



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Tennessee Town and Cities
Working Together



Contact Us

Tennessee Municipal League
226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd.
Suite 710
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
www.TML1.org
615-255-6416

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www.TML1.org



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Who We Are

Since 1940, the Tennessee Municipal League has been dedicated to helping Tennessee's towns and cities promote economic development and quality of life issues for their communities. TML has been recognized as 'the voice' of Tennessee's towns and cities, as well as the go-to organization for our state government in addressing the state's grand challenges. The League offers services and programs that will give municipal officials the knowledge and tools for making the best possible public decisions in the complex world of municipal government. Based in Nashville, the Tennessee Municipal League advocates on behalf of Tennessee's 345 towns and cities.

Right: TML Immediate Past President and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, TML President and Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown, and TML 1st Vice President and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic.



Bottom Left: TML 2nd Vice President and Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks and District 1 Director and Kingsport Alderman Darrel Duncan.

Bottom Right: Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly and Newport Mayor Trey Dykes



Message from the President

I am truly honored to be a part of the Tennessee Municipal League and serve as president as we celebrate our 85th year. It's an exciting time in our cities and towns, and in the state of Tennessee. Together through TML we can help each other, ultimately doing what we're each committed to do – making our communities the best they can be.

Since serving on the board, I'm proud of the changes we have made at TML. We have increased our efficiencies and reduced recurring spending; significantly grown our sponsorship programs; and can now claim that 97% of all Tennessee cities are members of TML – which is an all-time high! While we are most proud of these successes and will build upon them, there remains one important area that needs our attention – our grassroots political strength. If we are to have the Tennessee Municipal League that we need to help build the communities that we desire, we must engage more people and increase our efforts.

TML is where our state's towns and cities come together, share best practices and help chart our future. Your involvement in TML will be what makes the difference in Tennessee's future!



Paige Brown

TML President
Gallatin Mayor

By The Numbers

336

Member Cities & Towns

97% of all Tennessee cities are members of TML – an all-time high!

47,000

Social Media Views

TML continues to use social media platforms to communicate with our member cities, as well as audiences outside the normal reach. More than 800 follow TML on Facebook & Twitter.

650

Bills Monitored & Worked by Legislative Team

Of the 650 bills that had the potential of affecting municipalities, 342 were calendared for committee consideration. TML took a public position on 113 bills to either support or to oppose. Of the bills TML publicly supported, 75% were enacted; 93% of the bills TML opposed did not become law.

182

Emails, Surveys & Notifications

Communicating with our members is key to everything we do.

31

Hosted Workshops & Webinars

By attending TML's Annual Conference and Legislative Conference, local officials can obtain state-required CMFO and Utility Board Training hours. In addition, a variety of informative webinars with subject matter experts and state officials were offered throughout the year.

41

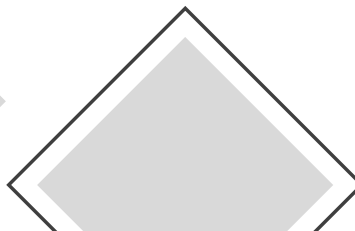
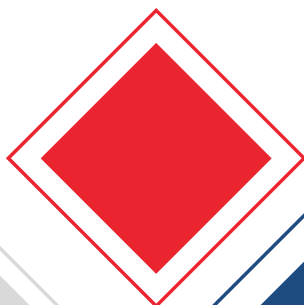
Daily Updates, Legislative Bulletins & Alerts

Members are kept informed through legislative updates that focus on priority bills as they move through the legislative process. Action Alerts are sent when new developments require members to contact their legislator immediately.

66

Sponsor Organizations

TML's sponsorship program has grown significantly over the last few years. Business leaders have come to learn that TML provides one of the best forums to interact with Tennessee's municipal decision makers.



Government Engagement

The Second Session of the 113th General Assembly convened on Jan. 9, 2024, and concluded on April 25, 2024. The Session was largely shaped by three separate factors that would dominate discussions surrounding the budget and affect the prospects of many legislative proposals: the slowing of revenue growth, changes to the state’s Franchise and Excise tax, and the Governor’s Education Freedom Scholarship Act. While these three factors commanded the attention of legislators and dominated media coverage, the General Assembly considered hundreds of bills on unrelated subjects.

A total of 1,415 bills were filed in 2024. The League’s legislative team identified 650 of these bills that either directly affected or had the potential to directly affect municipalities. Of these, 342 were considered by the General Assembly. TML took a public position on 113 bills to either support or oppose. Of the bills TML publicly supported, 75% were enacted; 93% of the bills TML opposed did not become law. In addition, 34 bills were improved by an amendment offered by TML. Bad bills or so-so bills were made good or good bills were made even better.

But TML is only as strong as our member participation. We continue to grow the influence of cities and towns throughout the state and with our advocacy efforts with the Tennessee General Assembly. Our work together makes the difference. When cities stick together and speak with one voice, outcomes take shape and begin to happen.



Top Left: U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn with Lawrenceburg Mayor Blake Lay. **Center:** Collegedale Mayor Morty Lloyd, City Manager Wayon Hines, and Rep. Greg Vital. **Top Right:** Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown and Sen. Ferrell Haile. **Bottom Left:** Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, Brownsville Mayor Bill Rawls, and Sen. Page Walley. **Bottom Right:** Atoka Mayor Barry Akin, Rep. Debra Moody, Deputy Town Recorder Rachel Covarrubias, and Town Administrator Marc Woerner.

Membership Engagement

City Visits

Beginning in 2021, TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes and TMBF President and CEO Wade Morrell embarked on a statewide city tour as a means to introduce themselves to city officials and to share the value of belonging to TML. Over the past three years they have visited almost 100 cities from Memphis to Mountain City.



Top Left: TMBF President and CEO Wade Morrell, Huntingdon Executive Assistant Michelle Angela, Mayor Chad Edwards, and TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes.

Top Right: Haynes, Franklin Mayor Ken Moore, and Morrell.

At Left: Pictured with Rogersville city officials are Morrell, City Recorder Glenn Hutchins, Vice Mayor Bryan Hartness, Mayor Jim Sells and Haynes.

District Meetings

Since the pandemic, TML has held annual District Meetings virtually using a Zoom-webinar format. Each TML District would have its own one-hour session with the purpose of educating our membership about TML’s legislative agenda and any key issues coming before the Tennessee General Assembly. In 2024, the TML Board and staff proposed a different format that will eventually return the district meetings to an in-person format held at locations across the state. The new district meetings will be held in the Fall beginning in 2025. During this transition and to ensure that city officials were still receiving pertinent information, TML held two on-line webinars – one in December and one in January. The first webinar focused on TML’s legislative agenda. The second webinar was held prior to the opening of the 114th Tennessee General Assembly and included timely interviews with Deputy Governor Butch Eley and Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson.



TML Legislative Session Kick Off
Thursday, January 9 @ 2 pm EST/1 pm CST

Register for ZOOM Webinar

Join us for a preview of the legislative session featuring interviews with state leaders.



Butch Eley
Deputy Governor, Commissioner of Transportation

Deputy Governor Eley will be joining us to discuss transportation funding and the State’s recovery from the damage caused by Hurricane Helene.



Jack Johnson
Senate Majority Leader, District 27 (Williamson County)

Leader Johnson will be joining us to discuss the Senate’s legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

Stakeholders & Partners

MTAS Celebrates 75 Years

The Municipal Technical Advisory Service celebrated a milestone this year – its 75th Anniversary. In 1949, Herb Bingham, then executive director of the Tennessee Municipal League, introduced legislation that created MTAS to specifically provide technical consulting services to cities and towns in Tennessee. This unique and effective partnership between TML and MTAS has proven to stand the test of time and we congratulate MTAS for achieving this momentous milestone!



TVA President and CEO Jeff Lyash discussed TVA's most recent innovations and accomplishments that benefit ratepayers, local government and help meet growing power demands during TML's Annual Conference in Knoxville.

Tennessee's Energy Future

The Tennessee Valley Authority came on board this year as a premier sponsor to partner with TML. By building organizational relationships and support with municipal leaders from across the state, TVA can support economic growth while working toward solutions for the state's energy future.



City and state leaders, MTAS customers and friends gathered in Knoxville to celebrate this momentous milestone. From left to right: TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes, Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund President and CEO Wade Morrell, Farragut Mayor and TML Immediate Past President Ron Williams, UT President Randy Boyd, UT Institute of Public Service Vice President Dr. Herb Byrd, Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, UT MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris, Public Entity Partners President and CEO Michael Fann, and Gallatin Mayor and TML President Paige Brown.

Growth and Farmland Loss

A concern and policy priority of Governor Lee is slowing the rate of farmland loss in Tennessee. At a rate of 9.8 acres per hour, Tennessee ranks second among all states in general farmland loss, and first in prime farmland loss. TML, Tennessee County Services association (TCSA), and the Tennessee Farm Bureau continue to work with the Lee Administration on strategies and proposals to balance growth with farmland loss. To that end, the Farm Bureau has joined TML and TCSA in calling for the state to reestablish a formal planning agency within the University of Tennessee Institute of Public Service (UT IPS). It is envisioned the proposed entity would assist county and city governments in planning needs, as well as work with the state's development districts in helping support their current role in this area

Municipal Workforce Development

To help address the growing workforce training needs of many cities from the front office to public works, TML engaged the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) and the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) to create a statewide initiative to help prepare individuals for career opportunities in municipal governments. Representatives from the TBR held a question and listening session during the TML Annual Conference to help gather data on the training needs of cities.

Education & Programs

TML Legislative Conference

Held in Nashville on March 4-5, 2024, the Legislative Conference featured updates from U.S. Congressman John Rose, TN Comptroller Jason Mumpower, and UT Economist Larry Kessler. The two-day event also featured a dynamic panel on urban growth and an informative workshop on *Social Media and the First Amendment*. City officials were also encouraged to attend the Senate and House floor sessions on Monday night and to schedule time to meet with the legislators. More than 250 people were in attendance.



Attorneys Sam Jackson and Bethany Vanhooser from Spencer Fane discussed how both municipalities and government officials with social media accounts must take care in what they post and how they interact with the public.



U.S. Congressman John Rose detailed how federal leaders are working to address issues including critical infrastructure needs such as housing, transportation, transit programs and water and wastewater challenges.



Above: An informative panel discussion on Tennessee's rapid growth and how it's impacting our communities was part of the dynamic agenda at the 2024 TML Legislative Conference. The panel – which was moderated by TML Deputy Director Chad Jenkins and included Brownsville Mayor Bill Rawls, Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown, TN County Services Executive Director David Connors, and Farm Bureau Public Policy Director Kevin Hensley – discussed the various challenges they are facing and what types of tools local governments need to meet the current demands.



At Right: Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks presented a call-to-action regarding the proposed property tax cap. Brooks explained how this proposed cap could severely limit the ability of cities to provide necessary services and infrastructure, especially as populations continue to grow.

Education & Programs

TML Annual Conference

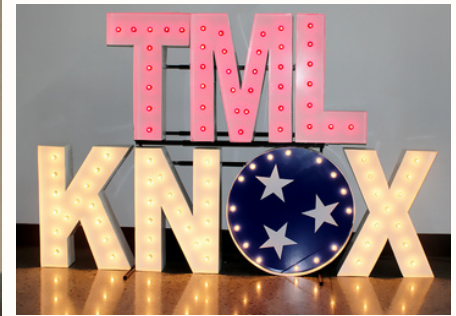
Each year, TML provides locals officials with countless hours of state-required CMFO and utility board training, informative webinars with subject matter experts and state officials sharing information and ideas to address today's challenges. For almost 85 years, TML has provided this must-attend Annual TML Conference and Expo – a forum where hundreds of municipal officials gather to stay abreast of the latest legislative and regulatory developments, as well as exchange best practices to address a range of emerging challenges.



Sportswriter Sally Jenkins details life lessons learned from top athletes during TML's Annual Conference.



The Knoxville Police Department color guard helped kick off the 84th Annual Conference.



Dyersburg Mayor John Holden was presented with the TML Mayor of the Year award by TML President and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams.



Trenton Alderwomen Kim Holt and Cece Jones.



Conference attendees had the opportunity to meet Bob Kesling, the "Voice of the Vols," pictured above with Columbia City Manager Tony Massey.



Above: Kingsport City Manager Chris McCartt with Aldermen James Phillips and Paul Montgomery.



Millington Alderwoman Bethany Huffman and Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon.



Left: One of the many workshops offered at the conference included a panel discussion on the looming solid waste crises facing the state.

Looking to the Future

Visioning Committee

In 2023, the Board created and appointed its first Visioning Committee charged with making recommendations to best position the League through 2040. The Committee, comprised of TML Board members, past presidents, city managers, council members and mayors, first met in conjunction with the 2024 Legislative Conference. The group continues its work identifying specific challenges and opportunities to help ensure TML remains the most respected voice of towns and cities for decades to come.



Paris City Manager Kim Foster, Jackson Councilmember Johnny Dodd and Brentwood City Manager Kirk Bednar.



Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown, Farragut Mayor Ron Williams and Newport Mayor Trey Dykes.

By-Law Changes

During its Fall meeting, the TML Board passed bylaw changes that demonstrated its continued commitment to ensuring that TML fosters opportunities for service on the Board, and remains committed to the values and integrity expected by our members. The latest bylaw changes were approved less than two years since the Board passed what may have been the most significant bylaw changes in its history. These changes were made with one goal in mind: to ensure that TML remains the respected voice of Tennessee’s towns and cities.



Nolensville Vice Mayor Jessica Salamida, Kingsport Alderman Darrell Duncan, Morristown Councilmember Kay Senter, Savannah City Manager Blake Walley and TMBF President and CEO Wade Morrell.



Goodlettsville City Manager Tim Ellis and Springfield Mayor Ann Schneider-Williams

The TML Mission Statement

The Tennessee Municipal League will be the most effective and respected resource for strengthening the towns and cities of Tennessee and the people they serve.

Implementing TML's Strategic Plan

TML continues to advance efforts supported in its strategic plan.

1) Achieve a High-Quality, Proactive Legislative Agenda.

- In 2024, we engaged the services of a national law and lobbying firm based in Tennessee to help advance securing additional state shared sales tax revenue for cities.

2) Internally Continue to Develop the Best, Most Respected and Effective Municipal League to Advocate for Cities.

- Our work culture promotes and encourages the positive engagement and service leadership to our cities and partners, especially state government entities.

3) Develop and Utilize a Funding Model that Guarantees TML's Long Term Strength.

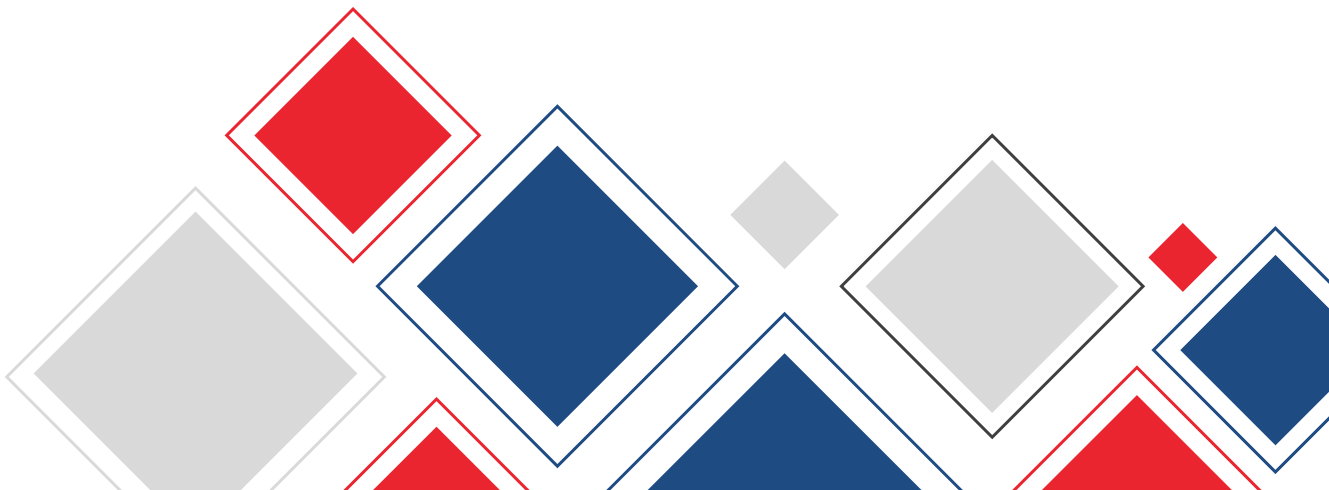
- Mid-year, we established a new municipal health insurance venture to help provide affordable options for cities and provide future financial support for TML programming.

4) Engage our Membership.

- We continued to engage our membership via city visits, committees and working groups and surveys.

5) Create a Dynamic, Innovative Operation

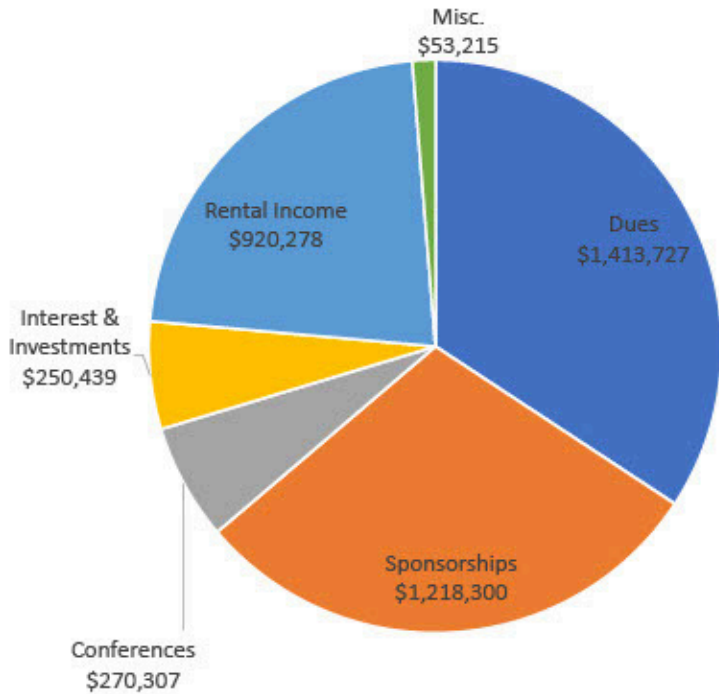
- Finally, to help ensure innovation, each employee has components of TML's strategic plan as part of their individual performance metrics and review.
- During its Fall Board Meeting, the TML Board adopted bylaw changes that will help ensure regular opportunities for new members to serve on the TML Board. This was an important action taken by the Board towards ensuring dynamic leadership



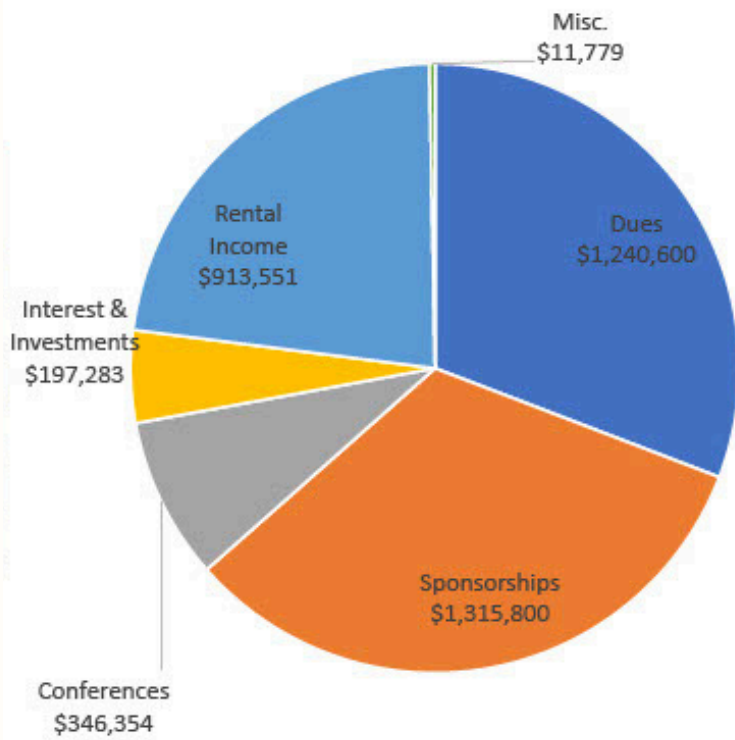
Financial Highlights

TML Revenue Comparison By Source

Revenue – FYE 2024



Revenue – FYE 2023

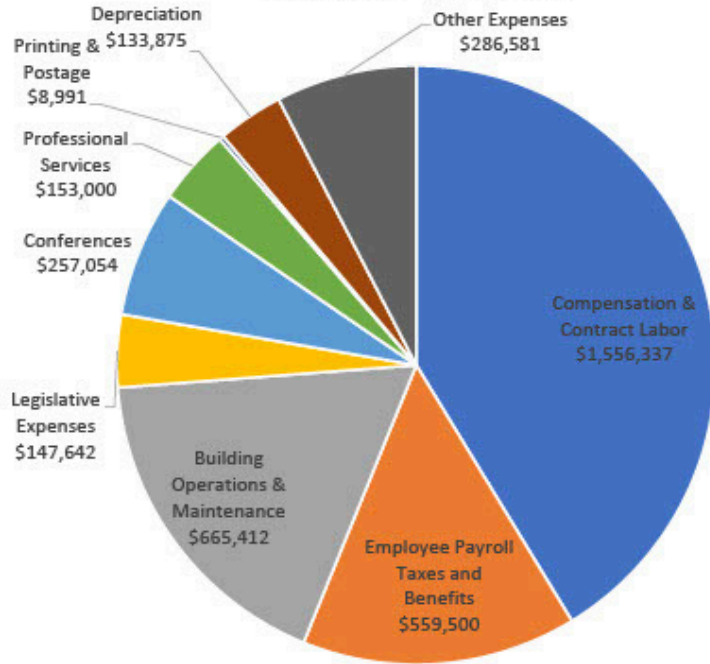


Revenue Source	YOY % Change
Dues	13.96%
Sponsorships	-7.41%
Conferences	-21.96%
Interest & Investments	26.94%
Rental Income	0.74%
Misc.	-351.78%

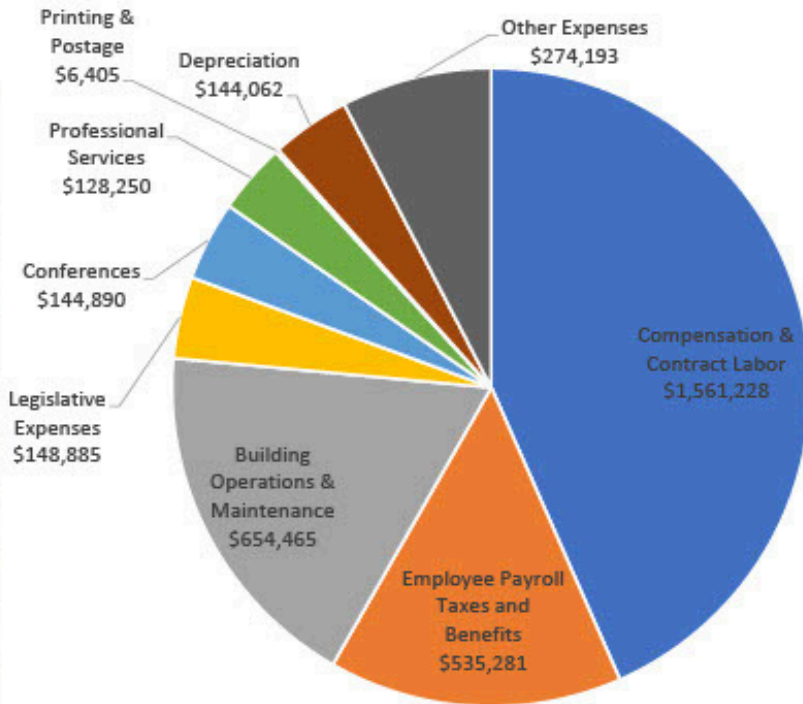
Financial Highlights

TML Expense Comparison By Use

Expenses – FYE 2024



Expenses – FYE 2023



Expense	YOY % Change
Compensation & Contract Labor	-0.31%
Employee Payroll Taxes and Benefits	4.52%
Building Operations & Maintenance	1.67%
Legislative Expenses	-0.83%
Conferences	77.41%
Professional Services	19.30%
Printing & Postage	40.37%
Depreciation	-7.07%
Other Expenses	4.52%

TML BOARD FOR 2024/2025



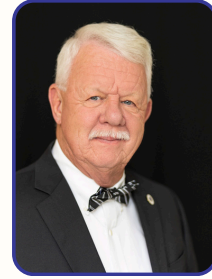
Paige Brown
President
Gallatin Mayor



Julian McTizic
1st Vice President
Bolivar Mayor



Kevin Brooks
2nd Vice President
Cleveland Mayor



Ron Williams
Immediate Past President
Farragut Mayor



Darrell Duncan
District 1
Kingsport Alderman



Gary Chesney
District 2
Morristown Mayor



Stefanie Dalton
District 3
Red Bank Mayor



Keith Morrison
District 4
Algood City Administrator



Tim Ellis
District 5
Goodlettsville City Manager



Jessica Salamida
District 6
Nolensville Vice Mayor



Blake Walley
District 7
Savannah City Manager



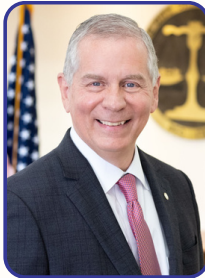
Bethany Huffman
District 8
Millington Alderwoman



Johnny Dodd
At-Large Director
Jackson Council



Roland Dykes
At-Large Director
Newport Mayor



Joe Pitts
At-Large Director
Clarksville Mayor



Tim Kelly
Chattanooga Mayor



Indya Kincannon
Knoxville Mayor



Freddie O'Connell
Metro Nashville Mayor



Paul Young
Memphis Mayor



Kay Senter
TMBF Chair
Morristown Council



Jay Evans
TCMA President
Brentwood Asst. City Manager

TML STAFF



From the Executive Director

Thank you for supporting our organization and its mission. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Anthony Haynes
Executive Director



Chad Jenkins
Deputy Executive Director
Sr. Director Gov. Relations



Mark Barrett
Sr. Director Corporate Support
& Member Services



Carole Graves
Sr. Director Communications
& Educational Programing



Jackie Gupton
Executive Assistant
Manager Information Services



Sylvia Harris
Sr. Director Conference & Meeting
Planning



John Holloway
Director Government
Relations



Debbie Kluth
Director Corporate Sponsorship
& Conference Expo.



Kate Coil
Assistant Director Communications
Assistant TT&C Editor.



Thank You TML Sponsors and Partners

Feature Level



GovDeals



RACKLEY
ROOFING



Cleaning. Restoration. Construction.



PUBLIC ENTITY
PARTNERS

Diamond Level

PATH™

TVA

VOYA
FINANCIAL



TMBF
TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND

Platinum Level

Google Cloud



TECA
Tennessee Electric
Cooperative Association

verizon✓

Gold Level



AT&T



WAUFORD



TML Partner Programs

AMERICAN FIDELITY
a different opinion

GovCard



REACH Alert
Instant Mass Communication



Silver Level

ATA (Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC)
Apptegy
Bank of New York Mellon, Co.
BCA Environmental Consultants, LLC
BlueCross Healthy Places
BuyBoard
CLA (Clifton Larson Allen LLP)
Collier Engineering Co., Inc.
Cunningham Recreation / GameTime
DRC Emergency Services
Energy Systems Group
Environmental Products Group
Holiday Designs
Local Government Corporation
Mark III Employee Benefits, Inc.
Mattern & Craig, Inc.
Meticulous Design & Architecture
OpenGov
Pavement Restorations, Inc.
Performance Services
Recreational Concepts, LLC

Sherrill Morgan
Siemens Industry, Inc.
Simmons Wealth Management
Southeast Cement Promotion Association
SSR (Smith Seckman Reid)
Tennessee Development District Association
Thompson & Litton
TN Health Works
TriGreen Equipment
Trane Commercial Systems
Veregy
Waste Connections of Tennessee, Inc.
Waste Management

Bronze Level

A2H, Inc.
Deckard Technologies
Employee Benefits Specialists
Flock Safety
Fortiline Waterworks
Gallagher Benefit Service
TLM Associates, Inc.

Mission Delivery Partners

Over the years, the leadership of TML created three organizations critical to the delivery of our mission of helping Tennessee cities. It all started in 1949 with TML lobbying the legislature for the creation and funding source for the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) at the University of Tennessee. In 1979, the TML Risk Management Pool (now Public Entity Partners) was formed to help cities with affordable risk management options. And in 1985, the TML Bond Fund was created to provide cities affordable access to meet their increasing capital needs.



The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) creates and administers various types of loan programs for the benefit of cities and counties. As an entity of the Tennessee Municipal League, TMBF works closely with city officials to structure cost-effective and flexible borrowing options. Types of projects include but are not limited to schools, roads, utilities, public buildings, jails, equipment, and any other project considered to be of benefit to the public. Project funds are available for any size government. Created in 1985, TMBF began making loans in 1986. Since inception, programs administered by TMBF have resulted in total borrowings by local governments in Tennessee in excess of \$5 billion and has now closed more than 1,700 loans. TMBF has saved local governments approximately \$720 million in interest costs alone. Many borrowers have multiple loans through one or more programs. Loan sizes range from \$21,000 to \$103 million. For more information call: (615) 255-1561 or you may visit their website at www.tml.org/bond-fund.



Public Entity Partners is a cooperative risk sharing arrangement that works in many ways like a traditional insurer. Participating members pay a premium, receive coverage, and make claims against that coverage. The unique relationship between local governments and Public Entity Partners sets it apart from traditional insuring methods. Public Entity Partners is a risk management, coverage/service provider and has the advantage of being able to tailor coverages and services for local government needs and through the risk management process, control the costs for these coverages and services. Public Entity Partners provides liability coverage for both tort and non-tort exposures worker's compensation coverage, and offers a multitude of property coverages. For more information on the services call (800) 624-9698 or (615) 371-0049 or you may visit their website at www.pepartners.org/



In the complex world of local government, managing a municipality can be quite challenging, especially in smaller municipalities with limited resources. Established in 1949 by the Tennessee General Assembly, the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), an agency of The University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service, provides local officials with technical assistance in a variety of areas. MTAS consultants will assist in the development of practical and individual solutions for your city. In addition to general and technical consulting duties, MTAS also fulfills municipal training needs through its City University and Elected Officials Academy programs, as well as other specialized training programs. For more information call (865) 974-0411 or you may visit their website at www.mtas.tennessee.edu/

