

# A Message from the Mayor



City Council members Gregg Palmer, Tom Kenyon, Bonnie Beckstein, Bruce Hill, Mayor Teresa Coons, Bill Pitts, Sam Susuras

Each year, many of us look forward to receiving the City Calendar and Annual Report, not because we lack access to calendars, but because this creative document reminds us of the beauty and uniqueness of the community in which we live, work and play. This year's calendar is no exception. As Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, the annual calendar gives me the opportunity to comment on the significant achievements and events of the past year.

This City Council's Mission and Vision is "to make the City of Grand Junction the most liveable City west of the Rockies." This year, City Council expressed this vision in a tangible form by adopting, along with the Mesa County Commissioners, a new Comprehensive Plan for the future growth and development of Grand Junction. Our talented and dedicated City employees strive every day to make this vision a reality. The programs, activities and services that are provided by City staff create the quality of life that we experience and have a positive impact on economic development in our community. Grand Junction has clearly not been immune to the effects of the recent recession. And although we are seeing signs of economic recovery, the impacts of decreased sales tax revenues and high unemployment have greatly affected the City's budget this year and the forecast for next year. To cope with decreased revenue with the least possible impact on services to our citizens, the City has cut staff salaries, decreased personnel and shifted job functions. At the same time, the City has invested, whenever possible, in capital projects to keep local contractors working and stimulate the local economy. We have moved infrastructure

improvements forward in our capital plan and have initiated significant projects like the 29 Road Viaduct project, with the help of Federal stimulus dollars.

Communication has been a significant theme for City Council this year. Two of the highest profile issues on our plate – public safety facilities and medical marijuana retail sales – were the subjects of intensive outreach to obtain public input. Surveys, community meetings in a variety of settings, public hearings and a telephone town hall meeting were the means by which City Council listened to citizens' voices on these topics. In addition, we received numerous written and verbal messages regarding both topics. Although City Council must ultimately make a decision in the best interest of the community, we truly value the input of residents and business owners who have a stake in the outcome of our decisions. Public participation is a critical component of public government, and a very important responsibility of citizens. We are so very appreciative of those of you who embrace this responsibility and put your voices to work. As you enjoy this calendar and the images of our community's bounty and opportunities, please consider serving on one of our many committees and commissions and participating in the numerous events that enrich our quality of life. *Your voice matters!*

Best Regards,

*Teresa L. Coons*  
Teresa Coons, Mayor  
City of Grand Junction

## Year 2010 Highlights...

2010 was a challenging year that brought a great deal of financial uncertainty to our community and to the City of Grand Junction; much of it the result of a declining national economy. The Grand Valley has experienced catastrophic job losses that number in the thousands. City services are essential to maintain the quality of life we experience here in Grand Junction, so a focus on continuing to provide the most key services Grand Junction residents require while trying to stimulate the economy became paramount. Although at the time this is being written, the budget remains uncertain, our dedication to providing high quality services that positively impact our community will continue.

For the second year in a row, serious consideration was given to the possibility of discontinuing the printing of this calendar and annual report; however we had many requests to keep producing it. Its popularity continues to run extremely high so we set out to find a way to keep it. Although significant cost savings were realized last year by partnering with Goldleaf Telephone Directories on delivery, additional cost cuts were incorporated this year. The entire publication is now black and white and the tradition of compensating the photographers whose work is displayed on the pages was suspended. We do not think that either of these moves compromised the beauty of the calendar, and we hope that you will agree.

*While there was so much that took place during 2010, the following provides a snapshot of the more significant and notable occurrences:*

In 2010, City Council and the Planning Division completed the Comprehensive Plan, laying the groundwork for the future growth and development of our community. The Plan resulted in an Award of Excellence from the American Planning Association Colorado Chapter. ~ Phase one of the Downtown Uplift was completed. The project, which is funded primarily by the Downtown Association, beautified and updated the west end of the Main Street shopping park. ~ John Camper proudly accepted the charge of leading our police force as he was appointed the new Chief of Police. ~ Suplezio Field was selected as "Field of the Year" by the Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association. ~ Following the resignation of Councilmember Linda Romer Todd, Sam Susuras was selected to fill the seat of District B. ~ The Downtown Development Authority and the Grand Junction Symphony collaborated to develop a master renovation plan for the Avalon Theatre. ~ City Council took to the streets as they launched the Public Safety Facilities Listening Tour to gather the community's thoughts on the need for new public safety facilities. The message was clear: the need is evident...scale the scope back...spend within your budget. Following that guidance, a plan for funding much-needed public safety facilities was approved by City Council in September. The construction project, which is slated for 2011 and 2012, will create jobs in the community while at the same time addressing a long-standing dire need. ~ Tiara Rado golf course became even more inviting as proceeds from golfer fees were used for an upgrade to the irrigation system and course layout. ~ In the City's continuing effort to conserve energy and practice sustainability, the Solid Waste Division ordered four new compressed natural gas (CNG)-fueled trash trucks. A CNG fueling station for the trucks is in the works that will ultimately be open for public use. ~ The Police Department continued to keep our com-

munity safe by arresting three murder suspects in separate cases and helping take down a major meth ring. ~ "Ride the Rockies" visited Grand Junction bringing with it thousands of visitors and a \$500,000 community economic boost. ~ Melrose Park received a new look and along with the retirement of "The Rocket" was officially re-named "Rocket Park." ~ Teresa Coons was selected as Mayor and Bonnie Beckstein agreed to join her as Mayor Pro Tem for the year. ~ The 29 Road Viaduct project, which will extend the Riverside Parkway and provide a route over the railroad tracks, got underway. ~ The Fire Department put into service a new 100-foot platform ladder truck which makes it possible to perform rescues and fire suppression activities in some of the taller and larger buildings that are being built. ~ City Council approved a method to partner with Grand Junction Baseball, Inc. to fund a renovation to Stocker Stadium in 2011, creating yet another economic stimulus project as well as securing the JUCO World Series for another 25 years. ~ City Council gathered information and community feedback on the topic of medical marijuana sales. After multiple public hearings, Council passed an ordinance banning medical marijuana retail operations inside the city limits. ~ The City of Grand Junction Water Division was nationally recognized along with the US Forest Service for their collaborative work in protecting our watershed.

It is clear that 2010 was an eventful year. City leaders and staff stayed busy, but also stayed focused on being fiscally prudent, partnering with our community and providing quality service. All of the events of the previous year contribute to the fabric of our community. We look forward to 2011 with hope and optimism.

# City of Grand Junction Budget

## Monthly Cost of Service 2010 Estimated Operating Budget by Service Area



The average City resident will pay \$482 in annual taxes received by the City, or around \$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 are not included because the department is funded by lodging tax and service fees.



### October 2010 Budget Message from the City Manager

Dear Citizens of Grand Junction,

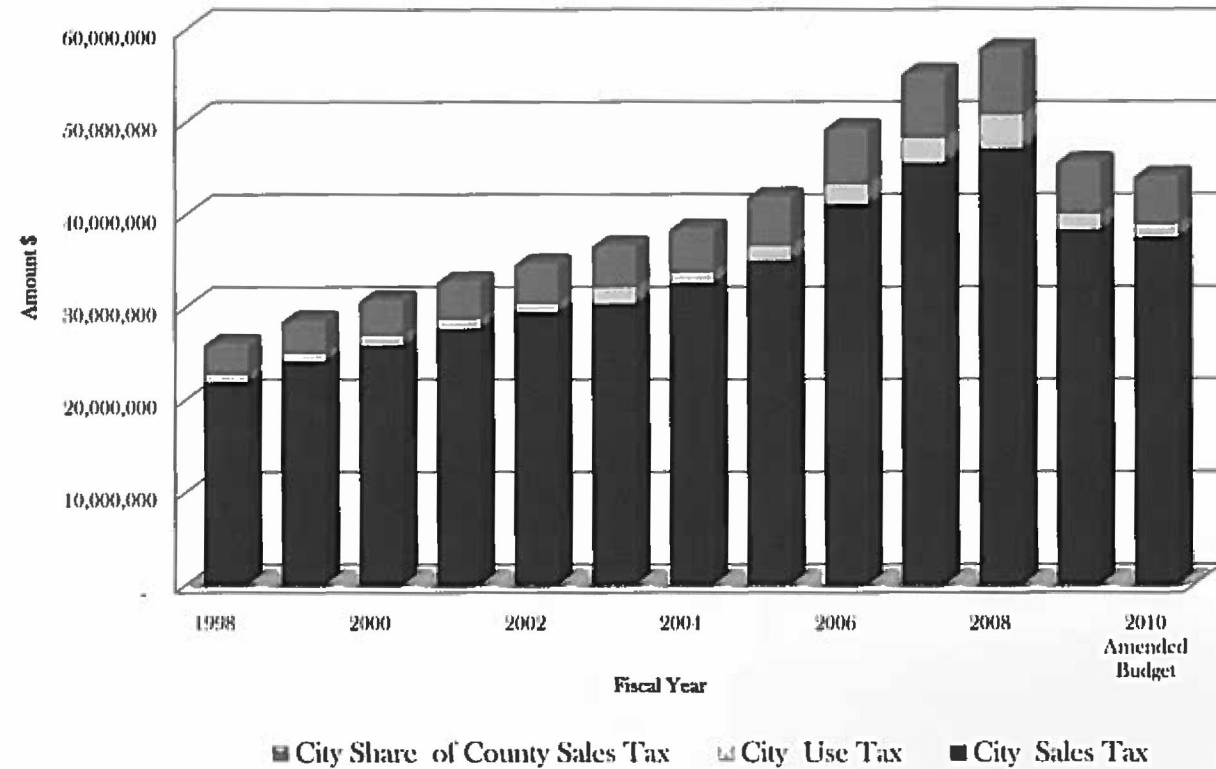
**Laurie M. Kadrach**

I am writing this in early fall 2010 as my leadership staff and I are working hard to prepare budgets in a tenuous environment. I know you all can relate to the fact that this has been a rough year. Our economy in the Grand Valley continues to struggle, and although there has been a glimmer of improvement, experts predict that we are not out of the woods yet. We remain hopeful, but realistic.

Although we have seen some signs of local improvement, our development and construction industry which is a significant employment sector in the Grand Valley, continues to stagnate. In an effort to stimulate the local economy and to create jobs, we rallied our resources and brought forward several utility infrastructure improvement projects early. Typically these projects would be completed over a four or five year timeframe, but we expedited them this year to help bring as much support to our local economy as we could. Construction costs are down dramatically from where they were a couple of years ago and because the City spends money wisely and provides good value for the cost involved, we took advantage of the chance to provide "more bang for the buck."

In addition to the infrastructure improvement projects, we also have the 29 Road Viaduct project underway and plan to have new public safety facilities and improvements to Stocker Stadium under construction soon. All of these projects serve to help create jobs and stimulate our own local economy. Every dollar spent on a project turns over in our economy nearly two times, so the benefit extends well beyond the project itself.

## Sales & Use Tax Collections (\$)



Laurie M. Kadrach, City Manager

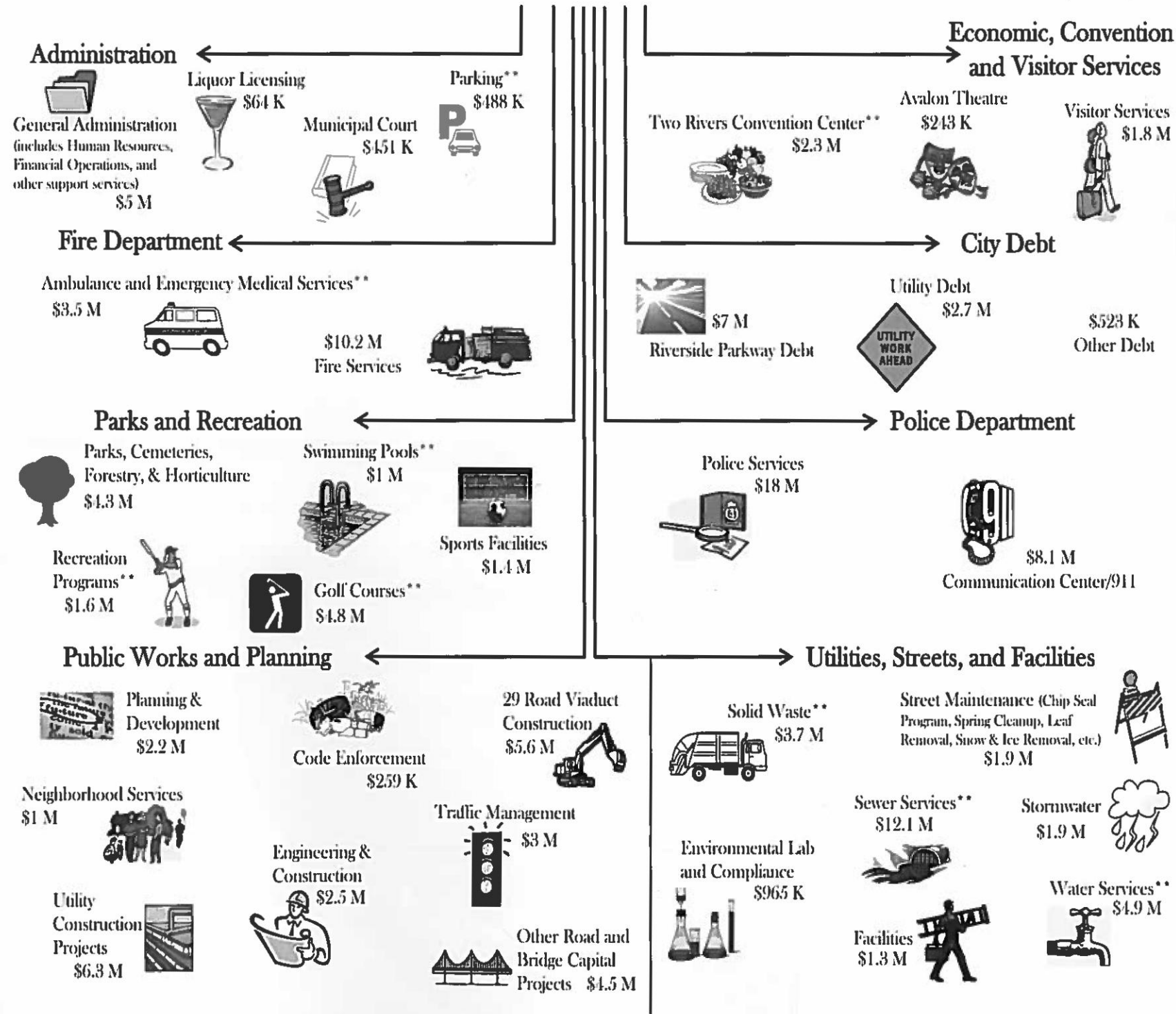
# The City of Grand Junction Budget

Every year the Grand Junction City Council works together with City staff on an intensive budgeting process to determine how resources should be allocated in the coming year. These decisions are made based upon the principle that the City will continue to provide high-quality services in an efficient, cost-effective manner and provide good value for the cost involved. Grand Junction is known for its quality of life and City programs, activities and services play a key role in the life we are fortunate to enjoy in this community.

The expenditure graphic to the right provides an overview of how City of Grand Junction resources are allocated to fund the services we provide to the community. It portrays expenses based on the 2010 amended budget. The table below indicates the sources of all revenues that are used to fund the services. The 2011 budget is in process, but was not used for this calendar due to a variety of issues creating uncertainty in the economy right now. We did not want to provide figures now that will likely change later.

# Citywide Grand Junction 2010 Expenses

\*\*Service funded primarily by user fees.



2010 Budgeted Revenues \$113,500,244

Revenue Source	% of Contribution
<b>Taxes</b>	
Sales & Use Taxes	38.88%
Property Taxes	11.17%
Severance & Mineral Leasing	0.90%
Highway Users Tax	1.92%
Lodging Tax	0.96%
Other Taxes (Franchise Fees, Cigarette Tax, Beer/Liquor Occupational Tax, Motor Vehicle Registration Fees, etc.)	2.92%
<b>Customer Paid Fees (Development Fees, Recreation Fees, Facility Use Fees, Telephone &amp; Wireless Surcharges, Utility Service Fees, etc.)</b>	<b>28.83%</b>
<b>Capital Construction Proceeds</b>	<b>5.90%</b>
<b>Intergovernmental (Federal and State Grants, Reimbursements from Mesa County, Lottery Funds, etc.)</b>	<b>5.22%</b>
<b>Interest &amp; Investments</b>	<b>0.94%</b>
<b>Licenses &amp; Permits (Construction Permits, Liquor &amp; Beer Licenses, Sales Tax Licenses, Burning Permits, Special Event Permits, etc.)</b>	<b>0.10%</b>
<b>Other (Court Fines, Donations, Special Assessments, Seized Funds, Unclaimed Property, Lease Revenue, etc.)</b>	<b>2.26%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>