



CEDRIC B. GLOVER
MAYOR

ROD RICHARDSON
Director of Communications

505 Travis Street Suite 200
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Tel. 318.673.5008
Fax.318.673.5099
Cell.318.525.7039

rod.richardson@shreveportla.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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Mayor Submits Operational Budget for 2015

Mayor Cedric Glover today submitted a balanced \$481.2 million operating budget for 2015, an increase of 3.2 percent over the 2014 budget with much of the increase primarily due to increased contributions in employee health insurance and retirement benefits.

Although across-the-board raises aren't being proposed, budget discussions this month will include a recommendation for 5 percent merit raises for employees, beginning next year. Some City employees have complained about hourly wages which they believe are too low for the jobs that they have.

The City's General Fund is proposed for \$227.4 million, with slightly more than \$10 million designated in 2015 for operating reserves. The General Fund includes stable spending on costs to provide services to citizens and represents no reduction in those services.

Sales taxes are estimated to finish at \$120 million this year. The 2015 budget contains the same projection, which is a 5.2 percent increase in actual collections over the 2014 estimate.

The City Council will hold budget hearings, starting Oct. 21 and ending Nov. 18. These review sessions are open to the public and the individual departments will be asked to justify their spending projections for the coming year.

The Council will vote to adopt the final budget prior to the charter-required Dec. 15 deadline.

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