



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 24-001

Date: January 3, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

From: Greg Chavarria, City Manager *Susan Grant*

Re: Enhancing Access to Online Government Transparency Resources

Over the last decade, the City of Fort Lauderdale has initiated a wide array of online government transparency initiatives, each aimed at providing on demand access to targeted information. To further the City's efforts towards greater transparency, the City has updated and streamlined existing transparency pages and created a new central landing page for these resources.

Enhanced Communication of Community Investment Plan (CIP) Projects

Each year the Commission adopts the City's Five-Year Community Investment Plan (CIP) which is a planning document that sets forth the City's forthcoming capital improvements, ensuring that the City's assets, utilities, and facilities are adequately funded to serve the needs of the residents. While the City has always made the published CIP readily available in a variety of formats, neighbors can now utilize an interactive map of CIP projects on LauderWorks. Through LauderWorks, users can access pertinent information regarding the City's CIP projects including project title, type, description, location, phase, funding amounts, and managing department. See Exhibit 1, which provides a screenshot image of the LauderWorks application.

To access this site please visit <https://gis.fortlauderdale.gov/LauderWorks/>

Increased Assess to Interactive Financial Data

The City maintains two financial transparency tools that allow users to interact with key financial and budgetary data.

- **OpenGov Financial Transparency Portal** - Through the financial transparency portal, users can view and segment the City's financial data in a variety of formats. The site includes budgetary data as well as monthly financial actuals for the current and previous two fiscal years. Users can drill down to view the City's finances at the programmatic level or scale up to view the City's complete operating budget. The website has also been recently enhanced with targeted views which guide users through preset scenarios based on frequently requested data sources, such as the General Fund Budget by Department or account level budgets for departments. See Exhibit 2, which provides an image and overview of the OpenGov Financial Transparency Portal.

To access this site please visit <https://fortlauderdalefl.opengov.com/>

- Balancing Act - This interactive website enables neighbors to view a model of the City's Adopted General Fund Budget, modify the revenue or expenditure appropriation amounts, and view how different adjustments impact the budget and ultimately City service levels. The simulation includes all the budget modification requests (i.e. decision packages) that were submitted by departments for the current fiscal year and indicates which requests were approved and incorporated into the FY 2024 Adopted Budget. See Exhibit 3, which provides a screenshot image of the City's Balancing Act Application.

To access this site please visit <https://fortlauderdale.abalancingact.com/>

Central Landing Page for Major Projects

Based on feedback received from the Commission, there is now a landing page which provides a central clearinghouse of all the major resources related to the City's major projects and capital assets (Exhibit 4). The new webpage, which is available on Strategic Communication's website, includes links to the following:

- Large Projects and Partnerships – Provides an overview of targeted projects, the timeline for completion, and the City's point of contact for the project.
- LauderWorks – Provide snapshot of all funded CIP projects charted on a map. This site allows the end user to click a project and see the project description, location, a high-level status, and the managing department.
- Parks Bond Projects – Provides a list of the parks included in the Parks Bond, a description of the improvements anticipated, the amount funded, and current status.
- LauderStreet – Provides a listing of road closures, special events, and sidewalk works as well as the anticipated timeline until completion.

If you are interested in a demo of these websites please reach out to Laura Reece, Director of the Office of Management and Budget at lreece@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5894.

Exhibits:

Exhibit 1: Screenshots of the LauderWorks Application

Exhibit 2: Screenshots of OpenGov and User Guide

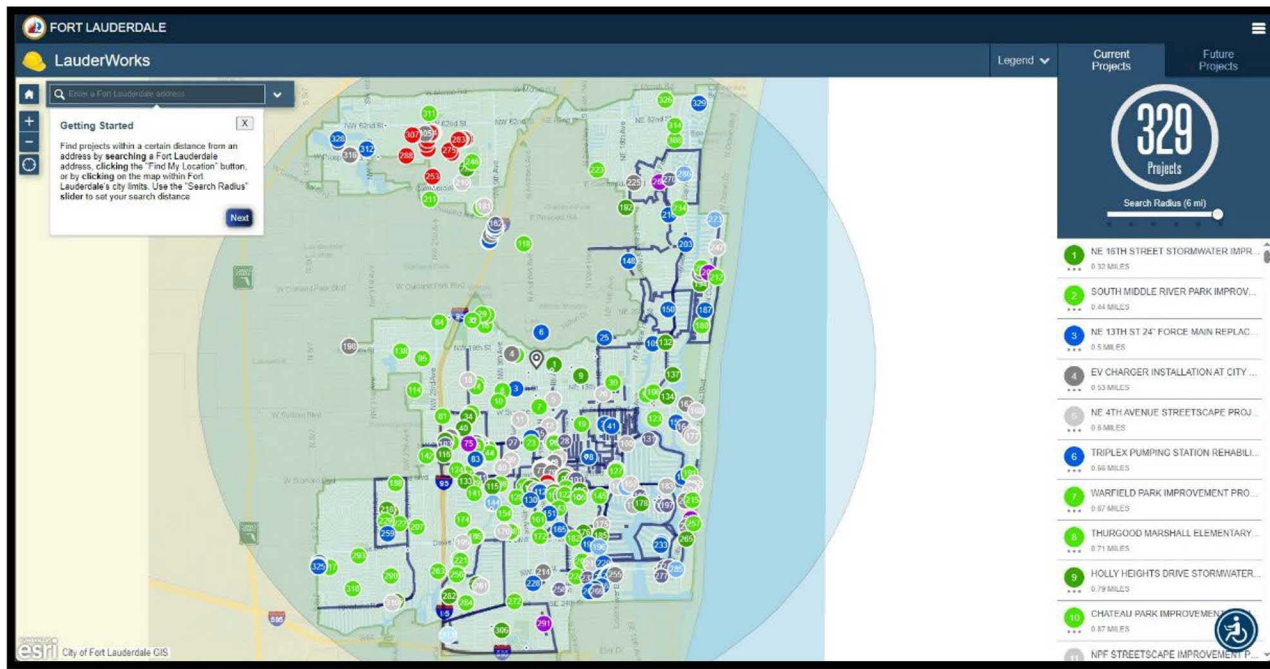
Exhibit 3: Screenshots of a Balancing Act Application

Exhibit 4: Screenshot of the Central Landing Page for Major Projects

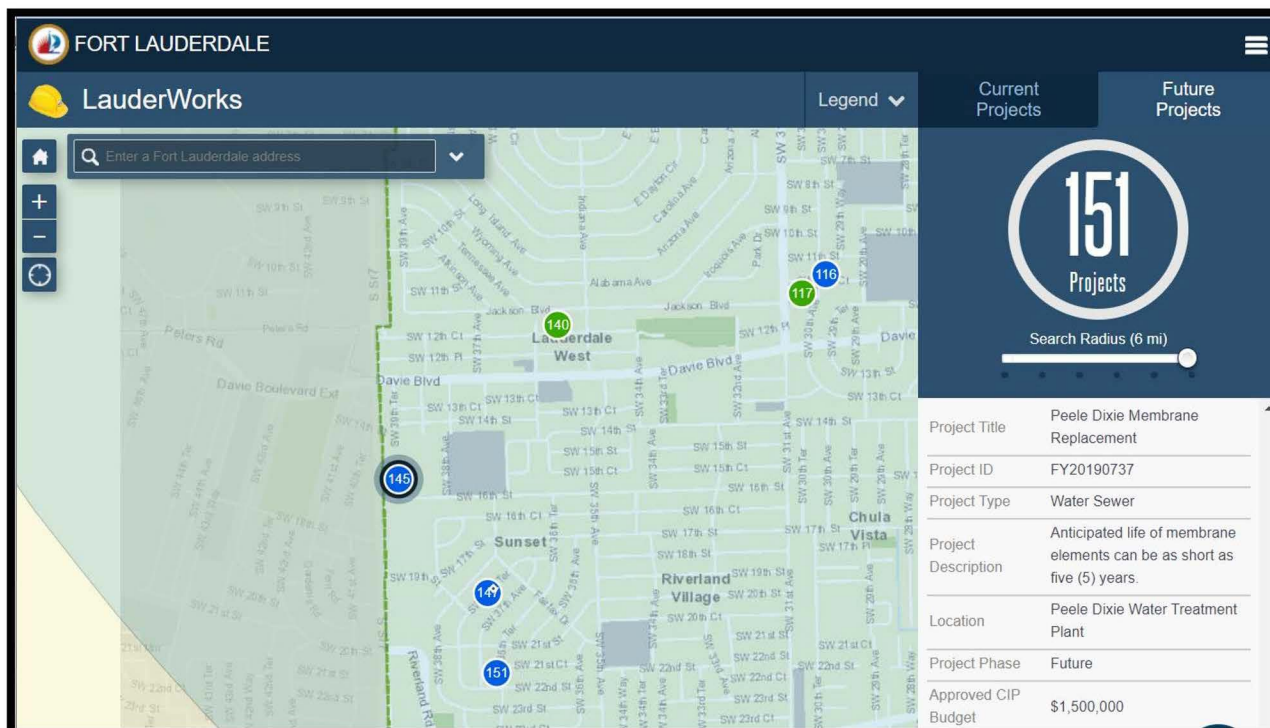
- c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager
Thomas J. Ansbrosio, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
Department Directors
CMO Managers

Screenshots of the LauderWorks Application

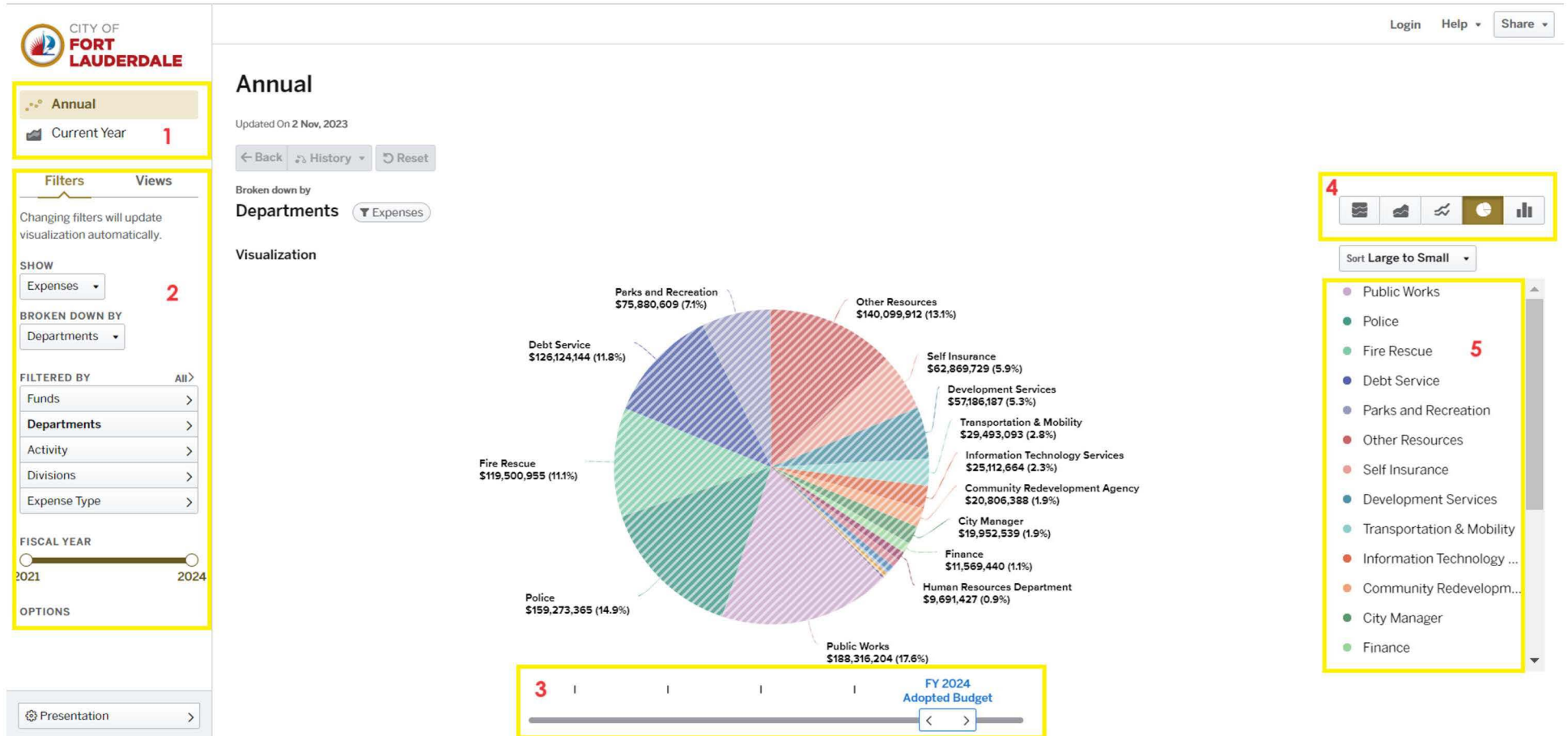
Screenshot of the LauderWorks application landing page:



Screenshot of a selected CIP Project on the LauderWorks application:



City of Fort Lauderdale's OpenGov Portal Guide



Tips to Access Your City's Budget with OpenGov:

Box 1: Showcases the selection of available financial reports.

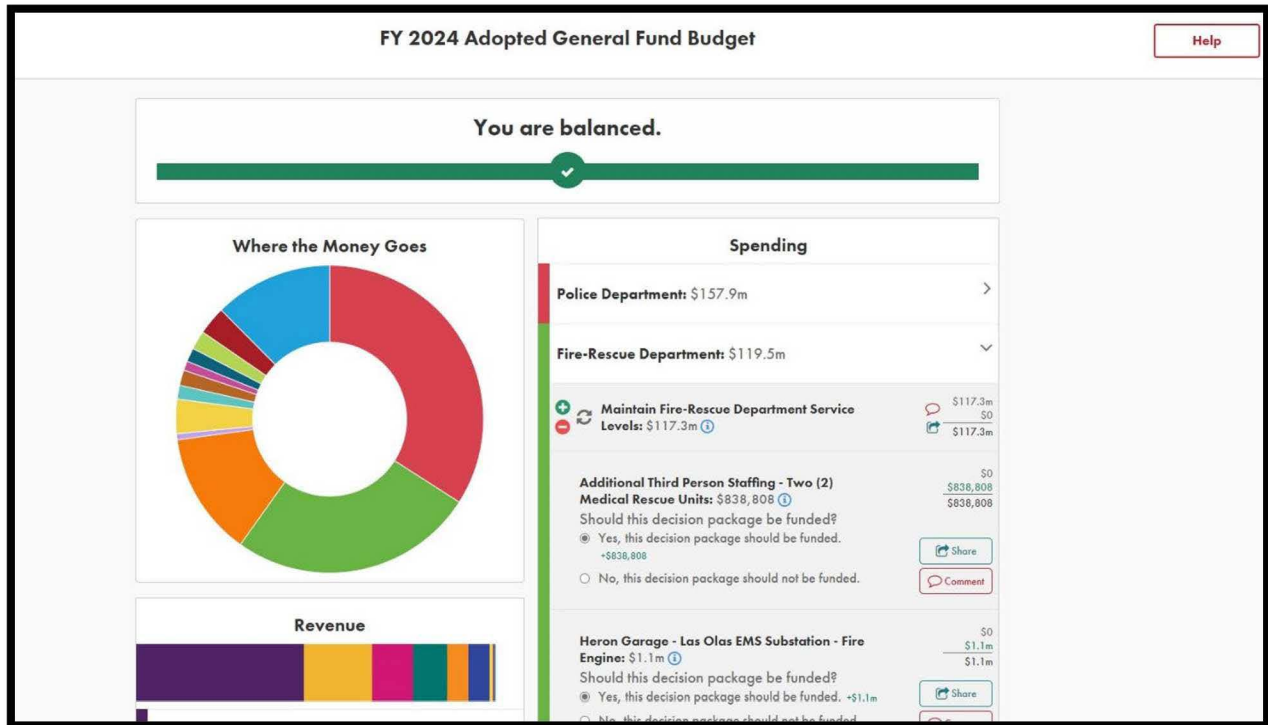
Box 2: Once a report is selected, users can utilize *Filters* to segment specific data related to their areas of interest. Users can filter by the Funds, Departments, Activity, Divisions, and Expense Types. When filters are selected, they will appear on the right-hand side of Box 2 and the segmented data will be reflected on the pie graph.

Box 3: Allows users to compare the City's current budget to the financial data from previous years.

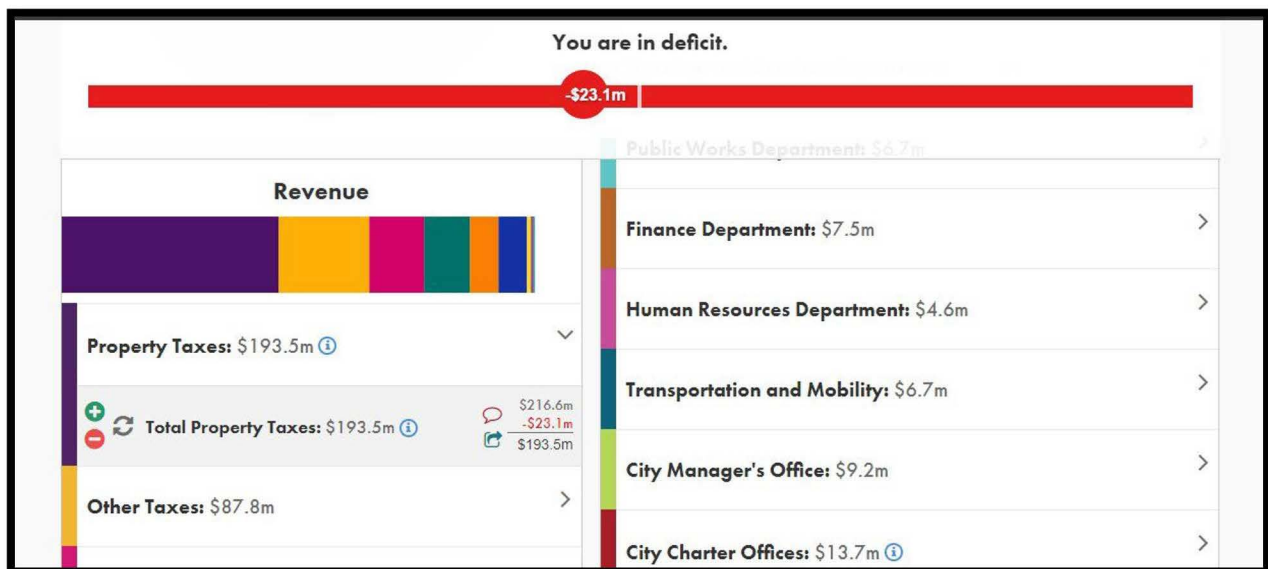
Box 4: Allows users to view the financial data in different graphical formats; this can be helpful to compare trends over time.

Box 5: A legend of all funded departments and charter offices, in the order of highest funded to lowest funded.

Screenshots of A Balancing Act Application

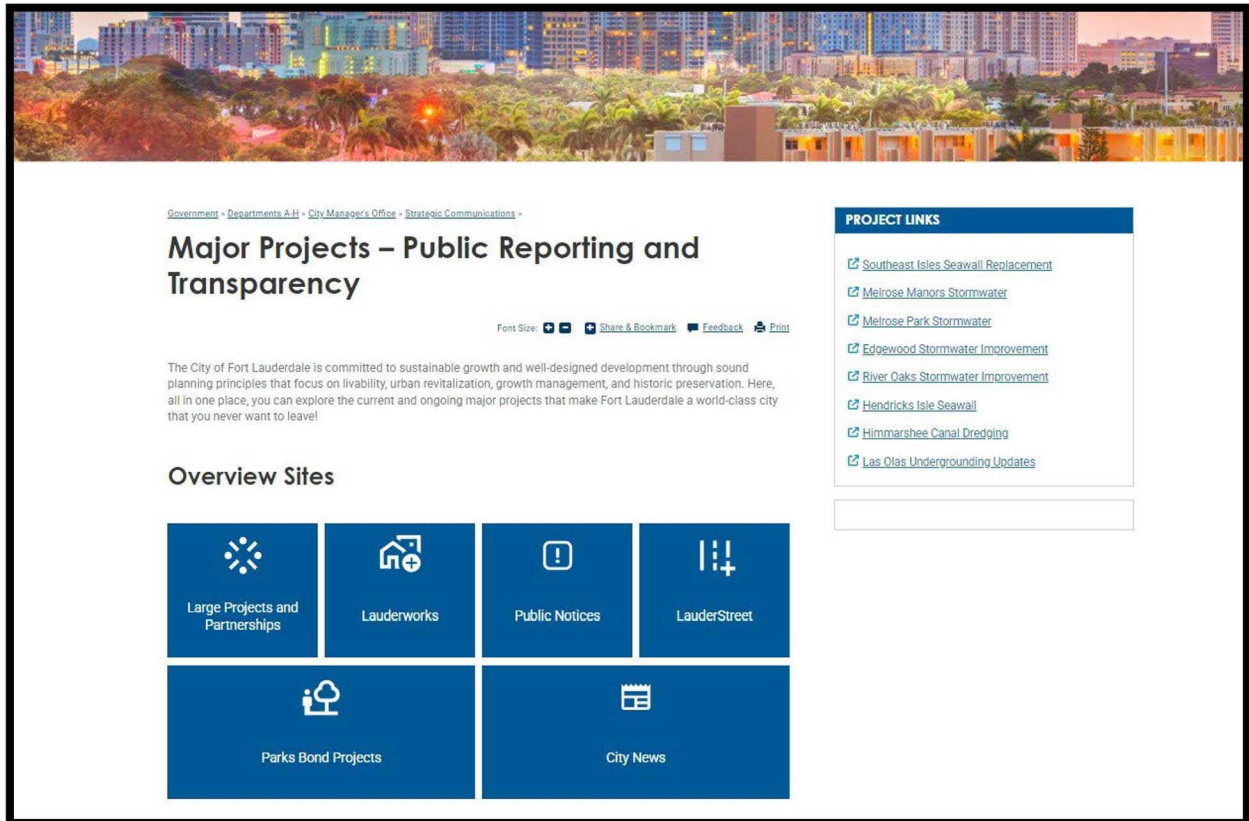


Screenshot of a revenue modification on the Balancing Act application which results in a financial deficit:



Screenshot of the Central Landing Page for Major Projects

Screenshot of the Major Projects – Public Reporting and Transparency landing page:








Commission Memo 23-133 Enhancing Access to Online Government Transparency Resources

Final Audit Report

2024-01-03

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