



# TULSA FINANCES IN DECENT SHAPE

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## THE FINANCIAL STATE OF TULSA

Truth in Accounting's (TIA) new city report ranks and grades the 75 most populous cities in the United States by their financial health. Tulsa ranks No. 16, earning it a "C" on TIA's grading scale.

Decisions by city officials have left the city with a debt burden of \$114.3 million, according to TIA's analysis of its 2016 financial filings. That burden equates to \$1,000 for every Tulsa taxpayer.

Tulsa's overall debt largely consists of bonds payable and entitlement obligations in the form of pension benefits. The city has \$407.2 million in unfunded pension promises and \$9.3 million in unfunded retiree healthcare benefits. While Tulsa has promised these benefits, little money has been set aside to fund them.

It's alarming that city government officials continue to hide significant amounts of retirement debt from their balance sheets, despite new rules to increase financial transparency. This skewed financial data gives residents a false impression of their city's overall financial health. Tulsa's financial statements report most of their retirement debt, but \$44.3 million of pension liabilities are still excluded.

**16**

Rank

**\$114.3**  
million

Money needed  
to pay bills

**-\$1,000**

Taxpayer  
Burden™

**C**

Financial grade

# TULSA FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

## FAST FACTS

- + Tulsa has \$846.2 million available in assets to pay \$960.5 million worth of bills.
- + The outcome is a \$114.3 million shortfall and a \$1,000 Taxpayer Burden™.
- + The city reports most of its retirement liabilities on its balance sheet. However, \$44.3 million of pension debt is still excluded.

### THE CITY'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$5,064,699,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$3,876,573,000
Restricted assets	-\$341,939,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$846,187,000
<i>Minus:</i> Bills	-\$960,509,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$114,322,000
<b>Each taxpayer's share of this debt</b>	<b>-\$1,000</b>

### BILLS THE CITY HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$1,207,096,000
Other liabilities	\$241,662,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$904,796,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$407,223,000
Unfunded retiree healthcare	\$9,324,000
<b>Bills</b>	<b>\$960,509,000</b>

## GRADE: C

Bottom line: Tulsa's 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, Tulsa still owes more than it owns.

Truth in Accounting is 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.