

Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Highlights

Every year, the City of Broken Arrow Administration prepares an annual Budget for the City Council to review and adopt. The new fiscal year begins July 1, 2016 and ends June 30, 2017. The proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Budget and Fiscal Year Financial Plan includes planned expenditures of approximately \$189 million. The proposed Budget, which includes the General Fund, the Broken Arrow Municipal Authority and 26 other funds, is about 8.51% higher than last year's budget. There are several reasons to account for the increase. First, additional funds have been budgeted for Capital Outlay to complete 2011 and 2014 General Obligation Bond projects. Also, additional public safety employees will be hired, as a result of the Vision 2025 sales tax renewal approved by voters in November 2015. Other factors for the increase include a proposed one-time 2% stipend for non-union employees and hiring additional personnel for operational services. The Administration believes adding additional staff is the City's top priority, so a stipend is being proposed instead of a salary increase.

Oklahoma is the last state in the United States that relies solely on sales tax to fund General Fund operational expenses. Sales taxes are an unreliable source of revenue and difficult to predict; however, the Finance Department utilizes historical data to estimate future revenue growth. The proposed Budget includes sales and use tax growth at 3%, tobacco and franchise tax growth at 1.5% and the remaining revenues at 6.24%. The City anticipates the General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund Balance will exceed the required balance.

The City Council is scheduled to adopt the proposed Budget at the June 20 City Council meeting. View a copy of the FY16 Budget and FY17 Financial Plan at BrokenarrowOK.gov/CITYBUDGET.

Fireworks Permits Now Available

Residents of Broken Arrow who would like to legally discharge fireworks in the City limits may do so by purchasing a fireworks permit for \$20. Permits are available for in-person purchase at City Hall through July 1. The One Stop Center is located on the north end of City Hall at 220 S. First Street. Permits will not be issued to persons under 18 years of age. For added convenience, the City has also made fireworks permits available for purchase online. Applicants can access the system by visiting www.brokenarrowok.gov/fireworks.

Permits are valid during the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on July 3 and July 4 only. Additional rules are listed on the printed permit. It is unlawful to discharge fireworks within City limits without the permit. Certain restrictions apply. Fireworks must be discharged on a noncombustible surface of sufficient size to contain the entire ground portion of the display, not closer than 25 feet to any permanent structure. For questions regarding the application, residents can call the One Stop Center at 918-259-8333, option 0.



Recycle Your Tires, E-Waste

The City of Broken Arrow, in partnership with the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (M.e.t.), will hold an E-Waste and tire collection event on Saturday, June 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Central Park, 1500 S. Main Street. The purpose of the event is to offer residents a convenient way to dispose of their unwanted electronics and tires properly. Abandoned tires fill with water and act as mosquito breeding grounds, which can spread diseases such as West Nile and Zika. E-Waste contains harmful materials such as mercury, lead and cadmium, which should stay out of the landfill.



- Only E-Waste and tires will be collected.
- There will be no charges for general household tire and E-Waste.
- 15 tire limit per person.
- There is a 50-pound E-Waste weight limit.
- Citizens will need to pay \$10 for monitors and \$21 for TV sets (Residents can pre-pay any recycling fees online on the M.e.t. website).
- Items collected will be recycled.

For more information about the event or to find permanent drop-off sites, call the M.e.t. at 918-584-0584 or visit www.MetRecycle.com.

LifeRide Enrollment/De-Enrollment Period Begins August 1, 2016

The enrollment period for LifeRide, the City of Broken Arrow's ambulance subscription program, is scheduled to begin on August 1, 2016 and ends August 31, 2016. This is also the time when subscribers may opt-out of the program. LifeRide is a voluntary, subscriber based program that provides patients with valuable cost-savings on emergency medical response and transportation in Broken Arrow and supports the Broken Arrow Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services Division.

"The greatest benefit of participating in LifeRide is that you will not have to worry about paying for an expensive ambulance ride to the hospital after a life-threatening emergency," said Fire Chief Jeremy Moore. "With this subscription, the Fire Department can help keep costs down for patients and continue to provide fast, dependable advanced life support services."

To illustrate the cost savings, LifeRide subscriber Robert Fialk agreed to share his experience. When he received emergency ambulance service, his final bill totaled \$1,495. His insurance company only paid a portion of the bill, just \$235.48. That left a balance of \$1,259.52. Because Robert was a LifeRide member, he did not have to pay the remaining balance, which saved Robert hundreds of dollars he would otherwise have paid out of pocket.

LifeRide costs only \$5.45 monthly per household for those inside the City limits and \$7.50 per month for those outside the City limits but within the Broken Arrow fence line. For most members, the monthly fee will show up as a line item on your utility bill. If you are interested in enrolling in LifeRide but you do not receive a City of Broken Arrow utility bill, LifeRide is paid on an annual basis. LifeRide members with health insurance receive the benefit of not paying out-of-pocket costs, after a claim is submitted to the health insurance provider. For members who do not have health insurance, a 40% discount is provided. All members of the household who claim the address registered with LifeRide as their primary residence will be covered.

Individuals and families who do not wish to receive the benefits of LifeRide may opt-out by completing a nonparticipation form and submitting it to Utility Customer Service by August 31. Residents may also complete the form at the Utility Customer Service office located at 116 E. Dallas Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012.

View frequently asked questions and download enrollment or nonparticipation forms at LiferideBA.org. For additional assistance, call 918-259-6595 or email liferide@brokenarrowok.gov.



How Fire Hydrant Testing Affects Your Tap Water

During the warmer months, the Broken Arrow Fire Department conducts routine testing on fire hydrants, to make sure hydrants are in normal working order. This involves releasing water at a high rate from the hydrants, which stirs up the harmless sediment naturally found in the bottom of our water lines.

As a result of fire hydrant testing in your neighborhood, you may notice the water from your faucet appears to have a yellowish or brownish color. This is normal! Your water will run clear again as the sediment settles back to the bottom, which usually happens within two hours.

If you continue to see discolored water or you have any questions, please contact the City Water Quality Technician at 918-259-2400 ext. 7381 between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. After those hours, you may reach our stand-by operator at 918-259-8400.

Fireworks Safety Tips

- Always read and FOLLOW directions on the label.
- Always have an adult present to supervise your fireworks fun.
- Always have water handy. A water hose close by is excellent.
- Always only light one item at a time.
- Never try to re-light malfunctioning fireworks.
- Never give ANY firework item to small children.
- Never throw or point fireworks at another person.
- Never shoot (fire) fireworks from metal or glass containers.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ongoing Each Saturday — Rose District Farmers Market,
8 a.m. to noon, Corner of First Street and Dallas.

Ongoing through July 23 — BA Soccer Club Fall Registration. Visit www.bascok.com for details.

July 4 — City offices closed for Independence Day. Monday and Tuesday trash service will be one day later.

July 5 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

July 9 — Mom and Son Luau 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Nienhuis Aquatic Facility, 3201 N. 9th Street. \$5 per person. For more information call 918-259-7007.

July 14 — Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

July 16 — KRMG Gardening Expert at the Farmers Market

July 19 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

July 20 — Drums of Summer Broken Arrow High School Stadium, 1901 E. Albany St. www.drumssofsummer.com

July 28 — Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

August 2 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

August 11 — Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

August 13 — Back to School Day at the Farmers Market