



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 30, 2017

Greene County Commission Adopts 2017 Budget

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri - The Greene County Commission officially adopted and signed the 2017 County budget on Monday, Jan. 30, 2017. A total of \$147,601,222 has been appropriated with \$42,492,916 in the general revenue fund, representing a \$116,741 increase over the 2016 general revenue fund.

The Commission has budgeted \$129,093,886 to be allocated across County offices and departments, many of which saw significant decreases over the 2016 budget year. The Commission and County Clerk offices, for instance, each had more than \$1.4 million cut from their respective budgets.

The budgets for the Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney and Highway were some of the few with increases due to rising costs of housing inmates out of county, rent on the Cox Tower, equipment upgrades and stormwater compliance. The County was able to transfer \$919,800 from LEST II to address housing inmates elsewhere. The remaining funds from the 2006 Parks-Stormwater tax, which has since sunset, will help keep our stormwater compliance program and code compliance program operational.

Additionally, it is the fiscal policy of Greene County to maintain 90 days of operating expenses in cash reserve, or \$9,271,320. The County projects the 2017 cash reserve balance to be \$9,296,974.

The Budget Office expects an increase of 1.7 percent in sales tax revenue for 2017 as compared to the estimated 2016 ending balance. This depicts a slowing trend in growth. The 2016 tax receipts were 2.48 percent higher than 2015, which were 3.96 percent higher than 2014. The office will continue to monitor and assess the rate of declining growth.

Office holders and department heads were asked to submit to the Commission a list of their critical unmet needs as part of the 2017 budgeting process. Attempts were made to fund as many of these requests as possible, however, the 2017 adopted budget fell short by more than \$9 million to do so.

“We faced many challenges in this year’s budget process, which started out with millions of dollars in requests from office holders and department heads that we knew we could not fulfill,” said Presiding Commissioner Bob Cirtin. “The associate commissioners and I weighed each need to determine if it was something that could be patched over or if it was too critical for that Band-Aid approach. It is clear that many critical needs remain due to lack of funding, but the Commission remains dedicated to addressing these issues and to ensuring that Greene County offers a great place for citizens to live, learn, work and play.”

(continued on next page)

2017 budget highlights

- The Commission was able to preserve a proposed \$470,803 to ensure full-time employees with one year or more of continuous service will be eligible for merit increase in their pay grade.
- The construction of two new Greene County courtrooms will allow new judges to adjudicate cases.
- A new, \$92,000 internal server generously paid for by the Recorder's Office.
- An additional \$75,000 to help recruit and maintain jail medical staff by sending medical services out for contract, thereby reducing the County's liability and increasing safety for inmates and staff.
- An increase of \$1,661,103 to house inmates out of the County.

Critical needs still to be addressed

- Replacing and upgrading aging equipment and resources throughout the County, including those for elections, emergency management, computers and software, vehicles and more.
- More than \$2.5 million in funds for stormwater mandates to meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- Funds toward expanding the jail and aggressively addressing issues within the justice system.
- A need to provide over 150,000 square feet of office space that would eliminate the need to rent office space (current cost at \$380,500) and enhance office conditions for employees.
- The replacement of windows and tuckpointing procedures on the Historic Courthouse.

The 2017 Greene County budget can be viewed after Feb. 1 at <https://www.greenecountymo.gov/budget/>.

For more information, contact Trysta Herzog, Greene County Director of Communications, at 417-771-9859, 417.868.4140 or therzog@greenecountymo.gov.

###