

Debt Policies

The City will issue bonds and capital outlay notes only for capital improvements and moral obligations.

The City will not issue notes or bonds to finance operating deficits. Adequate reserves will be maintained to assure this does not become necessary. No bond or note will be issued to purchase a fixed asset which has a shorter useful life than the term of the debt instrument.

The City will issue general obligation bonds or capital outlay notes for necessary general government projects and Cleveland City Schools projects. Cleveland City Schools may be required to budget the debt service for some smaller projects. Any new school construction not covered by the State or Bradley County will be budgeted within the City's Debt Service Fund or repaid by Cleveland City Schools. Cleveland Utilities shall pay from its fees and charges all the debt service payments on any general obligation bond issued on its behalf.

No debt will be issued which would increase the outstanding amount of debt above ten (10%) percent of the total assessed value of property within the City. The outstanding amount of debt in this calculation shall not include debt issued for improvements in the electric and water/wastewater systems, because that debt will be repaid from charges for services, not from property taxes.

A firm source of revenue must be identified by the City Council before any bond or capital outlay note is issued.