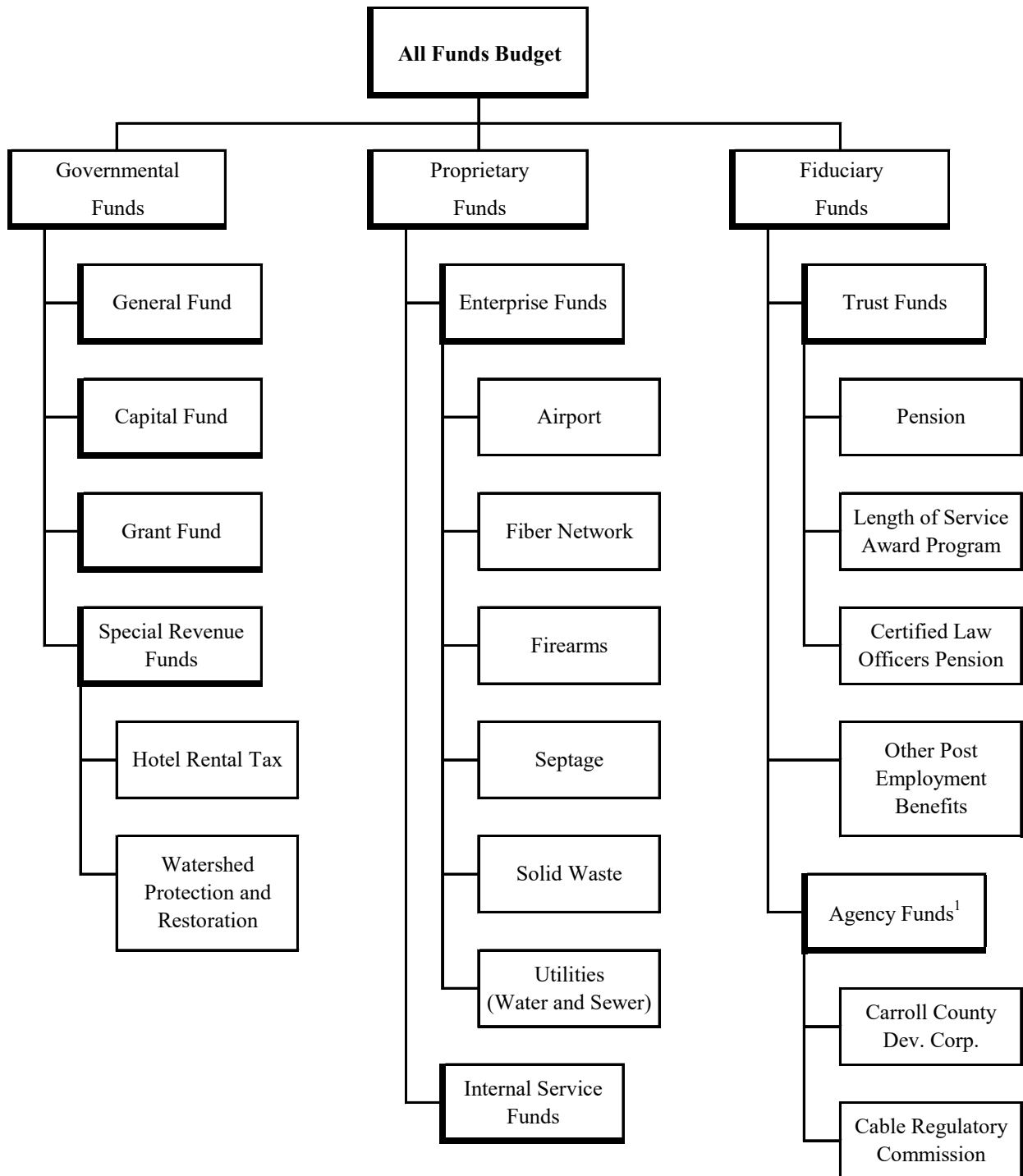


Description and Structure of Funds

Carroll County Fund Structure



¹All funds are appropriated except for Agency Fund, which is included in the audited financial statements.

A fund is a grouping of related accounts used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. Carroll County's fund structure consists of Governmental, Proprietary, and Fiduciary Funds.

Carroll uses the following ***Governmental Funds***:

The ***General Fund*** is the primary operating fund of the County, used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Revenue for the General Fund is generated by taxes such as Property, Income, and Recordation, which account for most of the total revenue. Expenditures for Public Schools, General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Recreation and Culture, Public Library, and Carroll Community College account for most of the annually appropriated budgets.

The ***Capital Fund*** is used to account for financial resources related to the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities of the County (other than those financed by proprietary funds). A capital project is generally non-recurring in nature and may include the purchase of land, site development, engineering and design fees, construction, and equipment. Capital projects produce assets with a useful life of more than one year.

Revenue sources for capital projects can include the issue of bonds (long-term debt), General Fund dollars, Federal or State funding, developer Impact Fees, contributions from other funds, and donations from other sources.

The ***Grant Fund*** accounts for revenues that are formally restricted by law for a particular purpose or have specific requirements associated with the eligible program costs. Sources of funding include program fees, endowments, donations, and State and Federal dollars.

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.

Special Revenue Funds include:

The ***Hotel Rental Tax***, a percentage of hotel room rates paid by hotel guests, is used for tourism and promotion of the County.

The ***Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund*** provides for expenses related to stormwater management and compliance with the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. A portion of Property Tax revenue is dedicated to the fund on an annual basis.

Proprietary Funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent of the governing body is that the cost of providing goods or services on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

Carroll uses the following ***Proprietary Funds***:

Internal Service Funds are used to account for certain risk financing activities. These funds account for Workers Compensation, general liability, vehicle and property insurance, and health benefit costs. Other County funds make payments to the Internal Service Funds, and expenses are partially offset by employee contributions.

Enterprise Funds:

The ***Airport Enterprise Fund*** accounts for Carroll County Regional Airport operations and the corporate hangar facilities, as well as construction or acquisition of capital assets, and related debt service costs. Sources of funding include fuel sales, corporate hangar rental, and other rents.

The ***Fiber Network Enterprise Fund*** accounts for the operation and infrastructure development of the Carroll County Fiber Network. The primary source of funding is dark fiber leases.

The ***Firearms Enterprise Fund*** accounts for the operations, construction or acquisition of capital assets, and related debt service costs of the Hap Baker Firearms Facility, located at the Northern Landfill. Sources of funding include user fees, brass recycle fees, and interest income.

The ***Septage Enterprise Fund*** provides septage waste disposal services. This fund accounts for the operations, construction or acquisition of capital assets, and related debt service costs. The primary source of funding is septage processing fees.

The ***Solid Waste Enterprise Fund*** provides solid waste disposal facilities for residential and commercial use. This fund accounts for the operations, construction or acquisition of capital assets, and related debt service costs of the landfill facilities. Sources of funding include tipping fees, rents, and interest income.

The ***Utilities Enterprise Fund*** provides water and sewer services in several areas within the County. This fund accounts for the operations, construction or acquisition of capital assets, and related debt service costs of the water and sewer facilities. Sources of funding include fees for water and sewer usage, rents, and interest income.

Fiduciary Funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government.

Carroll uses the following ***Fiduciary Funds***:

Trust Funds:

The ***Pension Trust Fund*** was established during FY 04 to account for the activities of the Carroll County Employee Retirement Plan, which accumulates resources for pension benefit payments to qualified employees. The plan accumulates funding from member contributions, County contributions, and the earnings and profits from investments; it makes disbursements for

employee retirements, withdrawals, disability and death benefits, as well as for administrative expenses.

The ***Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) Fund*** was established during FY 04 to account for the benefit program for the volunteer fire personnel serving the various independent volunteer fire companies in the County. While treated as a trust fund, it is not a legally established trust.

The ***Certified Law Officers Pension Trust*** was established during FY 10 to hold assets of the Carroll County Certified Law Officers Pension Plan for eligible certified law officers of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. The plan accumulates funding from member contributions, County contributions, and the earnings and profits from investments; it makes disbursements for employee retirements, withdrawals, disability and death benefits, as well as for administrative expenses.

The ***Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Fund***, established in FY 07, accounts for retiree contributions and County contributions to provide health benefits for eligible retirees. The plan also accounts for the earnings from investments, as well as disbursements made for medical premiums, payment of medical claims, and administrative expenses.

The ***Agency Fund*** is used to account for assets that the County holds on behalf of others as their agent. The Agency Fund is custodial in nature and does not involve measurement of results of operations. The Carroll County Development Corporation Fund accounts for the transactions for economic development receivables collected by the County on behalf of a local nonprofit corporation, and the Carroll Regulatory Commission administers the Cable franchise agreement for the County and eight towns.