

Municipality of Anchorage



Rick Mystrom
Mayor

Proposed General Government Operating Budget



1995

Municipality
of
Anchorage



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Rick Mystrom, Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 30, 1994

Dear Residents of Anchorage:

I am pleased to present to you and the Assembly my first proposed budget for our city.

The Administration is committed to the goal of making Anchorage a great place to live and raise our families and in which to do business. We will provide the highest possible level of service to the people of Anchorage within the budget constraints facing us in 1995. The enclosed material includes our programs and service priorities. They are designed to achieve the goal of making Anchorage a safer and more liveable city.

The following are some of the highlights of the proposed 1995 budget:

- *Increases services in priority programs:*
 - *Fills 32 current and projected vacant police positions and adds 7 officers for a downtown foot patrol (even more police positions will be added if Anchorage receives federal Crime Bill grants)*
 - *Adds six firefighters/emergency medical technicians*
 - *Implements a new School Safety Program*
 - *Modernizes police vehicles*
 - *Increases library services*
 - *Adds a playground program in Chugiak/Eagle River*
 - *Improves utilization of Girdwood parks and recreation facilities*
 - *Increases services to homeless veterans*
 - *Increases repair of sidewalks and drainage systems*
 - *Improves air quality*
 - *Increases transportation for the handicapped*
 - *Improves orderly, attractive growth of Anchorage*
 - *Improves beautification of our city*
 - *Increases promotion of tourism in Anchorage*
- *Maintains almost all other programs and services at their current 1994 level*

I believe that the tax cap was intended by the voters as a ceiling, not a target. We must strive to provide needed public services at less than the tax cap. My proposed 1995 budget is \$3.7 million under the tax cap and \$181,480 below the 1994 revised budget approved by the Assembly when the 1994 mill levies were set.

The proposed 1995 budget is based on three assumptions which we are working to achieve:

- *Personnel cost freeze for all non-union employees and bargaining units through December 31, 1995*
- *An appropriate return from the Anchorage Telephone Utility to its owners, the taxpayers of Anchorage*
- *No decrease in State Revenue Sharing from the 1994 level*

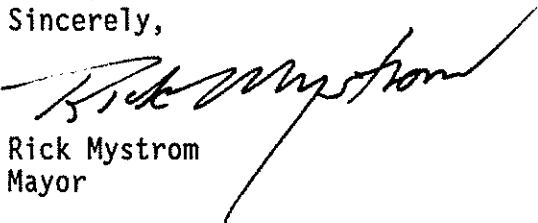
The proposed 1995 budget is a good budget. However, problems will arise if:

- *The labor unions do not meet the challenge to help us to develop agreements that insure proper levels of public service with no net labor cost increases*
- *The Anchorage Telephone Utility does not return an appropriate dividend to its owners*
- *The Governor and the Anchorage State Legislative delegation do not work with us to stop the trend of the State balancing its budget on the backs of local government*

In early September we took a major step in resolving the unfunded Police-Fire retiree medical potential liability problem by reaching a conceptual agreement with the Police and Fire unions. The ultimate effect of this concept agreement, if approved by all parties, will be to reduce the \$167 million potential unfunded liability. Specific details are still being worked out; however, we should know the impact on the 1995 budget before the Assembly approves the budget in late November.

I look forward to working with the Assembly during the budget deliberations of the next two months. I believe we can take an important step in making Anchorage a safer and more liveable city.

Sincerely,



Rick Mystrom
Mayor

**1995 PROPOSED
GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATING BUDGET
MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**

Rick Mystrom, Mayor

ASSEMBLY

Dick Traini, Chairman

Pat Abney	Craig Campbell	Kevin Meyer
Mark Begich	Cheryl Clementson	Joe Murdy
Bob Bell	Bill Faulkner	Charles Wohlforth
	Chuck Landers	

ADMINISTRATION

Larry D. Crawford.	Municipal Manager
Richard L. McVeigh	Municipal Attorney
Thomas C. Tierney.	Employee Relations Director
George J. Vakalis.	Operations Manager

This budget book was prepared by the Office of Management and Budget and the staffs of the municipal agencies whose budgets are included.

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