

Thursday May 20th 2021

Good morning Budget Committee,

I respectfully request that you consider the below list of Road Department concerns and will respect your decision either way you decide. That I will keep managing the Road Department to the best of my ability.

1. The County recently turned back Mental Health and Public Health to the State due to lack of sufficient funds to operate them.
2. It appears our Director of County Operations is projecting a budget deficit in the General Fund of 2 to 2.5 million. I do not know if this includes the requested 4 new deputies in the Office or not. I am thinking the 2.5 million includes the new deputies.
3. Our Director of County Operations stated in the Budget meeting that he could not give a firm figure on the deficit until the books were closed in July. What I got from this is the County likely does not really know where it is financially due to the financial software package that has not worked out over the past year or so. According to the local paper the county has \$140k into this project with not much if anything to show for it. In short, the county finance people may be unable to really give a good number on this so it is possible the deficit may be larger.
4. A 2.5-million-dollar deficit may be the largest the county has ever faced. It is even more daunting when you realize this is after shedding two departments.
5. New revenue is needed both for the General fund and the Road fund. Even the most aggressive approach to seek this through new taxes is unlikely to produce anything before the next budget cycle. New tax revenue is not an easy sell in Curry County. It is unreasonable to count on any new local revenue before the 2022/2023 budget cycle.
6. Every Sheriff I can remember wanted 24/7 coverage. I do not believe the County has enjoyed that service for decades due to lack of funds.

Let me wrap this up. The County is quite possibly facing the largest General fund deficit in its history even with the recent reduction of two departments. Without substantial cuts this deficit is likely to be even larger a year from now. Anticipating new local revenue to plug the whole this year is reckless and hoping it will happen for next year is gross speculation. The Budget Committee has a tough job ahead. It seems prudent to me that at the very least it is time to hold the line and forgo expanding any County provided service.

Sincerely,

Curry County Roadmaster

Richard Christensen



Richard Christensen 5-17-2021