

Budgets and Services



In light of today's service economy, it might seem strange that payment for services is not a legal budget category for [cellular government's Earth Dividend](#) or [consumption tax](#) revenue. Neither are they legal for enterprises with an outstanding [Citizen Investor](#) loan.

Private businesses that use [VIP-enforced budgets](#) will see line items for arbitrary services flagged by default. They cannot be [earmarked](#) and must be paid from a [miscellaneous account](#).

Why is this category so bad? Because services and plural salary line items are conduits to corruption.

Labor is paid a certain amount per time period, such as hourly, bi-weekly, or monthly. Labor is a valid line item, because both the amount, the quantity, and the job description are verifiable and comparable. Goods are valid line items because they have a price that is verifiable and comparable. However, line items like salaries (plural) and services (plural) are neither comparable nor verifiable.

Services that can be quantified are not illegal in government budgets. For instance, a monthly payment of \$200 for an exterminator is fine. However, a line item for exterminator services that does not specify a time period is illegal.

How can governments handle variable expenses if they cannot be budgeted? There are several methods.

The most common is to use the insurance model for all variable expenses. That is, regular premiums to an insurance company or a guild of workers in a specific profession. For instance, paying \$100/month for plumbing insurance to a plumber's guild is a legal budget line item provided those plumbers agree to fix any problem that arises for no additional charge.

Sharing a plumber with other businesses or governments is valid, provided the financial obligations of each are well-defined. Even with plumbers, electricians, and similar skilled professionals on staff, there is a problem of variable material expenses.

Material expenses can be handled with the same insurance model. For instance, a plumbing supply company agrees to provide the materials requested by a [certified](#) plumber on staff for a fixed charge of \$50/month. The quality of materials provided is specified in the insurance contract.

A cellular government can call on the direct democracy for unexpected large expenses. A budgeted consumption tax can be ratified by a 2/3 plurality of the dominion.

[Holding accounts](#) contain non-budgeted Earth Dividend distribution money. Any funds that have not yet been budgeted can be budgeted for the unexpected expense.

Holding account funds in other departments can be transferred to the department in need, for budgeting. See [Changes to Proscribed Allocations](#).

For small expenses, a single miscellaneous account is allowed per budget. However, the miscellaneous account cannot exceed 1% of any budget and a description must accompany any transaction.

The [council](#) can always call upon the [cellular aristocrat](#) for funding unexpected emergency expenses. If they truly care about “their” [dominion](#), they will rise to the occasion.

A startup holding a citizen investor loan, faced with an unexpected expense, does not have the luxury of appealing for a consumption tax or to an aristocracy.

The insurance model is the best option if the probability of the expense is known or the insurance provides blanket coverage.

The startup can appeal to the citizen investor for an additional loan. A member of the collective, such as a spouse who generally works in non-business-related activities, can seek employment elsewhere in order to pay off the expense.

If the collective is [sovereign](#), or for sovereign members of the collective, debt is allowed.