



NEWS RELEASE

February 26, 2014

Contact: Jan Bohman, Community Relations Director, 541-682-5587 or 541-968-2829

Note to Media: City Manager Jon Ruiz is available for interviews about the budget from 11:00 to noon tomorrow, Feb. 27. Please call Jan Bohman to arrange.

City's Manager Recommends Strategies to Fill Smaller FY15 General Fund Gap

This evening City Manager Jon Ruiz will present to the Eugene Budget Committee his recommended strategies for filling the gap in the FY15 General Fund. The meeting is at 5:30 in the Eugene Public Library's Bascom-Tykeson Room.

This represents the sixth consecutive year of reducing expenditures to balance the budget. For the last several years, largely as a result of the recession and low property tax revenues, the City of Eugene has faced deficits in its General Fund, the "discretionary" fund that pays for police, fire, parks, library and other basic City services. Over four years, the City decreased its expenses by \$24 million and eliminated 100 positions in order to live within its means.

After years of reductions, the challenge of finding new ways to solve the problem without impacting services is extremely difficult. In developing these strategies, the City's executive management team followed the same principles that have been used over the last five years: to maintain a balance of services across all of the Council's goals, minimize employee layoffs, achieve a stable budget and continue to invest in the community's future.

The Budget Committee has worked over the past seven months to gain a deeper understanding of the City's General Fund budget shortfall through talking with community members, studying previous City reductions and analyzing a wide range of possible strategies. The committee presented six options for public review and held two public hearings on those options in January.

In order to maintain the momentum of the Budget Committee's process, the City Manager will present his recommendations for the General Fund now and then will complete the preparation of the rest of the full City budget reflecting all funds for presentation to the Budget Committee in April. The City Manager's General Fund recommendations draw from the extensive work of the Budget Committee over the last several months as well as from the professional experience of the City's executive management team.

The Budget Committee will meet three times in March to consider the City Manager's recommendation: Wednesday, March 5, 6:00 p.m.; Thursday, March 6, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 p.m. All three meetings are at Harris Hall in the Lane County Service Building.

Additional Budget Committee meetings will be scheduled in April for consideration of the full City Manager's Proposed Budget.

For more information on Budget Committee meetings visit the website: www.eugene-or.gov/budget.

#