



I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish minimum cash balance levels for the Town's Water and Sewer Operating Fund.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Water and Sewer Operating Fund.

III. POLICY

It is the policy of the Town of Warrenton that the Town's Water and Sewer Operating Fund shall be operated in a manner consistent with sound financial management principles. Adequate cash reserves are an essential element in both short-term and long-term financial planning. It serves to mitigate current and future risks, sustain operations during economic downturns, provides cash flow liquidity for enterprise operations, and enhances creditworthiness. While maintenance of an adequate level is necessary, it is important that the amount established be appropriate considering the enterprise's operations.

A. Minimum Level of Cash Reserves

The Town of Warrenton will maintain minimum unrestricted cash balances in the Water and Sewer Operating Fund equal to 200 days of the fund's current annual budget. Unrestricted cash represents cash that's readily available to be spent for any purpose and has not been pledged as collateral for a debt obligation or other purpose. For this calculation, this amount shall be based on the annual adopted budget figures.

Unrestricted cash may be maintained at a level higher than this minimum to save for transfer to the Water and Sewer Capital Fund for large, planned expenses (i.e., capital projects), emergencies, cash flow issues related to timing of revenue receipts, and to address economic volatility. The purpose of establishing minimum unrestricted cash balance level is to maintain a prudent level of financial resources to protect against the need to raise fees (outside of normal rate increases) due to temporary revenue shortfalls or unpredicted one-time expenses.

B. Funding the Cash Reserves

The unrestricted cash reserve is funded by any annual budget surplus in the fund and other unincumbered operating income.

C. Conditions for Use of Reserves

The unrestricted cash reserve shall be drawn upon only as necessary and any use thereof shall be upon the approval of Town Council and limited to:

1. One-time capital expenditures;
2. Offsetting economic volatility;
3. Non-recurring expenditures; and
4. Providing liquidity in emergency situations.

D. Replenishment of Minimum Unrestricted Cash Balance

Should the minimum unrestricted cash balance fall below the 200 days of operating expenses requirement for the Water and Sewer Operating Fund, the Town Council shall approve and adopt a plan to restore this balance to the target level within the next three fiscal year's budget.