

[Marshall OpenGov](#)

I: Introductory

In an effort to provide a more inclusive and transparent budget, the City of Marshall is pleased to present our Financial Transparency portal. The City Of Marshall partnered with OpenGov to provide a new web-based financial transparency and intelligence tool that dynamically presents the city revenues and expenses, from historical trends to line item level details.

By using the OpenGov platform, residents and staff have around-the-clock access and a better presentation of the City of Marshall budget and actuals. City of Marshall is one of the first City's in the State of Texas to publicly release its financial data on the OpenGov platform.

Explore the City of Marshall to get a feel for a new standard of transparency. For additional context and descriptions of the city departments and programs, please refer to our Budget Overview online.

II: OpenGov How-to Guide:

OpenGov allows you to explore budget and historical finances in a simple graphical user interface.

- You'll notice the title of the Report you are viewing in the top left corner.
- Click on Saved on the left-hand side to view a list of common or favorite views on each report.
- Select Filter to display key menus.
- You can use the Show drop-down to select the data that is of most interest to you.
- Use the Broken Down By drop-down to specify the category you would like the data organized by in your chart or graph.
- Select the Filtered By option to view the data filters. These filters will allow you to select exactly which data you want to include, or exclude, from your graph or chart.
- Use the Search function within each filter to find exactly what you are looking for.
- If your organization has uploaded multiple years of data, a Fiscal Year slider will be present below the Filtered By menu. Move the sliders to choose the fiscal year(s) of data you would like to see.
- There are five different types of visual representations of the data:
 - o A stacked percentage graph to see percentage changes over time.
 - o A stacked line graph to visualize overall trends over time.
 - o A line graph overlaying each trend over time.

- o A pie chart to view percentage breakdowns by year. To view data for other years, move the slider below the pie chart.
 - o A bar chart comparing trends and percentage breakdowns over time.
- Below any chart or graph, you can view a Table detailing the financial information in the visualization above.
- Use the Help drop-down in the top right corner to:
 - o View a short How-To Guide with tips on navigating the platform.
 - o Recall the Welcome Screen.
 - o View a short Budget 101 primer with basic information on multi-fund accounting.
 - o Contact the administrators of the account.
- Use the Share drop-down in the top right corner to:
 - o Share your customized graph or chart through social media.
 - o Send a link to your customized graph or chart through email.
- Use the Download drop-down in the top right corner to:
 - o Download an image of the graph or table as a .png file.
 - o Download a spreadsheet as a .csv file.

For additional information on OpenGov and to access education materials, please visit:
marshalltx.opengov.com

III: OpenGov Company Overview:

OpenGov transforms the way the world analyzes and allocates public money. With more than 500 government customers across 44 states in a rapidly expanding network, OpenGov is the market leader in cloud-based financial intelligence, budgeting, and transparency for government. The OpenGov platform transforms government financial data into intuitive, interactive visualizations for both internal government users and citizens. OpenGov technology empowers administrators to make better policy decisions by measuring budget to actual expenditures, comparing data across departments and other governments and streamlining the budgeting process. Founded in 2012 with headquarters in Silicon Valley, OpenGov works with leading governments of all sizes including Minneapolis, New Haven, and Beaufort, SC. Learn more at marshalltx.opengov.com.

IV: Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What is OpenGov?

A: OpenGov is a technology company based in Silicon Valley focused on building the most powerful financial intelligence and transparency platform ever created for governments. We are transforming how state and local governments analyze, share and compare their financial data.

Q: How do I select the data I want to see?

A: To focus on specific data — like a fund, department, expense type, or any combination — use the menu on the left side panel. The “Broken Down By” drop-down allows you to specify which breakdown you want the graphs and table rows to represent on the graph. You can analyze the expense and revenues data by fund, department, or type.

Q: Can I select more than fund or departments?

A: Yes. Use the Data Filter on the left side panel to make specific selections within the data. The Data Filter shows you the hierarchical relationships of Funds, Departments, and Account Types. You'll notice the title of the graph you are viewing on top along with the account type selector. You can use the filter to see the data of most interest to you.

Q: How do I see the actual numbers within the graph?

A: Hover over any area of the graph to see the actual or budgeted amounts for that period. Or, just scroll down to see a table with detailed information below the graph.

Q: Can I see the data in a different graph?

A: In the upper right hand corner, you will see options for the different graphs and tables. There are five graph types: an area graph, an area graph by percentage, a line graph, a pie graph, and a bar chart. Additionally, there is always a table view below any graph. The table allows you to zoom-in on the detailed financial data selected in the chart or graph above.

Q: Why are there sometimes spikes in one year?

A: In reviewing multiple years of data, you may see "spikes" in the individual years; this can be due to unexpected expenses, such as a hard winter, equipment failure, a capital project, or a specific event that required additional funds. You can drill-down into our OpenGov platform to learn more about where exactly those expense or revenues are categorized.

Q: Can I save the data I am looking at?

A: Yes, there are Share and Download buttons in the upper right corner. You can share any view on a social network or by email. There are also options to download the displayed data in .csv spreadsheet and .png image formats. Additionally, you can copy and paste the url at the top of the page you are viewing.

Q: How do I learn more about government accounting?

A: Use the Help menu on the top right corner to navigate to the “Budget 101” primer to learn more about multi-fund accounting.

Q: I have a question. How do I contact my organization?

A: Use the Help menu on the top right corner to navigate to the “Contact” option to send a message to your organization.