



July 22, 2024

Accounting Posting for the Receipt of Borrowed Funds

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference Number: CTAS-1762

For the accounting staff that will be posting the accounting records for the county, the following journal entries (figures 6, 7, 8 and 9) would typically be found.

For Monies to be Received into the General Capital Projects Fund

Figure 6

				Debit	Credit
Balance Sheet					
	171	11140		Cash with Trustee	\$9,675,000.00
Expenditures					
	171	91100	605	Underwriter's Discount	\$125,000.00
	171	91100	606	Other Debt Issuance Charges	\$200,000.00
Revenue					
	171	49100		Bond Proceeds	\$10,000,000.00
<i>To Record the issuance of \$10,000,000 of Bonds for General Capital Projects</i>					

For Monies to be Received into the Education Capital Project Fund

Before we list the accounting postings, note that these postings can vary from accounting system to accounting system. Also note that the recommended postings have changed in the last number of years due to the implementation of GASB #34. Since boards of education do not have debt issuance authority, they are prohibited from receiving notes/bonds/loans proceeds directly. The borrowed money must come into the primary government, and then the primary government can make a contribution to the component unit of schools. This contribution creates another question of the contribution being the total issuance proceeds less issuance cost, or the total proceeds and then allowing the issuance cost to be capitalized as a cost of the asset. Either accounting procedure of the issuance cost is permissible, along with allowing the cost of the issuance to be expensed in the debt service fund.

Recommended Practice: A county's debt service policy should address how the issuance cost will be expensed or capitalized –not only for the education capital borrowing, but also for the general capital borrowing.

The following scenario (Figure 7) is of a county that has a General Capital Project Fund and desires to issue debt for a school building project with the issuance cost being capitalized as a part of the asset.

Figure 7

					Debit	Credit
Balance Sheet						
	171	11140		Cash with Trustee	\$9,675,000.00	
Expenditures						
	171	91100	605	Underwriter's Discount	\$125,000.00	
	171	91100	606	Other Debt Issuance Charges	\$200,000.00	
Revenue						
	171	49100		Bond Proceeds		\$10,000,000.00
<i>To Record the issuance of \$10,000,000 of Bonds for School Projects</i>						
					Debit	Credit
Balance Sheet						
	171	11140		Cash with Trustee		\$9,675,000.00
Expenditures						
	171	91300	605	Underwriter's Discount		\$125,000.00
	171	91300	606	Other Debt Issuance Charges		\$200,000.00
	171	91300	316	Contributions	\$10,000,000.00	
Balance Sheet						
	177	11140		Cash with Trustee	\$9,675,000.00	
Revenue						
	177	44570		Contributions		\$10,000,000.00
Expenditures						
	177	91300	605	Underwriter's Discount	\$125,000.00	
	177	91300	606	Other Debt Issuance Charges	\$200,000.00	
<i>To Record Contributions from 171 General Capital Projects to 177 Education Capital Projects along with the related issuance expense to be capitalized</i>						

This second scenario (figure 8) relates to the issuance of debt for educational purposes, and reflects the debt service cost in the debt service fund and not capitalized.

Figure 8

					Debit	Credit
Balance Sheet						
	171	11140		Cash with Trustee	\$9,675,000.00	
Revenue						
	171	49100		Bond Proceeds		\$9,675,000.00
To Record the issuance of \$10,000,000 of Bonds for School Purposes						
					Debit	Credit
Balance Sheet						
	171	11140		Cash with Trustee		\$9,675,000.00
Expenditures						
	171	91300	316	Contributions	\$9,675,000.00	
Balance Sheet						
	177	11140		Cash with Trustee	\$9,675,000.00	
Revenue						
	177	44570		Contributions		\$9,675,000.00
Revenue						
	151	49100		Bond Proceeds		\$325,000.00
Expenditures						
	151	91300	605	Underwriter's Discount	\$125,000.00	
	151	91300	606	Other Debt Issuance Charges	\$200,000.00	
To Record Contributions from 171 General Capital Projects to 177 Education Capital Projects along with the related issuance cost being expensed in the Debt Service Fund						

These postings reflect that many options are available to receive and expend funds on capital projects. Other postings also are allowed. One should consult auditors or a CTAS consultant if questions arise on the posting of these proceeds.

Further, the above posting brings out a very important issue that often is overlooked and can cause shortages in the capital project. An asset cost generally is the full cost to put the asset into use. This cost includes the cost of the issuance of the debt. The project budget was originally established at \$10 million. However, the first expense was not pertaining to the actual construction of the asset, but rather to the issuance of the indebtedness. The examples above reflect that the project has cash available that is \$325,000 less than anticipated for the project.

A debt and/or capital projects policy should address the following: issuance cost; if additional funds should be borrowed for issuance cost; if this cost is included in the capital budget where the expense will be incurred; or if the cost of issuance would be absorbed by the debt service fund as noted in figure 9. Also note that the Debt Service Fund is a budget fund, and the budget should be amended to include any revenue and additional expenses.

Figure 9 reflects the Debt Service Fund paying the cost of the debt issuance.

Figure 9

					Debit	Credit
Balance Sheet						
	171	11140		Cash with Trustee	\$10,000,000.00	
Revenue						
	171	49100		Bond Proceeds		\$10,000,000.00
To Record the issuance of \$10,000,000 of Bonds for School Purposes						
					Debit	Credit
Balance Sheet						
	171	11140		Cash with Trustee		\$10,000,000.00
Expenditures						
	171	91300	316	Contributions	\$10,000,000.00	
Balance Sheet						
	177	11140		Cash with Trustee	\$10,000,000.00	
Revenue						
	177	44570		Contributions		\$10,000,000.00
Revenue						
	151	11140		Cash with Trustee		\$325,000.00
Expenditures						
	151	91300	605	Underwriter's Discount	\$125,000.00	
	151	91300	606	Other Debt Issuance Charges	\$200,000.00	
To Record Contributions from 171 General Capital Projects to 177 Education Capital Projects along with the related issuance cost being expensed in the Debt Service Fund						

Further depending on how the funds are borrowed, there could be interest earnings from the idle funds not yet expended and interest expensed during the construction phase. For example, the above \$9.67 million could earn interest until used. These interest earnings would accrue to the Debt Service Fund and could be used to recoup the issuance cost and defray the interest cost of borrowed monies during construction. The earned interest is not eligible to accrue to the capital project fund.

Recommended Practice: Make sure all parties understand where the cost of the debt issuance will be charged and any interest earning deposited. Reflect this cost and revenues estimates in a budget.

While we are on the subject of cash availability, your debt policy should also address, either on a case by case basis or specifically state in the debt resolution, what will be the disposition of any unused funds after a project is complete. Generally the borrowing instruments state the proceeds shall be for capital outlay, thus allowing the county to use the proceeds for the project approved and any future approved project. Outside the broad language, the remaining funds are transferred back to the Debt Service Fund for the repayment of debt.

Recommended Practice: Allow all excess funds to be available for other capital projects upon specific approval.

Recommended Practice: If a permanent Capital Project Fund has not been established, then a county should take the opportunity to establish a Capital Project Fund with any excess cash.

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/accounting-posting-receipt-borrowed-funds>