



Bonding Capacity/ Tourism Tax

FAQ - Quick Facts

What are the citizens being asked to vote on?

Both ballot questions are a renewal of the city's Tourism Tax and Bonding Capacity. The bonding capacity has changed due to an increase in the city's assessed property values .

What happens if the ballot questions do not pass?

If the Tourism Tax is not available and the City cannot issue bonds to fund various infrastructure projects, the completion of these projects will be delayed indefinitely. The City does not have the resources to complete the projects without the continuation of the Tourism Tax and issuance of the bonds.

Having a tourism tax in place shifts the costs related to tourism marketing and promotion of the City of branson to our visitors and tourists.

Is the Tourism Tax commingled with other City revenues?

No, the receipts of the tax received by the City are deposited in a special trust fund. the money in this fund shall not be commingled with any other funds of the City.

What are the Tourism Tax rates?

The tax currently charges 4% on amusements and lodging and 0.5% on restaurant sales.

How long can tourism bonds be outstanding?

Not longer than 20 years.

Is all of the Tourism Tax revenue used for bond payments or infrastructure?

No, as is currently the case, 25% of the Tourism Tax revenue is used for tourism marketing and promotional purposes. The City also pays for its collection expenses from the proceeds of the tax.

Why does the city borrow funds to pay for infrastructure?

The two principal reasons are (1) the cost of needed infrastructure improvements is greater than the City's current financial resources, and (2) infrastructure improvements generally have a long useful life and borrowing allows users to pay for the improvement over that long life.

Does the City plan on issuing all of the bonds at the same time?

No, the City anticipates that it will continue to develop plans for various needed infrastructure projects and only issue the bonds as they are needed once projects are nearly ready to begin.

What does the City anticipate using the proceeds of the Bonds for?

The bonds will be issued for the purpose of funding sidewalks, streets, highways, roads, waterworks, and wastewater including distribution and collection systems. The city has identified more than \$80 million for these types of projects.

Tourism Tax Projects

Past Projects

Compton Wastewater Treatment Plant Redesign (Bond Project) \$4,853,573

Upgrade screening equipment, clarifier equipment, and piping for hydraulic flow improvements.

Lift Station #21 Equalization Basin \$1,416,875

Installation of a million-gallon equalization basin at Lift Station #21 to manage peak and wet weather flows from the Fall Creek watershed area.

Joint Project with MODOT – Hwy 65/248 Intersection

City portion \$2,564,556 - New construction of bridge, on and off-ramps, and reconfiguration of the interchange to a "Diverging Diamond" configuration for faster and safer traffic flow.

Street Overlays/Microsurfacing – 2015/2016 totaling \$1,416,496

Mill, overlay and patch repair for various streets which included Veteran's Blvd., Shepherd of the Hills Expressway from Hwy. 248 to Roark Valley Road, Country Bluff Estates, Green Mtn Drive from Keeter St. to Hwy. 165, Glory Road & portions of Branson Hills Parkway.

Lift Station #30 Upgrade – \$3,189,569

Complete upgrade of the lift station wetwell, valve vault, submersible pumping equipment, controls and emergency backup power. This project also included a million-gallon equalization basin to manage peak and wet weather flows from the Roark Valley watershed.

8" Water Main \$1,298,577

Water main extension from the Stockstill and Cahill Road area to the Branson North subdivision. This was a two-phase project to provide a looping water system to convey better fire protection to the area benefiting the subdivision along with several properties southeast to the Cox Hospital area.

Lift Station #9 Reconstruct \$369,871

Complete upgrade of the lift station wetwell, valve vault, submersible pumping equipment, controls and a standalone emergency backup pump.

Lift Station #25 \$479,766

Complete upgrade of the lift station wetwell, valve vault, submersible pumping equipment, controls and emergency backup power.

Future Projects

Compton Flood Protection.....	\$10,000,000
Hwy 76 Water Mains.....	\$14,000,000
Water Mains–Neighborhoods.....	\$15,000,000
Cooper Creek Expansion.....	\$26,000,000
Lift Station 30–Cooper Creek Forcemain.....	\$9,000,000
Water/Sewer infrastructure extensions to annexed areas currently unserved.....	\$14,000,000

Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact the City of Branson Administration Department at (417) 337-8548 or the Finance Department at (417) 337-8538.