



# City of El Campo

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended September 30, 2023

**As** mayor of the City of El Campo, in collaboration with the City Council and City staff, I am proud to present this year's City of El Campo Popular Annual Financial Report for the year ended September 30, 2023.

This report is a summary of the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and includes information regarding the City's revenues, spending and financial condition. We provide this version for citizens to gain an understanding of how their tax dollars are spent, and to demonstrate that our City leaders are responsible stewards of funds and to remain transparent and accountable to the citizens of El Campo.

We appreciate your interest in the City of El Campo's government and how it functions, and we welcome your feedback, suggestions and comments regarding the information contained in this report.

Sincerely,

Chris Barbee  
Mayor



**Front Row (l-r): At Large Councilman Blake Barker, Mayor Chris Barbee, District 4 Councilman John Hancock.**

**Back Row (l-r): District 1 Councilman Steven Ward, District 2 Councilman Tom Coblenz, District 3 Councilman David Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Eugene Bustamante**



**Chris Barbee**

Mayor / At-Large



**Eugene Bustamante**

Mayor Pro Tem / At-Large



**Blake Barker**

At-Large



**Steven Ward**

District 1



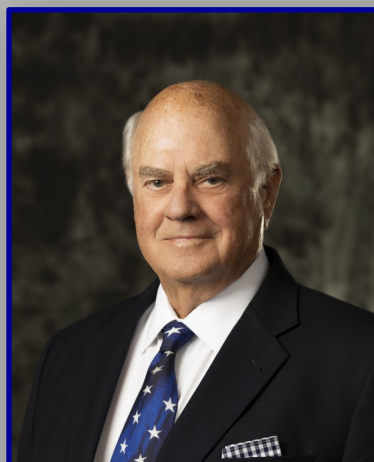
**Tom Coblentz**

District 2



**David Hodges**

District 3



**John Hancock**

District 4



**Courtney Sladek**

City Manager, CGFO, ICMA-CM



**Ronny Collins**

City Attorney

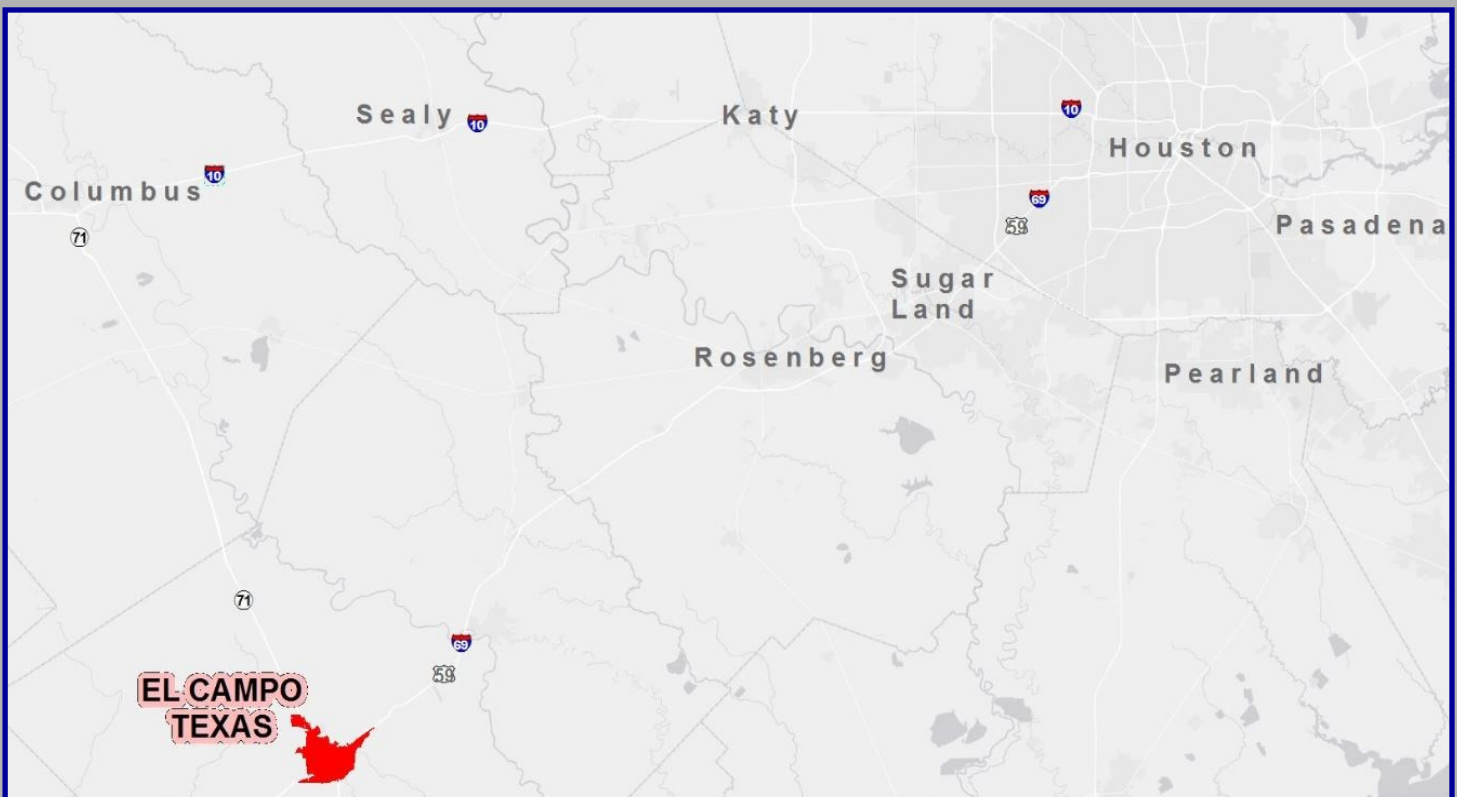
# CITY PROFILE

In 1882 a railroad camp was located where El Campo now stands. The camp was first named "Prairie Switch" and then "Pearl of the Prairie" but was later changed by the Mexican Cowboys to "El Campo" which means "the camp." Ranching was the main industry, and thousands of cattle were shipped annually. At that time El Campo was surrounded by four large ranches; to the north was the Brown Ranch; to the south was the Texas Land and Cattle Company, to the west was the Herder Ranch, and to the east was the Pierce Ranch.

El Campo was incorporated in 1905. The municipal government was composed of a mayor and five aldermen. Mr. Mack Webb was elected mayor, with a salary of \$10.00 per month. W. G. McDonald was the first city attorney; W. E. Franz, the first city secretary. Members of the first council were H. G. Beard, E. L. Correll and W. W. Duson.

Soon after the establishment of a formal government, came adequate police protection and a volunteer fire department. Utility services were expanded. The City of El Campo has been the result of a steady and continual growth by citizens who came and saw the great possibilities that El Campo has to offer.

El Campo is strategically positioned mid-way along the Texas Gulf Coast. The City of El Campo covers an area of 6.7 square miles and is the largest city in Wharton County, which covers an expansive 1,115 square miles. El Campo is ideally situated for transportation at the intersection of US Highway 59 (future Interstate 69 and NAFTA corridor) and State Highway 71 and only 38 miles from cross-country Interstate highway, I-10. The land area is 8.5 square miles and is approximately 105 feet above sea level. Population density is low, about 1,248 people per square mile. The estimated median household income in 2022 was \$62,667. The 2022 cost of living index in El Campo is 79.8 (low compared to the US average of 100).



## ABOUT THE POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

As part of an ongoing commitment to transparency and helping ensure community access to information about its local government the City of El Campo provides this Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), which describes the City's financial activities and position in 2023. This is a summary of the information reported in the City's 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

While the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report is prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the PAFR is not. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report is a more detailed, audited document of record, and it presents information in a format consistent with this standard to ensure it includes detailed information including the City's component units, presents individual funds in detail, and fully discloses all material events, both financial and non-financial. By contrast, the purpose of the PAFR is to increase public awareness about the City's financial condition by presenting information in a more user-friendly format and is unaudited and not presented in accordance with GAAP.

**Both the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and PAFR are available on the City of El Campo's webpage at [www.cityofelcampo.org/departments/finance/index.php](http://www.cityofelcampo.org/departments/finance/index.php)**

**The City's website also includes a wealth of information about the: activities of city departments; job opportunities; budgets; council members; agendas and meetings; community events; and much more.**

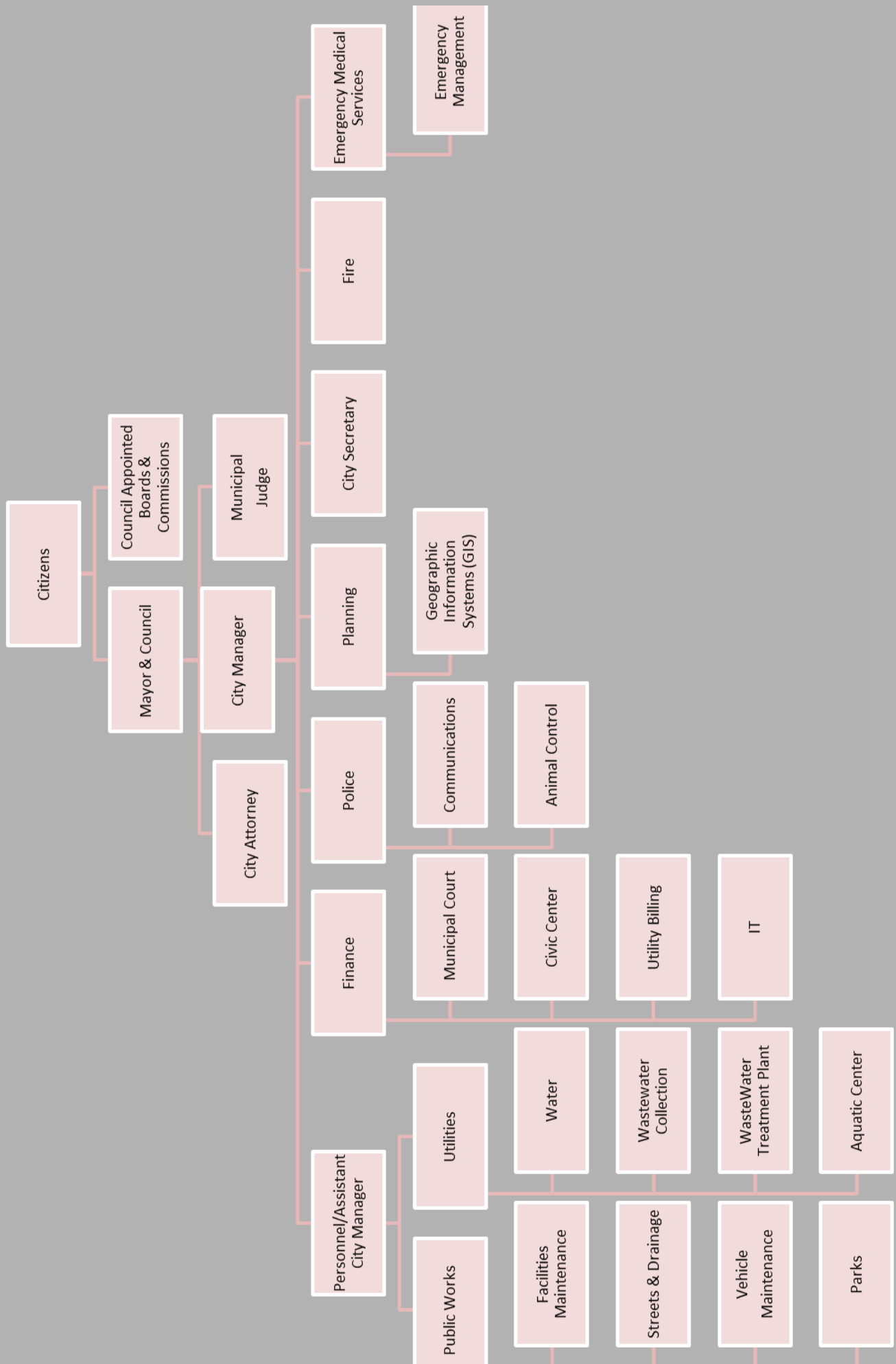


## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Within the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, the City presents two different types of financial statements.

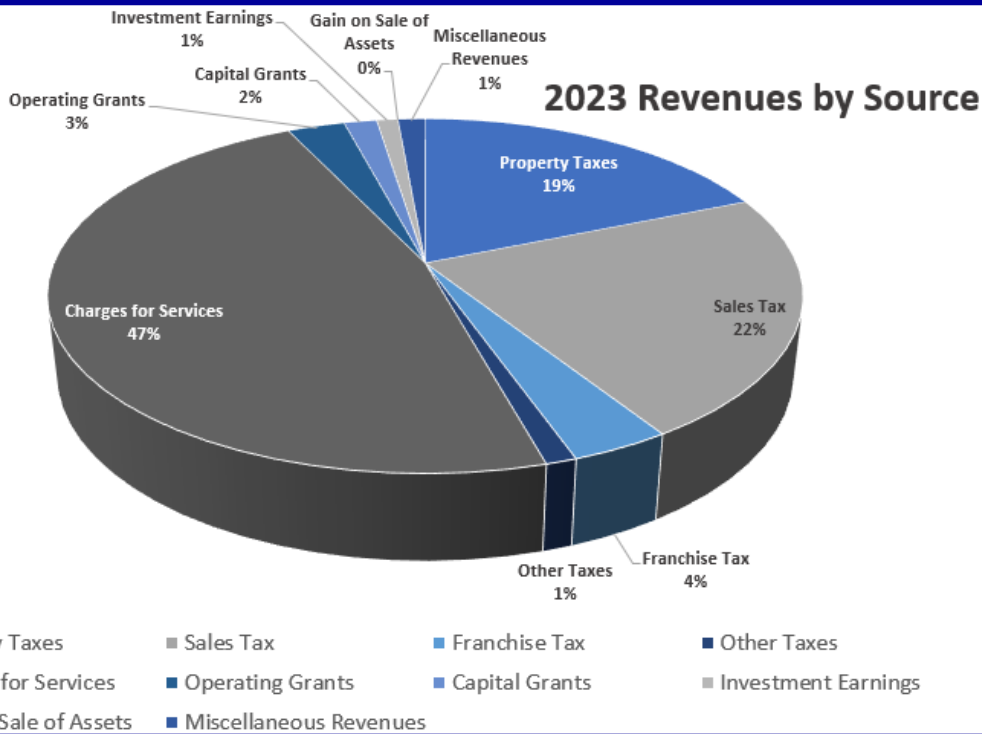
1. The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a long-term overview of the City's finances. The statements include a Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities. The government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the City that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all, or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). The governmental activities encompass general government, administrative, public safety, public works including streets and transportation, planning and development, culture and recreation, parks, and property and facility acquisition services. The business-type activities of the City include the water and wastewater utilities, stormwater and flood management, and Emergency Medical Services
2. The fund financial statements provide a short-term perspective of individual funds.

# ORGANIZATION CHART

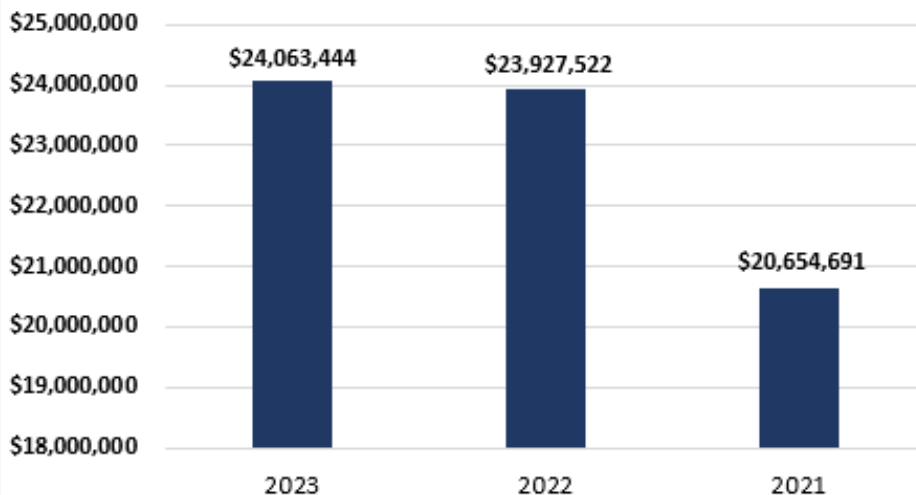


# WHERE THE REVENUE COMES FROM

Governmental/Business-Type Activities Revenues	2023	2022	2021
Property Taxes	\$ 4,511,262	\$ 4,457,531	\$ 4,240,781
Sales Tax	5,339,920	4,709,549	4,547,647
Franchise Tax	872,273	854,109	813,322
Other Taxes	269,646	171,565	173,604
Charges for Services	11,365,922	11,060,480	8,732,794
Operating Grants	704,981	1,617,478	1,604,280
Capital Grants	401,536	705,280	-
Investment Earnings	261,796	39,088	15,740
Gain on Sale of Assets	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Revenues	336,008	312,442	526,523
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 24,063,444</b>	<b>\$ 23,927,522</b>	<b>\$ 20,654,691</b>



## Total Revenues



## Statement of Activities-

### Government-wide Revenues

The City of El Campo receives revenue from a variety of sources, described below.

- ◆ **Property Tax**– Property tax is levied on the assessed value of all real property, certain personal property, and public utilities within the city.
- ◆ **Sales Tax**– Sales Tax is collected on all retail sales and other business activity.
- ◆ **Franchise Tax**– the rent a utility company uses to pay for right-of-ways to run their lines.
- ◆ **Other Taxes**– local portion of Mixed Use Tax and Hotel Motel Tax
- ◆ **Charges for Services**– Charges to the public for services the city provides. These include court fees, parks and recreation fees, and utility services.
- ◆ **Operating Grants**– Funding received from other governments and organizations for the purpose of financing one or more specific projects.
- ◆ **Capital Grants**– Finding received from other governments to purchase, construct or renovate specific capital assets.
- ◆ **Investment Earnings**– Earned on the city's fixed income investments.
- ◆ **Other Revenues**– Consists of revenues received that are not otherwise categorized in the charts.

# WHERE THE REVENUES GO

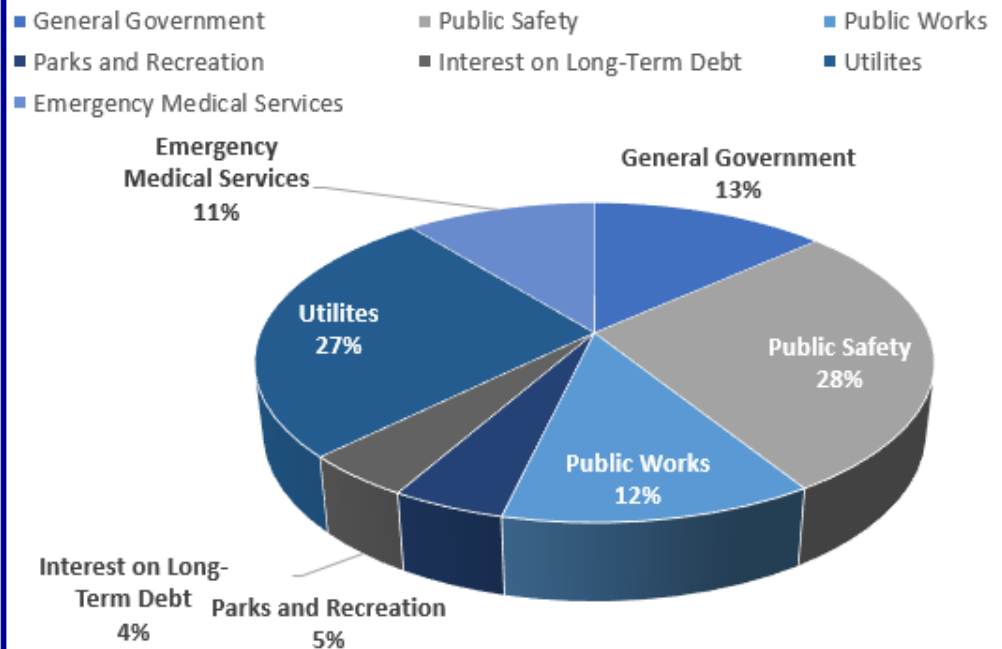
## Statement of Activities-Government wide Expenses

The city uses the revenue it receives to provide a variety of services to the community. A description of the city's expenses is provided below.

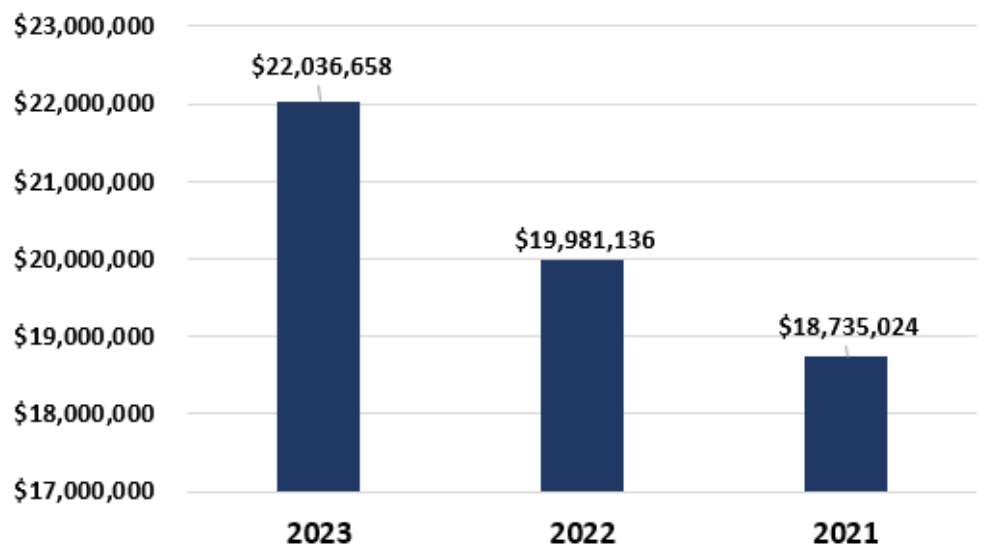
- ◆ **General Government**– Includes expenses incurred for personnel and operating expenses.
- ◆ **Public Safety**– Includes expenses incurred for public safety departments including Police, Fire, and 911 call center.
- ◆ **Public Works**– Expenses for Public Works include street and public building construction and maintenance and other public services.
- ◆ **Parks and Recreation**– Expenses for Parks and Recreation include operation, construction, and maintenance of parks, recreation centers and rental facilities.
- ◆ **Interest on Long-Term Debt**– Expenses incurred for outstanding debt obligations.
- ◆ **Utilities**– Expenses for the operating costs of these utilities, including upgrades and maintenance of water, wastewater, sewer lines and treatment plants.
- ◆ **Emergency Medical Services**– Expenses for the day to day operating of the emergency medical system such as personnel services, operational expenses, supplies, and repairs and maintenance.

Governmental/Business-Type Activities Expenses	2023	2022	2021
General Government	\$ 2,948,915	\$ 2,426,761	\$ 2,269,688
Public Safety	6,113,034	5,071,225	4,842,663
Public Works	2,761,627	2,567,114	2,958,437
Parks and Recreation	1,004,782	1,050,365	1,066,622
Interest on Long-Term Debt	978,195	1,182,606	1,246,487
Utilities	5,853,733	5,533,241	4,678,834
Emergency Medical Services	2,376,372	2,149,824	1,672,293
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 22,036,658</b>	<b>\$ 19,981,136</b>	<b>\$ 18,735,024</b>

**2023 Expenses by Source**



**Total Expense Chart**



## STRONG FINANCIAL STABILITY

### Statement of Net Position

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Current and Other Asset	13,160,747	15,389,795	15,220,535
Capital Assets, Net	51,855,481	53,527,155	55,179,036
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>65,016,228</u></b>	<b><u>68,916,950</u></b>	<b><u>70,399,571</u></b>
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b><u>935,202</u></b>	<b><u>1,295,352</u></b>	<b><u>3,192,799</u></b>
Current Liabilities	3,803,092	4,489,804	5,298,772
Long-Term Liabilities	42,758,983	41,498,767	44,009,035
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>46,562,075</u></b>	<b><u>45,988,571</u></b>	<b><u>49,307,807</u></b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b><u>1,053,283</u></b>	<b><u>2,163,541</u></b>	<b><u>81,039</u></b>
<b>Net Positions:</b>			
Net Investments in Capital Asset:	16,206,238	17,383,364	16,936,843
Restricted	914,090	999,381	992,652
Unrestricted	<u>1,215,744</u>	<u>3,677,445</u>	<u>6,157,481</u>
<b>Total Net Positions</b>	<b><u>18,336,072</u></b>	<b><u>22,060,190</u></b>	<b><u>24,086,976</u></b>

All data obtained from page 11 of the FY23 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

### Bond Ratings

Standard & Poor's  
AA-

- ♦ Strong management, with good financial policies and practices under the Financial Management Assessment (FMA) methodology
- ♦ Very strong liquidity, with total government available cash at 115.5% of total government fund expenditures and 17.5 governmental debt services, and access to external liquidity considered strong.
- ♦ Strong institutional framework score
- ♦ Capacity to meet financial commitment on obligations is very strong
- ♦ Ability to secure lower interest rates

## STATEMENT OF NET POSITION- GOVERNMENT-WIDE

The Government-wide Balance Sheet, also known as the Statement of Net Position, reports the overall financial position of the city's assets and deferred outflows of resources as well as its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources with the difference being the net position. Deferred outflows and inflows of resources represent expenses and revenues that will be recognized in a future period. Increases or decreases in net position, over time, serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the city is improving or deteriorating.

The table on this page provides a summary of the city's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position at the end of 2021, 2022 and 2023. The city's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$24.09 million at September 30, 2023. The largest portion of the city's net position, \$16.94 million, reflects the investment in capital assets (i.e.: land, buildings, infrastructure, machinery and equipment, utility plants, drainage, etc.), net of related debt. The city uses these capital assets to provide services to the public. An additional portion of the city's net position, \$992,652, are subject to usage restrictions. The remaining unrestricted balance of net position, \$6.16 million, may be used to meet the city's ongoing obligations.

# STRONG FINANCIAL STABILITY

General Fund Revenues	2021	2022	2023
Taxes	8,154,063	8,342,586	9,015,527
Permits and Licenses	189,417	260,630	203,985
Intergovernmental Revenues	19,567	124,506	595,126
Charges for Services	326,165	376,777	522,760
Fines and Penalties	286,384	241,866	226,003
Interest	9,100	10,676	99,254
Miscellaneous Receipts	<u>158,893</u>	<u>87,069</u>	<u>81,269</u>
Total Revenue	9,143,589	9,444,110	10,743,924
Sales of Capital Assets	-	-	-
Transfer In	592,085	762,637	984,274
Capital Lease	<u>135,161</u>	<u>215,260</u>	-
Total Other Services	727,246	977,897	984,274
Total Resources	<u>9,870,835</u>	<u>10,422,007</u>	<u>11,728,198</u>
Expenditures			
General Government	1,942,564	2,070,183	2,168,284
Public Safety	4,393,561	4,886,782	5,524,091
Public Works	1,746,825	1,764,086	2,002,524
Parks and Recreation	839,841	924,092	636,898
Debt Service	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	<u>135,143</u>	<u>215,260</u>	<u>39,660</u>
Total Expenditures	9,057,934	9,860,403	10,371,457
Transfers Out	234,000	324,327	282,921
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	<u>9,291,934</u>	<u>10,184,730</u>	<u>10,654,378</u>

Business- Type Activities	2021	2022	2023
Charges for Service	7,876,944	9,896,811	10,096,696
Miscellaneous	348,982	206,422	144,737
Intergovernmental	1,429,601	1,492,972	109,855
Interest	<u>2,979</u>	<u>24,079</u>	<u>154,018</u>
Total Revenue	9,658,506	11,620,284	10,505,306
Capital Contributions	-	-	-
Transfers In	-	<u>228,443</u>	<u>9,192</u>
Total Other Sources	-	228,443	9,192
Total Resources	<u>9,658,506</u>	<u>11,848,727</u>	<u>10,514,498</u>
Total Operating Expenses	6,351,127	7,683,065	8,230,105
Transfers Out	984,274	901,607	827,596
Interest and Fiscal Charges	515,764	322,459	278,687
Total Expenditures and Other Users	<u>7,851,165</u>	<u>8,907,131</u>	<u>9,336,388</u>

## Large Income Changes

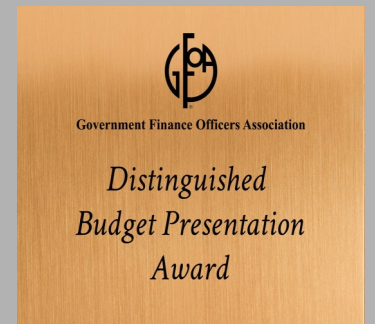
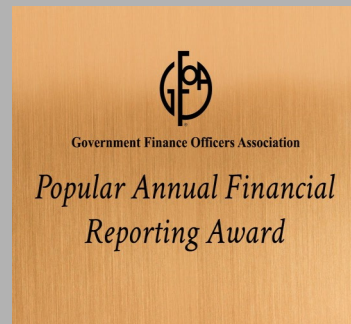
- ◆ Increased Sales Tax Revenue
- ◆ Tres Palacios Project Grant Reimbursement
- ◆ Operation Lone Star Grant Reimbursement

## Large Expense Changes

- ◆ Ambulance Re-mount
- ◆ New Interdiction K-9
- ◆ Parking lot resurfaced at Willie Bell Park
- ◆ 3 Police Units and 1 Animal Control Truck
- ◆ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG -MIT) was awarded
- ◆ Replaced two mowers in Parks
- ◆ Continued our street rehabilitation program
- ◆ Continued our water/sewer rehabilitation program



# AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS



## City Achievements

The City Finance Department has received recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) by receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Distinguished Budget) since 1998.

The City of El Campo is also a Silver Scenic City, Texas Police Chief's Association Recognized Police Department, Keep Texas Beautiful Affiliate, American Public Works Association accredited, Superior Water Quality, and has an AA- Credit Rating from S&P.

## QUICK FACTS

**12,179**

Population of  
City of El Campo

**\$62,667**

Per Capita  
Personal Income

**9.05**

City of El Campo  
in Square Miles

**24.16**

Extraterritorial  
Jurisdiction (ETJ)  
Area in Square  
Miles

**122**

Full-time City of  
El Campo  
Employees

**49**

Part-time City of  
El Campo  
Employees

**9**

Parks

**116.8**

Acres of parks

**32**

Sworn Police  
Officers

**21,987**

Calls for Emergency  
Service (Police,  
EMS & Fire)

**4:00**

Average Fire  
response time

**36**

Volunteer  
Fire Fighters

**8:03**

Average EMS  
response time

**15**

Full-time EMS  
Employees

**80.8**

Miles of  
paved streets

**94**

Miles of  
sanitary sewers

**15**

Miles of  
storm sewers

**4,929**

Water  
customers

**571**

Building Permits  
(Remodel, New con-  
struction, Garage/  
carport/deck)

**\$61.5**

Million dollars in  
Building Permit  
values

# CITY OF EL CAMPO



Function	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Administration	2	3	3	3	3
Finance	3	3	3	3	3
Personnel	1	1	1	1	1
Municipal Court	4	4	4	4	4
Inspections	5	5	5	6	6
Geographic Info Systems (GIS)	-	-	1	1	1
Police	36	35	35	36	40
Communications	8	9	9	8	8
EMS	15	15	15	15	15
Emergency Management	-	-	-	1	1
Public Administration	2	2	2	2	2
Streets	11	12	12	12	12
Vehicle Maintenance	2	2	2	2	2
Community Services/Parks	6	7	7	7	7
Aquatic Center	2	2	2	1	1
Water and Sewer Administration	3	3	3	3	3
Water Production and Wastewater Collections	11	11	11	10	10
Wastewater Treatment Plant	2	2	2	3	3
<b>Total Full-Time Employees</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>122</b>

# WHAT YOUR GOVERNMENT DOES

The City Government's main goal is to make sure the citizens are taken care of and being provided the services they need. A large portion of the City of El Campo's budget goes to Public Safety and Public Works. Public Safety includes Police and Fire protection and Emergency Medical Services. The employees stay up to date in training and certifications because the safety of the citizens is the main priority.



Our Public Works and Utility Departments ensures that residents have running water, working sewer and drivable streets. The guys are on call 24/7 to repair busted mains, sewer leaks and any other issues that may arise. Street Paving is also done on a revolving schedule every year.



# GLOSSARY

Assets	Property owned by a person or company, regarded as having value and available to meet debts, commitments, or legacies
Bond Ratings	A grade given to bonds that indicates their credit quality. Independent rating services such as Standard & Poor's and Moody's provide these evaluations of a bond issuer's financial strength, or its ability to pay a bond's principal and interest in a timely fashion.
Business-Type Activities	Any activity a business engages in for the primary purpose of making a profit. Business activities, including operating, investing and financing activities, are ongoing and focused on creating value for shareholders.
Expenditures	The action of spending funds
Expenses	The cost required for something; the money spent on something.
Fiscal Charges	Revenue duties, internal taxes, and other internal charges on goods.
FMA	Financial Management Assessment Methodology
FY	Fiscal Year
GAAP	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
GFOA	Government Finance Officers Association of U.S. and Canada
Governmental Activities	Include general administration, public safety, education, streets and roads, and health and sanitation.
Interest	Money paid regularly at a particular rate for the use of money lent, or for delaying the repayment of a debt.
Intergovernmental Revenue	Amounts received from other governments as fiscal aid in the form of shared revenues and grants-in-aid, as reimbursements for performance of general government functions and specific services for the paying government.
Investments	The action or process of investing money for profit or material result

The Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is intended to summarize and simplify the statistical, economic and financial information contained in the 2023 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report was prepared in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and was independently audited by BrooksWatson & Co., PLLC. The PAFR, while unaudited, provides a brief analysis of where the City's revenues come from and where the dollars are spent as well as trends and details on the local economy. It is presented as a means of increasing public awareness about the City's financial condition through a more user-friendly presentation. For a more detailed, GAAP basis, full disclosure review of the individual funds and component units' financial statements, please refer to the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report that is accessible through the City's website: <http://www.cityofelcampo.org>.



# City of El Campo

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[www.cityofelcampo.org](http://www.cityofelcampo.org)

*For more information on the City of El Campo,  
visit [www.cityofelcampo.org](http://www.cityofelcampo.org),  
follow us on Facebook.*

