THE TRUTH

Money Needed to Pay Bills

- **- $23.3 million**

Taxpayer Burden™

- **- $200**

Financial Grade

C

Ranking

16 out of 75

Arlington Finances Worsened Prior to Pandemic

Truth in Accounting

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Financial State of Arlington, Texas

This report shows that Arlington went into the coronavirus pandemic in mediocre fiscal health, and it will probably come out of the crisis worse. Based upon the city's fiscal year 2019 audited financial report, Arlington had a Taxpayer Burden™ of $200, earning it a "C" grade from Truth in Accounting.

Arlington's elected officials have repeatedly made financial decisions that have left the city with a debt burden of $23.3 million. That burden equates to $200 for every city taxpayer. Arlington's financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over the years. Of the $1.4 billion in retirement benefits promised, the city has not funded $215.6 million in pension and $120.1 million in retiree health care benefits.

Arlington did not have enough money set aside to weather the current pandemic and fluctuations in the market. The city is expected to lose some revenue as a result of the pandemic. The uncertainty surrounding this crisis makes it impossible to determine how much will be needed to maintain government services and benefits, but Arlington's overall debt will most likely increase.

The data included in this report is derived from the city of Arlington's 2019 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' reports. To compare cities' financial information go to data-z.org.

Arlington Financial Breakdown

Fast Facts

- Arlington had $622.9 million available to pay $646.2 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a $23.3 million shortfall, which breaks down to a burden of $200 per taxpayer.
- Arlington's financial position worsened by more than 100 percent from the previous fiscal year mostly because the Texas Municipal Retirement System experienced investment losses. The city became a Sinkhole City.

THE CITY'S BILLS EXCEEDED ITS ASSETS	
Total assets	$4,272,241,000
Minus: Capital assets	-$3,387,328,000
Restricted assets	-$261,991,000
Assets available to pay bills	$622,922,000
Minus: Total bills	-$646,204,000
Money available (needed) to pay bills	-$23,282,000
Each taxpayer's share of this burden	-$200

BILLS THE CITY ACCUMULATED	
Bonds	$1,445,808,000
Other liabilities	$133,339,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-$1,268,628,000
Unfunded pension benefits	$215,567,000
Unfunded retiree health care benefits	$120,118,000
Total bills	$646,204,000

Grade:

C

Bottom line: Arlington would need $200 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its bills, so it has received a "C" for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting's grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Burden between $0 and $4,900 receives a "C."

Truth in Accounting is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to educating and empowering citizens with understandable, reliable and transparent government financial information. To be knowledgeable participants in their government and its budget process, citizens need truthful and transparent financial information.