Finance Department Frequently Asked Questions

These are common questions that are inquired of the Finance Department. A link is provided in red where there is more information available on the website.

Basic Finance Department Questions

Do I have to get my dog licensed?
Yes. Oregon law requires that every dog in the state be licensed at six months of age or when it has permanent canine teeth. Dog License applications may be obtained at City Hall. Fees range from $18 for a one-year license for a spayed or neutered dog to $98 for a three-year license for a dog that has not been surgically altered.

Call 503-635-0255 for further information.

Does the City provide notary services?
Yes, at the Library on Saturdays, but only for City business. There is no charge for the service.

Where do I apply for a passport?
Passports applications are accepted 9:00 a.m - 3:30 p.m. at the Finance counter on the 1st floor of City Hall on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Utility Payments

What are the components of my utility bill?
There are four utility services that the City invoices every two months:
Water, Wastewater, Surface Water, and Street Maintenance.

How do I find information on water conservation?
The Water Conservation page is located under the Public Works department.

Can I receive my utility bill by email?
Yes. You can sign up for E-Statements to have your bill sent directly to your email instead of by regular mail. Contact the utility department for more information on this convenient service at (503) 635-0265.

I'm paying my water bill... who do I make the check out to?
Checks for water bills and/or assessment payments should be made payable to "City of Lake Oswego" and mailed to: P.O. Box 589, Lake Oswego, OR 97034.

Can I pay my utility bill electronically?
Yes. Our Utility Department has an "auto-pay" program called EasyPay. Your bank will pay the bill straight from your bank account, allowing plenty of time to review your bill and call us with any questions before your payment is due. An application for the EasyPay program can be obtained at City Hall or by calling our Utility Department at 503-635-0265.

Another way to pay your bill electronically is by using your credit card and UtilityOnline. This is an on-line program, where you can review your utility account, history, and consumption, as well as place service requests, and make credit card payments on-line from the convenience and security of your home computer.

Why are utility rate increases needed?
Utility rate increases may be necessary to generate additional revenue for capital improvements as approved in the City's 5-year capital improvement plan. The City Council's goal is to only increase utility rates moderately, when necessary, to minimize the financial hardship to utility customers.

How do I get my water turned off for an emergency?

If you have an emergency or need to have your water turned off, the City can assist in that effort.

- **Getting Your Water Turned Off**
  If you would like to schedule an appointment to turn your water off at the City's shut-off valve, please call the Operations Division at (503) 635-0280. Appointments can be made Monday through Friday from 8:00 am - 2:30 pm. There is no charge for this service during regular business hours, however, if you require after hours assistance there is a charge of $80.00.

- **Emergency Water Shut-off - Call 503-635-0238**
  If you have an emergency after business hours and need to get your water turned off, please call the Lake Oswego Police Dispatch at 503-635-0238.

Population, Taxes, and the Budget

What is the population of the City of Lake Oswego?
City population over the last ten years has been as follows:

Year	Population
2003	35,750
2004	35,759
2005	35,860
2006	36,075
2007	36,350
2008	36,345
2009	36,698
2010	36,755
2011	36,845
2012	36,725
2013	36,770

How many employees does the City have?
The City currently has budgeted 352.1 full-time equivalents.

Where does the City get its money?
The largest source comes from property taxes. The second largest source comes from sales and services such as utility charges.

Where does the City spend its money?
Currently, the City has 18 separate funds set up for different purposes. The major funds include the General Fund and the Utility funds. The General Fund includes various departments such as General Administration, Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation, Library, Planning, and Building.

Who collects property taxes for the City? Where do I go with questions about that?
The majority of the City of Lake Oswego is located in Clackamas County. Property taxes are collected by the Clackamas County Department of Assessment & Taxation. This county agency then distributes the City's portion as collected. For questions and/or inquires, please contact the Assessor's Office at 503-655-8671. (Small areas of the City are located in Multnomah and Washington counties. Those counties also collect their respective property taxes for the City.)

When is the budget for the City of Lake Oswego presented?
The budget process for developing the City's budget begins in the spring of each year with adoption by the City Council targeted for June. The Budget Committee has 7 elected City Council members and 7 appointed citizens, all with equal voting rights. After the committee reviews and recommends changes, if any, the budget is forwarded to the City Council for formal adoption prior to the end of the current fiscal year, June 30.

Where can I get a copy of the City's budgets and/or year-end audit reports?
The budget is available online here and the audit report here. Alternatively, the Finance Department at City Hall will provide a copy of the report at a cost of $20 each. You may also review copies of these documents at the Library in the Reference section.

The City's Larger Financial Picture

How much bonded debt does the City of Lake Oswego have?
See municipal bond issues.

What are the credit or bond ratings for the City of Lake Oswego?
A credit rating is a current opinion of the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a financial obligation. On September 29, 2006, the City of Lake Oswego was upgraded to the following credit ratings and they were reaffirmed in 2011:

Aaa ~ Moody's
AAA ~ Standard & Poor's

What is the City of Lake Oswego's D-U-N-S Number?
This number is a distinctive nine-digit identification provided by Dun & Bradstreet which links the user to a wealth of quality information products and services an organization provides. The City's number is: 06-524-8932.

What is the City of Lake Oswego's Tax ID Number?
This number is a distinctive nine-digit identification provided by the Internal Revenue Service. The City's number is: 93-6002231.

How do I purchase bonds issued by the City?
These bonds are sold through an investment broker. Contact your broker and inquire whether the firm has any available for purchase.

Payroll Information

What are the 2013 Payroll Minimums and Limits?

- Oregon's Minimum Wage Rate, effective January 1, 2014, is $9.10 per hour
- Deferred Comp maximum contribution is $17,500, if over age 50 maximum is $23,000
- Social Security taxable wage maximum $117,000, effective January 1, 2014
- IRS Mileage Rate is 56 cents per mile, effective January 1, 2014
- Public Transit reimbursement limit is $130 per month

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