

2019 Budget Hearing:

To review 2018: The “Year of Recovery”

The County was able to restore staffing and give cost of living raises. Most budgets still remained at the 2016 level in order to help return the County to a more stable financial position. Thanks to the passing of the Law Enforcement Sales tax the County is in a more stable financial position. We were able to repay fund transfers and start rebuilding its reserves. We did have 4 budget amendments during the year due to increase revenues and unforeseen expense that come up throughout the year.

Sales tax was less than a one percent more than last previous year. Use tax and property tax revenues were also up.

We were able to finish out the year with a balance in General Revenue of \$698,817.03; a balance in Law Enforcement Sale Tax fund of \$264,505.25; and \$1,389,656.60 in the Justice Center Fund.

2019 is looking to be a year to rebuild.

In this year’s budget the Commission has focus on the employees of the County. The Commission has put in 2% to 4% increase in wages for the employees and 2 new positions in the sheriff’s department.

The historic high of 4% raises is to make us more competitive in the job market. They are increasing funding this year to the Prosecuting Attorney’s office for additional staffing needs. Also they are giving additional funding this year to the Sheriff for staffing needs.

The Commission has budgeted \$140,000 for the Sheriff’s Department to replace patrol cars. In addition to this 100,000 is in the budget for Software upgrades for the Jail and 67,150 for new security system in Justice Center and Jail. These two expenses will be coming from the Capital Projects fund.

The County is looking for a year of conservative growth.