

# What Do You Get for Your Tax Dollar?

**C**itizens often say that property taxes are “too high.” But how does the cost for city services actually compare to other cities? Cape Coral uses the “checkbook” approach to gauge our costs with other nearby or comparable Florida cities. We use a home with a simple taxable value of \$100,000 to compare how much this same home would pay for city services if located in these other cities.

The good news is that Cape Coral provides excellent value and is one of the most affordable cities even with the added fire service assessment and public service tax. Adding these two costs with the property tax bill and the solid waste collection, stormwater and franchise fees, homeowners in Cape Coral write the 2nd smallest check for city services.

### Cost for City Services (\*\$100,000 Taxable Value)

- ◆ North Port . . . . . \$1,329
- ◆ **Cape Coral . . . . . \$1,409**
- ◆ Port St. Lucie . . . . . \$1,527
- ◆ Coral Springs . . . . . \$1,582
- ◆ Fort Lauderdale . . . . . \$1,635
- ◆ Fort Myers . . . . . \$1,703

What do you get for your tax dollar? The list on the opposite page shows some of the many services Cape Coral citizens receive for the property taxes they pay to the City. This list should give residents better insight into what their City employees are able to do with each tax dollar allocated to the categories below.

### FY15 Average Taxable Value Single Family = \$114,353

FUNCTION	MILLAGE RATE	LEVY
Administrative	2.1853	\$ 249.89
Organizational Support	0.8119	92.84
Community Development	0.1654	18.91
Parks & Recreation	0.7607	86.99
Public Works	0.6741	77.08
Fire*	0.8842	101.11
Police	2.2254	254.48
	<b>7.707</b>	<b>\$ 881.30</b>

\*Does not include \$11.7 million from Fire Services Assessment

### How Does the Cost for Cape Coral Services Compare to Other Residential Costs?

What do you get for your City of Cape Coral tax dollars in comparison to other services? The average homeowner (FY15 taxable value: \$114,353) pays \$73 per month for these services. How does this compare to the monthly cost for other typical services:

- Average Cost High Speed Cable Internet: \$ 65 month
- **Average Cost for Cape Coral City Services: \$ 73 month**
- Average Cell Phone Bill (one person): \$ 73 month
- Average Cost Lawn Care Service (mowing): \$ 80 month
- Average Digital Cable Bill: \$ 85 month
- Average Water/Sewer Bill: \$ 85 month
- Average Cost for Public Schools: \$ 86 month
- Average Cost for Gas (2 tanks per month): \$ 87 month
- Average Satellite TV Bill: \$ 102 month
- Average Electric Bill: \$ 135 month
- Average Cost Car Insurance: \$ 147 month
- Average Cost of Homeowner’s Insurance: \$ 165 month ■

◆ **Administrative:**  
28 cents



◆ **Organizational:**  
11 cents



◆ **Community Development:**  
2 cents



◆ **Parks & Recreation:**  
10 cents



◆ **Public Works:**  
9 cents



◆ **Fire Services:**  
11 cents



◆ **Police:**  
29 cents



**Citizen’s Action Center**  
**Have a City-related question or issue?**  
**Contact us via phone:**  
**(239) 574-0425**  
**Or online:**  
**cac.capecoral.net**

# Partial List of City Services Provided with Your Tax Dollar

## ●● POLICE

### Communications/Logistics

911 calls for Police and Fire  
Public records/Police reports  
Alarm registrations

### Patrol

Emergency calls  
Minor dispute resolutions  
Community presentations  
Neighborhood Watch meetings  
Residential/Commercial security surveys

### Investigations

Major crimes (homicide/robbery)  
Child abuse/Sexual abuse  
Burglary/Theft  
White collar crime  
Narcotics/Vice  
Task forces (federal)

### Special Operations

Traffic, DUI, Traffic Homicide  
K9 Team  
Marine patrol  
Police Volunteer Unit  
"Project Lifesaver"  
Vacation house checks  
Fingerprinting (public)  
Seniors vs. Crime  
SWAT (entry team, snipers, negotiation)

### Professional Standards

Internal Affairs  
Personnel/Training  
Police accreditation (state and national)  
Public Affairs  
– Ping4Alerts  
– Tweet from the Beat  
"Do the Right Thing"  
Citizens Police Academy  
Victim Assistance

## ●● FIRE

### Administration/Support Services

Incident Management Teams  
Standard Operating Guides  
Apparatus and Equipment Maintenance  
Facility Maintenance  
Research and Development

### Emergency Management

Emergency Planning  
Community Emergency Response Team

### Operations

Fire Suppression  
Task Forces/Mutual Aid  
Emergency Medical Services  
Tech Rescue  
Dive Rescue  
Marine Operations  
Hazardous Materials  
Basic/Advanced Life Support  
Dogs in Canals  
Missing Persons  
Lift Assist

### Professional Standards

CPR Initiative  
Training (mandatory/advanced/specialized)  
Research and Development  
State and Professional Compliance  
Hiring/Promotions  
Professional Development

### Life Safety

Fire Prevention  
Fire Inspections/Investigations

### Public Information/Public Education

Citizens Fire Academy  
Station Tours  
Fire Safety Programs  
Juvenile Firesetter Prevention  
Fire Extinguisher Training  
Social Media Information Outlets

## ●● ADMINISTRATION

Broadcast meetings on Channel 98  
Council candidate debates  
"On The Move" newsletter  
Citizen's Survey  
Social media information outlets  
Video stream Cape TV for Mobile  
City of Cape Coral website  
Citizen Online Support Center (4,500 Q&As)  
South Cape CRA Management  
Media support  
Economic development incentives/plans  
Business retention  
P3 Evaluation  
Electric Utility Options Evaluation

## ●● CITY CLERK

Record public meetings/minutes  
Citizen Action Center  
Retain thousands of public records  
Public records requests (7,672)  
City Hall main phone line  
Passport services  
Domestic Partnership Registry

## ●● PARKS & RECREATION

### Parks Maintenance

Maintain 39 City parks  
Park rangers  
Pavilion and Park Rentals

### Marine Services

Boat launch and marinas  
Chiquita Boat Lock operations  
Boat slip/Transient slips

### Recreation & Social Services Division

Preschool & Voluntary Pre-K  
Childhood Music Instruction  
Ballet and Creative Dance  
Child/Babysitting Safety Programs  
Adult/Senior Fitness Programs  
Adult Foreign Language Programs  
Mini-Bus Transportation  
Group Road Trips  
Mother/Son, Daddy/Daughter Dance  
Fishing Instruction/Angler Education  
Marine/Specialty Programs  
Aquatic Fitness  
Summer Camps  
Before/After School Programs  
Skateboarding  
Fine Arts/Arts Exhibits  
Glass/Jewelry Lab/Instruction  
Clay/Pottery Lab/Instruction  
Photography Instruction  
Stone Sculpture Instruction  
Drawing and Sketching Instruction  
Special Populations Programs

### Revenue & Special Facilities Division

53 Athletic Fields/11 Sports Complexes  
Athletic programs  
– 200 softball teams  
– 175 soccer teams  
– 210 baseball teams  
– 50 football teams  
– 65 basketball teams  
– 100+ referees/umpires  
Regional/National tournaments  
Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve  
Rotary Park/Wagging Tails Dog Park  
Sirenia Vista  
Recycling Program  
Canoe/Kayak Rentals  
Florida Friendly Landscaping

### Special Events

Coconut Festival  
Bike Nights  
Burrowing Owl Festival  
Florida State Senior Games  
Sounds of Jazz  
Sunset Celebration  
Red, White & Boom  
Movie in the Park  
Kids Fall Festival  
Tour De Cape  
Veterans Day Parade  
Holiday Boat-a-Long  
Online Community Events Calendar

## ●● IT

Online Agendas/Minutes  
Video stream meetings  
Archived agendas, minutes, and videos  
Website support  
Public Wi-Fi in City facilities  
Online Citizen Action Center  
Open Government online services  
Budget/Financials online  
Interactive City expenditures  
Interactive employee salary  
Electronic bill payment  
Online permits/projects/code cases  
Electronic Permit Applications  
Online inspection scheduling  
GIS interactive online  
Garage sale permits online  
"Who's My Councilmember?" search  
Reports/map requests  
Software support for 911 Dispatch  
Software support permitting/licensing  
Software support financial/utilities  
Automated Boil Water Notification

## ●● FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPT.

### Accounting/Procurement

Payroll support  
Collect/Invest revenues  
Manage banking services  
Process payments for goods/services  
Compliance with state/federal laws  
Record transactions/track assets  
Annual CAFR requirement  
City Manager's Proposed Budget  
Manage 40 contracts for services  
Process 4,500 purchase orders

### Risk Management

Self insurance programs  
Investigate claims made against the City  
Property/Flood Insurance for City  
Recover funds for property damage  
Evaluate potential financial risks

### Real Estate

Acquire properties/easements  
Maintain inventory of City property  
Assist citizens with real estate questions

## ●● DCD

### Planning Division

Current and long-range planning services  
State/Federal grants  
Zoning services  
Review project plans and need  
Issue Certificates of Use  
Issue sign permits  
FEMA Flood Insurance  
(25% reduction in premium)  
Federal housing grant funds

### Code Enforcement Division

Process code complaints (32,000/yr.)  
Enforce contractor licensing  
Issue business tax receipts  
Enforce watering restrictions  
"Take Pride in the Cape" program  
Inspect/Enforce landscaping standards  
Foreclosure/Rental property registration  
Board up foreclosures  
Remove graffiti/Clean trash  
Mow abandoned, developed properties  
Outreach programs  
Special Magistrate hearings  
Issue citations/code case prep  
Contractor Regulatory Board meetings

## ●● PUBLIC WORKS

Maintain City vehicles/equipment  
Power 14,000 streetlights/43 traffic signals  
Maintain 3,000 lane miles of roadways  
Road paving  
Mowing all medians  
Trim trees in public right of way and medians  
Pick up trash in the public right of way  
Adopt-A-Road program  
Adopt-A-Median program  
Spray weeds sidewalks/concrete medians  
Maintain 139 bridges  
Maintain 215 miles of sidewalks  
Maintain 54,000 traffic signs  
Bike route signage  
Maintain road striping  
Maintain road shoulders/patch potholes  
Hurricane/tropical storm clean up  
Maintain median landscaping  
Security access for all City facilities  
400 City building AC units  
Building electrical service/equipment  
1 million square feet of roofing  
100 drinking fountains, ice machines  
and Freezer units  
City parking lot lights  
All athletic field lighting  
Landscape for City Hall complex  
Chiquita Lock  
Fire alarms for all City facilities ■