

*The citizen's source of information about the City of Ashland*

## INTRODUCTION TO FINANCIAL FUNDS

The City's Finance Department webpage ([ashland.or.us/finance](http://ashland.or.us/finance)) includes many resources about the City's financial reporting and activities including links to our transparency portal ([ashlandor.opengov.com](http://ashlandor.opengov.com)) which provides interactive graphs of the City's financial data and the ability to filter data for different views. In addition, the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), Fees and Charges schedule, and Budget documents are listed under Financial Documents.

The City uses governmental or fund accounting to manage and report on its finances. The funds are separate buckets that track revenues and expenditures for the activities within the fund. The primary funds include the General Fund, the enterprise funds (Water, Wastewater, Electric), and the internal services funds (Employee Health Benefits, Insurance, Equipment, and Central Services). There are more but these are the major ones discussed most often.

- The General Fund accounts for a majority of tax revenue and basic government services that are not associated with a dedicated revenue, i.e. law enforcement, fire protection, parks and recreation, and community development.
- The enterprise funds operate similar to a private business with the intention of being fully self-supporting, i.e. Sewer, Water, and Electric. This is where the concept of restricted funds often comes into play; the money received for these services cannot be diverted to pay for other services.
- The internal service funds help the City account for activities, especially the purchase of specific goods and services, that are used by all of the operating funds. The services provided by these funds are "purchased" by the other operating funds of the City rather than from private companies.

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## STAY UPDATED ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Please note that City offices are still physically closed to the public. Staff is available to provide assistance over the phone, email and with limited appointments as needed. Go to the City Directory at [www.ashland.or.us/contactus.asp](http://www.ashland.or.us/contactus.asp) to find contact information for each Department.

To help ease concern over the COVID-19 pandemic and spread correct information, the City has created a webpage [ashland.or.us/coronavirus](http://ashland.or.us/coronavirus) with the most up-to-date information from the Federal, State, County, and City governments. The webpage includes information on:

**Prevention and Health**—links to the CDC, Oregon Health Authority, and Jackson County Health and Human Services.

**City Government Updates**—including current City closures and how to attend virtual meetings and events.

**Current Restrictions**—offering a timeline of the Governor's orders including mandated closures.

**Local & Business Resources**—where affected businesses and locals can go for help and information on how to support local businesses and organizations.

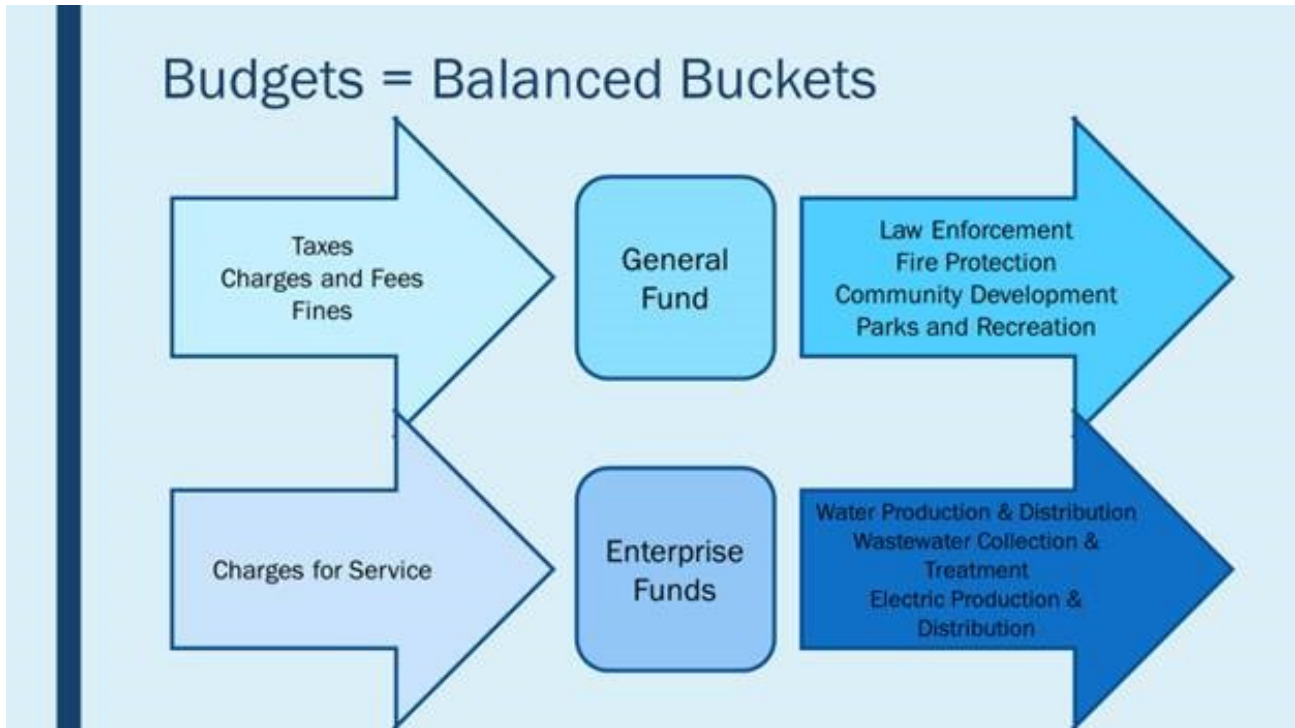


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## INTRODUCTION TO FINANCIAL FUNDS

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The operating funds can be viewed as buckets with specific types of revenues coming in and specific services being paid for from those revenues:



The internal service funds are vendors to these operating funds.

Movement of money between the funds are limited to:

- Purchase of goods and services from another fund
  - Water Fund buys accounting services from the General Fund
  - General Fund buys water from the Water Fund
  - An operating fund purchases services or goods from an internal service fund.
- Taxes (only applies to enterprise funds)
  - Electric Fund pays a franchise tax to the General Fund in recognition of wear and tear on infrastructure from electric system (would apply to any electricity provider)
  - Wastewater Fund pays PILOT (payment-in-lieu-of-taxes) in recognition of the property value of its plants and the general services provided to the plant similar to other taxpayers
- Direct Financial Transactions
  - One fund can loan another fund money for specific purposes with an adopted loan agreement indicating payment terms, loan repayment schedule, etc.
  - The General Fund can subsidize other funds' activities through a direction of City Council that indicates the general public purpose served by doing so.

As the City prepares its next biennial budget, there will be detailed discussion about what services are provided and by which funds using what resources. Stay tuned for opportunities to contribute to the conversation.

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### SIGN-UP FOR CONTROLLED BURN NOTIFICATIONS!

The Ashland Forest Resiliency (AFR) partners will continue to burn piles of brush and small trees in the forests above town. Burning piles under safe conditions and following all COVID-19 regulations during the cool season reduces our wildfire threat in the Ashland watershed. You can check Ashland air quality at the online at [smokewiseashland.org](http://smokewiseashland.org). **To register for controlled burn notifications please text the word WATERSHED in the message line to 888777.**

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## CITY LOW INCOME UTILITY ASSISTANCE

The City of Ashland has funds available for the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program (ALIEAP), which assists low income residents with electric bill costs during the cold winter months. Eligible Ashland residents include those whose income is at or below 65 percent of Oregon's median income. These levels are based on household income and household size. Qualified recipients will receive a credit on their electric utility charges. Credits of up to 50 percent will be given to seniors and disabled persons for up to six months and credits of 50 percent to other qualified residents for up to three months. The maximum allowed credit is \$300 for either group.

Beginning October 1, applicants may call the request line at (541) 552-2038 to request a Low Income Assistance application packet. Applications are also available on the City of Ashland website at [ashland.or.us](http://ashland.or.us). If you know of someone who might qualify and needs assistance, please let them know about this program. The deadline to submit the application is February 1, 2021.

### ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2020 TREE OF THE YEAR

The Tree Commission is now accepting nominations for the 2020 Tree of the Year. To nominate a tree please send the address, the species, and why the tree is notable. Nominations can be sent either through the [Tree Commission form](#) on the advisory commission web page or email Aaron Anderson at [aaron.anderson@ashland.or.us](mailto:aaron.anderson@ashland.or.us). Elections on the 2020 Tree of the Year will be done around our annual arbor day celebrations.

2019 Tree of the Year—Oak Tree at 174 Church Street



### PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO KEEP ASHLAND FIRE SAFE

Due to increasing risks of catastrophic wildfire in our region, and to better prepare for the 2021 fire season and beyond, Ashland Fire & Rescue has recently issued 'Notices of Warning' and 'Orders to Abate' to over 1,000 properties within Ashland that have a known history of non-compliance with one or more aspects of Ashland Municipal Code Chapter 9.04, Weeds & Noxious vegetation. Inspection and risk assessment data gathered over the past four fire seasons was compiled to develop this list. An owner or current tenant may not have ever received a Notice-to-Abate in the past regarding the listed property (because of limited staffing and resources we are not always able to notify all violators every season).

Because of a printing error in the bulk-mailing, the notice dated November 30, 2020 has a misprinted 'Due By' date. The actual due date for compliance is June 15, 2021, in preparation for next fire season. We apologize for the error and any confusion this created. More information regarding warning notices can be found at [ashland.or.us/weedabatement](http://ashland.or.us/weedabatement).

Not all requirements listed in the letter may apply to your property. The warning letters have been issued now to give property owners and/or tenants extra time to prepare for next year's fire season and to better understand ordinance requirements. This letter is not stating that a property owner *will* be fined or the property forcibly abated, it is a warning reminding property owners of their legal responsibilities regarding AMC 9.04 and that a property owner and/or tenant may be fined and/or charged abatement fees if the violation(s) are, or become, a significant hazard if not properly abated.

Ashland Fire & Rescue is requesting that greater efforts be made on these properties to meet the June 15 deadline for weed abatement and to maintain minimum fire safety standards throughout fire season. Violations can range in severity and kind but all play a part in increasing the risks of wildfire around a home or business within our city. Questions or issues about meeting requirements can be directed to [cutweeds@ashland.or.us](mailto:cutweeds@ashland.or.us) or (541) 552-2246.

Please evaluate the property according to requirements listed in the letter and further explained on our webpage [www.ashland.or.us/weedabatement](http://www.ashland.or.us/weedabatement) before contacting us with questions. We will respond to an email or voicemail as soon as we are able. Please be patient, we are responding to calls and emails in the order they are received. More recommendations for improving the defensible space around your home or business can be found at [www.fireadaptedashland.org](http://www.fireadaptedashland.org). Thank you and have a safe and happy New Year.



City offices will be closed on Monday, February 15 in observance of Presidents' Day.

Check out how Ashland connects at [www.ashlandfiber.net](http://www.ashlandfiber.net)



## EVENTS

*Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures in place, many of our events may need to be canceled or postponed.*

### **Green Burial: The Greenest Way to “Go” | Online**

Join us in exploring green burial: what is it?, what are the options in our region?, and why might it be the right choice for you? This presentation will open the door of possibility to your values in life continuing after your death. We'll also look at the Forest Conservation Burial Ground at Willow-Witt Ranch, Oregon's first dedicated natural burial ground!

Bring your curiosity and build community as we explore green burial. Presenter Mary Ann Perry is the Sexton at The Forest Conservation Burial Ground. She is also a Certified Home Funeral Guide and has been educating our community on after-death care, home funerals and green burials for over 5 years. Register at [ashland.or.us/register](http://ashland.or.us/register) or call Ashland Senior Center at (541) 488-5342.

DATE February 24, 2021  
TIME 1 to 3 PM  
PLACE Online (Zoom)  
COST Free

### **Ashland Radio Hour | Online or phone-in**

Join us for an old-fashioned radio play performed by talented local seniors via Zoom! We are excited to present a very entertaining original play written by locals Jack Seybold with Cheryl and Mark Goodman-Morris and set in our own beloved Ashland. There is also a phone-only option for those without an internet connection. See full cast list and register at [ashland.or.us/register](http://ashland.or.us/register) or call Ashland Senior Center at (541) 488-5342.

DATE February 10, 2021  
TIME 1 to 3 PM  
PLACE Online (Zoom) or phone-in  
COST Free

## February City Calendar

*Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures in place, many meetings might be canceled or held electronically. Please check [ashland.or.us/calendar.asp](http://ashland.or.us/calendar.asp) for updates.*

### City Council

Business Meeting: Feb. 2 & 16 | 6 p.m.  
Study Session: Feb. 1 | 5:30 p.m.

### Airport Commission

February 2 | 9:30 a.m.

### Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission

February 24 | 3 p.m.

### Climate Policy Commission

February 11 | 4 p.m.

### Forest Lands Commission

February 8 | 5:30 p.m.

### Historic Commission

February 3 | 6 p.m.

### Housing and Human Services Commission

February 25 | 4 p.m.

### Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: Feb. 10 | 6:00 p.m.

Study Session: February 3 | 6 p.m.

### Planning Commission

Business Meeting: February 9 | 7 p.m.

Study Session: February 23 | 7 p.m.

### Public Art Commission

February 19 | 8:30 a.m.

### Transportation Commission

February 18 | 6 p.m.

### Tree Commission

February 4 | 6 p.m.

### Wildfire Safety Commission

February 17 | 11 a.m.

▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900 ▲ Meetings are held electronically until further notice. Please check [ashland.or.us/calendar.asp](http://ashland.or.us/calendar.asp) for information on how to view the meetings live or watch a recorded version. ▲ City Council, Parks, and Planning meetings are broadcast live on channel 9. Charter Communications customers will find city meetings on channels 180 and 181. Meetings also stream live on the internet at [rvtv.sou.edu](http://rvtv.sou.edu), select channel RVTV Prime.

Check out this and past versions of the City Source online anytime at [ashland.or.us/citysource](http://ashland.or.us/citysource).

For more information on different ways to “Connect with Us” go to [ashland.or.us/connect](http://ashland.or.us/connect).



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**ASHLAND**

20 East Main St., Ashland, OR 97520 | [www.ashland.or.us](http://www.ashland.or.us)

