

BUDGET GUIDING PRINCIPLES

(April 2019)

City of Boulder Vision:

Service Excellence for an Inspired Future

The City of Boulder develops an annual budget, as required by charter and state law. The budget serves as a financial plan and guiding tool to support organizational strategies and values. The budget allocates resources across programs and service areas in order to achieve stated outcomes, which reflect community priorities and meet legal and fiscal requirements. The city prioritizes its budget resource allocation both across and within funds based on the following guiding principles.

1. Supports the city as a whole (One City, One Boulder): maximizing outcomes, providing efficient and effective service delivery, implementing continuous improvement, meeting service needs, and supporting collaboration and community partnerships across the city.
2. Achieves the goals of the Sustainability + Resilience Framework, which are to support and further a community that is:
 - Safe
 - Healthy & Socially Thriving
 - Livable
 - Accessible & Connected
 - Environmentally Sustainable
 - Responsibly Governed
 - Economically Vital
3. Adheres to the city's Budget Policies. Primary policies include:
 - One-time revenues shall only be used to cover one-time costs. Ongoing costs should not be greater than ongoing revenues.
 - Debt shall not be utilized for operating expenses.
 - Maintains an adequate level of reserves and support a strong bond rating.
4. Remains nimble and flexible, providing capacity to respond to emerging and unanticipated needs, and in support of building resilience as an organization by using sound decision-making based on robust metrics, as available.
5. Maintains consistency with, and in support of, council-accepted master plans and strategic plans.
6. Prioritizes the maintenance and enhancement of critical services and existing assets to the greatest extent possible and supports city-wide "business systems", such as information and finance systems, for the city over the long term while balancing needed investments for enhancements or new facilities to support levels of service outlined in master plans.
7. Strategically aligns operating and capital investments for coordinated and efficient results; ensuring operating and maintenance costs can support the capital investment and evaluating on-going savings that can be realized through capital investment while providing for appropriate and strategic levels of replacement funding.
8. Ensures that the planning/design/decision making processes consider impacts on energy use for city operations and that they reflect the city's adopted Climate Commitment goals. All new facilities and energy consuming equipment should strive to have a net zero emissions impact.
9. Upholds the total compensation strategy while supporting organizational capacity and employee training.
10. Optimizes leveraged external funding opportunities.