

CITY OF CRYSTAL
FREQUENTLY ASKED BUDGET QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
2014

1. What is the City's proposed property tax levy for 2014?

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u>
General Fund	\$8,150,000	\$8,245,000	95,000	1.17%
Pool bonds debt service	210,400	209,000	-1,400	-0.67%
County Highway 81 debt service	<u>563,153</u>	<u>563,153</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>
Total City Tax Levies	\$8,923,553	\$9,017,153	\$93,600	1.05%
Economic Development Authority	<u>239,156</u>	<u>208,000</u>	<u>-31,156</u>	<u>-13.03%</u>
Total All Tax Levies	\$9,162,709	\$9,225,153	\$62,444	0.68%

2. How will this affect my property taxes for 2014?

The change in the City's tax levy is relatively small; so many properties will see little change in the City portion of their property tax bill for 2014. However, other factors, such as a change in the assessed value of your property and changes in the amount of taxes levied by the county and school district, may cause your 2014 property tax to be higher or lower than your 2013 property tax.

3. What is the City's proposed budget for 2014?

The proposed budget for the General Fund for 2014 is \$12,575,162. This is an increase of \$365,335 or 2.99% from the adopted 2013 budget of \$12,210,827. Much of the increase is due to increases in health insurance, pension contributions, computer services, maintenance of buildings & equipment, and liability/property insurance.

4. What City services do I receive for my tax dollar?

Services supported by property taxes and the percentage of the city property tax going to fund each are as follows:

- Police & fire protection 44.7%
- Street maintenance, park maintenance, building maintenance & forestry 20.7%
- General administration of the city 16.2%
- Debt service on bonds 8.4%
- Recreation programs 7.8%
- Redevelopment 2.2%

5. How much does the city spend per citizen per year?

If the proposed General Fund 2014 budget (\$12,575,162) is divided by the population of Crystal (estimated at 22,417), the result is that the city will spend \$560.96 per person per year, or \$1.54 per person per day.

6. When will I find out what my 2014 tax bill will be?

Proposed Property Tax statements showing the estimated taxes for every property will be computed by Hennepin County based upon the preliminary tax levies passed by the city, county, and school district and mailed in mid-November. Tax statements with the final tax bill for 2014 will be mailed out by Hennepin County this winter.

7. When will the final decision be made on City taxes for the year 2014?

A public hearing will be held at the December 3, 2013 City Council meeting to take public input on the 2014 city budget and property tax levy. A final decision will most likely be made at that meeting but also could be made at the December 17, 2013 meeting.

8. How can I communicate my feelings to the City Council?

You may appear at the Citizen Input Hour at 6:00 P.M. on the third Tuesday of each month or at the public hearing on December 3, 2013. You may contact the Council Members or staff at the following numbers:

Jim Adams	Mayor	612-805-5101	Jim.Adams@crystalmn.gov
Laura Libby	Wards 1 & 2	763-670-2721	Laura.Libby@crystalmn.gov
Mark Hoffmann	Ward 1	531-1006	MrkHoffmann@aol.com
Joseph Selton	Ward 2	535-3564	iamjcsjr@aol.com
John Budziszewski	Wards 3 & 4	531-1003	john.m.budziszewski@gmail.com
Casey Peak	Ward 3	531-1008	Casey.Peak@crystalmn.gov
Julie Deshler	Ward 4	531-1002	uuijad@aol.com
Anne Norris	City Manager	531-1140	anne.norris@crystalmn.gov
Charles Hansen	Finance Dir.	531-1110	charles.hansen@crystalmn.gov