

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

The General Fund is funded at the level of \$72,722,495, down \$1,554,847. The budget for the general government functions is only up \$97,999, even with an increase of \$441,101 in election costs since 2010 is a general election year with general and primary elections. Information Services increased \$265,488 in costs due to the contract cost of living, transfer of a GIS employee to the contractor's payroll, and added capital costs. GIS is down \$112,477 due to the transfer of the position to the contractor's budget. The District Attorney's budget is down \$40,592 due the elimination of a clerical position as the office moves more towards paperless filings. Victim Witness is up \$25,709 from additional grant resource for staffing. The Building and Grounds budget has been reduced by \$207,015 because of lower energy costs. The Assessor reduced one Office Tech III, two Data Collector positions, and one Residential Appraisal position for a savings of \$154,406, with an additional reduction of \$60,300 in postage, printing, and other professional services, for a total reduction of \$214,706. Capital equipment was reduced \$50,000. Planning is down \$140,261 with the elimination of a Planning Tech and Long Range Planner position due to the department's workload being down. Other departments are stable or down only slightly.

Public safety functions are down \$232,650. An Investigator for to the White Collar Crime Task Force (\$84,567) was reduced. An additional 0.5 FTE for a school resource officer was added, but the additional costs will be reimbursed by the Mead High School. One SO Deputy II position was eliminated in the Traffic Enforcement unit. In the North Jail budget significant costs have been deferred by opening only 64 of the remaining 122 secure confinement beds in the new jail wing. The added costs to open the 64 beds were approximately \$645,000 with the addition of six Correctional Officer positions. Part of this cost was offset by eliminating two Commander positions. Inmate census trends during the nine month period prior to the development of this budget indicate the 683 bed capacity should be adequate in 2010. The approximately \$900,000 in deferred jail cost is not a permanent cost savings as additional staff and capacity will be needed in the future. The Centennial Jail budget reflects the transfer of two entire programs, Pre-Trial Services (PTS) and In Custody Alternative Placement Program (ICAPP) to the newly created Justice Services Department in the amount of \$453,072 across all budget categories, including four FTE's associated with those programs. Personnel services in the Centennial Jail was reduced an additional \$137,589 by the elimination of two client manager positions in the Work Release Program and one inmate work crew supervisor. The utilization of Work Release has declined reflected further by reduced revenues from client participation fees. On June 29, 2009, the Board of County Commissioners created the *Justice Services Division*. The proposed budget for the new *Justice Services Division* is \$478,821 for a savings of \$83,977. Even with this savings, the resources budgeted allow for funding of the Director of the division, three Pre-trial Client Managers, Pre-trial Services Supervisor, and a Criminal Justice Planner. The creation of this division should allow for improved pre-trial services that will positively impact public safety and more cost effectively deal with clients in the criminal justice system to minimize the need to incarcerate the clients in the county jail. The addition of the Criminal Justice Planner position will allow for a position to do system-wide analysis of the entire criminal justice system in Weld County and the 19th Judicial District to maximize its efficiency for all parties, while still protecting the public's safety. Pest and Weed is down \$251,347 as the department transferred prairie dog control and tree removal responsibilities back to Public Works. Communication costs are down \$215,802, primarily due to the new funding formula and E911 picking up overtime costs and tower maintenance.

Other significant changes include Engineering which is down \$353,260 due to consultant contracts and engineering costs due to lower projects costs. The General Fund's subsidy to the Public Health Department is down \$538,570 due to reduction in programs as part of the budget review process done in 2009. Transfer to the Retirement Fund of \$250,000 was eliminated in the 2010 budget since no cost of living will be granted to retirees in 2010. Extension Services were reduced \$75,870 with the new Memorandum of Understanding with Colorado State University. Funding to outside agencies was cut \$108,125. Finally, \$153,371 is included for health insurance rate increases for 2010. No employee pay increases are funded in the 2010 budget due to economic conditions.

The available resources to the General Fund are \$77,706,350 compared to \$76,978,208 in 2009, up \$728,142. Property taxes are budgeted at \$54,052,194. Revenue from interest earnings are down \$807,000 at \$2,393,000 for 2010. Oil and Gas Royalties are up \$175,000. Fines are up \$189,110 from traffic enforcement. Planning and Building Inspection fees are unchanged due to the slowdown in development and residential construction. Charges for services are up \$150,090. The Treasurer's fees are anticipated to be up \$400,000 due to the volume of activity and conservative estimates in the past. Clerk and Recorder's fees are down \$250,000 due to slowing motor vehicle sales and slowdown in recording fees from new construction and mortgage refinancing activities. Recovery of indirect costs to grant programs is up \$67,935. Other revenues are stable or only slightly changed.

The beginning fund balance is anticipated to be \$3,000,000 for 2010. An estimated ending fund balance of \$4,983,855 is projected for year-end. The fund balance amount serves as an additional contingency amount during the fiscal year. In addition to the regular Contingency Fund is the Emergency Reserve Fund, amounting to \$6,000,000, as required under the TABOR Amendment, which passed in 1992. This fund balance amount is consistent with the anticipated ending fund balances for the last few years. It is prudent fiscal management for Weld County to maintain an anticipated fund balance of this level to respond to unforeseen needs of the citizens of Weld County in 2010 and future years.