



# ARLINGTON RANKS NO. 9 FOR ITS FISCAL HEALTH

January 2020  
truthinaccounting.org

## THE FINANCIAL STATE OF ARLINGTON

A new analysis of the audited financial reports found Arlington has a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$2,100, earning it a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting. Future economic downturns, however, could adversely affect tax revenues and the value of assets being held in retirement plans, which could diminish the city’s surplus.

Unlike most cities, Arlington’s city government has enough resources available to pay all of its bills, including public employees’ retirement benefits. This means that Arlington’s elected officials have truly balanced their budgets. When broken down, the amount available to pay future bills results in a surplus of \$2,100 for each Arlington taxpayer.

Arlington and other cities have become more transparent over the last few years, thanks to the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), which now require governments to disclose pension (GASB 68) and other post-employment (GASB 75) benefits on their balance sheets.

## THE TRUTH:



# ARLINGTON FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

## FAST FACTS

- Arlington has \$859.4 million available in assets to pay \$613.2 million worth of bills.
- The outcome is a \$246.3 million surplus, which breaks down to \$2,100 per taxpayer.
- Arlington financial condition improved because of reductions in retirement debt. A larger portion of the city’s debt was also attributed to capital assets, which we

### THE CITY’S ASSETS EXCEED ITS BILLS

Total assets	\$3,703,324,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$2,680,144,000
Restricted assets	-\$163,742,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$859,438,000
<i>Minus:</i> Total bills	-\$613,175,000
Money available (needed) to pay bills	\$246,263,000
Each taxpayer’s share of surplus	\$2,100

### BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$1,327,468,000
Other liabilities	\$157,096,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$1,102,216,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$108,078,000
Unfunded retiree health care benefits	\$122,749,000
Total bills	\$613,175,000

## GRADE: B

Bottom line: Arlington has more than enough money to pay its bills. A “B” grade is given to any government with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$100 and \$10,000.