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The City of Burleson earned a boost in its credit rating.

According to the City's financial advisor - Boyd London, managing director with First Southwest - the City "was upgraded. You had an AA- rating and it was upgraded to AA. Triple A is the best. AA+ is the next step and I anticipate you will get to AA+ within the next few years."

The rating came from Standard & Poor's Rating Services. The upgrade was announced at the June 2 Burleson City Council meeting.

"It is very difficult to do anything better," London said of the credit rating. "You are now among the top cities in the Metroplex in terms of rating, financial condition, and policies. This statistic is specific to Burleson - 70 percent of your debt is gone in 10 years. That is a good number. Typically we see that percentage in the 50s and 60s at best so 70 percent is pretty good. Debt is not as much a part of the credit rating. They are looking for the overall composition of the economy, the tax roll, and the age of the city itself. You don't have as diversified a tax roll as Fort Worth has. They have a lot more ways to deal with adversity."

The upgrade came in conjunction with the City selling/issuing \$24.49 million in general obligation bonds and \$11.05 million in certificates of obligation (\$5.95 million for water and wastewater improvements and \$5.11 million for the extension of Vantage Drive to FM 917).

The general obligation bonds include \$12.9 million of refunding debt to obtain interest savings (\$1.6 million over 10 years) and \$11.6 million of debt approved by the voters in November 2013 for new projects. Those new projects include:

- Police Department communications system
- Developer participation
- Neighborhood street rehabilitation (five year program)
- Annual sidewalk program
- Transportation safety-signals (three locations on Hidden Creek Parkway)
- Congestion mitigation
- Alsbury Boulevard (Candler to Hulen)
- Old Town Mobility Improvements (Phase 1)
- Summercrest Boulevard Mobility Improvements
- Renfro Street (I-35W to Hwy. 174)
- McAlister Road (city limit to Renfro Street)

- Renfro Street at Hwy. 174 (eastbound right turn lane only)
- Traffic calming program
- Thomas Street bike lanes and sidewalk (Summercrest Boulevard to Hughes Middle School and BRiCk trail connection)
- McAlister Road bike lanes (city limit to Renfro) and Oncor easement to Alsbury connection
- Railroad quiet zone at Alsbury Boulevard only
- Police/facility remodel/renovation

The \$5.95 million for water/wastewater improvements include:

- Replacement of water lines associated with the reconstruction of City streets
- Replacement of water lines that have exceeded their useful life and/or do not meet current City standards
- Funds for unforeseen improvements, such as water bores
- The 12-inch water line along Hurst Road
- The 16-inch water line along Wilshire Boulevard
- The 12-inch water line along Peach Lane and Renfro Street
- Expansion of Alsbury #2 pump station to increase pumping capacity from Alsbury to meet projected supply demands post 2015
- Replacement of sewer lines associated with the construction of City streets
- Replacements of sewer lines that have exceeded their useful life and/or do not meet current City standards
- Funds for unforeseen improvements such as manhole construction, deep lines, etc.
- The 15-inch sewer interceptor from Oakbrook to Wilshire Boulevard (southwestern part of the City, for growth that may occur along the Chisholm Trail Parkway corridor)
- And a 15-inch interceptor from Lakeview Circle to CR 913 to service the southwestern part of the City for growth that may occur along Chisholm Trail Parkway corridor