

E-Mail Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama City “Challenge of Legendary Okayama” (40)
February 12th Issue

[We announced the initial budget for fiscal Heisei 27 (2015)]

Hello, I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

This time, I would like to talk about how we can understand the basics of the initial budget for fiscal Heisei 27 in Okayama City announced on February 10th.

At the moment, Okayama City's revenue is increasing with the background of recovery of brisk business activity. Adding to the state, the public debt, which is an expenditure of borrowed money · interests of a local public body, is decreasing as a result of the administrative reform by ex-Mayor of Okayama Mr. Takaya. For the budgeting process for fiscal Heisei 27 (2015), these factors became a favorable development of it.

Knowing those conditions of annual revenue, the way to think about the forming budgeting process for this time is 「We steadily make what we have to do now proceed on top of the maintenance of the sound city finances.」 . On the basis of this way of thinking, we made the important points of budget putting the order of priority on it. As the result, the amount of budget of the city's general accounts became two hundred and eighty-four billion and eight hundred million yen, which is 1.5 % increase (4 billion and one hundred million yen) from the initial budget amount.

In this budget, we let a variety of policies proceed and dealt with urgent political problems such as 「renewing of provinces」, 「town planning」, 「social security」, and 「education」 with considerate care. Also, a negative legacy was tried to be dissolved by regaining of site which is worthy of 8 billion yen equaling to two thirds of the balance of twelve billion and five million yen by the site of Okayama switch yard. In this way, a problem having been remaining unsettled for many years was put a process in motion to its solution.

Because of those actions for grappling problems, we needed to break down 5 billion and 9 million yen from the balance of fund for adjustment of finances that is more than the amount broke down in last year. Even though we broke down more than the amount of last year, we secured 23 billion and 5 million yen as a total amount of fund exceeding one at the same period last year. I proudly believe that it contributed to make a good balance of finances between the long-term incomings and outgoings and will be a stepping-stone to leap into even further stage.

However, we notice that the 「problems in 2025」 which the baby-boom generation becomes the latter-stage elderly people more than age of 75 and a decline in population etc. with a progress of a

question for becoming less number of birthrate and aging population gets surfacing on turning our eyes to our future. On top of them, other urgent problems such as an increase in the cost related to social security and making city's own facilities earthquake-proof and measurements for antiquated institutions owned by city, which support lives of citizens and city government administration, are waiting for us with no rest.

Although there is not much time left for us to tackle with those questions, continuously I am going to push forward toward making Okayama the best in Japan and the world for better City surely and step by step by sharp finance operation estimating a budget for necessities from now on.