



City Councilmembers Tom Kenyon, Mayor Bruce Hill, Mayor Pro Tem Teresa Coons, Linda Romer Todd, Bonnie Beckstein, Gregg Palmer and Bill Pitts

A Message from the Mayor

As you page through the 2010 Calendar and Annual Report, I hope you will appreciate what a beautiful and active community this is that we are all so very fortunate to call home. This is my home town and I am proud to be Mayor in such an outstanding community – a community that truly cares.

The City Calendar and Annual Report comes to your door to bring you so much more than just the breathtaking geography that surrounds us here, although that certainly is one very popular aspect of it. This document also serves as one of the City of Grand Junction's most popular and important communication tools. It provides us a venue to let you know about a myriad of topics all the way from details of the City budget, to when area Farmer's Markets begin, to when you can expect your trash pickup to be delayed.

The office of the Mayor and all of City Council are interested in hearing from you on any issue, even issues on which we may not agree. Good citizen representation requires honest and respectful conversations that reflect the needs of our community. Please feel free to contact us in whatever form makes you the most comfortable. You will find a listing of all important City telephone numbers in the calendar.

I encourage you to consider expanding your involvement in our community by applying for one of our many boards and commissions, which are also listed in the calendar, and becoming involved in an advisory capacity with the City. The mission of the City of Grand Junction is to provide the best possible service to the public regardless of the department. I will tell you personally that I am very proud of the dedication our team displays as they work together with you, the members of this community.

Best Regards,

Bruce Hill, Mayor
City of Grand Junction

Year 2009 Highlights...

2009 was a year that brought a great deal of change to our nation, to our community, and to the City of Grand Junction. The City experienced sustained revenue declines for the first time in over 20 years. This led to some creative approaches to maintaining the level of services the citizens of this community are accustomed to receiving. Despite budget reductions, hiring holds, internal employee transfers, and wage freezes, City employees have stepped up to the plate to work even harder to continue to serve this great community.

One cost consideration worth mentioning here was the printing of this calendar and annual report. Discussions were held about the possibility of discontinuing it. The popularity of the calendar is extremely high, so we felt strongly about doing what we could to continue it. Although the calendar was already a cost-effective project, research was done on further cutting the costs and the result was a creative approach to distributing the calendar which resulted in a significant cost savings.

While many things took place throughout the year, the following is just a snapshot of the more significant and notable accomplishments and occurrences during 2009:

In 2009, then-Mayor Gregg Palmer was invited to appear on national television on two separate occasions to discuss how Grand Junction was weathering the downturn in the economy at the time. Although the local economy cooled following the appearances, the national news coverage

helped put Grand Junction on the map. ~ Modern technology, outstanding detective work and some keen minds led to the Police Department arresting a suspect in an unsolved cold case murder dating back to 1975. ~ Following a regular City Council election, and the election of new City Councilmembers Tom Kenyon and Bill Pitts, Bruce Hill took on the role as our new Mayor and Teresa Coons graciously agreed to a second term as Mayor Pro Tem of this great city. ~ We said our good-byes and offered well wishes to outgoing City Councilmembers Jim Doody and Doug Thomason. ~ Grand Junction was selected as one of ten finalists under consideration to become "America's Best Tennis Town". Although we garnered an honorable mention, the national recognition for being a finalist was a great award in itself. ~ The Fire Department skillfully prevented what could have been extensive damage in a major wildfire in the Preserve neighborhood. ~ Grand Junction was granted the Economic Developers Council of Colorado award for 'Large Community of the Year' for our efforts in fostering economic development. ~ Construction on the next phase of the Riverside Parkway, the 29 Road Overpass, got underway. The long-term goal of the project is to ultimately connect to I-70 at 29 Road. ~ Mid-year City utility rebates were paid to customers in response to the decline in gasoline prices. ~ The Visitor and Convention Bureau's Visitor Center was remodeled adding interactive exhibits, local art and a water feature and, despite the slowing economy, the VCB saw an overall increase in in-state visitors to Grand Junction. ~ Council voted to not proceed with a public safety initiative ballot question, but instead to wait and gather more feedback from the community before the project proceeds. ~ The \$15M "Big Pipe Project" was completed, removing 383 properties from the

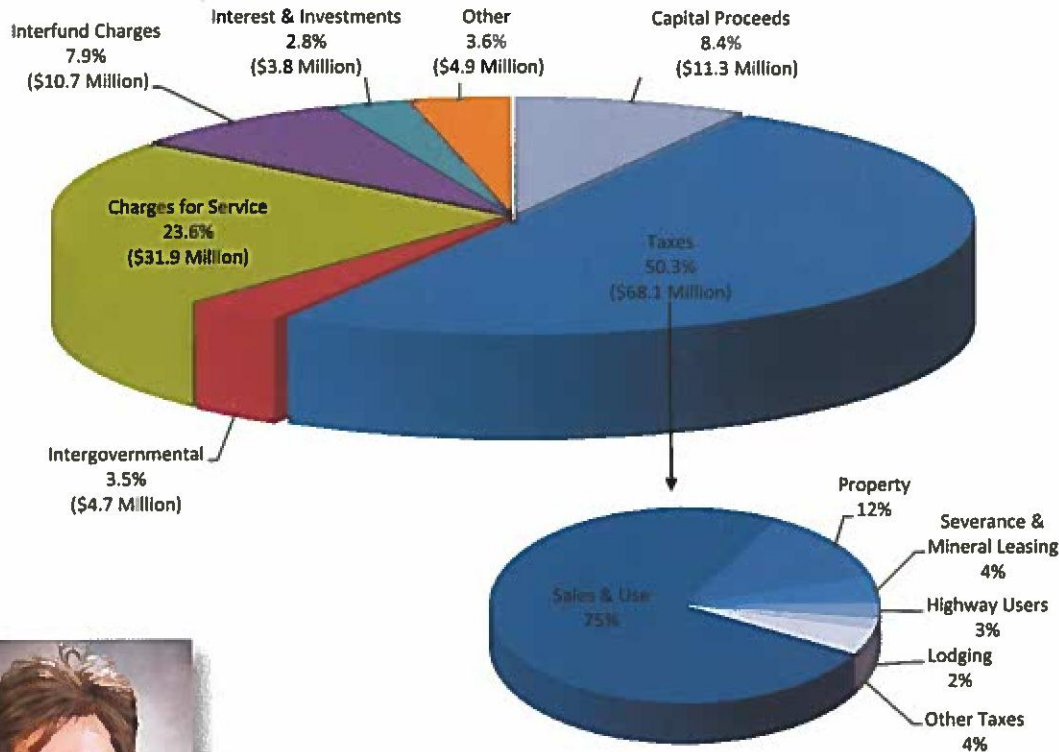
100-year flood plain. ~ Police Chief Bill Gardner announced his resignation after over three years with the Department. Interim Police Chief John Camper joined the organization to serve until a permanent Chief is selected. ~ Development of the joint City/County Comprehensive Plan continued with a series of public open houses and outreach efforts. ~ The City's "CORE Team" continued their "green" efforts including the installation of solar panels at Two Rivers Convention Center and the Visitor's Center. ~ The Fire Department, in conjunction with the BLM and the Colorado State Forest Service, created and trained a Wildland Fire Response Team. ~ Funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act began to make their way to Grand Junction to pay for law enforcement communication needs, new police officers, and energy conservation programs. The outcome of other funding requests is still pending. ~ The Planning Division postponed development fees on planning clearances for new construction to try to jump start residential construction. ~ Many City of Grand Junction resources had to be quickly mobilized as our community was visited by the President of the United States Barack Obama and his family.

As you can clearly see, City leaders and staff had their hands full in 2009 with many important projects and events. All of these activities contribute to the great quality of life we all have come to know and enjoy in Grand Junction. During 2010 the City of Grand Junction looks forward to continuing to partner with others in this community as we focus on our service to you, the citizens of Grand Junction. We hope that you will consider involving yourself in some fashion in the activities of the City of Grand Junction.

City of Grand Junction Budget

Where the Money Comes From...

The main source of revenue the City uses for general government is generated from taxes. Seventy five percent is in the form of sales and use tax with only 18% of that amount being paid by Grand Junction residents.



Laurie M. Kadrich

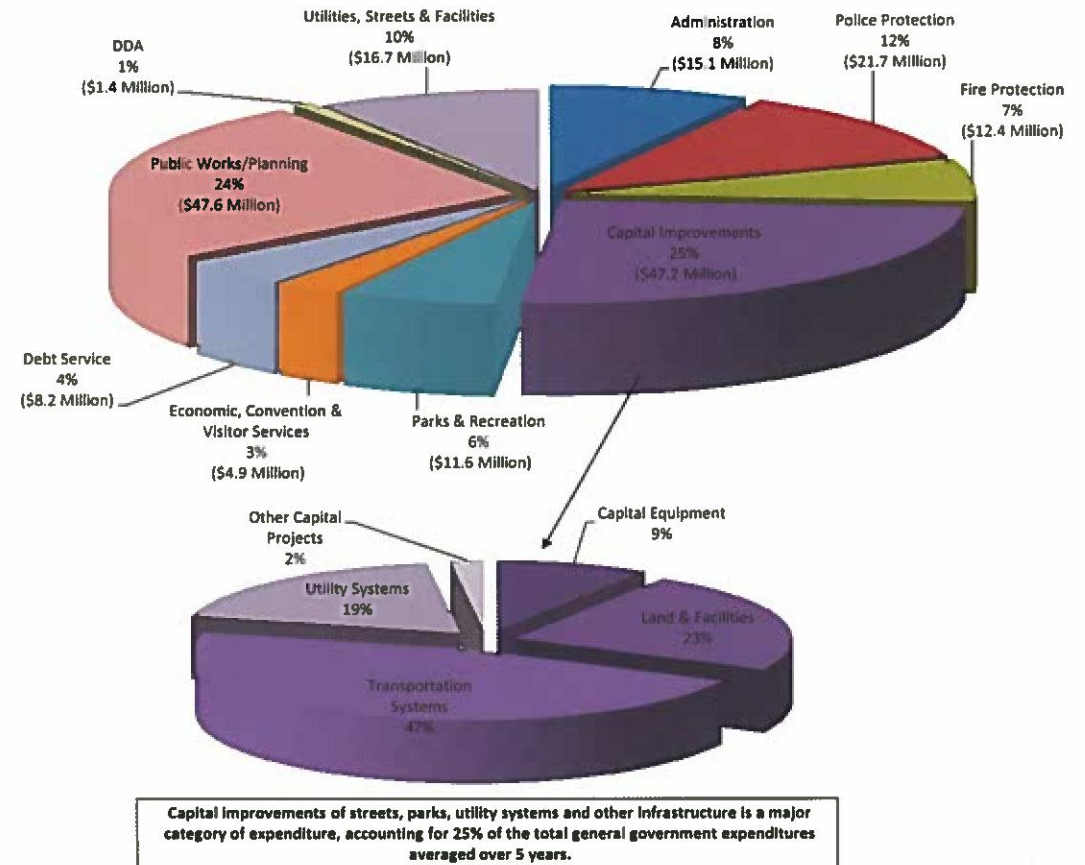
October 2009 Budget Message from the City Manager

Dear citizens of Grand Junction,

I am writing this as of autumn 2009 and as we are all well aware, our community has experienced an economic downturn over the last year. Several areas of our local economy have been impacted including: energy drilling activity has significantly declined resulting in layoffs; construction activity has dropped by more than 70% further adding to the number of people laid off; the labor force (number of employable people) has increased while the number of jobs has decreased resulting in the local unemployment rate more than doubling; and severance tax and mineral leasing funds distributed by the State to cities and counties declined in 2009. As a result, the City has experienced declining revenues, including sales and use tax, which is the City's largest source of revenue. Sales and use tax revenues are used to support general government services including police, fire, parks and recreation, and streets. In addition, we are obligated to make an annual \$7 million payment toward the Riverside Parkway debt.

In anticipation of and response to these impacts, the City, beginning in late 2008 and continuing throughout this year, has re-balanced the 2009 budget to operate within the declining revenues and projected fund reserves. Since implementing a hiring freeze early this year, we are down 28 positions from our 2009 authorized full-time employee count, and we have reassigned another eight employees, many to fill needs in public safety. We have worked to move forward capital projects in water, sewer, and golf operations to take advantage of decreases in debt financing and construction costs, as well as to help stabilize the local economy

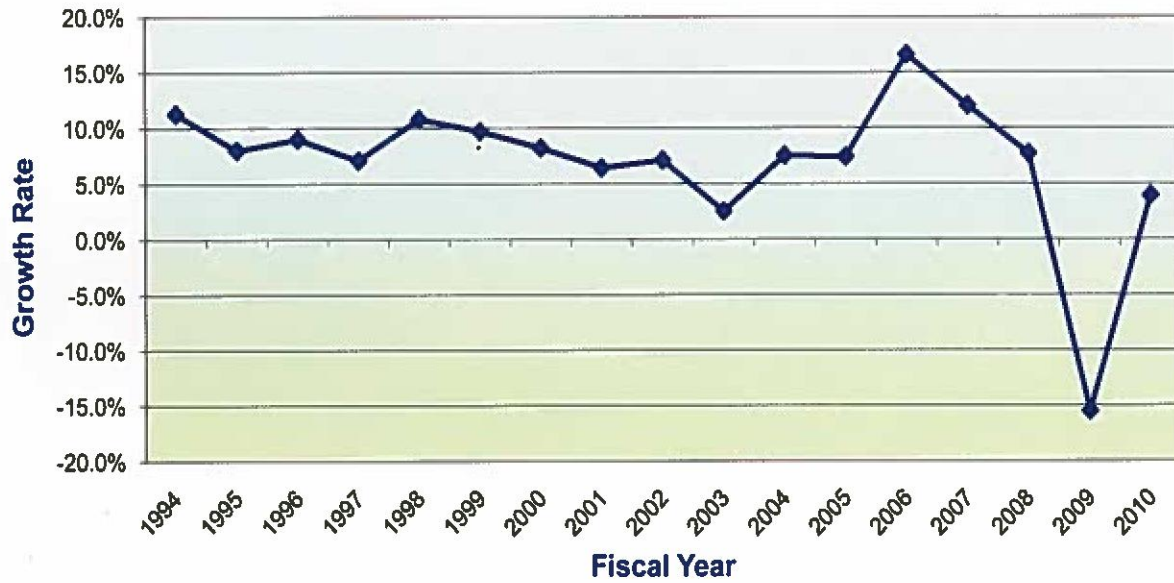
Where the Money Goes...



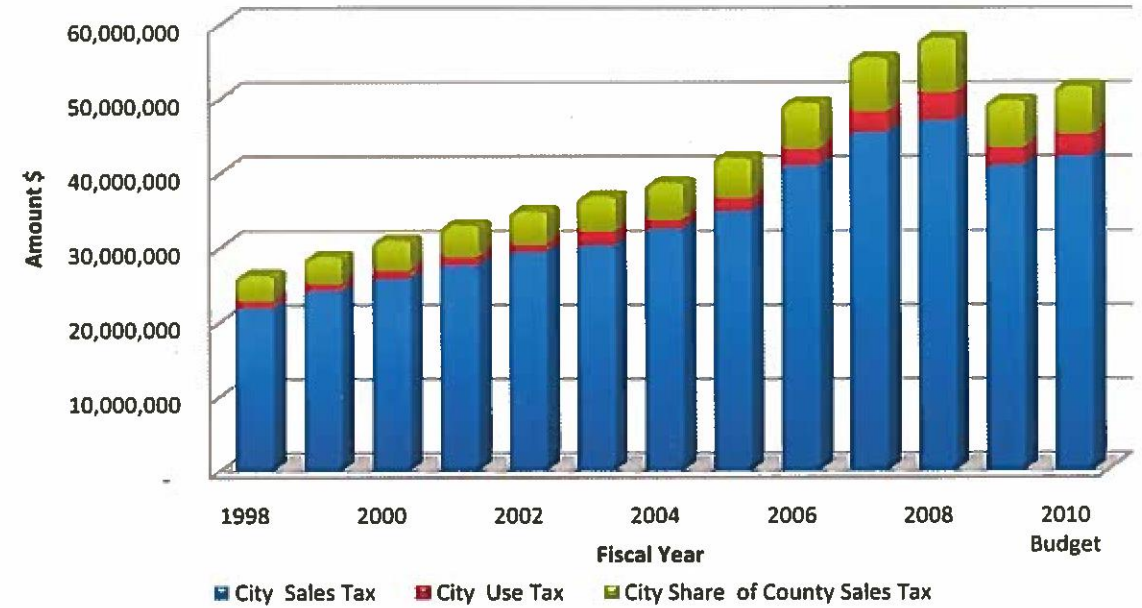
Capital improvements of streets, parks, utility systems and other infrastructure is a major category of expenditure, accounting for 25% of the total general government expenditures averaged over 5 years.

Laurie M. Kadrich
Laurie M. Kadrich, City Manager

Historical Sales Tax Collections Growth Rate



Sales & Use Tax Collections (\$)

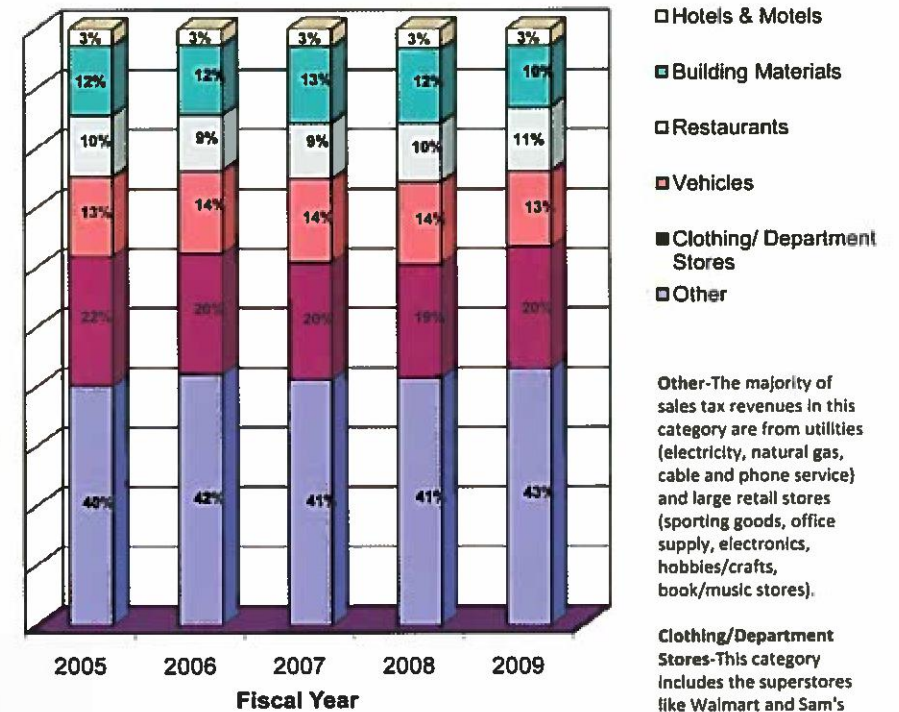


Monthly Cost of Service 2010 Estimated Operating Budget by Service Area



The average Grand Junction resident will pay \$482 in annual taxes received by the City, or \$40 per month, in support of all general government services provided by the City of Grand Junction. This does not include the \$11-\$12 per month that goes towards major capital projects. Economic, Convention and Visitor Services is not included here because the department is funded by lodging tax and service fees.

Sales Tax Revenue By Major Industry Type



Other-The majority of sales tax revenues in this category are from utilities (electricity, natural gas, cable and phone service) and large retail stores (sporting goods, office supply, electronics, hobbies/crafts, book/music stores).

Clothing/Department Stores-This category includes the superstores like Walmart and Sam's Club

Note: Gasoline, groceries and prescription medicine are not subject to City of Grand Junction sales tax.