

2020 Airport Budget - Discussion Document

Introduction

“The airport runway is the most important main street in any town” is a quote coined by Norm Crabtree, former Director of Aeronautics for the state of Ohio. While often forgotten or overlooked, municipal airports play a large role in the economy of a community such as Alexandria. Based on MnDOT Aeronautics’ Economic Impact Calculator, the Alexandria Municipal Airport is responsible for adding well over a million dollars to the local economy each year.

An airport has the unique ability to further the economic impact that an industry has on its community. For instance, look at our medical industry. Our local hospital is able to act as a regional medical hub due in part to the presence of an air ambulance based at the airport delivering patients from neighboring communities. Another example is the manufacturing industry, where overnight freight delivery via airplane allow the various manufacturing companies to utilize just-in-time inventory for products and increase their efficiency.

Alexandria Municipal Airport/Chandler Field is the sole airport in Douglas County and serves as the largest airport for Douglas, Pope, Todd, Grant and Stevens Counties. Alexandria Municipal Airport averages 70 operations a day and is home to more than 60 aircraft. Uses for the airport include personal, business, air ambulance, training, freight, aerial surveying, and more. Six businesses call Chandler Field home as well.

Mission Statement

To provide a first class facility for visitors and residents of Alexandria alike.

What Do We Do?

Airport Management performs the following duties on a regular basis at the Alexandria Airport:

- ✓ Manage and negotiate leases for City owned hangars/buildings
- ✓ Collect revenue on City owned hangars/buildings
- ✓ Maintain City owned hangars/buildings and terminal building
- ✓ General maintenance such as mowing grass, plowing snow, replacing runways lights
- ✓ Informing airport users of any hazards or unsafe airport conditions
- ✓ Working with FAA and MNDOT to attain grants and monies
- ✓ Promoting the airport in the local community

PBB Inventory & Costing Estimate

Program	\$/yr	%
Facilities Rental/Leasing	\$96,800	54%
Airport Maintenance	\$30,463	17%
Terminal Building	\$22,000	12%
Airport Management & Training	\$27,600	15%
Fuel System	\$3,000	2%
Total	\$179,863	100%



The following includes some of the activities within each program element noted in the PBB estimate table above:

Facilities Rental/Leasing: The airport makes its largest portion of revenue on the income received from rent or leases on airport properties. This includes the 44 personal T-hangars currently on field, mass hangars, ground leases, plus more. This part of the budget is dedicated to maintaining and improving these structures that provide revenue for the City.

Airport Maintenance: Sitting on 640 acres with several miles worth of pavement, the land which the airport sits on requires non-stop maintenance and grooming. In the summertime this could mean mowing the grass, or in the winter it is promptly removing snow after a snowfall to keep operations going. Other maintenance items include replace runways lights, signs, etc.

Terminal Building: When somebody lands at the Alexandria Airport, their first impression of Alexandria is our terminal building. Built in 1991, the building is doing a great job of serving its purpose and continues to be touched up to maintain a pleasant and welcoming atmosphere for visitors to our town.

Airport Management & Training: The City contracts with Alexandria Aviation to perform the management at the airport. This agreement has been around for several decades and was last updated in 2008. The Airport Manager also attends the annual MN Council of Airports' annual conference, this year being hosted in Willmar.

Fuel System: While Alexandria Aviation sells the fuel at the airport, the City owns and maintains the fuel pumps. In return, a percentage of the fuel sales by Alexandria Aviation goes back to the City.