

What Do You Get for Your Tax Dollar?

Citizens often say that property taxes are “too high.” But how does the cost for city services actually compare to other cities? Cape Coral uses the “checkbook” approach to gauge our costs with other nearby or comparable Florida cities. We use a home with a simple taxable value of \$100,000 to compare how much this same home would pay for city services if located in these other cities.

The good news is that Cape Coral provides excellent value and is one of the most affordable cities even with the added fire service assessment and public service tax. Adding these two costs with the property tax bill and the solid waste collection, stormwater and franchise fees, homeowners in Cape Coral write the 2nd smallest check for city services.

Cost for City Services (*\$100,000 Taxable Value)

- ◆ North Port \$1,329
- ◆ **Cape Coral \$1,409**
- ◆ Port St. Lucie \$1,527
- ◆ Coral Springs \$1,582
- ◆ Fort Lauderdale \$1,635
- ◆ Fort Myers \$1,703

What do you get for your tax dollar? The list on the opposite page shows some of the many services Cape Coral citizens receive for the property taxes they pay to the City. This list should give residents better insight into what their City employees are able to do with each tax dollar allocated to the categories below.

FY15 Average Taxable Value Single Family = \$114,353		
FUNCTION	MILLAGE RATE	LEVY
Administrative	2.1853	\$ 249.89
Organizational Support	0.8119	92.84
Community Development	0.1654	18.91
Parks & Recreation	0.7607	86.99
Public Works	0.6741	77.08
Fire*	0.8842	101.11
Police	2.2254	254.48
	7.707	\$ 881.30

*Does not include \$11.7 million from Fire Services Assessment

How Does the Cost for Cape Coral Services Compare to Other Residential Costs?

What do you get for your City of Cape Coral tax dollars in comparison to other services? The average homeowner (FY15 taxable value: \$114,353) pays \$73 per month for these services. How does this compare to the monthly cost for other typical services:

- Average Cost High Speed Cable Internet: \$ 65 month
- **Average Cost for Cape Coral City Services: \$ 73 month**
- Average Cell Phone Bill (one person): \$ 73 month
- Average Cost Lawn Care Service (mowing): \$ 80 month
- Average Digital Cable Bill: \$ 85 month
- Average Water/Sewer Bill: \$ 85 month
- Average Cost for Public Schools: \$ 86 month
- Average Cost for Gas (2 tanks per month): \$ 87 month
- Average Satellite TV Bill: \$ 102 month
- Average Electric Bill: \$ 135 month
- Average Cost Car Insurance: \$ 147 month
- Average Cost of Homeowner’s Insurance: \$ 165 month ■

◆ **Administrative:**
28 cents



◆ **Organizational:**
11 cents



◆ **Community Development:**
2 cents



◆ **Parks & Recreation:**
10 cents



◆ **Public Works:**
9 cents



◆ **Fire Services:**
11 cents



◆ **Police:**
29 cents



Citizen’s Action Center
Have a City-related question or issue?

Contact us via phone:
(239) 574-0425

Or online:
cac.capecoral.net

Partial List of City Services Provided with Your Tax Dollar

●● POLICE

Communications/Logistics

911 calls for Police and Fire
Public records/Police reports
Alarm registrations

Patrol

Emergency calls
Minor dispute resolutions
Community presentations
Neighborhood Watch meetings
Residential/Commercial security surveys

Investigations

Major crimes (homicide/robbery)
Child abuse/Sexual abuse
Burglary/Theft
White collar crime
Narcotics/Vice
Task forces (federal)

Special Operations

Traffic, DUI, Traffic Homicide
K9 Team
Marine patrol
Police Volunteer Unit
"Project Lifesaver"
Vacation house checks
Fingerprinting (public)
Seniors vs. Crime
SWAT (entry team, snipers, negotiation)

Professional Standards

Internal Affairs
Personnel/Training
Police accreditation (state and national)
Public Affairs
– Ping4Alerts
– Tweet from the Beat
"Do the Right Thing"
Citizens Police Academy
Victim Assistance

●● FIRE

Administration/Support Services

Incident Management Teams
Standard Operating Guides
Apparatus and Equipment Maintenance
Facility Maintenance
Research and Development

Emergency Management

Emergency Planning
Community Emergency Response Team

Operations

Fire Suppression
Task Forces/Mutual Aid
Emergency Medical Services
Tech Rescue
Dive Rescue
Marine Operations
Hazardous Materials
Basic/Advanced Life Support
Dogs in Canals
Missing Persons
Lift Assist

Professional Standards

CPR Initiative
Training (mandatory/advanced/specialized)
Research and Development
State and Professional Compliance
Hiring/Promotions
Professional Development

Life Safety

Fire Prevention
Fire Inspections/Investigations

Public Information/Public Education

Citizens Fire Academy
Station Tours
Fire Safety Programs
Juvenile Firesetter Prevention
Fire Extinguisher Training
Social Media Information Outlets

●● ADMINISTRATION

Broadcast meetings on Channel 98
Council candidate debates
"On The Move" newsletter
Citizen's Survey
Social media information outlets
Video stream Cape TV for Mobile
City of Cape Coral website
Citizen Online Support Center (4,500 Q&As)
South Cape CRA Management
Media support
Economic development incentives/plans
Business retention
P3 Evaluation
Electric Utility Options Evaluation

●● CITY CLERK

Record public meetings/minutes
Citizen Action Center
Retain thousands of public records
Public records requests (7,672)
City Hall main phone line
Passport services
Domestic Partnership Registry

●● PARKS & RECREATION

Parks Maintenance

Maintain 39 City parks
Park rangers
Pavilion and Park Rentals

Marine Services

Boat launch and marinas
Chiquita Boat Lock operations
Boat slip/Transient slips

Recreation & Social Services Division

Preschool & Voluntary Pre-K
Childhood Music Instruction
Ballet and Creative Dance
Child/Babysitting Safety Programs
Adult/Senior Fitness Programs
Adult Foreign Language Programs
Mini-Bus Transportation
Group Road Trips
Mother/Son, Daddy/Daughter Dance
Fishing Instruction/Angler Education
Marine/Specialty Programs
Aquatic Fitness
Summer Camps
Before/After School Programs
Skateboarding
Fine Arts/Arts Exhibits
Glass/Jewelry Lab/Instruction
Clay/Pottery Lab/Instruction
Photography Instruction
Stone Sculpture Instruction
Drawing and Sketching Instruction
Special Populations Programs

Revenue & Special Facilities Division

53 Athletic Fields/11 Sports Complexes
Athletic programs
– 200 softball teams
– 175 soccer teams
– 210 baseball teams
– 50 football teams
– 65 basketball teams
– 100+ referees/umpires
Regional/National tournaments
Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve
Rotary Park/Wagging Tails Dog Park
Sirenia Vista
Recycling Program
Canoe/Kayak Rentals
Florida Friendly Landscaping

Special Events

Coconut Festival
Bike Nights
Burrowing Owl Festival
Florida State Senior Games
Sounds of Jazz
Sunset Celebration
Red, White & Boom
Movie in the Park
Kids Fall Festival
Tour De Cape
Veterans Day Parade
Holiday Boat-a-Long
Online Community Events Calendar

●● IT

Online Agendas/Minutes
Video stream meetings
Archived agendas, minutes, and videos
Website support
Public Wi-Fi in City facilities
Online Citizen Action Center
Open Government online services
Budget/Financials online
Interactive City expenditures
Interactive employee salary
Electronic bill payment
Online permits/projects/code cases
Electronic Permit Applications
Online inspection scheduling
GIS interactive online
Garage sale permits online
"Who's My Councilmember?" search
Reports/map requests
Software support for 911 Dispatch
Software support permitting/licensing
Software support financial/utilities
Automated Boil Water Notification

●● FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPT.

Accounting/Procurement

Payroll support
Collect/Invest revenues
Manage banking services
Process payments for goods/services
Compliance with state/federal laws
Record transactions/track assets
Annual CAFR requirement
City Manager's Proposed Budget
Manage 40 contracts for services
Process 4,500 purchase orders

Risk Management

Self insurance programs
Investigate claims made against the City
Property/Flood Insurance for City
Recover funds for property damage
Evaluate potential financial risks

Real Estate

Acquire properties/easements
Maintain inventory of City property
Assist citizens with real estate questions

●● DCD

Planning Division

Current and long-range planning services
State/Federal grants
Zoning services
Review project plans and need
Issue Certificates of Use
Issue sign permits
FEMA Flood Insurance
(25% reduction in premium)
Federal housing grant funds

Code Enforcement Division

Process code complaints (32,000/yr.)
Enforce contractor licensing
Issue business tax receipts
Enforce watering restrictions
"Take Pride in the Cape" program
Inspect/Enforce landscaping standards
Foreclosure/Rental property registration
Board up foreclosures
Remove graffiti/Clean trash
Mow abandoned, developed properties
Outreach programs
Special Magistrate hearings
Issue citations/code case prep
Contractor Regulatory Board meetings

●● PUBLIC WORKS

Maintain City vehicles/equipment
Power 14,000 streetlights/43 traffic signals
Maintain 3,000 lane miles of roadways
Road paving
Mowing all medians
Trim trees in public right of way and medians
Pick up trash in the public right of way
Adopt-A-Road program
Adopt-A-Median program
Spray weeds sidewalks/concrete medians
Maintain 139 bridges
Maintain 215 miles of sidewalks
Maintain 54,000 traffic signs
Bike route signage
Maintain road striping
Maintain road shoulders/patch potholes
Hurricane/tropical storm clean up
Maintain median landscaping
Security access for all City facilities
400 City building AC units
Building electrical service/equipment
1 million square feet of roofing
100 drinking fountains, ice machines
and Freezer units
City parking lot lights
All athletic field lighting
Landscape for City Hall complex
Chiquita Lock
Fire alarms for all City facilities ■