

**City of Brown City**  
**Fiscal Year 2008-2009**  
**BUDGET MESSAGE**

To: Mayor Laura Carpenter and Members of the City Council of the City of Brown City:

As required by City Ordinance Section 2108.5(g), I submit to the City Council the proposed municipal budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. This budget details the City's investment in the quality of life for our community, and is the result of a thorough analysis by the staff to identify the anticipated needs of the City, and reflect the City Council's policy decisions and direction. As required by law, this proposed budget is balanced, and provides the resources for the people, supplies, maintenance, and capital improvements necessary to make our community thrive. This budget focuses on continuing our public safety activities, maintaining and improving the City's infrastructure, expanding the public's understanding of our city government, and providing excellent customer service to Brown City's residents.

The adopted budget was formulated using the goals established by the City Council. The goals for this fiscal year include:

Stormwater Drainage Improvements, Sewer System & Lagoon Maintenance.

Repairing, replacing, and routine cleaning of City streets and sidewalks.

Increasing the number of police shifts and patrols.

Economic development to include local jobs for Brown City residents, and keeping Main Street stores filled.

No increase in taxes.

**BUDGET ELEMENTS:**

This budget document contains revenue estimates and a spending plan for the City of Brown City and consists of 11 separate funds, and as required by City Ordinance, the Brown City Festival Commission Budget.

The total proposed operating budget is \$1,888,650, an increase of \$226,930 or about 13.66% from the 2007-2008 Final Amended Budget.

**General Operating Fund:** Pages 2-11. Overall decrease of \$52,210 or 5.87%. Primary decreases are an expected reduction in revenues and contingency. Increases include anticipated wage adjustments to reflect cost of living, higher costs for health care insurance, higher postage rates, City Hall and DPW building repairs, and \$2,400 more for fire protection. Fund transfers include \$45,000 to the Storm Sewer Fund and \$15,000 to the Equipment Fund.

**Major Street Fund:** Pages 12, 13 and 14. Significant increase of \$137,060 or about 147.97%. Largest element is an anticipated \$150,000 for street repair and the associated engineering and administrative costs. Winter Maintenance for Major Streets and M-90 reflect cost levels equivalent to the 2007-2008 winter season.

**Local Street Fund:** Pages 15 and 16. Major increase of \$97,790 or about 214.40%. Largest element is an anticipated \$100,000 for street repair and the associated engineering and administrative costs. Winter Maintenance for Local Streets reflect cost levels equivalent to the 2007-2008 winter season.

**Sewer Fund:** Pages 17-19. Decrease of \$50,950 or about 35.62%, to balance costs with anticipated revenues. The fund does not reflect the estimated \$200,000 to complete Phase I and III of the sanitary sewer televising and grouting program required by the Department of Environmental Quality. The City expects to release a bond for this amount.

**Storm Sewer Fund:** Page 20. An overall increase of \$14,500 or 40.62%. This includes a transfer of \$45,000 from the General Fund for engineering and renovation of the City's storm water drainage system. Primary source of money for this fund should be from the Storm Water Fee; however, this \$2.00 per quarter fee only generates about \$4,900 per year. Records indicate that this fee has not increased since it was started in 1963.

**Water Fund:** Pages 21-22. Small decrease of \$5,750 or about 2.83%. Reflects an anticipated decrease in connection fees and balances costs with estimated revenues.

**Arsenic Abatement Fund:** Page 23-24. Significant increase of \$64,690 or about 74.69%. Increase reflects the anticipated cost of replacing the absorption media at Well #4, and principal and interest payments on the \$700,000 bond for construction of the Well #3 Water Treatment Facility.

**Equipment Fund:** Page 25. Overall increase of \$28,100 or about 38.49%. Overall increase is due to transfer of \$15,000 from the General Fund and \$15,000 from Equipment Reserve to replace a vehicle. There is an anticipated decrease in equipment rental fees paid by the other funds based on analysis of frequency of equipment use.

**Park Recreation Fund:** Pages 26-27. Slight decrease of \$3,150 or about 8.09%. This decrease reflects an expected reduction in revenues. However, a \$2,000 donation is expected from the Brown City Rotary Club for improvements to the Park.

**Cemetery Operating and Perpetual Care Funds:** Pages 28-29. No change.

**Downtown Development Authority Fund:** Pages 30 and 31. Increase of \$3,150 or about 15.40%. This reflects an adjustment of anticipated loan payment amounts.

**Brown City Festival Committee:** Page 32. This account is required by Ordinance 2.2350. Anticipated revenues and expenses are the responsibility of the Commission. Total is not included in the overall budget.

**FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:** The budget approved for fiscal year 2008-2009 will enable the City to function on a solid financial basis. However, this operating budget is not designed and is not capable of providing funding for other much needed capital projects. The City should identify funding sources for needed infrastructure improvements, such as those related to our wastewater issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton K. Holmes  
City Manager