

Show Low Quarterly



a quarterly publication of the City of Show Low, Arizona

July-September 2013

www.showlowaz.gov

FreedomFest celebrates our nation's birthday

Show your patriotism, enjoy the festivities and celebrate our nation's birthday, with events planned for the entire family on July 4 and 5.

❖ THURSDAY, JULY 4:

Annual Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast – 7 to 9 a.m., Festival Marketplace (call the Show Low museum at 532-7115 for tickets).

Annual Fourth of July Parade along the Deuce of Clubs, 9 a.m. start from City Park

(parade theme: *Pride, Patriotism, and the American Dream*).

FreedomFest at Show Low football stadium complex, 500 W. Old Linden Road. FREE admission; gates open at 11 a.m. Enjoy a barbecue (a portion of the proceeds benefit the Show Low VFW Ladies Auxiliary's *Boxes for the Troops*), short program, live concerts, food booths, and *fireworks* at 9 p.m. if conditions permit. For information, call 532-4140.

❖ FRIDAY, JULY 5:

Deuce's Wild Rodeo – 7 p.m. rodeo, Village Arena, 4555 S. White Mountain Road. Gates open at 3 p.m. with kids' activities. Tickets available at Show Low Chamber of Commerce and Boot Barn (call 537-3883 or go to www.deuceswildrodeo.us for information).



City's shed requirements

Thinking of putting a shed on your property? It is common to want one for additional storage. To help avoid issues related to its placement, you should know that all sheds are subject to minimum required setbacks from property lines. Because these setbacks can vary from neighborhood to neighborhood based on the zoning classification, contact the city to determine the minimum setbacks for your property. We offer complimentary shed permits for all sheds without utility connections or smaller than 144 total square feet in size. Any sheds with utilities connected to them or greater than 144 square feet require a building permit. Call the building department with any questions related to sheds or any other construction-related question at 532-4050.

Learn about water quality

Every year, city staff prepares a Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. Reports for calendar year 2012 are available online at the following URL addresses:

- ❖ City of Show Low water system at www.ci.show-low.az.us/showlowccr
- ❖ Show Low South water system (formerly Pineview Land and Water) at www.ci.show-low.az.us/showlowsouthccr
- ❖ Park Valley/Fools Hollow water system at www.ci.show-low.az.us/parkvalleyfoolshollowccr

If you do not have Internet access, want a paper copy of any report or have questions about the water quality reports, call the public works department at 532-4100. Paper copies will also be available at Show Low city hall or the public library.

Show Low's 60th birthday bash & first BBQ Throwdown

Show Low celebrated its 60th anniversary of incorporation on May 4th with a free barbecue lunch and a companion event, the first annual BBQ Throwdown (a sanctioned competition). Both events were hugely successful and City Park's Senior Field was the perfect venue.

Over 2,000 attendees enjoyed all the festivities, including food, live music and Western-themed games that lasted into the evening. Over 1,500 enjoyed the free barbecue lunch, and nearly 1,600 people bought tickets to sample the BBQ chefs' offerings of brisket, ribs, chicken and pork. Barbecuers from all over the country competed, with a team from Missouri winning the competition. We anticipate the BBQ Throwdown will be an even bigger and better event next year. Happy birthday, Show Low!



The city provided a free barbecue lunch prepared by Whiskey Ranch BBQ, the Throwdown's sponsor.

City's budget reflects Council priorities & changing economy

Like every business or household, the City of Show Low operates successfully by living within its means. A major tool is our annual budget which is built on a foundation of fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers, residents and customers.

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. The Show Low City Council adopted the fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) budget in June. Due to the significant operational and long-term adjustments made over the last few years, our fiscal position continues to strengthen along with the economy. Unlike many cities, the City of Show Low does not have a general property tax. Instead, we rely on sales tax revenues, state-shared revenues and user fees to fund the city's operations and programs.

With our heavy emphasis on local sales taxes, it is imperative that residents and businesses shop locally whenever it is prudent. By doing so, your tax dollars stay within our community. Because a large portion of our operational revenues comes from state-shared revenues, the fiscal position of the state has a direct impact on us, as well. Like our own city collections, the state is continuing to see an increase in sales, gas and income tax collections. State-shared revenues are allocated to the city based on our 2010 census population of 10,660. The end of the temporary 1% state sales tax on May 31, 2013, does not impact shared revenue as proceeds from that tax were completely retained by the state.

All money that is received by the city is spent on projects, community programs, providing services, public safety and economic development partnerships. The adopted fiscal year 2014 budget totals nearly \$63 million. It includes healthy reserve balances and continues to show built-up savings that will be used to complete planned large-scale capital projects over the next couple of years, including a portion of the \$10 million upgrade and expansion of our wastewater treatment plant.

The Mayor, Council and staff are committed to retaining Show Low's quality of life, while providing the amenities offered by well-run communities, within prudent fiscal constraints. Our employees deliver services and programs to local citizens, residents from neighboring communities and tourists. Departments include police, public works (engineering, streets, water, sewer and airport), community development, community services and administration.

Whether you are a resident or a visitor, be assured that you are receiving high-quality city services. Our employees take pride in ensuring that Show Low is a great place to live, work and play. We are committed to nurturing our community's livability and the safety, health and well-being of those who live, work or visit our community.

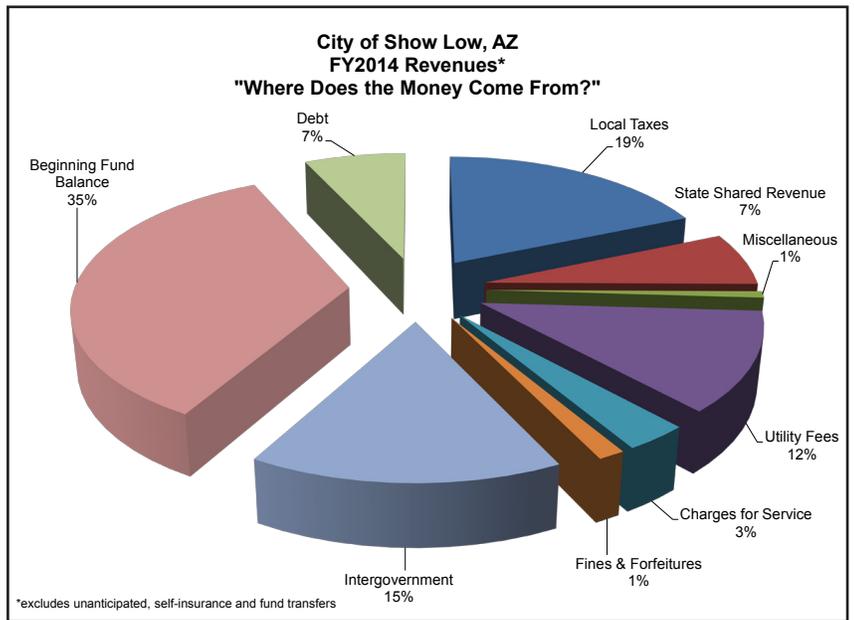
Overview

The Mayor and Council strongly believe that maintaining our city's infrastructure continues to be the city's highest priority, and we do not want to move backwards. With this in mind,

approximately \$21.2 million has been appropriated to maintain, improve and repair roadways, sidewalks, water lines, sewer lines and the airport. Overall, \$25.6 million has been appropriated for capital projects (approximately \$7.9 million of which is grant funded), \$2.9 million has been set aside for future capital projects and \$3.1 million is being held in reserve as a "rainy day" fund. The adopted budget of \$62.7 million reflects a \$46,700 decrease from last year's adopted budget, reflecting a stabilizing economy and the city's commitment to saving, building reserves, completing capital projects, providing necessary and desired services.

Revenues

Each fiscal year the city starts the year with funds in the bank. This year, the beginning fund balance is approximately \$19.6 million. Through the course of the year we are projecting that an additional \$35.2 million will be collected through taxes, utility fees, grants and other income sources. Of this amount, about \$8.6 million is raised from the local city sales tax generated by everyone who shops at our local businesses. Although the City of Show Low does not have a general property tax, residents do pay a small amount of property taxes for street and park lights, and residents in the Show Low Bluff development pay property taxes to the special taxing district that is administered by the city on its behalf.



The remainder of our revenue comes from state-shared revenues, building permit fees, utility (water, sewer, sanitation) payments and fees, debt, service charges and court fines. We regularly pursue federal and state grants as well as partnerships with other governments and agencies to help pay for programs and improvements. Last year, the city received approximately \$1.4 million in grants for a wide range of projects and activities, including upgrades to the Show Low Regional Airport, energy-efficiency improvements, police equipment, police officers and

City's 2013-14 budget...continued from page 2

operations of the transit system (Four Seasons Connection and White Mountain Connection). For fiscal year 2014, we have included known grants and contributions totaling \$8.7 million. An additional \$4.0 million has been included as an estimated amount to be allocated by the Mayor and Council as grants are received.

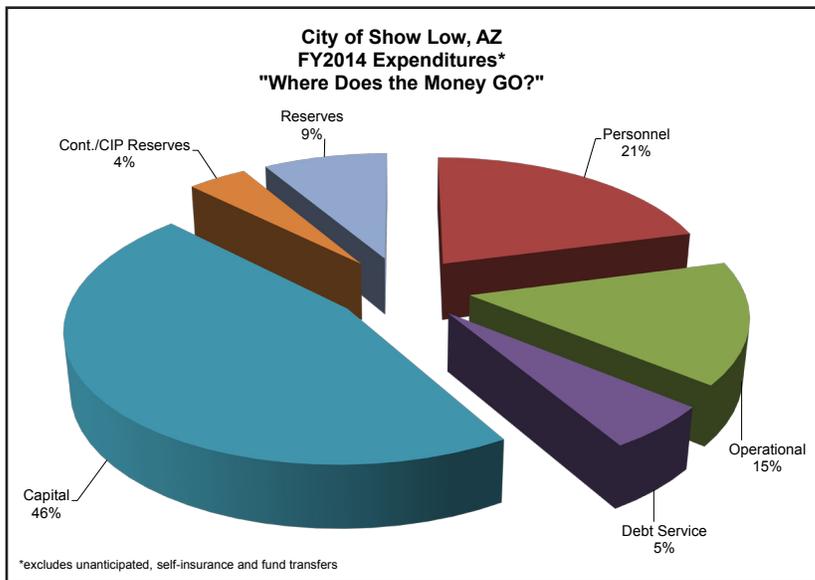
Expenses

Although the adopted budget totals \$62.7 million, we anticipate spending approximately \$40 million this fiscal year. The variation is due to including our reserves, savings and the estimated grant amount in the adopted budget total. In reality, we do not expect to expend these funds. The two main areas that the city spends its money on are capital projects and personnel. Consistent with the budget as a whole, these areas are relatively the same as last fiscal year. Following several years of downsizing, our personnel base has stabilized at a level that will ensure the continued provision of services.

High-priority programs have generally been maintained over the last couple of years and, in some cases, new priority programs, such as recycling, have been added. This budget contin-

environmental standards and be prepared for additional capacity as the economy improves. Included in the budget is \$10.0 million for this project. Anticipated to take at least 36 months for design and construction, this project is fully funded in the current fiscal year. It is anticipated at this time that approximately \$3.0 million of debt will need to be issued, which will have a direct impact on wastewater rates for all customers of the City of Show Low. It is the Council's intent to minimize the amount of debt required for this project.

- ❖ **Water companies' system improvements and inter-connections** – With the city acquiring three private water companies over the last three years, it is now the water provider for nearly all residents of the City of Show Low. Inter-connection and other long-term system improvements will benefit all customers—current and new.
- ❖ **Park improvements** – In order to maintain our parks and fields as an amenity well into the future, we are replacing the McCarty Park pavilion roof and the Senior Field irrigation system and constructing new fencing at several courts and fields.



- ❖ **"Showmobile" portable stage** – With the continued Council goal to utilize recreation as an economic engine, the city has funded a state-of-the-art portable stage for use at city events and programs.

- ❖ **Scott Ranch Road** – With the construction of phase I of the Scott Ranch Road extension project complete, remaining funds are set aside to address future needs of this multi-phased project, which is funded with city, county and federal funds.

- ❖ **Road repair and maintenance program** – Several roads citywide are being overlaid with a slurry seal as part of our commitment to ongoing maintenance of our infrastructure.

- ❖ **Street reconstruction** – Several streets, including 9th Street, Whipple Road and some roads in Sierra Pines Units 1, 2 and 3 will be reconstructed.

- ❖ **Roadway improvements** – Grant-funded projects downtown and along US60 near our aquatic center will add sidewalks and multi-use pathways.

- ❖ **Airport improvements** – Utilizing mainly federal and state funds, the pavement on runway 6/24 will be rehabilitated and the construction for relocating power lines along SR77 will begin.

ues these programs with no reductions of current service levels. Overall, the city's expenditure levels by service area reflect the city's commitment to provide services directly to our residents. Operational expenditures are the annual reoccurring costs borne by the city. These normally exclude capital projects and other one-time purchases. On an operational basis, public safety is our largest expense, and it is estimated that the city will spend nearly \$6.7 million in fiscal year 2014 on public safety activities.

The city has funded several major projects in fiscal year 2014. Some of these are newly funded projects, while others have been ongoing for some time and will be finalized this year. The following summarizes the key projects.

- ❖ **Upgrade/expansion of wastewater treatment plant** – With ever-changing federal requirements the city is now required to upgrade its existing wastewater treatment plant to meet higher

A copy of the final budget is available online at the city's website at showlowaz.gov. Please direct questions to Doug Sandstrom, Administrative Services Director, at (928) 532-4024.

City newsletters are produced by the City of Show Low, 180 N. 9th Street, Show Low, AZ 85901. Quarterly newsletters (January-March, April-June, July-September and October-December) are mailed with the utility bills and available online at showlowaz.gov. Direct comments to the City Clerk's office at (928) 532-4061.

Calendar of Events

Family Aquatic Center: 532-4130 Recreation: 532-4140 Public Library: 532-4070

Special ongoing events:

BMX races on select days, Nikolaus Homestead Park; 10 a.m. registration, 11 a.m. racing (07/06 & 20; 08/03, 17 & 31; 09/02, 07 & 21)

Healthy Hikes on 07/08, 07/22, 08/05, 08/19 & 09/09; meet at 7:30 a.m. at Show Low Senior Center, 301 E. McNeil or trailhead at 7:45; call 532-4140 for information

Show Low Main Street farmers' market & art walk, every Saturday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Festival Marketplace (ends 09/28)

First Friday event (07/05, 08/02, 09/06), 5–8 p.m., Festival Marketplace (shopping, food, entertainment)

Adult Book Discussions, Public Library, 1:30 p.m. (07/18, 08/15, 09/19)

07/01 Women's Volleyball registration begins

07/03– 8 a.m., Summer Play Days (ages 5-12); weekly drop-in/drop-out program with activities (Monday–Thursday)

07/04 Fourth of July events (City offices closed for holiday): **7–9 a.m.**, Festival Marketplace, Show Low Historical Society's **Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast**

9 a.m., along the Deuce of Clubs, **Annual Fourth of July Parade** (theme: "Pride, Patriotism and the American Dream")

11 a.m. – 10 p.m., Show Low High School football stadium, 500 W. Old Linden Road, **FreedomFest** events (BBQ, food vendors, kids' zone); gates open at 11 a.m.; concert featuring headliner **Due West**; fireworks at 9 p.m. (may be canceled)

07/05 7 p.m., Deuce's Wild Rodeo, Village Arena, 4555 S. White Mountain Rd. For information, call 537-3883 or visit www.deuceswildrodeo.us

07/05 11 a.m., Council Chambers; **Ronald McDonald** (magic tricks & reading fun)

07/08 Swimming Lessons (Session 3), Aquatic Center

07/08 5:30 p.m., Super Fun Run–Fruit Frenzy Flash; Show Low City Park (ages 2 to 8); register in advance

07/09 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**

07/10 Start Smart Soccer games begin (ages 3-5)

07/11 10 a.m., Public Library; **Show Low Library Friends** meeting (public welcome)

07/11 11 & 11:30 a.m., Public Library; **Dinosaur Claw Necklace** craft (ages 6-17); ticket required

07/11 2–3 p.m., Council Chambers; **Rowdy Reptiles & More!** (ages 5 & up); learn fascinating animals facts

07/15 Swimming Lessons (Session 4) registration begins

07/16 2–2:45 p.m., Council Chambers; **Bats in our Neighborhood** (ages 5 & up); learn all about bats

07/16 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **City Council Regular Meeting**

07/17 10:15 & 10:45 a.m., Public Library; **Veggie Painting** (ages 3-6); paint with real vegetables (ticket required)

07/18 11 a.m. & 12 p.m., Public Library; **Duct tape crafts** (ages 8-17); ticket required

07/20 10 a.m., Super Fun Run–Mini Mudder; Show Low City Park (ages 2 to 8); register in advance

07/22 Swimming Lessons (Session 4), Aquatic Center

07/23 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**

07/25 11 & 11:30 a.m., Public Library; **Beautiful Bracelets** (ages 7-17); create snap-on bracelet; ticket required

07/27 9:30 a.m., City Park, Senior Field; **Itty Bitty Olympics** (ages 0-6); 9 a.m. registration.

08/06 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **City Council Regular Meeting**

08/08 10 a.m., Public Library; **Show Low Library Friends** meeting (public welcome)

08/10 18th Annual Tri in the Pines (ages 14+) & **Youth Tri in the Pines** (ages 14 & under)

08/12 Women's Volleyball games begin

08/13 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**

08/17 4–10 p.m., Village Amphitheater; **Mountain Music Jubilee** (bring blanket or chair & enjoy live entertainment)

08/19 Registration begins for **Coed Volleyball**

08/20 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **City Council Regular Meeting**

08/27 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**

09/02 Start Smart Basketball registration begins (ages 3-5)

09/03 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **City Council Regular Meeting**

09/07 11 a.m.–3 p.m., City Park Old Pavilion; **Cowboy Dutch Oven Cook-off & Pitching Contest** (green chile cook-off and horseshoe and pinecone pitching contest)

09/10 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**

09/12 10 a.m., Public Library; **Show Low Library Friends** meeting (public welcome)

09/17 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **City Council Regular Meeting**

09/24 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**

Electronic waste recycling

The fifth annual FREE region-wide electronic waste recycling event is Saturday, August 31, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of the former Navajo County Health Services building, 251 N. Penrod Road in Show Low. Drop off unwanted TVs, computers, monitors, printers, cell phones, small appliances, etc. No large appliances (e.g., washers, dryers, refrigerators) will be accepted. Call 532-4124 for information.