

Program #10028 - PERS Pension Bond Sinking Fund

Program Contact: Mark Campbell

Department: Nondepartmental

Program Offer Type: Program Offer Stage: As Proposed Existing Operating Program

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The PERS Pension Obligation Bond Sinking Program accounts for principal and interest payments on pension obligation revenue bonds issued December 1, 1999 in the amount of \$184,548,160 to retire the County's unfunded actuarial accrued pension liability. Revenues that support debt payments are derived from charge backs to departments based on their departmental personnel cost.

Program Summary

The County passed Resolution No. 99-218 on November 4, 1999 authorizing the issuance of up to \$200,000,000 of bond proceeds to finance the estimated unfunded accrued actuarial liability (UAL) of the County to the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

Senate Bill 198-B, effective October 23, 1999, authorized the County to pledge taxes that the County may levy within the limitations of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution not subject to annual appropriation. On December 1, 1999 the County issued \$184,548,160 in Pension Obligation Bonds to fund its PERS unfunded liability. The bonds have a final maturity date in FY 2030.

Debt service payments are supported by a surcharge against payroll. The surcharge rate has fluctuated, on average. between 6% and 8% of payroll. A reserve has been established to support future escalating debt payments in order to maintain the surcharge at a constant level.

Performance Measures									
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Purchased	FY19 Estimate	FY20 Offer				
Output	Moody's Rating of Aa1 or Better	1	1	1	1				
Outcome	Debt Service Payments Made as Scheduled	100%	100%	100%	100%				

Performance Measures Descriptions

Maintaining an investment grade bond rating limits the amount the County might otherwise have to pay towards annual debt service. (1)-indicates Moody's Aa1, (0)-represents a rating lower than Aa1.

All principal and interest payments are made on time in order to maintain an investment grade rating on the bond issue. Multnomah County has never defaulted on a debt payment.

4/25/2019

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Principal and interest on the PERS Pension Obligation Bond are a binding debt obligation. The County passed Resolution No. 99-218 on November 4, 1999 authorizing the issuance of up to \$200,000,000 of bonds as authorized by state statute.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2019	2019	2020	2020
Contractual Services	\$0	\$25,010,450	\$0	\$25,461,450
Debt Service	\$0	\$23,849,460	\$0	\$25,195,000
Unappropriated & Contingency	\$0	\$26,032,583	\$0	\$12,869,187
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$74,892,493	\$0	\$63,525,637
Program Total:	\$74,892,493		\$63,525,637	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues								
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$27,700,931	\$0	\$25,257,070				
Financing Sources	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,054,826				
Interest	\$0	\$467,244	\$0	\$553,211				
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$46,724,318	\$0	\$27,660,530				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$74,892,493	\$0	\$63,525,637				

Explanation of Revenues

Interest earnings on the fund balance and service charges are assessed to departments as a percentage of payroll. In FY 2020, departments will pay 6.50% of payroll costs toward the retirement of the Pension Obligation Bonds.

Revenue from Comcast's settlement of a tax dispute with the State of Oregon is being used to fund another side account. The County's share of the revenue is \$10.1 million of a total \$155 million settlement.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2019: 10028-19 PERS Pension Bond Sinking Fund

The County has established three "side accounts" with PERS using reserves that have accumulated in the fund. A fourth \$25 million payment will be made in FY 2020. When fully amortized, these side accounts will provide rate relief of up to 3% of payroll.

Budgeted expenses for FY 2020 also include \$450,000 to account for the County's obligations to members of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Program (OPSRP) who belong to labor unions covered by collective bargaining agreements.