

Reducing City Expenses Without Reducing Services

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Webinar 2/18/10



Welcome to this FLC Webinar!

- This presentation includes the power point you are viewing, an informational attachment and an audio portion by telephone. If you have not yet connected to the telephone call, please dial...
- You can submit questions through the “chat” box on the webinar screen



City Fiscal Conditions in Florida

- Florida's fiscal conditions are cyclical – last economic downturn was 1990s.
- Florida had a property tax 'crisis' between 1978-1982
- This fiscal crisis includes the impact of great declines in property values, the impact of state legislation and Amendment One, declines in state sales tax collections and the decline in growth/building statewide



The Context Today

- This audience includes elected officials, appointed staff (managers, clerks, attorneys) and city staff
- This talk is based upon visits across the state in a climate of reducing expenses
- Cities are struggling to provide economic relief while attempting to meet expected service requirements – and mandates



Presentation Topics

- Alternate Service Delivery
- Personnel Costs
- Utility Payment Collections – reduce/eliminate
- Strategic Downsizing of Workforce
- Energy Costs
- Health and Safety



Presentation Topics Continued

- Solid Waste Collection
- Surplus Equipment



Alternate Service Delivery

- More than privatizing: think outside the box!
- Intergovernmental contracts or agreements
- City-to-city; city to county (and maybe not your county but one adjacent to you); city-to-special district
- Merging certain services
- Functional consolidation



Personnel Costs

- Raises versus bonuses
- Reducing or eliminating sick/vacation leave
- Revise/reduce pension benefits for new hires
- Selective separation
- Voluntary early retirement



Utility Payment Collections

- Should a city with utilities consider reducing payment collections by municipal employees?
- Increase in private sector-type options



Strategic Downsizing of Workforce

- Service level determination
- Detailed analysis necessary!
- This strategy can be compared to surgery



Energy Costs

- Careful analysis is required
- Conduct a comprehensive fleet analysis
- Major usage replacements
- “Vampire” electronics
- GPS tracking devices in vehicles
- Tankless water heaters
- Communications Costs



Health and Safety

- Convincing employees to live a healthy lifestyle – easier said than done!
- Financial incentives: do they work?
- Wellness programs



Solid Waste Collection

- Frequency of collection is a good point of discussion today



Surplus Equipment

- Florida League of Cities has a partnership with govdeals.com – auction for surplus equipment



Questions ?

- Please go to the “chat” box to submit a question, which Ken will read and answer



Financial and Technical Assistance Program

- A visit from Ken to work with your city staff on these and other financial issues



Webinar Wrap-Up

- Quality Cities magazine article on this subject:
September/October 2009 issue
- This webinar will be posted on the FLC web site
- You can reach Ken at ksmall@flcities.com or (850) 222-9684



Thank you for Joining us Today!

- Future webinars are listed under “upcoming events” on the FLC web site at www.flcities.com
- Contact Jan Piland at the FLC to sign-up: jpiland@flcities.com or (850) 222-9684

