



*... creating a better quality of life*

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council:

**RE: FY 13 “Monthly” cost of city services – Single Family Home**

This theoretical monthly “bill” is an attempt to quantify what citizens receive each month and the cost of those services. Since we are all used to paying monthly bills for our mortgage, utilities, car and mobile phone among others, this analysis has been useful in demonstrating that provides an excellent value.

I have completed an analysis for Murfreesboro on the monthly costs for all general fund services relative to the property tax.

According to the Property Appraiser’s Office, the average appraised value in FY 13 for a single-family house in the City is \$181,941. Based on this average house, I calculated that the monthly “bill” from the City would be \$48.15.

<b>Average House in Murfreesboro</b>	
<b>FY 13</b>	
Avg. Appraised value	\$ 181,941
Assessment ratio	25%
Taxable Amount	\$ 45,485
City Tax Rate	\$ 1.2703
City Tax Bill - Annual	\$ 577.80
City Tax Bill - Monthly	\$ 48.15

What do you get for that?

- A full-service police department offering patrol, criminal investigation, community policing, traffic operations, canine, DARE and a number of community crime prevention programs;
- A fire&rescue department with the best rating in the state, which can result in lower homeowner’s insurance for you. A full-time, professional staff provides fire suppression, first responder, vehicle extrication and fire prevention services;
- Parks and recreation facilities programs, including SportsCom, StarPlex, Barfield Crescent Park, Old Fort Park, Patterson Park, Greenway and Siegel Soccer Park;
- A nationally-recognized K-6 city school system that has a tradition of excellence;
- Weekly garbage removal. Solid Waste also provides for brush, limb and grass clipping removal;

- Street maintenance, including mowing of rights-of-way, snow removal, street paving and leaf collection;
- Street Lights and traffic signals;
- Building and Codes inspection services, including enforcement of ordinances such as weeds and grass, sign and abandoned vehicles;
- Support for various organizations, including chamber of commerce and those related to social services, senior center, tourism and economic development;
- Payment on the bonds used to construct roads, schools, police cars, fire trucks, garbage trucks, recreational facilities and drainage improvements.
- Funding for Administration, Human Resources, Legal, Planning, Engineering and Urban Environmental Departments and others.

In this example, the “bill” from the city is comparable to the monthly bills for telephone service, expanded cable television or high-speed internet service. In many cases, the city’s “monthly bill” will be less than monthly car insurance payment or mobile phone bill.

### Summary

This table also provides the tax bill for the average house and houses above and below in terms of appraised value:

<b>How Your Tax Dollars are Spent</b>							
<b>FY 13 Budget</b>							
					<b>Average</b>		
					<b>Appraised</b>		
House Appraised Value				\$ 100,000	\$ <b>181,941</b>	\$ 200,000	\$ 300,000
Annual Property Taxes				\$ 317.58	\$ <b>577.80</b>	\$ 635.15	\$ 952.73
Monthly Property Taxes				\$ 26.46	\$ <b>48.15</b>	\$ 52.93	\$ 79.39
	<b>Annual</b>		<b>Percent</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
<b>Department</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>of GF</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Charge</b>
Debt Service	\$ 26,139,822	\$ 2,178,319	22.3%	\$ 5.91	\$ <b>10.75</b>	\$ 11.82	\$ 17.73
Police	\$ 25,070,473	\$ 2,089,206	21.4%	\$ 5.67	\$ <b>10.31</b>	\$ 11.33	\$ 17.00
Fire	\$ 15,359,493	\$ 1,279,958	13.1%	\$ 3.47	\$ <b>6.32</b>	\$ 6.94	\$ 10.42
Parks/Rec	\$ 13,105,372	\$ 1,092,114	11.2%	\$ 2.96	\$ <b>5.39</b>	\$ 5.92	\$ 8.89
Schools	\$ 4,810,103	\$ 400,842	4.1%	\$ 1.09	\$ <b>1.98</b>	\$ 2.17	\$ 3.26
Solid Waste	\$ 4,689,863	\$ 390,822	4.0%	\$ 1.06	\$ <b>1.93</b>	\$ 2.12	\$ 3.18
Transportation	\$ 4,322,502	\$ 360,208	3.7%	\$ 0.98	\$ <b>1.78</b>	\$ 1.95	\$ 2.93
General Admin	\$ 4,180,297	\$ 348,358	3.6%	\$ 0.94	\$ <b>1.72</b>	\$ 1.89	\$ 2.83
Street	\$ 4,172,183	\$ 347,682	3.6%	\$ 0.94	\$ <b>1.72</b>	\$ 1.89	\$ 2.83
Other	\$ 4,004,299	\$ 333,692	3.4%	\$ 0.91	\$ <b>1.65</b>	\$ 1.81	\$ 2.72
Planning/Eng	\$ 1,773,763	\$ 147,814	1.5%	\$ 0.40	\$ <b>0.73</b>	\$ 0.80	\$ 1.20
Building/Codes	\$ 1,767,178	\$ 147,265	1.5%	\$ 0.40	\$ <b>0.73</b>	\$ 0.80	\$ 1.20
Information Technology	\$ 1,151,586	\$ 95,966	1.0%	\$ 0.26	\$ <b>0.47</b>	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.78
Urban Env't	\$ 1,005,383	\$ 83,782	0.9%	\$ 0.23	\$ <b>0.41</b>	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.68
Senior Center	\$ 955,689	\$ 79,641	0.8%	\$ 0.22	\$ <b>0.39</b>	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.65
Other Gov't Agencies	\$ 927,311	\$ 77,276	0.8%	\$ 0.21	\$ <b>0.38</b>	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.63
Human Resources	\$ 859,536	\$ 71,628	0.7%	\$ 0.19	\$ <b>0.35</b>	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.58
Legal	\$ 814,991	\$ 67,916	0.7%	\$ 0.18	\$ <b>0.34</b>	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.55
Cable TV	\$ 673,067	\$ 56,089	0.6%	\$ 0.15	\$ <b>0.28</b>	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.46
Unforeseen	\$ 533,565	\$ 44,464	0.5%	\$ 0.12	\$ <b>0.22</b>	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.36
Tourism	\$ 421,000	\$ 35,083	0.4%	\$ 0.10	\$ <b>0.17</b>	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.29
Economic Dev	\$ 239,750	\$ 19,979	0.2%	\$ 0.05	\$ <b>0.10</b>	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.16
Outside Agencies	\$ 100,890	\$ 8,408	0.1%	\$ 0.02	\$ <b>0.04</b>	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 117,078,118</b>	<b>\$ 9,756,510</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 26.46</b>	<b>\$ 48.15</b>	<b>\$ 52.93</b>	<b>\$ 79.39</b>

I hope this information is instructive for you. I know I am used to reviewing the total annual budget, but putting it in the terms of a “monthly bill” provides a good comparison since we pay most of our bills on a monthly basis. I think it also provides a good example of how city government provides many services for a very reasonable cost.

Methodology:

These calculations were made by determining each department’s percent of the total general fund budget and applying the percentage to the tax bill on a \$181,941 house.

For example, the Police budget (\$25,070,473) is 21.4 percent of all general fund expenditures. In the example, 21.4 percent of the tax bill of \$48.15 equals \$10.75.

Robert J. Lyons  
City Manager