

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

The General Fund is funded at the level of \$135,110,244 up \$28,104,382. Without including adjustments for cost of living, and salary step increases, the budget for general government functions is up \$2,156,002. 2015 will have just a mail general election resulting in lower costs of \$568,461. Motor Vehicle has four additional Office Tech II/III positions (\$172,004) due to the workload increase in Motor Vehicle with increased vehicle sales and transactions. Under the District Attorney the new Juvenile Restorative Justice program has been added in response to the passage of HB 12-1254. The program will cost \$122,973, but is fully funded from state court fees. Finance is down \$203,497 with the mid-year combining of the Finance Director and Budget Director positions into one. Human Resources' budget is up \$73,578 for an additional HR Generalist position approved mid-year along with addition funds for training and advertising for vacant positions. The Planning Department is down \$66,654 with the transfer of two engineering positions (\$353,317) from the Engineering budget the chargebacks for services from the Engineering budget were reduced by \$471,266. In the final budget an Oil and Gas Liaison/Coordinator position (\$93,481) was added to deal with oil and gas issues. Building and Grounds is up \$136,911 primarily for increased costs of utilities, services and supplies to maintain all county facilities. The budget also reflects one Building Maintenance Worker III position (\$67,861) addition to provide a low voltage technician to troubleshoot and repair cameras, security systems, speaker systems, and fire alarm systems with the goal of eliminating the outsourcing of these repairs for a cost savings to the County. In the final budget the Board approved the transfer of 6 FTE for the custodian/maintenance jail inmate supervision function to the North Jail budget from Building and Grounds for a total reduced cost of \$328,315.

The 2015 budget will be the first budget year that Weld County will have had an opportunity to completely evaluate the staffing, organizational, and capital needs of the county's information technology requirements. January 1, 2014, Weld County terminated the outsourcing contract for information technology (IT) services with Xerox and now provides those services with county employees under the leadership of a new Chief Information Officer. This change is a strategic decision to improve technology services, increase customer satisfaction and provide accountability for IT related projects. The new organizational structure will allow the department to be dynamic and flexible as technology continues to be an integral part of our daily work lives. This organizational support framework will provide Weld County a model for IT support success. It blends additional resources for both technical and leadership positions and provides a strong focus on creating a team environment. The change creates a county department that will embrace project management, customer service, and still retain the technical focus that is needed for an organization to be dynamic enough to meet the day-to-day activities, but also be innovative and forward thinking. The County's goal is to provide a reliable, integrated information services environment that meets not only today's needs for communication and business efficiency, but positions the County to leverage new technology innovations and best practices for business transformation and improved service delivery in the future.

Personnel Services for IT are up \$629,006 with 44 FTE. The staffing level and organizational structure was approved by the Board mid-year 2014 to support the IT needs in the county. Supplies are up \$1,210,900. The big increases are \$981,400 for a PC refresh, \$50,000 for monitor refresh, software, and other miscellaneous supplies. Purchased supplies are up \$19,504 primarily for training. Capital is funded at \$2,673,912, up \$1,873,264 compared to 2014. The 2015-2019 Five Year IT Capital Plan averages \$1,183,100 per year. 2015 is a catch up year and when it is accounted for the average annual amount for capital will drop to approximately \$1,000,000 per year. The operating costs for PC refresh and Microsoft licensing will be \$1,300,312. In doing a 2016-2020 replacement plan the average annual amount for these items will be approximately \$860,000. After the 2015 catch-up expenses are funded the long term capital, PC refresh, and Microsoft upgrade average annual funding requirement will be \$1,930,000 less. The result is although the 2015 IT budget is \$8,094,264 after the 2015 catch expenses are incurred the average annual ongoing costs will be approximately

\$6,200,000. Due to the one-time additional resources budgeted in the 2015 IT budget the Innovation and Technology Projects budget was reduced by \$1,000,000.

Public safety functions are up \$758,106 in the budget. The Sheriff increased costs in the recommended budget by \$605,421. There are no additional positions requested by the Sheriff. The Sheriff's increases are primarily associated with the jail, which will experience some inflationary cost increases and added costs from additional inmates to be served for medical services (\$110,465) and food services (\$59,351). Counting the 54 beds put into service this year there are 95 extra beds which allow the delay for any new jail construction until the 2018-2020 timeframe. Sheriff's Office capital is down \$22,350, and uniform costs are up \$32,000. Other expenditures in the Sheriff's office are stable at the current level. The Criminal Records Management IGA with the City of Greeley in the amount of \$545,066 was transferred from the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) budget to the Sheriff's Operations budget, since they are the users of the service. The Community Corrections budget is up \$274,004 with all costs being offset by state revenues. Justice Services has requested two Pretrial Service Specialist positions (\$121,138) for Pretrial Services to handle the additional evaluation workloads with passage of HB 13-1236 encouraging judges to rely less on monetary bond schedules, and to use Pretrial Services more. The additional positions will produce cost avoidance in the jail and generate approximately \$5,000 in service fees. The Coroner is requesting that the part-time clerical position be funded full-time (\$30,715), and capital expenses are up \$29,649. Building Inspection is up \$71,423 for an additional Electrical Inspector and an upgrade of a Lead Inspector position (\$3,261). The Noxious Weeds budget is up \$54,940 to fund an addition seasonal mowing position (\$15,290), \$30,000 to fund tub grinding of trees, and \$12,000 to rent two mowers.

The Weld County Regional Communication Center (WCRCC) budget is down \$236,137 in gross costs and down \$584,565 in net costs. On the expense side of the budget all the costs of the WCRCC are included in this budget for a total cost of \$7,026,617. The budget includes the added costs for the back-up communications center opened in July of this year. Of the total costs E911 will pay \$2,026,158. The personnel costs are lower in 2015 due to actual costs of the 61 FTE assigned to the WCRCC and the realignment of information technology staff to Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) and Information Technology budgets. The CJIS budget is down \$517,975 primarily due to the transfer of the Criminal Records Management IGA costs to the Sheriff's Operations budget. There is \$166,678 included for computer equipment. The Commissioners made the decision mid-year to replace the Spillman public safety information technology system with a new system. The new system was paid for with 2014 funds, but will be fully implemented during 2015.

Engineering is funded at \$10,327,026. The budget includes \$7,130,000 for design fees for the Weld County Road (WCR) 49 south corridor (\$4,880,000), WCR 49/47 north corridor (\$2,000,000), and the RAMP project design of WCR 74/SH 392 intersection improvements (\$250,000). The Board added a position (\$84,011) to administer the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) storm water management program. General Fund's subsidy to the Public Health Department is up \$445,833 due to anticipated salary step and cost-of-living increases, plus health insurance costs being up due to more participation in the plan. With the underfunding of the Weld County Retirement Plan the Board has decided to reimburse the Retirement Fund for the administrative costs of the plan. The administrative costs include the investment fees and other administrative costs. Annually the costs are over \$1 million. The county stopped paying the fees in the 1980's, so the \$25,000,000 in the final budget is to not only pay the current fees, but reimburse for the years that the General Fund did not pay due to surplus funding. The added funding will help make the plan fully funded by the end of the year. The amount is \$15,000,000 more than last year. An increase of \$1,155,554 is included for other General Fund departments' anticipated salary step and cost-of-living increases in 2015. Health insurance has no rate increase for employees or the employer in 2015.

The available resources to the General Fund are \$146,271,790 compared to \$119,522,447 in 2014, up \$26,749,343. Property taxes are budgeted at \$114,785,509 with a personal property tax adjustment of (\$10,022,995) for a net \$104,762,514, up \$22,077,846. Revenue from interest earnings remain at \$1,100,000 for 2015, as interest rates are projected to remain low through 2015. Planning and Building Inspection fees are up \$1,185,000 due to all the new oil and gas activity in the County and some upturn in development. Intergovernmental revenues are up \$360,642 primarily due to higher Community Correction grants of \$274,004, and the new Juvenile Restorative Justice grant (\$122,973). Charges for Services are up \$632,056 primarily from charges related to the WCRCC (\$348,428), and Elections (\$230,000). Fines from traffic enforcement have dropped \$132,000 due to staffing issues and historical revenue patterns. Indirect cost recovery is up \$72,169. Revenue from Clerk and Recorder fees are up \$400,000 as vehicle sales and housing sales have recovered, and all the recording activity from oil and gas activity. All other revenues are relatively stable with little change.

The beginning fund balance is anticipated to be \$12,000,000 for 2015. An estimated ending fund balance of \$11,161,546 is projected for year-end. The fund balance amount serves as an additional contingency amount during the fiscal year. 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 2015 and future years.