STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS **SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020**
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, June 25, 2020, with eleven members present on line: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Alvey, Mayor/CEO presiding. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk; Emerick Cross, Melissa Sieben, and Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator's; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Manager; and Michael Peterson, Assistant Budget Manager.

MAYOR ALVEY said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that due to COVID-19, we have individuals attending remotely. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so that the public participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants in his current guidance from Kansas Attorney General.

MAYOR ALVEY called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Philbrook, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Alvey.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Thursday, June 25, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. by way of ZOOM for the Administrator's Budget Presentation.

Due to COVID-19 the public will be able to observe or listen to the meeting live on YouTube or UGTV or through ZOOM.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Mayor Alvey said, Mr. Bach, following your presentation of the budget, we'll reconvene for a COVID-19 update and a presentation regarding Fire Department funding, but first up, Mr. Bach.

Doug Bach, County Administrator, said this is our annual session where I come in and present to you where we're at with the budget. I feel like this is a year where we've had a lot of opportunity to chime in and go through it. We've done three budget workshops already. That's typically kind of the number of budget workshops we do after the budget is presented. I think that's enabled me, in a very difficult budget year, to work through this and get a lot of input from the Commission. While it's built, and typically is presented as my proposed budget, it is one where I think the Commission has weighed in heavy as we've gone through this and where we're at.

We start with this lovely streetscape of downtown. I think the budget staff went through and put this on. I think they did a good job with that.

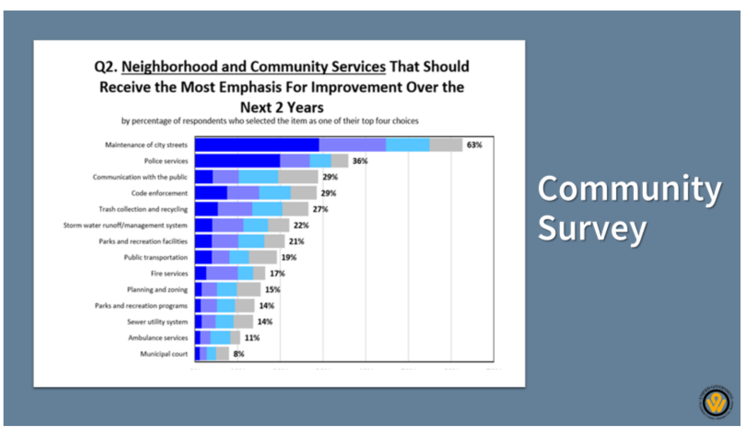
So, this year, as we start to work on our budget, I always like to look at what's going on in the community. Obviously, COVID-19 has had a big impact on where we're at. It's had an impact on the health of our residents, it's restricted business operations, loss revenues, high unemployment across the community, so it is definitely a theme we have to consider when we're looking at what's going on.

With this happening, we had a lot of projects moving forward in our downtown area, our Merc Grocery Store is scheduled to open later part of July. Our BLVD Lofts project is underway. The Lanier project is still scheduled to move forward and come in and start the demolition of the old Reardon Center, build a new meeting space and then build new apartments in the area. The YMCA Lofts is underway, and as you all were talking before the meeting, our Juvenile Services Center looks fantastic and it'll be opening in about the next 1.5 months.

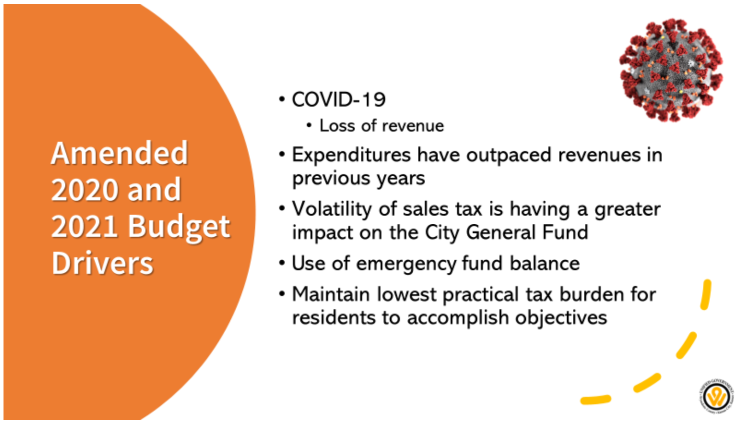
On the broader scheme, infrastructure is underway out of Turner Diagonal & I-70, taking out the old spaghetti loop that's been there for some time. We're putting in a diverging diamond. It will be a much more efficient way and it also opens up that corridor for new development with the Turner Logistics Park being what is going to come in place there.

Also, Leavenworth Road 2nd Phase, is underway. The BPU is finishing up a lot of their right-a-way work this year. We'll be starting in the fall to come in with the road construction for that second phase of 63rd to 78th and as we see year after year, KU continues to grow and work on their main campus area.

This year, like we have since we put out our goals, we take a hard look at what's going on with all the different Commission goals as they are laid out on this wheel and determine where we're spending our money and try to make sure they focus back into it. Last fall as the Commission went through this, we added an area, Improve Infrastructure. It's always been a highlight for the Commission that that is something we want to do. We just didn't have it called out specifically. It was kind of woven into the other areas, so that is specifically put on because it's a high area of importance. With this,

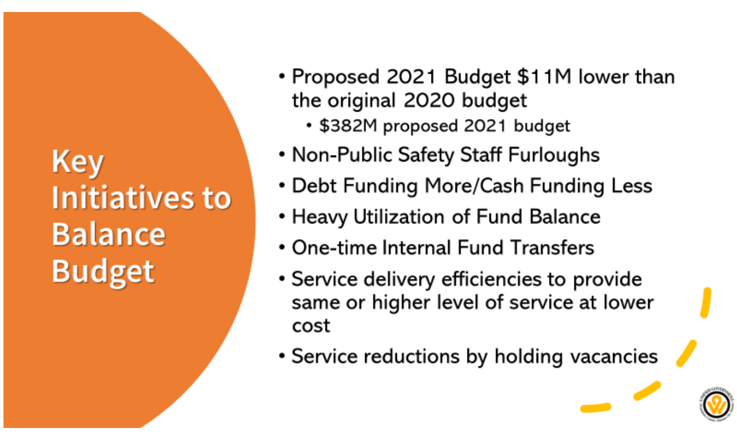


We look at the survey that we did last winter, and note, that maintaining city streets is the area of highest importance that comes back from our residents. As we go through this and say okay, how does this rank, I always want to focus on areas that are not only one of our Commission goals, but also an area that our residents say this is the highest. That dark blue area indicates where people thought it was the most important and you can see, with the exception of police services, it ranked in that one category higher than everything else did in all the other cumulative categories, so we try to maintain a focus on city streets even in difficult financial years.



Alright, so the drivers for this year's budget, again, the COVID and its impact on our revenue. The fact that expenditures have outpaced revenues in previous years, as we came into the 2020 Budget, we were already working from a perspective that we were touching our fund balance and knew we had to reduce our expenditures coming into this year as we really didn't have the money to start adding new expenses in even before our revenues fell down.

The volatility of sales tax is having a greater impact on the city sales tax on the City fund than it does on the others because there's more reliance of the City on sales tax than other areas. We're using our emergency fund balance to help get through this year with the immediate impact and then into next year. Of course, we do this while trying to maintain the lowest practical tax burden for our residents to accomplish our objectives.

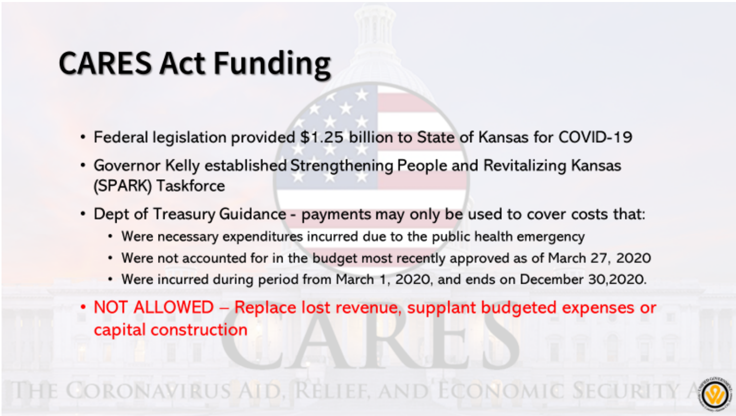


Key initiatives to balance this budget; overall, our Proposed 2021 Budget is $11M than the original 2020 Budget that we started this year with, so this budget is proposed at $382M. It's still a lot of money to work with, but it is significantly down considering a lot of things still cost more and we're lower than where we started this year before we even reduced 2020 Budget. You're all aware that we're getting furloughs for our non-public safety staff. We're debt funding more in this year's budget and I know that's not the direction this Commission wanted me to go. We've been trying to cash fund a lot more projects and reduce our reliance on debt, but in order to keep doing things, particularly big projects, we had to put more in debt.

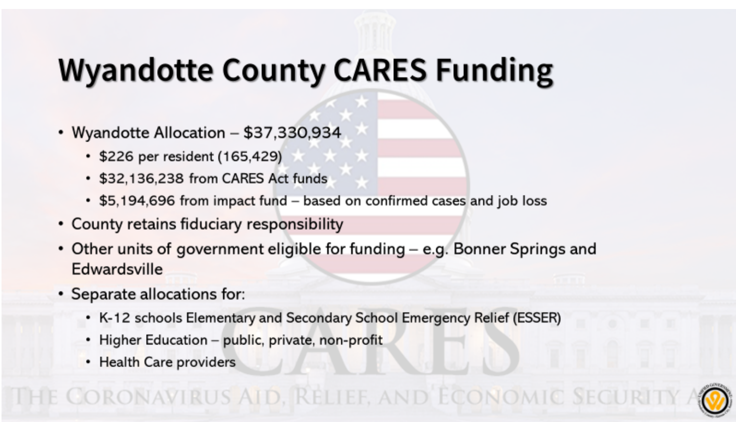
There is heavy utilization of our fund balance to get through this year and we have a one-time Internal Fund transfers. We don't really recommend these as they hurt us going forward and we need to pay these back in time, so that just puts additional burden on outyears. In order to get through this year and balance the budget, we have to make a couple of these actions.

Our service delivery efficiencies are in place to provide same or higher level service at a lower cost. However, we are seeing some service reductions because we're holding almost 300 vacancies right now amongst our staff.

Before I jump into the budget, I just want to talk about the CARES Act a little. This is one that we're having to deal with, and we feel good about it because we are seeing additional revenue come back to the local government. We want to explain how it works because some people probably think, oh, you're getting $37M, that ought to take care of your budget woes.

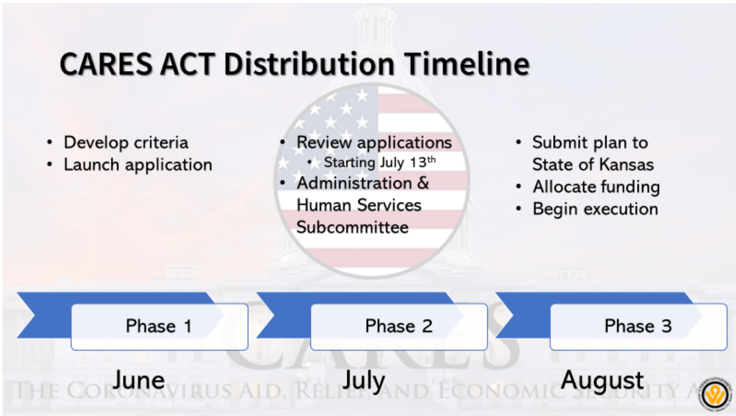


First, this is legislation that put $1.25B to the State of Kansas for COVID-19. Governor Kelly established a task force to allocate this money. Key's to that point are the ones that I've highlighted in red. This is not allowed for us to replace lost revenue, so if any sales tax are down, we cannot use it for that purpose, supplant budgeted expenses or Capital construction costs. So, this is not money we can use to fill shortfalls in revenue. This is only money we can use to take on additional expenses we incurred because of COVID.



As I noted, we were allocated $37.3M. This is $226 per resident. The CARES Act funds accounted for $32M of this and then we received a greater allocation because of the Impact fund because of the confirmed cases of COVID and job loss in our county.

Other units of government; we are the fiduciary of this money, but other units of government such as Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, the City of Kansas City, Kansas; all can apply for this money as well as other taxing entities, the schools, higher education, Community College along with non-profits can apply for this money from us as well.



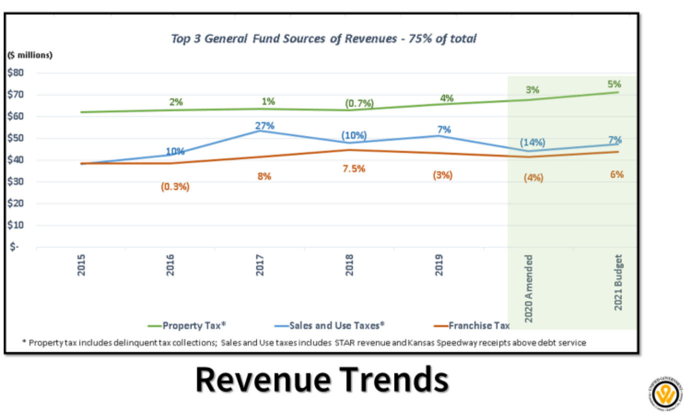
The criteria for this is one where we develop the criteria. We launch the application which we plan to do Monday of next week and we'll put it out on our website. We'll get this back, review the applications and do that in short order. This is a subcommittee from our Administration & Human Services Committee, which is where the Mayor assigned it to, to move quickly. The subcommittee will look through these applications that come in and then we have to submit a plan back to the State of Kansas by the middle of August.

So, when you consider $37M, some will be a little more straightforward to be actual expenses. Others will be new ideas, programs that people are putting forward, but these plans all have to be reviewed, gone through, submit to the State of Kansas, get approval, allocate the funding and expend all the money by the end of this year. It's going to be a herculean effort really to move through this and do it. I'm, confident we will, but it will take a lot of staff time to be on top of this and commitment from the Commission as we go through and evaluate the application as they come in.

That being said, we'll move forward to talk a little bit about what's in this budget and details of that, but I didn't want to go into it without touching so people understood at least what's going on with the CARES budget.

As we look at revenue, I'm going to turn this over to our Chief Financial Officer Kathleen VonAchen and let her take it from here.

Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer, said the General Fund has three major revenue sources that we've discussed previously; property tax, sales tax, and franchise fees. The first, property tax, is doing well. We have an increase in property valuation and the Proposed 2021 Budget recommends leaving the mill rate at the same rate that we have currently in 2020. The sales tax, we are estimating a dramatic decrease across all the City funds that receive sales tax. Franchise fees consumption was down somewhat in 2019 and we expect that consumption to continue to go down as the major commercial businesses were closed during the shelter in place period the last few months.

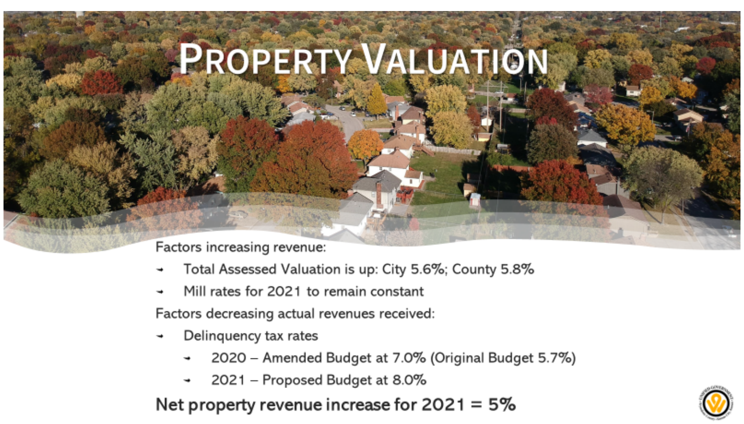


This is a graph we showed you before. It shows the performance of these three revenue sources since 2015 and the far right-hand side is a list of all of those same sources and what we're estimating as part of the Amended 2020 Budget and 2021 Budget. We have property tax increasing 3% for 2020 and 5% for 2021.

The Property Tax, although the evaluations are doing well, we have—well I will talk about that later, but we have adjusted the delinquency rate upward to accommodate the expectation that collections for property tax will be down due to COVID.

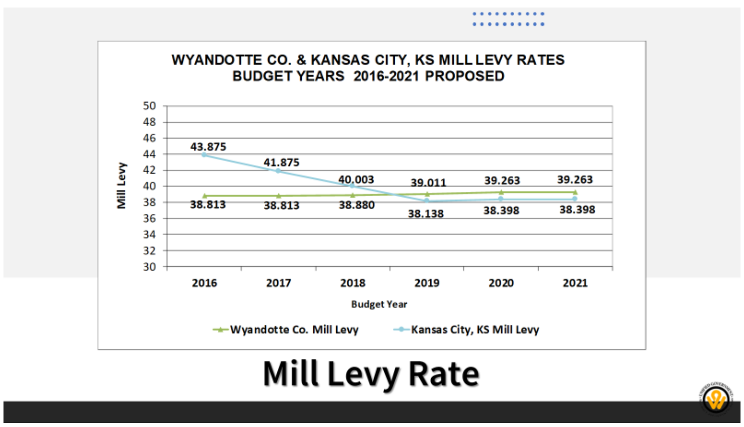
Sales Tax which increased by 7% in 2019 is estimated to drop 14% in 2020 and this is Sales and Use Tax, so that's a mix of declining based sales tax but increasing Compensating Use Tax which is often tied to transactions related to online sales and deliveries. We estimate that's going to be increasing, so as a result, the net is around a 14% decline. In 2021 we expect the sales tax to increase by 7% from that low of 14% reduction in the prior year, so we aren't expecting sales tax to recover to the 2019 level which was above $50M.

Franchise Tax, we saw, as I mentioned, a decline in consumption in 2019 of 3% and we expect further decline of 4% due to the delay in collections and then a lower consumption level related to the closer of those commercial properties, but we expect it to rebound at the 6% level in 2021.

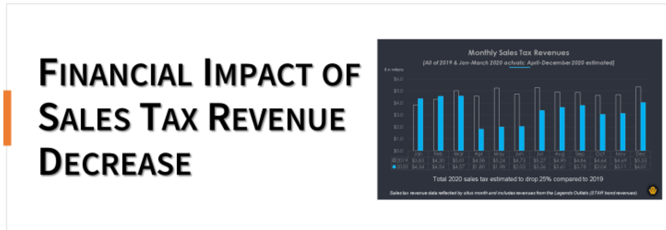


Property Valuation is a major revenue source for the General Funds and total evaluation for 2021 is, as was certified by the UG Clerk, at 5.6% greater than the prior year for the City and 5.8% for the County. Although our appraisers several months ago informed us that real property is on average increasing by 8%, we also have to factor in the evaluation related to personal property which is declining as well as the state assessed utility property and those additional values that are added to our total assessed value brought our assessed value total down. The UG Clerk certified that these amounts are—rather than the 8% that was discussed previously, they're at the 5.6 and 5.8% level. The recommendation is, again, to keep the mill rate for 2021 at the same level as 2020.

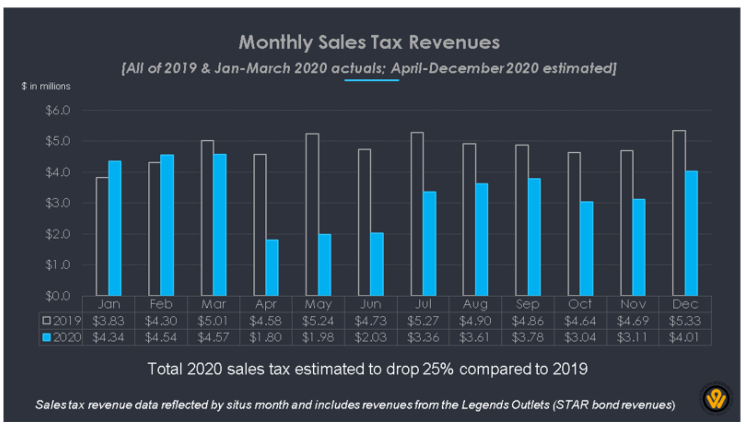
We have adjusted the delinquency factor. That's a factor that we include in our revenue estimate for property taxpayers that are delayed in their payment of property taxes. In the original budget it was set at 5.7% and we've increased that to 7% due to looking at actual collections through June as well as anticipating that there will be a lag in collection in the remainder of the year because of COVID. We're anticipating that lag will continue in 2021 at the 8% delinquency level, so given all of these factors we're estimating that property tax revenue will increase in 2021 by 5%.



Another factor in determining the property tax route, revenue is actually the mill rates and here's an example of the mill rates that have been set since 2016. You notice the blue line is the city of Kansas City, Kansas mill rates, both the City General Fund and the City's Bond & Interest fund. From 2016 to 2019 there was an approved—you all approved a 2 mill reduction to those years, so you can see that it's declining from the 43.875 mill rate down to 38.813 and we're recommending that mill rate remain constant in 2020 and 2021. The County mill rate has remained the same throughout this period.

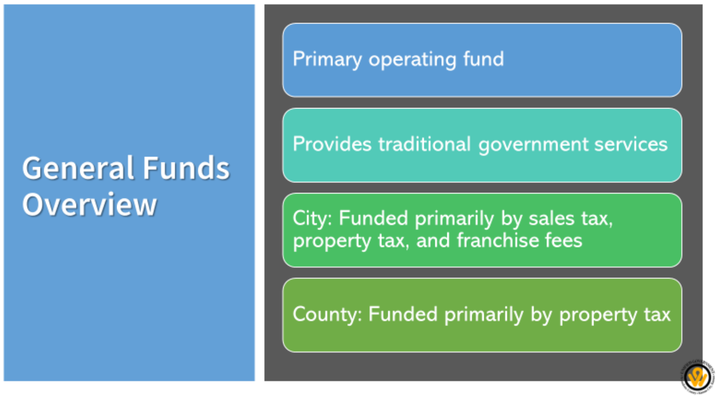


One of greatest impacts because of COVID was the dramatic impact on our sales tax.



This is monthly sales tax for the entire City, and it includes all of the STAR Bond and includes all of the Specials, which are for Dedicated Sales Tax and for our EMS, so, all of this, including the 1% from the City and the 1% from the County. This is all the money collected in retail sales, not Use, just retail sales and on a monthly basis.

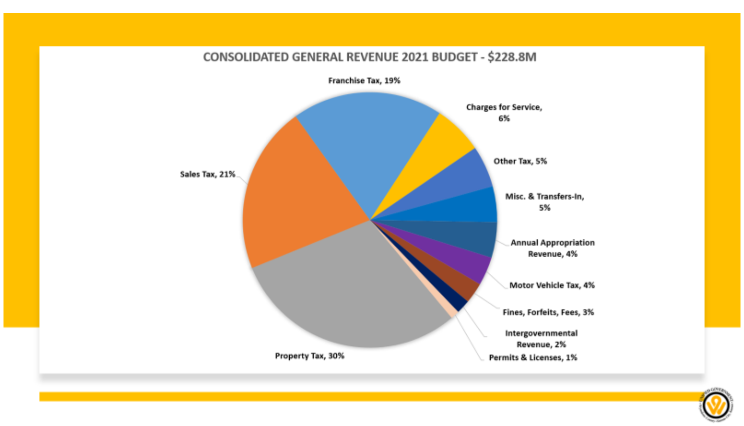
The blue lines are what we're anticipating for this current fiscal year 2020. Some of the data is actuals. For example, January, February, March, April is our actual—or March—actually just February, March, blue lines are actuals and then the blue bars from April to December are our estimates. Next to those blue bars are what we collected actually last year, so you can tell the dramatic decrease for each of the ones that we're anticipating as part of the sales tax estimate.



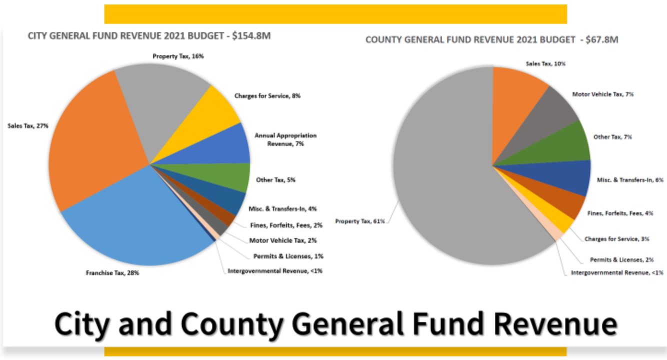
Now I'm going to turn it over to the Deputy Chief Financial Officer Debbie Jonscher and she's going to talk about the General Fund Overview.

Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, said the next few slides, we're just going to give you an overview of how the General Funds look. The General Fund is the primary operating fund for the Unified Government, and it provides traditional government services including Public Safety services, Public Works, Courts and other general and administrative functions of the government.

The City General Fund is funded primarily with sales tax, property tax and franchise taxes and the County General Fund is funded primarily with property tax.



This graph is showing the revenue budget for 2021 for the Consolidated General Fund and it totals $228.8M. The Consolidated General Fund includes the City, the County and the Parks and this graph does show the three top revenues that Kathleen had in her graph showing that property tax is 30%, sales tax is 21% and franchise tax is 19% as well as we have the other revenues that also contribute to the General Fund.



This next slide shows a breakdown between the City and County General Fund. On the left side is the City General Fund with a total budget for 2021 of $154.8M. As you can see, the breakout between the franchise tax, sales tax and property tax. On the County General Fund side, the budget is $67.8M on the County and this one shows that 61% of this fund accounts for property tax revenues.

When we talk about the reduction in sales tax due to the pandemic, we can see here how much more reliant the City's General Fund is on sales tax—was somebody saying something? **Mr. Bach** said I think you were just getting feedback. **Ms. Jonscher** said I was just saying that this graph shows how much more reliant the City General Fund is on sales than the County side because it only accounts for—sales tax only accounts for 10% of revenue on the County side.

	FY 2020 ORIGINAL BUDGET	FY 2020 AMENDED BUDGET	FY 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET
Revenues	158,363,391	140,628,394	152,531,984
Transfers-In	2,256,000	9,356,000	2,256,000
Subtotal: Sources	**160,619,391**	**149,984,394**	**154,787,984**
Expenditures	162,721,732	156,818,738	156,857,101
Transfers-Out	802,903	364,040	399,040
Subtotal: Uses	**163,524,635**	**157,182,778**	**157,256,141**
Net Change in Fund Balance	(2,905,244)	(7,198,384)	(2,468,158)
Cash Basis Ending Fund Balance	**$ 14,737,897**	**$ 11,221,648**	**$ 8,753,490**
CAFR Ending Fund Balance	**$ 26,077,289**	**$ 23,490,668**	**$ 21,022,511**

City General Fund

Now we'll just look at the revenues and expenses. This first slide is for the City General Fund and you can see the first column there is the 2020 original budget. We had revenues budgeted at $160.6M and expenditures at $163.5M, so we were expecting to drop the fund balance by just a little over $2.9M with an ending cash balance of $14.7M.

We have the middle column adjust that. We now have the 2020 Amended Budget and you can see that we dropped revenues down to $149.9M and expenditures have dropped to $157.1M. This results in a net change of $7.1M reduction to the fund balance giving us an ending cash balance of $11.2M.

For 2021, revenues are up from the 2020 Amended, but are not at the level that they were for the original 2020, so we have revenues of $154.7M and expenditures of $157.2M with a net change of $2.4M for a fund balance of $8.7M.

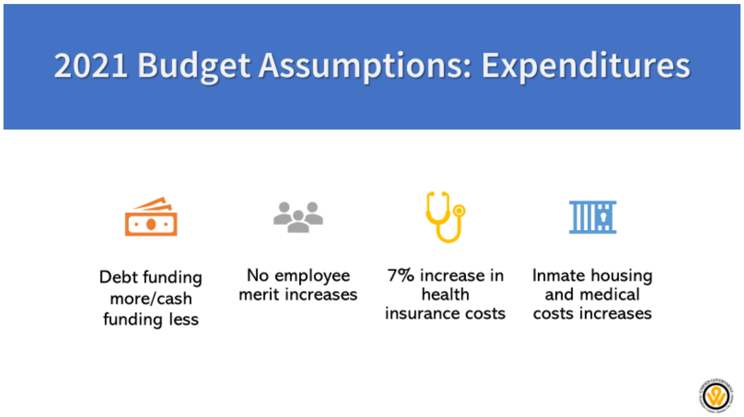
County General Fund

	FY 2020 ORIGINAL BUDGET	FY 2020 AMENDED BUDGET	FY 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET
Revenues	66,277,968	63,617,562	67,822,765
Transfers-In	0	0	0
Subtotal: Sources	**66,277,968**	**63,617,562**	**67,822,765**
Expenditures	65,322,495	65,867,544	68,499,857
Transfers-Out	1,560,000	1,360,000	1,560,000
Subtotal: Uses	**66,882,495**	**67,227,544**	**70,059,857**
Net Change in Fund Balance	(604,527)	(3,609,982)	(2,237,092)
Cash Basis Ending Fund Balance	**$ 5,083,680**	**$ 5,479,729**	**$ 3,242,637**
CAFR Ending Fund Balance	**$ 6,768,960**	**$ 7,349,335**	**$ 5,112,243**
17% Target Reserve ➡	10%	11%	7%

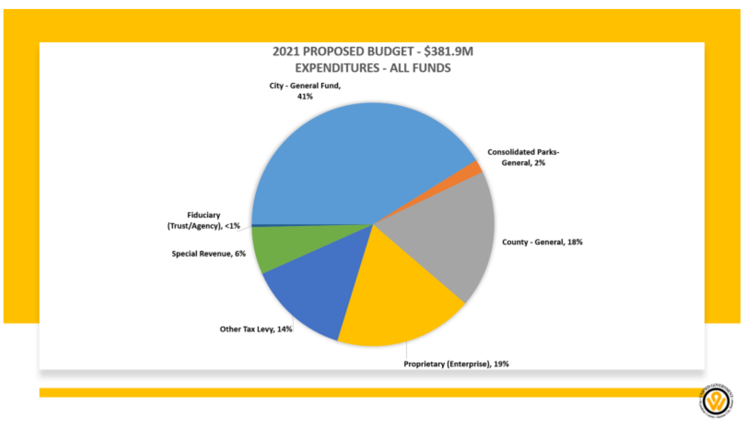
This is the same information for the County General Fund. We see that in the original budget we had $66M in revenues and $66M in expenditures and our net change was a reduction of just a little over $600K with a cash balance of just over $5M. In the Amended, we have dropped the revenues several million. We're at $63.6M, expenditures are at $67.2M and now we are showing a net change in the fund balance of about $3.6M and our fund balance would be $5.4M.

For 2021 our Proposed Budget has revenues at $67.8M, expenditures at just a little over $70M and a net change in the fund balance of 2.2 for a cash balance of 3.2 at the end of 2021.

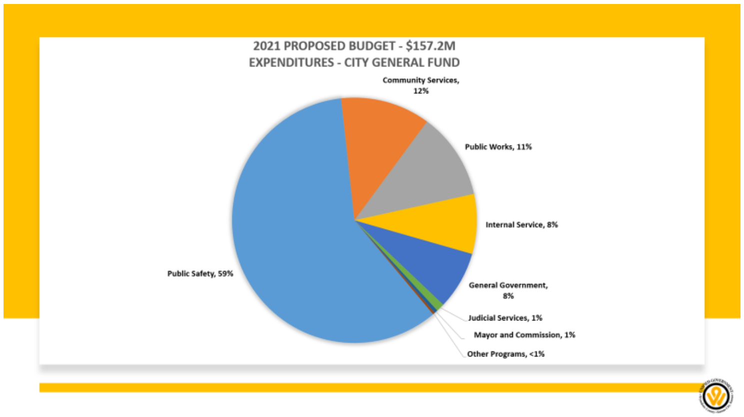
Now I will turn this over to Reginald Lindsey, our Budget Manager, to talk about expenditures.



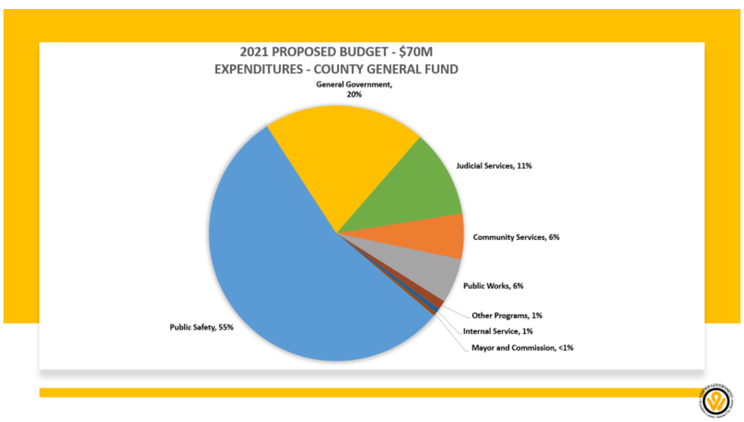
Reginald Lindsey, Budget Manager, said I'm going to concentrate on expenditure side of the budget, so I'm going to start out discussing 2021 budget assumptions. We funded more with debt this year and less in cash as we shifted away from cash. In Capital we moved it over into debt to kind of help balance the budget. We had no employee merit increases, a 7% increase in health insurance costs and then we did have a jump in inmate housing and medical costs.



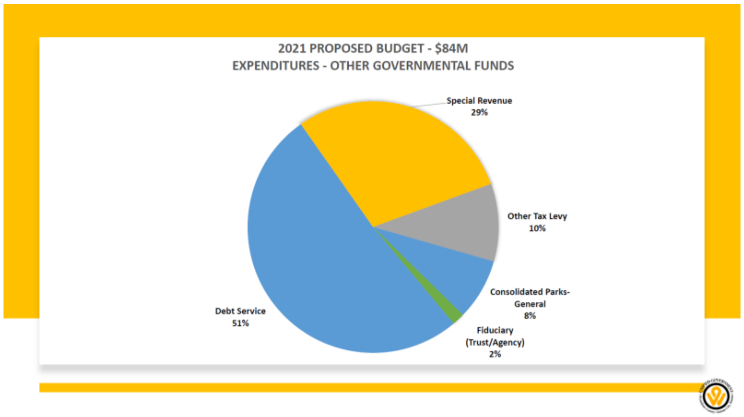
Our total expenditure budget is a $382M balanced budget where revenue and expenditures are accounted for. This budget funds 29 state certified funds and provides over 200 services to the community. Some of the fund that we have in this $382M budget that is shown on this pie chart is City General Fund which is a $157M budget. Then we have the County General Fund which is the second largest fund at a $70M budget and then our third largest fund is the Sewer System at $52M.



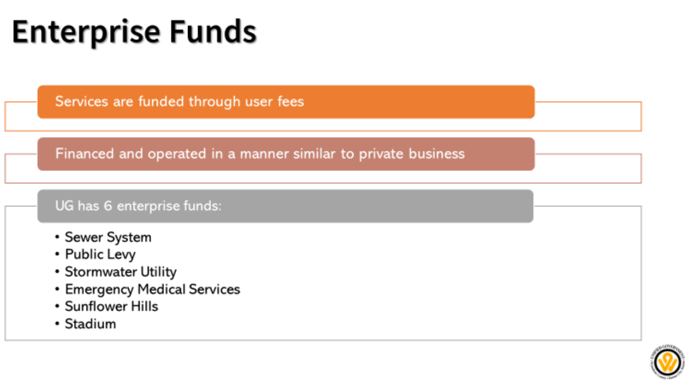
Here I'm going to drill down into our $157M City General Fund and look at the different functional areas. Public Safety is our largest piece of the pie at 59% which is about $92M. Second largest piece of the pie is Community Service which is 12% of the pie at about $19M and there we had departments which is Transit, Neighborhood Resource Center and Urban Planning. Our third largest piece of the pie is Public Works at about $17M budget.



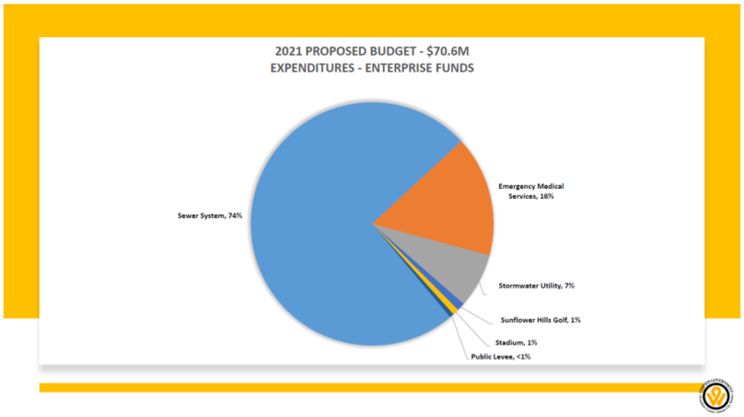
Here we're drilling down into our $70M County General Fund and look at it's different functional areas. Here we have Public Safety, the largest piece of the pie is 55% which is about $39M and it includes County Public Safety which includes Sheriff, Community Corrections and Emergency Management. The second largest piece of the pie is General Government which is $13M and that consists of Legal, Appraisers, Finance which are more so our internal departments that help run the operation and there's other departments within here also. The third largest piece of the pie for the County General Fund is Judicial Services. It's an $8M budget and includes departments such as the District Attorney and District Court.



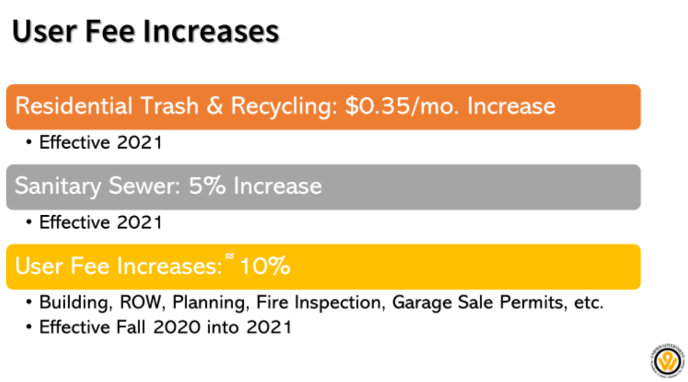
We have other funds beside the City and the County General Fund. They're included on this slide. One of the biggest ones, there is a Debt Service Fund which is about $42M. Then we have our Special Revenue Funds which is a category of funds that total $24M, one of the funds in there is a Dedicated Sales Tax which is a $9.8M budget. Then we can see we also have Consolidated Parks which is 8% of the pie and it's a $6.6M budget.



Within the Unified Government we also have a group of funds that we call Enterprise Funds and where the funds are funded from user fees for services they provide. These funds are financed and operated in a manner similar to the private business. Within our Enterprise Fund we've got six different funds which are the Sewer System, Public Levy, Stormwater Utility, EMS Fund, Sunflower Hills and the Stadium.



For the six funds they total up to $70M. The largest fund is our Sewer System, a $52M budget and then our EMS Fund is $11.2M budget and next we have our Stormwater Utility which is a $5M budget.



Within the proposed budget, there are a few user fee increases. The first one is the residential trash and recycling which will go up 35 cents effective in 2021. Next we have Sanitary Sewer, a 5% increase that is tied to a Consent Decree between the Unified Government and EPA and that'll be effective in 2021. Then we have other various user fee increases that total 10% which include Buildings, ROW, Planning, Fire Inspection, Garage Sale Permits and a few others.

Now I will turn it over to Gordon Criswell, our Assistant County Administrator.

Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator, said I'm going to talk about some budget highlights and several of the pieces of the Commission goals that were approved starting with reduction of blight. Contemplated in this budget is funds for Abatement Team equipment. Demolition to improve efficiencies while allowing for reduced costs.

Not funded in this area of the budget are parks, all of our seasonal positions including our seasonal mowers and laborers. Those will not be funded in this proposed budget nor will the second Abatement Team be funded which will again reflect the impact of our reductions in revenue and our ability to address issues.

In the area of Public Safety and Perception of Safety; the Police Department Body Camera Initiative will include some new civilian positions to initiate that piece and we are starting to purchase the body camera equipment. The Sheriff's Department, you'll see five additional court services officers and as we prepare for opening of the new Juvenile Services Facility. The Pierson Park, we'll have money for the consolidated fire station.

As mentioned earlier, we've had some increased costs in our Inmate Medical and this budget reflects that increase in the cost of caring for our inmates. We're also contemplating the purchase of an x-ray machine for one of our County buildings and with the coming on line of our new Juvenile Services facility we're going to add two maintenance positions to take care of that building.

We are continuing to move forward with the District Attorney's archiving and digitizing program and so there is money budgeted for the continuation of that project that is really taking longer than we contemplated.

We've also budgeted funds for patrol vehicles in the Police Department as well as fire trucks and ambulances over in the Fire Department. Unfortunately, not funded in this year's proposed budget is 24 police officer positions, reduction in building security, and reduction in our Public Safety Building Maintenance funds, and not funding the District Court courtroom improvements.

In the area of Improve Community Health; leading the charge in that funding category, this year, is everything related to the pandemic. We've budgeted additional money for contract tracing, personal protection supplies, personnel to help manage response to COVID and additional dollars for COVID testing across the community.

We're also budgeting at Clifton Park and City Park some improvements that will be funded with Community Development dollars and this is part of our NRSA program. We're going to add a new trail network which will be funded out of our Tourism Fund and the Health Department will be getting a negative pressure room.

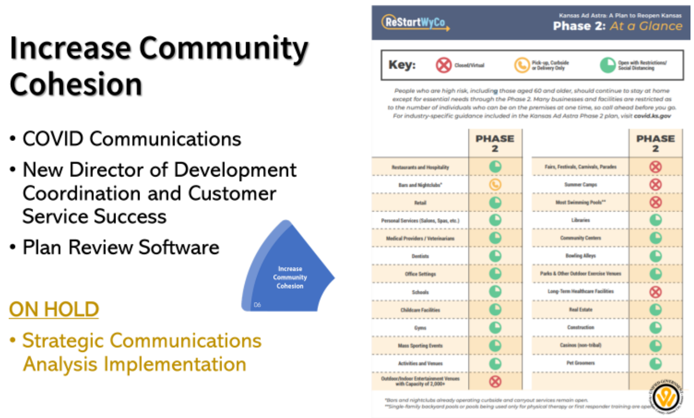
Not funded in this year's budget is our pool and spray parks. They will remain closed for 2020 and there will be reduced funding in 2020 for other recreational programs.

I'll now turn this over to Assistant County Administrator Alan Howze.

Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, said the next area we'll talk about is increasing economic prosperity in the community and as this year's budget shows the continued need to broaden and diversify the tax base and support businesses in the community. The first item here is continuing the Small Business Grant/Loan Program. It includes $50K in direct grants to small businesses and also includes a loan program with AltCap which is a funding company locally and that's leveraging $1M for Wyandotte County businesses so that in conjunction with COVID relief efforts. Also, as part of that KCATA received a grant through the CARES Act that fully funds transit and maintains those operations for residents.

Not funded is Economic Development Professional Services, so those are being reduced, as well as cutting back on Master Planning studies that serve master plans in different parts of the community.

Next area, Improving Customer Service and Communication; certainly, has been a focus for the Commission and there are several projects and initiatives in the budget, I continue that work. There's the Enterprise Resource Planning Software project which combines Finance and HR software to support the overall operations of the government and the remote work capabilities. As likewise, with the Accela software that is used by Planning and by NRC to make their work both more productive and easier to do remote and field work. Then there's a Diversity and Inclusion Study program that is also included as part of this budget.



The next area is around Increasing Community Cohesion. There's certainly been a lot of focus this spring, and this will continue on COVID related communications, and letting the community know what's going on with COVID and how they can take steps to protect themselves and their families and likewise, that will continue. There's a new Director of Development Coordination and Customer Service Success and that role is aimed at streamlining and supporting the development of new businesses and making it easier for people to start businesses and get through the application process.

Then an Electronic Plan Review Software. This project was in motion, funded by the Commission, and this allows for electronic review of plans and, again, accelerating and streamlining the plan review process.

What was not included was the implementation of the Strategic Communications Plan that the Commission funded last year in the 2019 Budget.

The next area is Improving Infrastructure. As noted, this was an area of focus that was added by the Commission through the budget conversations that have been held over the last year. There are several items in the budget related to improving infrastructure including the addition of three new positions at the Wolcott Treatment Plant as that comes on line. There is sewer infrastructure maintenance work that continues, likewise with Street Preservations and Repairs. There is an intersection project to redo the intersection of Hutton Road & Leavenworth near the new fire station on Hutton Road. There is equipment in there related to snow removal, spreaders, and pre-treatments. There are some fleet vehicles in here, all be it at reduced numbers, and some facility improvements including adding AC to community centers which will make them usable all four seasons.

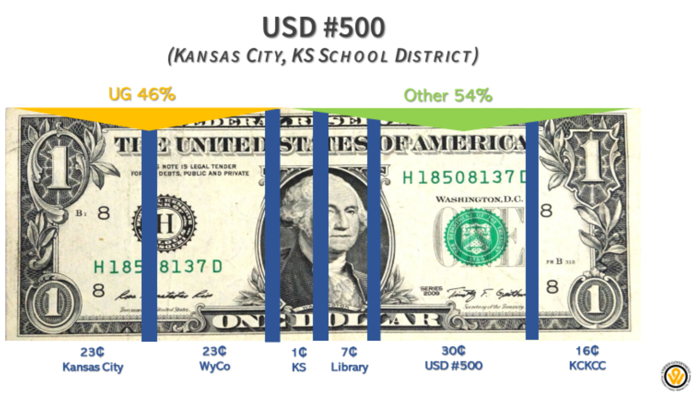
Not included in this is a significant reduction in the number of positions in Streets, so you can see that's 19 positions fewer. There is a reduction in Annual Street Maintenance budgeted, there is a reduction of vehicles purchases, deferred facilities maintenance funding, decreased ROW mowing and reduced City Hall facility improvements.

With that, I will turn it back to County Administrator Doug Bach to talk about Outside Agency Funding.

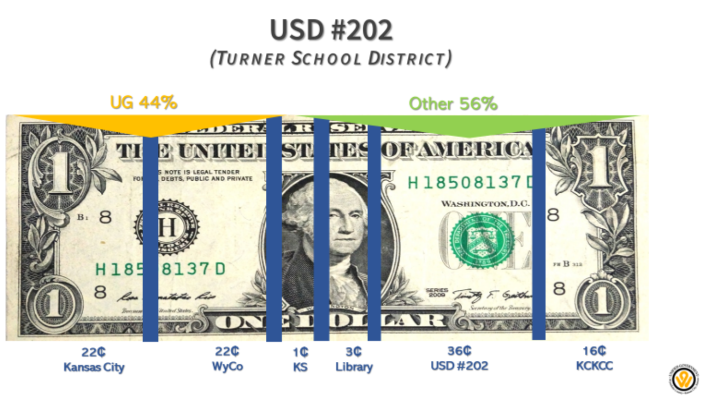
Mr. Bach said thank you team for going through the details in the budget. As you can see while we've had to remove many things from the budget, there are still a lot of our core things that we focus on to get done every year. Unfortunately, we've had to do things with a lot of one-year type funding to get through this year and a little bit more on debt, but we're still able to keep that focus in place.

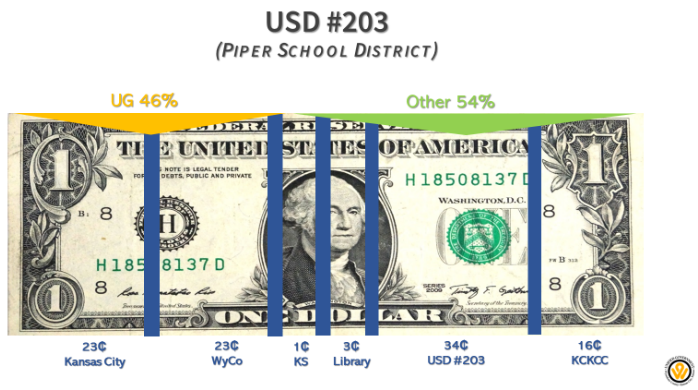
As well as with our outside agencies, we put funding through each year and they're noted here on this page varying levels of funds which goes to these different groups like I'll point out on the bottom, we give about $45K to Soil Conservation. There is $1.3M in the budget for the Fairfax Industrial Association from the TDD that we have in place for that group. All these are scheduled to be at a level funding. I did not take money away from them or increase any of their funding for the coming year.

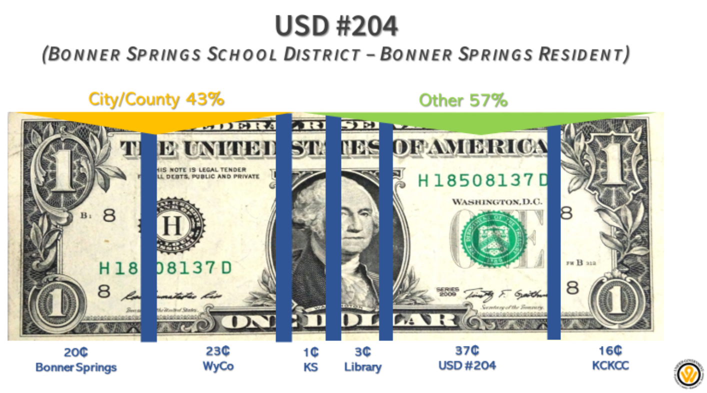
There would be no budget presentation being complete without our showing of the dollar bill to breakout just how the tax dollars are spent across our community.

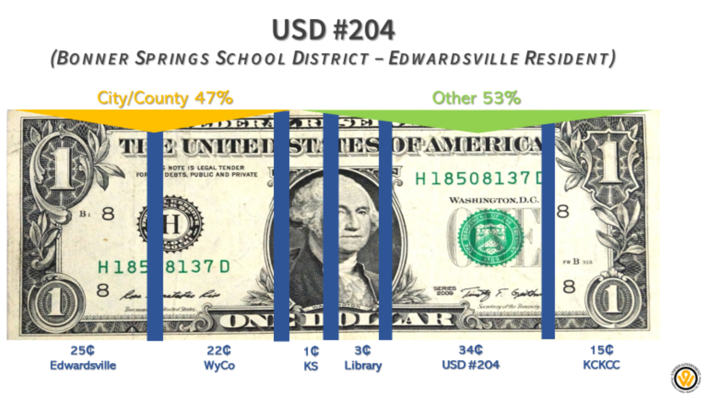


So, for every dollar you spend approximately 46% goes to the Unified Government and 54% goes to the Other taxing entities to the schools, Community College and library in the state of Kansas.





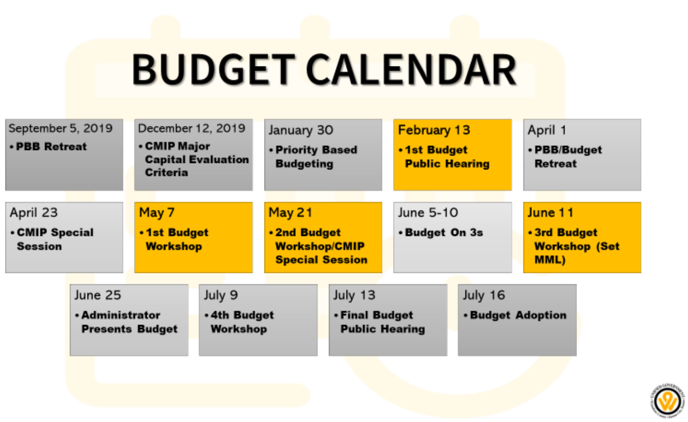




This goes through so anybody can look at this presentation and they can look at it specific to their own school district and they can see just how much goes to if they're in Turner, or USD #500, or Piper School District, or Bonner/Edwardsville. It even breakouts if you're in the city of Bonner or Edwardsville, so it gives the opportunity to see how that's done.

That being said, the summary of this years budget really comes down to the fact that we are doing our services we've laid out, without any kind of mill rate increase, and by taking on a dramatic decrease in the sales tax revenues that we're projecting for this year and next. We will see an overall reduction in city operating expenses, so that's going to affect our performance in delivery of service that we have. It does heavily utilize fund balance and it has a reduction in current personnel costs through efficiencies, furloughs and reductions.

I'm going to continue to invest in priority areas, like I showed you with streets. We still have money in there that we did for debt and some of our equipment and we are more reliant on that debt to make it all happen. That's really kind of how the budget comes in.



I'll also note our budget calendar that's out there, and again, as I said at the beginning of this meeting, this Commission has had a lot of input on this. It seems like no sooner did we finish the budget then we start. Last year we jumped in PBB and started working with that. We had to put a little bit of a pause on that. I wish I had the PBB further along coming into this year as we went through Priority Based Budgeting. We met on Capital several times throughout the course of the year. I've just noted, we had our first public hearing for the public to come in, weigh-in, as to areas they felt were important in February of this year and then we had three different workshops, May 7th, May 21and June 11th for you all to provide feedback to me so I could build the budget that really is one that I feel like is our budget to move forward with as we go through and just verify where things are within that.

With that, I'll note, I believe all the commissioners have been sent a link to this years budget that's online if you did not request a hard copy. It will be put on so if someone goes to our website, it's being put on there now so you can link into the wycokck site and we will link up to it and that will be on later tonight.

I want to thank the Finance and Budget team for all their hard work that they do throughout the year and then really over the course of the last couple of months to get us to the point where we are today.

With that, Mayor, there's the budget and we look forward to working through this in our fourth workshop when the Commission comes together to discuss things again.

Mayor Alvey said I did want to take note of the July 9th workshop. Would you explain why that was moved? **Mr. Bach** said we have Standing Committee meeting on July 6th. That was a scheduled workshop date. After going through agenda review today, we have a lot of items on that agenda that's going to take several hours. I think the projection was that could run in excess of 8:00, so we didn't want to hold the commissioners waiting to do that workshop after that time period, so the Mayor added a workshop for July 9th, and we'll do that at the 5:00 timeframe before the Commission meeting starts at 7:00.

Mayor Alvey said I want to thank Mr. Bach and all of his staff for the many long hours and days that have been put in, in what is clearly a very difficult situation and difficult as well because trying to look forward and project into the future of what the economy will do, what our revenues might be able to do is very uncertain.

I know we will have a COVID-19 update later, in just a few moments, but you know the situation as we look forward, more than half the states in the nation have seen recently significant increase in numbers of cases and we've got to continue to try and halt the spread of virus. Some of the places that reopened, in fact, maybe too early, too aggressively, are starting to see a major uptick. I noticed that Houston, for instance, their hospital beds are at 97% capacity and I believe about 37% of those beds are related to COVID. They have not actually hit their peek yet, so they are contemplating going into emergency mode just to be able to handle the number of cases.

Again, what we're dealing with is a very difficult situation trying to really project where we are in the future. It's so uncertain and anything I read about the COVID virus continues to say it's uncertain. I recently read that a scientist at Harvard in their John Hopkins School of Public Health mentioned that even with most aggressive development of a vaccine, we are looking—kind of facing the same situation through next year at this time. Again, very difficult circumstances. Money is not easy to come by. We are hopeful that perhaps the federal government will come out with another package of stimulus and that it will take into account loss revenues, but that's by no means certain. In fact, there's significant pushback to that idea at the federal level.

Commissioner Bynum said I just have two quick questions. The first one is on the mill rate slide within the presentation, the mill rate from—excuse me, KCK mill rate from 2019 to 2020 showed a difference of about two-tenths of a mill, 38.138 in '19 to 38.398 in '20. I think there is a technical explanation for that given that we, the Commission, did not actually change the mill rate between those two years and I would just like to hear that technical explanation again.

My second question is, with regard to the CARES Act funding, do we think we have an estimated date by which our recommendations would go to the State, be approved, and the funds then be dispersed. Do we think that would be September?

Mr. Bach said, Commissioner, on the CARES funding, we have to have all our recommendations to the State by August 14^{th} or 15^{th}, I believe it's the 14^{th}, so we have to have it all in place by then. I don't know how fast they will have all their approvals done to us, but that's our required timeframe. **Commissioner Bynum** said I guess what I'm thinking is if they turn it back around to us and say we approve of everything you're proposing to fund and funds have to be spent by December 31, you know, you're looking at a three or four month timeframe for entities to spend down all that money, so that's all I was looking for. **Mr. Bach** said I think you will want to start submitting up approvals as soon as we decide how different areas that we're ready to advance.

Mr. Bach said, Kathleen, do you want to answer the question on the mill rate and how that is impacted by the final tax value each year? **Ms. VonAchen** said yes. When you adopt the budget, you adopt in terms of the property tax, you adopt the revenue amount that you seek to generate. So, we use the June certified value supplied by the UG Clerk to determine that calculation. So, yes, we kept the mill rate at that level as you mentioned. But then in October between June and October a number of properties are either—they get processed through the appeals process and so that adjusts the total valuation percentage. So, when the UG Clerk submits her final certified numbers in October, the mill rate is slightly adjusted to a team, the revenue numbers, that are in the budget. Basically, between January and October, all the appeals work decided upon and it resulted in a lower assessed value and so as a result, the mill rate was adjusted upward and that's done by State law, you know, the UG Clerk which they do every year.

Commissioner Kane said I've been told that the turnaround on that is going to be as short as possible. I think once we turn the stuff in and we do it right, I think the money will come in short order and that's what I've been told. **Mayor Alvey** said hallelujah.

Mayor Alvey said seeing no more questions or comments we are adjourned. We will reconvene in ten minutes for the COVID-19 update followed by the presentation regarding Fire Department funding.

Mr. Bach said, Mayor, I would suggest you just recess. That way you can come back in and you don't have to go back through roll call. **Mayor Alvey** said okay, we are recessed.

MAYOR ALVEY RECESSED
THE MEETING AT 5:53 p.m.

Bridgette D. Cobbins
Unified Government Clerk

dt

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS **SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020**
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS) **2nd Meeting – 6:03 p.m.**

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, June 25, 2020, with eleven members present on line: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Alvey, Mayor/CEO presiding. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk; Emerick Cross, Melissa Sieben, and Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator's; Juliann VanLiew, Director of the Health Department; Dr. Allen Greiner, Local Health Officer; Dr. Erin Corriveau, KU Medical Center/Deputy Health Officer; Elizabeth Groenweghe, Chief Epidemiologist; Chief Michael Callahan, Fire Department; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; and Reginald Lindsey, Budget Manager.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Thursday, June 25, 2020, at 6:03 p.m. by way of ZOOM for a COVID-19 update and committee presentation regarding Fire Department funding.

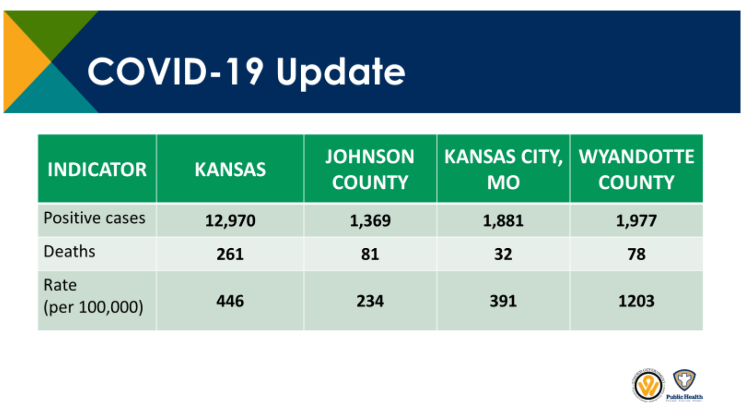
Due to COVID-19 the public will be able to observe or listen to the meeting live on YouTube or UGTV or through ZOOM.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

MAYOR ALVEY said it is 6:03 p.m. We will reconvene and I'll pass this on to Ms. VanLiew.

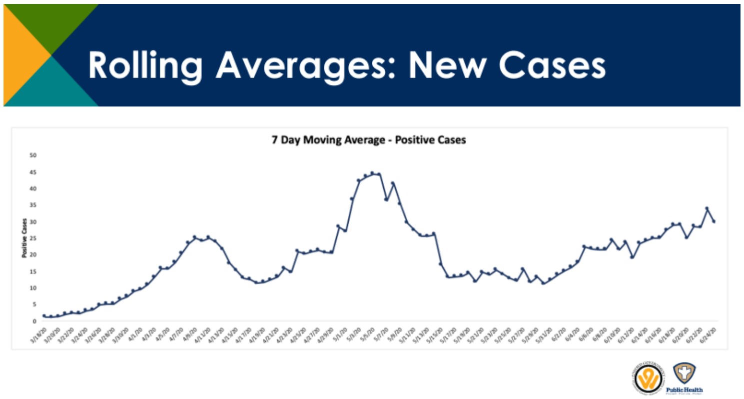
Juliann VanLiew, Director of the Public Health Department, said thank you for the opportunity for the Health Department to come and give you a COVID update again this evening. It's been a few weeks. We're going to give you an update to previous updates. We'll walk through the data; what we're seeing in the trends and a couple next steps of interventions we're thinking about within the Health Department.

I also have with me tonight Dr. Greiner and Dr. Corriveau as well as Elizabeth Groenweghe who is our Chief Epidemiologist.

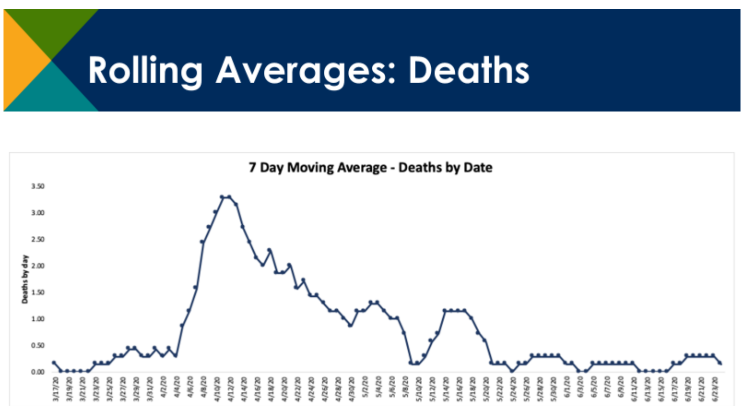


INDICATOR	KANSAS	JOHNSON COUNTY	KANSAS CITY, MO	WYANDOTTE COUNTY
Positive cases	12,970	1,369	1,881	1,977
Deaths	261	81	32	78
Rate (per 100,000)	446	234	391	1203

High level numbers, you can see our positive cases is actually—this slide was updated yesterday, so as of today we're just over 2,000 cases within Wyandotte County but our rate per 100,000 is sitting right around 1,200 cases. Again, that's higher than what we're seeing in Kansas and in surrounding counties. Reaching just over the 2,000 case mark also makes us now the highest cases of all counties within the state of Kansas unfortunately.

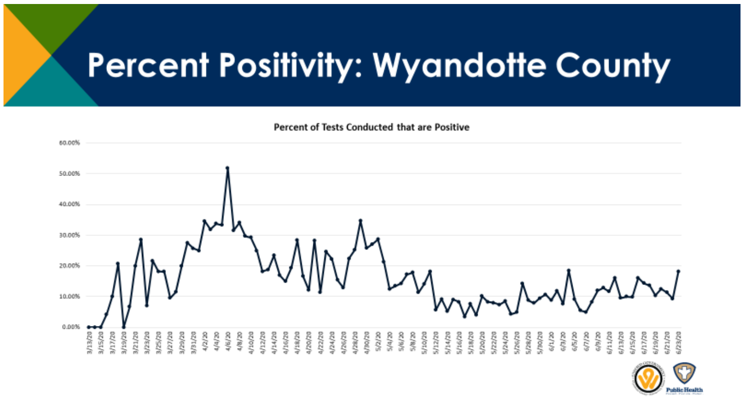


As we look at our 7-day rolling averages, you can see that we've seen a very steady incline, unfortunately, over the last few weeks so we're now sitting around—between 25 and 30 new cases a day. The other day we had 38 which was a considerable increase from where we were a few weeks ago so this is very concerning for us. I think as we think about next steps we're really going to have to figure out what the threshold for us needing to consider some drastic measures as we're seeing these climb.



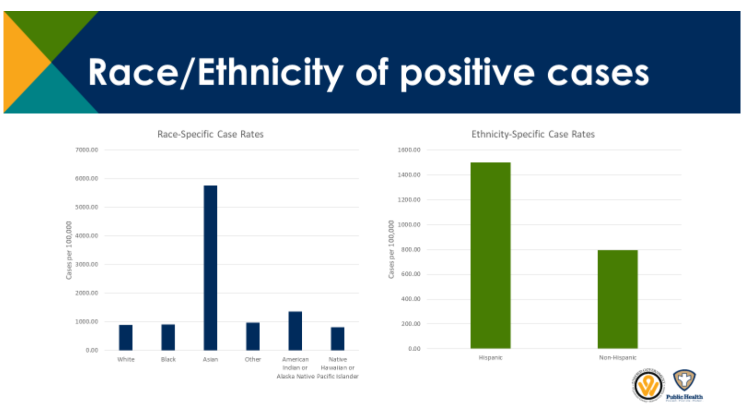
One of the good things is that we have not seen a drastic increase in our deaths recently. We did have a death I think 7 or 10 days ago, so you're seeing about .25% rolling average which is obviously much better than we were. I think that has a lot to do with the precautions we've put in place in our long-term care facilities and we will hear in a few minutes about a few smaller clusters we're seeing in some of those facilities, so we're really going to keep our eye on this metric as always.

I'm going to send it to Dr. Corriveau to talk about percent positivity.



Dr. Erin Corriveau, KU Medical Center/Deputy Health Officer, said as you can see here our percent positivity rate is increasing a bit. As you can see on this graph, around mid-May there we see that it looks as though the graph really starts to kind of come down and that's because at that point and time, we believe, KU started testing all of the patients who are admitted to the hospital there. That is people who are both systematic and not systematic within the hospital, so it really kind of pulled our percent positivity rate down.

This is graphed out just a point by date and so we don't have the rolling averages yet here, but we can see—if you squint, you can see a bit of an angle popping up there. We did have a concerning positivity rate of 30%, that was on Monday for our Health Department testing. Overall in our community we're just under 20% for that.



Moving on to the next slide, overall in our testing just showing race and ethnicity data here. You can see on the left-hand side race-specific case rates. We're seeing overall White, Black, Other; staying pretty low there. Asian category has popped up quite a bit. To the right is the ethnicity-specific case rates are Hispanic. Case rates have gone really through the roof. That has been lately. I can tell you antidotally from about the last week or so probably about 90% or so of our cases have been in our Latino community.

The next slide, I'm going to turn it now to Elizabeth Groenweghe, our Epidemiologist.

Active clusters/outbreaks

LOCATION	Date Identified	Date last case reported	# Positive	Type
Liberty Fruit Company	4/14/2020	6/24/2020	14	Workplace
Kellogg's Bakery	4/15/2020	6/24/2020	23	Workplace
National Beef Company	4/20/2020	6/19/2020	47	Workplace
Amazon Warehouse	5/1/2020	6/11/2020	22	Workplace
Smithfield Foods/Capstone Logistics	5/7/2020	6/2/2020	9	Workplace
Shipper's Rental	6/10/2020	6/10/2020	5	Workplace
Bonner Springs Nurse and Rehab	6/18/2020	6/20/2020	5	LTC Facility
GMC Fairfax	6/22/2020	6/22/2020	5	Workplace
La Fe Em Jesu Cristo	6/10/2020	6/19/2020	6	Church
Pomp's Tire	6/15/2020	6/16/2020	6	Workplace

Elizabeth Groenweghe, Chief Epidemiologist, said this is kind of a summary of the active outbreaks that we have going on here in Wyandotte County. As you can see we've got quite a few outbreaks that we're working on and investigating here at the Health Department. A lot of them are among work places, in particular, a lot of manufacturing and production and warehouse type of work places. Just because that kind of work environment, you know, the employees are working closely together, sometimes in more enclosed spaces really puts them at risk for spreading COVID within the workplace.

We also do have one long-term care facility where we're following an outbreak right now, Bonner Springs Nursing and Rehab. We have kind of a more established strategy for responding to long-term care facility outbreaks than we did kind of at the beginning back in March, April and May. We've kind of paused and then came up with some better strategies, so now when we have an outbreak at a long-term care facility, we're testing all the residents and all of the staff every week until we get negative test results across the board.

You can also see we do have one outbreak that we've identified at a church as well where one of the congregation came to the church service while systematic with COVID and we later identified other cases as a result. That's kind of the summary of the outbreak activity here in Wyandotte County.

New Guidance on website

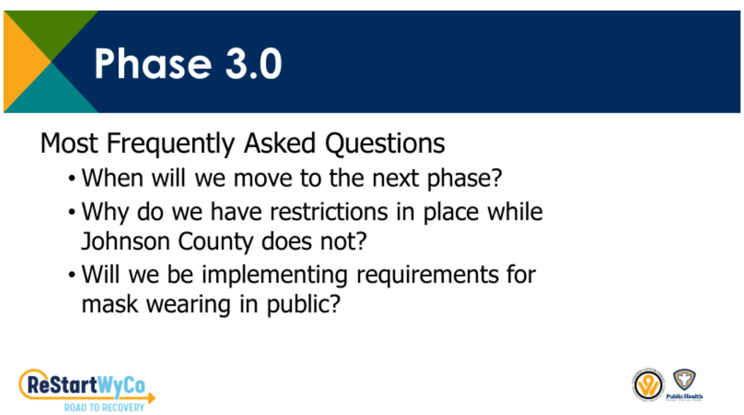
- Long-term Care Facilities
- Educational institutions
- Churches
- Business Toolkit

Dr. Allen Greiner, Local Health Officer, said I'll jump in here. We've mentioned a couple of times things we're doing with long-term care facilities. We put out some guidance this week on reopening and we were concerned about reopening and I think all the long-term care facilities are as well. In fact, Elizabeth and I had a phone meeting with all of them last Friday to kind of go over some things and they're very concerned and really trying hard and struggling and under a lot of stress. We worked with them and then we worked with our Long-Term Care Task Force group that includes several geriatricians as well as some folks that have worked in long-term care their entire careers, really a great group of people, so we feel pretty strongly those reopening measures we have in place will help safeguard residents. Things like a stepped approach where only once they sort of feel like things are in good shape with their ability to use protective equipment, their ability to conduct testing if they need to and their ability to screen both staff and visitors, would they be able to start having visitors even for outside visits. Then we would move from that, if we feel like things are going well, they would then potentially have visitors coming in, but lots of safeguards in place. We could certainly share those details if folks want to see that. We believe as well with this testing, as Elizabeth mentioned, increased testing we're having some impact with that and going forward if facilities are wanting to reopen, we're going to ask them to test all of their employees every 14 days to try to detect employees that might be asymptomatic, but might be infected, so that will be happening. That's all on long-term care.

Educational Institutions; many of you are aware we have a group of regional educators from all the school districts from higher learning from early childhood, all the different sectors who worked with us to put plans together and those plans have been distributed. We haven't finalized any of the ordinances or measures around that, but you may have seen some press about this this week as well. Dr. Corriveau did a couple of interviews I know with local press on these issues. There are also statewide groups working on these things as well. There's a group out of KDHE over in Topeka. I know of another group out of Wichita that are a bunch of pedestrians that's working on statewide plans. We'll try the best we can to align with all those things, but again, we know it's important to get kids back in a learning environment, but we want to do it as safely as we can. We want to have as many people having input as possible.

For churches; of course, in our current phase, they are allowed to be open. We're strongly recommending some things such as use of face masks, such as not singing which concerns us. There are certainly no mandates that people can't sing when they go to church, but we're strongly encouraging that. We've also got guidance about social distancing, of course, and we've got a 45 person limit still in place for the total size of a gathering that can be in an environment where people couldn't guarantee that 6-ft. distancing.

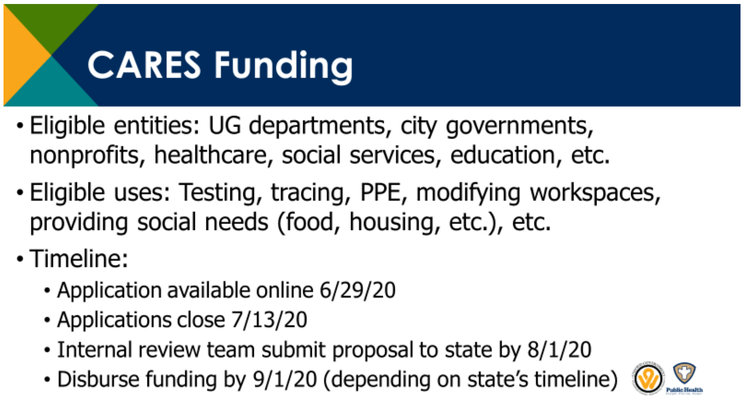
Many of you may have seen the business toolkit that came out last Friday, mailed out. Again, developed through Janell Friesen, our Information Officer, as well as Elizabeth and all the rest of us, so that's out. We'll continue working with the local businesses to try to hone that.



What are we hearing in terms of questions? When will we move to the next phase? Of course, we've extended this current Phase 3 that we're in and will be in this phase watching the data until at least July 6th. The reason we extended it is really related to this uptick in cases that we are seeing and since we made that decision last week we're continuing to see that uptick and I think many of you are seeing this in the press both regionally and nationally. There are a lot of concerns on the table right now and so we will be closely watching things, closely working with the local hospitals. We're hearing things in places like Texas about them starting to restrict elective surgery procedures again so they can have some hospital capacity. Those might be the kinds of things that are in our future, but we want to be cautious. We don't want Wyandotte County—although we are certainly leading in cases again as a county in the state, we are not leading in terms of those hospital numbers and our death rates have been down. We want to work really hard to maintain that with whatever we have going on. We'll stay in contact with all of you and we will be following that data and sharing that data and hoping to make the best decisions we can.

Why do we have more restrictions than other people? It's a couple things. I think number one, we are concerned about the vulnerability of our overall population. This county, as all of you know, has historically had worst county health rankings than many other counties including Johnson County. We really feel like having more in place to protect the vulnerable gets us the best chance to weather the storm of this pandemic and we feel like the science is honestly on our side. We have throughout this made slightly different decisions than Johnson County and I think in the end when we look back on this, we will find that we followed the science, as the Mayor has said, we are going with what the virus tells us and what we can find out there in terms of expert opinion. We want to continue to do that and I think that we all feel certainly here at the Health Department that's the right thing to do.

Will we be implementing requirements for mask wearing in public? A hot topic this week. We have certainly not made any final decisions about that, but we are seeing increase data just published in literally the last 10 days that really suggests that this may make a big difference and we are—of course many of you are probably seeing this too, we are not seeing the best compliance in the world with mask wearing as a recommendation. It varies I think from place to place across our metro, but there are more and more places across the United States implementing a mask wearing requirement in public. Again, there are many, many questions around this. How would you enforce it, what other measures would we need to make to increase education and create buy-in, etc., etc. We feel like there may be a similarly to this with what we did with the stay-at-home orders a couple of months back where we had to take a leap based on the science and try to get the buy-in of the population and not worry so much about how we were going to enforce things but put something in place that we think can really save lives. We'll be talking more about this in coming days. I had a really good conversation today with the other metro Health Department Directors and Health Officers, so more on that to come and we appreciate everyone's support.



Ms. VanLiew said for those of you—those commissioners who are not on the Administration & Human Services Committee, we wanted to make sure you were updated on where we are with the CARES funding and for the public as well. Entities who are eligible to tap into the $37-$38M that will come to the Unified Government are obviously Unified Government departments, other city governments within our jurisdiction, non-profits, health and social service organizations, educational entities, for-profit entities as well. Those uses that they can apply for include everything related to COVID clinically, but also those social needs we know people have around food and housing, modifying work spaces and businesses, so anything that can be linked to COVID is, generally speaking, an eligible expense. People can apply to be reimbursed for expenses that they have already made as well as expenses they intend to make before the end of 2020.

Just to give folks a general timeline, we are working fast and furious to get an application up on our website on this coming Monday, June 29th. Again, all those eligible entities that I mentioned can go to our website at that time to find that application. We'll keep that application open for two weeks and close that on Monday, July 13th and then the seven person team that has been put together by Commissioner Markley will review all those applications. We then have to turnaround and submit to the state how we intend to use the money and have that approved by them before we can disperse it, but our hope is that will happen fairly quickly in the month of August and we will be able to get the funds dispersed by the beginning of September.

Again, these funds have to be used by the end of the year. They're still working on the guidance in terms of how much of that can be encumbered or what that can look like at the local level, so we're trying to find details as quickly as we can, but this is generally speaking what we know and the timeline that we're working with.

That is all we have for this evening. We're happy to take questions.

Mayor Alvey asked are there any questions or comments.

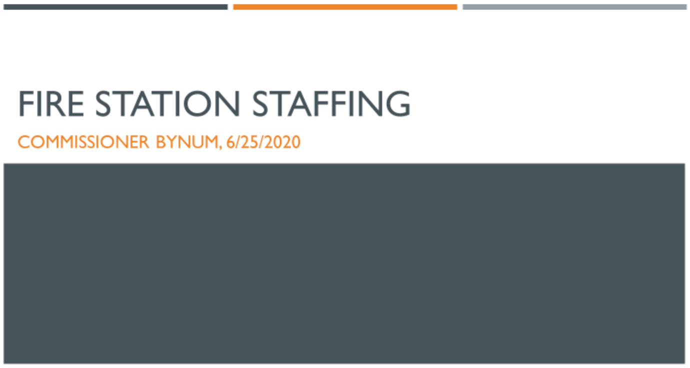
Mayor Alvey said if you would, Dr. Greiner, just describe why wearing masks are effective and why, for instance, bars are the last to open, large events are last to open, we discourage singing in church; just the basic physics of it. **Dr. Greiner** said it's been a real learning curve for all of us with this virus. I think overtime as we've seen more and more data come in from different countries and here in the United States, we've really felt more strongly that there is significant aerosolization of this virus so that when people are doing things like speaking loudly, singing, even talking, that's where the 6-ft. distance comes in. Sometimes there's probably a need for even more barriers to things that get aerosolized slightly when we do normal activities. We don't think we're seeing as much spread of the virus from contaminated surfaces as we thought at first. We're certainly not seeing a lot of cases that relate to food, but we are seeing it—you know, if you look back to our first clusters from churches in this county, I think we're sort of sitting here thinking if we would have known how much aerosolization was really happening, and I think we're seeing the same thing in the meat processing facilities in that probably that virus is somehow aerosolizing from the sawing equipment and the meat and the human air. None of this is all proven, but there is a lot more data on the aerosolization.

If you have a mask on and some masks are better than others, but any mask creates a barrier for that virus and small particles of saliva to be genesis down and to be floating around where somebody else can inhale them. So, especially if two people in the same place have a mask, you're creating a pretty significant reduction in the risk in that environment. Of course, bars and restaurants are risky because people are going to have to have masks off to eat and drink and we've got to figure out how we can encourage at least intermittent mask use because, again, it's all statistical. If you can lower your risk by intermittent use even, it's better than no use. Barriers, barriers, barriers is really the key to the masks.

Mayor Alvey said I've read, for instance, that perhaps some of the clusters at meat packing plants and other places where the machinery is very loud and people are close together, when they do have to communicate, they have to really project their voice which causes more aerosolization and so, again, both parties wearing the mask it prevents some of the droplets going out, but it also helps prevent on the receiving, you're not picking it as much. I've also seen research that says that the amount of viral material that you are exposed to will determine the severity—first of all the transmissivity and the severity of a virus. So, if someone is really shedding, viral shedding heavily and we come into close contact with that and we get a big dose of that, what's likely to happen is we're more likely to get infected and have more severe infection. Is that accurate?

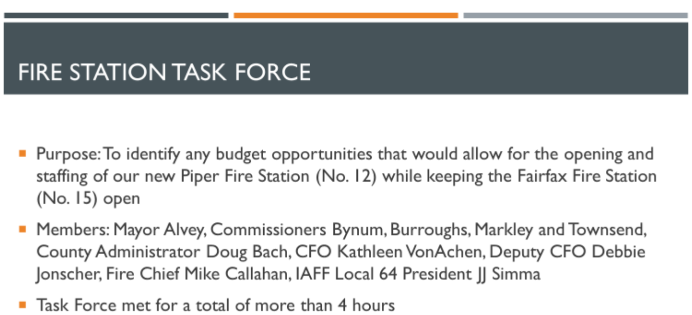
Dr. Greiner said that's right. We do think that asymptomatic individuals can certainly spread this virus, so that's why we want everybody wearing masks. Even if you're asymptomatic, you could be potentially infectious to others, but if you've got symptoms, that means you probably have a higher viral load in your blood stream, in your saliva and if any of that gets to somebody else, their chance of getting infected are higher. So, the messages of wear the mask, yes, you can transmit it symptomatically, but certainly if you're sick, stay home, stay home, stay home because those are the people that are probably going to be out there infecting the most folks. We've got to keep pushing those messages.

Mayor Alvey said thank you for your update. Those are always very helpful to us.



Mayor Alvey said we now move on to a presentation regarding Fire Department funding and I think I'm handing this over to Commissioner Bynum.

Commissioner Bynum said just by way of quick background, as you know the Commission approved the building of a new fire station in Piper, multiple budget cycles previous, and now that Piper Fire Station is ready to be occupied and come into operation. The proposal that's come forward is that we would close Fairfax Station 15 and utilize the Quindaro Station 5 to provide fire coverage for the Fairfax Industrial area and, of course, that would also increase the fire coverage area that 5 would be responsible for.



Commissioner Bynum said I had asked the Mayor to allow us to have a small group to sit and meet together to try to identify if we had any possible opportunities that could allow for keeping both the Fairfax Fire Station #15 open and staff our new Piper Fire Station and the Mayor granted that request. The group that met, that I want to say a very sincere thank you to, included Mayor Alvey, myself, Commissioner Tom Burroughs, Commissioner Angela Markley, Commissioner

Gayle Townsend, County Administrator Bach, our CFO Kathleen VonAchen, our Deputy CFO Debbie Jonscher, our Fire Chief Mike Callahan, and J.J. Simma, our President of our Local Firefighters Union.

We met multiple times over several days. We met for a total of more than four hours in discussion of what, if any, options are available for reaching this goal of opening new Piper Station 12 while maintaining operations at Fairfax Station 15.

GOALS

- Get through 2020 with short-term funding solution
- Seek long-term, stable revenue sources for 2021 and future years
- Not intended to remove or delay other departmental priorities

The goals were to get through 2020 with some sort of short-term funding solution and then, obviously, as we move into '21 and future years seek longer term, more stable revenue sources, and certainly not with any intention of removing or delaying any other departmental priorities.

COST TO STAFF AND EQUIP STATION NO. 12

2020
- Personnel: $900,000 (overtime)
- Pumper: $0 (temporarily use existing inventory)
- Personnel in Academy: $315,000
- **TOTAL: $1,215,000**

2021
- Personnel: $1.9 million
- Pumper: $65,000 (finance)
- Overlap Overtime: $588,000
- **TOTAL: $2,553,000**

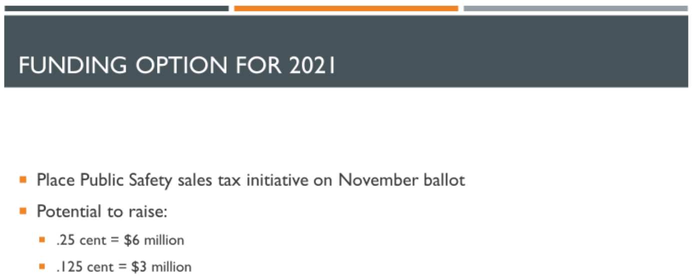
The cost of staff and equip new Station 12 in Piper, these are the costs that have been identified and you will see that just to get hypothetically opening on July 1, which is how we based this 2020 figure, Personnel itself is $900K and that would all be obtained by utilizing overtime. Then we had a conversation around the cost of a pumper which is about $650K; however, the one thing put forward was zero for now as we would use something in the existing inventory and then we would have to put new firefighters into the academy, so you can see that just getting through the balance of 2020 would have a total of $1.2M. Then as you move into ‘21, again, in Personnel you’re looking at $1.9M. If we purchase a new pumper, but it’s on a finance plan, then that annual payment would be around $65K. Again, we would still have an overlap in some overtime that would be needed for staffing, so you can see that cost for ‘21 would be around $2.5M.

FUNDING OPTION FOR REMAINING 2020

- Loan from Special Assets Fund and Tourism & Convention Fund (to be repaid)

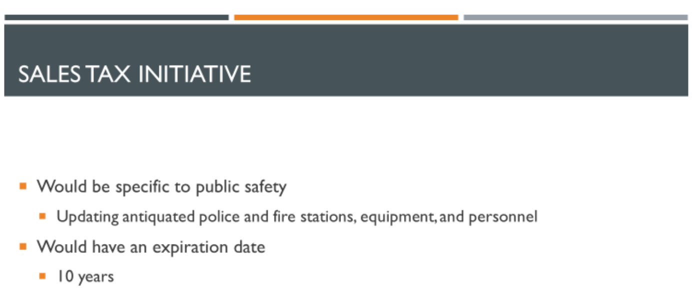
	Fund Balance (Cash Basis)	Loan Amount
Special Assets	$1.432 million	$500k
Tourism & Convention	$1.172 million	$400k

We spent a good deal of time looking at our special funds that were referred to earlier in the budget presentation in the first half of our time together here. There are a couple of funds, not many as you can see, we identified a total of two where there is actually money available out of all of those special funds. These are the two that have a fund balance available. We would make very clear to all of you and everyone involved that this would be a loan much the same way that Mr. Bach has already explained to us. Loans have been taken already to create a balanced budget that we saw earlier and then in the loan amount column, it’s not correct simply because of the fact that the slide prior to this had the increases in Personnel costs that actually came in this morning. Again, you can see Special Assets and Tourism & Convention are two choices from which we could potentially borrow the funding that we need. So, the $500K and the $400K don’t quite get the job done. Both of those dollar amounts would have to be adjusted upward in order to reach that balance for 2020 operations.

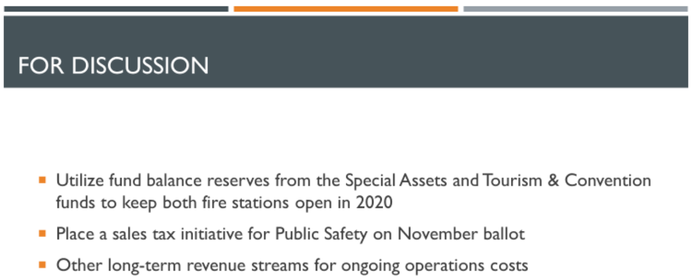


Another item that came from our hours long discussions did include the option of a Public Safety Sales Tax Initiative. This would be an item that I think we would want to spend some time contemplating together both tonight and at a future time. At the same time, I think it is time sensitive because I'm sure there are legal and technical issues required with deadlines for placing any kind of items such as this on a November ballot for a public vote. I think we have to keep in mind here this would be clearly a vote we would take to the community and place it on there as a referendum for them to either approve or reject.

If you look at our current Public Safety Sales Taxes that are in place, we know that the .25 cent that we currently have in place as the Dedicated Sales Tax—excuse me, I think it's the EMS Tax, does raise about $6M annually. If you had an .125 cent, you could identify about $3M annually in sales tax revenue.



Also, one thing that the Mayor pointed out that I do completely support with regard to this kind of conversation, we certainly would want to put perimeters around anything we were to do with this Public Safety sales tax. We certainly would want it to expire and it could be used for the other needed building initiatives both in Police and Fire that we know are so desperately needed in our community. Again, this is a discussion point, something for all of us to, I think, consider and discuss together as a body.



So, over all of our hours of talking, you know, bringing forward to you the concept of utilizing fund balance reserves from the Special Assets and the Tourism & Convention funds to keep both fire stations operating at a minimum through the balance of 2020. Potential conversation for a sales tax initiative and then other long-term revenue streams that we would obviously continue to seek high and low for ongoing operation costs. I would just add a few comments onto the end of this presentation.

Commissioner Bynum said my few comments that I would use to sort of open up this discussion with the rest of the Commission are simply these: We do have in place an agreement dating to 1985. It is an agreement that exists within the City and General Motors that we've all been made aware of that as we've had these ongoing conversations about the Fairfax station over these last few months. We have a Northeast Area Master Plan that, we as a Commission, adopted as policy. It does state as one of its goals to keep the Fairfax Fire Station open. Our FACETS Facility Study on page 5 when it lists out a chart of all of our stations along side the Fairfax Station in that study it states maintain. We have the opportunity, as we saw earlier in Mr. Bach's presentation, for the Pierson Park consolidation of two fire stations which could potentially once two stations are consolidated into one, free up a fire company.

In addition, I would only add a few more points. Within our Commission goals one piece of that pie is Safety and the Perception of Safety. I do think this speaks directly to that Commission goal and within our community survey the slide that was referenced earlier in the budget presentation, fire does reside in the top 10 of those categories. I would also just like to put on the table for conversation that we would continue to seek any and all grant opportunities.

Also, I would hope that we would keep our eyes and ears open for any COVID-19 related CARES Act funding as it may be helpful to us in the future. We do still have a fund balance so if we decided that it was important that we keep all of our fire stations operating and we don't like the notion of taking from these two fund balances out of these two special funds, there is still a fund balance. What I'm asking now is simply the opportunity that we continue to talk about this and look at every opportunity before we unilaterally say that the only possible solution to staffing a brand new Piper Fire Station that is beautiful and ready to go is to close Fairfax.

One thing I would like to do if Commissioner Townsend is on, I would like her to speak a bit about the concept that she has brought forward and other than that, Mayor and Mr. Bach, I would be happy to turn this back over to you to facilitate any further conversation that we might have tonight. But, before that, I would like to recognize Commissioner Townsend.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you Commissioner Bynum for a great startup. Thank you Mayor for considering that the task force could forward and thank you to Administrator Bach and his staff for the support. One of the things, and it wasn't a part of this slide presentation, because I wanted to talk more with the constituency at Fairfax about another possibility and I'll say that not all of them were excited about it in the least, but as we try to do the best we can as commissioners to put everything that might be a possible solution on the table, it was worthy of the discussion tonight and then we can go from there with the Commission's pleasure.

For lack of a better term, it is what I would call the Solomon option or shared arrangement where personnel and equipment from Fairfax, which currently exists and is open and functioning, would share time, equipment and personnel with the new station at Piper meaning whereas it's manned 24/7 now at Fairfax, there would be some time of the week where it would be fully staffed. Then another portion of the week the staff and the equipment would be at the new Piper station. Nobody gets everything they want, but this is worth consideration and discussion because it is relatively neutral with regard to cost to the budget.

Several other benefits of just considering this is that while the shared arrangement, as I said, is not the ideal for either one, it gives a bridge time for Fairfax to become accustomed to something they've had for over 30 years, 35 years, which was 24/7 coverage. Also, it would be more than what the new station has had and is deserving in that area of Piper also.

When 15 would be in Piper the Quindaro station, of course, would become the primary and statistics have shown that 5 which has a great response reputation and history should be able to make it in the 4-minute response time set by the National Fire Protection Association down to Fairfax. Fairfax concern is that there's already EMT availability there so they are concerned about whatever gap in time may exist from a first responder ability to help someone being there in Fairfax as opposed to whatever time may be lost in minutes coming from 9th & Quindaro. The EMTs, I believe, have more time under the National Fire Protection Association to arrive to transport.

This is something that we think is worthy of discussion. We know it may not be, at first glance, the best thing for either one or favorable for either one, but it gives us some time and it helps with this transition to see if what was proposed in a plan in actuality can work. Safety is the main concern.

A Part B of that shared option is if the pumper and the whole personnel crew left Fairfax 15 what the possibility might be to have some person or persons who could perform just EMT services. The concern would address issues raised by Fairfax in terms of what would happen losing the immediate availability of someone who could perform emergency medical in the amount of time that it would take to come from Quindaro.

I just thank Commissioner Bynum for coming forward with this, the Mayor, the Administrator, all the other commissioners who put their heads together so we can at least get some of these options on the table.

Commissioner Markley said thank you to Commissioner Bynum for her steady leadership of this task force. It's definitely not an easy conversation. I really appreciate her effort. I do think if the will of this Commission and the community because in the plan that Commissioner Bynum has proposed sales tax would be required for the ongoing support, I think if that is the will of this group in the community, that this is the best plan that we can come up with given the budget constraints that we are under. That being said, I think I have a history on this Commission as repeatedly asking us to look at the big picture and to make sure that we're considering it when we make budget decisions, the budget as a whole. So, I will again make that comment tonight. We were just—obviously, it's not a final draft of our budget presentation and now in your email inbox, or perhaps on your desk if you requested a paper copy. You have volumes of budget material to look into, but I would urge you to focus on those things that Doug has listed that are not included and to hold those up against the item we have before us now.

Just to give you an example of what I mean by that, the amount of money we have found in those loan funds is directly the amount of money that we would need to not furlough our employees for the 10 days that we're furloughing them. That's just to give context, not to say the two are related at all. They're not related. We had to do furloughs to make our budget work, but we are saying we're finding these funds for the project before us tonight to keep the station open. That same amount of funds could have kept us from having to furlough our entire Unified Government staff other than Public Safety.

I would just say look at all of those not included items and make sure that in your mind this station is more critical than any of those unfunded items because if it's not, then we're not making the right decision for our community or for this Commission. So, take a look at those budget books and I'm just begging you all to do that analysis and if we come back together and we say this station is the highest priority, then we know we've done our job. There are a lot of things that are not included in this budget that I think we also need to give consideration to, so I hope you will do that.

The other concern that I have is just something to keep in mind as you're considering this item, not up for vote tonight folks, so take your time, but make sure you're considering all these aspects. We are, you know, considering a measure that would get us a little further along until we get into the sales tax issue. I don't think that we're going to be in a good budget position next year either and probably not the year after that and so this concept that we're just going to get forward far enough to get into a better day, I just think is important. It's important for us to be aware that better day is probably a little further down the line than we would like it to be. When we talk about talk about taking loans out of these funds, if we take all this money this year, we've already taken some loans as part of the proposed budget. The Administrator's proposed budget already has taken some of those loans. If we take additional loans and then we're in a rough spot again next year, that money is not there to get a loan from. We already took it all out of the piggybank. So, take a look at your budget predictions.

If you're on the Mid-America Regional Council, you've seen a lot of these presentations, but they're all available out there for the other commissioners as well. They're talking about more like five years before we're back in a good budget position. I would just say keep that in the back of your mind as well as you're considering this issue. It's not going to be an easy decision for this Commission to make. I just want to make sure that we are seeing the full budget picture as we make that decision, not just this years budget picture, but what that future might look like for us.

That's all I've got and, again, thank you Commissioner Bynum, for your leadership.

Commissioner Kane said first of all, Commissioner Bynum I appreciate the work that you and your committee did. Secondly, I think the idea of coming with a sales tax is awesome. It worked in Kansas City, MO. It would be a good time to bring it forward and I just want to remind everybody that it has taken three years and 10 months for the fire station and the study showed that we needed two fire stations. In my mind safety is the overall priority. I think we need to push forward with Commissioner Bynum's recommendation and to give us further conversation so we can dig deeper into the weeds to figure this out.

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you to the task force and all the members that were on there and thank you Mayor for allowing the Commission to continue to have this conversation. I'm in support of Commissioner Bynum's presentation and her recommendations. This is not saying that what we have tonight is what may be the final in the end, but allowing us to continue to have these conversations with the task force and with Commissioner Bynum and the community and all of the players in this situation so that in the end we not only have a brand new fire station with brand new people who are willing to fight for their community and protect their community, but we're also still protecting a very, very valuable part of our community in the Fairfax and all of those businesses. I'm in support of Commissioner Bynum and have to go for her recommendation and to just continue these conversations, so thank you to everyone who worked hard on this. This is not an easy task.

Commissioner McKiernan said I would also like to thank all of the people who met on this task force and put these things together. This is in fact not an easy task to accomplish and we luckily still have some time to consider all the aspects of it as we try to accomplish this. We come into this discussion with the mindset of maintaining and improving the public good. Now, on its face to an outsider like me, it appears that the closeness of Stations 15 and 5 make their coverage areas largely redundant or overlapping. This suggests that combining the stations is a step that we could take to free budget resources to support other areas of fire operations. The FACETS Study of 2015 recognized this potential for overlap and on page 24 it listed combining Station 15 and 5 as a possible action step for the Unified Government to consider. At first glance, the current recommendation to close 15 seems to be in line with that suggestion and yet there has been a lot of discussion lately about how this closer, or potential closer, would potentially put people and/or businesses at greater risk than they are today.

The first question I have, and this is not for anyone to answer this evening, but rather this is something that I would like to talk about over the next three weeks is, would we be putting anyone or anything at measurable risk, increased risk, by closing Station 15 and on what basis would we answer that question.

The other thing that I want to just bring up to the Commission is, if we think about funding for the public good, beyond just a fire station, I think there's some very, very, very, large areas of funding that we should be considering that would have a very broad positive impact across the entirety of our community, not just one area.

As we look to find the funding to continue, I think we should find a way to prioritize, identify, and encumber the funds for these following things: first of all, I think that we need to consider how we restore and improve funding for our Public Health Department. I believe it's critical to find resources to fully fund our Public Health Department and our public health effort both now and into the future. That certainly is a measure that would improve the public good, so when it comes to the next pandemic, we're better prepared to quickly mobilize and protect our citizens. You notice I said when the next pandemic comes, not if, it will come and based on our track record in the past we will not be ready, and we will suffer potentially preventable hardship when it does come again.

Second thing, I think we should find ways to put larger amounts of funding into policies and programs that support the residents of our community who have lost their jobs or have otherwise suffered massive economic hardship through no fault of their own due to COVID-19. Yes, this CARES funding that we're talking about tonight may in fact help in that regard, but residents of our county who were treading water before this pandemic are now drowning and not due to any lack of effort on their part. I believe we need to find a way to support them in their recovery because their recovery promotes our collective recovery. Now, that may come in the form of funding specific assistance programs or it may come in the form of reducing the amount of money we collect, for example, in taxes or both. As Commissioner Markley said, based on the economic forecast for local officials that was presented today by the Mid-America Regional Council, the economic recovery from this pandemic will be prolonged and painful in the Kansas City metro area.

Third, I think we should find a way to increase our broad overall funding for policies and programs that will help us reduce the negative impact of the social determinants of health on the residents of our county. As of today, 78 residents of our county have died due to COVID-19. One of the things that has undoubtedly contributed to that very high death toll is the fact that Wyandotte County still ranks last in the state of Kansas in the county health rankings. Yes, we still rank dead last in the state of Kansas in the 2020 data which was just very recently released. We're last in health outcomes, how long and how well people live, and we're last in health factors; the things that have an influence on how long and how well people live. Funding policies and programs to reduce the negative impact of the social determinants of health will have a broad positive economic impact on every household in our community.

Finally, there are some areas of our city that don't even have what we've been told is the minimum desired coverage that is a 4-minute response time. I would suggest that we consider prioritizing determining how we can provide that minimum coverage for the taxpayers in those other areas that are currently not as well covered or not covered at all.

I am open to the continuing discussion. I am grateful that the committee has brought that discussion up for us, but I do think there are a lot of areas that we could and should invest our resources for the broader benefit of everyone in Wyandotte County.

Commissioner Burroughs said I just want to thank you for the opportunity to have served on the task force trying to identify resources and listening to the prior commissioner speak about the needs of our community, those needs have been out there for decades. It has been a challenge for us to meet any and all of those and, yes, we can do better and we should do better, but as you know government can't be everything for everyone.

One thing I will state, as a public servant we are obligated to listen to those that bring their concerns forward. In my research on this particular topic, it was my understanding that the original fire station—and I'm going to ask that you all bear with me because I don't know the number of the fire stations, I only know them by designation, but I was to understand the original fire station that was mentioned was the one by KU. Well, that for whatever reason, was pulled out and then all of a sudden the one in Fairfax was identified. I'm only going by what I—the information that I have, Mayor, because you and I were—either one of us was not around when these decisions were made in reference to being members of this Commission.

In meeting with those in Fairfax and meeting with those involved on the task force and those that I trust their judgment. I truly believe that those that come before us and request us to be partners with them that have paid into the investment in our community for public safety deserve to be heard and they deserve to have the resources that they are due. There is some concern over MUA that occurred years ago or decades ago in reference to the deeding of property to the Unified Government with GM for a fire station whether it's ongoing on not. I would just state that once again we're being asked by entity that has a tremendous investment in our community to consider keeping fire protection in that area. We have tremendous volatile, not only volatile liquid, volatile chemicals, but also processes that it won't take much before we have a major incident. What happens if the station on Quindaro is on call and we have an incident. Now the response time is even more.

So, my comment would be—I'm not here to challenge the budget. I have other issues within the budget I think we can meet, but when it comes to serving all this other stuff in reference to the health of our community and public programs and all that, we've dealt with those for decades and we're still shy of being able to do that. When it comes to the public safety of this community I'm a public safety advocate and I'm going to stand strong with our public safety servants and I'm going to support the recommendation by Chairman Bynum who worked hard, and I want to thank her for that commitment in allowing everyone to have input. To all the other members of the committee, thank you for the time that you gave not only those of us on the committee but the community in listening to the concerns.

With that, Mayor, I appreciate the time to have an opportunity to speak to this, but I will supporting Chairman Bynum's recommendations for support of the public safety funding for the fire station in Fairfax.

Mayor Alvey said seeing no more hands, I will go ahead and close with this before we move to our next meeting. I'm going to start off with that I think fundamentally that even before the pandemic the data that was presented on what kind of coverage we could continue to provide to Fairfax was good. I'm not calling that data into question, but then, of course, with the pandemic now and certainly the budget considerations, those things have changed, and we want to talk about public safety, remember we are not hiring 24 police officers. I sit at my corner and watch people blow through the stop sign. I just received a call from an individual yesterday on 47th Street between Shawnee Drive & County Line Road and people are simply coming over the hill and putting other lives in danger, not stopping for the stop sign at County Line Road because we apparently do not have enough resources to really enforce our speed limits and our traffic regulations.

I'm concerned for public safety as well that we're not going to be providing as (inaudible) street preservation and street clearance. That is a serious concern. I've been in accidents myself on icy snowy roads right here on 49th Street. That's going to be worse this year and we, again, do not know what this will mean for us in 2021 moving into the winter of 2022 as well.

We, again, look at the entire budget. The number of furloughs—the way we've had to actually shutdown operations because of employee furloughs is, again, that we're not fulfilling the basic trust that people have in government that we are going to be able to provide them the services they need. I'm just seriously concerned that if we have an option, an opportunity to continue to provide the coverage that is needed in Fairfax, and I'm confident it does, what is proposed to us that we need to continue with the proposal that has already been laid in front of us. Again, this conversation will go on and we will convene on this again.

We will adjourn this meeting and gather back in at 7:10 p.m. for the regular session. Is that enough time? **Mr. Bach** said it should be Mayor.

MAYOR ALVEY ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 7:01 p.m.

Bridgette D. Cobbins
Unified Government Clerk

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