



State of Greene County 2019



REPORT TO CITIZENS

Greencountymo.gov



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Greene County by the Numbers

COUNTY SIZE:

677.9

square miles

ASSESSED VALUATION:

\$4.9

billion

MILES OF ROADWAY:

1,243

miles

NUMBER OF BRIDGES

(OVER 20' IN LENGTH):

217

NUMBER OF CULVERTS
(LESS THAN 20' IN LENGTH):

672

NUMBER OF GREENE
COUNTY EMPLOYEES:

930

TOTAL BUDGET
(ALL FUNDS):

\$116

million

GENERAL REVENUE
FUND:

\$41.5

million

TOTAL NUMBER OF
BUDGETED FUNDS:

40

NUMBER OF GREENE
COUNTY ELECTED
OFFICIALS:

13

NUMBER OF CIRCUIT JUDGES:
5 CIRCUIT JUDGES, **6** ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGES
AND **6** COURT COMMISSIONERS.

They handle 38,000 new cases per year.

We are here to serve you



Presiding
Commissioner

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From the Presiding Commissioner



It is an exciting time to be in Greene County. Since taking the office of Presiding Commissioner in January, I have learned a great deal about this wonderful place we call home and all that it takes to keep the County running smoothly. Specifically, I have a new awareness and appreciation for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes every day to make our community grow and thrive. I am humbled and privileged to get to be the professional cheerleader for the great folks at Greene County who are doing that work.

Upon taking office, I was aware there would be a lot of collaboration among County officeholders and department heads. But beyond that, however, I have witnessed just how much Greene County employees at all levels view themselves as public servants and how seriously they take their roles and responsibilities to taxpayers. There is a great deal of talent and very hardworking people here who consistently work beyond their paygrade to make possible the facilities and services that we often take for granted.

The following pages are a snapshot of that hard work. I hope you will take the time to read more about our ongoing efforts to maintain solid financials and provide public transparency through the Great Game of Government. This model is how we operate at the County and it is through this model that we are able to maintain solid cash reserves and evaluate spending. I am also proud to report that once again this year Greene County has received a clean, unmodified audit from KPM,

the certified accounting firm that conducts our yearly independent financial audit.

Also important is how the ½-percent sales tax is benefiting many aspects of the County, including the Greene County municipalities. From new law enforcement vehicles and street repairs to city comprehensive planning and sewer system improvements, these projects are prime examples of how these funds are being put to good use for the benefit of us all.

Finally, drive north on Boonville avenue and the Greene County campus tells the story of not only where we have been but where we are going in the future. The changing footprint in that area shows the progress of several inter-related construction projects such as the Greene County Operations Center and of course the biggest and most anticipated project: the new Greene County Jail. Perhaps no other time in our history than now has the County been involved in such strategic and needed construction.

As I mentioned before, this report is only a snapshot but on these pages are a few of the details reinforcing why it really is an exciting time to be in Greene County.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Greene County Presiding Commissioner.

Tax Oversight Board



As promised to voters prior to the election that approved the tax by a nearly 60% majority in November 2017, the Greene County Commission established an independent board to provide oversight of the ½-percent sales tax increase.

This commitment also includes publication of an annual report to keep citizens informed of the revenue and expenditures specific to this tax. Collection of tax funds started in May 2018.

Tax Oversight Committee members are:

- Conrad Griggs, Board Chairman
- Bernie Dana, Retired
- Debra Shantz Hart, Principal of Housing, Plus, LLC
- Britton Jobe, Attorney with Neal and Newman, LLP
- Samuel Knox, President and managing editor of Unite Publications
- John Twitty, Executive director of Transmission Access Policy Study Group
- George Deatz, Retired

Setting a higher standard in transparency

In March of 2019, the County Commission along with the other Greene County officeholders and members of Information Systems officially “flipped the switch” on a new financial transparency portal.

This portal, which is available directly from the homepage of the Greene County website at greenecountymo.gov/transparency, allows users to view and search Greene County’s general ledger accounts in near real time. The system is designed to update daily to reflect ongoing spending and invoice approvals.

Not only can users view current data, the portal has been developed to include the last five years of Greene County expenses and financials by type and department. If desired, a user can even sort the data to a printable spreadsheet. A user’s guide is a permanent part of this new tool.

Within days of the launch, the Greene County transparency portal had more than 1,700 visits to this virtual County checkbook. And since the tool became available, Commissioners and the Greene County Auditor’s Office have been actively providing demonstrations and presentations to community groups and civic organizations to further promote and educate Greene County residents about this important resource.



A “clean, unmodified” audit from KPM CPAs and Advisors

In July of this year, the Greene County Commission, along with Greene County officeholders, department directors and employees, received the results of the County’s annual financial audit from KPM CPAs and Advisors.

Andrew Marmouget, CPA and shareholder with KPM, provided an overview presentation in the hearing room of the Greene County Historic Courthouse.

In addition to the daily checks and balances performed internally, each year the County participates in this independent, external audit as a means to verify it is fairly and accurately presenting its financial statement of revenue collected and amounts spent. During a nearly month-long process, members of KPM work with the Greene County Auditor’s Office to review items such as revenue reporting, contracts, invoices, internal controls and purchasing. Once complete, KPM issues an independent report and opinion.

“We believe in transparency at Greene County. The financial audit allows us to open our books to an independent, outside source for review,” said Greene County Auditor Cindy Stein. “We are pleased to have the report confirm our commitment to sound financial practices.”

Greene County again received an unmodified or clean opinion, which is the best opinion a county can receive. This indicates no weaknesses or instances of regulatory noncompliance were found.

“Every day I witness the commitment County employees have to stretching taxpayer dollars, and this external financial audit verifies that their work meets or exceeds the required standards.” said Presiding Commissioner Bob Dixon. “Historically Greene County has had a stellar record in this area.”

Beyond providing a secondary layer of review, this audit allows the County to participate in a variety of federal grant programs. It also affects the County’s rating with Moody’s Investor Services. Greene County currently has Aa2 rating, which is based on factors such as sound financial operation, healthy operating reserves, modest debt and pension burdens, and a diverse tax base.



Construction

To run an efficient Greene County campus you need people, space and proper facilities. This year, the County embarked on several projects with this goal in mind.



Greene County Operations Center

In 2018, we broke ground on a new Greene County Operations Center with construction continuing into 2019. The new facility located at 1210 N. Boonville will house a variety of important services for the County, including janitorial and maintenance, print shop, microfilm, mailroom and central supply. Presently these services are operated from various locations throughout the County campus. The approximately 17,500-square foot, two-floor building features loading docks and warehouse space - two items currently not available in any of the existing County facilities. Project completion is set for October 2019.



Bookstore and gas station demo

Early this year we purchased the former bookstore and gas station buildings at the corner of Campbell and Central streets. The demolition of the properties allowed for much needed parking on the Greene County campus.



Renovation of Courtrooms at the Greene County Courts

This summer, the Division One courtroom received some needed updates, including new carpeting, renovation of the bench area and technology upgrades.



Greene County Justice Center roof

Starting in August of this year, construction began to replace the 19-year-old roof on the Greene County Justice Center. The first phase included removing the existing roof's top layer of rocks (which will be recycled and reused in other construction), followed by insulation work. The entire roof replacement is expected to be completed by the end of the year.



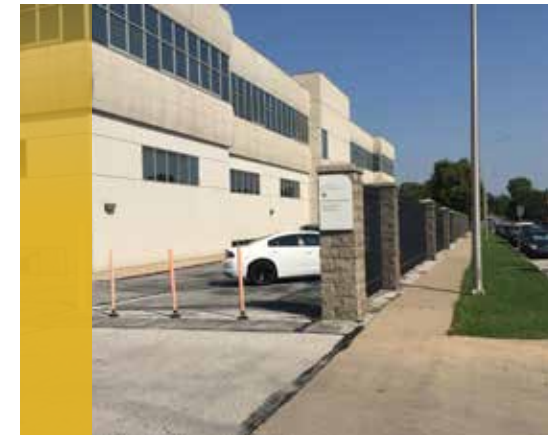
Jury assembly area at the Greene County Judicial Courts building

Completed in April 2019, a new jury assembly area was constructed on the second floor of the facility. This is an additional smaller assembly area to accommodate the greater number of trials anticipated to be held with the addition of a new judge.



New office space in the Probate Office

Partition walls were removed and interior windows installed at the Probate Office in April 2019. This construction made possible two employee office spaces.



Fence and gate project

Currently there is a picket fence with lift arms at the Greene County Judicial Courts on the east side of the building. Upcoming construction this year will include an 8-foot solid steel fence with badge access for better security.



Jail Construction Update

The Greene County jail is perhaps one of the largest and most anticipated projects the County has undertaken to date. In 2017, Greene County voters approved a 1/2 percent county-wide general sales tax to provide funding for many projects, including expanding the Greene County Justice Center to add additional beds to the jail.

The current Greene County Jail capacity is 708, however the daily inmate count consistently runs well above that. The record high this year was 948 inmates and this increase in inmate population growth is showing no signs of slowing. Because of this, the Greene County Sheriff's Office currently houses inmates in 10 other Missouri counties. The greatest distance is Moniteau County, which is 133 miles away, or a nearly three hour transport, one way.

In July 2018, a Jail Advance Team began working full time with architects to help design a facility to best address these issues. Since this team began this process, many facts have changed, the most significant being the federal government issued tariffs on steel imports into the United States, impacting the availability and cost of steel.

Another issue discovered during preliminary building designs indicated that, based on current campus space and materials, the Greene County Jail would need to be at least an 8-story building – making the jail the tallest building “welcoming” visitors to center city. A final, and very important consideration, was the small foot print of the building site on campus was driving up construction cost and allowed no space for future expansion. The continued growth of all County departments would compound future space and parking problems for our campus.

With all factors weighed and after much consideration, it was determined the Greene County Jail needed to be moved to a greenfield space off campus. This creates an opportunity to relocate most of the Sheriff's operations to one campus. The redesigned jail will be less costly to operate, allowing the ability to supervise more inmates using less staff. The biggest benefit, however, is the redesigned jail at a new location will save \$95 million in staffing cost over the next 20 years.

Greene County is pleased to have located a suitable greenfield space for the new jail and is currently in the process of closing on 23-acres of land for this much needed facility.

Highway Department

The Greene County Highway Department is responsible for maintaining 1,243 miles of roadway throughout the County, 889 bridge structures and more than 8,000 acres of right-of-way.

Greene County Highway Department 2019 Major projects at a glance:

- Kansas Extension Project
 - Phase 1 Republic Rd to Farm Rd 190
- Farm Roads 129 and 146
 - Road Widening Improvements
- Farm Road 87 Bridge
 - over Pond Creek
- Farm Road 17 Bridge Replacement
 - over Burney Branch
- Barrington Avenue Bridge
 - over South Branch Creek

2019 ESTIMATED REVENUE:

\$36,577,075.00

This includes taxes, licenses, permits, fees, interest and federal, state and other jurisdictions

2019 APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES:

\$35,155,185.61

This includes salaries, employee benefits, contractual administration, bridge maintenance, road materials, road construction, bridge construction and capital equipment



Municipal Projects

As part of the new sales tax, funds were allocated to assist the smaller Greene County municipalities with a variety of needed projects and upgrades. Many of these projects would have been a financial difficulty or would not have been possible without it.

The following breakdown demonstrates how \$200,000 a year divided among the smaller municipalities can go a long way.



ASH GROVE

- 2018 project: Fencing around City well
- 2019 project: Collection system improvements



REPUBLIC

- 2018 project: Financial software
- 2019 project: City Hall and community development signs



STRAFFORD

- 2018 project and 2019 project: New skid loader



BATTLEFIELD

- 2018 project: Police vehicle, report writing software and residential street overlay
- 2019 project: New police vehicle



FAIR GROVE

- 2018 project: City street repair
- 2019 project: City street repair



WALNUT GROVE

- 2018 project: Sand filter upgrade at waste water treatment plant and new police vehicles
- 2019 project: Road repairs and municipal building repairs



WILLARD

- 2018 project: Comprehensive planning project
- 2019 project: New police vehicle

Success stories

There are many success stories to be told throughout Greene County and we are proud that through community collaboration we are able to accomplish so much. Here are a few examples of those successes.

ANIMAL CONTROL

It's been just over a year since Animal Control services returned to unincorporated Greene County. In that time, officers have responded to 302 calls outside the incorporated areas. In total, the seven officers who make up Springfield-Greene County Animal Control fielded 12,770 calls since the program was reinstated July 1, 2018. In the Urban Services Area, Animal Control Officers enforce ordinances that require that an animal remain on its owners' property, and if a dog bite does occur the officers investigate.

4-H FOR ALL

The Greene County Juvenile Office receives between 1,400 and 1,600 referrals each year for delinquency violations. These referrals result in probation or diversion services. That office also serves about 600 youth who are subject to the court's jurisdiction due to abuse and neglect. Early this year, 4-H for All was launched as a means to help this particular juvenile population. With the help of volunteers and partners they receive training in projects such as sewing, gardening, robotics, cooking and leadership. They also have the opportunity to take part in 4-H contests, camps and the fair. 4-H for All is actively working to reduce repeat juvenile justice offenders, grow 4-H membership countywide and increase workforce readiness for juvenile offenders and foster youth.

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Since its inception in Oct. 2018, The Family Justice Center has served more than 1,000 domestic violence survivors and currently averages more than 100 new clients and 50 return clients a month. While the current 3,000-square-foot space the center uses at the Greene County Judicial Courts facility offers a variety of services such as crisis intervention, law enforcement services and legal information, it was never meant to be the center's permanent home. In July of this year the Springfield School Board voted to sell the former Tefft School to Greene County for \$10. The building has more than 20,000-plus square feet, which will help to foster additional public-private partnerships. The goal is to be moved in and operational by first quarter 2020.



New judge for Greene County's 31st Circuit

Greene County is pleased that this year the State of Missouri approved appropriations in the State budget for a new Circuit Judge in the 31st Circuit. The last time our County was allocated an additional Circuit Court Judge was more than 40 years ago.

The Greene County Commission appealed to legislators for this position, asking they take into consideration that our County is a hub for legal business and to note the last time our County was allocated an additional Circuit Court Judge was 1976. At that time, we had Circuit Divisions 1, 2 and 3. It was also that year that we added Division 4. In 1996 when the Honorable Don E. Burrell died, the replacement judge was designated as Division 5 even though it had always been a division of the circuit court that handles probate cases.

It was also presented, that despite Greene County growing dramatically over the past 40 years, we still only have five Circuit Divisions. To put some real numbers to this, the 1976 Greene County population was 176,000. Today Greene County includes a population of more than 288,000.

In 2016, the legislature adopted RSMo.478.330 authorizing an additional Circuit Judge in each circuit where the Judicial Workload indicates over the course of three consecutive years the need for two

or more full-time judicial positions. The 31st Judicial Circuit met the statute-stated need in every JWWL Study conducted. The need and statutory authorization for an additional Circuit Judge remained, but the position was not funded until this year.

This additional judicial resource will facilitate quicker resolution of cases, particularly Circuit Felony and Circuit Civil cases - all to the clear benefit of the citizens of this area.





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