

Budgetary Control & Authority

The City of Modesto's Budgetary Control & Authority policy is adopted by the City Councils as a part of the resolution adopting the annual budget.

Basic Policy

The City budget is adopted at the fund level, and the authorized amount of expenditure for each fund is listed in the operating budget, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk's Office.

Multi-year appropriations, including Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects, authorized in previous years and not yet expended continue to be valid until explicitly revoked, notwithstanding the annual appropriation in the operating budget on file with the Clerk's Office.

City Manager's Authority

The City Manager may take the following budgetary actions without Council approval:

- Transfer appropriations between departments within a fund
- Transfer appropriations to or from salary line items
- Appropriate unbudgeted departmental revenues
- Appropriate reserves approved for litigation on a case-by-case basis
- Appropriate remaining ABS reserves
- Revoke multi-year appropriations and close CIP projects

Finance Director's Authority

The Finance Director may take the following budgetary actions without Council approval:

- Appropriate unbudgeted grant interest
- Revise the allocation of Internal Service Fund charges between departments, provided that the total allocated amount shall not increase
- Make technical budget corrections to implement the intent of Council-approved actions and resolutions
- Transfer appropriations between sub-funds of a single fund.

Department Directors' Authority

Department directors may take the following budgetary actions without Council approval:

- Transfer appropriations between non-salary line items within a department, within a single fund
- Transfer appropriations between organizations and activities within a department, within a single fund

Actions Reserved to Council

All other budgetary actions require the approval of the City Council. In addition, the following specific actions always require Council approval, any other provision of this policy notwithstanding.

- Appropriation of undesignated reserves
- Appropriation of non-departmental revenues
- Budgeting of inter-fund transfers
- Budgeting of inter-fund loans
- Creating or increasing any multi-year appropriation including CIP projects
- Addition of permanent staff positions