

## A Message from the Mayor



Grand Junction City Council

As Mayor of Grand Junction and on behalf of your City Council, I am pleased to present to you the **City of Grand Junction 2016 Calendar and Annual Report**. Every year we produce this report which has come to be not only one of our most widely circulated communication tools, but also serves as an opportunity to showcase the beautiful place we live. It provides us with a method to share information with you about City accomplishments and activities as well as details on City finances. We want you to be well informed about the operation of the City, and this report is just one of the many ways we go about making sure we are constantly striving to achieve that goal.

In 2015, although we continued to see an economy that was stubborn in terms of strong recovery indicators, we did forge ahead with implementing economic development initiatives in collaboration with our community partners. Following the adoption of our Economic Development Plan in 2014, we focused on concrete outcomes in 2015 including the completion of a community branding study which is just in the final stages as I write this. In addition, we are completing plans for wireless and broadband infrastructure. These plans come on the heels of a successful ballot question in April that gave us permission to move forward with broadband planning in concert with local service providers. If we are going to compete for the attention of businesses looking to relocate, as well as support a

viable environment for existing businesses, we have to have a strong Internet and telecommunications foundation.

In the coming year, you will see these efforts move forward along with other economic development opportunities including the possibility of pursuing an event center with the potential of a minor league sports franchise. This will require intense analysis and decision making and it will certainly require your input as we study it.

However, probably the most important thing before us right now (and by the time this calendar comes out we hope to have complete) is the selection and hiring of a new City Manager for our organization. This is one of the most important roles a City Council has the opportunity to play for the community.

I hope that you take the time to not just look at the beautiful pictures in the Calendar and Annual Report, but to also read more about all the things the City was able to complete during 2015, despite a sluggish economy. The employees of the City of Grand Junction are extremely resourceful and they work very hard year round to make this a wonderful place to live. I hope this report will help you see at least some of what they have accomplished.

Warmest wishes for a happy and healthy 2016!

*Phyllis Norris*

## 2015 in the Rearview Mirror

The local economy continues to show some glimmers of recovery in certain areas such as a strong lodging tax base, but then we see other areas that do not appear as optimistic. Although it is sometimes frustrating, we continue to hold on to hope that even though we have lagged behind the economic growth that is being experienced in other parts of the state, our turn is coming. In 2015 we solidified our focus on economic development with some very tangible projects. It was a busy year for all City of Grand Junction departments for many reasons. A number of important projects and programs got underway. Here is a look back at how 2015 unfolded:

As part of the continuing North Avenue revitalization effort, City Council gave the thumbs up to awarding 'North Avenue Catalyst Grants' to businesses along the corridor. The grants of up to \$10,000 were awarded to help pay for a variety of renovations and upgrades at several businesses. In addition renovations to North Avenue got underway in fall 2015 that included upgraded medians, redesigned sidewalks to create more of a barrier between fast moving traffic and pedestrians; new plants, shrubs and trees; lighting upgrades, and lane improvements to ease traffic safety and flow. Grants totaling nearly \$2 million are making this exciting facelift possible. ~ The position of **Emergency Manager** was created in the Fire Department adding a long-discussed resource to our organization. The development of the Emergency Management division will serve all departments of the City and will provide a direct benefit for the community in terms of bolstering emergency planning. ~ Two measures were placed on the April ballot. One asked to restore the City's authority to become involved in broadband, and

the other sought to incur debt and utilize TABOR funds to construct the "Westside Beltway". The broadband question passed by a sizable margin, but the Beltway question was unsuccessful. ~ We were awarded \$200,000 by the DOLA Federal Mineral Lease grant program to complete construction of the **Leach Creek Stormwater Detention Facility**. Completion of the project mitigated flooding potential for over 100 properties in the northwest area of town. ~ North Star Destination Strategies was hired by the City to assist us and our Economic Development Partners with the **development of a branding strategy** for the area aimed at positioning us to better entice new business. ~ We completed a project to **capture the biomethane gas currently being flared off at the wastewater treatment plant** and transport it via a pipeline back to the City's CNG (compressed natural gas) fueling facilities. The project and our fueling system has garnered national attention and awards, including the **2015 NGV (Natural Gas Vehicles of America) Achievement Award**. ~ An amazing new **playground was opened at Canyon View Park** thanks to a generous donation from the **Play 2 Dream Foundation** on behalf of local resident John Leane. The area includes numerous slides, climbers, swings, bridges, ramps, a modern version of a merry-go-round, and even a zip line. ~ Following successful campaigns, **Rick Taggart and Chris Kennedy** were sworn in to City Council, and we said goodbye and thank you to former Mayors and Councilmembers **Jim Doody and Sam Susuras**. ~ We administered the oaths of office for a second time to our Mayor, **Phyllis Norris**, and Mayor Pro Tem, **Marty Chazen**, who continued in his role for a third term. ~ In May, a senseless crime spree shocked the community when an erratic driver killed a motorcyclist, fired a shot at a witness, fled from the scene, and attempted an armed carjacking near a busy soccer field. The

terrifying incident ended swiftly when the gunman was shot by police. ~ **Ride the Rockies** got off to a great start by spending the first two days of the event in and around Grand Junction. Day two took the riders up to the Grand Mesa. ~ The League of American Bicyclists recognized the City of Grand Junction with a **Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community Award** acknowledging the City's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies. ~ The Grand Junction City Manager submitted his **resignation** amid a firestorm of media and community dialogue. City Council retained an executive search firm to assist with the recruitment of a new Manager, with the hope of having a replacement on board before January 2016. ~ **Phase 1 of Las Colonias Park** was completed bringing a new restroom/shelter, new trail connections, improved parking, and a native arboretum. ~ In August, following an intense and thorough review and assessment, the **Police Department received re-accreditation**. This process takes place once every five years and verifies that our department continues to meet the highest standards of law enforcement. ~ Progress on construction of **Fire Station #4 on Orchard Mesa** continues with the opening of the new station expected in early 2016.

*You can clearly see that 2015 kept us all busy with a variety of forward-looking projects and important issues. As we move into 2016, our focus on new opportunities and long-range projects that strengthen and improve our community will continue.*





Barbara Traylor Smith



Bennett Boeschstein



Chris Kennedy



Mayor Phyllis Norris



Mayor Pro Tem Marty Chazen



Duncan McArthur



Rick Taggart

## Volunteer Boards & Commissions

Vacancies on City boards and commissions are advertised on the City's website at [www.gjcity.org](http://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 Stephanie Tuin, City Clerk, at 244-1511 or by email at [steph@gjcity.org](mailto:steph@gjcity.org). Applications can also be downloaded from the City's website at [www.gjcity.org/VolunteerBoards.aspx](http://www.gjcity.org/VolunteerBoards.aspx). The information listed here is current as of September, 2015. 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.

Rick Wagner  
Stephen Wood  
David Murray  
Troy Ball  
Rick Langley  
Rick Taggart  
Paul Nelson

### 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  
Laura Bradley  
Elizabeth Brodah  
Betsy Dick  
Jeremy Franklin  
Jennifer Hancock  
Marjoric Haun  
Darcy Johnson  
Lancer Livermont  
Emily Pfeifer  
Mary Olkowski

### Downtown Development Authority/Downtown Grand Junction Business Improvement District

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.

Jodi Coleman Niernberg  
Jason Farrington  
Dan Meyer  
Les Miller  
Marty Chazen  
Shane Allerheiligen  
Duncan Rowley  
Stephan Schweissing  
Kirk Granum

### 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 Friday of each month at 8:00 a.m.

Shirley Nilson  
Richard Edwards  
Teddy Hildebrandt  
Kamie Long  
Charles Thompson  
Elizabeth Neubauer

### 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  
Scott Wolford  
Jody Motz  
Jodi Coleman Niernberg  
Chris Endreson  
Troy Reynolds  
Jon Schler

### 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.

Clark Atkinson  
Chuck Keller  
Jay Moss  
Janice Rohr  
Brenda Brock  
Bill Milius  
Darshann Ruckman

### 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 11:30 a.m.

Scott Aker  
Tami Beard  
Charles B. McDaniel (C.B.)  
Barbara Traylor Smith  
Chris Launer  
Jerry Schafer  
Robert Christian Mueller

### 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.

Scott Coleman  
Kristy Emerson  
Steven "Nick" Adams  
Kyle Emert  
Gary Schroen  
Bob Wiig  
Dr. Scott McBrayer  
Chris Kennedy

### 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  
Ebe Eslami  
Christian Recce  
Steve Tolle  
Dr. George Gatscos  
Kathy Deppe  
William Wade  
Keith Ehlers

### Ridges Architectural Control Committee

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 as needed.

Ted Munkres  
Frank Rinaldi  
Cynthia Adair  
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.

Gale Foster  
Larry Copeland  
Claudette Konola  
Eric James  
Bob Fuller  
Frank Watt  
Stacy Kolegas Beagh  
Karen Jefferson  
William Findlay  
Clifton Sprinkle  
Brad Taylor  
Bennett Boeschstein

### 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  
Julie Sabin  
Dr. Kristin Heumann  
Dr. Scott McBrayer  
Daniel Fitzgerald  
Eric Marchese  
Jeff Kuhr, Ph.D.  
Max Schmidt  
David Lehmann

### Visitor & Convention Bureau Board of Directors

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

Sharon Woelfle  
Donald Brammer  
Susie Kiger  
Glen Gallegos  
Brad Taylor  
Kevin Reimer  
Kate Graham  
Billie Witham

### 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 as needed.

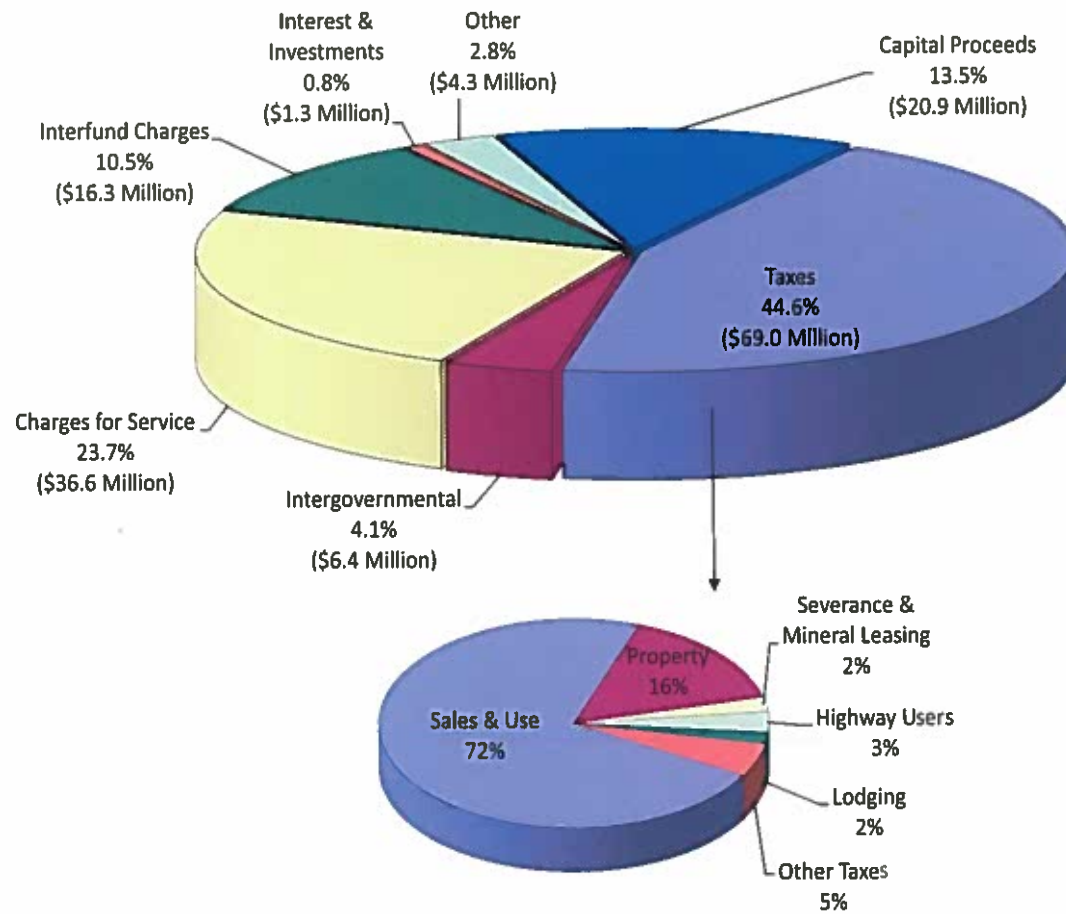
Christian Recce  
Aaron Miller  
Dr. George Gatscos  
Joe Carter  
Keith Ehlers



# City of Grand Junction Financial Information

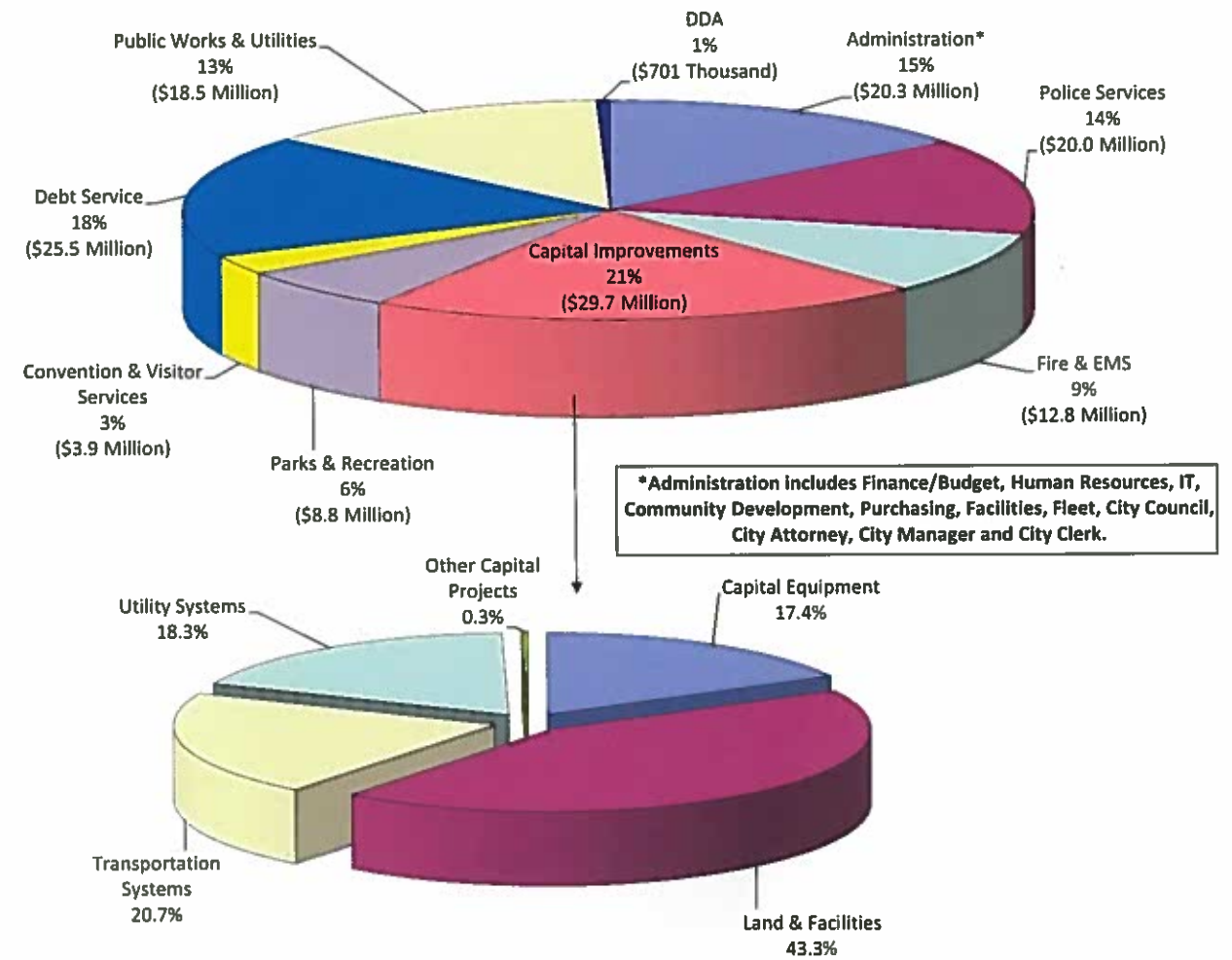
The following pie charts show an average of the last five years from 2011-2015. At print time, the 2016 budget, in particular capital, was still being developed. For a look at how tax dollars were spent in 2015 please look at the "Monthly Cost of Service" graph on the next page.

Where the Money Comes From...



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

Where the Money Goes...

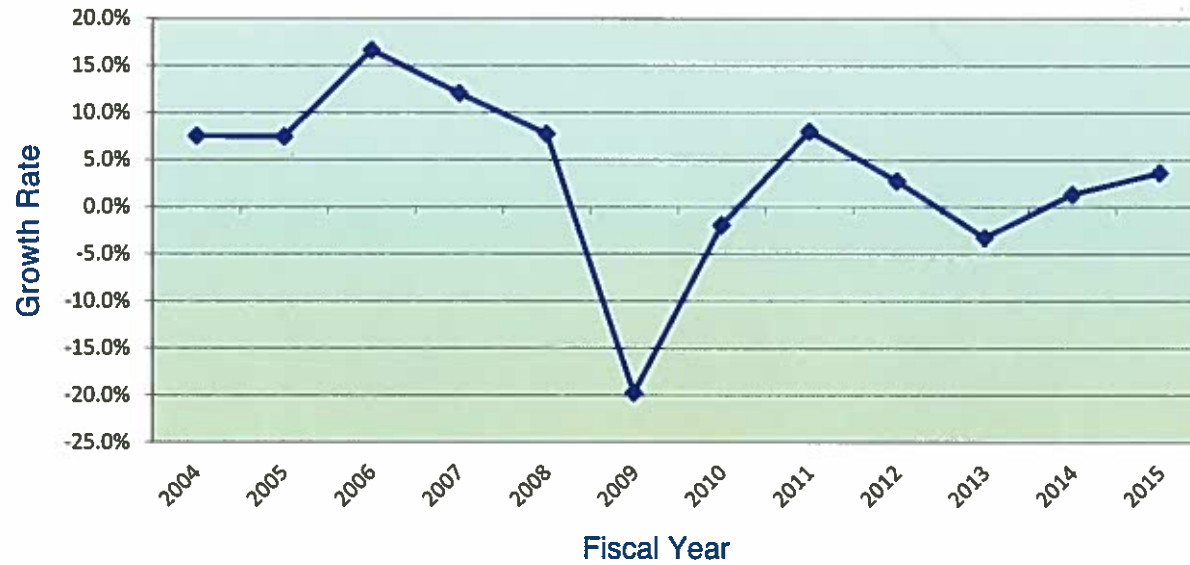


\*Administration includes Finance/Budget, Human Resources, IT, Community Development, Purchasing, Facilities, Fleet, City Council, City Attorney, City Manager and City Clerk.

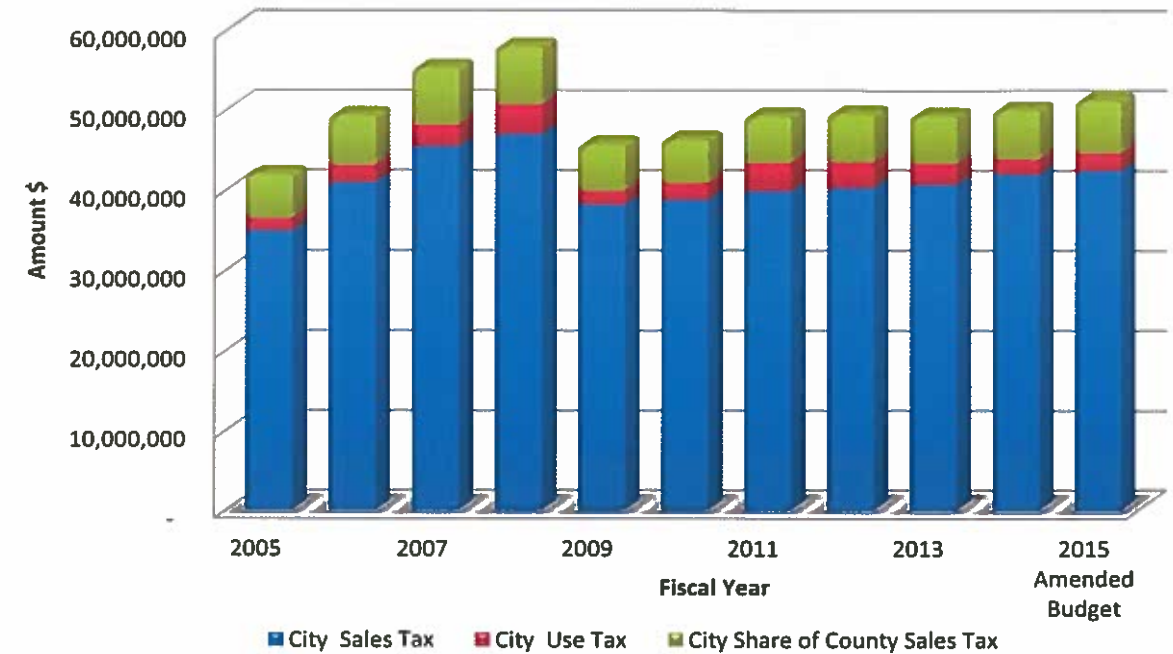
Capital improvements of streets, parks, utility systems and other infrastructure is a major category of expenditure, accounting for 21% of the total general government expenditures averaged over five years.



## Historical Sales Tax Collections Growth Rate



## Sales & Use Tax Collections (\$)

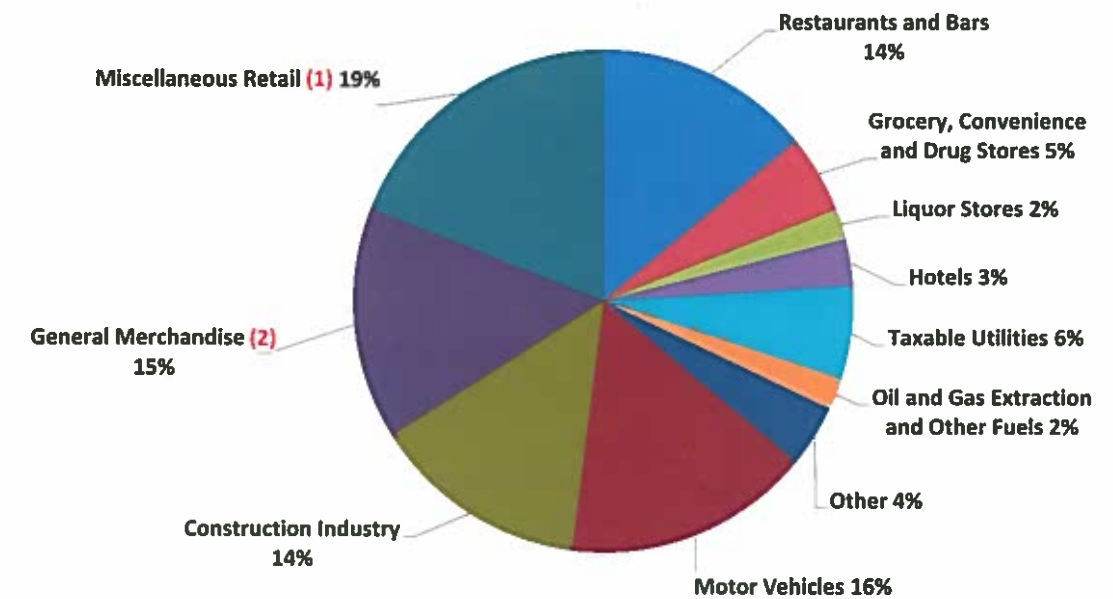


## Monthly Cost of Service Per City Household 2015 Estimated Operating Budget by Service Area



The average City Household will pay \$483 in annual taxes received by the City, or \$40.25 per month, in support of all general government services provided by the City of Grand Junction. Convention & Visitor Services is not included here because it is primarily funded by lodging tax and service fees.

## 2015 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 2015 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.