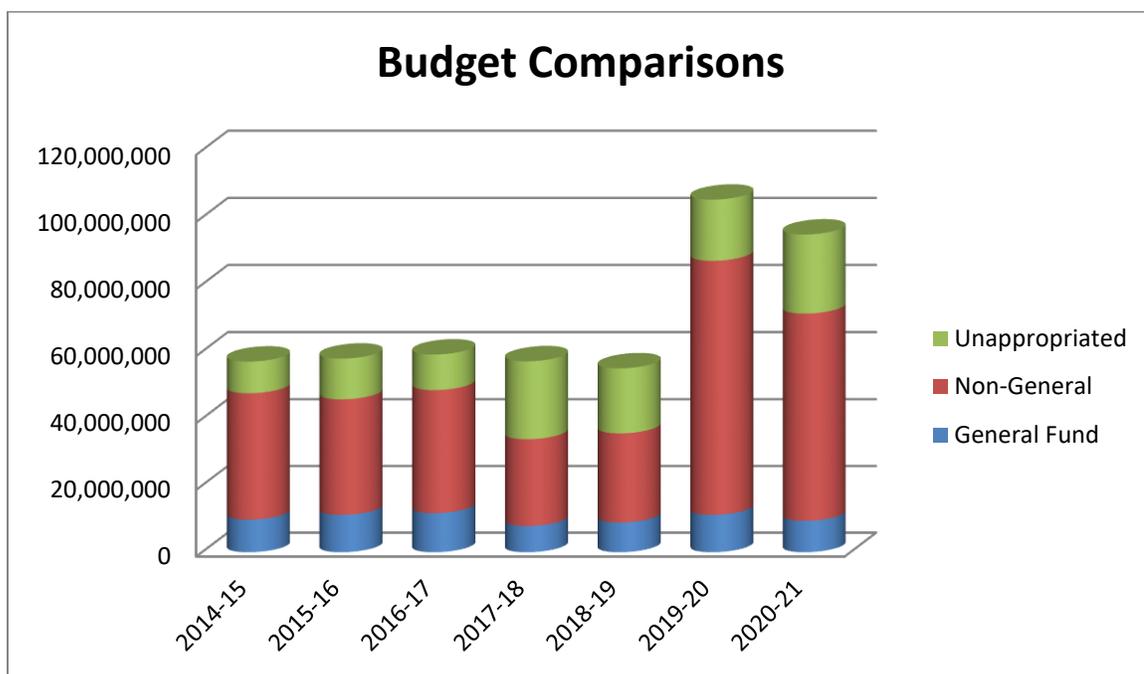


CURRY COUNTY BUDGETS



Why are the 2019 and 2020 budgets so much higher than previous years? Spending is higher to provide better services, and despite no increase in the property tax rate, the revenues are also higher. The Board has been strategic in their efforts to spend in areas they felt would improve the quality of life of the residents, or, in areas where the investment would in turn bring in more revenue (for example, investing in more efficient equipment or equipment that can do contracted work for other jurisdictions). And, despite spending, this year's budgeted reserves (unappropriated funds) are higher than they have ever been (within the study period). *Government is doing more, with minimal tax dollars, and even putting more money aside for emergencies.*

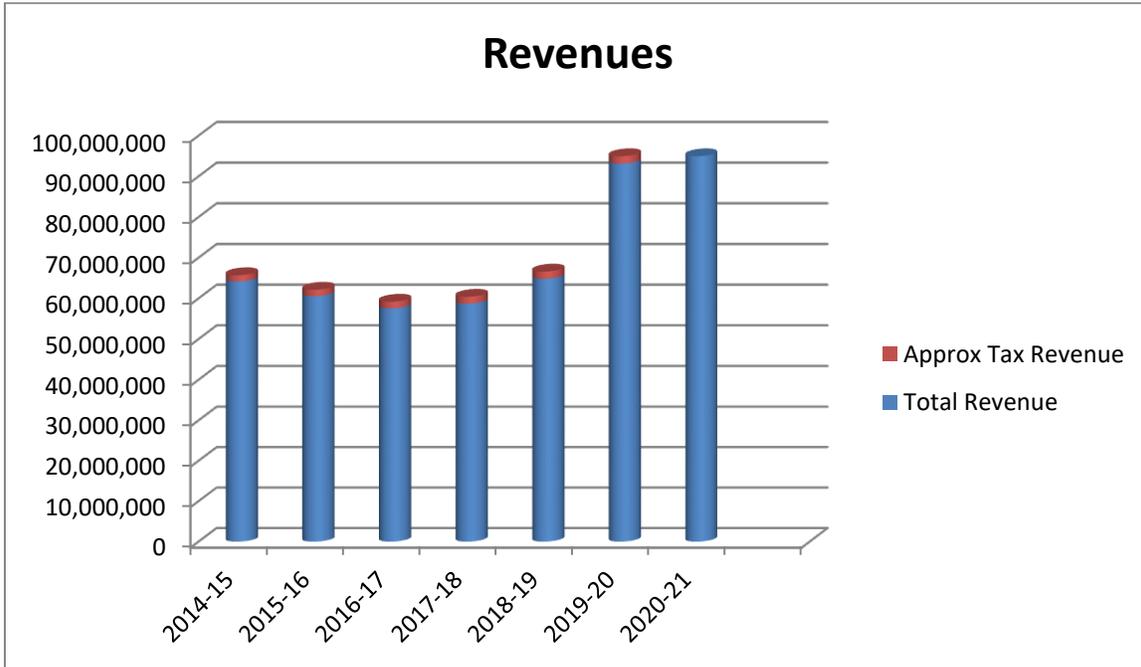
Why did the Non-General ('Red') Funds increase so drastically in 2019 and in 2020? Last year part of the Sheriff's Office was removed from the General Fund, which increased the 'red'/Non-General Fund. Also, four positions were added to the Sheriff's Office to ensure better law enforcement coverage in the county, and the Sheriff's employees' wages were adjusted to be more in alignment with the wages being offered by other counties. By increasing wages the county can attract better qualified employees, and, save money on training new employees every few months. In addition, the county's fleet was updated. This year the remainder of the Sheriff's Office was removed from the General Fund, and, the remainder of the Community Development Department was removed and put in the Non-General Fund. These programs are seeing other revenue sources contribute to their budgets and not relying solely on the General Fund. *Simply, with minimal county tax revenues, other sources of revenue are being used to fund some of the bigger departments.*

You say we are seeing more revenue, how much, and where is it coming from? Well, because the county has not raised property taxes, the revenue from those taxes is minimal. Just looking at last year's actual budget revenues (not projected revenues, as you would see in the 2020-21 budget), the majority of the revenue is coming through the Road Fund (2019-20 was almost \$4 million more than the previous year); Economic Development (more than doubled from the previous year); Community Development (Planning and Building revenues increased by \$140,000); federal grants (about \$800,000 more); and thankfully, Title III monies (about \$30 million).

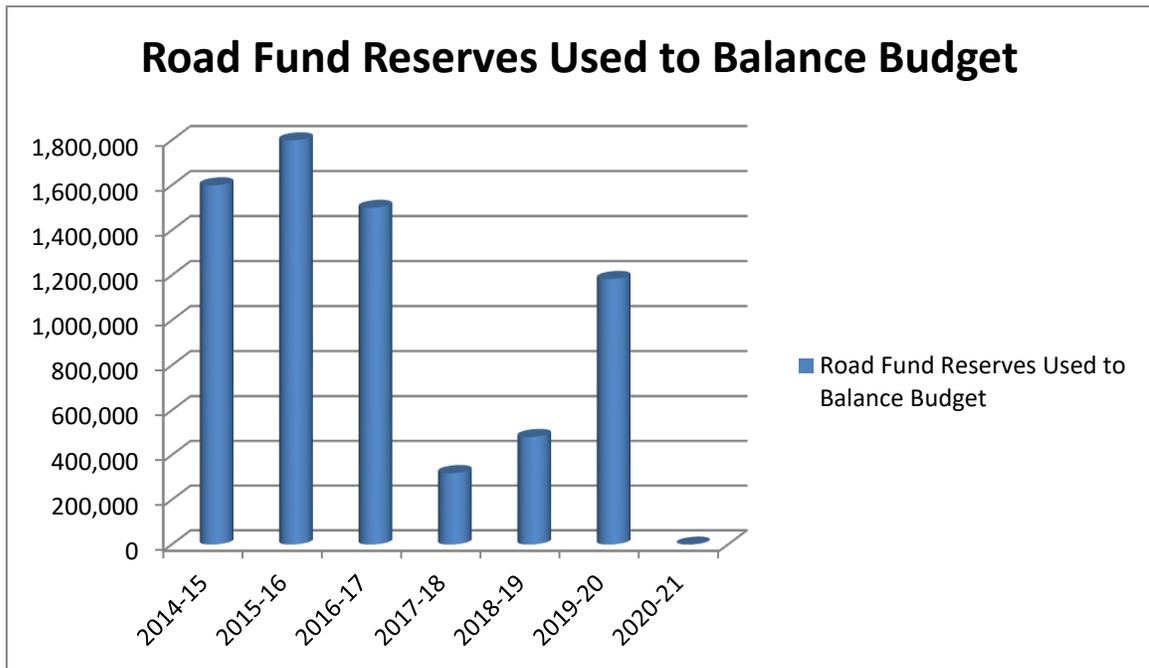
Realizing the county can't rely on revenues beyond their control (such as the Title III funds), the Board began looking for unique revenue sources. The new budget projects new and diversified revenues due to new taxes or ordinances the Board adopted that generate service fees. It also proposes using resources as an enterprise of sorts. For example,

CURRY COUNTY BUDGETS

purchasing equipment other jurisdictions don't have readily available, and then doing the work for them, for a fee. The Board's search for new revenue is on-going; they just authorized another task force to propose new ideas for them to evaluate and consider.



How much of the Road Fund Reserve was used to balance this year's budget? None. The budget was proposed and adopted without relying on the reserves. *This is the first time in the study period the county did not need the Road Fund Reserves to balance the County Budget.*



How much of my money is used to pay for county services? Census data shows the average home in Curry County costs \$251,500 (U.S. Census, 2018). That means \$150.80 of your taxes go to support county government. *Basically, you pay \$10.56 a year for 911, road patrol, and other services offered by the Sheriff, and \$.45 towards the Commissioners budget.*