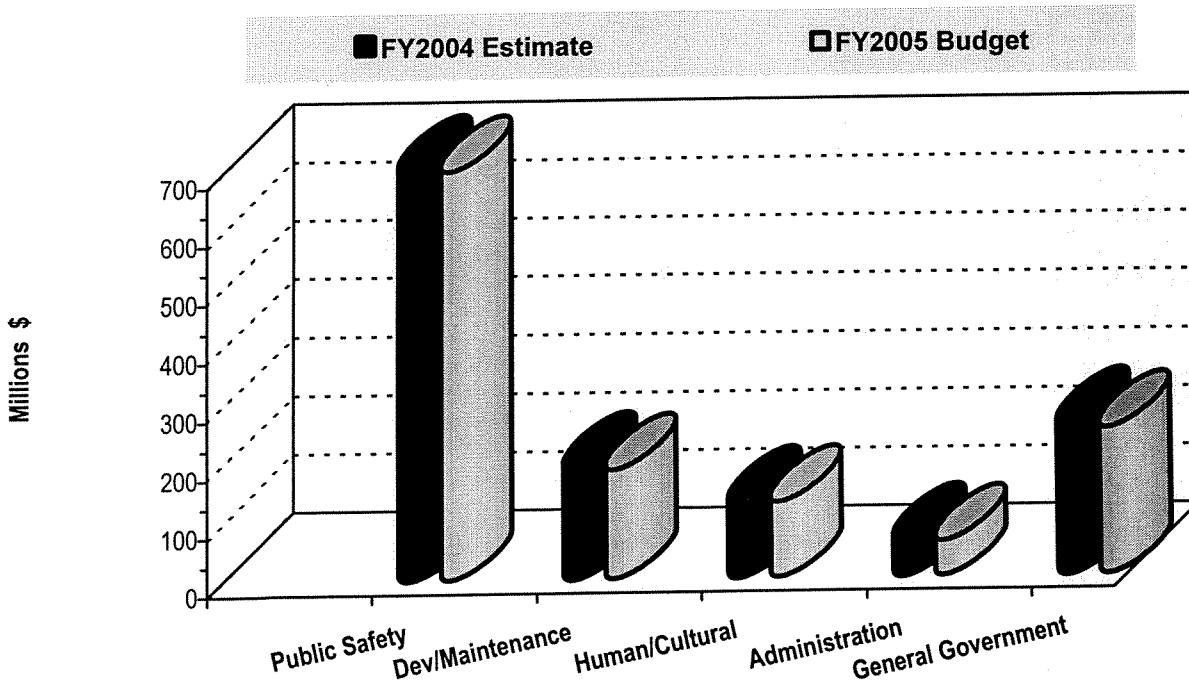


General Fund expenditures will continue most current service levels, annualize programs begun in FY2004, and meet federal mandates.

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 FY2004 Estimate and FY2005 Budget by functional category. Please refer to the tables at the end of this section for comparisons among departments.

General Fund Expenditures/Other Uses FY2004 Estimate vs FY2005 Budget



The FY2004 Estimate for General Fund expenditures/other uses totals \$1,395.5 million with the FY2005 Budget increasing by \$59.4 million to \$1,454.9 million.

The following section provides highlights of FY2005 General Fund expenditures/other uses by functional category and department.

Public Safety and Justice

- The Public Safety and Justice functional category includes the departments of Police, Fire, Municipal Courts - Administration and Municipal Courts - Justice.
- The Police Department's FY2005 Budget includes annualized funding for classified pay raises approved in the 2001 Meet and Confer Agreement and as modified in FY2003, also ordinated step and longevity increases. Funding is also included for increases for higher Health Insurance cost.
- The Fire Department's FY2005 Budget provides: 1) staffing for extended service for the opening of new Fire Station #83 at Richmond and Breezewood; 2) funding for six new cadet classes totaling 330 cadets; and, 3) overtime funding to maintain four person staffing on all engines and ladders.
- Municipal Courts will continue services at the current level including one day per week services at satellite locations in Kingwood, Clear Lake and Acres Homes. Municipal Courts is currently implementing a new integrated Case Management System (CMS). This system will replace a computer system over 15 years old that can no longer provide the necessary functionality to meet the courts requirements. The ICMS will allow courts to monitor daily operations, and provide accurate and immediate information on court activity.

Development and Maintenance Services

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 (BSD) 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 perform as the City's in-house developer, providing a full range of services including project, property, energy, environmental and security management.
- The Planning and Development Department will continue to support the Mayor's neighborhood programs, economic development, and continuous management improvement programs. The Super Neighborhood initiative and programs such as Neighborhood Planning Partnerships and the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Center are encouraging neighborhoods to get involved in city government.
- Public Works and Engineering Department goals for the FY2005 Budget include: funding for improving and promoting mobility through the Metro light rail integration, applying additional resources to the Mayor's initiative related to traffic signal optimizations and modifications and 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 provide the citizens of Houston with cost-effective, environmentally sound and safe solid waste management services.

Human and Cultural Services

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 FY2005 include: improving communicable/infectious disease control, improving the environment and environmental outcomes within the City of Houston, improving departmental capacity to provide effective and efficient services to the community, improving community capacity to address health disparities and gaps in services through improved health information and dissemination, technical support and partnership development. Staffing reductions were achieved through reorganization and consolidation of management, supervisory and administrative positions.
- The renovation and reopening of six libraries in FY2005 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 Regional Library, 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. The John P. McGovern Stella Link Branch Library will open to the public in FY2005. The Inter-local Agreement for the Joint Library in Clear Lake built in collaboration with Harris County Commences in FY2005.
- The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to play a vital role in building a sustainable community and enhance the quality of life in Houston through parks, programs and partnerships. In FY2005, the department will continue to streamline their organization and operations to focus on the optimum delivery of three core services: 1) park development, enhancement; 2) and expansion, recreational programming; 3) maintenance and security.

Administrative Services

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 protect the financial integrity of Houston's City government. In FY2005, the department will continue to maintain internal audit coverage and manage an investment portfolio of over \$2.4 billion.
- 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, insurance management, procurement, 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 review the department's computer technology and support services. The department will also continue to seek opportunities for the City to recover funds.

General Government

General Government expenditures/other uses include costs shared citywide, where costs cannot be attributable to any single department. The FY2005 Budget includes funding for compensation allowances, 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 at the zoo, debt service payments and certain citywide membership fees.