

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

The General Fund is funded at the level of \$136,183,953 up \$4,639,220. The two major increases are in general government, and salary increases. Without including adjustments for cost of living, and salary step increases, the budget for general government functions is up \$3,007,819. Motor Vehicle is up \$359,583 with the addition of two office tech positions, \$60,000 for overtime/contract employees and four temporary positions. The Assessor is up \$186,377 due to 2019 being a reappraisal year and the addition of two new appraisers. Building and Grounds is up \$205,097 for an additional carpenter position and inflationary building maintenance costs. Finance is up \$138,861 to add a Budget Manger as part of the succession planning in the department. With the growth in the county workforce and the tight labor market for recruitment and retention Human Resources in up \$436,589, and Accounting for the payroll function is up \$100,652. Planning is up \$337,712 for two mid-year positions, and the additional chargeback from Engineering of \$191,987. The Election budget is down \$523,064 since there will only be a consolidated general election in 2019.

Information Technology (IT) is up \$619,334 primarily due to increases in software maintenance (\$260,116), and computer equipment (\$290,500). Charge backs in the contra account are down \$100,000 due to recent usage trends by grant funded departments. IT capital is funded in accordance with the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan with \$350,000 for computer equipment. \$500,000 is included for new technology and innovation projects, which is the same level as the last five years.

Public Safety functions are up \$223,620. However, if you adjust for the one-time expense for communications equipment in 2018 of \$3,738,985 Public Safety is up \$3,962,605. The overall net Sheriff's Office recommended budget is up in net county costs by \$1,960,230 or 4.50%. The Sheriff's Office has requested a total increase of 16.00 positions in 2019. Other positions within the Sheriff's Office are requested to be reclassified or moved to improve productivity instead of eliminating positions. The purpose of the increase is to meet staffing shortages based on the completed staffing studies of Patrol and Detentions as well as implement two new programs for the agency. One program is the Body Worn Camera (BWC) program, and the other is the Southwest Substation Booking Intake. As a result, Sheriff personnel costs are up \$1,5997,731. In addition to the recommended 3% cost of living for all county positions there is an additional 2.5% increase for a total of 5.5% at a cost of \$601,260 for all Sheriff deputy and correctional officer career positions to remain competitive with other law enforcement agencies in the area. The strategy would be to do 5.5% salary increases in 2019, 2020, and 2021 to bring the positions to a more competitive level for recruitment and retention of law enforcement positions in Weld County and the Front Range of Colorado. Supplies for the Sheriff are up \$155,478 with \$120,000 being for MDT computer replacements. Purchased Services are up \$464,153 for inmate medical care (\$228,333), records contract with the City of Greeley (\$92,832), Body Worn Camera program (\$85,000) and \$58,000 for miscellaneous items. Capital is funded at \$205,998 with the largest expense being a body scanner for North Jail. Fixed costs are down \$176,196 for retention incentive payments. Revenues in the Sheriff's Office are up \$255,691 primarily from grants.

Coroner's budget is up \$143,606 primarily for the addition of one Deputy Coroner positions mid-year to deal with the office's workload, and autopsy costs. Communications is up \$475,701 with the addition of four dispatchers and three call takers due to E-911 call volume. However, the need for the positions is being reviewed and may not be recommended in the final budget. The E911 Authority requested an increase in the E911 surcharge from 70 cents to \$1.20 per phone per month to fund future capital needs. The State PUC approved the increase effective January 1, 2019. This will be in the E911 Authority budget but relieve the General Fund of these costs going forward. Office of Emergency Management is up \$105,659 primarily for an addition EM Coordinator position. Justice Services is requesting two positions for the pretrial program and four for the work release program due to growing caseloads to hold down the jail inmate population.

Both programs are more cost effective compared to jail incarceration. Other Public Safety budgets are stable with little or no increases.

Engineering is down \$750,560 because the engineering and design fees have decreased for the Weld County Road WCR 49 south corridor and WCR 49/47 north corridor in the 2019 budget. General Fund's subsidy to the Public Health Department is up \$352,192 due to anticipated salary step and cost-of-living increases. The County Fair is down \$137,850 with the elimination of \$127,850 for a one-time expense for livestock panels, and \$10,000 in one-time costs to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Weld County Fair in 2018. An increase of \$1,105,194 is included for other General Fund departments' anticipated salary step and cost-of-living increases in 2019. Health insurance rates will decrease 15% for employees and the employer in 2019. This will mean health insurance rate decreased 11.8% in the last five years.

The available resources to the General Fund are \$150,189,246 compared to \$146,486,352 in 2018, up \$3,702,894. Property taxes are budgeted at \$96,488,601 up \$3,387,550. Revenue from interest earnings are up \$1,500,000 at \$3,500,000 for 2019, as interest rates are projected to increase in the next year. Intergovernmental revenues are up slightly by \$213,378. Charges for Services are up \$318,857 primarily from charges related to Communications and Sheriff's Office revenues. Fines from traffic enforcement are up \$40,000. Indirect cost recovery is down \$2,292,759 due to Social Services' allocation. Clerk and Recorder fees are up \$400,000. All other revenues are relatively stable with little change.

The beginning fund balance is anticipated to be \$14,000,000 for 2019. An estimated ending fund balance of \$14,005,293 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 2019 and future years.