Weld County
2018 Budget in Brief

As Weld County begins 2018, the county is in excellent financial condition with no debt (a claim only a handful of local governments in the nation can make), no sales tax, a significant cash reserve and one of the lowest mill levies among all Colorado counties. In August, Weld County received an honor never before given to a county government: the first-ever award for being the Taxpayer Friendliest Community.

Weld County is committed to providing responsive, innovative and cost-effective services to all residents. To accomplish this, the Board of County Commissioners adopts an annual budget each year, which funds the programs, services and projects our county operates.

Similar to how you balance your personal finances, Weld County balances its budget by ensuring revenues cover expenses. The 2018 budget protects core services, controls spending and honors our county’s overall goal: to operate in a fiscally responsible and stable manner so we can improve the quality of life for all residents, and promote the safety and quality of Weld County.

The Board of County Commissioners focuses on maintaining a balanced operating budget by continuing to find ways to become more efficient and effective. By doing so, we are taking care of our citizens and employees while following our mission to provide the best government services.

Weld County
2018 Budget Goals

- Complete bridge mitigation projects resulting from the 2013 flood.
- Fund a Hazardous Material Planning grant and FEMA training exercise.
- Increase the Weld County Regional Communications Center staff by seven full-time employees to cope with the E-911 call volume.
- Reallocate four Sheriff contract service deputies to patrol to increase law enforcement services in the field.
- Add 32 full-time employees in the North Jail due to inmate population growth.
- Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Weld County Fair.
- Provide fleet service with county staff versus an outside contractor.
- Begin the Lean process to identify and then implement the most efficient, value-added way to provide government services.

Weld County
Capital Improvement Program

Part of the annual budget includes money for maintaining or improving county buildings and property, also known as capital facilities. Capital projects are defined as major, non-reoccurring projects that have a cost of at least $10,000. Examples of capital projects include new or expanded physical facilities, large-scale rehabilitation and replacement facilities, major equipment, costs of engineering studies prior to a public improvement and the acquisition of land and/or buildings. Some of the major capital projects in 2018 include:

- Begin the design phase of the $44.5 million jail expansion.
- Perform $3.74 million in tower maintenance and improvements to the Weld County Regional Communications Center’s public communication system.
- Complete the five-lane concrete road for the CR 47 extension from CR 60.5 to SH 392.

Weld County, Colorado
1150 O Street | Greeley, Colorado 80631
www.weldgov.com
Weld County: 2017 By the Numbers

Weld County’s economic future is bright, with a strong mix of agricultural, energy, manufacturing and health industries. As the fourth fastest-growing county in the country, people are moving to Weld County because of the quality of life, affordable housing, low taxes, good jobs and a growing, healthy economy.

Examples of program and service allotment by category: General Fund—public safety, health and welfare, culture and recreation, economic development, veterans services; Public Works—snow removal, road maintenance; Contingency—money earmarked for special circumstances not planned for in budget; Social Services—senior programs, assistance programs; Capital—capital expenditures; Insurance—insurance.

Examples of expenditures by category: Road and Bridge—WCR 47 project; Public Safety—county jail, patrol, investigations; DMV—driver services; Health—health department, mental health services; Capital—county building improvements; Contingency—money earmarked for special circumstances not seen in budget; Public Works—snow removal, road paving, road maintenance; Human Services—Area on Advanced Aging (AAA) programs; Miscellaneous—solid waste fees; Culture/Recreation—Island Grove Regional Park, Weld County Fair; Auxiliary—Greeley-Weld County Airport.

Examples of revenue by category: Net Property Tax—revenue from paying taxes assessed by Weld County; Fund Balance—surplus used to fund county programs and services in times of economic uncertainty or loss of revenue; Intergovernmental—money received from state and federal grants; Proprietary Services—revenue from other counties for services provided; Miscellaneous—interest revenue, oil and gas royalties; Other Taxes—ownership taxes paid on vehicles, revenue from tobacco tax; Fees—clerk and recorder fees, treasurer fees; Charges for Service—charges from sheriff’s department, work release program, health department fees; Licenses/Permits—building permits, construction permits.

A mill levy is used to determine the amount of property tax to be paid, based on the assessed value of the property. The rate is measured in mills, with 1 mill equaling $1 for every $1,000 of assessed valuation of the property. Property taxes are determined by the mill levy rate multiplied by the assessed value of a property (For example, to determine the property tax on a property assessed at $100,000: 0.0158 mill levy x $100,000 assessed value = $1,580 in taxes).

Weld County is proud of its low mill levy, which remains at 15.8 mills this year, the same rate as 2017. By the Board of Commissioners keeping the rate low and not increasing it, Weld County residents continue to keep more of their money and realize a higher quality of life.