

## **GENERAL FUND SUMMARY**

The General Fund is funded at the level of \$107,005,862 up \$13,140,659. Without including adjustments for health insurance costs, cost of living, and salary step increases, the budget for general government functions is up \$1,418,349. 2014 will have both a primary and general election resulting in added costs of \$403,856. The budget is funded as if it is a mail election. If the election is a voting center election the costs could increase. The Assessor's budget is up \$11,807 primarily due to the request for an additional 0.50 FTE Assistant Analyst position for oil and gas appraisal work. Human Resources' budget is up \$67,174 for a countywide trainer position that was transferred from Information Services. The Planning Department is up \$158,490 with the request for an additional Planner I position and Office Tech IV due to more development activity. Building and Grounds is up \$128,750 primarily for increased costs of utilities, services and supplies to maintain all county facilities. On October 16, 2013, ACS and the Board of County Commissioners amended the ACS computer services contract to amend the termination date from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2013. Effective January 1, 2014, the county will perform its own information technology service function with county employees. All ACS employees currently employed at the Weld County site will be offered employment and a new Chief Information Officer will be hired to direct the function. The 2014 final budget has been reconfigured to reflect the organizational change. The net county cost will drop by \$892,432, and there is \$718,534 unallocated in personnel service that can be used for added staff or other information technology needs in 2014 over what would have been available under the ACS contract. The GIS budget is up \$85,400 primarily for the acquisition of new aerial imagery in 2014. Some areas of the county have not been updated for over 6-7 years.

Public safety functions are up \$6,209,004 in the budget. The Sheriff increased costs in the recommended budget by \$995,136. One Office Technician position was added mid-year due to the increased volume of concealed carry weapons permits. These costs were offset by added revenue from the permits. An additional Polygraph Examiner/Applicant Coordinator is included in the recommended budget due to the number of applicant screenings required. The new Regional Forensic Lab facility opened in August, 2013, but because of grants and cost sharing of the facility the opening is not impacting the 2014 budget. North Jail personnel services costs increased by \$496,693. This increase is based on the need for additional operating capacity; adding six corrections officers (\$396,346) and one security commander (\$94,278) will allow for an increase in capacity of approximately 54 beds. In addition there is a request to upgrade the Booking Manager position to grade 43 at a cost of \$6,069. Increasing capacity by 54 beds reflects the increase of \$67,054 in inmate supplies. The jail will experience some inflationary cost increases for medical services in 2014. In addition the medical provider is requesting an additional \$15,478 for two hours per week of a dentist and dental assistant and \$42,110 for 4 hours per week for additional psychiatrist for a total increase of \$116,829. Other professional services are also up for contracted food services (\$46,864). Counting the 54 beds currently there are 149 extra beds which allow the delay for any new jail construction until 2018-2020 timeframe. The Community Corrections budget is up \$179,599 with all costs being offset by state revenues. Justice Services has requested one Pretrial Service Specialist position (\$65,595) for Pretrial Services to handle anticipated workloads with passage of HB 13-1236 encouraging judges to rely less on monetary bond schedules, and to use Pretrial Services more. Additional position will produce cost avoidance in the jail and generate approximately \$5,000 in service fees.

The Commissioners and Greeley City Council made a decision in midyear 2013, to transition to a new organizational model where Weld County will assume the management of the Weld County Regional Communication Center (WCRCC) to dispatch all Weld County public safety entities, including Greeley, under the management of a Weld County Director of Public Safety Communications. The City of Greeley will become a user of the WCRCC, like all other public safety entities in Weld County, and pay accordingly. On the expense side of the budget all the costs of the WCRCC are included in this budget. Of the total costs E911 will pay \$1,816,158.

The personnel costs total \$5,699,696 for 61 FTE that include 9 call takers, 40 dispatchers, 8 supervisors, MSAG position, Office Tech, Operations Manager, and Director. Staffing for dispatchers and call takers is based upon a 12 hour shift model. The goal will be to move to an 8 hour shift model in 2015. Net costs for the WCRCC are up \$2,206,383 primarily due to the City of Greeley only paying as a user rather than sharing costs, additional staffing for the WCRCC, and 2014 COLA and health insurance increases are included in the 2014 recommended budget. Communications development equipment is down \$500,000 since a funding reserve has been established in the E911 Fund and Capital Expenditure Fund for all future communications equipment needs.

October 28, 2013, The Board placed the Public Safety IT staff (Spillman) under the management of the Director of Public Safety Communications, and moved seven (7) FTE and \$662,017 to the Criminal Justice Information (CJIS) budget unit (1000-22400). Personnel costs were increased \$662,017, and the chargeback to CJIS from Information Services was reduced by the corresponding amount of \$662,017. The change had no impact on the net county costs.

The General Fund's subsidy to the Public Health Department is up \$212,990 due to health insurance costs and anticipated salary increases. 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 \$10,000,000 in the recommended 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 level of funding for this purpose can be reduced in years where the property tax revenues from oil and gas fluctuate downward. An increase of \$1,620,906 is included for other General Fund departments' health insurance costs, and anticipated salary increases of 2.5 percent in 2014.

The available resources to the General Fund are \$119,522,447 compared to \$103,043,583 in 2013, up \$16,478,864. Property taxes are budgeted at \$82,684,668, up \$11,568,052. Revenue from interest earnings remain at \$1,100,000 for 2014, as interest rates are projected to remain low through 2014. Planning and Building Inspection fees are up \$600,000 primarily due to all the new oil and gas activity in the County and some upturn in development. Intergovernmental revenues are up \$148,523 primarily due to higher Community Correction grants of \$179,599. Charges for Services are up \$2,293,982 primarily from charges related to the WCRCC with the new management model. The Treasurer's fees are anticipated to be up \$970,000 due under estimations in the past and increased property tax collection fees from other county taxing jurisdictions. Revenue from Clerk and Recorder fees are up \$300,000 as vehicle sales have recovered. All other revenues are relatively stable with little change.

The beginning fund balance is anticipated to be \$10,000,000 for 2014. An estimated ending fund balance of \$12,516,585 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 2014 and future years.