STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS **SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021**
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, July 1, 2021, with eleven members present remotely via Zoom, by phone or in person. 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; Alan Howze, Emerick Cross & Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrator's; Brett Deichler, Interim Unified Government Clerk; Misty Brown, Chief Counsel; and Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer.

MAYOR ALVEY said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that due to COVID-19, we have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. 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 the public that is participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants in his current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

MAYOR ALVEY called the meeting to order.

MAYOR ALVEY said I would ask the Clerk to announce the meeting and call the roll.

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

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Thursday, July 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the fifth floor conference room for a Budget Workshop.

Due to COVID-19 the public will be able to observe or listen to the meeting live on YouTube or UGTV or through Zoom for the special meeting portion only.

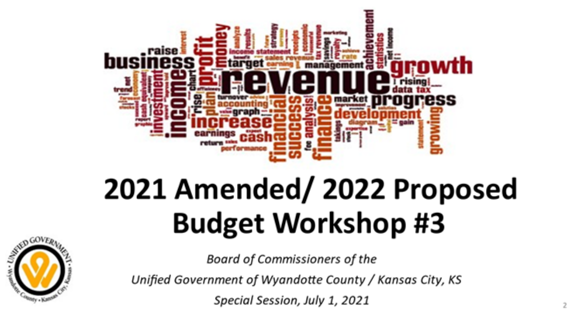
CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and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

Mayor Alvey said tonight is a Budget Workshop and I will turn it over to Mr. Bach to introduce staff.

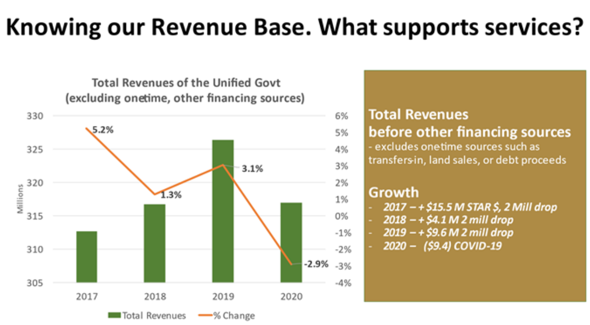
Doug Bach, County Administrator, said for tonight's presentation we're going to walk through a few different areas from a Budget Workshop perspective. One is our revenue estimates which is important for all of you to take in to understand just where we are as we concluded last year. Then as we're able to move through getting about six full months into this year, it certainly puts us in a better position when we start to project where we're at for the coming year.

We also want to walk through where we are with the American Rescue Plan and the dollars that are coming in from that perspective. I know we've reviewed this some with you but this will allow us to go into a little bit more detail of where we're at and some of the things we're looking at for this.

Also, I wanted to talk about employee recruitment, hiring and retention which is really a very big cost center for us. It's also becoming a very big issue for us as we are trying to keep people in our organization and hiring them into our organization. So, with that, I'm going to turn this over to our Chief Financial Officer Kathleen VonAchen and let her make presentation on the revenue estimates.

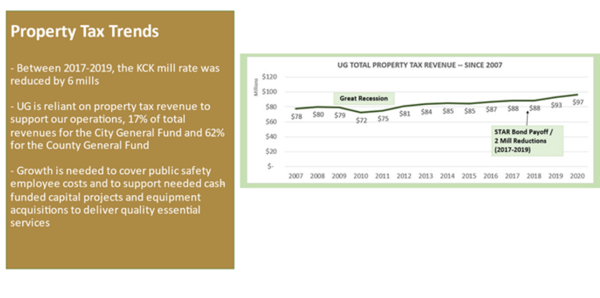


Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer, said I'm going to start off the budget process by looking at how much weight (inaudible) typically begins at this point except it's been delayed somewhat by a new state law so we're now examining an amendment to our current year 2021 Budget and working towards development of our 2022 Budget.



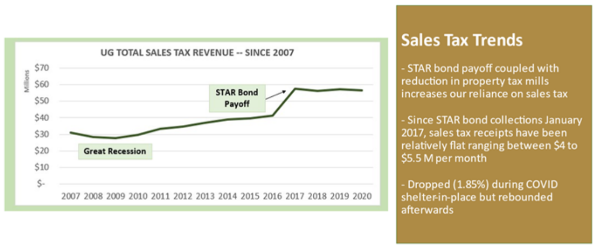
Before we start off, I thought we should look at, you know, just getting to know our revenue base and what supports our services. These are total revenues across all the Unified Government excluding one-time revenues and other financing sources. You can see since 2017 to 2020 there has been some revenue growth but you can really see that it varied quite a bit. In the first year, in 2017, it went up 5.2% and then it dropped by—then it only grew by 1.3%. In 2019 we had a good year and that grew by 3.1%. Then, with COVID our total revenues actually declined by 2.9%, so we're ending the fiscal 2022 with revenues roughly in the range of $318M in total.

Over on the side in the box, you can see generally what contributed to some of the revenue growth and decline. You know we did get that big STAR Bond increase, so that contributed to the $15.5M increase in 2017, but then in '18 and '19 the growth was at $4.1M and $9.6M each year even despite the fact we had a 2 mill reduction in those years. In 2020 across all the revenue base without any one-time revenues, we saw a decline in revenues of $9.4M, that's during our COVID.

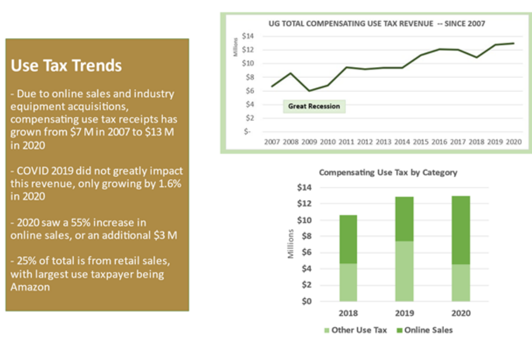


I'm just going to recap on some our major revenues, Property Tax trends. As you can see since 2007 when the great recession happened, there was a decline in property tax revenues during that time, but since then it has been growing steadily reaching $97M in 2020. Between 2017 and 2019 the Kansas City, Kansas mill rate was reduced by 6 mills during that time period and the UG is relying on property tax revenue for supporting our operations. Not so much in the City General Fund where only 17% are relying on property tax but very much so on the County side where 62% of our operations is supported by property tax.

This growth is needed to cover Public Safety employee costs and to support needed cash-funded capital projects and equipment acquisitions to replace aging equipment and so all that to deliver quality services to our residents.



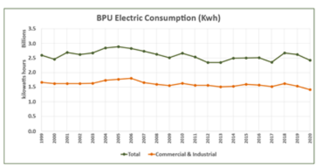
The next largest is Sales Tax and that has trended upwards mainly because of the STAR Bond payoff that occurred in 2017, but that STAR Bond payoff and the fact that we reduced our mill stream '17 through '19 increased our reliance on sales tax as opposed to property tax. Generally, sales tax—since the STAR Bond collection in January 2017 sales tax receipts have been relatively flat unfortunately. They've ranged about $4-5M each month and, you know, they did drop during COVID in 2020. They dropped by 1.85%. They didn't drop as much as I anticipated so we're very fortunate for that and they have rebounded afterwards.

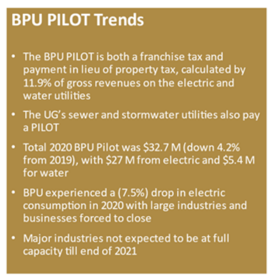


The next slide is Use Tax, so we don't often talk about Use Tax but it's now becoming a more prevalent revenue source and it's derived from the equipment acquisition of new company start-ups as well as online sales. Use Tax receipts have grown from $7M in 2007 up to $13M in 2020 and COVID-19 did not greatly impact this revenue as you would think it would have because overall the total only increased by 1.6% in 2020. Part of that is because of the composition of that Use Tax where the amount we get from company equipment acquisitions and start-ups, very straightly, depending on what companies are doing and so that causes that total to change quite a bit.

In 2020 we saw a 55% increase in online sales which contributed to an additional $3M in Use Tax collections. You can see in 2020 how the light green amount was greater in ‘19 than in ‘20 and that’s the amount that we got from other types of uses and the dark green in the graph there, is the amount for online sale, so it’s really picking up online sales and Use Tax collections.

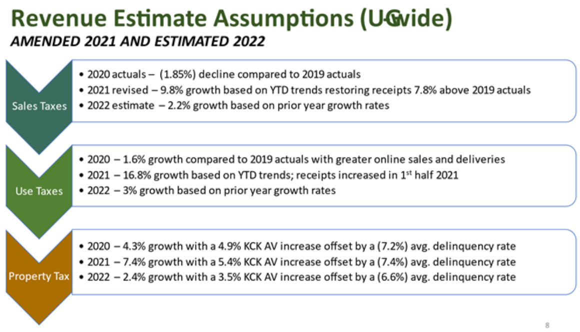
The largest in the retail sector for online sales is Amazon as you would have probably guessed.





The next slide is another large revenue source for us and that’s the Payment-in-Lieu of Taxes that we collect from the Board of Public Utilities and that amount is not only a franchise tax, but it’s also a payment-in-lieu of property tax. It’s calculated by 11.9% of the gross revenues of the electric and water utility and the Unified Government sewer and stormwater utilities also pay a PILOT as well, just so you all know.

The total 2020 PILOT equals $32M or almost $33M. That is down 4.2% from the amount we collected in ‘19 and with the split being $27M from electric and $5M from water. The BPU did experience a $7.5M drop in electric consumption during 2020 due to large industries and businesses being forced to close during COVID and that consumption declined. Major industries, some of them are not expected to come back to operations until the end of 2021 so that revenue source is going to continue to struggle.



The next two slides talk about our estimates for the upcoming budget, so we're going to amend the current year budget because the revenue estimates that we currently have in the budget for the current year were done last summer when there were a lot of unknowns. So, we're going to change those numbers and then we're going to estimate what we think is going to happen in the next 18 months. I've included a little bit more information to give you some context for 2020.

Sales Tax, although it did decline 1.85% last year during COVID, we are expecting a rebound basically at catch-up for the two-year period with 9.8% growth based on year-to-date trends. Because we're doing revenue estimates a little later in the budget process, we have more data. Restoring the receipts—basically, this increase if you compare it against 2019, is a 7.8% increase. For 2020, we're going to use 2.2% growth rate just based on prior year growth rates, a conservative growth rate.

The Use Tax, which is another component of sales tax and, as I mentioned before, it grew by 1.6% in 2020. We're expecting it to grow by 16.8% in 2021 based on year-to-date trends. Basically, the receipts have really picked up in the first quarter of—the first half of 2021. In 2022 we're expecting it to grow by 3% based on prior year growth rates.

Property Tax in 2020, that revenue grew by 4.3% and that was based on an assessed value for Kansas City, Kansas of 4.9% and a delinquency rate factor of 7.2%. The 7.2% delinquency factor, although it's not as great as I budgeted or expected when we were in the middle of COVID, it is greater than the amounts that—the delinquency rate that we had in the prior years. In the prior years it was around 5.7% so it has picked up. It increased to 7.2% and I believe that in 2021—or actually we've almost collected all the revenue for property tax so the current delinquency rate in 2021 is at 7.4% right now and the growth—it happens to coincide the same with the growth in the actual revenue source based on a 5.4% increase in assessed value.

The Appraiser and our UG Clerk have already certified the property tax assessment value and they've come in at a 3.5% increase per assessed value in Kansas City, Kansas. I'm anticipating that the delinquency rate will drop to 6.6% so that results in an increase in property tax of only 2.4% overall.

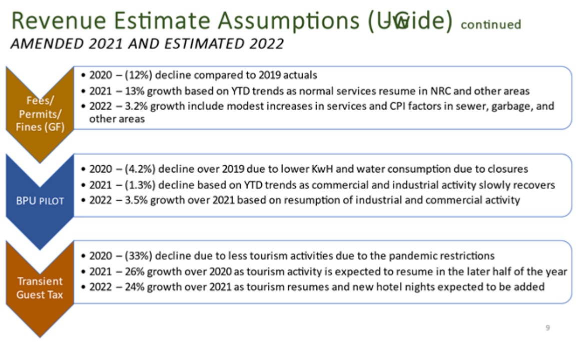
Mayor Alvey said the 2022, why would we only anticipate a 2.4% growth and you're talking about assessed value of all property, commercial and residential, correct? **Ms. VonAchen** said yes. **Mayor Alvey** asked, do we know why? Because clearly the trend is higher and higher, 4.9 and 5.4, I don't understand why—how did we come to a 3.5%? **Ms. VonAchen** said I'll tell you why. This property tax includes all of the property tax including the county. Just for simplicity, I put just the Kansas City, Kansas figures. The Wyandotte County assessed value figures and delinquency factor are slightly different, so the melding of the two combined calculations resulted in that 2.4%.

Mayor Alvey said I guess what I'm questioning is the average increase in value. In 2020 it was 4.9 and 2021 was 5.4, why would we anticipate even slower growth which—how I understand where the markets are, there's a demand for housing, especially affordable housing, and we have a lot of that still and so that's being bid up. So, 3.5 seems low to me. **Ms. VonAchen** said I meant to mention that in the back of your packet there is some additional information, like 25 or more slides that talk a lot about the different components of each of these major revenues. One of the packets in your slides, which I can refer you to, is how the property tax assessed value or the assessed value, what components it contains. It is basically half and half residential and commercial and commercial property sadly—you know, residential property has been increasing at a good clip in the 7-8% range or even 9 over the past few years. Commercial property has really dropped quite a bit and so this past year it dropped significantly. In fact, it only increased by .4%. There's also the state assessed utilities, the railroads and the utilities, that are assessed by the state and those really declined as well this past year.

Personal Property every year declines because of a statute that was changed back over 10 years ago on how they handle machinery and equipment. Unfortunately, that combination of half of our assessed value actually declining really drew down the assessed value in total for the county and the city. **Mayor Alvey** said okay, thank you.

Ms. VonAchen said the other point is that we are in our—the 2022 will be our third out of four years in which we are refunding Hollywood Casino for property tax they paid in protest previously which we lost that lawsuit and so that has a $1M impact on the amount we collect.

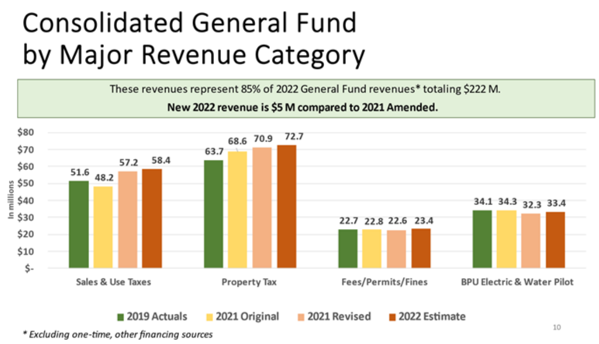
I recommend you go through those slides and take a look at them and I'm happy to answer any questions.



The second slide here continues to talk about revenue estimate assumptions, so fees, permits, fines all across the UG declined by 12% in 2020 and in '21 based on year-to-date growth it looks like we're going to pick up back where we were in '19 with a 13% growth rate. That doesn't mean that it's going to, you know, create a whole bunch of new revenue. It's basically the same as what we collected two years ago, so just keep that in mind when you're looking at these growth rates. In 2022, a 3.2% growth rate based on modest increases in various services that are tied to—that have CPI factors in their contract such as sewer, garbage, and other areas.

The BPU PILOT, as I mentioned before, the consumption level in the electrical—you know the utility has been struggling as industries are slow coming back on line, so in 2020 we saw a 4.2% decline over 2019 due to lower kilowatt hour—hour and water consumption due to all the closures. In 2021 based on year-to-date trends we see that it won't be as bad but it is going to decline by 1.3% and then in 2022 we think things are going to resume and that certain industries will be coming on line in the tail end of 2020 resulting in a 22—for 2022 a 3.5% increase.

Lastly, Transient Guest Tax, not a big number but it was tremendously affected by COVID. It declined by 33% due to less tourism activity in 2020. We see it coming back to 26% in 2021 and then another 24% growth rate based on as tourism resumes and also anticipating new hotel days.



This graph shows the major revenue sources and what I've provided you is some information so you can get a little context of the years. In the green is 2019. We skipped 2020 because we all know that was low. We're just looking at 2021 Original with the yellow, '21 Revised which is what I've been talking about in the light orange and then the darker orange is our estimate for 2022. Overall, I just want to point out—I don't think I need to go over each of these, but you can see how some of these revenue sources are actually—were affected differently by the COVID. Although we are improving and picking back up to where we were before, we are not quite where we should be. If you factor in the fact that had there not been any COVID, these increases between the two years would have been greater than what you're seeing.

All of these four revenues comprise of 85% of the total 2022 General Fund revenues which are totaling $222M. The revenue estimates in total demonstrate that we only have $5M in new money for 2022 to reallocate for growing needs in our operations or new initiatives.

Mayor Alvey said just to be clear, $5M in additional revenue but this only represents 85% of the total. There is no net revenue growth in the other 15%? **Ms. VonAchen** said no. This is just to point out that graphically I'm only showing you 85% of the revenue. **Mayor Alvey** said in that 85%, but $5M. **Ms. VonAchen** said yes, the total only represents $5M more in additional revenue and that's just the consolidated City/County Parks General Fund.

Commissioner Johnson asked, why are you just showing us 85%? **Ms. VonAchen** said just because it would be too busy if we showed all the revenues here. We could show you all the other revenues. **Commissioner Johnson** said I think I would have liked to have seen the 2020 in relationship to the prior year and the current year just to see the flux—just to see how it's been affected. It's just a comment that I have. I would have loved to see a bar for 2020 on all of those.

Ms. VonAchen said I'm happy to provide that. It's real easy. We can send that back out to all of you along with the other 15% in revenues too.

Consolidated General Funds *Preliminary* Outlook

($ in millions)	2019 Actuals	2020 Original Budget	2020 Actuals	2021 Original Budget	2021 Revised Estimate
Revenues	$ 210.7	$ 217.3	$ 199.7	$ 212.8	$ 219.6
Transfers in	2.3	2.3	6.3	2.3	2.3
Sale of capital asset	-	-	2.2	-	-
Total Revenues & Transfers	213.0	219.6	208.2	215.1	222.0
Expenditures	203.8	213.6	193.5	214.9	216.1
Capital outlay	4.0	7.2	2.2	3.1	3.4
Transfers out	2.8	2.4	9.2	2.3	3.0
Total Expenditures & Transfers	210.7	223.2	204.9	220.3	222.5
Net Margin	2.4	(3.6)	3.3	(5.2)	(0.5)
Beginning Fund Balance	$ 39.9	$ 42.3	$ 42.3	$ 45.6	$ 45.6
Ending Fund Balance	$ 42.3	$ 38.8	$ 45.6	$ 40.4	$ 45.1
% of Expenditures & Transfers	*20.1%*	*17.4%*	*22.3%*	*18.4%*	*20.3%*

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This is a preliminary outlook of the Consolidated General Fund. We provided a couple years as context. In '19 we had total revenues of $213M with expenditures of $210M so that was a net margin between revenues and expenditures of a positive $4.2M in 2019, so that gave us an ending fund balance back then of $42.3M. This is based on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report figures. That represents 20% of our expenditures and transfers which is greater than the two-month minimum target reserve. A minimum target reserve is roughly 16.7% of expenditures and transfers, so that was good.

We've provided 2020 Original Budget just to give some context. The difference in how much money we collected—sort of a baseline of what we would have collected had there not been COVID and then how much we did collect. Just so we don't have too many columns so we just used the original budget and then actuals to show that difference. In 2020 even though we budgeted at the beginning of the year not knowing about COVID $219.6M. We ended up collecting $208M so there's that reduction in revenue that we experienced during COVID.

On the expenditure side, we originally budgeted $223M but we ended up only spending $205M. Now, much of that, as you can see in the Capital Outlay line, was due to reductions in cash capital and equipment acquisitions. We reduced them, but certainly, you know much of that has to be done later. It's not going away so if equipment needs to be replaced, it has to be replaced in the subsequent years.

The big difference in expenditures, certainly the departments really did step up and make changes to their operations and cut costs and we did hold off on hiring positions, but it's also due to reimbursement of Public Safety expenditures coming from the CARES Act which were recorded as a net negative against the expenditure line in that—in 193, so you'll see that a little bit too. As a result, rather than ending the year with a deficit in that margin, we ended the year with $3M in the positive. You're going to see that later in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report that you'll see at the regular meeting later on. We ended the year with 22.3% of expenditures and transfers which far exceeds—you know, it exceeds the 16.7% two-month operating target that we had.

In 2021, 2021 Original Budget, was put together after we knew a little bit more about COVID but still weren't sure about what was happening with the fall wave and perhaps when the vaccine was going to come out and you know all of that was still an unknown when we did the budget last summer. We estimated that our revenues were going to come in at $215M and we're now saying they're coming in at $222M so that's $7M greater.

On the expenditure side, we budgeted $214M on the top end there and we're anticipating—well $215M so we're anticipating an increase of $1M in that expenditure line and that basically accounts for a number of contract changes that have been adopted since—during that time so over the past six months. We have made some slight changes in Capital Outlay that we showed you doing the CMIP process and transfers out have—we're recommending some transfers out because of some obligations that we chose not to do because of COVID and now because we see that there's a little bit more money, there's more money available to pay back some of the obligations that we had.

The good news is the net is that between revenues and expenditures for the current year we see only a $500K net difference between revenues and expenditures, so we expect to end the year with a percentage of expenditures and transfers of about 20%. We're not showing you the 2022 year yet because that's part of the budget process. We're going to—we still need to go through and examine our expenditure levels and work through our process with our departments and the County Administrator administration.

Any questions on this?

Commissioner Walters said so as I see the big picture here, we're expecting about $7M more in revenue in 2021 and most of that, $5M of it, we're just going to put in the bank and increase our fund balance. Would that be correct? **Ms. VonAchen** said no, we're not adding any in '21 to the fund balance. **Commissioner Walters** said I see, help me with this, $7M in revenue, $2M in additional expenditures. **Ms. VonAchen** said yeah, so when we did the original budget we anticipated using our reserves at the $5.2M. **Commissioner Walters** said I see. So, we're only expecting to increase our expenditures by $2M. **Ms. VonAchen** said yes, that's right. **Commissioner Walters** said alright, thank you.

Commissioner Kane asked, what is the actual amount of monies that we lost last year due to the pandemic? **Ms. VonAchen** said we've been talking about how much revenue we lost because of the pandemic and so in the future—well, actually in the next presentation I'm going to talk about the revenue loss and that revenue loss figure is calculated based on the Treasury guidance and it only includes certain revenues and not others. This is the total big picture for the General Fund and so you see the total picture and you can see the difference right here. **Commissioner Kane** said somebody just on a little plain card, I want to know what we thought we were going to do, what we did, and where we're at for '20 and I want the exact same thing for '21 because these numbers are confusing me. Like what Jim is saying, it looks like we got more money than we ever thought we were going to have and then, you know, exactly how much stimulus money we got last year and how much stimulus money we think we're going to get this year, yeah, I don't like this chart. All it is, is a little bit. I'm not asking for a great big, long chart. I'm asking for something super simple. The kiss theory, keep it simple stupid because if you want to confuse somebody, go ahead and read that chart. So, I'm asking for that and I hope we get it before the 7:00 meeting or I hope I get it before the 7:00 meeting.

Mr. Bach said if you look at the top line up there where you see the total revenue and transfers, and where we see 2020 Original Budget $219.6M and then the next line 2020 Actual $208.9. This is an isolated picture of the consolidated General Funds. We got $11M less in these funds than we did—than what we originally projected in 2020. **Ms. VonAchen** said that's right. **Mr. Bach** said what Kathleen was saying is she is going to show you in the next part of the presentation there is a bigger number that comes together because we look at all different areas and different formula's. If we just look at these funds which are taxing ones that we go, we were down $11M last year. **Commissioner Kane** said okay. One more time, yeah I want it simple, I want it where I can read it. I don't care, add all the numbers you've got, but I want to be able to say to Joe citizen, here's what it is and if I sent this to Joe citizen right now, he'd be going what the hell does that mean.

Mr. Bach said I think we'll be able to provide that to you. **Commissioner Kane** said I want it separate in a way. I don't care if you show it up here or not, but I want one specifically like I asked.

Commissioner Walters was (inaudible). (Apparently did not have mic on).

Mayor Alvey said, Jim, I'm kind of following the same thing you're following. The 5.2 and the— **Commissioner Walters** said (inaudible) into fund balance in the 2021 Original. The 2021 Original and the 2021 Revised (inaudible). **Ms. VonAchen** said the reason I—so, yes, but we ended the prior year with $45M. That was based on a lower revenue estimate. In 2021 because we're not taking in all the revenue we need to have a balanced budget, we're using in the original budget $5M and actually the fund balance goes down. The decision, when we did the original budget, was actually to use $5M of reserves. Now, in the revised, we're not using the $5M in reserves because the revenue number went up. **Commissioner Walters** was inaudible. **Ms. VonAchen** said some of the budget amendments that you're finding in the revised estimate for expenditures in capital, some of those decisions were made when the labor contracts were approved, not all of them, but as part of the upcoming budget process we will be reviewing with you all of the department requests so it's not a done deal. It's just an estimate that I have in that column.

Mr. Bach said, Commissioner, I will probably—a decision based on an estimate. There is no decision until we do a budget and go through and adopt it. This is how the numbers add up today so if you want to call that a decision because—I mean we're just showing you how the math works. The bottom line is, as you're saying, we were calculating we were going to have $45M in fund balance or $45M beginning fund balance and then we end at $44M because the math worked that way we redid our 2021 estimates. I could have a 2022 estimated up here budget too. It doesn't mean we made a decision on it. Those are just early projections. So, taking 2021 because we've adopted—we know some certain expenses are already going to be here that are some changes, what we know as new revenues, that's how the math works out. It does move that $5M like that, like you're saying, if we let it end up like this.

Commissioner Johnson said I did not look at this in terms of any conscious decision but what I will say is that it appears to me, Kathleen, that we did better than what we anticipated by these numbers. **Ms. VonAchen** said yes. **Commissioner Johnson** said for that, I do want to appreciate you and Doug. I want the Commission to understand also a lot of this is coming from our directive as well. I don't look at that as a conscious decision. I look at that as that's what happened and so the question I have I think is more on the lines of Commissioner Burroughs when he asked the question how those federal funds or those CARE Funds or those other funds that came in during 2020 and maybe 2021 affect the overall numbers. **Ms. VonAchen** said the CARES Act money was deposited into the Grant Fund which is not showing here. **Commissioner Johnson** said so it's not on there. **Ms. VonAchen** said right, but some of those funds were deemed as Public Safety reimbursements and so when those funds—when that money came into the General Fund it reduced the expenditure line because we were reimbursing Public Safety costs.

Now, off the top of my head, I can't remember how much that was. We would be happy to bring back how much that was and what the impact of all the CARES Act dollars were. **Commissioner Johnson** said I think it would be important for us to know the impact of the CARES Act. However it was placed either on the revenues or on the expenditures as it relates to—**Ms. VonAchen** said not in the revenue line at all. **Commissioner Johnson** said it's just expenditures. It would be interesting to know how that affected the overall bottom line. I think we're moving in the right direction. I think also that we are not out of the storm. I think our buddy, the Wizard of Omaha or the Oracle of Omaha said that everything is still kind of uneven and so we don't know where we're going to be yet in terms of trends. So, I think we're not out of the woods yet but I appreciate, and I want to say that publicly, the directive that we're giving to you as well as Doug and your staff and how it's playing out. Thank you.

Commissioner Kane said a comment was said about the unions getting raises and the goal is to always give our employees raises, but I believe there are several people on staff that got a major amount of raises, so we should never just point out that one class got raises and others didn't when the class I'm talking about some of them got up to twenty some odd thousand in raises. That affects the budget as well. I'm a firm believer that every single person should always get the exact same thing, that we shouldn't feed the top and not feed the bottom.

Commissioner Burroughs said, Kathleen, if I understand some of the questions that are being asked, the 2020 Budget we were going to use $5M of reserves, now we're not utilizing those reserves so that's the $5M that you show, so we're actually at a push. Is that correct? **Ms. VonAchen** said yes. **Commissioner Burroughs** said I think that's the simple language that we're not using the $5M, we have $5M more, so we're back to our bottom line that we wanted so we're at a push. We didn't get hurt as bad as we thought we would and we didn't have to hit our reserves.

The second question I have is in reference to the CARES Act money. Within the CARES Act money there were administration costs that we were able to attach to utilization of the CARES Act money. And I think in some of that breakdown, those administration costs could have gone to us collectively as the Unified Government for staff to do the work or could have been utilized to outsource for audit to ensure that we're in compliance with what the Federal Reserve and/or the Treasurer's are asking us to do with those dollars.

I think it would be prudent for us to breakdown those expenses. If we took an administration fee of 5% how much money that might have been and how that came into play within the budget as well as any other dollars that were utilized to supplant budget expenses so that we, as a Commission, have a more thorough, transparent understanding of how those dollars were spent. I think maybe that's what I hope to be able to get to and it can be very simple, a very cursory report just to ensure that if we were able to bring in a million two for administration, how much of that million two of administration was actually spent. It was charged to the CARES Fund, but did we spend it, did we save some of it, and is it part of that $5M? I think that's what I'm looking at to see if those dollars were spent prudently and not just banked for a later day expense.

Ms. VonAchen said I'm happy to provide you that report and I'm also happy to maybe give you a little synopsis to respond to that question. You know we collected around $37M in CARES Act dollars, we formed an internal team including Crystal and a variety of internal staff and we diverted their salary while they were working on that CARES Act team from the General Fund and other places within the UG operations to the CARES Act Grant Fund to pay for those costs. I don't remember off-hand how much that is but it comprised five, six, or seven people for about six or eight months.

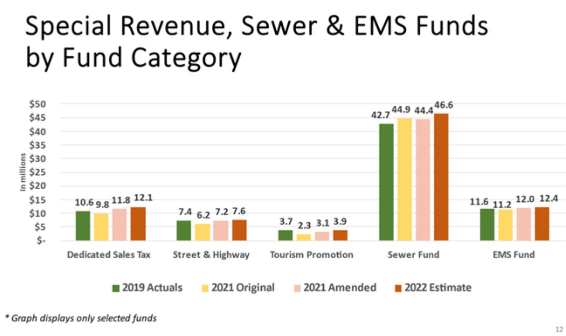
In terms of the accounting, the audit function, we have an external auditor that comes and audits our books. She's been working with my Accounting Manager for the past four or five months on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and her team and her firm will also be examining the CARES Act in the coming months when the single audit is due out in another three months. You know, off-hand, I don't remember if there is an additional cost related to her audit work of the CARES Act so I just need to doublecheck, but it would be pretty minimal. We tried to minimize the administrative costs related to administering the CARES Act dollars. It took a lot of effort to get all the money spent and expedited according to deadlines, but we used internal staff as much as we could. I think Alan Howze may be able to add some more information on that.

Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, said I think you're right. We can get the exact numbers for you. It was in the half million plus kind of range, that administrative cost. It was well below the sort of max threshold set within the CARES Act for administrative costs.

Commissioner Burroughs said basically, what I'm looking at is cost avoidance because that's basically what we did. We didn't have to absorb the cost in our budget. We absorbed the costs through the CARES Act dollars. **Ms. VonAchen** said right. **Commissioner Burroughs** said it would be prudent for us to know, was it effective enough that we have learned something from it and it was talked about raises. Were raises included from that CARES Act administration dollars that went out? I don't know and in all full transparency it's really not what I'm looking for. I'm just wanting to ensure that we were prudent and we were under a very narrow aggressive timeline to get those monies out. So, I do know that we should at least ensure that what we did was correct and what we have an opportunity to learn from that going into next year when we get the ARA money—that ARP money that's coming. **Ms. VonAchen** said we learned a great deal from administering the CARES Act and one of the things that I learned is that we need to spend more focus time standing up a grant management team including writing a grant's manager manual and a grant's policy. Those are things that we plan to do in the coming months.

Commissioner Bynum said the other piece of that is that we at Administration & Human Services Standing Committee that Commissioner Markley chairs, we were having almost monthly updates on that and so what you're asking for, Commissioner, I think could probably be pulled from some of what was presented at some of those meetings last fall when we, as that committee, were receiving pretty regular updates on that whole process. I do think that the $37M CARES Act experience was just a warm-up show based on what we're going to be dealing with now, so it was a good experience and we probably did learn a lot but I think some of what Commissioner Burrough's is asking for is pretty readily available.

Ms. VonAchen said along those lines, you know, you give me a great idea which is it could be really helpful if we had kind of a close-out CARES Act report that we can put together and provide all that information and then put it up on our website.



This is the last revenue slide and just because we often overlook some of the Special Revenue Funds, so in general, some of the key ones are Dedicated Sales Tax which is, of course, all sales tax. It's derived from a 3/8 cents sales tax dedicated for public infrastructure in our neighborhoods as well as Police & Fire personnel. It suffered during 2020 and so we—but in 2020—we're expecting in 2022 for it to rebound pretty nicely. Part of the drag on that is that it collects—well, the Legend's STAR Bond money in the General Fund is capped so any growth goes to pay off bonds so it kind of drags down the total in the General Fund, but here it's not capped. So, any growth in the Legend's is reflected in these funds.

Then Street & Highway Fund, you know those were really estimated to be pretty low because gas prices dropped during COVID, but they seem to be rebounding now. Tourism Promotion seems to be rebounding too as I mentioned earlier with my estimates. The Sewer Fund you see here is just a reflection of the 5% growth rate in the charges for services which is part of the settlement agreement. EMS, again, is one that's really dependent on two things, but mainly sales tax. They have a 25 cent sales tax and so it's impacted as well. But, like the Dedicated Sales Tax Fund, it captures all the growth in the Legend's. It's not kept by the bonds. That's all I've got for revenues.

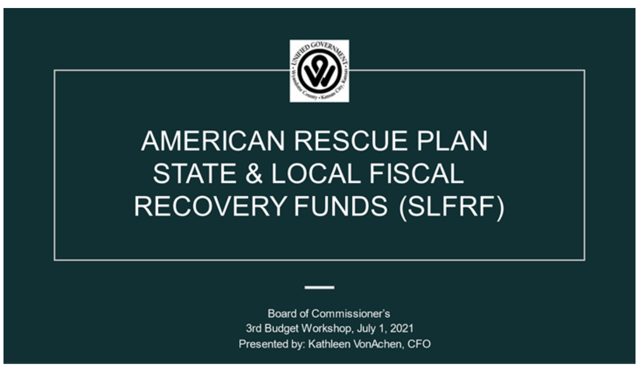
Commissioner Johnson said I'm sorry, Kathleen, I forgot to ask how our results, both actual and revised, are compared to the national results, the national trends that we're seeing as well as do we collect data on similar urban municipalities and just to see how we're doing overall relative to what we're seeing across the nation in similar types of cities, not just size, but types of cities, I suppose, in terms of percentages and things of that nature? **Ms. VonAchen** said it's early going for me to really get data nationally. I know that the National League of Cities puts out a great status report. It doesn't come out until the fall I think, but we do have meetings with other Finance Directors in the region and we share information on what we're estimating, what we're seeing. And just anecdotally, I can tell you that all the Finance Directors in the region are really just blown over by the performance of the sales tax over the last few months which really has been significant and the growth in online sales. **Commissioner Johnson** said for Wyandotte County specific? **Ms. VonAchen** said no, all over. You know, Lenexa and Overland Park, all of them have said that it's really surprising, but we can put together some information for you. **Commissioner Johnson** said once it's available, I'm sure you all—you are okay.

Commissioner McKiernan said as Commissioner Johnson had requested with the earlier multi-color graph that looks like this, I would love to see the 2020 numbers as well and should we assume that we spent 100% of these revenues collected? **Ms. VonAchen** said for '21? **Commissioner McKiernan** said for these funds all years. I mean we're showing revenue. Did we spend 100% of what we collected? **Ms. VonAchen** said well, you know, in subsequent meetings we're going to show you the fund position of each of these, so that will include the expenditure part. **Commissioner McKiernan** said so in an upcoming meeting we'll get expenditures by year to match this revenue by year. **Ms. VonAchen** said yes, and then the fund balance.

Mayor Alvey said that kind of takes us back to the question that Commissioner Walters was pointing to, that we did not draw as many reserve funds as we had anticipated, but we still were down one-half million? **Ms. VonAchen** said yes. **Mayor Alvey** said from the reserve fund. **Ms. VonAchen** said and it's an estimate.

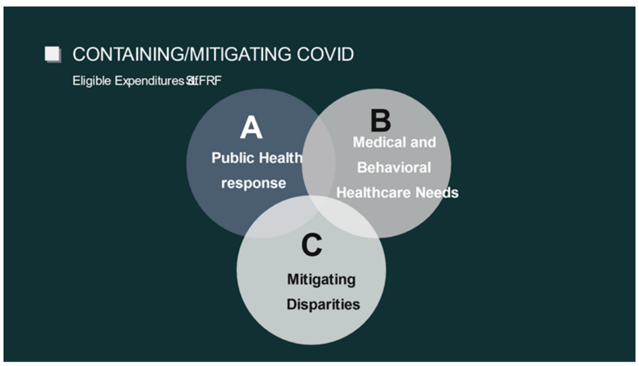
Mayor Alvey said another point to Commissioner Burrough's question. Was there not necessary when we expended the funds, the Recovery Act, we had to provide an accounting, an audit by the state government first, correct, because that's where the funds came from and then ultimately the Treasury Department also had to sign off on what—and maybe Commissioner Bynum and Commissioner Markley can remind—**Ms. VonAchen** said no—we got the money from the state. The Feds gave it to the state and they gave it to us. They reviewed the expenditures to see whether they met the guidelines and then they approved them, but the actual audit would take place in the coming three months by our external auditors. There may be a chance that the state will come back and audit us later on.

Mr. Bach said I don't know that they will talk about it tonight or we can ask, but the Comprehensive Audit goes through but then they are currently doing a single audit on just our expense of the CARES stuff. That won't come back to us probably until the end of the year.



Ms. VonAchen said the next presentation has to do with ARPA, the American Rescue Plan. We're going to go through these slides rather quickly because we want to kind of get towards the slides at the end so that will give you more time to discuss the topics and the policy areas.

Generally speaking the American Rescue Plan covers costs between now and December 31st of 2024 and then we can incur the cost until then and then we can actually spend all the funds another two years, so it goes—it reaches all the way to five years into the future. The allowable expenditures are these four categories: Mitigating COVID, Premium Pay, Revenue Loss which can be spent on government services and then Infrastructure. Those are the places you can spend the funds and you know due to our size, our population, the Treasury allocated Wyandotte County $87.4M in revenue. We received half that revenue in May and we will receive the other half in the middle of May next year.



I just want to talk real briefly about some of these expenditure—allowable expenditures, so in the first category Containing and Mitigating COVID. We can spend it on the public health response, medical and behavioral healthcare needs, and mitigating disparities.

At this point now, I'm going to have Wesley come up here and talk a little bit about this section.

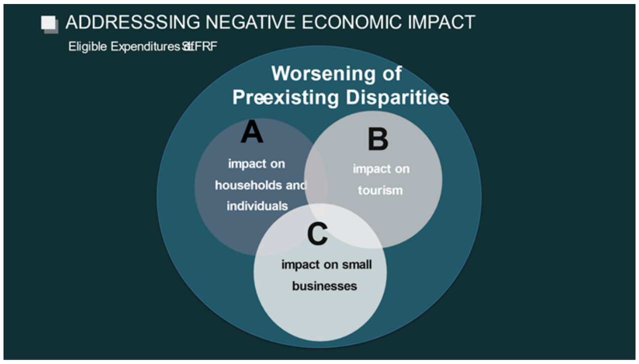
Wesley McKain, COVID Vaccination Resources Manager, said the Health Department has been working for about a month to look into the future at our COVID response and recovery from

2022 to 2024 and looking at the American Rescue Plan and the eligible uses under it and kind of compare them. One reason we wanted to put all this up here is the mitigating COVID use, that's the first eligible use under that plan. There's a lot of different eligible uses under that and so I just wanted to give you a flavor of the type of requests that we're looking at and the needs in that timeframe.

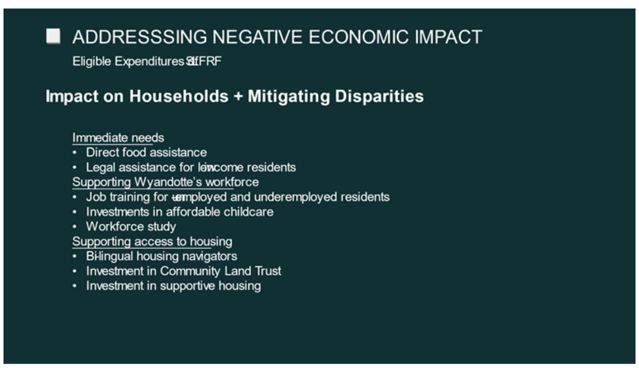
Kathleen laid out the three big buckets under this first section. The COVID-19 Response; those are the elements that we have been coming to present to you about for the last year and change, kind of the core elements of fighting the virus and recovering from it, so vaccines, testing, contract tracing. We need to continue to communicate to the public and you can see also of those items which I don't think will be a big surprise to you.

I'll point out that in the slide before, they mentioned mitigating disparities, a big component of the American Rescue Plan that they put in the plan, they don't want COVID to increase the health disparities that are already existing in communities. So, a lot of the emphasis is on, hey, you know, there are already disparities based on income, based on race and ethnicity so where at all possible try to use the funds to stabilize those to make sure that the pandemic which we know hit different communities differently doesn't widen those disparities. You can see a couple of those items here: supports for vulnerable populations, use of health workers and then we have a couple items in there about mobile clinics and telehealth programs.

Then, these are items that are specifically mentioned in the act. A lot of you are also aware of the increase in urban violence that has happened across the country during the pandemic and so they put in an emphasis in the plan on evidence-based violence prevention programs as well as overdose and substance abuse prevention. Also, mentioned—I was pleased a lot of the plan that they—the use of the funds that they suggest in the plan to help to mitigate those disparities lays over really well on our chip which I thought was a validation we were looking in the right direction. We do look at the chip as a way to push those strategies through and intend to include those in our request.

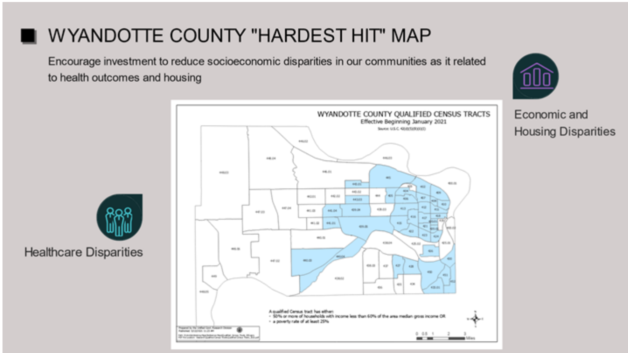


This is the next section. Most of the Health Department requests will be focused on the first section but this is also in that first use area of mitigating COVID and you see there is an emphasis on making sure those health disparities don't widen, impact on households, tourism and small business.



A couple of items that we've been discussing here to make sure that does not happen, direct food assistance to the community. We've talked about a lot of people losing their jobs, moving—housing situations, there is a big need for legal assistance for low-income residents which emerged as a big need. Then Wyandotte's workforce, several needs were identified, job training for unemployed and underemployed residents, investments in affordable childcare, and a workforce study to assess the needs for our workforce over the next 5 or 10 years. Then, a big emphasis on housing, bi-lingual housing navigators, Community Land Trust as one tool in the toolbox to maintain long-term affordability in some neighborhoods and then supportive housing.

So, just a taste, we continue to do planning and figuring out exactly what it's going to look like with Kathleen and others so I appreciate the time.



Ms. VonAchen said in the ARPA they also discussed what they call hardest hit communities—or counties. It's part of the census blocks and the hardest hit census blocks are actually those that qualify where they want you to really focus on. The census blocks are considered qualified census tracts are those tracts that have 50% or more of households with income less than 60% of area median gross income. Area median gross income here is $86K, so 60% of that is only $52K. So, what they're saying is that in that census tract, the people that live in that census tract, 60% of them have to be living under that income level or a poverty rate of at least 25% meaning that the poverty rate line is defined as $26K per year for a family of four.

Of all these blue charts 89,000 people live in these blue census tracts which represents 54% of our county's population and 22% of those people have incomes below the poverty line. Minimum household incomes in these blue tracts range from $11K a year in block 4, 18 which you can look on your chart, to $45K down in the KU Med area. It should note that like the census tract 411 where there's 66% of the 1,500 people that live in that tract live below the poverty line and have a median household income of only $13K. There are real needs in our community and this is a great opportunity that the federal government has given us to address those needs.

Commissioner Townsend said since the point had been made earlier in this presentation that we had until 2024 to spend the money—**Ms. VonAchen** said to obligate the money. **Commissioner Townsend** said to obligate the money, is there a provision for us if we wanted to or needed to, to go back and offset other costs or expenditures COVID related? Can we do that with this money or would these expenses have to be after the allocation of the money from the federal government and this plan? **Ms. VonAchen** said certain expenses are allowable up to the time that the emergency was declared, just certain, but not everything, so yes. **Commissioner Townsend**

asked, do we have any idea what those are, what types—**Ms. VonAchen** said yes, but I don't remember off-hand. I'm sorry.

Commissioner Bynum said two questions. When we say hardest hit, what are the data points being considered? Is it case rate and unemployment, what are the datasets being used to determine a census tract is hardest hit? That's question one.

Question two is, I heard you say that apparently the federal government guidelines are saying that a median household income for this area is $86K. **Ms. VonAchen** said yeah, it's actually the area median gross income which is the entire area. **Commissioner Bynum** said the whole metro. **Ms. VonAchen** said yes. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay because that's never been true in Wyandotte County. **Ms. VonAchen** said yeah, the whole area and that's what is in the definition per the legislation. So, it's actually saying 60% of that median gross income which is $52K.

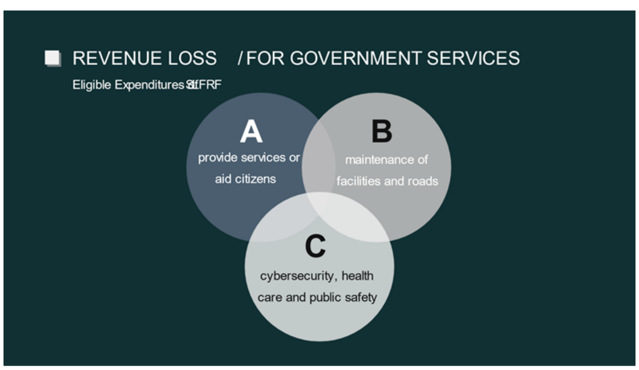
Commissioner Bynum said if you can help us know what they measured to determine a census tract is (inaudible). **Ms. VonAchen** said the U.S. Census Bureau, they have all these tracts and they have a definition of what a qualified census tract is and the definition based on the data they provide us, they tell us which tracts are qualified. The criteria is in that slide which states 50% or more of the households with income less than $52K or a poverty rate where the poverty rate of the entire tract is greater than 25, so 25% of the people that live in that tract are below the poverty line. So, if you either hit one of those or the other, then you're a qualified census tract.

I did want to point out, there are 38 of these qualified census tracts and 25% of them meet both of those guidelines. **Commissioner Bynum** said so it's all based on household income. It's got nothing to do with being hit hard by COVID? **Ms. VonAchen** said no, it doesn't. No, because the Census Bureau doesn't have—their data really lags a lot so it's strictly what occurred based on the data from the American survey last year which doesn't include COVID.

Commissioner Burroughs said, Kathleen, you and I had this discussion over the weekend in reference to you mentioned KU being part of that census tract. **Ms. VonAchen** said yeah. **Commissioner Burroughs** said it's one of the wealthiest most—it generates a tremendous amount of revenue for our community, so when I saw that census tract, I did ask how it was that it qualified as an underperforming census tract when we have a lot of high-paying jobs that do live in that area.

So, I'm just curious how that might skew those numbers and if it really is needed to be in that census tract if it's one that we may want to look at and it's—we're not being mandated to give a certain amount of money to those census tracts. **Ms. VonAchen** said no. **Commissioner Burroughs** said all we're doing is identifying those census tracts if we want to invest in those through some of the proposals that were presented. I believe that is the correct analogy. **Ms. VonAchen** said yes. I did look at those census tracts in the KU Med area and there are a few, but the 452 in the KU area, their average income level is $45K a year, but 22% of the 4,000 people that live there live below the poverty line so that's why it qualifies.

Commissioner Ramirez said just a comment. Looking at the map, it shows that we as a governing body and administration, should be diligent in how we spend—these are investments that we should make sure that are fair and spread out between these census tracts, not just the east but throughout Wyandotte County. It shows that we have a lot of disparity and I just want to make sure that when we go through these processes that we're diligent and keeping in mind that we're fair in investing and how we spend this money.

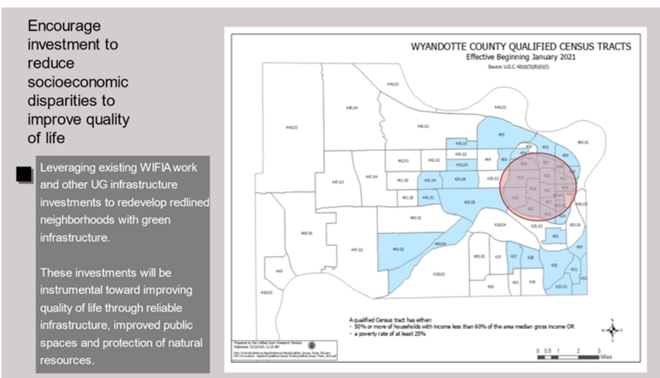


Ms. VonAchen said we do have a lot to go through. One of the categories is Revenue Loss and I told you that the Treasury guideline gives us a formula for calculating how much that is and so I've done that based on my estimates for 2021. The guidelines actually say you can claim revenue loss four years but I'm just assuming we're going to claim revenue loss for 2020 and '21 for now and given those two years, it equates to roughly $30M that is available. So, the reason that's important is because that amount has great flexibility. Basically, you can spend those funds on government services and so providing services to aid citizens, maintenance of our facilities and roads, cybersecurity, health care, Public Safety; so all those are wide open.

UNIFIED GOVT STRATEGIC GOALS

	Mitigate COVID	Premium Pay	$29.5 M Govt Services/ Revenue Loss	Wastewater, Storm & Broadband
Reducing Blight	✓		✓	✓
Public Safety	✓		✓	✓
Public Health	✓	✓	✓	✓
Economic Prosperity	✓	✓	✓	✓
Communication	✓		✓	
Cohesion	✓		✓	✓
Infrastructure	✓		✓	✓

I just want to quickly go over—on the top are the four categories for ways to spend and we thought we would provide you an overview of our seven strategic goals—for your strategic goals and see how those four categories align with the goals. You can see that all of the goals are met with the mitigate COVID and with revenue loss, most of them with infrastructure, not so much, but just a few for premium pay.

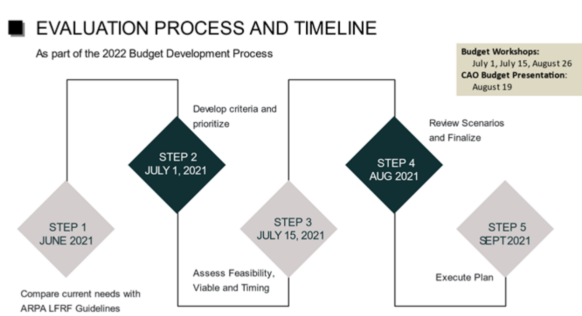


This slide I'm going to pass on to Melissa Sieben who is going to talk about that. **Ms. Sieben, Assistant County Administrator,** said I'll make this quick. One of the things that we're looking at and want to discuss with you in the coming months is sort of how we leverage what we're already doing with these dollars to make an impact in these affected census tracts.

As an example, WIFIA is a program that we've been discussing with you and that really is going to attack infrastructure work in areas that were historically redlined within our community which if you start looking at these census tracts versus the redline census tracts, I'm pretty sure they align very closely. What we're hoping to do is work with you to make these investments then kind of layer to improve quality of life in our neighborhoods, introduce infrastructure that gives people the sense that this is the place to be and overall improves our public image and attracts new residents as well. That's all I had on that one and back to Kathleen.

Ms. VonAchen said the next bubble here, this is a series of bubbles of possible expenditures that meet all of the criteria we just laid out and so these are proposals that we're examining right now. At this point, I would like to pass this off to Doug to kind of ask all of you to examine and provide your feedback on what you think is a priority.

Mr. Bach said as Kathleen said, I think this really kind of brings it as we're looking forward and we went through and had some preliminary meetings with commissioners in on-three's to talk about where we were from how the American Rescue Plan comes into play. You know, the different ideas, different things that could come in to be eligible expenses. You know infrastructure being one of the top priorities for us is not a direct thing but there are different ways you can approach that by coming in and buildings fall into that category and then there is the revenue loss category of where you redirect some of that money when you come to it. There are various areas that we see so that's what you all should be thinking about and there's more than this. You can spend it in almost—categories are wide to come to. These are just ones we've heard mentioned as we went through things or we could put a pin to it and say, okay, we know we have a definite need in this area and start to throw some stuff on the board.



Then the evaluation process timeline. Moving through this as we look ahead to our budget process which we're just looking to do the American Rescue Plan and just mirroring our budget process as we go through and identify where we see the priorities of where we want to spend that money, designate it as we come into it.

The next budget workshop is on the 15th and then we move forward into August and then for a September adoption timeframe.

Mayor, that's all we have on this part.

Commissioner Markley said I think I said it at a prior meeting and I'll say again. I think it's really important for us to think about the long-term benefits of anything that we're doing with this money. It's great to get money and you can go out and buy a new shirt or something like that and that's lovely, but we need to be thinking about what would we spend the money on to get us in the long-term. A couple of things that stand out to me are we've been struggling to reach a stormwater rate structure that everybody is comfortable with, so spending some money on stormwater infrastructure so that we can lower the amount that we have to charge our residents as we increase those rates would be lovely and I think that gives us a great long-term benefit.

Then, I've hammered on it before, I think we have some facilities we could stand to close. I understand in order to do that we need to make space in our existing facilities that we want to keep to accommodate those employees we're going to bring from the facilities we would like to close and in order to do that we're going to need some money to remodel the facilities we want to keep. I think that's a great long-term benefit as well. I would say if we spend that money to retool these buildings so we can keep them, we move employees out of other facilities and close them, every dime that we save from closing those buildings we should put it to infrastructure and that's how we should use that savings. Those are my thoughts.

Commissioner McKiernan said I'll just say ditto to everything Commissioner Markley just said. I agree 100% and then I just have a question on the timeline slide. It appears to say develop criteria and prioritize for today and I don't know what the process is for developing criteria and prioritizing if that's something we want to accomplish today. **Mr. Bach** said I think it would—I mean it's important to get feedback on what you just said. You know if that's priorities you want to have in or there's additional things coming in, I mean, that's where we're at today of making sure we're getting to it. I don't think building that slide was necessarily meaning definitive July 1st, but this is the stage of the process we're in. If you have ideas, thoughts of how you want to put in for priorities, if you want to submit those to us as staff, bring them up today, however they come about but this is the time when we start coming up with what our priorities are and if these fit into them or if there are other areas.

Commissioner McKiernan said I guess I would just say that I'm a little unclear on what our timeline is for actually establishing the prioritization and gaining all the criteria. I mean the slide does say today, so how are we going to lay this out because it says on July 15th that we'll assess feasibility, viable and timing. So, this is a pretty aggressive timetable and I just want to know what are our markers, so goal entertainment along the way?

Ms. VonAchen said our thought is that we want to get feedback from you individually or in the public setting here about what you feel is the highest priority. So, either between now—right now or through July 15th, you can give us that and then as we're compiling the list of projects we're going to come back on July 15th, provide you that list and also share with the group the feedback we got from all of you. Then we'll develop that criteria and prioritization at that time. Just keep in mind that because of the size of the dollars, $87M, we—and the pockets of dollars that meet the four provisions, it's a little tricky but it's not like yes on this and no on that, it's actually more nuanced than that. It's how much of this as opposed to that and where. It's going to be a process and this is just the first phase so that you have an idea of what we're looking at. You're going to get a lot more data and more information on July 15th.

Commissioner McKiernan said I guess I'm still not perfectly clear on what our process is moving forward. Do you want a free form list of priorities, do you want a rank ordered list of priorities, do you want it based on these bubbles that are on this slide—**Ms. VonAchen** said yes—**Commissioner McKiernan** said do you just want us to make something up, so I want to find a little bit more guideline. Do you want us to suggest prioritization to you? **Ms. VonAchen** said um-hum. **Commissioner McKiernan** said so you want us to use these bubbles—**Ms. VonAchen** said yes—**Commissioner McKiernan** said and prioritize them, not—okay, that's good to know.

Commissioner Bynum said I think my questions are similar. I'll put in a plug for infrastructure/stormwater right off the get-go, but I also think that we've got to utilize some of these funds for some of these more human needs, if you will. So, we have agencies in our community who have been working for decades and working double and triple overtime for 14 months on issues like homelessness and health disparities and mental health issues and housing. I thought I heard in the last week or so that there is a separate allocation coming from somewhere apart from American Rescue Plan or else going to either the state or CDBG or something for those kinds of issues. I need to understand better than I do right now where all the buckets of money are. **Ms. VonAchen** said that is a perfect question. I do want to explain. The entire ARPA is almost $2T and there's a section in it that is allocated to the state or where locals can actually apply for grants directly. That is not what we're talking about here. This is the $87M we're getting directly.

I did want to add to Commissioner McKiernan's question because Doug and I are also wanting to get feedback from you on how you would like to see the process too, so we're not telling you how we want—we want to get some feedback on how you would best like to discuss the scenario and the prioritization.

Commissioner Bynum said just to kind of round-out what I need help with if we knew—here's my point. This time and funding feels like a once in a lifetime opportunity to completely eradicate homelessness in Wyandotte County and I would hate if we miss that opportunity. If there are funding opportunities that are elsewhere outside of the $87M, I need to know that. It changes my prioritization because I'm going to hold firm to my belief that infrastructure is setting at the top of the pile, but there are smaller amounts of money that can go a super long way on fixing some of what hurts. We know and you know, Melissa, that there are agencies here in the county who believe they have plans that can eliminate homelessness. That would be amazing. So, is there a way for us to see a chart, something, a graph, a rubber chicken graph, with all of the potential places where money is going to flow into the community, so that's one question.

The other one is, Doug, I think I'm seeing, if I'm reading this timeline right, County Administrator Budget Presentation August 19th. Is that the one that we would have usually seen by now? **Mr. Bach** said yes. **Commissioner Bynum** said, okay, so that's pushed out about two months. **Mr. Bach** said yes, that's the one you would have typically saw like today. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay, that helps a lot.

Ms. Sieben said quickly, Commissioner Bynum, we have HUD dollars that we will be targeting towards homelessness very specifically. That's what those federal dollars have come down for.

It's $3+M that we have in our hands to spend. Those were some CARES allotments from last year that we haven't spent and other dollars that have come in subsequently this spring. Separate conversation there, but we will be coming back to you with information related to that and we have been talking to those groups as you are aware of. You've seen me on two different conference calls and we've had several others. We're no means at a point to bring forward how to do that. Those dollars have a much longer time for expenditure. Obviously, we want to get them into the community as quickly as possible to address the concerns that we are dealing with in different ways throughout the county. So, just know, those are a separate pot of dollars totaling a little over $3M, maybe slightly north of that.

Commissioner Burroughs said I appreciate the advocacy of my fellow commissioners. The prudent thing to do is to ensure we get the best return on investment whether it be on the human side or the infrastructure side, but one thing we shouldn't forget is those that were put at the point of contact dealing with COVID and that was our Public Safety personnel. Many of them were put into a hazardous environment while COVID was active in our community and are still—they were mandated to work, they worked long hours. I would like to see some of this CARES dollars earmarked for a bonus for our Public Safety employees, Police, Sheriff, jail workers, frontline health care workers, that we can identify through Payroll. I would suggest that we don't pay them by hours worked or by pay scale. I'll borrow Commissioner Kane's comment, when we provide the bonus, the bonus be on an even amount. Hypothetically, a $1,000 per employee as a recognition of their duty to work during the most dangerous time our community has seen in modern times. I don't think the amount is that onerous.

I believe it would be a show of goodwill and we could do $1,000 this year and $1,000 next year when the second allocation comes out because as it was stated by Commissioner Johnson, I don't think we're out of this just yet and goodwill goes a long way during a crisis. I truly believe that those dollars would be well spent to send a message to those that were on the frontlines that we value your work, we respect what you've done and more than anything we want to partner with you to ensure that you know how we feel that you put yourself on the frontline for us. So, that's one.

The number of bubbles that were up there were bubbles that were thought of by the staff and going through the sheet, so I would like an opportunity for us to have a chance to look at some additional bubbles that may go in there. One thing I didn't see in there was holding those dollars for a year or so and drawing the interest off of them and maybe meet some of the human resource issues that were brought up in reference to our community. I am aware that federal government and the state will be giving money to small businesses and those that have already received money, those loans were forgiven. It's one thing—we are not in the business of funding businesses.

We are a government that is for the people here in Wyandotte County and our responsibility is to ensure that we provide our services in a responsive and responsible manner. I would hope that as we go through this, we all have sacred cows and we all have things that we want to see, but broadband expansion in some of our most underserved areas in our community is extremely important, especially moving with a hybrid system that we have in business and in education. I think that is extremely important and as we move through this infrastructure I think there are ways to capitalize on infrastructure. We can use some of those dollars upfront, but we can also bond them and set that money aside, draw interest on that money and have it earmarked for infrastructure investment as we move forward.

So, it's about prioritization, I would hope that we give strong consideration to those that put themselves out there in the last year and a half serving this community in an unselfish manner, protecting our health, but send them the signal that we do value you. So, I will be advocating extensively for an additional funding for our Public Safety workers.

Commissioner Ramirez said my priorities line up with both Commissioner Bynum and Commissioner Burroughs. Infrastructure, that we know, we've been painted the dire picture of our infrastructure and that's important. The human needs, mitigating the disparities in our community. We can have improved infrastructure and improved amenities, but if we don't have happy, healthy residents, then what's the point in investing in our infrastructure and our amenities for them. So, I think that's important.

Also, the Public Safety personnel, Commissioner Burroughs is completely correct. They went above and beyond their job of what they were normally supposed to do. I always say talk about our Public Health Department, unfortunately, on a normal "year", normal non-COVID, most people don't hear about the Public Health Department or know what it does. Last year our Health Department was front and center of everything and they did, like I said, above and beyond their job. All of our staff here at the Unified Government did and so I think we need to remember personnel, our infrastructure, and most importantly mitigating those disparities that we have so that we have happy, healthy residents to enjoy the amenities and the infrastructure that we improve.

Commissioner Philbrook said just give me about $300M and I can get some of that spent in a heartbeat. I agree with most everybody here. There isn't anything that we've mentioned that's not important. That always makes it the hard part, where do you spend it and where don't you spend it, who do you not spend it on or what don't you spend it on.

Number one, of course again, just like several other people said, infrastructure because if we don't keep the infrastructure in place and halfway decent, people it's dangerous. It's dangerous for them to drive on the street, it's dangerous for them in their houses. You know, we've got sinkholes, all kinds of things going on. It's just not a pretty picture and so we have to catch up on that and that's going to be a major task.

The other thing is the human needs and that's a big broad swatch of area. For me, when I talk about human needs, I'm talking about the housing, the wraparound services that go with that, and that means all of the stuff that affects your life. That could mean mental health issues, that could be abuse or violence, all of those things that come along with poverty and being in situations where you can't get out and that's tough. Along with that then, of course, are the jobs and education so you can work your way out, so all of that is the human condition.

What I want to know is kind of like somebody else—several other people want to know, we have possibilities of pockets of money, buckets of money coming in to different entities that can ask for it from the federal and the state folks, but how do we know. How do we know which one of those folks are getting the big buckets of money unless they share that information with us and we already know of one or two that have already gotten some funding. The whole point is, is that how do we know where we need to put the UG dollars. Now the tax dollars that we have been given to be—it's our job to spend the money wisely as Harold reminds us constantly. Thank you Harold. It's tough, it's very tough and, yes, I'm whining a little bit because I don't know how and where to put this money at this point without having a better idea of what some sources are going to be for some of these other areas that we're prioritizing. So, I'm open for a lot of suggestions on that.

I'm sure that we can ask our community partners that are helping deal with some of these other things if they've been given funds or if they're looking forward to getting funds so we can use the money that we have to expend in a more expedient and effective way. The other thing is, maybe we can have them help us and we can use that money to leverage and be more successful as working as a Wyandotte County team versus just us trying to fix everything. That's where I am.

Mayor Alvey said I'm going to echo what Commissioner Markley and others have said, but I think we have an opportunity to really bend the curve on some of our longstanding needs for capital improvements; streets, bridges, stormwater and the redevelopment of builder ready blocks. Again, we will have a continuous hole in our tax base until we redevelop those parcels in our community that have been hollowed out for decades that still require the infrastructure, still require police and fire, still require all the services we provide, but generate no income. We have an opportunity with the right kind of strategic investments in those areas to bring those back into production in generating revenues and bringing new population and new people living here. That will be a long-term support to help us solve the other problems that we see faced here. We have to be strategic and focused and intentional that we what to change the trajectory long-term investment in our community.

Mr. Bach said that does conclude the presentation. We appreciate all the feedback. This will be an ongoing process as we work toward building a budget for presentation in the middle of August as we continue to target and figure this out. We are down, Mayor, to traditionally we would stop in about seven minutes, so I'm assuming to move to the next presentation would be a little—we wouldn't quite be able to do what we would like to do.

I would like to give a little preemptive side to it, and you have the presentation that was submitted out to you. The next section is really on recruitment, hiring and retention of employees and for me this has become a very big issue. It's one that I think some of you have recognized tonight as you talked about different areas to maybe do some bonuses out there to some employees. The problem is much bigger than that. I mean it is one where we are at an all time high of number of positions that we're posting and we're not even in an aggressive posting manner. I've still held back on a lot of positions from last year's timeframe, but we're at an all time high right now of the number of available positions. I think if we filled every position we have on the board today—

Renee, what was that number, 187; 191 and that's ones we're trying to fill which is no doubt impacting our work.

I mean our ability to get out, remediate in the community when we're just trying to work in our parks systems, trying to do maintenance on our streets, working in law enforcement areas, both Police and Sheriff Departments, are both hindered greatly in areas from working in the jail, on the streets to the dispatcher operations. Then, my back of the house operations are also having a difficult time. Those positions are spanned across all the way from our maintenance workers to our professionals working in Engineering or Technology, in various areas like that. We'll step through this with you, show a few things.

We did our survey too last year with the employees. There's some good input that we received from those groups that we wanted to point those things out to you, but salary is a big issue that comes into it. It's one that's identified out there. Employees identify that and I think you see that in all organizations but it's key in ours too, but just to show some of the discrepancies that's happened when we look back at the Compensation Plan that we did back in 2015. At that time we noted that we were really toward the bottom of where we were in our comparables. While over those last six years we've done a few very low COLA's in comparison to what other competing jurisdictions or private sectors are doing. Now as we are coming out of COVID the economy is returning to normal, this is really impacting our ability to hire and it's impacting our ability to retain in a lot of different areas.

So, that's the intent of this next section. I will hold it and we will probably lead off in our next section for that one unless we want to add another one for tonight, but I think we've already given a surprise one for that anyway. We will try to work on this more on the 15th as we move into our next sections, but it is becoming a very big issue for us.

Mayor, with that, I will conclude unless there's any other comments in the last five minutes or questions. **Mayor Alvey** said we'll look forward to this presentation. Again, probably more hard news to hear but need to hear it.

MAYOR ALVEY ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 6:45 p.m.

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Brett Deichler
Interim Unified Government Clerk

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