

Glossary of Terms

Terms

ADOPTED BUDGET

Approved legal spending plan for a fiscal year, which for El Dorado County must be approved by the Board of Supervisors by October 2 of each year

APPROPRIATION

An authorization granted by a legislative body to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes (an appropriation usually is time limited and must be expended or obligated before that deadline)

ASSESSED VALUATION

A valuation set upon real estate or other property by a government as a basis for levying property taxes

AUDIT

An examination of financial statements and related documents, records, and accounts for the purpose of determining the propriety of transactions, whether transactions are recorded properly and statements drawn from accounts reflect an accurate picture of financial operations and financial status. Audits may also include reviews of compliance with applicable laws and regulations, economy and efficiency of operations and effectiveness in achieving program results

AUTHORIZED POSITIONS

The number of permanent full-time and permanent part-time positions authorized by the Board of Supervisors (excludes extra-help), which represents the maximum number of permanent positions that may be filled at any one time

AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE

The amounts of fund balance available to finance the budget after deducting carryover encumbrances and reserves

BASIS OF BUDGETING

El Dorado County budgets using a modified-accrual form of accounting

BUDGET

The planning and controlling document for financial operation with estimates of proposed expenditures and revenues for a given period of time, usually one year

Glossary of Terms

Terms (continued)

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The County's acquisitions, additions, and improvements to fixed assets; e.g., buildings, building improvements, and land purchases

CONTINGENCY

A budgetary provision representing that portion of the financing requirement set aside to meet unforeseen expenditure requirements

CORE FUNCTION

A group of related programs and activities aimed at accomplishing a major service, or line of business, for which a government entity is responsible

COUNTY FUNDS

Operating or governmental funds of the County that account for expenditures and revenues in accordance with the funds' purpose. Operating funds of the County and Board-governed special districts are accounted for in the County Budget

COUNTYWIDE GOALS

Community and organizational goals derived from the County's mission statement and approved by the Board of Supervisors to identify the most important priorities for the County

DEPARTMENT

An organizational device used by County management to group programs of a like nature under the direction of an elected or appointed County official

ENCUMBRANCE

An obligation in the form of a purchase order, contract or other commitment that is chargeable to an appropriation and for which part of the appropriation is reserved. In some cases encumbrances are carried over into succeeding fiscal years.

EXPENDITURE

Decreases in net financial resources, which include current operating expenses that require the current or future use of net current assets, debt service and capital outlays

EXTRA HELP

Temporary employees of the County who are not included in the Salary Ordinance and do not receive benefits (i.e., medical, dental, life insurance and paid vacation time)

Glossary of Terms

Terms (continued)

FINAL BUDGET

Adopted budget adjusted by all revisions throughout the fiscal year as of June 30.

FISCAL YEAR

Twelve-month period for which a budget is prepared, which for El Dorado County is July 1 through June 30

FIXED ASSET

An asset of long-term character such as land, buildings and equipment exceeding a \$5,000 unit value, also referred to as “capital asset”

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT

This represents the budgeted number of full-time equivalent staffing. A full-time equivalent position is equal to 2,080 or 1,950 hours a year (40/37.5 hours/week x 52 weeks). For example: two half-time positions at 20 hours per week equal 1.0 FTE and a position allocated for 32 hours per week in a 40- hour job class equals 0.8 FTE.

FUNCTIONAL AREA

A categorizing of departments and services by general purpose, including Health and Human Services, Public Safety, Administration and Finance; Community Development and Public Works; and Community Services

FUND

An independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of asset, liability, and (usually) budgetary accounts

FUND BALANCE

The excess of assets and estimated revenues of a fund over its liability and appropriations at the end of a fiscal year. A portion of this balance may be available to finance the next fiscal year's budget

GENERAL FUND

The major countywide fund that directly funds unreimbursed costs of most programs and departments in County government

GRANT

A contribution from one governmental unit to another, usually made for a specific purpose and time period

Glossary of Terms

Terms (continued)

INTERFUND REIMBURSEMENTS

Payment received for services rendered to departments in other funds

INTERNAL SERVICE CHARGE

Annual budgetary charges from servicing departments (such as Information Services, Auditor-Controller, Human Resources), reimbursing costs incurred in the provision of internal County services to the departments receiving the services. For servicing organizations, the reimbursement is reflected as Intra-Fund Transfers offsetting their Gross Appropriation (from General Fund departments) or as Revenue (from non-General Fund departments). Services provided by these departments include computer support, telephone services and insurance.

INTRA-FUND CHARGES

A transfer of costs to the operating units within the same fund

MISSION

A clear, concise statement of purpose for the entire organization that focuses on the broad, yet distinct outcomes/results the organization achieves for its customers
Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

MODIFIED ACCRUAL

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by all Governmental Funds. Revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they become available and measurable. The primary revenue sources susceptible to (modified) accrual are property taxes, sales tax, inter-governmental revenues, rent, investment income and charges for services. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred. One exception to this general rule is that principal and interest on general long-term debt is recognized when due. El Dorado County uses the modified accrual basis for budgeting in governmental funds and full accrual in proprietary funds; i.e. budgets are not constructed on a cash basis of accounting.

NET COUNTY COST Total requirements less total sources. This figure represents the part of a budget unit's appropriation that is financed by general purpose revenues, such as property taxes, sales taxes and interest earnings.

NON-DEPARTMENTAL Expenses, revenues, services, programs or resources that cannot be specifically tied to a single department

Glossary of Terms

Terms (continued)

ONE-TIME EXPENDITURES

Used to describe and differentiate non-recurring expenditures from routine ongoing costs within a given budget. Typically, fixed assets are one-time expenditures. This category may also include single-year appropriations for special purposes

OTHER CHARGES A payment to an agency, institution or person outside the County government. Example: 'Aid to Indigents'

PROGRAM

A defined set of activities that have a common purpose, intended result or target population

PROPOSITION 13

An initiative amendment to the California Constitution passed in June 1978. Tax rates on secured property are restricted to no more than 1% of "full cash value." Proposition 13 also defines assessed value and requires a two-thirds vote to change existing or levy new taxes.

PROPOSITION 172

Proposition 172 was passed in November 1993. It established a ½¢ sales tax whose proceeds are used to fund eligible public safety activities.

REAL PROPERTY

Land and the structures attached to it.

RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The final working document containing departmental requests and County Administrator's Office recommendations for revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year, presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and approval prior to June 30 of each year.

RESERVE

An amount in a fund used to meet certain cash requirements, emergency expenditures, or future defined requirements. A reserve is not an appropriation and there is no limitation on the amount of reserve that can be established.

REVENUE

Funds received to finance ongoing county governmental services

Glossary of Terms

Terms (continued)

SECURED ROLL

Assessed value of real property, such as land, buildings, secured personal property or anything permanently attached to land as determined by each County Assessor

SECURED TAXES

Taxes levied on real properties in the county which are "secured" by liens on the properties

SPECIAL DISTRICT

A unit of local government generally organized to perform a single function such as street lighting, waterworks, landscape maintenance, and fire departments. Special districts are governed either by the Board of Supervisors or locally elected or appointed boards, and their operations are accounted for in separate funds

SPECIAL FUNDS

Funds used to account for proceeds from specific revenue sources that are legally restricted as to how the revenues may be spent

STRATEGIC PLAN

Sets forth the purpose, goals, plans, and performance expectations for an organization for a certain period of time

SUPPLEMENTAL TAX ROLL

The Supplemental Property Tax Roll is a result of legislation enacted in 1983 and requires an assessment of property when a change to the status of the property occurs, rather than once a year as was previously the case.

TAX LEVY The amount of tax dollars billed to taxpayers based on the imposition of the tax rate on the assessed valuation

UNALLOCATED REVENUES

Revenues which are for general purposes. Also known as discretionary, unrestricted, or local-purpose revenues.

UNFUNDED POSITION

A vacant, allocated position for which funding is not included in the budget.

Glossary of Terms

Terms (continued)

UNINCORPORATED

The areas of the county outside city limits. Some county services are provided only in unincorporated areas or within area cities only on a cost-reimbursement basis. Example: Sheriff's patrol and building inspection.

UNSECURED TAX

A tax on properties such as office furniture, equipment and boats that are not affixed to property

VISION STATEMENT Serves to inspire action by describing what the future would look like if the organization were successful in achieving its stated mission and goals