

*CITY OF BIG SPRING*

**INVESTMENT POLICY**

Scope: This investment policy applies to all financial assets of the City of Big Spring, Texas, and includes all funds listed below:

1. General Fund
2. Special Revenue Funds
3. Debt Service Funds
4. Capital Project Funds
5. Permanent Funds
6. Enterprise Funds
7. Internal Service Funds
8. Fiduciary Funds

**Statement of Cash Management Philosophy** - The City of Big Spring shall maintain a comprehensive cash management program, to include the effective collection of all accounts receivable, the prompt deposit of receipts to the City's bank accounts, the payment of obligations so as to comply with state law and in accordance with vendor invoices, and the prudent investment of idle funds in accordance with this policy.

**Objectives** - The City's investment program shall be conducted so as to accomplish the following objectives, listed in order of priority:

1. Safety of the principal invested;
2. Availability of sufficient cash to pay obligations of the City when they are due; and
3. Investment of idle cash at the highest rate of possible return, consistent with state and local laws and the two objectives listed above.

**Delegation of Authority** - The Director of Finance, as the City's chief financial officer, is responsible for overall management of the City's investment program and is designated as the City's Investment Officer, with support from the City Manager, and may designate the Assistant City Manager as a deputy to assist with the management of the investment portfolio.

Accordingly, the Finance Director is responsible for day-to-day administration of the investment program and for the duties listed below:

1. Maintain current information as to available cash balances in City accounts, and as to the idle cash available for investment;
2. Make investments in accordance with this policy;
3. Ensure that all investments are adequately insured.

**Prudence** - Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived.

The treasurer, the chief financial officer if the treasurer is not the chief financial officer, deputies appointed to assist in investments and the investment officer shall complete ten hours of training relating to the person's responsibilities within twelve months after taking office or assuming duties. The positions mentioned above must thereafter complete eight hours of training every twenty-four months, with the training to be provided by an independent source approved by the City Council. For the purposes of this policy, an "independent source" from which investment training shall be obtained shall include a professional organization, an institute of higher learning or any other sponsor other than a business organization with whom the City of Big Spring may engage in an investment activity.

**Authorized Investments** - City of Big Spring funds may be invested in the following:

1. U.S. Treasury bills, notes or bonds which are guaranteed as to principal and interest by the full faith and credit of the United States of America;
2. Collateralized or fully insured certificates of deposit at FDIC insured banks in the State of Texas, consistent with provisions of the City's current bank depository agreement; or a broker that has its main office or a branch office in this state and is selected from a list adopted by the investing entity as required by Section [2256.025](#) of the Texas Government Code.
3. Direct obligations of the State of Texas or its agencies with investment quality by a nationally recognized investment rating firm not less than A or its equivalent;
4. Other obligations which are unconditionally guaranteed or insured by the State of Texas or the United States of America;
5. Commercial paper with a rating of A-1 or P-1 or an equivalent rating by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies;

6. Fully collateralized repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements having a defined termination date and secured by any obligation of the United States, its agencies or its instrumentalities; and
7. No-load money market mutual funds which are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission; rated AAA; maintain a dollar weighted average stated maturity of 90 days or less and maintain a stable net asset value of \$1.00.

The use of Delivery versus Payment (DVP) for investment transactions/purchases will be continually used by the investment officer. Security selection and terms will be determined in accordance with (1) safety of principal, (2) cash flow needs, (3) investment type as a percentage of total investment portfolio, and (4) yield.

**Market Price** - The market price for investments will be obtained through the Wall Street Journal on the last trade day of the month.

**Qualifying Institutions** - Investments may be made through or with the following institutions:

1. Federally insured banks located in the State of Texas;
2. Primary government security dealers reporting to the Market Reports Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; and
3. Eligible Public Fund Investment Pools that are rated no lower than investment grade by at least one nationally recognized rating service and having a weighted average maturity no longer than ninety (90) days.

**Collateralization and Safekeeping** - The City of Big Spring will accept as collateral for its certificates of deposit and other evidence of deposit the following securities:

FDIC coverage;

U.S. Treasury bills, note or bonds;

State of Texas bonds;

Other obligations of the U.S. or its agencies and instrumentalities;

Bonds issued by other Texas government entities (city, county, school, or special districts), with a remaining maturity of twenty years or less.

Securities pledged as collateral must be retained in a third party bank in the State of Texas and the City shall be provided the original safekeeping receipt on each pledged security. The City, financial institution, and the safekeeping bank shall operate in accordance with a master safekeeping agreement signed by all three parties.

The release of a pledged security, prior to its removal from the safekeeping account, must be approved by original signature of any two of the following: Investment Officer, Assistant City Manager and City Manager.

The financial institution with which the City invests and/or maintains other deposits shall provide monthly, and as requested by the City, a listing of the collateral pledged to the City marked to current market prices. The listing shall include at a minimum, total pledged securities itemized by:

1. name, type and description of the security
2. safekeeping receipt number
3. par value
4. current market value
5. maturity date
6. Moody's or Standard and Poor's rating (both if available)

**Diversification** - It is the policy of the City of Big Spring to diversify its investments to eliminate the risk of loss resulting from over-concentration of assets in a specific maturity, a specific issuer or a specific class of securities. The following general constraints shall apply: maturities shall be staggered to avoid undue concentration of assets in a specific maturity sector and maturities selected shall provide for stability of income and reasonable liquidity.

**General Government Practices** - All investment transactions shall be documented by the Investment Officer. The Investment Officer may make investments orally, but shall follow promptly with a written confirmation to the financial institution or broker/dealer, with a copy of such confirmation retained in the City's files.

On all investments which do not fall under provisions of the City's depository agreement, the Investment Officer shall take competitive bids. At least three (3) quotations shall be taken for each such investment made.

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**INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

The City of Big Spring maintains portfolios which utilize specific investment strategy considerations designed to address the unique characteristics of the fund groups represented in the portfolio.

Investment strategies for operating funds and commingled funds have as their primary objective to assure that anticipated cash flows are matched with adequate investment liquidity. The secondary objective is to create a portfolio structure which will experience minimum volatility during economic cycles. This may be accomplished by purchasing high quality short to medium term securities. The dollar weighted average maturity of 365 days or less will be calculated using the stated final maturity dates of each security.

Investment strategies for debt service funds shall have as the primary objective the assurance of investment liquidity adequate to cover the debt service obligation on the required payment date. Securities purchased shall not have a stated final maturity date which exceeds the debt service payment date.

Investment strategies for special projects of special purpose funds will have as their primary objective to assure that anticipated cash flows are matched with adequate investment liquidity. The stated final maturity dates of securities held should not exceed the estimated project completion date.