

Fund 217 – Lighting Districts

City of Great Falls, Montana

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006		FY 2007 Adopted	
		Original	Amended	Projected	
Fund Summary					
Taxes	0	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental	0	0	0	0	0
Charges for Services	0	0	0	0	0
Fines and Forfeitures	0	0	0	0	0
Internal Services	0	0	0	0	0
Special Assessments	1,150,944	1,111,609	1,111,609	1,111,609	1,169,970
Investment Earnings	11,641	8,922	8,922	8,922	13,103
Miscellaneous Revenue	9,782	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Operating Revenue	1,172,367	1,120,531	1,120,531	1,120,531	1,183,073
Proceeds from Long-term Debt	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers - In From Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	1,172,367	1,120,531	1,120,531	1,120,531	1,183,073
Personal Services	0	0	0	0	0
Supplies & Materials	2,004	600	600	1,152	1,400
Purchased Services	979,719	1,011,509	1,011,509	1,026,134	1,067,066
Other Costs	1,167	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Debt Service - Interest & Fees	0	0	0	0	0
Internal Service, Interfund	105,214	103,309	103,309	103,309	104,609
Subtotal Operating Expenses	1,088,104	1,116,618	1,116,618	1,131,795	1,174,275
Debt Service - Principal	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers - Out to Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	1,088,104	1,116,618	1,116,618	1,131,795	1,174,275
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	84,263	3,913	3,913	(11,264)	8,798
add (deduct) Net Changes in Reserves	0	0	0	0	0
Net Change in the Unreserved Balance	84,263	3,913	3,913	(11,264)	8,798
Reserves					
Beginning Balance - July 1	0	0	0	0	0
Net Change	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Balance - June 30	0	0	0	0	0
Unreserved Balance					
Beginning Balance - July 1	609,206	624,846	624,846	693,469	682,205
Net Change	84,263	3,913	3,913	(11,264)	8,798
Ending Balance - June 30	693,469	628,759	628,759	682,205	691,003

The Lighting Maintenance District Fund is administered by the Fiscal Services Department. This fund is a special revenue fund created to account for the collection of assessments and subsequent payment of special lighting maintenance district costs.

There are currently 21 special lighting maintenance districts (SLD’s) with approximately 9,379 street lights, lighting over 76% of the city. The original lighting districts can be traced back to 1912.

Each lighting district’s assessed cost is based upon existing rates. Rates have been adjusted for a proposed increase of 7.25% on energy costs and an increase of .05% for transmission services provided by Electric City Power. Another major factor in determining each district’s assessed cost is the district’s cash balance. Since all Special Lighting District assessments are received bi-annually on November 30 and May 31, the goal is to have a cash balance at June 30 equal to one-half of the district’s utility expense for the year. This balance allows for the payment of utility services until the next year’s assessment revenue is received. Northwestern Energy’s utility rates are monitored and approved by the State’s Public Service Commission.

In July 2005, the City Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 9506 establishing a policy for new street light districts. Since the passage of the new policy there have been two new special lighting maintenance districts which are currently owned and operated by Electric City Power. Sixteen of the special lighting maintenance district lights are owned and maintained by Northwestern Energy and three special lighting districts are State Highway/City cooperative. The State Highway/City cooperative involves lighting on state highway routes within the city and the business district along Central and 1st Avenue North.

In the past, light installation costs were included in the electric rates and were paid for an indefinite period rather than as a start up capital program. With the new city-owned lighting districts, a start up capital program will be assessed for approximately fifteen years to the property owners within the newly established district. Upon final payment of the capital loan, the assessment will decrease to cover energy and maintenance costs only.

Budget Highlights

SLD (Lighting Dist)

Fiscal Services Department	FY 2005	FY 2006		FY 2007	
	Actual	Original	Amended	Projected	Adopted
Personal Services	0	0	0	0	0
Supplies & Materials	2,004	600	600	1,152	1,400
Purchased Services	979,719	1,011,509	1,011,509	1,026,134	1,067,066
Other Costs	1,167	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Debt Service - Interest & Fees	0	0	0	0	0
Internal Service, Interfund	105,214	103,309	103,309	103,309	104,609
Subtotal Operating Expenses	1,088,104	1,116,618	1,116,618	1,131,795	1,174,275
Debt Service - Principal	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0
Total SLD (Lighting Dist)	1,088,104	1,116,618	1,116,618	1,131,795	1,174,275

Lighting Districts (continued)**Goals and Objectives****Major Accomplishments - In the Past Year:**

- City Commissioners adopted Resolution 9506 establishing a policy for new street light districts.
- Established Special Improvement Lighting District No. 1303 – City-owned residential street lighting in Meadowlark Addition #3 along Beargrass Drive.
- Established Special Improvement Lighting District No. 1305 – City-owned residential street lighting in Eagles Crossing Phase I along 46th Avenue NE, Kestrel Court, Peregrine Court and 12th Street NE.
- Modification of the boundary lines of Special Lighting District – Alley Lighting “SLD-A” No. 1294 to include properties along 4th Alley North from 38th Street to 40th Street North for the installation of 4 alley lights on Northwestern Energy’s distribution poles and to remove properties located on Block 12, Lots 1 through 16, West Great Falls Addition that were included in the district in error, as they do not have alley lighting.

Priority Goals and Objectives - For the Upcoming Year

- Continuation of comprehensive mapping of all Special Lighting Districts within the city limits with the assistance of the Mapping Department. The mapping will include district boundary parameters, the location and type of all lighting fixtures. Once the initial mapping is completed, the addition of new lighting areas can be easily added.
- Inventory all city lights in a comprehensive Lightview computer program.
- Explore possibility of buying existing street lights or building a new street lighting system.