Debt Limit and Requirements

Legal Debt Service Limit

There is no direct limit on debt in the City Charter. Statutes of the State of Texas do not provide any limitations on the dollar amount of debt cities can float; however, as a matter of policy, the Attorney General of Texas, will not approve the issuance of bonds where the total debt service of all tax supported debt requires a tax rate of more than $1.50 per $100 assessed valuation. The truth-in-taxation criterion specifies that debt (Interest & Sinking) requirements must be met first, and then the operations can be funded. The property tax rate to meet these needs cannot exceed $2.50 per $100 valuation.

Legal Debt Service Requirements

Debt service requirements for the City of Bay City are currently $ .17288 of the current property tax rate of $.65500. The City has seven outstanding debt issues most of which are Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligations. Various percentages of the debt payments are self-supporting or paid by the Public Utility Fund. Those particular issues have an operational impact equal to the annual debt service payment in the Public Utility Fund.