The City is pleased to present this summary of the annual budget for the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2019 and ends on June 30, 2020. The budget is balanced, with revenues meeting expenditures.

**Highlights of 2019-20 Proposed Budget**

- Budget is balanced.
- Budget is in compliance with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen’s debt and fund reserve policies, significantly exceeding the reserve requirements.
- The City property tax remains unchanged at $0.4176 per $100 of assessed valuation. The Invest Franklin dedicated funding for infrastructure/transportation investment and support of City operations remains in place. The City of Franklin continues to maintain one of the lowest municipal property tax rates in the State of Tennessee.
- Overall, the budget has a net increase of 10 positions in the General Fund. These new positions are targeted in the areas of Engineering, Streets, Purchasing, Administration, Information Technologies, Parks, and Police, all of which have been impacted by growth and the City’s need to manage a larger group of infrastructure and facilities projects.
- A general pay increase for City team members will be effective the first pay period of July 2019. The budget includes a general pay increase of 2.5% plus an additional performance-based pay increase of up to an additional 2.5%.
- Health Insurance premiums for our City team members includes a 2.5% increase in premiums for the “traditional plan,” the first increase in two years. There is no increase in premiums for the City’s “high deductible” plan paired with a health savings account, an option that was initiated last year.
- Funding is provided for important investments in equipment replacements ($2.67 million), technology enhancements, and facility improvements.
- The budget incorporates performance measures and sustainability initiatives for every department and connects to both the Strategic Plan, FranklinForward, and insights from the recently completed citizen survey.
Revenues

General Fund revenues for 2019-20 are projected at $73.8 million, down 1.2% from the 2018-19 amended budget of $74.7 million. Local sales taxes comprise the largest portion of all revenues and are forecast to increase by a modest 3.5% to $37.1 million in FY 2020. State Shared Taxes (intergovernmental revenues), the second largest portion, are forecast to increase by 7.6% due to higher business tax collections. Property Taxes for operations, the third largest portion of General Fund revenues, will remain essentially flat as most growth is dedicated to servicing new debt.

Although Franklin continues to be the fortunate recipient of a strong commercial base, the City should examine ways to diversify its revenue base in upcoming years. Nearly three of every four dollars which funds General Fund operations comes from consumption taxes, making the City more susceptible to economic downturns.

Expenses

General Fund expenditures for the proposed budget are $73.8 million, down 1.2% from the amended budget for fiscal year 2018-19. Aside from the maintenance of existing City services, the following enhancements have been added in accordance with FranklinForward, the City’s strategic plan.

A Safe, Clean, and Livable City

The addition of three Police Officers in the patrol division, moving the Police Department’s authorized strength from 129 to 132 sworn officers. ● Replacement of 16 police vehicles, each registering more than 100,000 miles on them ($1 million). ● Construction of Fire Station 7 (southeast Franklin), included in the City Facilities Tax Fund. ● Replacement of Fire Tower #3 ($1 million). ● Replacement of Police tasers ($59,000). ● Additional outdoor warning siren installation ($30,000 from Facilities Tax funds).

Effective and Fiscally Sound City Government Providing High-quality Services

Additional and replacement vehicles/equipment in Sanitation, Streets, Water Management, and Building and Neighborhood Services. ● Continued additional General Fund support of $1 million to the Street Aid Fund for neighborhood street resurfacing, street sealing, and sidewalk repair/construction. ● Capital Investment Project management enhancements through added staff positions including Contract Administrator, Senior Capital Projects Inspector, and Road Inspector. ● Implementation of the enhanced residential recycling program with roll-out containers effective January 2020. ● New software to streamline the procurement process ($49,000) and new Procurement Officer position.

Quality Life Experiences

Replacement of tennis courts at Jim Warren Park. ● Assistant Parks Director position with an emphasis on project oversight and implementation. ● Additional Landscape Crew Chief in Parks. ● Additional Federal Line markers related to the Battle of Franklin preservation efforts.

Sustainable Growth and Economic Prosperity

Pilot program to work w/development community to support development of attainable/work force housing ($100,000) ● Continued funding for Franklin Transit fixed route system with 30-minute pick-up frequency for all stops & additional funding for the 91X commuter bus service to Nashville ● Additional support ($5,000) for econ. dev. initiatives of Williamson Inc.