



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 12, 2021

Greene County Commission set to sign 2021 budget

The Greene County Commission will officially adopt the 2021 County budget on Friday, Jan. 15, 2021. A public hearing with a short budget presentation, followed by a Commission vote and budget signing, will be held at 10 a.m. in Room 212 of the Greene County Historic Courthouse located at 940 N. Boonville.

“The budget process is a large undertaking, and this year, as we do every year, the County worked hard to develop a final budget that balances needs to available funds,” said Presiding Commissioner Bob Dixon. “Citizens can be proud to know there is a great deal of effort and dedication on all levels at the County to make this happen.”

In all, the Greene County Commission held 19 public meetings to reach the final budget. Officeholders and department directors are originally asked to submit needs requests in September of each year. That information is then compiled and line item reviewed before determining what areas will be funded. More than \$10.3 million was cut this year from these original need requests.

For 2021, budgeted expenses for all funds total \$265,666,180. 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 \$75,646,791. In General Revenue I, salaries and benefits comprise 74.5% of that overall budget. It is important to note, collections for General Revenue II began in 2018 and actual collections are 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 2021 cash reserve balance to be \$21,472,851.

The 2021 Greene County budget will be available at: greenecountymo.gov/budget/.

2021 budget highlights:

- Over \$76.9 million on construction of the Sheriff's Office/Jail project in 2021.
- Hiring 101 Sheriff's staff throughout 2021 with total salaries of \$2,557,380.
- Hiring six new staff dedicated to support the Sheriff's Office/Jail facilities in maintenance and information technology for \$195,143.
- With focus on mental health, Greene County collaborated with various community groups to develop a drop-in center to benefit the citizens of Greene County. In addition, the program will hire community health advocates. In total, the County has set aside \$1.25 million toward these efforts, as well as to provide assistance to specialty courts and it will be funded out of General Revenue II.
- \$1,075,034 in General Revenue II funds toward replacing and equipping 33 vehicles for the Sheriff's Office and \$60,000 for two vehicles for the Environmental department.
- \$600,000 toward stormwater projects.
- Over \$457,000 budgeted for network supplies, wireless, telecommunication, upgrades and replacements.
- Building operations will spend over \$341,500 on maintenance projects for buildings on campus, including heating and cooling equipment in the Justice Center, the Judicial Courts Facility and the Public Safety Center.
- \$225,000 has been set aside for the potential cost of the external state audit.
- \$165,000 ankle monitoring services for Pre-Trial. Cost is split between General Revenue I and General Revenue II.
- The 1% annual cost of living adjustment and mid-year service based 1.5% salary structure increase were preserved for County employees.

Critical needs that still need to be addressed:

- The hiring of adequate staffing for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to cope with body-worn camera evidence.
- Staffing and equipment to bring the Public Administrator's Office in line with work load standards.
- Determine a basis for County funds paid to the Springfield-Greene County Health Department.
- Ongoing replacement of vehicles and upgrading of software and aging equipment throughout the County.
- Space being rented for several Greene County offices and departments. There is still a long-term need to provide proper square footage to meet those departmental needs, which would save the County \$400,000 a year in rent.

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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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