

Lane County Budget Committee
Tuesday, May 09, 2023
1:30 pm – BCC Conference Room

Budget Committee members present: Vice Chair: Bruce Webber, citizen members: Herb Vloedman, Holly Mar-Conte; and Lane County Commissioners: David Loveall, Ryan Ceniga, Heather Buch, Pat Farr and Laurie Trieger.

Not Present: Chair Sarah Means, Chris Pryor

Staff Present: Lane County Administrator, Steve Mokrohisky, Budget and Financial Planning Manager, Christine Moody, and Budget Office Staff Michele Stark.

Presenting were:

Health & Human Services: Eve Gray, Director Health & Human Services; Zach Evans, Admin & Finance Manager; Jocelyn Warren, Public Health Manager; Suzanne Roelof, Community Health Centers Manager; Kate Budd, Interim Human Services Manager; Carla Tazumal, Developmental Disabilities Services Manager.

Public Works: Dan Hurley, Public Works Director; Brett Henry, Parks Division Manager; Jeff Orlandini, Waste Management Division Manager; Keir Miller, Land Management Division Manager.

Assessment & Taxation: Mary Vuksich-Schafer; County Assessor & Tax Collector

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chair Webber called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motion by Commissioner Buch to approve the minutes of the 05/02/23 committee meeting, seconded by Holly Mar-Conte. Motion passed.

Christine Moody provided an overview of new documents provided to the committee since the previous meeting.

III. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Eve Gray, Health and Human Services Director presented a slide showing the structure of Health & Human Services and a brief high-level overview of the overall department budget.

Zach Evans, Admin & Finance Manager presented the following slides and discussions:

- FY 23-24 Budget Details: General fund usage is \$5,911,034, which is 3% of the operating budget. This was a reduction of 24.6% compared to FY 22-23. Federal resources declined 12% and State resources declined 17%, while Fees & Charges increased 7%.
- FY 23-24 Operating budget decreased 3.4% overall, Materials & Services expenses decreased 8.8%, and Personnel expenses increased 10.4%

Jocelyn Warren presented the following slides and discussions:

- Public Health overview: 138.85 FTE with FY 23-24 resources \$28,457,899 and expenses \$28,666,087.
- FY 22-23 Changes and Key Initiatives:
 - Sun-setting COVID specific programming
 - FTE reductions, closing nine vacant COVID response positions
 - Growing focus on eliminating health inequities
 - Preparing for launch of universally offered nurse home visiting
 - Expand Mobile Services
 - Public Health Modernization
 - Launch Public Health Reserve Corps
 - Advance Health Equity
- A slide was shown detailing how Public Health aligns to the Lane County Strategic Plan
- Future Challenges & Opportunities:
 - Focus FY 23-24 on identifying long-range funding opportunities
 - Environmental Health fee schedule
 - Modernization & Public Health Systems Investment
 - Mobile Services
 - Racism as a Public Health Crisis
 - Elevating community voice in public health decision making
 - Phasing down COVID response efforts

Commissioner Buch asked for additional information on mobile services, and how they could be used for rural communities. Jocelyn Warren explained the framework for the services and provided additional context.

Commissioner Trieger asked if the mobile services units carry Narcan, and if they provide access to addiction treatment. Jocelyn Warren said they have collaborated with opioid prevention staff, and that many public health staff carry Narcan.

Eve Gray provided additional context regarding funding.

Suzanne Roelof, Community Health Centers Manager presented the following slides and discussions:

- Community Health Centers overview: 212.11 FTE with FY 23-24 resources \$45,281,959 and expenses \$44,783,823.
- FY 22-23 Changes and Key Initiatives:
 - Continue recruitment of medical providers to expand services
 - Transition to new electronic health record
 - Focus on preventive services
 - Focus on population health management
 - MA Apprentice Program
 - Conversion to EPIC
 - South Lane CHC Clinic opening
 - Community Health Workers
 - Increased Dental Capacity
 - Medicaid Redetermination
 - Workforce wellbeing

- Behavioral Health Integration
- A slide was shown detailing how public health aligns to the Lane County Strategic Plan
- Future Challenges & Opportunities:
 - South Lane Clinic Community Collaboration
 - Mobile Expansion
 - Recruitment

Eve Gray stated that Community Health Centers do not take General fund resources and actually generate excess revenue. The upcoming South Lane Clinic is anticipated to run at a deficit for the first year, resources have been set aside to cover that expected deficit.

Commissioner Farr inquired about recruiting graduates from Western University. Suzanne Roelof and Eve Gray discussed recruitment of medical students.

Commissioner Trieger asked about the Medical Assistant Apprenticeship program. Suzanne Roelof spoke more about existing medical apprenticeship programs within Lane County.

There was discussion about burnout and community perception of health care professionals, particularly in regards to staffing.

Bruce Webber inquired about the locations of the Community Health Centers and Suzanne Roelof listed the locations.

Kate Budd, Interim Human Services Manager presented the following slides and discussions:

- Human Services division overview and service offerings:- 71.48 FTE with FY 23-24 resources \$46,579,006 and expenses \$48,512,395.
- FY 23-24 Changes:
 - New funding for ALL IN Lane County
 - Time-limited State, Local and Federal resources such as the Frequent User System Engagement (FUSE) grant
 - Reduction in capital expenditures
 - Reduction in funding for COVID related household rent and utility payments
- FY 23-24 Key Initiatives:
 - Implementation of the Governor's Emergency Order on Homelessness
 - Suicide Prevention Outreach to Veteran community members
 - A five-year grant expanding weatherization services.
 - Improve community health through embedded health workers in Community Health Clinics

A slide was shown detailing Human Services Division General fund programming:

- Homelessness Response
- Dawn to Dawn Shelter
- Veterans

A slide was shown showing how Human Services aligns with the Lane County Strategic Plan

Future Challenges & Opportunities:

- Administration and technology cost increases
- Limited funding for permanent supportive housing and emergency shelters

- Reliance on Lane County ARP funding through FY24
- Provider agencies needing additional program and administrative funding
- Continue Human Services Division team integration
- State investment for ALL IN Lane County
- Value based care reimbursements for Dovetail case coordination
- Medicaid 1115 Waiver housing benefits

Carla Tazumal, Developmental Disabilities Services Manager, presented the following slides and discussions:

- Public Health division overview: 152 FTE with FY 23-24 resources \$17,670,055 and expenses \$21,361,646.
- FY 23-24 Changes:
 - Training & support related to the prior FTE increases
 - Implementing the division Equity Plan
 - Supporting and recruiting new providers
 - Streamlining processes and creating efficiencies
- FY 23-24 Key Initiatives:
 - Equity & Inclusion
 - Developing & Reinforcing Infrastructure
 - Outreach & Community Connections
 - Employee Onboarding & Retention

A slide was shown detailing how Developmental Disabilities Services aligns with the Lane County Strategic Plan.

Future Challenges & Opportunities:

- A steady increase in demand for services creates ongoing challenges and new opportunities.

IV. PUBLIC WORKS

Dan Hurley, Director of Public Works, presented the following slides and discussion:

- FY 23-24 resources from Fees and charges, Federal & State revenues and General Fund support.
- FY 23-24 expenditures noting operation expenses are up by 9% from FY 22-23 adopted budget.

Brett Henry, Parks Division Manager presented the following slides and discussions:

- Parks & Open Spaces division overview: 28.80 FTE with FY 23-24 resources \$11,692,501 and expenses \$11,034,795.
- FY 23-24 Changes:
 - Passage of 5-year \$31M levy
 - Provides funding for maintenance backlog
 - Adds additional 10 FTE
 - Estimate of \$5.9M in additional revenue for FY 23-24
 - Levy Fund created to keep accounting of levy separate from existing operating funds
 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding
 - \$4.3M to address water & sewer infrastructure at four parks

- Increase capacity at Armitage Park ahead of planned expansion
 - Cost Recovery Model
 - User fees for services that provide individual benefit
 - Community subsidizes services that benefit public at-large
- FY 23-24 Key Initiatives:
 - Financial Stability
 - Preventive Maintenance Program
 - Implement Master Plan
 - Implement Local Option Levy

Jeff Orlandini, Waste Management Division Manager presented the following slides and discussions:

- Waste Management Division overview: 94.60 FTE with FY 23-24 resources \$30,806,396 and expenses \$22,923,649.
- FY 23-24 Changes:
 - Additional two positions to create Environmental Services program
 - Start buildup of Cell Development Reserve fund
 - Glenwood Transfer Station
- FY 23-24 Key Initiatives:
 - Final determination on Integrated Material and Energy Recovery Facility
 - Complete public outreach for Glenwood Transfer Station location
 - Plan for new Extended Producer Responsibility recycling rules

Keir Miller, Land Management Manager presented the following slides and discussions:

- Land Management division overview: 47.00 FTE with FY 23-24 resources \$8,576,105 and expenses \$9,956,725.
- FY 23-24 Changes:
 - Land Management (LMD) Fund is structurally imbalanced for 2nd year in a row
 - LMD will be conducting a large-scale study of its existing fee structure
 - LMD will be taking on additional storm-water permitting functions 01/01/24
- FY 22-23 Key Initiatives:
 - 24/7 Online Permit Submittal Tool
 - Code Enforcement Enhancements
 - Florence Satellite Office
 - Affordable Housing Audit
 - Accessory Dwelling Units
 - Website Redesign
 - Comprehensive User Fee Study
 - Continue Land Use Code Modernization Project

Dan Hurley, Director of Public Works, presented the following slides and discussions:

- The Road Fund is the 2nd largest special revenue fund of Lane County
 - Maintain and preserve existing roads and bridges
 - Enhance transportation network
 - Improve traffic safety
 - Develop multi-modal transportation options
 - Protect natural and built environments

- 9% of all County (and 45% of all Public Works) FTE is paid for by the Road Fund
- FY 23-24 Total Expenses of \$69,269,323, which is a 23.34% increase from the FY 22-23, adopted budget and contains 177.50 FTE.
- A slide was shown detailing resources comparison by type
- A slide was shown with a breakdown of Road Fund reserves
- FY 23-24 Road Fund Proposed Budget is structurally balanced, but not for long due to:
 - Major source of revenue slowing down per ODOT forecasts
 - Growth in wages higher than previously anticipated
 - Increasing materials & services costs above the rise in revenues
 - Ongoing revenues from outside agencies decreasing
 - Employee retention issues in ECS may lead to foregoing potential one-time future grant funding opportunities
 - Potential for Secure Rural School to not renew
- Plans are being developed to keep the structural balance
 - Seek legislation to equitably charge Electric Vehicles for road preservation
 - County level review for alternative funding options
 - Local Option levies or bonds
 - Storm-water Fees
 - Formation of utility districts
- A slide was shown detailing how Public Works aligns with the Lane County Strategic Plan
- Future Challenges & Opportunities:
 - Recruitment and retention
 - Supply shortages
 - Material price escalation and labor cost
 - Increased workload and regulatory work requirements
 - New storm-water and waste-water requirements
 - Grants and awards opportunities

QUESTIONS were opened for the Public Works.

Discussions were had regarding the gas tax impacts to the Road Fund, and planning for future funding due to electric vehicle adoption.

Discussions took place regarding vehicle fatalities in Lane County.

Mr. Vloedman asked about permits and revenue looking forward. Mr. Miller responded that revenues are expected to exceed initial projections due to some large projects.

Commissioner Trieger asked about interest in exploring a countywide parks district for funding instead of the current parks district model. There has been some thought about the topic, but it would likely require support from the City of Eugene.

V. ASSESSMENT & TAXATION

Mary Vuksich-Schafer, County Assessor & Tax Collector presented the following slides and discussions:

- A slide showing an overview of the structure of Assessment & Taxation
- A slide showing that the department collects taxes on behalf of 85 taxing districts
- An overview of FY 23-24 Resources from the following sources:

- General Fund
- CAFFA grant
- Tax penalties
- Foreclosure penalties
- Late filing penalties
- OHCS fees
- Miscellaneous sales
- Application fees
- FY 23-24 Changes:
 - Normal increases in M&S and personnel
 - Barely meets minimum statutory requirements, and non-optimal staffing levels
 - Hold positions open longer
 - FTE reduced from 50 to 49 due to expiration of limited duration position (Deputy Assessor)
 - Continue to be judicious with funds
 - Create opportunities to modernize productivity, quality, and work output
- FY 23-24 Administrative Division overview: 3.00 FTE with FY 23-24 resources \$903,200 and expenses \$823,713.
- Key Initiatives:
 - Timely certification of tax roll
 - Leadership transition
 - OSACA/OACTC
 - UO Policy Lab partnership
 - Budget & CAFFA
 - Legislation
 - Advance focus on safety
 - Software modernization effort
 - Crystal reports converted to SSRS
- FY 23-24 Property Tax Management Division overview: 25.00 FTE with FY 23-24 resources \$643,000 and expenses \$3,668,459.
- Key Initiatives:
 - Cartography ESRI ArcGIS upgrade to Pro underway
 - Paperless billing
 - Website content upgrades
 - Training new staff
 - Overpayment & refund processing
 - New districts
 - Processing exemptions, deferral & special assessment applications
 - Tax insert now available in Spanish on website
 - 300 Boundary line packets completed, estimated 250 more
- FY 23-24 Appraisal Division overview: 21.00 FTE with FY 23-24 resources \$18,840 and expenses \$3,628,322.
- FY 23-24 Key Initiatives:
 - 100% RMV 01/01/23
 - Over 5,000 property inspections
 - 550 Seg/Merge packets
 - 256 Property value appeals – 30 Magistrate cases
 - Mobile Assessor Go Live

- Collaboration with other counties
- Training
- Ration Study
- Reappraisal

There was discussion about what other counties Assessment & Taxation were working with.

There was discussion about the process and work required for processing subdivisions.

FY 23-24 Changes:

- Strengthening intergovernmental relationships
- Department wide on-boarding plan
- Website enhancements for Manufactured Structure resources/information
- Sketch project cross training
- Tax insert available in multiple languages
- Summary of Assessments and Levies Report (SAL) rewrite

A slide was shown detailing how Assessment & Taxation aligns with the Lane County Strategic Plan

FY 23-24 Challenges & Opportunities:

- Legislation
- Stabilized A&T funding – CAFFA
- Modernized computer system
- Retention of institutional knowledge
- Paperless statement enrollment

Commissioner Trieger asked what the “right” number of FTE would be for the department. Mary Vuksich-Schafer explained that the Oregon Department of Revenue released a report with modeled FTE per account that suggested that Lane County should have 74.96 FTE.

Commissioner Loveall asked about concerns of employee safety. Discussions were had regarding safety measures and recent incidents.

Commissioner Loveall asked about Land Patents and if any had come through Assessment & Taxation. Mary Vuksich-Schafer responded that those would first come through Deeds & Records.

Vice Chair Webber asked Mary Vuksich-Schafer to confirm Assessment & Taxation collects on behalf of 85 taxing districts but receives no revenue from those collection activities. That was confirmed, and discussions resulted regarding CAFFA grant funding.

VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Christine Moody asked if the committee had any requests to hear information from any other departments. There were none. Herb Vloedman asked if the next meeting on 05/11/23 could be rescheduled to 2:00 instead of 1:30. Steve Mokrohisky and Christine Moody responded that they would check with Staff for availability.

Next Lane County Budget Committee meeting is Thursday, May 11th, 2023 at 1:30pm in the BCC conference room, unless rescheduled to 2:00 per committee request.

VII. ADJOURN

Committee Vice-Chair Webber adjourned the meeting at 4:44 pm.

Note: A webcast (the “official” record of the meeting’s events) is available at:
https://lanecounty.org/how_do_i/view/webcasts