



**THE TRUTH**

Money Available to Pay  
Future Bills  
**\$317.1 million**

Taxpayer Surplus™  
**\$3,400**

Financial Grade  
**B**

Ranking  
**3 out of 75**

**Lincoln Had Surplus to Help Weather Pandemic**



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**Financial State of Lincoln, Nebraska**

Going into the coronavirus pandemic, Lincoln had some resources set aside. Based upon the city’s fiscal year 2019 audited financial report, Lincoln had a Taxpayer Surplus™ of \$3,400, earning it a “B” grade from Truth in Accounting. As a result of the current pandemic, Lincoln is expected to lose some revenue.

Unlike most cities before the crisis, Lincoln had more than enough resources available, \$317.1 million, to pay all of its bills, including public employees’ retirement benefits. This means that Lincoln’s elected officials have truly balanced their budgets. When broken down, the amount available to pay future bills resulted in a surplus of \$3,400 for each Lincoln taxpayer.

The surplus Lincoln had will help the city to weather the current pandemic and downturns in the market, which can cause the value of a government’s assets to fluctuate. But the uncertainty surrounding this crisis makes it impossible to determine how much will be needed to maintain government services and benefits.

The data included in this report is derived from the city of Lincoln’s 2019 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans’ reports. To compare cities’ financial information go to [data-z.org](http://data-z.org).

**Lincoln Financial Breakdown**

**Fast Facts**

- Lincoln had \$679.1 million available to pay \$362 million worth of bills.
- The outcome was a \$317.1 million surplus, which breaks down to \$3,400 per taxpayer.
- Lincoln has maintained a Taxpayer Surplus for the last four years.

**THE CITY’S ASSETS EXCEEDED ITS BILLS**

Total assets	\$3,931,560,000
Minus: Capital assets	-\$3,054,171,000
Restricted assets	-\$198,327,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$679,062,000
Minus: Total bills	-\$361,987,000
Money available (needed) to pay bills	\$317,075,000
Each taxpayer’s share of this surplus	\$3,400

**BILLS THE CITY ACCUMULATED**

Bonds	\$1,325,854,000
Other liabilities	\$336,555,000
Minus: Debt related to capital assets	-\$1,397,136,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$78,815,000
Unfunded retiree health care benefits	\$17,899,000
Total bills	\$361,987,000

**Grade:**

**B**

Bottom line: Lincoln had more than enough money to pay its bills, so it received a “B” for its finances from Truth in Accounting. A “B” grade is given to governments with a Taxpayer Surplus between \$1 and \$10,000.

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.