

CITY OF BUFFALO

2006-07 NEW YORK STATE BUDGET REQUEST



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MAYOR

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**CITY OF BUFFALO
2006-07 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Efficiency Incentive Grant (Re-Engineering Funds)

Request: \$20,000,000

These funds are necessary to achieve savings and fully balance the city budget by 2009-10, when the city faces a \$32.3 million budget gap. The Governor's Budget presently includes only \$2 million for the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority, while \$18 million is allocated for the County control board.

Aid and Incentives for Municipalities

Request: \$26,391,000

The City of Buffalo supports the Assembly Majority's proposal to enrich and modify the AIM program to ensure local flexibility. Presently, the Governor's Budget includes only \$12,746,363 for the City.

Buffalo Revitalization Initiative for Demolitions, Land Acquisition, Downtown Development and Middle/Upper Income Housing

Request: \$40,000,000 in Capital Funding

This request would significantly improve the economic potential of the City of Buffalo by enabling it to remove blighted properties, broaden multiple development site opportunities across the city through land acquisition, enhance and strengthen downtown development opportunities and stabilize city neighborhoods through a housing initiative targeted to middle- and upper-income home buyers.

Casino Revenue

The City of Buffalo would like to be designated as the "host community" of the future Seneca Buffalo Creek casino and therefore requests that 100% of local share revenues be returned to the city.

Efficiency Grant Proposal

| <u>Item #</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Summary Description</u> | <u>Initial Cost/Grant Request</u> |
|---------------------|---|--|---|
| 1 | <u>CitiStat</u> | Computer Software, hardware, training and implementation of CitiStat on a pilot basis in a few selected departments at first with the goal of expanding initiative city-wide. | \$3,000,000 |
| 2 | <u>Capital Asset Management System</u> | Integrated computerized system to manage capital assets valued at over \$400 million. Allows for better capital budgeting and emphasizes preventive maintenance to prolong life of infrastructure. | \$2,000,000 |
| 3 | <u>Integrated Billing and Accounts Receivable</u> | Acquire Tax and Utility billing modules for MUNIS. Consolidate databases, software and servers and save software and hardware costs. Improve collections and customer service by having a one-stop shop for receivable information. | \$1,000,000 |
| 4 | <u>Computerized Time and Attendance System</u> | Purchase biometric hand recognition technology to improve time and attendance data collection for more accurate tracking of personnel and personnel related expenses such as overtime, sick time, etc. Automating the process and centralizing data storage in the department of Human Resources will also enable the elimination, through attrition, of approximately 6.5 FTE timekeepers. | \$550,000 |
| 5 | <u>GPS Fleet Location Software</u> | Tracks vehicle location, speed, number of stops, usage, routing, route efficiency, fuel usage, productivity, etc. Saves on fuel and lubricants, reduces overtime, enhances productivity and reduces wear and tear on City fleet. | \$1,000,000 |
| 6 | <u>Fleet Management Software</u> | Enhances all aspects of fleet maintenance operations. Provides real time vehicle costs including purchase price, service costs and operating costs. Will allow City to capture vehicle costs over the useful life of the vehicle to inform future vehicle purchases. | \$500,000 |
| 7 | <u>Personal Digital Assistants for Inspectors</u> | PDAs, hardware, software and training to capture dailey activities of Inspections' staff enhancing efficiency and reimbursements from CDBG. PDA system will enable the development of a systematic code enforcement program with limited staff and resources. Related costs will include communications devices to allow for the rapid redeployment of personnel and to increase the safety of workers in the field. | \$1,375,000 |
| 8 | <u>New Telephone System</u> | Replace 25+ year old phone system with a VOIP system. | \$1,500,000 |
| 9 | <u>Install Pay and Display Parking Meters</u> | Replace 2000 single head parking meters with pay and display units saving \$11,000 per year in maintenance costs and \$80,000 in personnel costs (thru attrition) while enhancing revenue (+\$165,000 or 25 percent). | \$1,700,000 |
| 10 | <u>311 Complaint Line</u> | Seeking funds to establish a 311 line to receive Citizen Complaints and route them to the appropriate department(s) for response and follow-up. This approach will enable an aging report of complaints and permit the establishment of an administrative accountability system. | \$2,500,000 |
| 11 | <u>Print Shop Digital Processor</u> | Eliminates the need for film, film processing and the chemicals and darkroom necessary to process jobs. Also enhances City's ability to perform work in-house, eliminating the need to hire private printers. | \$48,000 |
| 12 | <u>Mail Management Software</u> | Bar-coding mail for enhanced processing, saving time and money. City would also qualify for automated postage rates, reducing rate from \$.35 to \$.27. | \$80,000 |
| <u>Total</u> | | | <u>\$15,253,000</u> |

Buffalo Fire Department Initiatives

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| BF1 <u>Purchase Thermal Imaging Cameras</u> | Purchase 24 Thermal Imaging Cameras to allow firefighters to see through smoke. Allows for search of victims and firefighters more quickly. Saves lives and liability exposures, reducing costs. | \$257,640 |
| BF2 <u>Purchase Breathing Air Filling Stations</u> | Purchase and strategically deploy 4 air filling stations to enable BFD to generate and store its own medical grade breathing air for independence, redundancy and preparedness. This initiative will allow for a reduction in Service Station personnel per the MMA report. Additional savings results from reducing "out of service" time and fuel consumption. | \$254,000 |
| BF3 <u>Existing Fire Stations</u> | MMA recommended that BFD commission a comprehensive engineering review of fire stations to assess structural stability and the condition of major building systems. Trautman Associates has released their report calling for repairs totaling \$12.5 million over 5 years. Included here is just the first year cost. However, accelerating this initiative would produce recurring savings in utilities, repair costs, etc. The City would also avoid the cost of bonding these projects. | \$2,500,000 |
| BF4 <u>Interoperable Communications</u> | Build a communication infrastructure capable of connecting every Fire and Police Department building to comply with Federal guidelines. | \$1,250,000 |
| | <u>Buffalo Fire Department Total</u> | <u>\$4,261,640</u> |
| | <u>Combined Total</u> | <u>\$19,514,640</u> |

City of Buffalo
2006-07 NYS Capital Funding Budget Requests

1. Demolition Funds
 - a. **Request** \$15,000,000
 - b. **Need:** There is a very large unmet need. The City's adopted Comprehensive Plan calls for 1,000 residential demolitions per year for the indefinite future.
 - c. **Cost:** The average residential demolition costs \$10,000. Industrial demolitions can cost up to \$1 million.
 - d. **New York State Asbestos Removal Fee:** All residential demolitions must have an asbestos survey. If asbestos is found, a 'notification fee" must be paid to NYS that ranges from \$100 to \$1,000 dollars based upon the amount of asbestos found. For larger homes with a lot of asbestos shingles, the state may receive up to 10% of the value of the demolition.
 - e. **Cost Recovery:** Most residential demolitions are of abandoned property that the City has acquired through tax foreclosure There are no private sector resources available to recover the costs of the demolition in these circumstances
 - f. **Program:** It is expected that similar requests will be made in future years
 - g. **Matching funds**
 - i. CDBG funds
 - ii. City Capital
 - iii. Additional Federal Funds (\$2 million)
 - h. **Plan**
 - i. The Department of Economic Development Permit and Inspection Services and the Office of Strategic Planning are preparing a plan to direct and coordinate demolitions to obtain the best impact for the City. The plan will focus resources
 1. On demolishing homes on blocks otherwise in good condition,
 2. Around schools, community centers and other important community resources
 3. Where land is being assembled for land banking for development sites
 4. Where land can be assembled for infill housing
 - ii. The plan will be completed in time for a major demolition initiative that is being planned for the fall. The initiative will be carried out if sufficient funds are obtained
 - iii. The plan will link with a second new plan that will focus on how the City will use vacant land that it has or will acquire. That plan will include:
 1. Land assemblage for immediate use for economic development
 2. Land banking for future economic development
 3. Significant new housing areas
 4. Infill housing
 5. Community Gardens
 6. Urban Homesteading
 7. Sale to adjoining homeowners

- i. **Common Council support:** The Buffalo Common Council has unanimously passed a resolution seeking \$10 million in state funds for 2006-2007
- j. **Impact:** A multi million-dollar infusion would allow for a number of large bulk bids to be issued that would produce a huge increase in the demolition activity. It will produce a noticeable impact in the neighborhoods, increase the optimism in the city and provide very badly needed neighborhood and community wide development sites.

2. Land Acquisition Funds

- a. **Request:** \$10,000,000
- b. **Need-** The City has **no** multi-acre development sites currently available for medium to large-scale businesses.
- c. **Buffalo Lakeside Commerce Park-** Phase 1 of the successful development at the former Union Ship Canal site is now almost completely occupied. This project has shown that:
 - i. The city's development team can successfully develop large scale projects
 - ii. There is a significant demand for multi-acre, clean sites on which businesses can locate
 - iii. The state's empire zone program and brownfield remediation program provide significant incentives to lure development to city sites.
 - iv. Development will not occur, however, unless, land is acquired and prepared.
- d. **Opportunity-** The City must acquire multiple sites and move them forward together. Developing a single site, completing it and then doing another is not sufficient to save Buffalo. Multiple projects must mover forward together.
- e. **Matching Funds-** The City and its economic development partners will provide staff support and limited cash to move projects forward.
- f. **Land Availability-** Staff have identified 12 sites that can be considered for acquisition and have been directed to locate another large group of sites.

3. Downtown Development Fund

- a. **Request-** \$10,000,000
- b. **Purpose-** Funds will be used for high profile economic development projects. The funds might be used for studies related to, or the implementation of:
 - i. Demolition of large scale properties where they stand in the way of additional projects,
 - ii. To spur additional downtown housing
 - iii. To improve or provide needed public infrastructure
 - iv. To support, improve and enhance downtown parking

4. Middle/Upper Income Housing Initiative

a. **Request-** \$5,000,000

b. **Purpose-** Funds will be used to replicate the successful Westside Housing initiative, which provided low-interest loans to first-time homebuyers.

The goal of this initiative will help stimulate investment and real estate stabilization in neighborhoods across the city.