

A Message from the Mayor

On behalf of the Grand Junction City Council, I am happy to present to you the **City of Grand Junction 2018 Calendar and Annual Report**. As has been our approach for many years, we deliver the City's year-end report to you in the form of a publication that is useful as well as beautiful. I know you will enjoy the outstanding photography of our area, but I also hope that the year-end information provides you with some insight into how your City government serves you and efficiently utilizes tax dollars.

We wrap up 2017 with a newly adopted strategic plan, a newly constructed concert venue along the riverfront, improvements to many of our streets as a result of the voters who supported our ballot question, and a solid sense of hope and excitement for the coming year. I am honored to be serving as Mayor at a time when we are starting to see some real opportunity ahead of us. There are sure signs of movement in our economy, and we are on the front end of some very exciting projects.

There is no doubt that 2018 is shaping up to be a busy year for us. We are working hard on finding a way to expand broadband within our community; we are on the threshold of the creation of a cutting-edge business park along the Colorado River at Las Colonias Park; we have more street maintenance projects on deck; and working in concert with our dedicated City staff, we will be implementing the priorities outlined in our strategic plan.

The photos in this calendar capture the beauty of the area we are all so fortunate to be able to call home. However, the real beauty of our community comes from within. It comes from the giving, caring, "roll up your sleeves" nature of the people who live and work here. I would not want to call any other place home. I am extremely proud of our community and equally optimistic about the opportunities and many good things still down the road for us.

On behalf of your City Council, we wish all of you a 2018 that is filled with much prosperity, happiness and health!



Mayor Rick Taggart



Grand Junction City Council

Checking Back in on 2017

Fast forward just twelve months from when this section of the calendar was last written and we are starting to see some promising activity in our local economy. Unemployment rates are decreasing, real estate values and transactions are on the increase, foreclosures are down, new home construction is growing, sales tax revenues (which provide a good indicator that people are spending money on discretionary items) are slowly rebounding and we are seeing vacant commercial sites starting to fill up. This is all good news and news that we hope not only continues but strengthens as we move into 2018.

2017 was a busy year with a number of accomplishments worth celebrating and a number of situations that helped shape the year. Here is what unfolded:

We started off 2017 with an unprecedented weather event for the Grand Valley. On January 9, our area was struck by an ice storm, reportedly the first in Grand Junction history. The weather paralyzed the Grand Valley while emergency and public works crews worked relentlessly to try to keep up with the 900+ calls that were placed to our 9-1-1 dispatch center. ~ In early January the City contracted with Pinnacle Venue Services to provide management for Two Rivers Convention Center and the Avalon Theatre. By mid-year, this relationship was demonstrating success with strong sales activity, positive net revenue, the addition of new events and a series of new protocols and procedures aimed at reducing long-term costs. ~ In early February, City Council awarded a contract to reconstruct 1st Street, a much-needed and long-awaited infrastructure improvement project. ~ In March, plans were unveiled to create

a business park at the east end of Las Colonias Park. The business park, which will ultimately include a business campus focused on the outdoor recreation industry and light manufacturing, will be anchored by Bonsai Design and will include public amenities such as a lake and a dog park. ~ In April, two ballot questions were presented to Grand Junction voters. One requested an increase in sales tax to fund a downtown event center (2A) and one requested approval to use the Riverside Parkway bonds savings account to increase investment in street maintenance (2B). The event center ballot question was not approved by the voters, but the street maintenance ballot question was. Thanks to the affirmative vote, increased investment in road construction and pavement preservation projects got underway shortly thereafter. ~ Also a product of the April ballot was the election of new City Councilmember Duke Wortmann, representing District D, and shortly thereafter we congratulated new Mayor Rick Taggart and new Mayor Pro Tem Bennett Boeschstein. ~ In late April, the City of Grand Junction welcomed new Community Development Director Tamra Allen. ~ A few changes were made to the Downtown landscape in May that contributed to keeping the experience there enjoyable for all. Through a partnership with the Downtown Business Improvement District, two police officers were dedicated to Downtown patrol, the Police Department's Parks Patrol Unit was incorporated into the Downtown environment and volunteer Ambassadors were recruited to assist with information and fostering a welcoming environment. ~ Especially hot and dry conditions during June and early July generated an increase in high-risk fire calls that kept the Grand Junction Fire Department responding at an unprecedented pace. Illegal burning, illegal fireworks, and other careless factors contributed to situations resulting

in injuries, loss of homes and property and evacuations at all hours. ~ In July, we celebrated the grand opening of the Amphitheater at Las Colonias Park with a community ice cream social and free concert. The venue has been the host of several concerts since and the excitement for next year's lineup is growing. ~ On August 16, City Council unanimously adopted the City's Strategic Plan. The document, which focuses on the guiding principles of Public Safety, Planning & Infrastructure, Diversification of our Economic Base and Communication, Outreach & Engagement, will serve as a guide for the City Council and City staff over the course of the next two years. ~ Following the retirement of long-term City Clerk Stephanie Tuin, we welcomed new City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann to the organization. ~ The Visitor and Convention Bureau held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to announce and launch the renaming of their organization to "Visit Grand Junction". The new label, which is a common approach among tourism marketing organizations, will create consistency between the website name, social media handles and the organization.

As we move into 2018, we continue to focus on the needs and opportunities we have before us while continuing to provide outstanding service to the residents of Grand Junction.



Barbara Traylor Smith



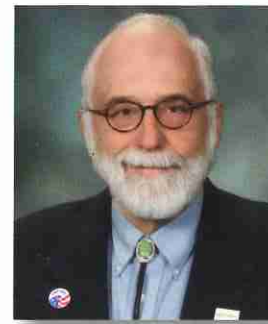
Phyllis Norris



Chris Kennedy



Mayor Rick Taggart



Mayor Pro Tem
Bennett Boeschstein



Duncan McArthur



Duke Wortmann

Volunteer Boards & Commissions

Vacancies on City boards and commissions are advertised on the City's website at www.gjcity.org and may be advertised in the Daily Sentinel and in City utility bills. You may apply to serve on a volunteer board by sending a letter of interest accompanied by a completed application addressed to the Grand Junction City Council, c/o the City Clerk, 250 N. 5th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501. City Council reviews the applications and determines whether an interview session

is appropriate. If you have any questions on volunteer boards or would like to receive an application, please contact Wanda Winkelmann, City Clerk, at 970-244-1511 or by email at wandaw@gjcity.org. Applications can also be downloaded from the City's website at <http://bit.ly/2y9uaKz>. The information listed here is current as of October 2017. Not every City board and commission is listed.

Airport Authority – Grand Junction Regional Airport

The Airport Authority sets policy and oversees the operations of the airport, ensuring compliance with its by-laws, with the State Public Airport Authority Law and with FAA regulations. The Board meets at 5:15 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month with additional committee meetings as needed.

Charles McDaniel
Tim Pollard
Robin Brown
Thaddeus Shrader

Tom Benton
Rick Taggart
Erling Brabaek

Commission on Arts & Culture

The mission of the Commission on Arts and Culture is to enhance local arts and cultural opportunities and development, encourage cooperation and collaboration among arts organizations, provide information to area artists and arts agencies, and establish community arts priorities. The Commission meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

Gary Ambrosier
Merritt Kinsey
Betsey Dick
Darcy Johnson
Roseann Lyle
Honora Thompson

Andy Hamilton
Elizabeth Broadak
Ellen Moore
Sarah Meredith-Dishong
Sandie Nadelson

Downtown Development Authority(DDA)/Downtown Grand Junction Business Improvement District(DGJBID)

The DDA's primary purpose is to facilitate the development and reinvestment in downtown Grand Junction. The Board of Directors establishes policy and directs the Authority in its efforts. The meetings are held the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. DDA Board members also serve as the board for the Downtown Grand Junction Business Improvement District (DGJBID). The DGJBID Board provides a continuity of effort in the promotion and revitalization of the business activities in the District by improving the economic vitality and overall commercial appeal of the Downtown area. The DGJBID board meets monthly, the second Thursday at 7:30 a.m.

Kirk Granum
Doug Simons, Jr.
Jodi Coleman Niernberg
Thomas LaCroix
Vance Wagner

Duncan Rowley
Phyllis Norris
Jason Farrington
Dan Meyer

Grand Junction Forestry Board

The Board acts as a reviewing body for the purpose of determining professional qualifications and competence to engage in the business of cutting, trimming, pruning, spraying or removing trees by giving written, oral and practical license examinations. The Board also makes recommendations to the City Council for the adoption of rules and regulations pertaining to the tree service business in the City, and it may hear complaints from citizens relating to the tree service business. The Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m.

Teddy Hildebrandt
Justin Drissel
Susan Carter
Mollie Higginbotham

Kamie Long
Charles Thompson
Josh Umberger

Historic Preservation Board

The Historic Preservation Board is responsible for recommending designation of historic resources to City Council for listing on the City Register of Historic Sites, Structures and Districts. The Board also reviews proposed alterations to designated sites as necessary and generally promotes historic preservation in the Grand Junction community. The Board meets the first Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m.

David Bailey
Jody Motz
Ron Parron
Brandon Stam

Chris Endreson
Troy Reynolds
Priscilla Mangnall

Horizon Drive Association Business Improvement District

The function of the Horizon Drive Business Improvement District Board of Directors is to take such actions and perform such duties as are required of the operations of the District. The district is allowed to make and contemplate a broad range of public improvements. The Board meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

Brenda Brock
Bill Milius
Darshann Ruckman

Chuck Keller
Jay Moss
Linda Romer Todd

Housing Authority

The Housing Authority provides safe and sanitary dwellings and apartments for persons of low and moderate income. The Housing Authority meets the fourth Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Chris Launer
Ivan Geer
Timothy Hudner
Phyllis Norris

Tami Beard
John Howe
Jerry Schafer

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

The Board assists in the planning of recreation activities and it helps to promote a long-range program for the development of the City's park system. The Board meets the first Thursday of each month at noon.

Abby Landmeier
Gary Schroen
Bob Wiig

Marc Litzen
Sam Susuras
Barbara Traylor Smith

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission hears and decides many planning and zoning related issues and makes recommendations to the City Council on similar matters. The Commission holds public hearings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and holds workshops as needed.

Jon Buschhorn
Kathy Deppe
William Wade
Dr. George Gatseos

Keith Ehlers
Christian Reece
Steve Tolle

Ridges Architectural Control Committee (ACC)

The Committee's role is to ensure that all construction meets the requirements of the Ridges Protective Covenants for the type of building material, color, height and other structural and architectural requirements. The ACC meets the last Monday of each month, times vary.

Ted Munkres
Frank Rinaldi

Garrett Syphers
Jeffery Fleming

Riverfront Commission

The Riverfront Commission is charged with planning, advocating and implementing a multifaceted program to redevelop and reclaim the Colorado riverfront within the Grand Valley. The meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

J. Fred Barbero
Stacy Kolegas Beaugh
Laura Tyre Hannam
Karen Jefferson
Gale Foster
Catherine Ventling

Rondo Buecheler
Larry Copeland
Laney Heath
Claudette Konola
Orilee Witte
Chris Kennedy

Urban Trails Committee

The purpose of the Urban Trails Committee is to plan and promote the City Council's goals for an interconnected network of sidewalks, paths and routes for active transportation and recreation throughout the Grand Junction urbanized area. The Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Collins
Dr. Jack Delmore
Dr. Kristin Heumann
Sarah Johnson
David Lehmann

Shana Wade
Orin Zyvan
Gary Stubler
Max Schmidt

Visit Grand Junction Board of Directors

The mission of Visit Grand Junction is to market Grand Junction, resulting in a positive economic impact of visitor dollars to the City. The Board advises the Visit GJ staff on policies and marketing directions. The Visit GJ Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

Donald Bramer
Jamie Lummis
Josh Niernberg
Kevin Reimer
Brad Taylor

Susie Kiger
Britt Mathwich
Tim Pollard
Julie Shafer

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Board of Appeals hears and decides appeals of administrative decisions, appeals for variances of the bulk requirements and non-conforming uses, and requests for exceptions to the side or rear setback requirements pursuant to the Zoning and Development Code. The Board also makes recommendations to the Planning Commission for amendments to the Zoning and Development Code. The Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month at noon as needed.

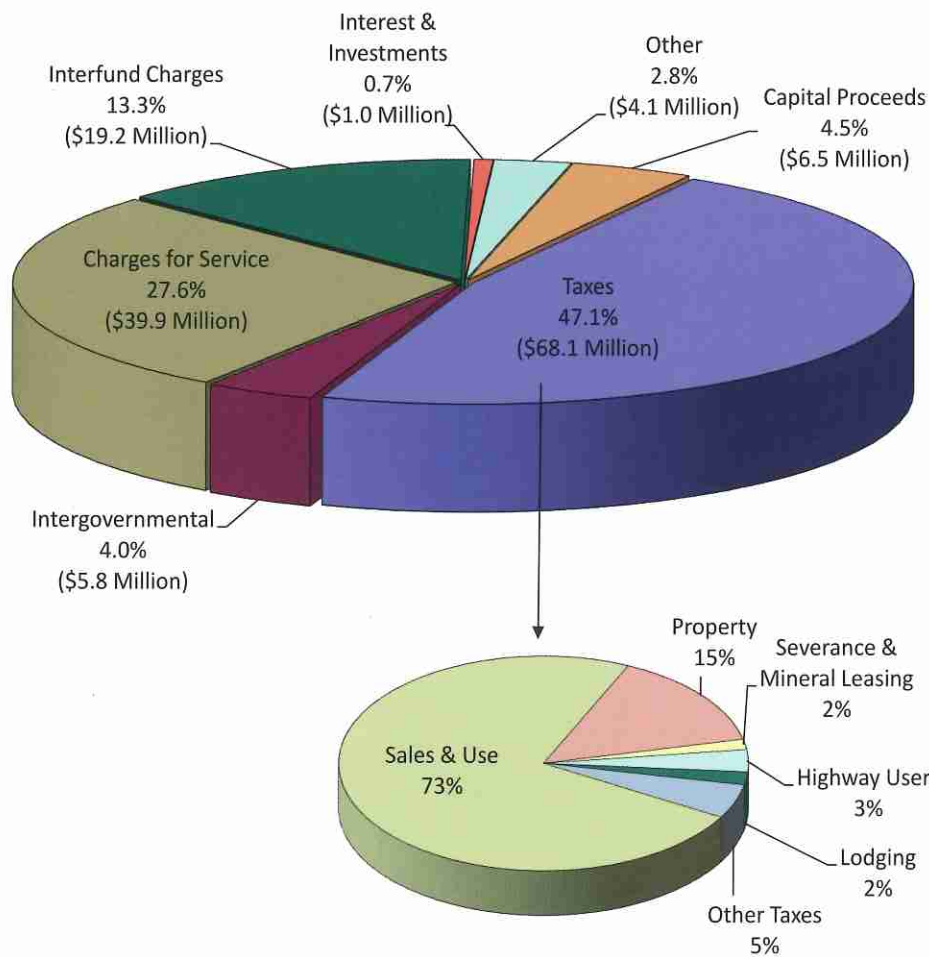
Christian Reece
Dr. George Gatseos



City of Grand Junction Financial Information

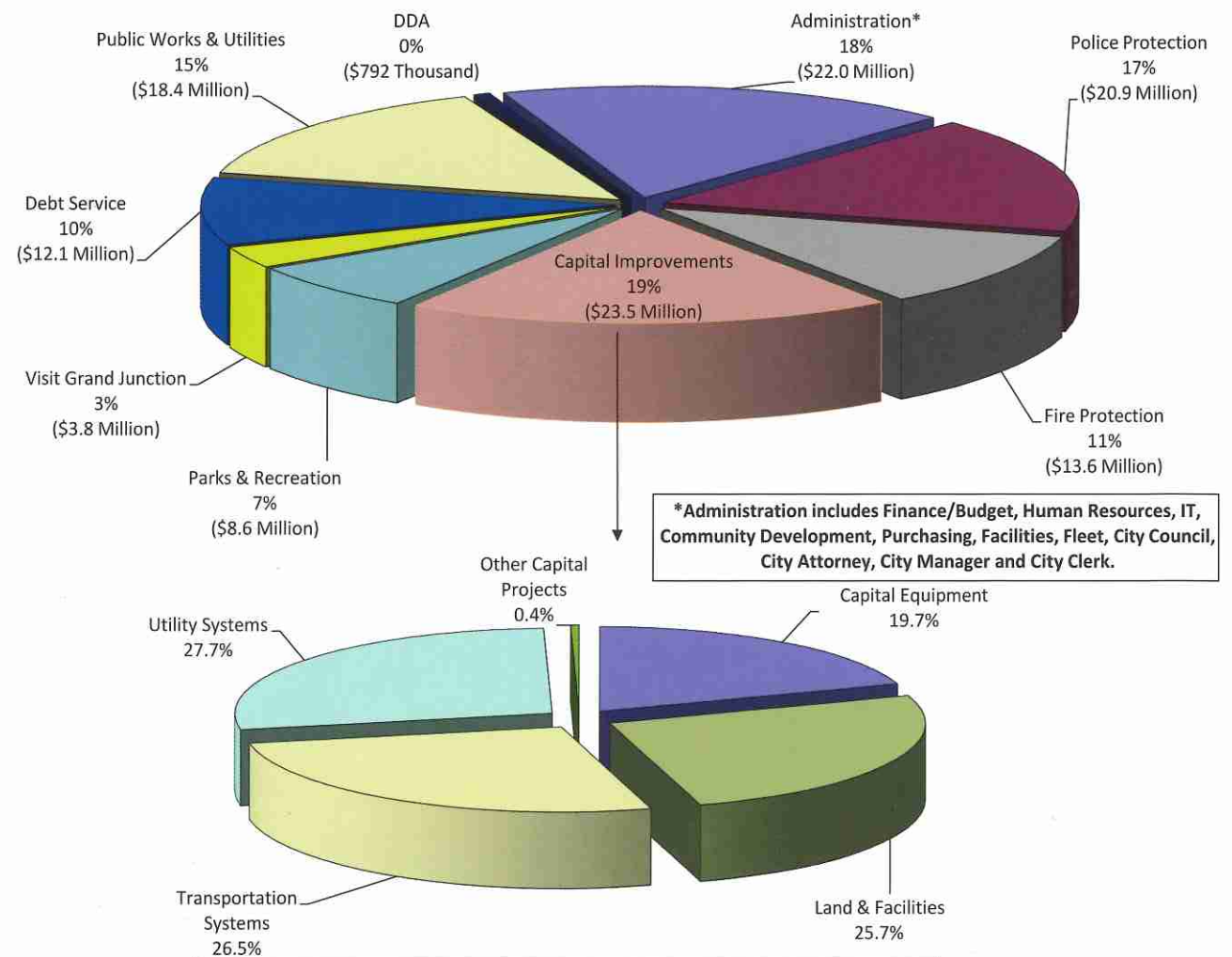
The following pie charts show an average of the last five years from 2013-2017.
 At print time, the 2018 budget was still being developed.
 For a look at how tax dollars were spent in 2017
 please look at the "Monthly Cost of Service" graph below.

Where the Money Comes From...



The main source of revenue the City uses for general government is generated from taxes. Seventy-three percent is in the form of sales and use tax with only 22% of that amount being paid by Grand Junction residents.

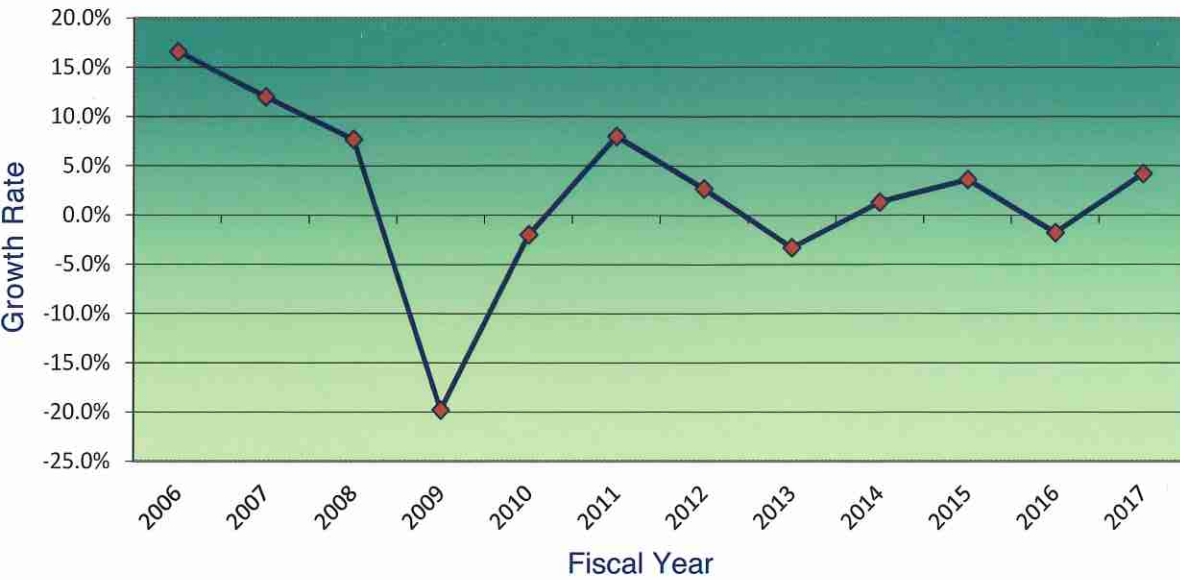
Where the Money Goes...



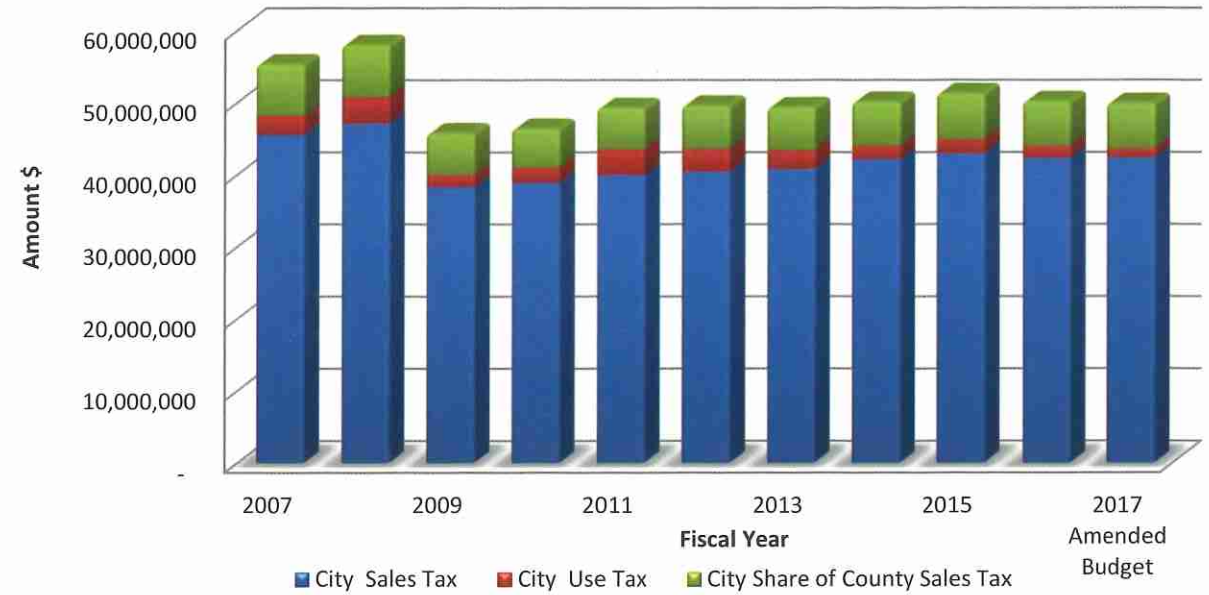
*Administration includes Finance/Budget, Human Resources, IT, Community Development, Purchasing, Facilities, Fleet, City Council, City Attorney, City Manager and City Clerk.

Capital improvements of streets, parks, utility systems and other infrastructure is a major category of expenditure, accounting for 19% of the total general government expenditures averaged over five years.

Historical Sales Tax Collections Growth Rate



Sales & Use Tax Collections (\$)



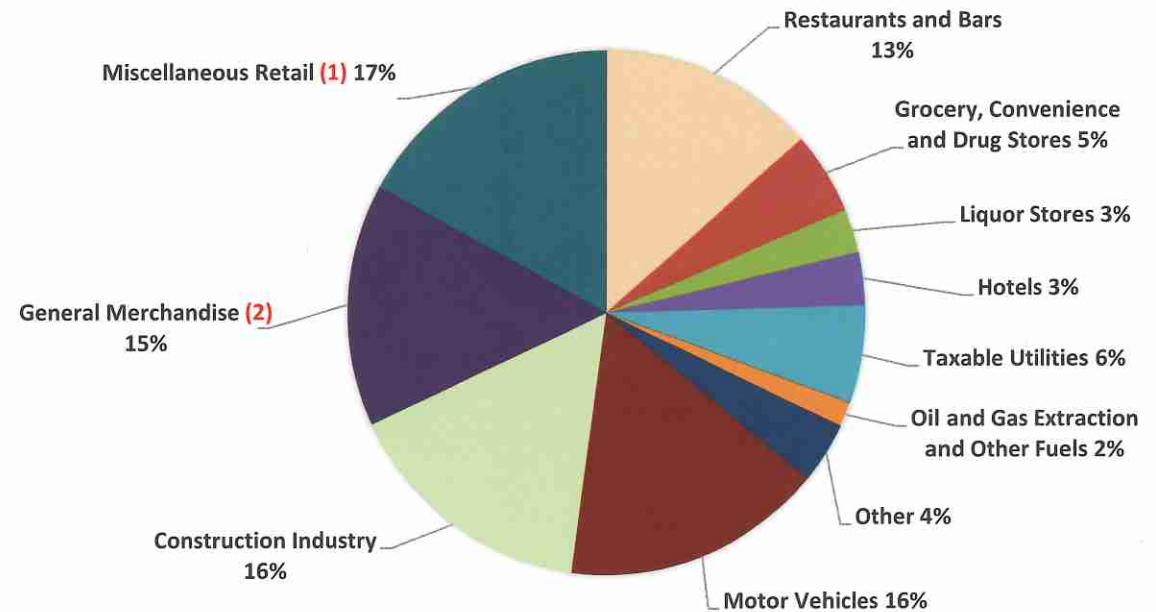
Monthly Cost of Service Per City Household

2017 Estimated Operating Budget by Service Area



The average City Household will pay \$547 in annual taxes received by the City, or \$45.62 per month, in support of all general government services provided by the City of Grand Junction. Visit Grand Junction is not included here because they are primarily funded by lodging tax and service fees.

2017 Sales Tax Revenue by Industry



NOTE: Gasoline, groceries, and prescription medicine are exempt from sales tax.

Five-year trends for revenues by industry are consistent with 2017 revenues.

(1) Miscellaneous Retail - furniture, electronics & appliances, sporting goods, clothing & accessories and other specialty retail stores

(2) General Merchandise - department stores, warehouse clubs and superstores