# Accounting for Encumbrances Ingrid M. Otto, CPA, Associate Examiner Local Official Training Unit Division of Local Government and School Accountability NYS COMPTROLLER THOMAS P. DINAPOLI

## **Appropriations**

- Authority to spend, adopted in the Budget.
- Can not give rise to a claim without an available appropriation.



## Appropriation or Encumbrance?

- APPROPRIATION
- Maximum amount you can expend for a certain purpose.
  - **■** ENCUMBRANCE
- Setting aside a portion of available appropriation for a certain future obligation.



## **Encumbrance System**

## Why Encumber?

- To prevent exceeding available appropriations.
- To carry committed appropriations over to the next year.



## **Encumbrance Exercise**

You've ordered equipment for \$600 but have not received it. Now a department head is requesting \$800 for another purchase. Can you make the purchase?

### Without tracking Encumbrances

1410.2 Clerk – Capital Outlay

Appropriation Encumbrance Actual Balance \$1,000 \$0 \$0 \$1,000

## With Tracking Encumbrances

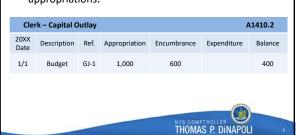
1410.2 Clerk – Capital Outlay

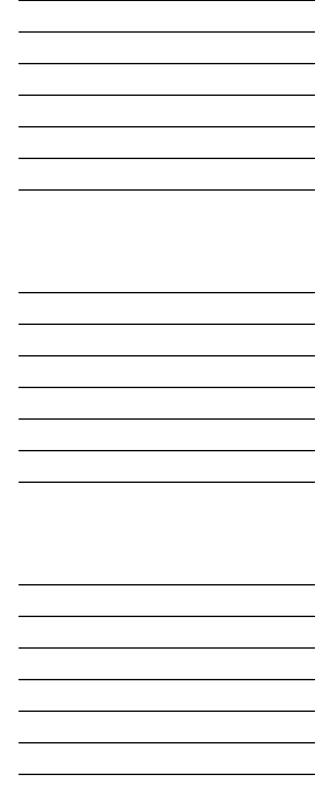
Appropriation Encumbrance Actual Avail. Balance \$1,000 \$600 \$0 \$400

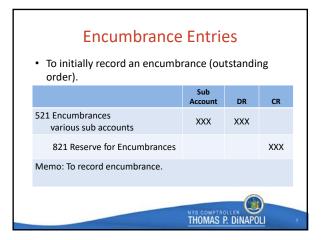
NYS COMPTROLLER THOMAS P. DINAPOLI

## **Encumbrance Benefit**

Prevents expenditures exceeding the available appropriations.







## Encumbrance Entries Year-end closing for an outstanding encumbrance. Sub Account DR CR 912 Unrestricted Fund Balance XXX 521 Encumbrances XXX XXX Memo: To close outstanding encumbrances at year-end.

## **Fund Balance Reporting**

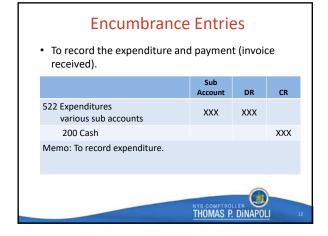
- Resources classified as unassigned fund balance are reclassified as assigned when encumbered.
- Encumbered resources that are assigned, restricted or committed fund balance are not reclassified.



THOMAS P. DINAPOLI



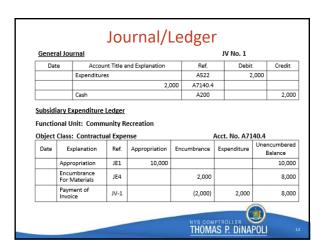
## To modify the budget in the new fiscal year. Sub Account DR CR S99 Appropriated Fund Balance XXX 960 Appropriations XXX XXX Memo: To modify budget to account for outstanding encumbrances from prior year.

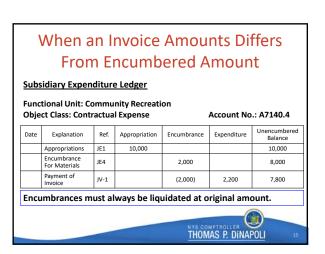


## **Encumbrance Entries**

To close out the encumbrance after invoice is received

received.				
	Sub Account	DR	CR	
821 Reserve for Encumbrances		XXX		
521 Encumbrances various sub accounts	XXX		XXX	
Memo: To close encumbrance as esta	ablished.			
	THOMAS P. DINAPOLI			





## **Unused Encumbrance**

• If actual expenditure is less than encumbrance, then remaining appropriation is removed.

	Sub Account	DR	CR		
960 Appropriations various sub accounts	xxx	XXX			
599 Appropriated Fund Balance			XXX		
Memo: To adjust budget for unused prior year encumbrances.					
	NYS COMPTROL	LER DINAPOL	16		

## Monitoring the Budget

- Board needs to ensure that controls are in place by using:
  - A purchase order system or alternative method
  - An encumbrance system



## Purchase Order System

- Benefits
- Ensures budgetary authority before commitment
- · Internal controls



## Budgetary Control without a Purchase Order System

- Requisition System
  - Confirm with CFO before purchasing
  - Use standardized forms
- Monthly Reports



## Budget Report Including Encumbrances GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES AND ENCUMBRANCES COMPARED TO THE MODIFIED BUDGET Original Modified Expenditures/ Budget Budget Expenditures/ Expenses Encumbrances Balance General Government \$\_\$ \$\_\$ \$\_\$ \$\_\$ Public Safety Health Transportation Economic Assistance and Opportunity Culture and Recreation Home and Community Services Undistributed \$\_\$ \$\_\$ \$\_\$ \$\_\$ Indistributed \$\_\$ \$\_\$ \$\_\$ \$\_\$ \$\_\$ Indistributed \$\_\$ \$\_\$ \$\_\$ \$\_\$ \$\_\$

