

Following received by : "web-ster"@capecoralwatchdogs.org 10-29-06 3:22 PM
Subject : More on City Spending

It wasn't too long ago (2003), that the General Fund Expenditures in Cape Coral stood at \$74,640,000. With a population of 124,449, (Source 2003 CAFR) that equates to \$600 per capita. The proposed 2007 General Fund spending totals \$161,469,301. The population next year is expected to be about 164,000. (It stood at 154,407 as of April 2006.) If we use that 2007 estimate of 164,000 people, the per capita spending will be \$985 or 116% higher than fiscal year 2003.

Said another way, while the population will have grown 31.7% since 2003, and inflation over that same four year period was about 17% (compounded), General Government spending will have grown 116% or more than twice as fast. Please note this does not include other City spending initiatives which appear to be growing just as fast.

If you look at the City Manager's Mission Statement for 2007 it says: "We, the City of Cape Coral, will meet our community's needs through the efficient and professional delivery of quality services, with pride and integrity, in an open, honest spirit of teamwork, respecting the self worth of the individual and the environment."

The level of spending would seem to indicate not very much effort is being expended to make us more efficient. A good example of that is the money wasted on the establishment of a City owned Charter School System and the very costly provision of utility services.

What I seek is from all elected officials is Smaller Government, Controls and accountability on spending, Lower taxes, and equal protection under the law. No more , no less.

Sal Grosso