

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
BUDGET PRESENTATION
November 27, 2024

A special meeting of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners was held on Wednesday, November 27, 2024, for the purpose of presenting the proposed Monroe County Budget for 2025 with the following present: Chairman John D. Christy, Vice-Chairman David C. Parker (via Teams 365), Commissioner Sharon S. Laverdure and Chief Clerk/Administrator Robert J. Gress.

Chairman Christy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

Chairman Christy presented the Monroe County 2025 Budget for the FY January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

Jennifer Barclay, Fiscal Director stated the 2025 Budget for Monroe County is in the amount of \$146,563,636, including a general fund budget of \$77,251,607.

Jennifer Barclay highlighted the following:

The county millage rate will increase by one and one-half (1.5) mills to 5.4773mills; 4.9631 mills will be utilized for general purposes and the .5421 mills is designated for debt service obligation. The library tax will remain at .185914 mills.

Nineteen (19) new full-time positions, one (1) part-time position are approved in the following departments: Courts, District Attorney, Maintenance and Sheriff.

Information Technology Services, 5.5 new employees to provide additional support for the courthouse computer system, servers and cyber security.

The current Long Term Debt obligation at 12/31/2024 is \$101,318,562 (P - \$78,002,000; I - \$23,316,562) and estimated to be \$93,768,658 at 12/31/2025 (P - \$73,330,000; I - \$20,438,658)

The employee portion of healthcare contributions increased in September 2024. The county's contribution increased 50-76% depending on the plan.

Retirement costs are budgeted at \$4,900,000; \$700,000 more than budgeted in 2024. This is also \$806,315 more than the actual 2024 contribution.

Capital Expenditures are \$346,084 and Computer Capital is \$407,535.

Grant Revenue totals \$35 million and includes:

- \$25.06 million for Health and Human Service, which includes Children & Youth, Aging, Human Services Grants and other fiscal funds
- \$5.53 million for Public Safety
- \$3.74 million for Courts and Court Related Services and includes grants for the District Attorney's, Domestic Relations, and Adult and Juvenile Probation Offices
- \$594,282 for the Elections Integrity Grant
- \$76,500 for various General Government Departments

Commissioner Christy provided specific details on the entire budget. Chairman Christy stated that it is necessary to increase the county millage by 1.5 mils to balance the budget. He mentioned the loss of assessments due to appeals, the use of fund balance to balance the budget in prior years, little to no state and federal funding for the correctional facility, the courts and court related offices, higher debt service and increases in positions due to the increased square footage of the county courthouse as well as the recent salary study as reasons for the increase. The commissioners continue to look at ways to reduce expenditures and increase revenue opportunities.

M-2024-365 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to present the Proposed Monroe County 2025 Budget in the amount of \$146,563,636 for public review and comment for twenty (20) days prior to adopting the budget, as follows:

Proposed 2025 County millage rates as follows:

- a. 4.49631 for General purposes
- b. 0.5142 for Debt Service obligation
- c. 5.4773 Total County Millage Rate for 2025
- d. 0.185914 for the Library Millage Rate

Chairman Christy explained that Liquid Fuels allocations come from the state's oil franchise tax. The money is for the repairs/maintenance to county owned bridges. Commissioner Christy stated that bridge maintenance and vegetation removal is part of the annual budget.

M-2024-366 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to present the 2025 Liquid Fuels Budget in the amount of \$457,167.

Public comment: Treasurer Theresa Johnson asked if the county would be issuing a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN) earlier in 2025 than in 2024. Chairman Christy explained that the TRAN would be needed as a loan until the tax revenues are received starting in April and would be done in the beginning of the year.

Jacob Pride asked about the Area Agency on Aging funding. Commissioner Laverdure and Chairman Christy explained that the funding from Harrisburg doesn't meet the needs of the senior population.

Chief Clerk/Administrator Gress mentioned that the budget would be available for public inspection until the scheduled adoption at meeting on December 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Robert J. Gress, Chief Clerk/Administrator

M-2024-365 thru M-2024-366