

Suwanee's approach to **FINANCE**



Suwanee's Financial Services Department utilizes a conservative approach that places emphasis on **ensuring financial stability and long-term sustainability**. Suwanee has developed a philosophy of recognizing that services and associated costs should not be appropriated if they are not justified as long-term goals of the city.

FOCUS AREAS:

COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY AND RELIABLE REPORTS: Suwanee is committed to go beyond the minimum requirements of financial reporting by preparing annual comprehensive financial reports and budget documents that embrace the guidelines that they should be a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communication device.

MONITORING: The city employs a quarterly budget review process in order to re-align appropriations made during the annual budget process with unexpected trends. This ensures adjustments facilitating appropriations to be in alignment with expected resources.

PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT: Long term financial planning enables proactive management of government finances, rather than reactive responses to financial crisis as they occur. Ten-year financial forecasting, which includes future operating impacts of proposed capital projects and ongoing maintenance of current operations, is combined with financial strategizing identified in the five year capital improvement program and the short term work program. This process helps to identify future challenges and opportunities in a timely manner.

STABILITY AND DIVERSITY: Suwanee is committed to maintaining the diversity of its revenue base, allowing for a consistent millage rate for property tax and generating revenue from a variety of sources, including local businesses, residents, and visitors.

Millage Rate: 4.93 mills

Suwanee's millage rate has been the same or decreased each of the past 22 years.

PRESERVATION OF FUND BALANCE: Suwanee places an emphasis on the preservation of fund balance. The city's policy is to maintain at least four months of operating expenditures and transfers in the general fund stabilization account. Fund balance over the minimum is programmed in subsequent periods for pay-as-you-go capital projects and one-time non-recurring expenditures.

BALANCED BUDGET: The city operates under an annual balanced budget which is adopted by resolution and administered in accordance with State Law. A budget is balanced when total estimated resources equal total appropriations. Revenue projections are prepared conservatively to ensure that actual revenues at the fund level will consistently equal or exceed budgeted revenues. Expenditures are projected using a full cost approach and avoid budgetary procedures that cover current expenditures at the expense of meeting future years' expenditures.

POLICY COMPLIANCE: Throughout the year, Suwanee's Financial Services Department monitors and ensures compliance of approved financial policies adopted by City Council. These policies address fund balance, the use of one-time revenues, issuance of debt, purchasing and procurement, cash and investment management, and accounting practices.

For more information, please see the Budget Policies and Procedures, Debt Management Policy, Fund Balance Policy, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), Annual Budget Document, Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Annual Short Term Work Program (STWP), and/or budget.suwanee.com.