



City Councilmembers Doug Thomason, Mayor Gregg Palmer, Linda Romer Todd, Jim Doody, Bonnie Beckstein, Mayor Pro Tem Teresa Coons and Bruce Hill

A Message from the Mayor

As you enjoy the wonderful photographs included with this year's City Calendar and Annual Report, I'm sure you will agree this is a special place, and why I feel blessed to be the Mayor of such a splendid community. It is also a great opportunity to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. Our nation has gone through an historic election, and suffered through some very difficult economic times. We are fortunate in Grand Junction that we continue to have a strong local economy, well diversified, and will notice very few bumps that will plague many other communities. We continue to have good economic growth, low unemployment, and stable housing markets. This has enabled us to guide our community through some notable accomplishments recently. We have partnered with School District #51 to add parks and gymnasium space at several schools, as well as an activity center at Bookcliff Middle School. We joined the downtown business community in completing a new parking structure that had been talked about and anticipated for over 20 years and made major improvements to both 7th Street and Colorado Avenue. We finished the Riverside Parkway - the largest capital project in our community's history - to great reviews, and we are already experiencing reduced traffic at key intersections by over 30%. As a community we have greatly increased our conservation efforts, celebrated with a surprisingly well attended community barbecue, and begun the first-ever Comprehensive Plan for our con-

tinued growth - an opportunity to be pro-active rather than reactive in guiding our community in the coming years. It was a great community dialogue about our future, and one that will continue as we discuss other ongoing issues such as our need for new facilities for Fire and Police, the need for additional parks and schools, and future recreational and shopping opportunities.

We are truly blessed to be in an area of such incredible beauty, mild weather, and strong economy. Our retail climate is thriving, along with our tourism, wineries, medical facilities, college, and airport. We see many people stepping forward to volunteer for the many boards and commissions that serve our community. As you look through this year's calendar, note the many opportunities where you too can serve, celebrate, and enjoy our community. I join with the rest of your City Council, and the many fine staff members of the City who serve you so well day in and day out, in wishing you a fun and full year of living in one of the very best parts of the country.

Gregg Palmer
Gregg Palmer, Mayor
City of Grand Junction

Year 2008 Highlights...

2008 was a very busy year for the City of Grand Junction and all City employees put their best effort forward to keep up with the demands that come with a rapidly growing and changing community. While the list of all that took place during the year is quite extensive, we want to share with you just a sample of some of the more significant and notable accomplishments and events that occurred during 2008:

During 2008, Gregg Palmer and Teresa Coons graciously took on the roles as the new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem of this great city. ~ City energy conservation efforts had a big jump start as recycling was implemented during JUCO. Additional "green" City projects involving geothermal, compressed natural gas, and energy audits are all underway. ~ The City was pleased to welcome Rich Englehart as the new Deputy City Manager. ~ City Council and Planning Commission meetings became even more accessible to the general public as streaming video was implemented, making it possible to watch meetings and informational videos over the Internet. ~ The City's Visitor and Convention Bureau merged with Two Rivers Convention Center creating a soon-to-be-named new department focused on tourism, conventions and economic development. ~ Police property and evidence storage was successfully moved from the inadequate facility in which they were

housed to a much improved off-site facility near the City Shops. ~ The Fire Department worked cooperatively with Mesa State College to establish the community's first Paramedic Program, which will serve as a great resource to all area fire departments. ~ City Council was asked to grapple with the question of whether invocation should continue to be a regular part of their meetings. After much public input, Council voted to continue the tradition with some minor modifications. ~ A significant public education and community outreach effort was undertaken in advance of two public safety initiative ballot questions being brought to the voters. ~ The Parks and Recreation Department welcomed a new Executive Director, Rob Schoeber. ~ Development of the joint City/County Comprehensive Plan continued with a series of public open houses and outreach efforts. The Plan is expected to be complete in spring 2009. ~ The community was shocked and drawn together when senseless and unexplained shootings occurred in a neighborhood in the north part of Grand Junction. The Grand Junction Police Department worked tirelessly to ease the community's fears and to establish the sequence of events that led up to the tragedy. ~ Many City of Grand Junction resources had to be quickly mobilized as our community was visited by both Presidential candidates Barak Obama and John McCain as well as Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin within a very short timeframe. ~ The much-anticipated Riverside Parkway opened to great reviews and was quickly

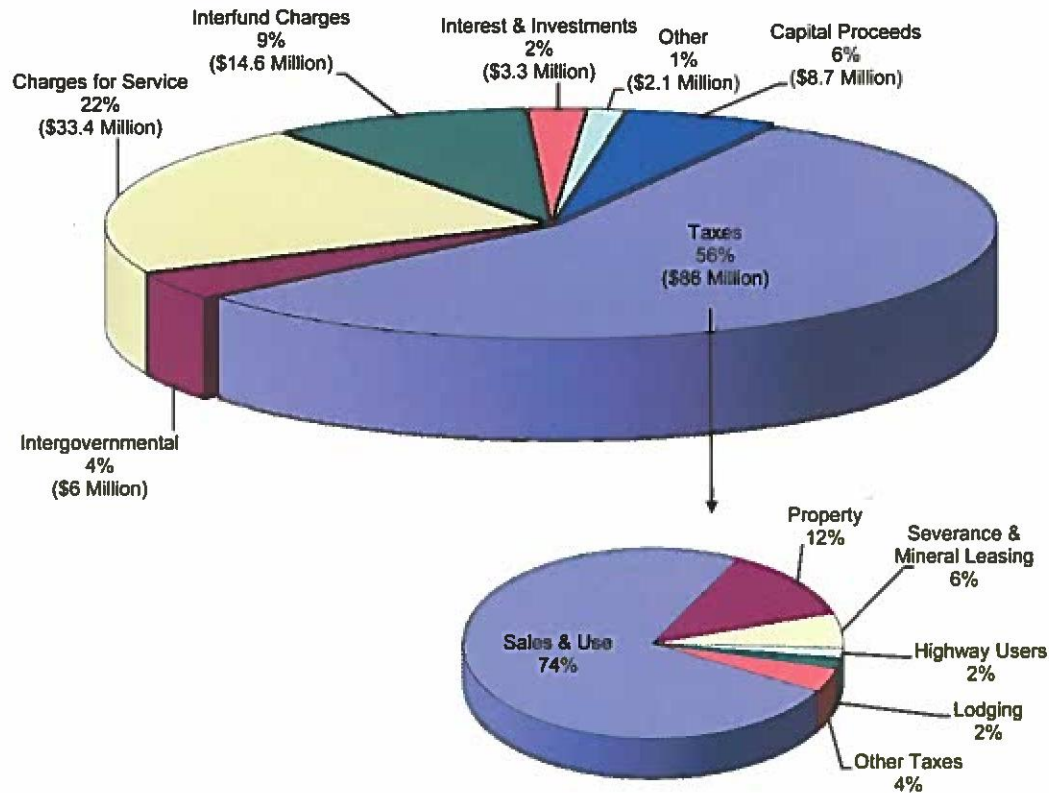
attributed to a significant traffic count decrease along I-70B and at 1st and Grand. ~ The newly redesigned and improved Web site of the Visitor and Convention Bureau, www.visitgrandjunction.com, was the recipient of a silver level award from the Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International. The VCB's online magazine, which can be accessed through the Web site, was the recipient of a gold award. ~ Adjustments to the Persigo/201 boundary were made following a series of public open houses and much deliberation. ~ Negotiations got underway and grant funding was secured to make great use of an existing vacant building by establishing an emergency services training facility where firefighters will be able to conduct hands-on drills and training exercises. ~ The Lincoln Park-Moyer Pool said goodbye to an old friend and hello to a new one as the outdated and splintering water slide came down and a new enclosed water tube version took its place. ~ And, as a result of funding from the Downtown Development Authority, improvements to the Main Street area of our community's downtown were made with the reconstruction of 7th Street and Colorado Avenue.

As you can clearly see, City leaders had their hands full in 2008 with many important projects and events that all contribute to the quality of life we all enjoy in Grand Junction. As we approach 2009, the City of Grand Junction looks forward to continued community partnerships as we focus on serving you, the citizens of Grand Junction.

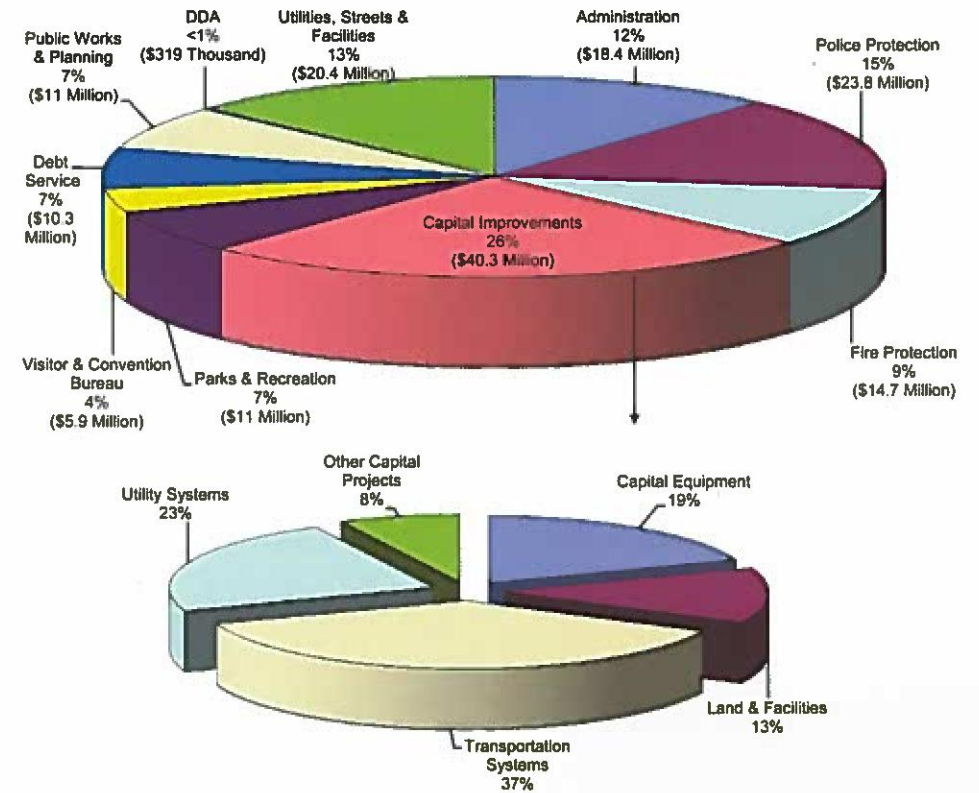
City of Grand Junction Budget

Where the Money Comes From...

The main source of revenue the City will use for general government operations in 2009 is generated from taxes. Of the projected \$86 million in tax revenue collected, 74% will be in the form of sales and use tax with only 18% of that amount being paid by Grand Junction residents.



Where the Money Goes...



Capital improvements of streets, parks, utility systems and other infrastructure continue to be a major category of expenditure, accounting for 30% of the total general government expenditures.

November 2008 Budget Message from City Manager

Mayor Palmer, City Councilmembers and citizens:

It is with mixed emotion that I write the 2008 budget message in preparation for 2009. While our local economy is sustaining some growth much of the nation is not. Of 124 small metro areas, we have been identified as the 5th "best performing" by the Milken Institute even though 2008 presented unprecedented downward trends in investment capital and the banking and housing industries. Some members of our community have suffered the effects of those downward changes; however our local economic indicators show solid, steady growth – 8% increases in revenues overall. We must, however continue to be diligent in monitoring our local economy for changes. This year we began to compare our local sales tax revenue by sector to those at the national level. To the left is a sample of how we differ from the rest of the nation. In every category our local economy is stronger than the national average. Our 2009 projections are for solid, steady growth in sales and use taxes as well as mineral revenues. The diversity of our economy with tourism, regional retail, education and health care as well as energy development will continue to provide growth for the city into 2009. New hotels are being built, Sun-Cor Technologies (a biofuels company) is locating to our community and the natural gas industry will continue to create jobs and investment in Western Colorado. Our historical revenue growth is 7% for over 25 years and over 8% for the last 10 years and we do not expect 2009 to be an exception to that.

According to the census figures released in March, the Grand Junction Metropolitan Statistical area (MSA) was the 9th fastest growing metro area in the United States from 2006-07. One only need look around the community to witness the growth we are experiencing and the benefits and challenges it brings. One of these challenges is the complexity of

providing the services needed today while planning for a growing regional population and the changing demographics of our community. The cost of building roads has averaged a 25% increase per year over the last five years, fuel costs have increased 50% in 2008 and now have reduced 50% over the last two weeks, and fertilizer has doubled in 2008. These increases and price changes make budgeting expenses and estimating projects more difficult than in past years. A significant challenge lies ahead in our capacity to service increasingly complex public safety needs. While our current revenues are growing we are limited in our capacity to construct new facilities because of our financial commitments to repay the Riverside Parkway debt previously authorized by the voters. We asked voters to approve a ¼-cent increase in sales tax this November so that construction could begin sooner rather than later. However the revenue increase was not approved. We will be evaluating the reasons for that and seeking grants and community partners in order to move the construction of the facilities forward.

We thank the Council and community for recognizing our need to plan and serve our growing community. I assure you that we are using our resources wisely in 2009. In addition to developing the design and location for a future public safety initiative we will begin "Phase 2" of the Riverside Parkway project by creating a 29 Road and I-70B interchange, complete the "Big Pipe" flood control and drainage project, and complete the joint City-County Comprehensive Plan with updated Code revisions.

Thank you for providing me an opportunity to serve this community at such an exciting and challenging time.
 Laurie M. Kadrich, City Manager

BUDGET YEAR

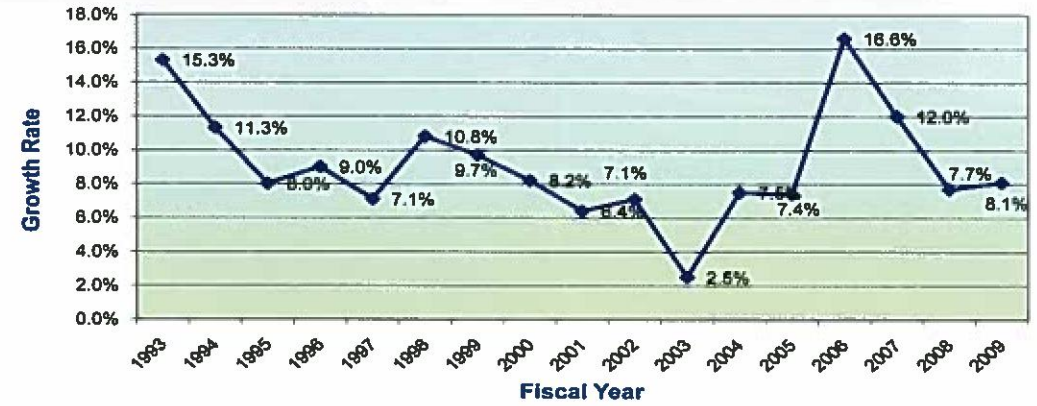
Major Capital Improvement Projects

	2008	2009	2-Year Total
Emergency Response Training Facility	\$ 50,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,550,000
Public Safety Initiative*	\$ 7,033,433	\$ -	\$ 7,033,433
29 Road Viaduct	\$ 100,000	\$ 6,600,000	\$ 6,700,000
Facilities Fund	\$ 804,462	\$ 825,000	\$ 1,629,462
Riverside Parkway	\$ 5,646,130	\$ -	\$ 5,646,130
Sewer System Improvements	\$ 7,885,000	\$ 4,850,349	\$ 12,735,349
Storm Drainage Improvements	\$ 7,517,635	\$ 4,027,700	\$ 11,545,335
Street Overlay/Maintenance Program	\$ 1,792,723	\$ 1,850,000	\$ 3,642,723
Melody Lane; I-70B to North Avenue	\$ 132,000	\$ 1,063,000	\$ 1,195,000
Canyon View Park	\$ 1,120,785	\$ 350,000	\$ 1,470,785
Colorado Avenue Improvements	\$ 4,145,360	\$ 232,700	\$ 4,378,060
Vehicle Replacement Program	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 2,100,000	\$ 3,300,000
Water System Improvements	\$ 3,395,000	\$ 1,352,243	\$ 4,747,243

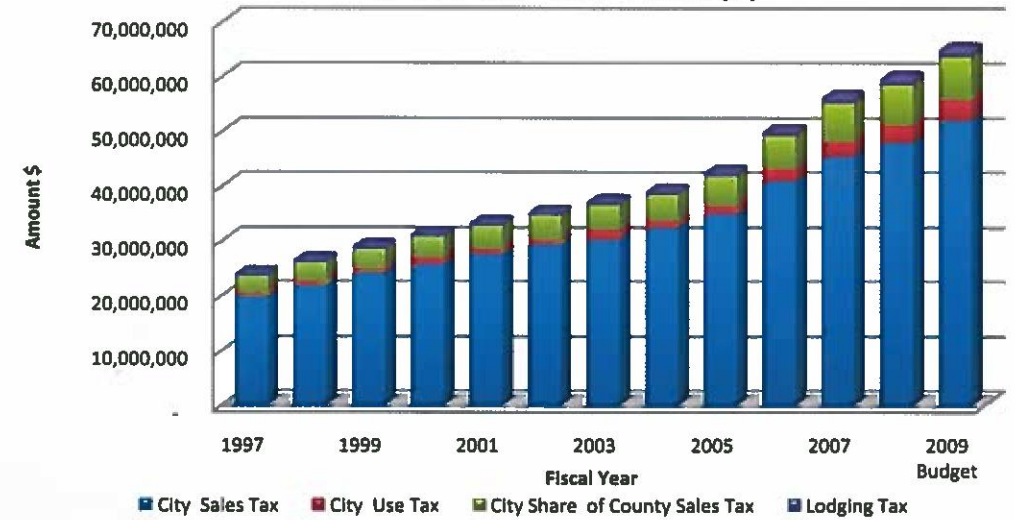
☑ Continues Beyond 2009

* Property acquisition, demolition and design work (\$500,000 grant received for design)

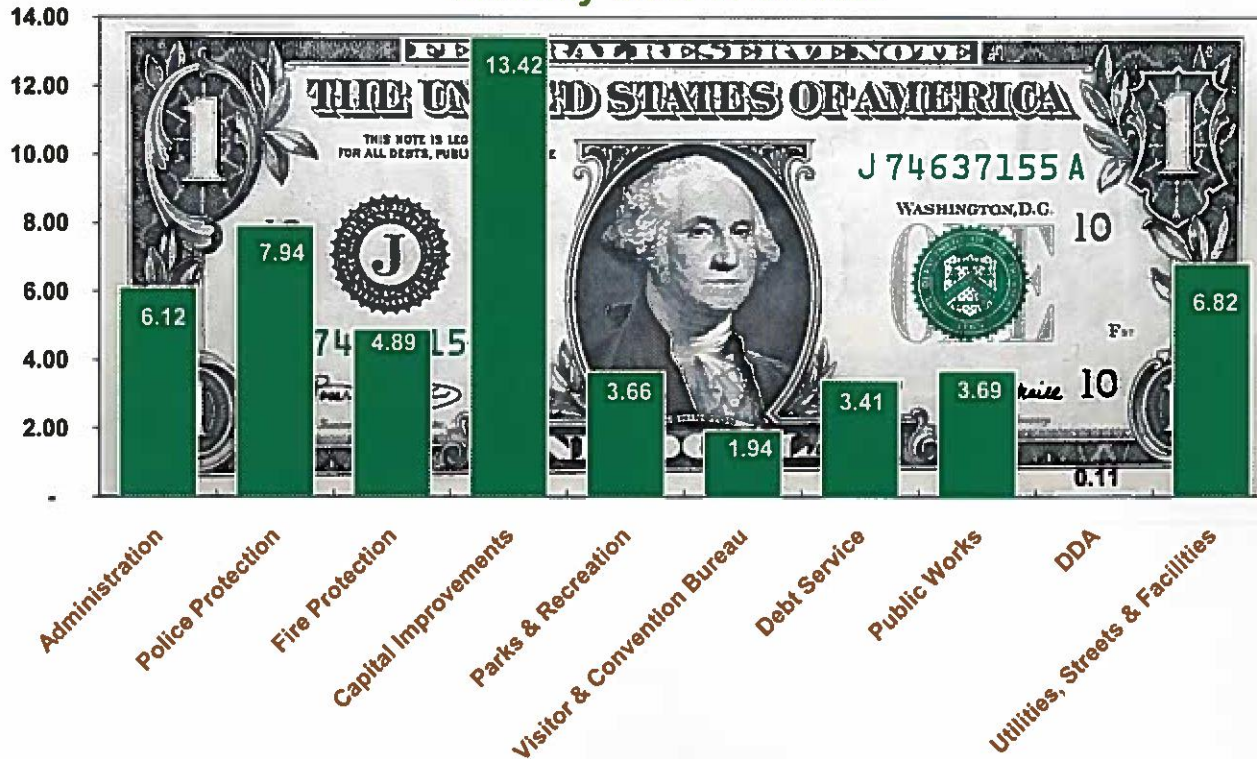
Historical 2.75% City Sales Tax Collections Growth Rate



Sales & Use Tax Collections (\$)



Monthly Cost of Service



The average homeowner will pay \$627 in annual taxes, or \$52 per month, in support of all general government services provided by the City of Grand Junction.

Sales Tax Revenue By Major Industry Type

