

Union County Budget Committee Meeting
Budget Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 20, 2024
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room

Present: R. Matthew Scarfo, Union County Commissioner
Donna Beverage, Union County Commissioner
Paul Anderes, Union County Commissioner
Matthew Goodwin, Budget Committee Member
Audrey Cant, Budget Committee Member
Mathew Miles, Budget Committee Member
Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer/Budget Officer
Allison Moore, Senior Department Specialist/Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Commissioner Scarfo called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Election of Budget Committee Chair

Commissioner Anderes made a motion to elect Mathew Miles as the Budget Committee Chair. Matthew Goodwin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Budget Message

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, asked to revise the agenda by moving the Sherriff/Corrections items before the Assessor/Taxation due to a scheduling conflict. Also unavailable are Lisa Feik, County Clerk, Kelsie McDaniel, District Attorney and Scott Hartell, Planning Director. In their absence, Administrative Officer Burgess will be presenting on their behalf.

The proposed Union County budget for FY 2024-25 is presented in the total amount of \$64,267.726. The budget is prepared and presented utilizing the same format and basis of accounting as previous years. One new fund (267 Opioid Settlement) has been added this year bringing the total number of funds to 48, all of which are balanced as presented. The proposed budget is approximately 5 percent higher than last fiscal year.

The General Fund budget totals \$17,646,819 and is the largest of all funds providing for the delivery of services by twelve county departments. The primary general fund revenues are property tax (38 percent), Beginning Fund Balance (25 percent) and PILT payments (7 percent). Property taxes are levied at the rate of 2.9668 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Other general fund revenues come from state shared revenues, fees for service, and state and federal grants. This year personnel costs in the General Fund account for 66 percent of expenditures which is due to the fact that the primary purpose of most general fund departments is to provide services.

Personnel cost increases for FY 2024-25 are due to increases in the cost of medical insurance and salary cost of living adjustments (COLA) tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The proposed budget will maintain the staffing levels and services provided in the current fiscal year.

Administrative Officer Burgess provided expenditure comparisons and proposed budget summaries to the committee for their information.

General Fund Department Presentations

General Revenue

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided a brief summary of the general fund.

The General Revenue Department reflects the revenue received by the county which provides the majority of the funding for the programs contained in the General Fund. Included in this department are the primary revenues of property taxes, payment in lieu of taxes, interest, and state shared revenue such as liquor and cigarette taxes. These revenues are not specifically tied to any one department within the general fund.

PILT revenue for FY 2024-25 is budgeted at \$1,250,000. This figure represents roughly 7 percent of the general fund revenue.

Property tax revenue represents approximately 38 percent of the General Fund revenues; anticipating a 3.0 percent increase in taxes collected in the budget. This figure includes taxes to be received due to the anticipated under levy by the La Grande Urban Renewal District (URD).

The general fund beginning balance is also reflected in this department and this year is projected at \$4,450,000. This is up considerably due to receipt of LATCF funds in FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 as well as interest earned during 2023-24.

Mat Miles asked how the city's urban renewal district under levy impacts the county. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that if the city levies their full authority under the URD, it reduces the amount of property taxes that the county collects. When they don't do the full value, we are able to collect some taxes.

Matthew Goodwin asked why the city would do that. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated an URD under levy impacts the city's general fund budget in a similar way. At times they decide they don't need the full levy amount for the URD plan and they'll under levy benefiting the city's general fund.

Matthew Goodwin also asked if we are budgeting for the PILT payments to be less than last fiscal year to be conservative. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated PILT is based on a formula which is impacted by several factors and difficult to anticipate; therefore, a conservative estimate is best to prevent the need for reductions after the budget is approved if PILT is less than anticipated.

Mat Miles asked if the \$1.5 million LATCF funds were tied to ARPA funding. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that it is not a part of ARPA, once the two years is up, the county will no longer receive the funding.

Mat Miles also asked if there was a deadline for the funds to be spent. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that there was not a deadline. The funds could be spent on any government purpose other than lobbying.

Sherriff

Cody Bowen, Union County Sheriff, presented the proposed budget for the Sherriff's office to the committee for their consideration.

Sheriff Bowen reported that the Sheriff's budget is very similar to that of last year; with the exception of requesting two new patrol vehicles to replace two vehicles that are in excess of 200,000 miles. The idea is to pay off the leases remaining on the vehicles they do have and purchase outright two new vehicles.

Total Capital Expenditure request is in the amount of \$217,850. Funding would be to pay off the remaining leases in the amount of \$47,850; and to purchase two new patrol vehicles for the Patrol Deputies at \$85,000 each.

The hope is for the City of La Grande to contribute one staff person for the Drug Task Force. Unfortunately, that request was denied during their budget adoption. Oregon State Police has yet to respond to the request.

Commissioner Beverage asked if it was hopeful to hear from Oregon State Police for another staff person. Sheriff Bowen indicated that he is not hopeful, as they are short staffed all over the state. Commissioner Anderes has gone above and beyond in reaching out to Governor Kotek. He doesn't want to depend on them, as he doesn't believe it will happen.

Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that the proposed budget does allow for the additional cost of assigning those two individuals to the Drug Task Force. There is an additional cost from the regular patrol deputy when they are assigned a special assignment.

There was a certified civil deputy position, and we have included funding in the proposed budget to increase that to a patrol deputy position that gives him additional flexibility without taking on the cost of a new position. The concern is sustainability, and this approach it is more doable.

Corrections (Jail)

Cody Bowen, Union County Sheriff, presented the proposed budget for Corrections to the committee for their consideration.

The biggest change in the Corrections (Jail) budget is changing providers for our inmate commissary and phone system. While there is no cost outlay to change to the new provider, they are requesting a

one time \$10,000 increase to the LEDs/Computer Support line to cover the cost of any possible interfaces that may need to be purchased to ensure the system works appropriately.

There are several increases in Materials and Services for postage, vehicle fuel, food for inmates, LEDs/Computer Support, and jail supplies.

Commissioner Anderes asked Sheriff Bowen to rate the newest contract for beds with Wallowa County. Sheriff Bowen indicated that it is a solid 10. Sheriff Moody and one of his Administrators came to La Grande to meet with Sheriff Bowen. Both are very happy with the way things are going.

Mat Miles asked about the “deflection program” and the possibility of one opening in Union County. Sheriff Bowen indicated Union County doesn’t have the ability to run a deflection program at the moment. The resources are not available; we don’t have a stabilization facility to house people or a treatment center. Addiction and mental health services, even with CHD involved aren’t enough. They have bounced ideas around with other counties, but just aren’t there right now.

Sheriff Bowen indicated that the state is allocating funds to counties who already have the resources available to run a Deflection Program. At this time, Wallowa and Union Counties do not have the resources available to make the program work. Commissioner Scarfo has been working diligently on this as well.

Commissioner Scarfo indicated that the state is allocating Union County \$150,000 for the next two years. He doesn’t believe that will do much, but will continue to work alongside with District Attorney McDaniel and the Sheriff’s Office. Those funds have not been allocated in the budget, because Administrative Officer Burgess is unsure how the money will be delivered and can be added later.

Assessment/Taxation

Cody Vavra, Assessor/Tax Collector, provided a brief description of the Assessor/Tax Collector’s staff and department function to the committee for their information.

The Assessment/Taxation budget request is similar to that of last year. There is an increase in Personnel Services costs due to the cost of personnel benefits, along with merit and cost of living allowance increases.

There is annual 3 percent increase in the Software Maintenance fee per their contract with Helion. Mr. Vavra is going to decrease Materials and Services due to Cartography services being contracted through Harney County.

The County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) Grant is a grant that the Oregon Department of Revenue administers to assist with assessment and taxation function. Union County’s portion is estimated to be \$160,000 this fiscal year.

There were a couple of increases in Materials and Services for postage, microfilm, and office operating supplies due to inflation.

Mat Miles noticed that there is still an open clerical position and asked if it puts the office in a bind. Cody indicated that it does not, and had the intention of filling it a few years ago. He ended up shuffling some duties around, to see how it worked for a year or two. During tax time, it can be difficult if staff end up needing to be out of the office. However, he does have the Extra Help line item in case there is a need for a temporary person. Cody is also in the process of hiring for a Senior Department Specialist to fill a vacancy at the front desk.

Matthew Goodwin asked if the CAFFA grant is through the state. Mr. Vavra indicated those funds consist of recording fees and delinquent tax interest. The state administers the program, but the funding comes from recording fees within the county. The hope is to receive the full \$160,000.

Commissioner Beverage indicated that all the new housing in La Grande should bring a few more dollars to the county.

Mr. Vavra asked Administrative Officer Burgess to clarify if there would be a second CAFFA payment received. She indicated that there will be one more payment, with the possibility of going over the \$160,000 anticipated this year.

Accounting/Treasurer

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the proposed budget for the Accounting/Treasurer Department to the committee for their review.

The Accounting/Treasurer Department budget request is very similar to that of the current year. It includes the county elected Treasurer at .50 FTE, Accounting Manager at .90 FTE, Accounts Payable Specialist at .70 FTE and a Payroll Specialist at .70 FTE.

The changes in the budget this year are an increase in personnel costs such as merit increases and cost of living allowances, and travel and training to keep staff up to date on new laws and policies.

Clerk – General Operations, BoPTA & Elections

On behalf of Lisa Feik, County Clerk, Administrative Officer Burgess provided a brief description of the Clerks Office to the committee for their information.

The budget is very similar to that of last year with the increase in Personnel Services due to the anticipated cost increases for insurance, merit, and an estimated cost of living allowance. When Lisa was elected as County Clerk, she did not fill the Chief Deputy position because the staff in her department were relatively new. At this time, she does anticipate appointing one of her staff as Chief Deputy in September 2024; which has been included in the budget.

There are not any increases in Materials and Services or the general operations budget.

Shelley also noted what was formerly known as “BoPTA” is now called “Property Value Appeals Board”.

The Election budget is also the clerk's responsibility and is similar to that of last year.

Board of Commissioners

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided the Commissioner's proposed budget request to the committee for their information.

The Board of Commissioners budget request is very similar to that of last year. There is an increase in Personnel costs due the cost of personnel benefits, along with merit and cost of living allowance increases.

The Commissioners Office consists of the three elected Commissioners, one Administrative Officer, one Senior Department Specialist at 1.0 FTE and a Senior Department Specialist at .50 FTE who is shared with Emergency Services Department. Staffing remains the same with the exception of a cost of living allowance and increases for insurance costs.

Materials and Service line items remain the same as FY 2024-25 with the exception of an increase in travel expenses with the anticipation of a new Commissioner coming on this January.

Commissioner Beverage mentioned that a new Commissioner is required to attend county college.

Mat Miles inquired about the Solid Waste admin fee. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that it has been paid, but did not hit the register in time.

Mat Miles inquired about the Telephone line item and if the Commissioners pay for their own phone line. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that the Commissioners have chosen to utilize their own cell phones for business purposes and not carry a second place.

Facilities

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided the proposed budget for the Facilities Department to the committee.

The Facilities department budget is divided into five different sections, and each section has its own department budget for each of the buildings. There is General, Law Enforcement Annex, Joseph Building & Joseph Annex, Chaplin Building and Court Building.

The staffing for this department is one Lead Facilities Maintenance Worker and one Custodian/Facilities Worker. We do a small amount of contracting for a few things like, cleaning of law enforcement annex and have partnered with the City of La Grande who pay part of a contract for those services. We also contract for lawn services at Riveria.

Matthew Goodwin asked if the county administers Riveria Center and if the facility produces revenue. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that the county does not collect revenue, as Community Connection continues to oversee the use and scheduling of the building.

The facilities general fund budget for FY 2024-25 requests only maintenance level funding. Many needed projects have been authorized under ARPA funds and will continue throughout the upcoming fiscal year. Some of the projects that are completed include, updating the restrooms and completing a sprinkler system upgrade in the law enforcement annex, exterior lighting upgrades, sidewalk repairs, and grounds sprinkler system upgrades.

The annual payment on the Courthouse Building construction loan is in the amount of \$60,000. The building was financed with a 20-year debt service, which will be satisfied in the 2031-32 fiscal year.

Matthew Goodwin inquired about the debt service payment for the Circuit Court. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated when the county constructed the courthouse building, the county received funding from the state in the form of a grant and also had to contribute \$750,000, which was done through the loan mentioned previously.

Computer Services

Jason Fouts, Computer Services Manager, presented the proposed budget for the Computer Services department to the committee for their information.

Mr. Fouts shuffled line items to combine software subscription services into one, which makes tracking easier for his department. Overall, Materials and Services did increase due to those software subscriptions fees; which have gone up significantly over the last several years.

Several major objectives for FY 2024-25 are to finalize the migration of the Tax & Assessment software to Helion, expand GIS systems to better serve all departments, and migrate email to .GOV.

Mat Miles asked if the CAFFA grant funds received were zero for 2024-25. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that it should reflect in the budget; and will be sure that revenue is added.

GIS Fund

Jason Fouts, Computer Services Manager, continued his proposed budget presentation with a brief summary regarding the GIS Fund.

There are no significant changes made to the budget this year. Funds are used to maintain required software licenses, with contingency for tasks that cannot be handled inhouse. However, we have not had to utilize contingency in quite some time.

The GIS Fund budget is balanced as presented.

District Attorney/Legal Services

On behalf of Kelsie McDaniel, Union County District Attorney, Administrative Officer Burgess presented the proposed budget for the District Attorney's office to the committee for their review.

The District Attorney's budget is very similar to that of last year, however, there are some highlights to share. This budget looks to be quite a bit less than last year in the legal services section, as they

anticipated several grants they applied for to be awarded. However, two of the grants were not funded.

The District Attorney's office was successful in filling all the vacancies and are fully staffed. The Law Clerk position that was added as a seasonal position was very effective and will remain in the budget should they need the extra assistance on a seasonal basis.

There is a slight increase in the Investigation line, which has to do with the level of crimes throughout the year, along with an increase in Travel and Training for the newer staff. This fiscal year, the DA's office will only be operating the Family Support Division for one month due to the retirement of the long time Support Enforcement Coordinator. The cases managed by their office will be transferred to the Department of Justice.

There are several grants that are supporting the Investigator position that was added last year that will expire at the end of the proposed budget year. The DA's office has submitted new grant applications to continue to cover that position.

Commissioner Beverage noted that Child Support has been significantly decreased. Administrative Officer confirmed that is due to the termination of the program at the end of July.

Mat Miles inquired about the Contractual Services – Trauma line item increase. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated it was an NPI grant that Valerie Schlichting applied for and was awarded. They are required to contract for special training that assists law enforcement personnel in learning how to effectively deal with trauma and interact with those that are experiencing trauma.

The Victim Assistance Program is operated to provide constitutionally mandated services to victims of crime. It is staffed by 3 employees, the Director at .75 FTE, Restitution Clerk at .50 FTE and Victim Advocates at 1.50 FTE. All of those positions are grant funded, and have been grant funded for a significant amount of time.

Mat Miles asked who does the grant writing for the DA's office. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated Valerie Schlichting, Victims Assistance Program Director, who has received training in grant writing and has been quite successful.

Emergency Services Department

Nick Vora, Emergency Manager, presented the proposed budget for the Emergency Services Department to the committee for their information.

The Emergency Services budget request is very similar to that of the current year. There is an increase in personnel costs due to the cost of personnel benefits, along with merit and cost of living allowance increases. This department employs a full time Director/Emergency Manager and a half-time Department Specialist who is shared with the Board of Commissioners.

Over the last two years, Union County Emergency Services has applied for and received approximately \$2,353,000 in grant funding to replace the County radio system, night vision equipment for law enforcement, vegetation mastication equipment for Public Works, crisis communications equipment, update law enforcement facility locks, fund and update to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, purchase equipment to outfit the swift water rescue team, and acquire other equipment for various local agencies.

Union County Emergency Services receives significant funding through the Federal Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), which is a 50% matching grant that reimburses half of eligible expenses incurred by Emergency Services. In FY 2024-25, the EMPG allocation for Union County is estimated to be \$66,000, which is a \$3,370 reduction from the current year.

The line item "Misc. Refund and Resource" has been renamed to "Misc. Refund and Grant Award" with \$20,000 listed in anticipation of receiving small grant awards. He also reported that he submitted a grant application to the Oregon State Fire Marshall for a community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) update and purchase of a masticator head for the Public Works Department in the amount of \$76,800.

The Materials and Services budget has been increased to cover communications, tuition and training, office/operating, vehicle fuel, and motor vehicle maintenance line items.

Communications

Nick Vora, Emergency Manager, presented the proposed Communications budget request to the committee for their review.

The purpose of the Communication System Fund is to support maintenance and up-keep of the County-wide public safety communication system. The Communications System Fund is funded by users with a scheduled increase by 3 percent in the next fiscal year. We anticipate approximately \$67,826 in user fees this coming year. The balance of revenue will be coming from the Communications grants that were previously mentioned and beginning fund balance.

A grant allocation of \$2,000,000 has been made to Union County by US Department of Justice to update the existing communications system, and the line "COPS Grant Comm Upgrade" has been added for this grant revenue.

Commissioner Anderes indicated that Senator Merkley will be in La Grande, and he would like him and Emergency Manager Vora to get together if possible. He is a big supporter of the COPS grant.

The proposed budget is balanced as presented.

USDA Predator Control Program

Chris Lulay, Union County Fish & Wildlife Trapper, and Shane Koyle, District Supervisor, addressed the committee with a brief overview of their work and projects.

The proposed budget request for FY 2024-25 is \$51,000. This funding request indicates the amount needed to maintain the current level of service Union County is receiving. The increase this year is due to the increasing costs of personnel, such as Cost of Living Allowance (COLA). The budget is also an estimate and is based on the amount of state funds that wildlife services is currently proposed to receive.

A commitment letter of intent is needed by June 15, 2024 to ensure USDA Predator Control can continue services beyond June 30, 2024.

The Predator Control position and cost is split in half between Union and Baker counties. The hope is to eventually have a person in each county full time. It has been stressful at times to keep up with calls in both places. However, additional funding from the counties would be needed.

Commissioner Anderes and Commissioner Beverage expressed their appreciation for the working relationship with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Commissioner Scarfo asked how much it would be to employ another full-time person. Shane Koyle indicated approximately \$124,000 would be needed.

Commissioner Anderes recommended one of the Commissioners to have a conversation with Baker County about splitting the costs for a shared person. We have about a 1/3 of the known wolves in Union County, on top of all the other animals to be controlled.

Center for Human Development – Public Health, Mental Health, Veterans Services

Rico Weber, Director of Finance, and Carrie Brogoitti, Public Health Director, addressed the budget committee with a summary of the proposed budget request.

The Center for Human Development is requesting \$313,916 in funding for FY 2024-25. This is a 3 percent increase across the board due to costs of inflation.

Carrie Brogoitti provided a breakdown of Public Health services that the Union County budget helps support. The work that they do is very important in protecting the health of our citizens. She also went over Health Network for Rural Schools, which provides services to students in the schools.

On behalf of Brian Blais, Veteran's Services, Rico Weber provided a brief report to the committee for their information. Veteran's Services has served over 460 clients this last year and is projected to bring in \$1,857,354 into the county as a result of successful disability and pension claims.

In addition to the 460 veterans served, many benefited through outreach activities such as the Anthony Lakes Veterans event, advocacy for HUD homeless vouchers, coordination of food boxes, as well as veteran's transportation throughout the county.

Matthew Goodwin asked what CHD is seeing related to substance abuse disorder in Union County. Rico Weber indicated that the biggest thing is crisis calls in children, especially over the last 5 years.

Mr. Goodwin asked for clarification about crisis calls; Mr. Weber explained it is a normal crisis response for someone who is irate and can't control themselves. Most of the time law enforcement is involved.

Audrey Cant asked if there are preventative care programs that these individuals could benefit from. Rico indicated from the adult standpoint, peer mentorship is encouraged and case managers continuously checking in on their clients. From the child standpoint it becomes a little more difficult however, there are now school counselors embedded in the schools.

Audrey Cant asked if there is an acute treatment facility for emergency situations. Rico indicated that there is not, and is very much a need. The closest located for a child to go is Portland, and Hermiston for adults which just opened.

Matthew Goodwin asked if the opioid settlement funding the county received would help fund an acute treatment facility. Commissioner Scarfo indicated that the county received opioid funding and recently published an RFP for the possibility of a respite detox center, which closed last Friday. The RFP would hire a consultant to come to Union County and evaluate the need and cost for a facility. The advisory group has not looked over the RFP yet. The biggest challenge we are facing is finding bodies to run the facility and funds to cover the operations.

Commissioner Beverage indicated that the structure of the building will face zoning issues as well.

Audrey Cant asked if there are models from other counties that can be viewed rather than hiring a consultant. Commissioner Scarfo indicated the research company will be able to complete a review of models during the process.

EOU-GED Program

Cathy Trochlell and Tressa Seydel, EOU-GED Program presented to the committee and provided a statement from EOU wishing to extend the GED program.

There is a critical need for General Education Development (GED) support services and an on-site testing location in Union County for residents over 16 years of age and above in anticipation of a more-qualified and prepared work force. On average, 120 individuals per year access the program. This service is not being provided anywhere else in Union County.

During FY 2024, 107 individuals-initiated contact with the CEP Coordinator via phone, text and email, and 52 of those students were provided with practice test vouchers. 25 students passed their GED tests either at the EOU Testing Center or through Online Proctored Testing. 20 of those passers received one or more test vouchers paid by the CEP. Over all, the number of students assisted by the program were consistent with the previous year.

In June 2023, EOU Human Resources determined that the Continuing Education Program Coordinator position was not in alignment with Oregon industry labor standards and as such the position salary was being increased. This resulted in a 7.69 percent increase effect July 1, 2024.

Total grant request is in the amount of \$22,500.

The committee thanked Tressa and Cathy for their continuing support to residents in Union County.

Juvenile Department

On behalf of Ben Morgan, Juvenile Director, Administrative Officer Burgess provided a brief summary of the Juvenile Department budget to the committee for their information.

The Juvenile Department is requesting a \$25,000 increase to support a part-time/temp Clerical Assistant position. The position was eliminated in 2022. At that time, Director Morgan distributed some of this time to increase the scope of the existing Counselor positions with the understanding that Counselors would step in to support front office shortages, as needed. This had worked for their department for a couple of years until Senate Bills 515 and 519 were passed.

The senate bills required expunction of records of juveniles. Before the legislative changes, a juvenile who wanted to do that, had a process to complete. Now, records have to be automatically expunged under certain circumstances. This new requirement brought on a larger work load than can be absorbed. This generated a part time position to assist, but did also bring a small amount of funding.

Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that she included \$25,000 in the budget, which \$10,000 will be grant funded. There is a possibility that the county will receive more than \$10,000 in grant funding.

Audrey Cant asked what Detention Basic Services are under Materials and Services. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that there are two detention lines – “detention basic services” is funding they receive from the state for detention, and the other is “detention retainer/county” used for detention services.

Planning Department

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the proposed budget for the Planning Department to the committee for their review.

The Associate Planner, Stacy Warren retired in March 2024, and Planning Director, Scott Hartell plans to retire in April 2025, unless another Director can be hired before then.

Unfortunately, we were unable to recruit an Associate Planner at the same level, and filled that position as an Assistant Planner that is more of an entry level position. The result of hiring an Assistant Planner, there was also an opening for the Senior Department Specialist position which is now filled. Currently the Planning Director position is posted on our website, and closes May 31, 2024.

Operating revenues are estimated to be similar to FY 2023-24 at about \$37,000.

All Materials and Services line items are the same as last year. Grans for the Place Based Water Planning activities still run through this but with services provided through a contract with Anderson Perry.

Special Accounts

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided a summary of the Special Accounts fund to the committee for their information.

This fund provides payment of costs not specifically charged to each general fund department such as liability insurance, legal services, auditing, postage and property insurance. We also pay our dues to the Association of Oregon Counties, National Association of Counties dues and participation costs.

This budget also includes support to programs not operated directly by the county, such as programs operated by Center for Human Development, EOU-GED program, BMCC services and Predator Control program. Some of the smaller programs are the Cherry Fruit Fly and Smoke Management program.

There are personnel costs in the Special Account budget for the Vector Control District. The employees are paid through the county system as county employees and all expenses are reimbursed by the Vector Control District.

Commissioner Beverage asked for clarification on Resource Development. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that it is a catch all and is used for the things like the Veteran's Memorial and other miscellaneous items.

Matthew Goodwin inquired about the Wolf Depredation grant amount. Administrative Officer indicated that the county has been awarded funding to reimburse those that have lost livestock due to wolves.

Matthew Goodwin also inquired about the Unappropriated Funds in Contingency. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that it is a rainy-day fund for expenditures that increase each year.

Transfers

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided a summary to the committee on Transfers.

The Transfers department of the general fund budget includes allocations of general fund dollars for transfer into special funds for specific purposes. Transfers included in the FY 2024-25 budget provide funds for Animal Control, the County Surveyor, Vehicle Reserve and the Water Master Program.

This year Administrative Officer Burgess included a transfer to the Riveria Activity Center fund. It is costing more to operate the facility than we are generating in revenue. Since Kids Club was closed by Community Connection, and no longer have the revenue to operate, it has been a struggle. They operated it one year for the county after the closure, and lost money. The county transferred a little funding to them to continue and still lost money. When the county received COVID-19 funding (ARPA), the county took over some of the costs of the building and made some improvements to the building for Emergency Services.

These balances are necessary to balance the special funds which do not generate enough funds to cover budgeted expenditures.

Commissioner Beverage commented that several constituents approached her regarding the playground equipment that was recently removed from Riveria. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that it was removed because it was not up to code, and beyond repair. Since we are no longer operating the youth program, the equipment has not been maintained.

Public Comment

The chair provided an opportunity for public comment. There were no public comments.

Recess

The chair called for a recess until 4 PM on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Moore

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allison".

Senior Department Specialist