

# Glossary

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**AGENCY:** A unit of organization within the City. Agencies include departments, divisions, and utilities. Each agency is responsible for submitting to the Finance Director capital and operating budget requests outlining projected costs of operation for the upcoming fiscal year.

**APPROPRIATION:** The legislative authority to spend and obligate a specified amount from a designated fund account for a specific purpose.

**COMPENSATION GROUP:** A grouping of classifications based on shared attributes of classifications, professional/supervisory requirements, and work functions assigned to established salary ranges in the Compensation Plan.

**DEBT SERVICE:** Principal and interest payments on debt incurred by the City.

**DIRECT APPROPRIATION:** Budget appropriations made for a specific activity or initiative but not housed within a specific agency. These appropriations fall under the purview of the Mayor.

**EXECUTIVE BUDGET:** The Mayor's plan for expenditures and funding sources during the fiscal year. The plan reflects potential appropriations and is presented to the Common Council for their amendments and adoption, at which time the funds are legally appropriated.

**EXPENDITURE RESTRAINT PROGRAM:** A state aid program that provides funding to municipalities that keep growth in spending from funds supported by property taxes to no more than the consumer price index plus 60% of net new construction.

**EXPENDITURE TYPE:** The category that describes the type of expenditure being made, for example, Building, Machinery and Equipment, or Fiber Network.

**FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION (FTE):** A term used to express the position count. A person working in a half-time position is considered to be working at 0.5 FTE.

**FUNCTION:** A grouping of agencies that provide like services. The functions identified within Madison's operating budget include: Administration, General Government, Library, Planning and Development, Public Safety and Health, and Public Works and Transportation.

**FUND:** A sum of money segregated for specific activities. Use of this money requires adherence to special regulations established for each fund. The funds identified within the City of Madison's Adopted Budget include: Capital Projects Fund, General Fund, Community Development Grants, Convention Center, Debt Service, Fleet Services, Golf Courses, Impact Fees, Insurance, Library, Loans, Metro Transit, Other Grants, Other Restricted, Parking Utility, Public Health Madison & Dane County, Sewer Utility, Stormwater Utility, Water Utility, Worker's Compensation, and Community Development Authority.

**GENERAL FUND:** A central fund into which most of the City's tax and unrestricted revenues are budgeted to support basic City operations.

**HOLDING COSTS:** Expenses for upkeep and maintenance of the unoccupied areas of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district properties throughout Madison.

**LEVY (PROPERTY TAX):** Taxes levied on all taxable property within the City of Madison. The annual levy is determined by the amount of funding needed to support ongoing operating functions of the City. The property tax represents 73% of Madison’s total General Fund budget.

**LEVY LIMIT:** A state law requirement that a municipality’s property tax levy, net of general obligation debt service, does not increase more than the increase in net new construction.

**MAJOR:** A set of like accounts defining the nature of expenditures. Major objects within the City of Madison’s chart of accounts include:

- Revenue
- Salaries
- Fringe
- Supplies
- Purchased Services
- Debt & Other Financing
- Inter-Departmental Billings
- Inter-Departmental Charges
- Transfer Out

**MILL RATE:** A figure used to represent the amount per \$1,000 of the assessed property used to determine the amount of property tax.

**NET NEW CONSTRUCTION:** Used for state levy limits and expenditure restraint program; it’s the percentage calculated from the ratio of new construction value to the total equalized property value in the City.

**OPERATING BUDGET:** A plan, approved by the Mayor and Common Council, appropriating funds to agencies for operating costs during the upcoming year. This plan establishes legal expenditure authority for agencies to carry out business as authorized in the adopted budget. Amendments to the operating budget that exceed \$5,000 are subject to super majority approval by the Common Council.

**PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX:** A payment made by entities exempt from the property tax to reflect services received from the City.

**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (RESJI):** An initiative within the City of Madison focused on establishing racial equity and social justice as core principles in all decisions, policies, and functions of the City of Madison.

**SERVICE:** An activity or set of activities performed by an agency that has identifiable costs for budgetary purposes and a clear purpose with measurable objectives.

**SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS:** Charges designated for improvements and services provided to real property within the City and charged to the property owners. Examples of improvements funded by special assessments include sewer repair and sidewalk replacement.

**TAXES ON AVERAGE VALUE HOME (TOAH):** A calculation used to reflect the impact of budgetary decisions on the property tax levy by calculating the impact on the average assessed property value of a single family home.

**VALUE INCREMENT:** The equalized value of all taxable property in a TID in any year minus the tax incremental base. In any year, “value increment” is positive if the tax incremental base is less than the aggregate value of taxable property as equalized by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue; it is negative if that base exceeds the aggregate value.