

Sarpy County, Nebraska
Budget Message
2017 Fiscal Year

The proposed Sarpy County Budget for the 2017 fiscal year totals \$148,078,528, an increase of \$9,536,747 or 6.9% from the 2016 fiscal year original budget. The majority of this increase is due to the General fund for increases in salaries and benefits and increases in Enterprise funds such as the Landfill fund and Sewer funds. The total property taxes will increase by \$2,316,651 for the 2017 fiscal year or 6.1%. Based on final valuation figures, the tax rate will remain the same at 29.69¢. The taxes on a \$150,000 property will increase from \$445 to \$458, for an average increase of \$13 after factoring in the 2.85% average valuation increase due to reappraisal.

The primary issue in developing the budget for the 2017 fiscal year was to maintain the high level of law enforcement, road maintenance and construction, and other services, without an increase in the County tax rate. This makes the 14th consecutive year the County's tax rate has not increased. Other features of the 2017 FY budget are:

Public Safety:

Prisoner Boarding costs have increased from \$530,000 in the 2016 FY to \$1,390,000 in the 2017 FY. Also, the amount budgeted for prisoner medical costs was \$220,000 while the amount actually spent was \$340,000. A study is underway to determine the cause of the significant increase and possible actions that can be taken to reduce the increase.

\$8.2MM in bonds have been issued for the Radio Coverage Project that will significantly improve public safety radio reception both inside and outside of buildings. The debt service payments will be \$700,000 in the 2017 FY.

Roads:

The local funding for road projects has been increased by 65% by infusing \$2MM from the Inheritance Tax fund to the Public Works fund.

The following departments have petty cash funds: County Clerk, \$200; County Attorney, \$100; County Court, \$200; Sheriff, \$200; Landfill, \$700; Witness, \$100.

A sincere thank you is offered to the elected officials and department heads of Sarpy County for their cooperation and assistance in the preparation of the 2017 fiscal year budget.