditures exceed departmental appropriations.

Departmental Income: Income generated by a specific city department, usually as a result of user revenues applied for services rendered. Parking meter charges, building permit fees, and traffic fines are examples of departmental income.

Division: A budgeted sub-unit of a department.

DNR: Did not report.

Encumbrance: Funds set aside from an appropriation to pay a known future liability.

Excise: A tax applying to a specific industry or good. The jet fuel tax and the hotel/motel occupancy tax are examples of excises.

Expenditure Account Code: An expenditure classification according to the type of item purchased or service obtained, for example, emergency employees, communications, food supplies, and automotive equipment.

Expenditure: An actual payment for goods or services received.

External Fund: Money that is not generated from city general fund sources, but is received by an agency, such as grants or trusts.

Fiscal Year: The twelve-month financial period used by the City beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of the following calendar year. The City's fiscal year is numbered according to the year in which it ends.

Fixed Debt: Long-term obligations other than bonds, such as judgments, mortgages, and long-term notes or certificates of indebtedness.

Full Faith and Credit: A pledge of the general taxing powers for the payment of governmental obligations. Bonds carrying such pledges are usually referred to as general obligation or full faith and credit bonds.

Full-time Equivalent Position or FTE: A concept used to group together part-time positions into full-time units.

Fund: An independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording cash and/or other resources with all related liabilities, obligations, reserves, and equities that are segregated for specific activities or objectives. Among the fund types used by the City are General, Special Revenue, Capital Projects, Trust, and Enterprise.

GAAP: Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The basic principles of accounting and reporting applicable to state and local governments, including the use of the modified accrual or accrual basis of accounting, as appropriate, for measuring financial position and operating results. These principles must be observed to provide a basis of comparison for governmental units.

General Fund: The fund into which the general (non-earmarked) revenues of the municipality are deposited and from which money is appropriated to pay the general expenses of the municipality.

General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds: Bonds for whose payment, the full faith and credit of the issuer has been pledged. More commonly, but not necessarily, general obligation bonds are payable from property taxes and other general revenues.

Goal: A statement, in general terms, of a desired condition, state of affairs or situation. Goals are long-term and not usually directly measurable without objectives. By establishing goals, departments can define their missions and the methods for achieving those goals.

Grant Year: The grant accounting period designated by the requirements of a specific grant.

Headcount: The actual number of full-time or full-time equivalent employees in a department at any given time.

Interest: Compensation paid or to be paid for the use of money, including interest payable at periodic intervals or discount at the time a loan is made.

Interest Rate: The interest payable, expressed as a percentage of the principal available for use during a specified period of time.

Line Item: See Expenditure Account Code.

Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust (MWPAT): A statewide revolving fund that commenced operations in 1990 to address necessary environmental actions outlined in the Federal Clean Water Act.

Mayoral Reallocation: A transfer of appropriations of up to \$3 million that may be authorized by the Mayor until April 15 in a given fiscal year to relieve departmental deficits or address unanticipated financial problems.

Mission: A general overview of the purposes and major activities of a department or program.

Modified Accrual Basis: The accrual basis of accounting adapted to the governmental fund type, wherein only current assets and current liabilities are generally reported on fund balance sheets and the fund operating statements present financial flow information (revenues and

expenditures). Revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Expenditures are recognized when the related fund liability is incurred except for a few specific exceptions. All governmental funds and expendable trust funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting.

Official Statement: The municipal equivalent of a bond prospectus.

Operating Budget: A legally adopted plan for anticipated expenditures for personnel, contractual services, supplies, current charges, and equipment in one fiscal year.

Payments-In-Lieu-of-Taxes: Income to replace the loss of tax revenue resulting from property exempted from taxation.

Performance Measure: An indicator of progress toward a strategy. Measures can be defined for identifying output, work or service quality, efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity.

Principal: The face amount of a bond, exclusive of accrued interest.

Program: An organized group of activities and the resources to execute them.

Program Evaluation: The process of comparing actual service levels achieved with promised levels of service with the purpose of improving the way a program operates.

Proposition 2 1/2: A statewide ballot initiative limiting the property tax levy in cities and towns in the Commonwealth to 2 1/2 percent of the full and fair cash valuation of the taxable real and personal property in that city or town. The statute also places an annual growth cap of 2 1/2 percent on the increase in the property tax levy.

Quota: The planned number of positions that can be filled by a department, subject to the availability of funds. The quota can refer either to specific titles or to the number of personnel in the entire department. The quota of positions may change by means of a budget amendment. The actual number of personnel working in a department at any given time may differ from the quota.

Reimbursement Grant: A federal or state grant that is paid to the City once a project is completed and inspected for conformance to the grant contract.

The City must provide the full funding for the project until the reimbursement is received.

Reserve Fund: An appropriation for contingencies.

Revenue: Income received by the City.

Salary Savings: For budget purposes, savings that accrue due to employee turnover or unfilled budgeted positions in a department.

Special Appropriation: An authorization to expend funds for a specific project not encompassed by normal operating categories.

Special Revenue Fund: Used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than special assessments, expendable trusts, or sources for major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes. A special revenue fund is accounted for in the same manner as a General Fund.

STAT: Statutory accounting and reporting adopted by a legislative body of a governmental entity. The method of recording and reporting actual expenditures and revenues within a plan of financial operations that establishes a basis for the control and evaluation of activities financed through the General Fund. When the budget basis and basis of accounting are different, a governmental unit usually maintains its records on a budget basis.

State Distributions: All City revenue flowing from the state. Major categories include educational distributions and reimbursements, direct education expenditures, general government reimbursements, and other distributions.

Supplementary/Supplemental Appropriation: An appropriation that is submitted to the City Council after the operating budget has been approved. Such appropriations must specify a revenue source.

Tax Exempt Bonds: Bonds exempt from federal income, state income, or state or local personal property taxes.

TBR: To be reported.

Third Party Payment: Medical payments, usually from an insurance carrier to a health care provider on behalf of an injured or infirm party.

Trust Funds: Funds held by the City in a fiduciary role, to be expended for the purposes specified by the donor.

Unliquidated Reserve: A fund established at year-end, used to pay for goods and services received this year, but not billed until next year.