

Commissioners' Journal
July 2, 2024

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on July 2, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Offices located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, in Room B303 in Chardon, Ohio.

It is declared and determined that all formal actions of the Board of County Commissioners concerning and relating to the adoption of all resolutions that were adopted in this meeting, and that all deliberations of the Board of County Commissioners that resulted in such formal action were open to the public and were in compliance with all legal requirements, including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The President of the Board, Ralph Spidalieri opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

Dear Lord,

I put everything in your hands today: my family, my health, my home, my security, and all my worries.

Thank you for carrying my burdens.

Amen

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Assistant County Administrator Linda Burhenne reported on what County Administrator Gerard Morgan approved on June 26, 2024 for Maintenance that included to Accept the resignation of Elissa Mackell, Part-time General Communications Clerk/Switchboard Operator (#1912-1) to be effective June 17, 2024; as authorized by Resolution #24-011 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved January 8, 2024 pursuant to O.R.C. 305.30.

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Mr. Gorton explained the financials for today as including a Cash transfer from the General Fund to Court Technology for a portion of 2024 funding, formal contract from the Commissioners with Cable Communications for the installation of CCTV Cameras in the Geauga County Office Building, formal contract from the Water Resources with Quasar Energy Group LLC for the disposal of sludge, biosolids and filter bed sand, a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Infinity Construction Company for pay requests #9 of the Courthouse Expansion Project in the amount of \$539,787.32, a payment for the Engineer's Office to Cole Burton Contractors, LLC for the asphalt resurfacing of Fairmount Road (Sections F-G) in the amount of \$418,290.94, and a payment for the Sheriff's Office to Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora LLC for three 2024 Chevy Tahoe replacement patrol vehicles in the amount of \$156,480.00 (this brings the total vehicles purchased so far in 2024 to seven – still looking for one more).

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #23-001 itemizing the financials for the meeting of January 5, 2023.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATIONS – ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE FUNDS

Director Jessica Boalt asked the Board to approve the Request for Proposal for Alzheimer's Respite Funding, noting that they apply for two different types, Federal and State funding and this is the State funding request.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging Request for Proposal Instructions and Application Forms for Alzheimer's Respite Funds SFY 2024-2027.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

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MAINTENANCE – ADVERTISE FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST AND QUALIFICATIONS – PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES – DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION OF EXISTING BARN ROOF

Director Glen Vernick asked the Board to approve going out for statement of qualifications for design services on the existing barn roof.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to grant permission to advertise for Statements of Interest and Qualifications for Professional Design Services Related to the Design and Construction Administration of Existing Barn Roof with responses due on Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Notice of this request for Statements of Interest and Qualifications for Professional Design Services will be advertised on July 11, 2024 and on the county website.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

MAINTENANCE – ADVERTISE FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST AND QUALIFICATIONS – PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES – DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION – SAFETY CENTER PARKING LOT

Mr. Vernick asked the board to approve going out for statement of qualifications for the safety center parking lot.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to grant permission to advertise for Statements of Interest and Qualifications for Professional Design Services Related to the Design and Construction Administration of Safety Center Parking Lot with responses due on Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Notice of this request for Statements of Interest and Qualifications for Professional Design Services will be advertised on July 11, 2024 and on the county website.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

MAINTENANCE – ADVERTISE BIDS – GEAUGA COUNTY PARKING LOT REPAIRS

Mr. Vernick asked the Board to advertise for bids, noting that this is a rebid for the parking lot repairs.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to grant permission to advertise for Bids for Geauga County Parking Lot Repairs to be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on July 11, 2024, July 18, 2024 and on the county website.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – OHIO MACHINERY COMPANY D.B.A. OHIO CAT

Mr. Vernick asked the Board to approve the contract with Ohio CAT for the maintenance on the generator at the Safety Center.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Ohio Machinery Company d.b.a. Ohio CAT to provide annual and semiannual inspections and maintenance to the generator at the Geauga County Safety Center for the period August 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$32,000.00.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

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MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – MCMAHON MASONRY RESTORATION, LTD

Mr. Vernick asked the Board to approve the contract with McMahon Masonry to do some tuck n point repair at the Annex but also if needed at other locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with McMahon Masonry Restoration, LTD to perform tuckpointing, restoration and masonry services at the Geauga County Courthouse Annex effective July 2, 2024 and shall be completed within 120 days in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

MAINTENANCE – BEGIN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS – TEC INCORPORATED – PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES – REPLACEMENT OF GENERATORS – DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – CLARIDON TOWER SITE

Mr. Vernick asked the Board to allow the department to begin negotiations on a contract for the replacement of the generators at Department of Emergency Services, and the Claridon Tower Site.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to authorize the Department to begin contract negotiations with TEC Incorporated, as the most qualified firm to provide professional design services for the replacement of generators at the Department of Emergency Services and the Claridon Tower Site.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – GROUND PENETRATING RADAR SYSTEMS, LLC

Contract Coordinator Matt Sieracki asked the Board to execute a service Contract with Ground Penetrating Radar Systems to locate some utility lines for the Engineer's Office which has a level of urgency and once the contract is ready will need to be executed.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the Vice President of the Board to execute the service Contract Agreement with Ground Penetrating Radar Systems, LLC to perform private utility location at various County properties, for a two-year period, effective July 3, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00, pending Prosecutor approval and certification.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – HARPER WELL AND PUMP, INCORPORATED

Director Nicholas Gorris asked the Board to approve a service Contract with Harper Well and Pump for as needed services, noting that this is the second company they have a contract with, in case one is not available for a needed repair.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Harper Well and Pump Incorporated to perform well and pump services as needed at various locations within the department for a one-year period, effective July 2, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

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<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

LIQUOR LICENSE - CONCUR WITH BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES – NOT REQUEST HEARING – SUPERRICH LLC

Clerk Christine Blair asked the Board to concur with the Bainbridge Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on a liquor license for Superrich LLC.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to concur with the Bainbridge Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor License being requested by Superrich LLC located at 8307 E. Washington Street, Chagrin Falls, Ohio (C TREX 8693318).

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

DISCUSSION – HEALTH DISTRICT

Ms. Burhenne asked the Board if they wanted to discuss rent for the Health Department. Ms. Burhenne recently attended the last meeting of the Health Department, a good discussion took place and Ms. Brakey asked for some additional information, that has been provided, however she had some additional concerns that she would like to see addressed in a contract.

It was discussed whether or not the Board could charge rent, which under the law you can, as they are a combined health district, they talked about what it would cost to make the county whole for them being in the building. Ms. Burhenne briefly discussed a breakdown of costs, relating to space, utilities and breaks down to about \$3.00 a square foot. Ms. Burhenne provided some options for the board to consider based on a square footage cost for space, noting cost allocation and that they pay a higher amount. These are things that the Board needs to consider. Health District Administrator Adam Litke responded to a question from Commissioner Spidalieri about if they receive funding from the City of Chardon, to which they do not, as Mr. Litke expressed that it was part of the agreement for a levy, that the levy would be the only income source and they would not pay additional dollars. Ms. Brakey added that it's universal for every taxpayer, that a portion of the taxes go to the county.

Mr. Spidalieri added that we gave them a space that was a lot better than they had and it is a better location for our residents. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that the goal is to assist with covering some of the costs and inquired about the \$4.00 a square foot amount. Mr. Litke added that the Board has not discussed the square footage amount. Ms. Burhenne noted that they have a draft of a three-year agreement with a one year roll over so the amount can be relooked at. Mr. Dvorak expressed that he had been asking the County Administrator to find out if they could charge rent or not, it was discovered that yes, the Board could charge rent, they are not used to paying rent and it's a service to the residents being here, and threw out an idea of a five year agreement of \$2.00 a square foot for the first year, then increase by a dollar to \$3.00 for the second and then years three, four and five be at \$4.00 a square foot to ease into paying a rent. Mr. Litke added that they could take it to the Board of Health, that they would need to look at numbers and since they have the smallest levy in the county, and have to see how they want to handle the levy going forward. Mr. Spidalieri noted that the space is 5600 square feet and it would be a minimal amount. Commissioner Lennon expressed that nothing is free, and former County Administrator Dave Lair had a meeting with the former Director of Health about moving into the new building and in looking at ways to offset costs for the building and at the time, Health felt they could assist in some way. Mr. Lennon added that if Health wasn't in this building, they would have to go out for a levy to cover the costs for day-to-day operations.

Ms. Brakey brought up electric costs, noting that this building was not under contract for a competitive supplier and were grossly overpaying for electric costs, the current contract period has expired and that the county needs to get under contract, and while that is happening your pay 9 cents a kwh, and it should be around 5 kwh. Ms. Blair noted that the CCAO Service Corporation Agreement finally got signed and they still must do contract supplier contracts, but she was not sure where they were at on them. Ms. Brakey stated that you were not under contract, the new building was not included, but they are working to get it included. Mr. Lennon feels it needs to be fair to cover the day-to-day existence. Mr. Lennon asked Mr. Dvorak to go

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negotiate with the Health Department on a rate.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PUBLIC HEARING – 2025 TAX BUDGET

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to waive the reading of the legal notice.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Commissioner Spidalieri opened the Public Hearing at 10:03 a.m. and Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton



Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget

Public Hearing
July 2, 2024

Gerry Morgan, County Administrator
Deborah Ashburn, Senior Fiscal Specialist
Adrian Gorton, Budget & Finance Manager

Mr. Gorton thanked everyone for the collaborative efforts on the tax budget.



Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget Overview

Total 2025 Tax Budget- \$179M

General Fund Budget - \$47.1M
(- Operational Transfers totaling almost \$5M = \$42.1M)

General Fund Requests - \$49M

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The total 2025 Tax Budget is \$179 Million, this is approximately \$38 Million or 27% more than the 2024 Adopted Budget due in large part to the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Project Fund setting aside funds for the renovation and expansion of the plant. This accounts for \$31 Million of the increase. Without this project we would only be seeing about a 5% increase. We have an \$800,000.00 increase in the Building Improvement Fund for various projects being planned for the hill in Chardon and in the County's 24-hour areas, \$4 Million is from Metzenbaum which has increased their Transfers Out account to cover its Medicaid waiver match obligations and an increase to their Contract Services account in the Residential Services fund and an additional \$1.2 Million in their operating fund. \$1.1 Million is from the Engineers which is mostly due to an increase in expected Ohio Public Works projects next year. Out of the remaining \$5 Million increase just about \$3.5 Million is in the General Fund. The other \$1.5 Million worth of increases are scattered across various funds in smaller amounts. Revenue throughout the County has increased to cover most of the rise in expenses but not entirely as some of these expenses in Metzenbaum and the Building Improvement fund can be considered surplus spending.

The General Fund portion is \$47.1 Million. The General Fund increased by almost \$3.5 Million in the 2025 Tax Budget versus what was adopted as the permanent appropriations for 2024 back in December. \$1.1 Million of the increase is due to payroll and fuel account increases in the Sheriff's office as well as the Common Pleas court has a \$331,000.00 increase, mostly in their payroll accounts. The Prosecutor's office has a \$430,000.00 increase due to taking on municipal prosecutions. A \$400,000.00 increase in ADP was due mostly to increases from the acquisition of the Archives department. There was an \$870,000.00 increase in Maintenance due mostly to payroll as well as increases in Ground and Building maintenance costs, software and electric services. \$351,000.00 came from increases to the Commissioners miscellaneous accounts mostly due to increased requests for Capital Transfers, 800 MHz Communications and 911 funding. There was also a \$50,000.00 increase here for postage expenses. We will break down the General Fund expenses a little further into the presentation.

Operational transfers cover items like emergency transfers, 9-1-1 funding, 800 MHz Radios, Court Technology, capital projects, debt service, grant matches, Public Assistance, Family First, Community Development and reimbursements.

The \$2 Million of requests that have yet to be funded are as follows, adding that the Commissioners took steps to balance the General Funds expenses with the Calendar Year Revenue without depending on the Cash Carryover, which is pretty volatile, and does fluctuate, so we wanted to be able to pay for what is planned without carryover, which means there were reductions, \$914,000.00 were equipment requests (\$537,000.00 was requested by the Sheriff – including \$423,000.00 for six replacement patrol vehicles, \$114,000.00 for replacement servers, computers, monitors and cameras, \$180,000.00 from Maintenance for new skid steer and vehicles, \$89,000.00 from Board of Elections for a new ballot transport vehicle and high-speed letter opener, \$26,000.00 from the Auditor for replacement computers, monitors, printers and copiers and \$80,000.00 from ADP for furniture and a vehicle and \$2,000.00 from Planning for a new cabinet work area.

Mr. Gorton stated that \$535,000.00 was removed from the Detention Home Expense line item as we will no longer be utilizing the Joint Juvenile Detention Center. We left \$50,000.00 on the line to pay for the services of the other facilities that we will be using on a per night basis.

\$450,000.00 is associated with personnel related expenses which were requested by the Auditor (\$15,000.00) for a Maintenance Position, ADP payroll was reduced (\$235,000.00) for amounts over 3% not including the Archives transfers and the Maintenance Department (\$200,000.00) for some vacant positions.

\$119,000.00 was associated with Contract Services requests by the Auditor's office for renovation work that is being undertaken by the Maintenance Department and \$75,000.00 was removed from the Utilities Electric Service contracts from Maintenance.

There was also about \$641,000.00 in requests from outside the General Fund that are awaiting funding. This includes about \$416,000.00 for ADP in the Computer Equipment Improvements fund for various equipment including items described as 29 mini dell PCs, end user technology stock items, printers and hardware, cabling and network upgrades, monitors, docks, Misc. user hardware, ADP tech life cycle replacements and office building audio/visual integration;

\$31,000.00 from the Sheriff in the 800 Communications fund for lighting system and comm truck upgrades, about \$100,000.00 from the Auditor in their REAF fund for a Maintenance Worker and office renovation contract services funding, \$44,000.00 in 911 for computers, monitors and a recorder and \$51,000.00 from Court Technology for computers, displays and a kiosk. As this year progresses, we will assess our ability to fund these later, either in whole or in part, or make them a priority for the Supplemental next year.



Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget Revenue Overview

2025 General Fund Revenue: \$47.2M

Increase from 2024: \$3.67M
(2024 Adopted Budget vs 2025 Tax Budget)

Revenue sources changed from 2024 Budget amounts:

- Increases - Property Tax \$2.2M, Prisoner Housing \$700K, Sales Tax \$500K, State Reimbursement \$300K, Cost Allocation \$100k, Defense of Indigents \$100K, Refunds and Reimbursements \$50k over 2024 levels.
- Decreases – Property Transfer Tax **-\$250K**, Recorder Fees **-\$50K**

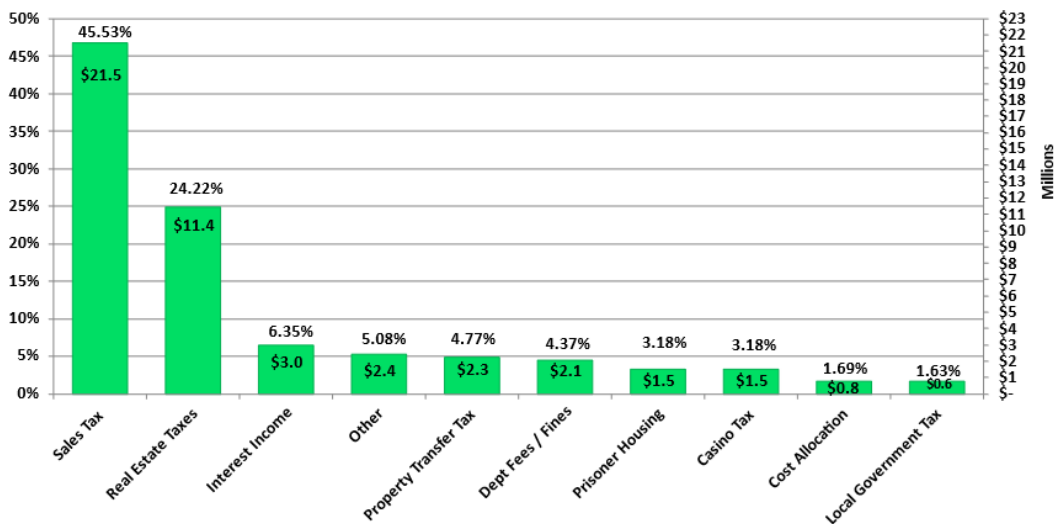
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The increase in the property tax appears on the Tax Budget this year with an expected collection rate of 98% for 2024, as determined by the Budget Commission along with a nice increase in the State Reimbursement. Prisoner housing is picking up again. Sales tax is showing some early signs of leveling off. We are still on track to meet our budgeted amount this year. An increase is budgeted for next year however, this time, by a more modest \$500,000.00. The \$21.5 Million amount is the same as what we made from the sales tax in 2023. The two largest decreases in revenue were the transfer tax and Recorder fees.



Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget General Fund Revenue

2025 General Fund Revenue by Source



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Breakdown of the revenue by sources received into the General Fund.

Senior Fiscal Specialist Deborah Ashburn started with a request by Commissioner Dvorak for a joke... Who led the accountants into battle? General Ledger

Ms. Ashburn explained the breakdown, showing the top ten sources of income coming into the General Fund for next year.

Sales tax continues to be the #1 funding source for the General Fund at 46% - almost 1/2 of all General Fund revenue and Property tax is #2, making up about 24% of the General Fund revenue.

Together these two tax collections make up 70% of the GF revenue.

Sales Tax - 45.53%, \$21,500,000.00 – 1% of the County's 6.75% sales tax. State gets 5.75%.

Real Estate Taxes - 24.22%, \$11,437,221.00

Interest Income - 6.35%. \$3,000,000.00 - Revenue received on investments

Other - 5.08%, \$2,398,830.00 - Rent, Gas Well, Reimbursements, Misc Grants, Auction Proceeds

Property Transfer Tax - 4.77%, \$2,250,000.00 - Fees charged when property deed is transferred to new owner

Dept Fees / Fines - 4.37%, \$2,063,950.00 - Fees for services charged by depts

Prisoner Housing - 3.18%, \$1,500,000.00 - Revenue generated from housing inmates

Casino Tax - 3.18%, \$1,500,000.00 - Tax on gross earnings - counties rec. 51%-by population

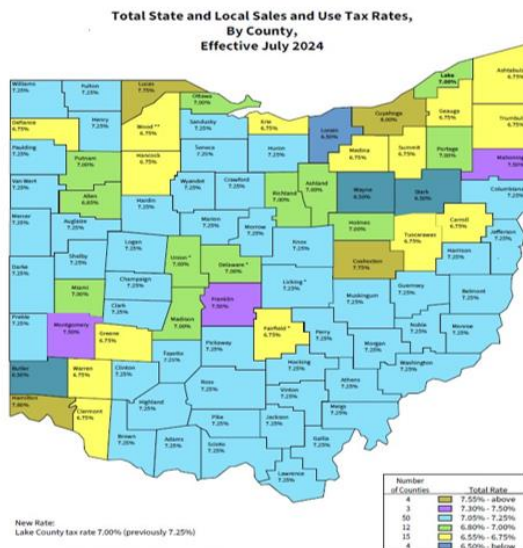
Cost Allocation - 1.69%, \$800,000.00 - Chargeback to departments outside GF for services provided

Local Government Tax - 1.63%, \$768,064.00 - Revenue sharing funding distributed by state

Total - 100.00%, \$47,218,065.00



Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget General Fund Revenue



New Rate:
Lake County tax rate 7.00% (previously 7.25%)

* Portions of Delaware, Fairfield, Licking & Union counties assess a transit authority sales tax levy of 0.50% (not reflected on this map).
** The City of Rossford in Wood County assesses a 0.50% transit tax effective April 1, 2022; the total sales and use tax rate for that municipality is 7.25% (not reflected on this map).

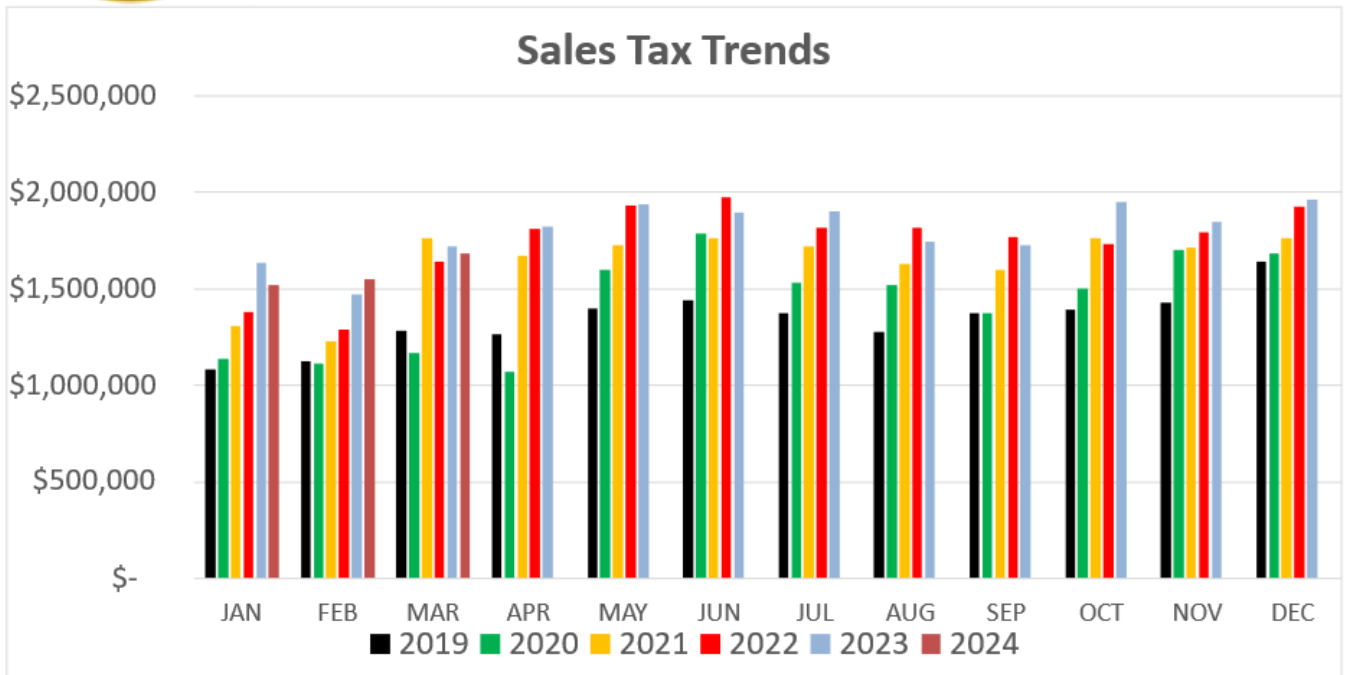
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Ms. Ashburn explained that Sales Tax was started in 1934, the state of Ohio was in the middle of a severe budget crisis, so the General Assembly imposed a 3% sales tax to offset the deficit. It was originally expected to be a temporary tax lasting one year, but soon after became permanently adopted. By 1949 sales tax had become the principal source of revenue for the state. This chart indicates the sales tax rate for each county in Ohio. The majority of the counties (50), represented in light blue, have a sales tax rate of 7.25%. The county with the highest tax rate is Cuyahoga at 8.00% with Lucas, Hamilton and Coshocton counties following close behind. The 27 counties represented by either green or yellow range between 6.75 and 7.00%. Lake County was just reduced from 7.25 to 7% are now in that category. The 3 purple counties sit at 7.50% (Montgomery, Franklin & Mahoning) and the 4 counties, represented in dark blue, remain at the lowest rate of 6.50%.

The sales tax rate in Geauga County is 6.75%. The county receives only 1% of the sales tax collected, while the state received the other 5.75%.



Gauga County 2025 Tax Budget Sales Tax Revenue History



*Illustrates the actual month that sales tax dollars were generated.

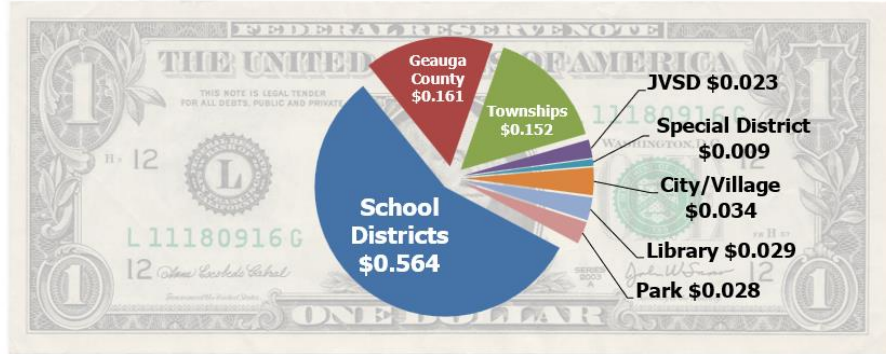
Ms. Ashburn explained that this chart shows the overall gradual monthly increase/decrease in sales tax revenue since 2019 to 2024, however there is only three months, due to a 3-month delay in receiving sales tax revenue from the state.

I just received the numbers for March...a little under 1.7 million which was a decrease of about \$32,000.00 from March 2023. 2024 is currently down \$72,892.00 from 2023 with 3 months collected. 3 months is not enough time to establish a trend for 2024.



Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget Property Tax Overview

For every \$1.00 of property tax paid by a homeowner in Geauga County, on the average **\$0.161 is used to fund County programs**. The remaining 83.9 cents funds the local school districts, including JVSD, the Townships, Municipalities, the public Library and the Parks.



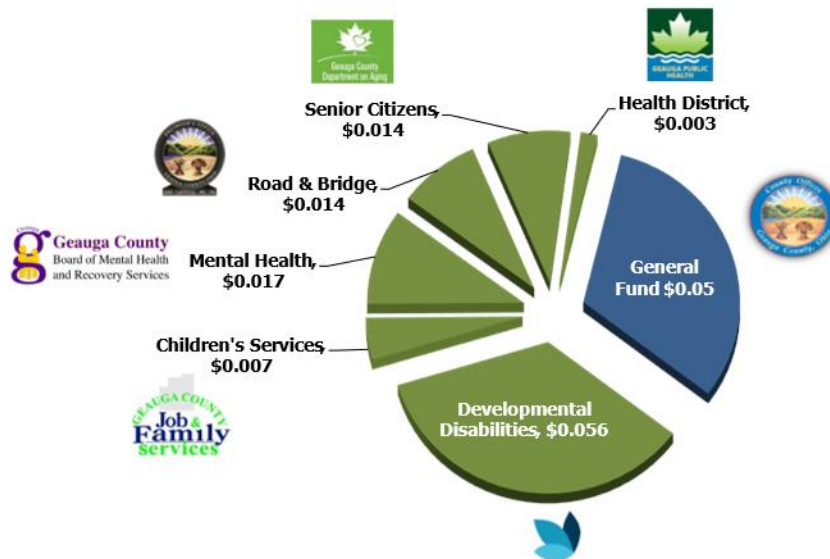
Source – Geauga County Auditor's Office

Ms. Ashburn explained that this chart above depicts on average how \$1.00 of property tax money is used. Currently on average 16.1 cents of each dollar is used to fund county programs. The remaining 83.9 cents funds the local school districts, including JVSD, the Townships, Municipalities, the public library and the parks.



Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget Property Tax Allocation

The \$0.161 County Portion of the average property owner's property tax is allocated as follows:



Green slices denote funding derived from local levies.

Ms. Ashburn wanted to breakdown the 16.1 cents. The 16.1 cents that fund county programs is allocated as depicted above. Of the 16.1 cents, 5 cents is allocated to the General Fund for the operations of the County.

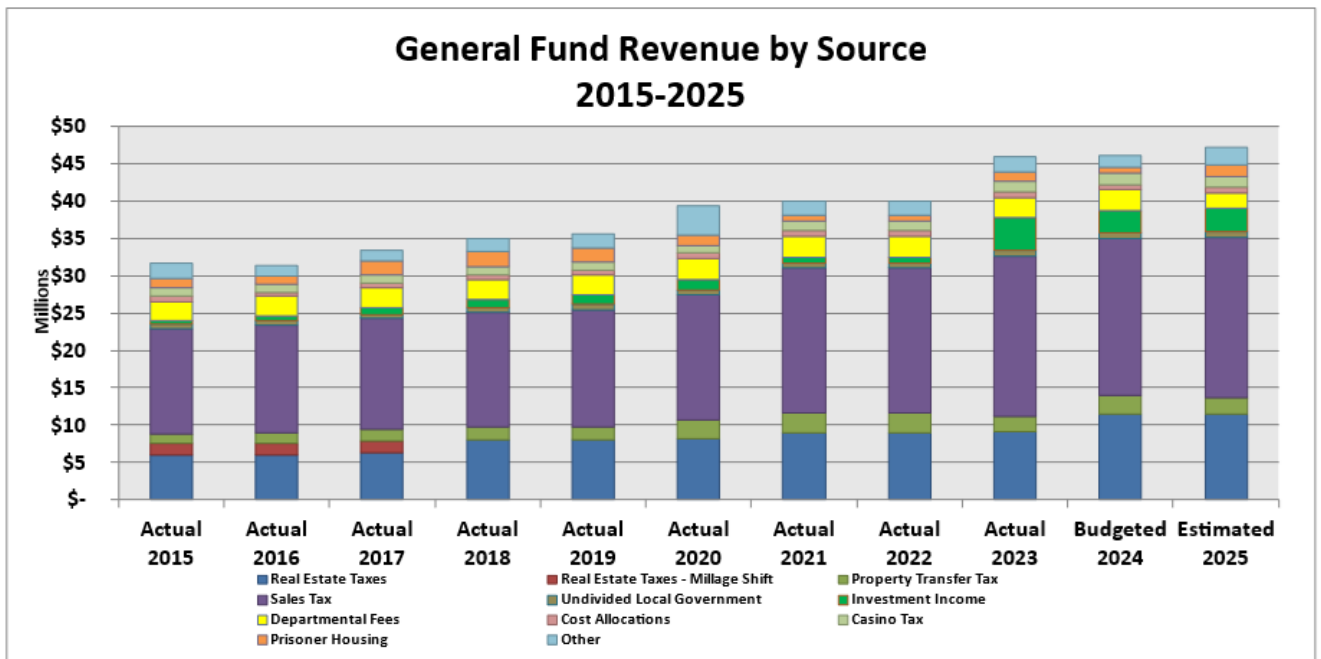
With the exception of the General Fund all the other slices of this funding pie are supported by levies that were voted on and approved by County residents.

Breakdown of the \$0.161 -

General Fund	0.050
Developmental Disabilities	0.056
Children's Services	0.007
Mental Health	0.017
Road & Bridge	0.014
Senior Citizens	0.014
Health District	0.003



Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget General Fund Revenue History



Mr. Gorton explained that this chart is a breakdown of the different areas that make up the budget requests. The larger light blue block in "other" revenue in 2020 was COVID reimbursements from the Corona Virus Relief Fund. If you look back at years prior to 2015 the revenue was pretty stagnant until COVID.

As you can see here, we like to budget our revenues conservatively. This helps to control expenses and protects the County from surprises. That philosophy is what has driven the Commissioners to budget the way that we have. Overestimating revenues and possibly under producing in those areas could cause fiscal harm. The largest increases that you can see here are the investment income in the bright green color; the sales tax in purple and the real estate tax in blue. The bottom blue block reflects the \$2.2 Million in inside millage due to property tax values going up.

Mr. Gorton noted that the Sales tax increase: 2015 (\$14,051,414.00) to 2025 (\$21,500,000.00), which is probably the biggest increase in revenues looking back.



Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget Available Resources History

Changes to Available Resources 2021-2025

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Amended	2025 Estimated
Unencumbered Carryover Balance	\$11.3	\$7.9	\$9.7	\$8.5	\$8.5
Calendar Year Revenue	\$40.1	\$42.4	\$45.9	\$46.0	\$47.2
Total Resources	\$51.4	\$50.3	\$55.6	\$54.5	\$55.7
Increase to Calendar Year Revenue					\$1.2

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Mr. Gorton noted that this is available resources, and a lookback at how that has been looking for the County, in the re-cap he mentioned we have calendar year revenue, but also the unencumbered carryover balance.

For this year we had estimated, but got a \$8.5 Million in unencumbered carryover cash, and with calendar year revenue we had total resources of \$54.5 Million going into 2024, and for next year we are going to estimate again at \$8.5 Million in unencumbered carryover and with calendar year revenue will give us about \$55.7 Million in total resources. That is an increase over this year of about \$1.2 Million.

With that in mind, let's look at expenses.



Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget Expense Overview

2025 General Fund Operating Expenses:	\$47.1M
Increase from 2024:	\$3.46M (7.9%)
(2024 Adopted Budget vs 2025 Tax Budget)	

Key Assumptions in 2025 General Fund Tax Budget

- 3% wage increase for 2025 (5% - 2023 & 3% - 2024)
- No increase budgeted for County portion of hospitalization
 - 2021 – 0.1% Decrease
 - 2022 – 0.6% Increase
 - 2023 – 2.3% Increase
 - 2024 – 9% Increase
 - 2025 – No budgeted change in premiums
- All 2025 Tax Budgets were initialized at their 2024 Adopted Budget levels

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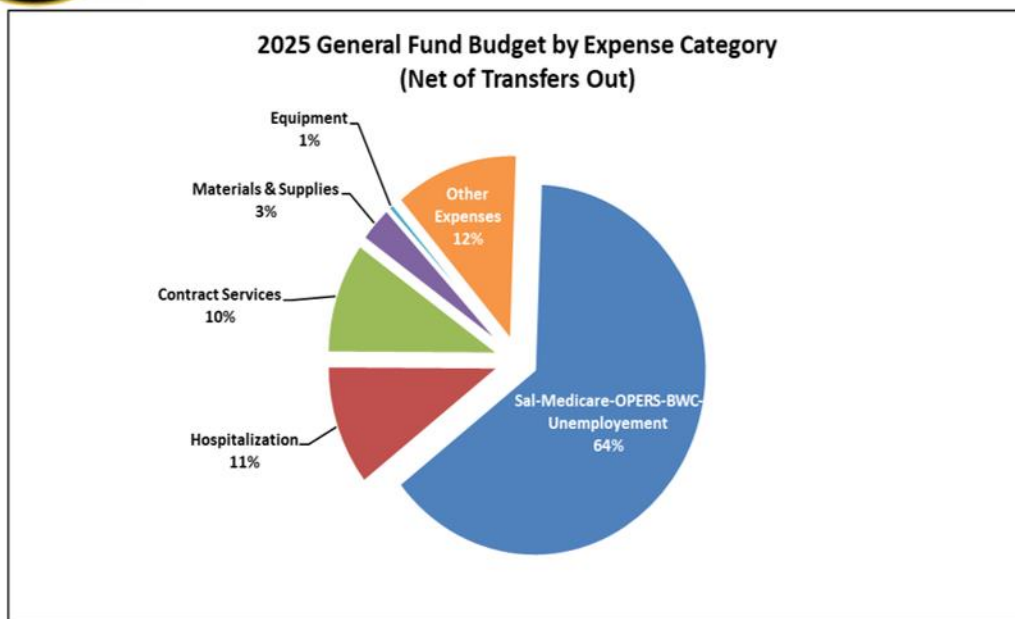
The Commissioners approved a 5% wage increase in May for 2023 and then a 3% increase for 2024. 2025 will include a 3% increase and is the last year for the automatic increases. Next year the County has budgeted again for no increase in the County portion of hospitalization. We have seen increases in insurance costs the last three years with the costs increasing in 2022 by 0.6%, 2023 increased by 2.3%. Employee co-insurance payments saw a 1.3% increase in 2023. 2024 saw insurance premiums paid by the county increase 9% with employee co-insurance payments increasing about 8.5%. 2021 was the last time we saw a decrease in our premiums of 0.1%. Any increase or decrease that will be used for the permanent appropriations will be determined once the renewal for next year has been revealed. This number and how it is divided up is still subject to change.

This year for the budget we opted again to initialize the 2024 Adopted Budget numbers. This eliminated the extra appropriations associated with prior year carryover encumbrances and hopefully gave everyone a clearer picture of what their actual budgets should be. This continues our efforts to try and reduce the number of unused appropriations in the expense budget.

Over the last few years, the General Fund and the County as a whole typically only uses about 90% of appropriations. If you look at the entire County it's more like 85%, so this is about 10-15% of budgeted appropriations that go unused and can make budgeting difficult when you have \$5.0M+ of appropriations in the budget that realistically will go unused. Although there are many reasons why this padding of the budget happens, many of which are outside of the department's ability to control, we need to try and do a better job of controlling it.



Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget General Fund Expenses



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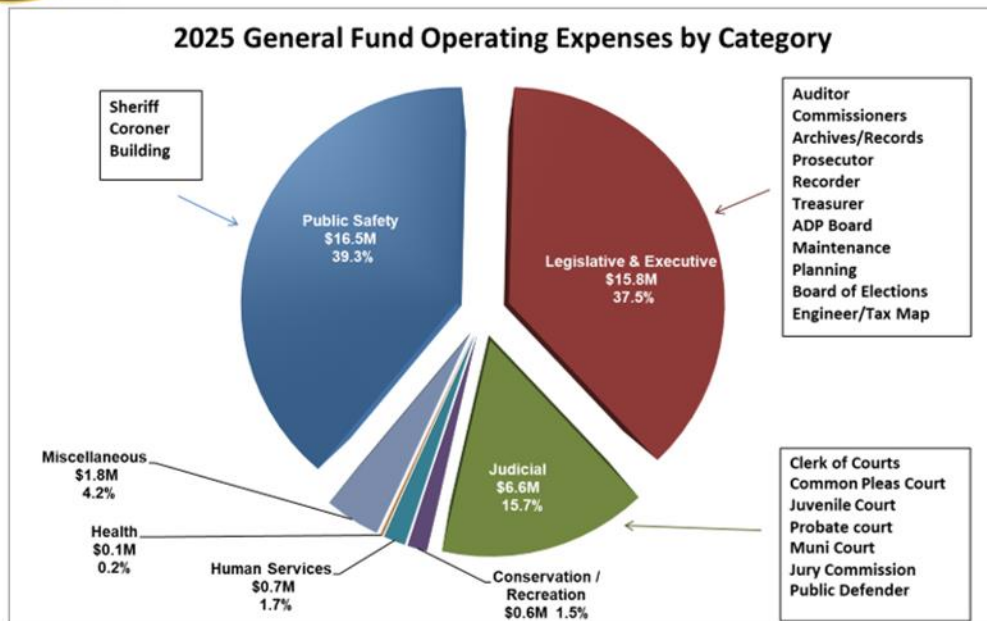
The General Fund Expenses are predominately Personnel related. 75% of the expenses are related to Salaries, Benefits and Hospitalization. Salaries, Medicare and OPERS increased in the General Fund by a little over \$2M in the 2025 Tax Budget versus what was approved in the permanent appropriations for this year. Wage and staffing increases are mainly responsible for year-to-year payroll fluctuations. Some departments that experienced notable shares of the increase are as follows. 24% of the \$2 Million increase was due to additional payroll in the Sheriff's office that is part of their bargaining agreement (\$491,000.00) ADP personnel costs were 14% due to the assimilation of Archives (\$284,000.00), Maintenance accounted for 16% of the rise in cost due to increased staff and wage adjustments as well as the time it takes to maintain two campuses (\$329,000.00). The Prosecutor's office was 18% of the increase due to taking on municipal prosecutions (\$376,000.00) and the Common Pleas Court was 12.5% due to

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increased staff related to a new judge and retirements (\$255,000.00). The other \$265,000.00 is scattered throughout the remaining payroll accounts in the General Fund. Other expenses include but are not limited to legal fees, utilities, fuel, travel & training and advertising. Other expenses is dropping by about 2.3% from this year or about \$115,000.00. Contract services include items like building & grounds maintenance, cleaning, and security. It is increasing by about \$507,000.00 or about 14% from 2024 mostly in Maintenance (\$411,000.00). Materials & Supplies is also increasing in 2025 by almost \$285,000.00 or 27%. This increase is due mostly to a large increase in the fuel line item for the Sheriff (\$213,000.00). The Equipment line is at 1% of the budget between Other and Materials & Supplies and includes miscellaneous equipment requests for several General Fund departments. A lot of the equipment line items were reduced to a cover amount for any emergency purchases that beginning of the year, until they can determine the carryover and do supplemental appropriations requests.



Gauga County 2025 Tax Budget General Fund Expenses



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The chart shows the split of the General Fund Spending (less Operating Transfers Out) 39.3% of the budget goes to Public Safety, which is the Sheriff, Coroner and Building Department.

37.5% of the budget goes to Legislative & Executive, which is the Other Elected Officials including Auditor, Treasurer, Prosecutor, Commissioners, Recorder as well as Board of Election, ADP Board, Planning and Maintenance.

Judicial makes up almost 15.7% of the budget and includes the Courts and Public Defender.

The remaining categories are fairly small.

Conservation and Recreation is OSU Extension and Soil & Water which is 1.5% of the budget

Human Services is the Veterans Service Commission which is 1.7% of the budget

Health is the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps requirement that the county fund .1 mill to treat handicapped children in the county. We do not budget the full amount for that due to the amount being much less than the \$1 Million. The last few years have been around \$80,000.00.

Major Miscellaneous items include the following:
Annual Insurance Liability - \$425,000.00

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Youth Center Funding - \$416,000.00
Postage - \$250,000.00
Legal Fees including Appointed Counsel - \$207,000.00
Court of Appeals - \$60,000.00
Detention Home Expenses - \$50,000.00



Gauga County 2025 Tax Budget General Fund Expenses

General Fund Operating Expenses (Net of Transfers Out)		
<i>\$'s in Millions</i>		
Category	2024	2025
Public Safety	\$15.2	\$16.5
Legislative & Executive	\$14.1	\$15.8
Judicial	\$6.2	\$6.6
Conservation / Recreation	\$0.6	\$0.6
Human Services	\$0.7	\$0.7
Health	\$0.1	\$0.1
Miscellaneous	\$2.1	\$1.8
Total	\$38.9	\$42.1

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Mr. Gorton stated that this a look year to year at those categories between 2024 and 2025, these are in millions of dollars.

This was pulled from the Re-Cap, several fairly large funds that the Commissioners have input into.



Gauga County 2025 Tax Budget Fund Balances and Purpose

\$2.8M – Department on Aging – Levy funding. Funds must be used for senior services. Aging will be utilizing some of this money to help build a new Chardon Senior Center.

\$1.9M – Senior Center Construction Fund – Money from sale of previous Senior Center along with funds transferred from the department. We are currently in the process of acquiring property in Chardon Township. The balance of the funds will be used for renovation of the building and property.

\$17.2M – American Rescue Plan Fund – \$10M standard allowance will be used for Courthouse project, \$5M for McFarland WWTP, \$1M for Aquilla WWTP Rehabilitation, \$200K reimbursement to the Department on Aging for pandemic related expenses. \$1M currently unallocated may be used in a variety of other projects.

\$4.2M – Building Improvement Fund – Will be used to improve County buildings. Multiple projects are currently in various phases of completion.

\$10.2M – Capital Reserve Funds Phases 1 & 2 – Final stages of completion. Money (\$1M) will likely be transitioned to debt retirement. Phase 2 courthouse expansion under construction.

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Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget Future Planning

- The County must stay vigilant regarding its conservative budgets.
- We should not jump ahead of ourselves regarding revenue and continue in a steep upward trajectory with expenses.
- Best way to maintain a level of control is to budget strictly for the necessities and consider increases at a later time once we know we have the resources.
- We will spend what we need to and endeavor to put unneeded revenue back in the pockets of citizens.

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Geauga County 2025 Tax Budget Questions

Thank you for your attention

Questions ?

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Gail Rousey from the League of Women's Voters inquired about the carryover amount of \$8.5 Million, to which Mr. Gorton noted that it is a very loose projection, but there are things that depend on that, including carryover encumbrances, and that can fluctuate that balance, which causes them to not be able to accurately predict the carryover. Ms. Rousey inquired about unfunded from departments, its about \$2 Million and if have additional revenue we can certify some of that additional revenue before the end of the year and supplement the accounts, or once we know the carryover balance, we can do supplemental appropriations to fund those requests with available monies. Ms. Burhenne inquired about \$5 Milion that is planned to not be spent and is that included in the carryover, to which Mr. Gorton stated, yes as that does affect that number. With no further questions or comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 10:43 a.m.

Mr. Gorton noted that the Tax Budget will be presented to the Board next week for approval.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) *Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2024*

- b) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the weeks ending June 12, 2024 and June 19, 2024 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

- Tue., 7/2 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District, Board of Directors meeting, 2:00 p.m., Warren, District Office*

- Thu., 7/4 **County offices will be closed for general business due to the Independence Day holiday. Twenty-four-hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***

- Tue., 7/9 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m., 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room A334, Chardon*

- Tue., 7/9 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

- Wed., 7/10 Geauga County Township Association Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Huntsburg Community Center*

- Tue., 7/16 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

- Wed., 7/17 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Auditor's Appraisal Conference room*

- Tue., 7/23 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

- Tue., 7/30 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

James W. Dvorak

Timothy C. Lennon

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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