The annual budget is a key communication tool that shows the public what they are getting for their money and where the City is headed in the future. The Budget is linked to the City’s Strategic Plan, which was developed with widespread Council and community involvement. The Strategic Plan contains five goals:

- Improve and Preserve our Quality of Life
- Reduce Transportation Congestion and Improve Traffic
- Address Riverside’s Social Concerns with Community Involvement
- Beautify the City
- Increase our Investment in Youth and Children

These goals are at the heart of what our community expects from its local government. In turn, these goals are woven throughout the FY 2004/05 Preliminary Budget, which allocates the resources necessary to achieving our shared vision.
The City’s principal General Fund revenue sources include taxes (mainly sales, utility users, and property taxes), license and permit fees, and intergovernmental revenues. Combined, these revenues comprise approximately 70 percent of the General Fund Revenues.

The General Fund provides core city services including police, fire, parks, recreation, street maintenance, planning, and animal control. The FY 2004/05 General Fund budget, including transfers to the Library, Refuse, and Airport Funds totals $158.7 million.