

## GLOSSARY

Accrual Accounting: A basis of accounting in which revenues and expenditures are recorded at the time they are earned or incurred as opposed to when cash is actually received or spent. For example, in accrual accounting, revenue that was earned between April 1 and June 30, but for which payment was not received until July 10, is recorded as revenue of June rather than July.

Activity: A specific and distinguishable unit of work or service performed, such as Public Safety.

Adopted Budget: The budget approved by the Board of Commissioners and enacted by budget appropriation ordinance, on or before June 30 of each year.

ATODA: An acronym for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse.

ABP: An acronym for Alternative Bond Program.

Appropriation: An authorization made by the County Commission which permits the County to incur obligations and to make expenditures of resources.

Assessed Valuation: An assessment ratio based on the use of property (i.e. commercial, residential and personalty) in the calculate property taxes.

Balanced Budget: A budget where there are sufficient revenues to fund the various expenditure elements.

BDS: An acronym for Biohazard Detection System.

BHC: An acronym for Birchwood Health Clinic.

BLL: An acronym for Blood Lead Level.

Board of Commissioners: The governing body of Hamilton County.

Bond: A written promise to pay a sum of money on a specific date at a specified interest rate. The interest payments and the repayment of the principal are detailed in a bond ordinance. The most common types of bonds are general obligation and revenue bonds. These are most frequently used for construction of large capital projects, such as buildings and infrastructure.

Bond Covenant: A legally enforceable promise made by an issuer of bonds to the bondholders, normally contained in the bond resolution of indenture (e.g. pledged revenues).

Bond Rating: A system of appraising and rating the investment value of individual debt issues.

Budget: A financial plan for a specified period of time (e.g. fiscal year) that balances projected revenues and fund balance appropriations to estimated service expenditures and operating transfer obligations.

Budget Amendment: The increase or transfer of appropriations requiring the approval of the Board of Commissioners, the County Mayor or the Division Administrator depending on the nature of the transfer.

Budget Appropriation Ordinance: The official enactment by the Board of Commissioners establishing the legal authority for County administrative staff to obligate and expend funds.

Budget Calendar: The schedule of key dates or milestones which the County follows in the preparation and adoption of the budget.

Budget Message: The opening section of the budget, which provides the County Commission and the public with a general summary of the most important aspects of the budget.

Budget Resolution: The official enactment by the County Commission to establish legal authority for County officials to obligate and expend resources.

Capital Improvements: Expenditures related to the acquisition, expansion or rehabilitation of an element of the government's physical plant, sometimes referred to as infrastructure.

Capital Improvements Program: A plan for capital outlay to be incurred each year over a fixed number of years to meet capital needs arising from the government's long term needs.

Capital Outlay: Represents expenditures, which result in the acquisition of or addition to, fixed assets, including land, buildings, improvements, machinery or equipment. Most equipment or machinery expenditures are included in the General Fund budget. Capital improvements such as acquisition of land and related construction and engineering fees are included in the Capital Project Funds, which are not included in the budget.

CPR: An acronym for Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation.

C.E.G. Program: An acronym for Center for Entrepreneurial Growth Program.

Component Units: Legally separate organizations for which the elected officials of the primary government are financially accountable. In addition, component units can be other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with a primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Constitutional Offices: Independently elected officials with the exception of Clerk and Master and Judicial Magistrate who are appointed officials of Hamilton County.

Controllable Assets: Those assets that do not meet the criteria for a capital asset, usually because their historical cost is between \$1,000 - \$4,999 (fair market value of donated assets). Controllable assets are maintained for tracking purposes only. Exceptions to this rule are computers and firearms, which should be tracked regardless of historical cost.

CCA: An acronym for Corrections Corporation of America.

Debt: An obligation resulting from the borrowing of money for the purchase of goods and services.

Debt Service: Debt Service expenditures are the result of bonded indebtedness of the County. Debt Service expenditures include principal, interest and administrative cost.

Department: A management unit of closely associated County activities headed by a Director.

Discretely Presented Component Unit: Method of reporting financial data of component units separately from financial data of the primary government.

Division: A management unit of closely associated County departments headed by an Administrator.

EPSDT: An acronym for Early Periodical Screening Development and Treatment.

Effectiveness Measures: Effectiveness measures, also known as outcome indicators, measure the results, accomplishments, or quality of the item or service provided. They measure the quality of the program outputs-responsiveness, timeliness, compliance, accuracy and customer satisfaction.

Efficiency Measures: Efficiency indicators quantify the relationship between input and output. They measure how much output or outcome can be produced or provided by a given resource level or how much input it takes to produce a given level of output or outcome.

EMS DOT: Is an acronym for Emergency Management Services – Department of Transportation.

Employee Benefits: This classification of expense covers fringe benefit cost, such as FICA, Health Insurance, Pension, and any other employee related costs not covered in Employee Compensation.

Employee Compensation: This classification of expense covers salaries and wages, including overtime, which are paid directly to the employees.

EEOC: An acronym for Employee Equal Opportunity Commission.

Encumbrances: An administrative control under which commitments for the expenditures of money are recorded; thus the money is not available for new expenditure commitments. The use of encumbrances prevents overspending and permits officials to be certain of how much money is available for new commitments.

ESIP: An acronym for Enterprise South Industrial Park.

Estimated Revenue: The amount of projected revenue to be collected during the fiscal year.

Expenditures: The term refers to the outflow of funds paid, or to be paid, for an asset obtained or goods and services obtained regardless of when the expense is actually paid.

FHC: An acronym for Family Health Clinic.

Fiscal Year: The time period designated by the County signifying the beginning and ending period for recording financial transactions. The fiscal year for Hamilton County is July 1 to June 30.

Fitch, Inc.: A recognized bond rating agency.

Full Time Equivalents (FTE): A method of measuring the equivalent number of full time employees by giving a percentage value to temporary, part time and SKIMP employees based on the percentage of hours worked compared to a permanent full time employee.

Fund: An accounting entity that has a set of self-balancing accounts and that records all financial transactions for specific activities or governmental functions. The funds included in this document are General Fund, Debt Services Funds, Special Revenue Funds and The Department of Education Funds.

Fund Accounting: An accounting system organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues and expenditures, or expenses, as appropriate. Resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

Fund Balance: Difference between assets and liabilities reported in the government fund.

General Fund: The principal fund of the County, the General Fund is used to account for all activities not included in other specified funds. General Fund revenue sources include property and business taxes, licenses and permits, intergovernmental revenues, service charges, fines and forfeitures, and other types of revenue. This fund includes most of the basic operating services, such as Emergency Services, Library, Community Corrections, Health Services, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and General Government Administration.

General Obligation Bonds: This type of bond is backed by the full faith, credit and taxing power of the government.

GAAP: Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) are uniform standards and guidelines for financial accounting and reporting which govern the form and content of the basic financial statements of an entity.

GASB: Acronym for the Government Accounting Standards Board. The ultimate authoritative accounting and financial reporting standard-setting body for state and local governments.

GFOA: An acronym for Government Finance Officers Association.

Governmental Funds: Funds generally used to account for tax-supported activities. There are three different types, in this document: the general fund, special revenue funds, and the debt service fund.

Grants and Appropriations: This classification of expense covers funds appropriated to various institutions not directly under the operational control of the County. This classification also includes monies appropriated to the County for Federal and State supported programs.

HUGS: An acronym for Help Us Grow Successfully.

HHC: An acronym for Home Health Clinic.

ITS: An acronym for Information Technology Services.

Interfund Transfers: Amounts transferred from one fund to another. Transfers are not expenditures and must be appropriated for expenditures in the fund receiving the transfer.

Intergovernmental Revenue: Revenue received from another government for general purposes or a specific purpose.

IFAS: An acronym for Intergraded Financial Accounting System.

LEED: An acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

MCO: An acronym for Managed Care Organization.

MMRS: An acronym for Metropolitan Medical Response System.

Modified Accrual: Revenue is recognized in the accounting period when it becomes "susceptible" to accrual; that is, when it becomes measurable and available.

Moody's Investor Service, Inc.: A recognized bond rating agency.

NFPA: An acronym for National Fire Protection Association.

NIMS: An acronym for National Incident Management System

OSHA: An acronym for Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

OHC: An acronym for Ooltewah Health Clinic.

Operations: The classification of expense that covers all expense other than employee compensation, employee benefits and capital outlay necessary for a department to perform its intended function.

Organizational Chart: A pictorial depicting the organizations chain of administration regarding services provided.

Performance-Based Pay Plan: A performance based evaluation system, which is tied to a market based pay plan.

Performance Goals: A strategic goal identifying program or department priorities used to develop a plan of action.

Performance Measures: A quantitative means of assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of a program or department.

Reserves: Money set aside and restricted for a specific purpose which can only be used for the purpose specified. Any unspent reserves revert back to the appropriate Fund Balance.

Resolution: Any measure adopted by the County Commission that requires a majority vote for passage. Does not include ordinances or emergency ordinances.

Retainage: A reserve held back for contract payments for construction, pending completion and approval of the project.

Revenue: Funds that the government receives as income. It includes such items as tax payments, fees from specific services, receipts from other governments, fines, forfeitures, grants, shared revenues, and interest income.

SHC: An acronym for Sequoyah Health Clinic.

Situs: The place where something (as a right) is held to be located in law.

STCD: An acronym for Sexually Transmitted / Communicable Disease.

SKIMP: A permanent part time employee working an average of 25 hours per week who qualifies for medical and life benefits but who does not qualify for pension benefits.

Special Revenue Funds: These are operating funds which are restricted as to use by the Federal and State governments and special purpose funds established by the County Board Of Commissioners. The special revenue funds included in this document are the Sheriff Fund and the Juvenile Court Clerk Fund.

Standard and Poor's: A recognized bond rating agency.

Statute: A law enacted by the legislative branch of a government.

Tax Levy: The total amount of tax that optimally should be collected based on tax rates and assessed values of personal and real properties.

Tax Rate: The level at which taxes are levied. Hamilton County's tax rate is \$2.7652 of assessed value for FY 2011 – 2012.

TEMA: An acronym for Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

Transfers In / Out: Amounts transferred from one fund to another to assist in financing the services for the recipient funds.

Transmittal Letter: A general discussion of the budget presented by the County Mayor and the Administrator of Finance to the Board of Commissioners as a part of the budget document. The transmittal letter explains principal budget issues against the background of financial experience in recent years and presents recommendations made by the County Mayor and Administrator of Finance.

Unassigned Department: The departments or functions that do not fall into any specific category of the General Fund.

VAAP: The Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant transferred to the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County Government for an industrial park. Now known as Enterprise South.

WWTA: An acronym for Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority.

WMD-DOJ: An acronym for Weapons of Mass Destruction – Department of Justice.

WIC: An acronym for Women, Infants, and Children.





MOTHER BELL



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**COVER PHOTO:** Because of its natural beauty, its easy access to the Tennessee River waterfront and its commitment to environmental stewardship and land conservation, Chattanooga and Hamilton County have become of mecca for those who enjoy and respect the great outdoors.

Those who have flocked to the Scenic City include participants in the Head of the Hooch, the Dragonboat races benefiting Children's Hospital at Erlanger, and those who participated in the SUPSplash Paddleboat Races at RiverRocks. In addition, Balloon Glow brought hot air balloon fans to Coolidge Park during RiverRocks.



**RIGHT:** Growth at Enterprise South continues. Amazon opened its facility in Enterprise South in the fall of 2011. The Erlanger Wellness Center at Volkswagen Drive had its Open House in October. Volkswagen Group of America reached its first significant milestone in September 2011 when Passat number 10,000 rolled off the assembly line in the Hamilton County manufacturing facility.



Special thanks to Shelia Cannon in the Hamilton County Finance Division for her photo contributions to the 2012 CABR. Shelia's photos include Balloon Glow (cover, back, page 4), The Southern Belle (inside cover and inside back), The Well (page 2), 21st Century Waterfront (pages 22 and 23), Sheriff's Office Color Guard at the County Fair (page 25), September 11 anniversary and RiverRocks events (pages 26 and 27), the Alstom Plant and Riverfront (page 28) and Ruby Falls (page 42).

**HAMILTON COUNTY  
FINANCE DIVISION**  
123 East 7th Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-1904

423.209.6330  
www.hamiltontn.gov