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**GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE/OTHER USES SUMMARY**

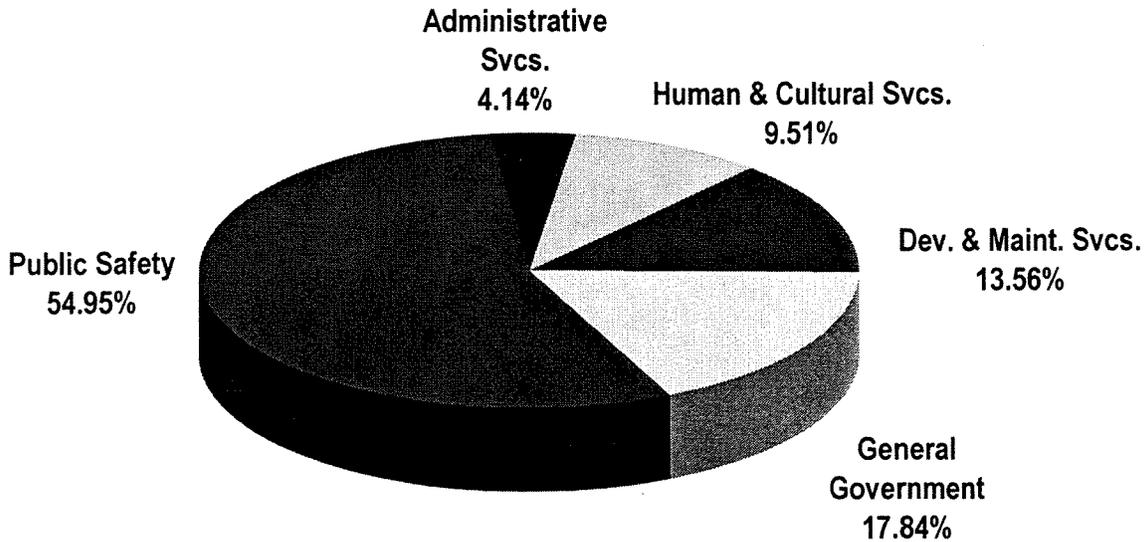
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General Fund expenditures and other uses make up the largest portion of the City's FY2004 Budget. These expenditures and other uses are funded by revenues and other sources from property and sales taxes, franchise fees, licenses and permits, charges for services, grants, miscellaneous and other sources. (For a detailed explanation, see the General Fund Resources Summary).

FY2004 General Fund expenditures and other uses are allocated among twenty (20) departments and five (5) functional areas. The functional areas include Public Safety and Justice, Development and Maintenance Services, Human and Cultural Services, Administrative Services, and General Government. The following graph illustrates the allocation of these expenditures and other uses.

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**GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES/OTHER USES  
FY2004 BUDGET**



**Total = \$1,406,657,738**

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**OVERVIEW**

The largest single category of expenditures and other uses in FY2004 is Public Safety with 54.95 percent of the total, followed by General Government, Development and Maintenance Services, Human and Cultural Services, and Administrative Services with 17.84, 13.56, 9.51 and 4.14 percent, respectively.

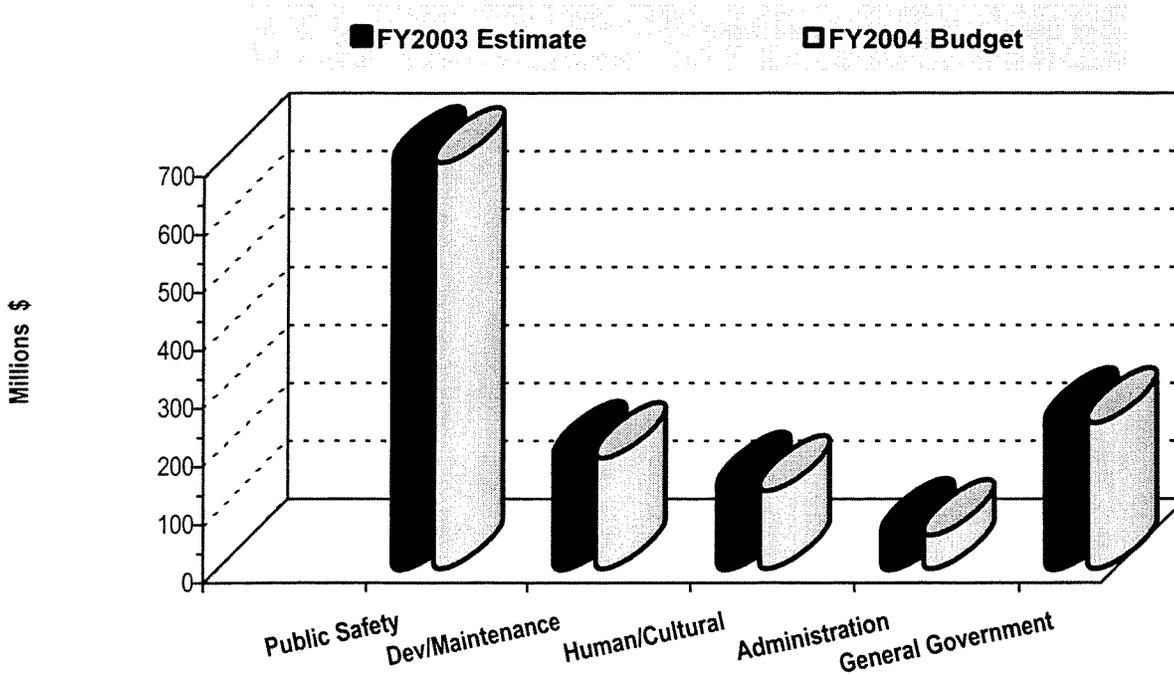
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General Fund expenditures will continue most current service levels, annualize programs begun in FY2003, and meet federal mandates.

The City will continue to comply with federally mandated regulations resulting from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), rules governing underground storage tanks and the discharge of storm water. The City is subject to increased costs for some contractual services, garbage disposal services, as well as increases for Fire staffing, health benefits and classified compensation.

The following graph compares the FY2003 Estimate and FY2004 Budget by functional category. Please refer to the tables at the end of this section for comparisons among departments.

### General Fund Expenditures/Other Uses FY2003 Estimate vs FY2004 Budget



The FY2003 Estimate for General Fund expenditures/other uses totals \$1,390.0 million with the FY2004 Budget increasing by \$16.7 million to \$1,406.7 million.

The following section provides highlights of FY2004 General Fund expenditures/other uses by functional category and department.

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**Public Safety and Justice**

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- The Public Safety and Justice functional category includes the departments of Police, Fire, Municipal Courts - Administration and Municipal Courts - Justice.
- The Police Department's FY2004 Budget includes funding for classified employees, ordinated step and longevity increases. Funding is also included for increases for higher Health/Life Insurance cost. Cadets for the replacement of officers lost through attrition are also included.
- The Fire Department's FY2004 Budget provides: 1) staffing for extended services for the opening of new Fire Station #83 at Richmond and Breezewood and Fire Station #27 which is a relocation with extended services of an ambulance and a squad in Denver Harbor and 2) funding for seven new cadet classes totaling 390 cadets and overtime funding to maintain four person staffing on all engines and ladders.
- Municipal Courts continues most services at the current level including one day per week services at various satellite locations in Kingwood, Clear Lake and Acres Homes. And the addition of one evening court per week at the Westside Command Station. The Municipal Courts are also in the process of installing and implementing a new Case Management System, Phase II of the Motorola Contract, which involves the purchase of 145 hand-held citation issuance units that allow police officers to write citations in the field, as well as a Master Plan, which would allow for the refurbishing of the existing courtrooms and/or building of a new courthouse at 1400 Lubbock. As part of this plan, adequate parking facilities for both the courts and the Houston Police Department will be provided.

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**Development and Maintenance Services**

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The Development and Maintenance Services functional category includes the Building Services, Planning and Development, Public Works and Engineering, and Solid Waste Management Departments.

- The Building Services Department will support effective building management practices, design, and construction methodology to minimize life cycle costs and optimize the useful life of City buildings. BSD will also manage and oversee energy conservation, and management programs for City buildings, which will ultimately reduce City utility costs.
- The Planning and Development Department will continue to support and enhance Neighborhood Oriented Government and Economic Development. Super Neighborhood initiatives and programs such as Neighborhood Planning Partnerships and the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Center are encouraging neighborhoods to get involved in city government. The City's Geographic Information System (COHGIS) on-line will give all City departments the opportunity to use the power of GIS in the analysis of service requests and delivery systems.
- Certain services in the Public Works and Engineering Department are being reduced for FY04 due to budget constraints. Most of the programs affected are in the Right-of-Way and Fleet Maintenance Division. Some of the programs not affected by the budget reductions are to install 1,700 new street lights in response to the Mayor's Neighborhood-to-Standard Program; continuing to implement the Capital Improvement Plan by providing engineering/construction services, and initiating performance standards to ensure the division is in compliance with the Clean air Act.
- The Solid Waste Management Department's core mission is to manage the City's municipal solid waste in an environmentally sound and fiscally responsible manner. The department will continue its role in the Mayor's "Cleanest City" initiative.

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**Human and Cultural Services**

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The Human and Cultural Services functional category includes the departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Community Development, Library, and Parks and Recreation.

- The Health and Human Services Department goals for FY2004 include: improving communicable/infectious disease control and identification, the enforcement and environmental outcomes within the City, maternal and child health services and outcomes, departmental infrastructure to provide effective and efficient service to the community, and citizens access to health information and services. Staffing reductions were achieved through reorganization and consolidation of management, supervisory and administrative positions.
- The renovation and reopening of five libraries in FY2004 will be a primary focus. These projects will include the upgrade of interiors and bringing the facilities into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Locations undergoing renovation include the Scenic Woods and Park Place Regional Libraries, and the Mancuso, Lakewood, Pleasantville and Flores Branches. Other facilities projects include the re-design of the interior of the Jesse Jones Building of the Central Library, with construction work to commence in FY2004. The joint Library in Clear Lake being built in collaboration with Harris County, and the construction of the John P. McGovern Stella Link Branch Library will both open to the public in FY2004. The Library will continue to provide services to youth through development of young adult collections, Power Card outreaches, and a Summer Reading Program for 12-18 year olds. Federal funding for our ASPIRE for young adults will cease in early FY2004, requiring the library to reduce ASPIRE sites to 7 locations. However, we will continue to offer special library services directed to that age group, as well as an ancillary Summer Reading Program geared specifically for young adults.
- The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to improve services provided at community centers and pools by maximizing the resources available as well as continue to foster partnerships with Harris County Commissioners to develop/redevelop parks. In FY2004, the department will work on streamlining operations and organization to focus on the optimum delivery of the department's three core services which are: a) park development, enhancement and expansion b) recreational programming and, c) maintenance and security.

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**Administrative Services**

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The Administrative Services functional category includes the departments of City Council, City Secretary, Office of the City Controller, Finance and Administration, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legal, and Office of the Mayor.

- The Controller's Office will continue to fully implement the new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) model while maintaining the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. In addition to maintaining a fully functional internal audit organization following the guidelines and standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Office will continue to manage the City's investments for high returns consistent with City Council policy while meeting cash flow needs.
- The Finance and Administration Department serves the citizens of the community and provides support to the City departments through sound management of the City's financial activities. It implements and monitors policies and procedures concerning the financial, administrative, and regulatory affairs of the City of Houston.

- The Information Technology Department will continue to improve the organization of information technology throughout the City; to leverage emerging technologies to reduce cost, limit growth in the workforce and improve services to citizens and employees; and to provide the most innovative and cost-effective technology services for managing the City of Houston.
- The Legal Department will continue to expand its use of the internet to conduct legal research and assist the Strategic Procurement Division with the implementation of e-commerce. The department will also continue to seek opportunities for the City to recover funds.

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**General Government**

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General Government expenditures/other uses include costs shared citywide, where costs cannot be attributable to any single department. The FY2004 Budget includes the funding to cover the Houston Emergency Center's lease and operational payments, the Mayor's After School Program, retiree health benefit rate increases, the zoo contract which oversees the operations of the city zoo, debt service payments and certain citywide membership fees.