



Internal Controls

I. Authority

The Fort Worth City Council is responsible for legislation, policy formulation, and overall direction setting of the government. This includes the approval of financial policies which establish and direct the operations of the City of Fort Worth. The City Manager and Assistant City Managers are responsible for carrying out the policy directives of the City Council and managing the day-to-day operations of the executive departments, including the Department of Financial Management Services. This policy shall be administered on behalf of the City Manager and Assistant City Managers by the Chief Financial Officer / Director of Finance.

II. Purpose:

This policy is intended to establish guidelines to maintain an internal control structure designed to provide reasonable assurance that City assets are safeguarded and that the possibilities for material errors in the City's financial records are minimized.

III. Scope:

This policy shall apply to all funds under the budgetary and fiscal control of the City Manager and the Mayor and City Council.

IV. Glossary

See definitions related to this policy provided in the appendix.

V. Policy:

A. Proper Authorizations

Procedures shall be designed, implemented and maintained to ensure that financial transactions and activities are properly reviewed and authorized.

B. Separation of Duties

Job duties will be adequately separated to reduce, to an acceptable level, the opportunities for any person to be in a position to both perpetrate and conceal errors or irregularities in the normal course of assigned duties.

C. Proper Recording

Procedures shall be developed and maintained that will ensure financial transactions and events are properly recorded, and that all financial reports may be relied upon as accurate, complete and up-to-date.



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D. Access to Assets and Records

Procedures shall be designed and maintained to ensure that adequate safeguards exist over the access to and use of financial assets and records.

E. Independent Checks

Independent checks and audits will be made on staff performance to ensure compliance with established procedures and proper valuation of recorded amounts.

F. Costs and Benefits

Internal control systems and procedures must have an apparent benefit in terms of reducing and/or preventing losses. The cost of implementing and maintaining any control system should be evaluated against the expected benefits to be derived from that system.