On November 2, 2004 the voters of Stockton passed The Stockton Safe Neighborhood Gang and Drug Prevention, Police/Fire Response Measure, also known as Measure W. Approval of the measure enabled the collection of a one-quarter percent sales tax to fund Public Safety services.

The Measure W Program Guidelines, as approved by the City Council, require a review of the Measure W program every five years. The first review and report was completed in October 2009.

This Five Year Review covers the period beginning in fiscal year 2009-10 and ending in fiscal year 2013-14.

The schedule presented reflects unaudited actual revenues and expenditures for the prior 5 year period and the current 5 year period for comparison purposes.

The Measure W Program Guidelines call for specific actions to be taken to make certain the funds are spent according to the voter’s direction and to ensure the public is well-informed. The City has been diligent in complying with these guidelines.

Revenue and expenses for the Measure are tracked through the financial system and audited annually by an Independent Auditor. A Citizen’s Oversight Committee, formed in April 2005, meets regularly and reviews revenues and expenditures related to the Measure. The committee also reviews the findings of the annual audit reports and discusses the progress of Measure W with the Police Chief, Fire Chief and City Finance staff. Based on their findings each year, the Committee submits an annual report to the City Council.

The Measure currently recommends an Economic Uncertainty fund at 25% of the annual budgeted revenues. This fund balance as of 6/30/14 is estimated at 33% of the annual revenues due to an accumulation of salary savings. A portion of this balance has been allocated for the purchase of a much needed fire truck in FY 2014-15 Budget.
The chart presented of Measure W Sales Tax Revenue and Positions Supported shows the initial revenue projections as compared with the actual revenues for the first ten years of Measure W. In addition, the number of positions supported by this funding are shown for Police and Fire Departments over the same span of time.

The initial Measure W revenue projections relied upon a 4.5% growth assumption which has not materialized. The use of Measure W revenues has been primarily additional safety positions. Up to 79% of funding has gone directly to safety salaries and benefits. As the revenues have been reduced due to economic conditions, so have the number of safety personnel funded through Measure W. As revenues increase, so too will the budgets for safety positions in both Departments.

The chart below shows Measure W Revenues versus Expenditures for ten years. The last five years, FY 2009-10 through FY 2013-14, reflect the sharp expenditure reductions as a result of declining revenues from the economic recession. After the revenue reductions, the City realigned Measure W staff, implemented operating cuts consistent with City cuts, and reduced expenditure budgets to ensure program sustainability. Slowly these staffing levels have been and will continue to be increased as revenue allows, although the initial goal of 40 positions in each department remains unrealistic in the near term. Other Measure W expenditures include training, equipment, supplies and costs to maintain and administer the programs. These costs currently use 13% of Measure W revenues and have remained stable over time. Finally, efforts have been made to build the available reserve for economic uncertainty which is now above the guideline recommendation of at least 25% of annual revenues.

Citizen Comments

Learn more about

Measure W:

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