

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

The General Fund is funded at the level of \$158,619,734 up \$22,435,781. There are several major expense and salary increases. Without including adjustments for cost of living and salary step increases, the budget for general government functions is up \$5,915,224. Building and Grounds is up \$574,106 for 4.5 additional positions to handle the addition of two new buildings with 67,735 square feet to maintain and for inflationary building maintenance costs. The Elections budget is up \$1,427,670 due to three scheduled elections, including the Presidential Primary in 2020, and legislated election mandates requiring an increase in polling locations and hours of operations. District Attorney is up \$575,689 due to the addition of five new positions to accommodate the addition of two new judges requiring criminal court coverage.

Information Technology (IT) is up \$2,975,171 primarily due to funding \$1,500,000 for data center storage, and \$750,000 for fiber redundancy. IT capital is funded in accordance with the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. There is the addition of a Data Privacy and IT Risk Manager position (\$129,274). Hardware and software costs are up \$335,610. \$500,000 is included for new technology and innovation projects, which is the same level as the last six years.

Public Safety functions are up \$6,659,563. The overall Sheriff's Office recommended budget is up in net county costs by \$2,830,171 or 6.24%. The Sheriff's Personnel Services are increasing by \$1,822,021 or 4.7%. The Sheriff's Office is requesting a total increase of 29 positions in 2020 primarily to accompany the addition of two new units (Evidence and Records) to be assumed January 1, 2021, from the Greeley Police Department, the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy, a fitness program for law enforcement to reach certified fitness standards, staffing for the addition of two new courtrooms, and adding two Sergeants in Patrol. Sheriff supplies are up \$357,445 for new riot gear, new radios, and to stock the two new Evidence and Records units. Purchased Services for the Sheriff are up \$1,167,039 made up of an increase of \$412,000 for medical services due to inmate growth and staffing the Southwest Booking Intake, \$308,000 for Jail Based Behavioral Health Services, \$100,000 for law enforcement officer fitness program, \$52,000 for the increase in inmate food costs, and reallocation of costs from other categories. Revenues in the Sheriff's Office are up \$326,487 primarily from grants.

Communications gross county costs are up \$874,892, and net county costs down \$364,269 with the new user rate structure adopted by the Board in May 2019, which will increase the user fee for fire agencies to 40% of actual costs starting in 2020, and phase in the user fee increase for law agencies by charging 25% in 2020, 32.5% in 2021, and 40% in 2022. Communications costs are up primarily for MCM migration (\$127,000), Motorola SUA contracts (\$438,665), and Century Link-ESSINET Tariff (\$166,786). Justice Services is requesting two positions for the pretrial program due to growing caseloads to hold down the jail inmate population and to accommodate the two new judges' criminal caseload. The program is more cost effective compared to jail incarceration. Other Public Safety budgets are stable with little or no increases.

Due to the passage of SB 19-181 making major changes in the regulation of oil and gas development in the state the Board of County Commissioners created the Oil and Gas Energy Department on July 16, 2019. The department will be responsible for permitting, regulating and enforcing surface and air oil-and-gas operations for drilling sites located in unincorporated areas of Weld County. The department will employ up to 15 staff members including a director, an oil and gas planner, permitting and enforcement officers, hearing officers and office techs as well as co-locating Public Works employees, who work on access permits and storm drainage, and Public Health and Environment employees, who will monitor air quality and other environmental factors to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the environment and Weld County residents. It is the goal of the county that the department's costs (\$1,980,000) will be fully offset by permit fees (\$1,980,000).

Engineering is up \$5,815,696 because of the addition of two new positions and position upgrades costing \$268,656, \$5.8 million for grants to municipal projects, and the remaining amount for engineering, design and rights-of way for roads and bridges in 2020. General Fund's subsidy to the Public Health Department is up \$151,691 due to anticipated salary step and cost-of-living increases. An increase of \$2,954,197 is included for other General Fund departments' anticipated salary step and cost-of-living increases in 2020. Health insurance rates will remain the same for employees and the employer in 2020. This will mean health insurance rate decreased 11.8% in the last six years.

The available resources to the General Fund are \$176,661,234 compared to \$150,189,246 in 2019, up \$26,471,988. Property taxes are budgeted at \$123,698,058 with a personal property tax adjustment of \$8,248,738 for a net of \$115,449,320 up \$18,960,719. Revenue from interest earnings are up \$500,000 at \$4,000,000 for 2020, due to higher cash balances in the next year. Intergovernmental revenues are up \$613,257. Charges for Services are up \$1,013,958 primarily from charges related to Communications change in the users' fee structure. Fines from traffic enforcement are unchanged. Licenses and permits are up \$2,105,000 with \$1,980,000 attributed to the new oil and gas energy fees and \$200,00 for building inspection fees. Indirect cost recovery is up \$788,289 due to Social Services' allocation. Clerk and Recorder fees are up \$150,000. All other revenues are relatively stable with little change.

The beginning fund balance is anticipated to be \$15,600,000 for 2020. An estimated ending fund balance of \$18,041,500 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 2020 and future years.