

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF FULTON

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND A PORTION OF THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM POLICIES RELATING TO CAPITAL ASSETS FOR THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS; TO PROVIDE FOR GUIDANCE IN ADMINISTERING SUCH POLICIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, it is necessary, from time to time, to amend existing policies and procedures consistent with the administration of a municipal government in alignment with changes to federal, state, and local regulations as well as changes to best practices; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager's Office has reviewed the proposed changes to the comprehensively developed the Financial Management Program, consisting of revisions recommended by the City Attorney to the Capital Assets policy which provide guidance and direction to City officials and employees, establish standard policies for recurring matters, establish strong internal controls and legal compliance, and provide for an efficient and effective means to operate the government; and

WHEREAS, upon adoption, staff will incorporate the annotated changes in the attached Capital Assets policy into the Financial Management Program, and into the City's daily operations to effectuate the management of finances and operations; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to utilize these policies and procedures in all applications which warrant such oversight.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Sandy Springs, GA while in regular session on July 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. as follows:

SECTION 1. That the Ordinance relating to the Capital Asset Policy of the Financial Management Program is hereby adopted and approved; and is attached hereto as if fully set forth herein; and,

SECTION 2. That this Ordinance shall be update the Financial Management Program of the City of City of Sandy Springs, GA; and,

SECTION 3. That staff is hereby directed to develop operating procedures and practices consistent with the nature and scope of the policies attached hereto; and

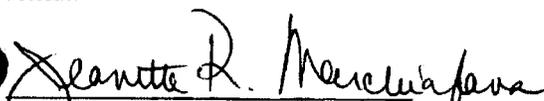
SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT SO ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS, this the 18th day of July, 2006.

Approved:


Eva Galambos, Mayor

Attest:


Jeanette R. Marchiafava, City Clerk
(Seal)



CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

CAPITAL ASSET POLICIES

Developed under the Authority
of the City Council by the
Department of Finance, and
Approved by Ordinance No.
2006-01-04 on January 3, 2006.

CAPITAL ASSETS

A. INTRODUCTION

The Capital Asset Policy is designed to provide a comprehensive description of the capital asset and property systems of the City of Sandy Springs. The primary purpose of the policies are to provide for consistent and uniform accounting of capital asset transactions throughout the City; guidelines for physical control and accountability of capital assets; and guidelines for disposal and depreciation of capital assets.

B. DEFINITIONS

Asset Acquisition: There are various methods by which the City acquires assets. These methods include, but are not limited to: purchase, donation, lease/purchase, trade-in, forfeiture, condemnation, internal/external construction, transfers from other governments, or any other method which transfers title of any property to the City.

Leased Assets: The City capitalizes assets, acquired under capital lease, provided they meet the capitalization threshold and a buy-out option is included in the lease agreement. The capital lease must meet accounting standards for capitalization purposes. For capital leases, where the title of the asset will ultimately be transferred to the City, the asset will be capitalized at the net present value of future minimum lease payments. The City does not capitalize assets they acquired under operating leases.

Gifts/Donations: The City capitalizes all equipment acquired through donations at fair market value on the date of the transaction, provided such gift or donation meets the capitalization threshold of this policy. If the equipment is new and the donor can furnish an invoice, the invoice would determine the fair market value. If the equipment is used or no information is available regarding the cost of new equipment on date of acquisition, an appraisal will be conducted to establish the capitalization amount.

Property: Property is divided into several classes including:

Real property: Land and whatever is attached to the land that cannot be readily removed, such as buildings and permanent improvements to the land. Infrastructure is included within this classification.

Personal property: Property that is movable and further classified as tangible and intangible.

Tangible personal property: Property that is moveable such as furniture, machinery, automobiles, or works of art.

Intangible personal property: The right of ownership in property such as bonds, notes, contracts, computer software, programs, and proprietary assets that are created or purchased and owned by the City.

Capital Asset: Any real or personal property acquired by the City which has an estimated useful life of three (3) or more years with an acquisition value of \$10,000 or more. This includes land, improvements to land, easements, buildings, building improvements, vehicles, machinery, equipment, works of art and historical treasures, infrastructure, and all other tangible or intangible assets that are used in the operations of the government.

Asset Capitalization Amount: The City will capitalize purchased assets at acquisition cost plus costs incurred in preparing the asset for use. The City will recognize acquisition costs based on individual unit prices.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) Reporting: All assets capitalized under this policy shall be included in the financial statements issued by the City and in the annual external audit.

Gifts/Donations: Gifts and donations are capitalized at fair market value on the date donated, if the value of the asset meets the threshold levels.

B. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORIES

Land: The City will capitalize all costs incurred to acquire land (without regard to a dollar threshold) and to place it in use. The acquisition costs of land should include: (1) the purchase price; (2) ancillary charges; (3) the assumption of any liens or mortgages on the property; and (4) improvements made to the land that are permanent in nature. Examples of ancillary charges to be included in the capitalization costs are: legal and title fees, closing costs, appraisal and negotiation fees, surveying fees, site preparation fees, demolition costs, architect and accounting fees, insurance premiums during construction phase, and transportation charges.

Improvements other than Buildings (IMP): The City classifies improvements to land with limited lives, such as fences, parking lots, and walkways as land improvements. These improvements will be depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

Buildings (BLD): If the City purchases a building, the capitalized cost should include the purchase price and other incidental expenses incurred at the time of acquisition. If the building is constructed, the capitalized cost should include material, labor, supervision, and overhead, or the contract price, including costs such as: permits and licenses, architectural and engineering fees, insurance, title costs, and interest incurred on tax exempt debt.

Building Improvements: The City capitalizes costs of improvements to a building if the following criteria are met: (1) the expenditures increase the service potential of the building and (2) the total improvement costs, including the contract price, engineering, architectural, and attorney's fees, etc., meet the capitalization threshold of this policy.

- ❑ Items considered as improvements include: ramps, fire escapes, truck doors or other appurtenances; modifications to comply with fire, health, or safety codes; conversion of unusable to useable floor space, upgrade of the space.
- ❑ Repairs to a building are not considered an improvement unless it extends the useful life of the structure or increases the value of the structure (i.e., a betterment). The City considers ordinary repairs as operating costs.

Construction in Progress (CIP): Construction in progress includes accumulation of on-going project costs that increase the value or life of the asset. Upon project completion, the construction account in progress will be closed out and costs will be capitalized into the appropriate asset category (infrastructure, land improvement, building).

Moveable Equipment (EQP): Expenditures for individual items or pieces of equipment meeting the capitalization threshold shall be capitalized, consistent with the designations of personal property, both tangible and intangible as outlined above.

Infrastructure: Long-lived capital assets that normally are stationary in nature and normally can be preserved for a significantly greater number of years than most capital assets shall be capitalized based on the capitalization threshold requirement of this policy. Examples of infrastructure include roads, bridges, drainage systems, sidewalks, etc.

C. ANNUAL INVENTORY

Annually, an asset listing is sent to each department for their verification of the existence of their department's capital assets. The department should identify any assets that their department has, which are not included on the asset listing. Also, the department should identify any missing assets. The Finance Department will investigate any missing items with the assistance of the department. Significant unaccounted for losses of assets will be brought to the attention of the Finance Director and the City Manager for further actions. The Finance Department may make an annual physical inventory to verify the accuracy of inventory records.

D. TRANSFER OR DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

All capital assets are the property of the City. They may not be donated, discarded or transferred to another owner without the Finance Department's direct authorization. Departments should send all surplus assets to the Finance Department for disposition.

The disposition of capital assets the City purchased with Federal grant must follow Federal Guidelines. The guidelines of the specific grant, or Federal general guidelines, will dictate the duration of time that the asset must remain property of the City. The guidelines also will indicate the disposition of the proceeds of from the sale of the asset.

All sales by the City of real property or personal property with an assigned value of equal to or more than \$2,500 must be offered for purchase, either by sealed bids or by auction to the highest bidder. Notice of the sale must be published once in the official newspaper of the City or in a newspaper of general circulation in the City. The legal notice must appear not less than 15 days or more than 60 days prior to the date of the sale. The notice must contain a brief description of the property and the conditions of the sale. If the sale is by sealed bid, the bids shall be opened in public at the time and place stated in the legal notice. The bids shall be kept available for public inspection for 60 days. The City may reject any and all bids or cancel a proposed sale.

Property with an estimated value of less than \$2,500.00 may be sold without regard to the above provisions. Such sales may be made in the open market without advertisement and without acceptance of bids. The City has the power to estimate the value of the property being sold.

E. DEPRECIATION

The City records depreciation for its capital assets monthly. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method with no estimated salvage values. For purchased capital assets, the City uses the invoice date as the in service date.

F. ESTIMATED USEFUL LIFE

For purposes of depreciation, each asset is assigned an estimated useful life. Useful lives are based upon the category of assets. The life of the asset begins when it is put into service, which is recognized as the invoice date. The estimated lives shall be based upon those recommended by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, the Government Finance Officers Association, and the City's experience.

G. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAPITAL ASSET AND PROPERTY INVENTORY AND CONTROL

It is the responsibility of the Department of Finance to establish and maintain an accurate accounting of capital assets, and to design and implement continually improved operating procedures for activities required as a result of this policy. It shall be the responsibility of all City departments to cooperate in the capitalization process and to perform the annual inventory.