Weld County 2019 Budget in Brief

As Weld County begins 2019, the county continues to be 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, a fully-funded pension plan and one of the lowest mill levies among all Colorado counties.

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 2019 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 2019 Budget Goals

- Decrease the mill levy by 0.762 mills to 15.038 mills with a 7.0 mill temporary tax credit.
- Pave portions of WCR 29 north of SH 14, complete safety improvements at the WCR 13/34 intersection, and design a connector road from WCR 50.5 to WCR 52, complete bridge 44/33A, and partner with the City of Greeley on improvements for East 8th Street from US 85 Bypass to WCR 47.
- Add 72.375 full time employees in county departments to cope with growth and workload demands.
- Open a Southwest Weld Substation booking function to serve south county law enforcement agencies.
- Perform all wireless radio maintenance in-house for all agencies using Weld County Regional Communications Center.
- Add two 4-H positions to grow the 4-H program, and a Master Gardener position in the Extension Service.

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-recurring 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 2019 include:

- Continue construction of the $45 million jail expansion
- Construct $3.6 million Public Works office and storage building project
- Construct a new $1.5 million Mead/Johnstown grader station
- Complete Human Services’ $2.3 million building remodel
- Complete construction of the $45 million jail expansion

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Weld County: 2018 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 expenditures by category: Public Safety—county jail, patrol, drug task force; Road and Bridge—new bridges built, miles of roads graded; General Government—county employees, HR; Social Services—senior programs, assistance programs; Proprietary Services—regional crime lab, fleet services; Capital—county building improvements; Contingency—money earmarked for special circumstances not planned for in budget; Social Services—senior programs, assistance programs; Capital—capital expenditures; Insurance—insurance.

Exercises 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; Miscellaneous—extension service, health department fees; Licenses/Permits—building permits, construction permits.

Mill Levy: Where Does Your Dollar Go?

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: 0.0150 mill levy x $100,000 assessed value = $1,500 in taxes).

In 2019, property owners will see a decrease to 15.038, thanks to a temporary tax credit. The lower mill levy reflects Weld County's strong economy and the continuous efforts of the Board of Commissioners to be good stewards of tax dollars by keeping Weld County debt-free.