

City of Martinsville, Virginia

Fund Balance Policy

I. Purpose

The City Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia is dedicated to maintaining an appropriate level of fund balance sufficient to mitigate current and future financial risks and to ensure stable tax rates; and, therefore, formally establishes this policy for the City's Fund Balance. This policy also authorizes and directs the Finance Director to prepare financial reports which accurately categorize fund balance as required by GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*.

II. Components of Fund Balance

Fund balance is the difference between the assets and liabilities reported in a governmental fund; it is not to be confused with cash-on-hand. The following five fund balance classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints placed on the purposes for which the resources can be used:

- Nonspendable Fund Balance – amounts that are not in spendable form (such as inventory, prepaids, and long-term receivables) or are required to be maintained intact (endowment type funds);
- Restricted Fund Balance – amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, creditors, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation;
- Committed Fund Balance – amounts constrained to specific purposes by a government itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority; to be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the government takes the same highest level action to remove or change the constraint;
- Assigned Fund Balance – amounts a government intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority; residual amounts in governmental funds other than the general fund; appropriation of existing fund balance;
- Unassigned Fund Balance – amounts that are available for any purpose; positive amounts are only reported in the general fund.

III. Committed Fund Balance Policy

The City Council is the City's highest level of decision-making authority and the formal action that is required to be taken to establish, modify, or rescind a fund balance commitment is a motion approved by the City Council. The resolution must either be approved or rescinded, as applicable, prior to the last day of the fiscal year for which the commitment is made. The amount subject to the constraint may be determined in the subsequent period.

IV. Assigned Fund Balance Policy

The City Council has authorized the Finance Director as the official authorized to assign fund balance to a specific purpose as approved by this fund balance policy.

V. Minimum Unassigned Fund Balance Policy

The City will attempt to maintain an unassigned General fund balance in the general fund equal to or greater than 10% of operating expenditures.

VI. Resource Flow Policy

When fund balance resources are available for a specific purpose in more than one classification, it is the City's policy to use the most restrictive funds first in the following order: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned as they are needed.

VII. Consolidation of Component Unit Year-End Fund Balance

Based on Budget Code in the Code of Virginia under section 15.2-2506 stating, "No money shall be paid out or become available to be paid out for any contemplated expenditure unless and until there has first been made an annual, semiannual, quarterly, or monthly appropriation for such contemplated expenditure by the governing body...", all appropriations lapse as of June 30 of each fiscal year. Prior to the completion of the annual audit, unspent funds remaining in the Component Unit – School Fund shall revert back to the General Fund. As with all City Funds, these funds may be re-appropriated for the following year, as approved by City Council.