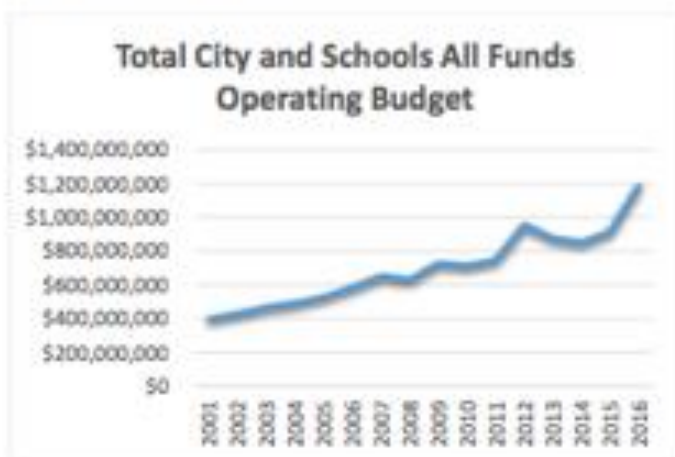


## Alexandria Budget at a Glance

The City of Alexandria is currently in the process of discussing its 2017 budget, which runs from July 2016 through June 2017 and is soliciting public input.

However, that is rather difficult since the City puts out 600 page document that changes format almost every year and history is limited to one year. They can and must do better. The budget is very difficult to read and it is almost impossible to develop a long-term perspective. Although Arlington County's budget is just as voluminous, the format is consistent over time and easier to digest.

The bottom line is this: Over a 15 year period, Alexandria's spending has generally followed a very steep trajectory that will likely continue in the future.



To compare Alexandria to a similar jurisdiction such as Arlington, we can look at spending per capita and using the current fiscal year's budget numbers.

On a per capita basis, Arlington and Alexandria spend about the same in the aggregate, but do so in very different ways. Some of the differences are striking. In addition, Alexandria's relatively costlier items are the ones that are pushing for more spending.

	Arlington		Alexandria	
		Per capita		
Total	\$ 1,488,300,000	\$ 6,543	\$ 912,698,133	\$ 4,206
Government	\$ 820,889,146	\$ 4,354	\$ 649,195,890	\$ 4,290
Transportation and Environmental	\$ 66,196,493	\$ 379	\$ 39,245,817	\$ 200
Economic Development	\$ 7,775,000	\$ 34	\$ 8,821,000	\$ 57
Arts and Cultural Affairs	\$ 2,480,703	\$ 11	\$ -	\$ -
Planning	\$ 8,425,775	\$ 37	\$ 5,677,628	\$ 36
Code Enforcement	\$ 1,426,713	\$ 6	\$ 7,827,387	\$ 52
Historic Preservation	\$ 575,520	\$ 3	\$ 3,696,219	\$ 24
Housing Department	\$ 869,942	\$ 4	\$ 3,478,603	\$ 23
Human Services	\$ 130,578,625	\$ 575	\$ 77,950,220	\$ 516
General Services			\$ 14,218,008	\$ 94
Leadership programs			\$ 11,016,238	\$ 73
Library	\$ 13,258,383	\$ 58	\$ 7,220,628	\$ 48
Parks and Recreation	\$ 38,846,606	\$ 171	\$ 22,344,078	\$ 148
Fire	\$ 54,958,124	\$ 242	\$ 47,110,790	\$ 312
Police	\$ 65,526,603	\$ 308	\$ 60,954,863	\$ 403
Debt Service	\$ 105,333,688	\$ 484	\$ 65,896,081	\$ 434
population	227,140		101,278	
School	\$ 494,280,132	\$ 19,248	\$ 261,603,686	\$ 18,360
employment	21,679		14,228	

More is spent in Alexandria on Economic Development, Historic Preservation, Code Enforcement, Fire, Police, but less on Human Services, Transportation and Environment, Library, and Parks and Recreation. Also, Alexandria's General Services and Leadership categories are not in Arlington's budget.

By this measure and their results, Arlington seems to be delivering more services and doing so more efficiently, giving them far more budgetary flexibility.

*Alexandria and Arlington define the General Fund differently and Arlington's was used here.*

*Alexandria's definition excludes Federal and State; "Most tax and other revenues — with the notable exception of state and federal grants — are budgeted and accounted for in the General Fund".*

*Arlington's definition includes Federal and State; "General Fund -The major sources of revenue include: real estate taxes, other local taxes, licenses, permits, fees, and other miscellaneous charges. Revenues from the state and federal government are also included in this fund"*

*Poul Hertel, a PhD economist and former Alexandria activist, did this budget analysis at the request of the Old Town Civic.*