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Colorado Springs' Finances in Decent Shape

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The Financial State of Colorado Springs

A new analysis of the latest available audited financial report found Colorado Springs has a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$2,000, earning it a "C" grade based on Truth in Accounting's grading scale.

Financial decisions made by the city's elected officials have left Colorado Springs with a \$326.4 million shortfall, which equates to a \$2,000 burden for every taxpayer. Most of the city's overall debt comes from retirement liabilities that have accumulated over many years.

Colorado Springs' financial problems stem mostly from unfunded retirement obligations that have accumulated over many years. Of the \$2.9 billion in retirement benefits promised, the city has not funded \$509.4 million in pension and \$43 million in retiree health care benefits.

Here's the truth:

\$326.4
million
Money needed
to pay bills

-\$2,000
Taxpayer
Burden

C
Financial grade

Data included in this report is derived from the city of Colorado Springs 2017 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' reports.

COLORADO SPRINGS

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

FAST FACTS

- + Colorado Springs has \$1.6 billion available in assets to pay \$1.9 billion worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$326.4 million shortfall and a \$2,000 Taxpayer Burden.
- + Colorado Springs' reported net position is overstated by \$282.5 million, largely because the city delays recognizing losses incurred when the net pension liability increases.

THE CITY'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$7,484,710,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$5,775,338,000
Restricted assets	-\$140,372,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$1,569,000,000
Minus: Bills	-\$1,895,390,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$326,390,000
Each taxpayer's share of this debt	-\$2,000

BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$3,063,607,000
Other liabilities	\$741,844,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-\$2,462,450,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$509,350,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$43,039,000
Bills	\$1,895,390,000

GRADE: C

Bottom line: Colorado Springs' Taxpayer Burden is less than \$5,000, so it has received a "C" for its finances from Truth in Accounting. While better off than many other cities, Colorado Springs still owes more than it owns.