What Do You Get for Your Tax Dollar?

Citizens 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.

- **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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTION</th>
<th>MILLAGE RATE</th>
<th>LEVY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>2.1853</td>
<td>$249.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Support</td>
<td>0.8119</td>
<td>92.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development</td>
<td>0.1654</td>
<td>18.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation</td>
<td>0.7607</td>
<td>86.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>0.6741</td>
<td>77.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire*</td>
<td>0.8842</td>
<td>101.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>2.2254</td>
<td>254.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 7.707 $ 881.30

*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

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**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
- **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 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**
- **“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**
- **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**