



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 29, 2019

Greene County Commission to sign 2019 budget on Jan. 30

The Greene County Commission will officially adopt the 2019 County budget on Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019. A public hearing, followed by a Commission vote and budget signing will be held at 2 p.m. in Room 212 of the Greene County Historic Courthouse located at 940 N. Boonville.

“There were many difficult decisions that had to be made during this year’s budget process, but the Commission, along with all officeholders, department directors and our budget office personnel, worked very hard to develop a budget that demonstrates our commitment to making the absolute best use of the funds available,” said Presiding Commissioner Bob Dixon. “There were a number of items that couldn’t be funded this year, which always makes subsequent budget years a challenge, but we will continue to be as transparent about these issues and work to address these needs as we can.”

In all, the Greene County Commission held 16 budget decision meetings to reach the final budget. Department directors are originally asked to submit needs requests in September each year, which are then compiled and line item reviewed before determining what areas will be funded. More than \$15 million was cut this year from these original need requests.

For 2019, budgeted expenses for all funds total \$191,522,277. Total budgeted revenues for General Revenue I (considered the general operating fund for the County) and General Revenue II (funds from the sales tax revenue approved by voters in 2017) equal \$67,643,705. In General Revenue I, salaries and benefits comprise 67.5 percent of that overall budget. It is important to note, collections for General Revenue II began in 2018 and actual collections were very close to budget. Specific obligations were made to voters in regard to how that money will be spent and that commitment was honored throughout the budget decision process. Finally, it is the fiscal policy of Greene County to maintain 90 days of general revenue operating expenses in cash reserve. The County projects the 2019 cash reserve balance to be \$17,373,205.

The 2019 Greene County budget will be available online Feb. 1 at <https://www.greenecountymo.gov/budget/>.

2019 Budget Highlights:

- In 2019, housing inmates out-of-county (referred to as reciprocity) will be funded from General Revenue II versus General Revenue I.
- \$400,000 budgeted for main roof replacement in the current jail.
- \$2 million budgeted to the Springfield-Greene County Health Department for mental health programs.
- More than \$19.5 million is expected to be spent in 2019 on the Greene County Operations Center building, court renovations and jail planning and construction.
- \$430,000 budgeted for network, wireless, telecommunication and hard disks upgrades and replacements
- \$150,000 has been set aside for potential costs of an audit by the Missouri State Auditor.
- \$250,000 budgeted for funding to the City of Springfield for new animal shelter planning.
- Six new Juvenile Office employees, one elections employee, one Pretrial and one building operations employee will be funded in General Revenue I.
- One new employee in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, 19 jail employees for special tasks forces, and one Resource Management will be funded in General Revenue II.
- The 1 percent annual cost of living adjustment and service based 1.5 percent salary structure increase were preserved for County employees.

Critical needs that still need to be addressed:

- Ongoing replacement and upgrading of aging equipment throughout the County.
- Space being rented for several Greene County departments. There is still a long-term need to provide proper square footage to meet those departmental needs, which would save the County \$403,000 a year in rent.

*****Interim District 2 Commissioner John Russell may not be present for the budget signing. He is scheduled on this date to appear before the Senate Committee for Gubernatorial Appointments in Jefferson City as part of the confirmation process for his Commission position.*****

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Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving more than 275,000 people (2010 census). Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes

salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

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