ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, November 8, 2021

The meeting of the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee was held on Monday, November 8, 2021, at 6:04 p.m., remotely via Zoom and on-site. The following members were present: McKiernan, Acting Chairman on behalf of Commissioner Burroughs; Commissioner Bynum, appearing on behalf of Chairman Burroughs; Commissioners Townsend, Johnson, Ramirez, on behalf of Walters (arrived at 5:07), and BPU Board Member Jeff Bryant. The following officials were also in attendance: Bridgette Cobbins and Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrators; Misty Brown, Chief Counsel; Alley Porter, Commission Liaison; Lynn Melton, Assistant to the Mayor's Office; Jud Knapp, Interim Land Bank Manager; Katherine Carttar, Director of Economic Development; Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel; Wendy Green, Assistant Counsel; Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer; Carol Godsil, Deputy UG Clerk; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communications; Andrea Parra, Interim Director of Revenue/County Treasurer; and Alley Porter, Communication Liaison.

Acting Chairman McKiernan said before I read the opening for our standing committee meetings tonight two reminders. First of all, we have switched the order of standing committees on our Monday nights with Economic Development and Finance Committee going first and then Neighborhood and Community Development Standing Committee meeting going second. From now on we will lead with Economic Development and Finance. This is something, we as a Commission, just finalized at our last meeting.

The second reminder that I have is that Commissioners' Burroughs and Walters are not able to be with us this evening. We have Commissioner Bynum sitting in and I guess she's sitting in for the two. She does give us a quorum so we can proceed with our meetings, and we are very appreciative of having Commissioner Bynum with us this evening.

Acting Chairman McKiernan said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that due to COVID-19, some committee members, staff, and public are attending remotely via Zoom as well as those who maybe on site. All participants joining by phone or by computer are asked to mute their devices when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, we ask that everyone please make sure you announce yourself by name and title, every time you speak so that the public who is observing knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

Due to COVID-19 requirements, in person public comment has been suspended unless otherwise required by law. The public is allowed to participate by Zoom. Is allowed to submit comments by email prior to this meeting and is allowed to submit comments from the first floor of City Hall. Those comments that are submitted in advance of the meeting will be included in the record of the meeting. With that out of the way, we want to welcome everyone to the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee.

Acting Chairman McKiernan called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, and all members were present as shown above.

Approval of Standing Committee Minutes from September 13, 2021. BPU Board Member Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Bryant, Johnson, Townsend, Bynum, McKiernan.

Acting Chairman McKiernan said that takes us to our Committee Agenda. There are two items on the Committee Agenda tonight, both are for information only, and we'll start off with a report of our Third Quarter 2021 Cash Investments and I'll turn the floor over the Andrea Parra, who's our Interim Director of Revenue in the County Treasurer's Office, and our Interim County Treasurer.

Item No. 1 – 211109…REPORT: 3RD QUARTER 2021 CASH INVESTMENT REPORT
Synopsis: Third Quarter 2021 Cash Investment Report, submitted by Andrea Parra, Interim Director of Revenue/County Treasurer.

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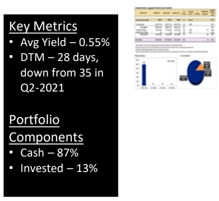

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Andrea Parra, Interim County Treasurer, said I will be presenting the 3rd Quarter Investment Report. A few metrics to point out. The average yield was at .55%. Days to maturity 28 days has gone down again from last quarter as maturities are continuing to happen. With little outgoing investment activity, it is down from 35 from Quarter 2. Portfolio Components we are sitting at 13% invested and 87% is cash. We do not have any federal agency securities at this time.

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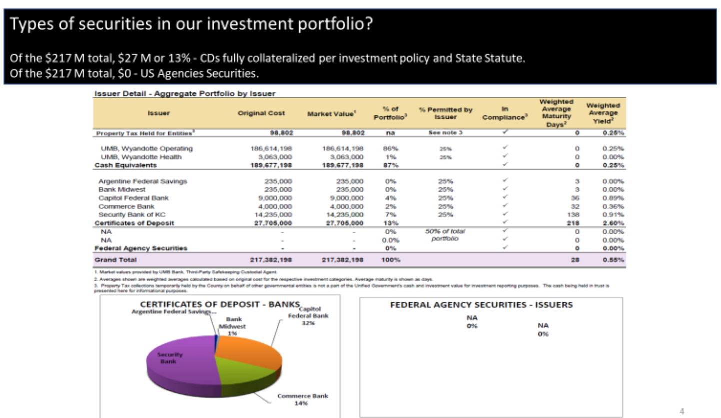
Again, the yield .55% which is down from last quarter which was at .65%. We are still, of course, above the T-Bill benchmark as we always want to strive to do as part of our policy.

Another compliance, we are still in compliance of something that had been less of an issue of, in prior years, which is keeping all of these single agencies within the proper compliance of our policy based on institution. Remained strong Quarters 1, 2, and now 3 of 2021. Rick, our prior Treasurer, and myself made it a strong goal to always keep that within the proper compliance as to handle that the best we can with the options that we have. There's not much going out right now, so we don't have too much of a problem.


Types of securities in our investment portfolio?

Of the $217 M total, $27 M or 13% - CDs fully collateralized per investment policy and State Statute.
Of the $217 M total, $0 - US Agencies Securities.

Issuer Detail - Aggregate Portfolio by Issuer

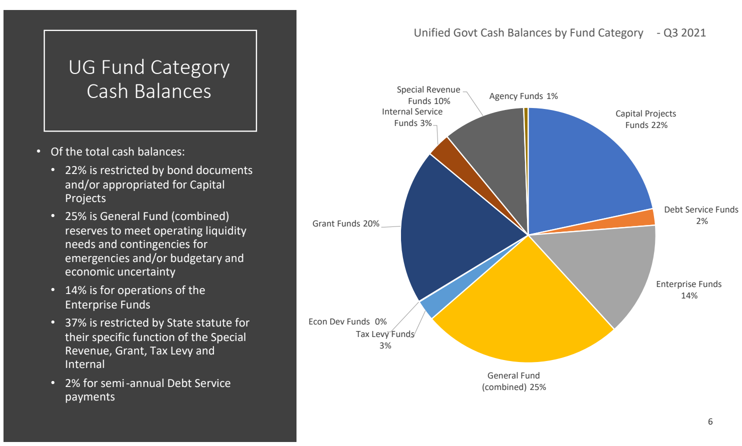
Issuer	Original Cost	Market Value[1]	% of Portfolio[3]	% Permitted by Issuer	In Compliance[3]	Weighted Average Maturity Days[2]	Weighted Average Yield[2]
Property Tax Held for Entities[3]	98,802	98,802	na	See note 3	✓	0	0.25%
UMB, Wyandotte Operating	186,614,198	186,614,198	86%	25%	✓	0	0.25%
UMB, Wyandotte Health	3,063,000	3,063,000	1%	25%	✓	0	0.00%
Cash Equivalents	**189,677,198**	**189,677,198**	**87%**		✓	**0**	**0.25%**
Argentine Federal Savings	235,000	235,000	0%	25%	✓	3	0.00%
Bank Midwest	235,000	235,000	0%	25%	✓	3	0.00%
Capitol Federal Bank	9,000,000	9,000,000	4%	25%	✓	36	0.89%
Commerce Bank	4,000,000	4,000,000	2%	25%	✓	32	0.36%
Security Bank of KC	14,235,000	14,235,000	7%	25%	✓	138	0.91%
Certificates of Deposit	**27,705,000**	**27,705,000**	**13%**		✓	**218**	**2.60%**
NA	-	-	0%	*50% of total portfolio*	✓	0	0.00%
NA	-	-	0.0%		✓	0	0.00%
Federal Agency Securities	**-**	**-**	**0%**		✓	**0**	**0.00%**
Grand Total	**217,382,198**	**217,382,198**	**100%**			**28**	**0.55%**

1. Market values provided by UMB Bank, Third-Party Safekeeping Custodial Agent.
2. Averages shown are weighted averages calculated based on original cost for the respective investment categories. Average maturity is shown as days.
3. Property Tax collections temporarily held by the County on behalf of other governmental entities is not a part of the Unified Government's cash and investment value for investment reporting purposes. The cash being held in trust is presented here for informational purposes.

Again, you'll see there that we don't have any agencies. We do have some additional new certificates of deposits that came on. We did go through the yearly annual certification for the financial institutions here in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas. We added 10 banks or financial institutions to the, what we call the active better list, three of which we did some small investments to give them the opportunity to be involved based on their business rules. I don't have any new ones to apply that weren't already existing on our list, but we still reach out to each and every one of those institutions every year allowing them the opportunity to join and become active in the event that we go out for bids.

Of the portfolio we are at $217M, 13% is CD's. Again, the rest is going to be in cash sitting in our overnight repo accounts.

Two things that kind of happened in Quarter Three. As I mentioned in the prior slide, we added a few small banks to the local emphasis. Those small CDs under the FDIC rule and then some additional investments matured. The last two agencies that we had that I actually saw come in when I came in four years ago that have finally matured. There were some long-term investments that finally matured. Along with the Security Bank CD and then a Capital Federal CD. That makes up all of the activity that would have happened in Quarter Three.



And then last but not least, real short and sweet for you all this evening. Kind of look and see where the funds are based on the cash balances; restricted Bonds is at 22%, that will be the Capital Projects. General Fund is at 25%, the Enterprise Fund is at 14%, then there's the restricted cash such as the Special Revenue Bonds, Grant, Tax Levies, and Internal Revenue Funds at 37% leaving 2% to the semi-annual Debt Service payments. That's all I have for you all. Is there any questions for me or any comments or things that I can answer right now?

Acting Chairman McKiernan asked is there anyone on the committee who has questions or comments for Ms. Parra. What I noticed out of all this is we are tracking down just a little bit in terms of our yield, but we're still well above the T-bill build benchmark. Since the market is also tracking down, at least over the last couple of quarters, we're pretty consistent with the direction the market is going, would that be correct? **Ms. Parra** said I would agree, yes.

Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer, said the reason we're not reinvesting, or haven't in the past is because our current operating bank gives us a really great deal on the zero-balance account that we have. I don't remember offhand. I think it's 50 basis points above the T-bill or something to that effect. We're not really incentivized to go out longer with other investments because those other investments would be less than what we're earning from the current situation that we have with UMB.

Commissioner Townsend said my question had to do with where the participants actual financial institution and I may be confusing this presentation with another that's given periodically about where we invest our money, but I do recall seeing Liberty Bank as one of the financial institutions and I don't see them listed here. I was wondering what happened. Am I looking at the wrong presentation for where Liberty Bank participates because it's always important to have local, minority banks participate if they choose to? I just didn't see them on the list. Can you help me with whether I have the right investment scenario here for their participation or they're just choosing just not to participate?

Ms. Parra said this year they did not choose to participate. You are correct, in years past they've always been a very active participate in our portfolio. Unfortunately, the last year we weren't able to get in contact and then work through that certification process with the contacts we had so they were not approved on this list we provided last quarter as part of this process back a few months ago.

Commissioner Townsend said clarify, that again for me? We could not contact them to see or what was the problem? **Ms. Parra** said we reached our both electronically and by paper and did not get confirmation or certification by any of the representatives from that bank.

Commissioner Townsend said we'll need to look into that. Thank you for clarifying.

Acting Chairman McKiernan said any other comments or questions from members of the committee? Before we move to item number 2 on the agenda, I want to welcome Commissioner Ramirez, who has joined. I had not gotten a note ahead of time, but I am very glad to welcome Commissioner Ramirez to our meetings this evening. He is sitting in for Commissioner Walters.

We will go to item number 2 on tonight's agenda, and that is a presentation of the proposed comprehensive fee schedule and for that I'm going to ask our Chief Financial Officer, Kathleen VonAchen to do the presentation. For the benefit of the commissioners the slides that Kathleen will present are roughly the last 12-13 pages of the agenda packet if you want to refer to a local copy as well.

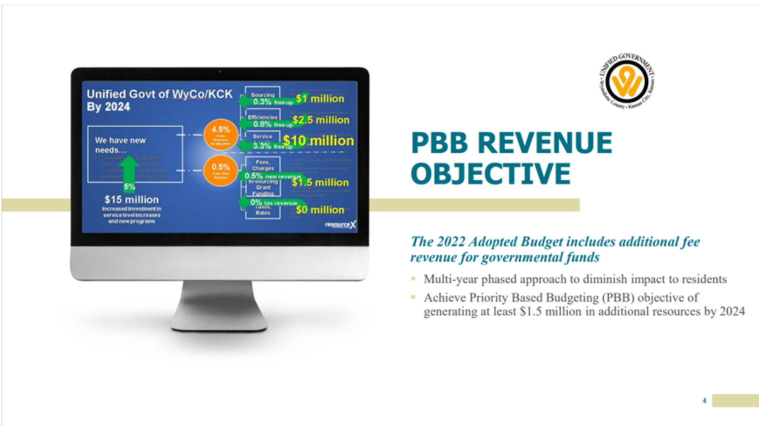
Item No. 2 – 211148…PRESENTATION: COMPREHENSIVE FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2022

Synopsis: Presentation of the Proposed Comprehensive Fee Schedule, submitted by Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer.

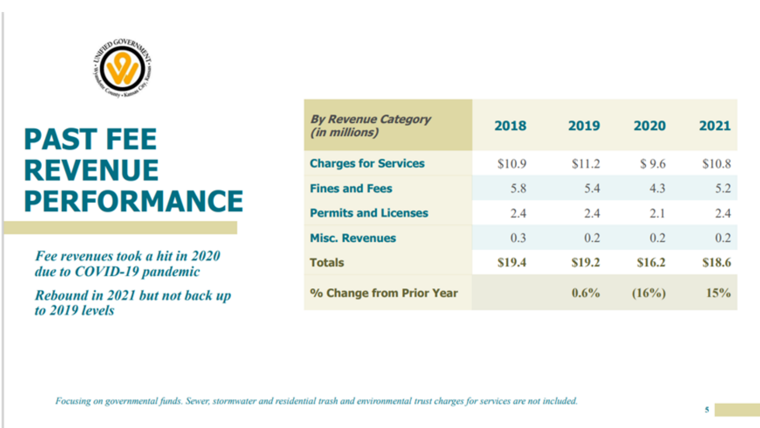
Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer, said tonight we're going to go over, I have about 20 slides here, but I'll try and make it quick. Every year we present to you the proposed fee schedule and last year we did it back in March or April, so a little bit late, but this time we're ahead of the game. This is for 2022 beginning in January. We surveyed all of our departments and complied the fee schedule for 2022. We worked with them closely to incorporate a cost-of-living or inflationary increase in many of the fees and a lot of that is what is going to be presented here tonight.

The reason we have a fee schedule, which is on the Finance Department website, is just to improve the transparency of our fees to our residents, and we collect fees for charges for services we provide in order to recover a portion of the cost of providing the service, and by doing so we can diminish the impact on property taxpayers. Many of these services are subsidized with taxes, but the greater amount we can charge within reason and whatever the market can bear, we try to do so in order to reduce the amount of subsidy coming from taxes.

There's a solution to the problem here and that's the amount of fees that we're recovering don't always cover the total cost of the service. What we're trying to do is have a phased approach over a number of years. We started last year, and this is continuing that approach of incrementally increasing fees to cover a greater amount of the cost. By doing so we of course, are also looking at how much the cost of service is and then we're determining, based on expectations from our County Administrator and the elected body; what is a reasonable level of recovery for these services? It depends a lot on what service we're talking about. We can't use a level of recovery, a blanket level of recovery for all the services because some of the people utilizing the service may have difference economic challenges. We're also comparing fees with our neighboring cities in order to stay comparable. Of course, being mindful of socio-economics of our community. We want to continue to incorporate a cost-of-living increase in the fees because we also incur a cost-of-living or inflationary increase on the cost side. Incorporating inflation in our fees allows us to keep up with those cost-of-living increases on the spending side.



One of the objectives of the priority-based budgeting initiative that we've been talking about for several years is to achieve a revenue objective. Several years back we decided that one of the objectives was to collect $1.5M across the entire Unified Government in additional fees in order to recover those costs. That's a very small proportion compared with the total governmental services budget of roughly $300M, and $1.5M is something that we planned to hopefully achieve by 2024 and that would be done through annual fee adjustments.



Giving you some idea of how much the performance over the past four years, how much we've collected in these charges for services, fines, forfeitures and permits; you can see that in 2018 and

2019, we pretty much collect $19M, but then during the pandemic it dropped quite a bit to $16M. The largest drop was in charges for services as well as $1M drop in fines and fees with the other two kind of stayed even. What you can see now in 2021 based on an estimate of year-to-date and then adding in November and December, we're expecting for that number to come back up to around $18.6M, which isn't quite at the level that we were collecting back in 2019, but it looks like things are recovering nicely.

PAST FEE REVENUE PERFORMANCE

Fee revenues took a hit in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic

By Department/Function (in millions)	2018	2019	2020	2021
Public Works	$ 1.0	$ 1.1	$ 0.7	$0.7
Parks & Rec, & Golf	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.6
Health	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4
NRC & Urban Planning	2.7	3.0	2.8	3.5
Public Safety Depts	1.9	2.1	1.2	0.9
EMS	4.8	4.5	3.8	4.0
Courts	3.7	3.2	1.5	1.8
Transit	0.1	0.1	0.02	0.1
Community Programs (Gen)	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6
Register of Deeds	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.8
Auto Licenses	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.5
Other / Administrative	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.7
Totals	$19.4	$19.2	$16.2	$18.6

Focusing on governmental funds, sewer, stormwater and residential trash and environmental trust charges for services are not included.

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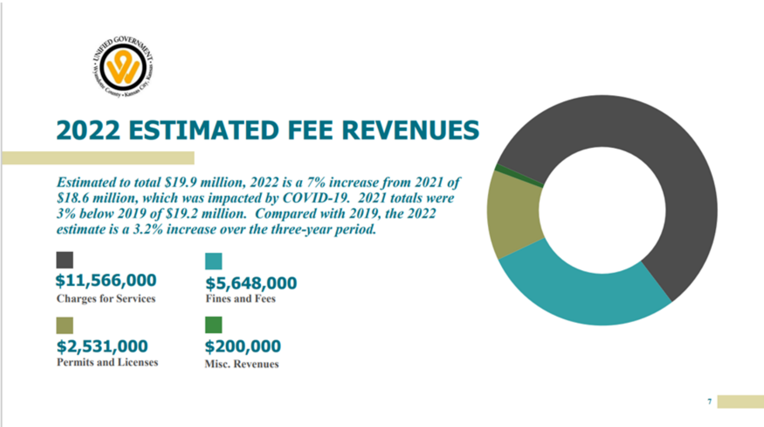
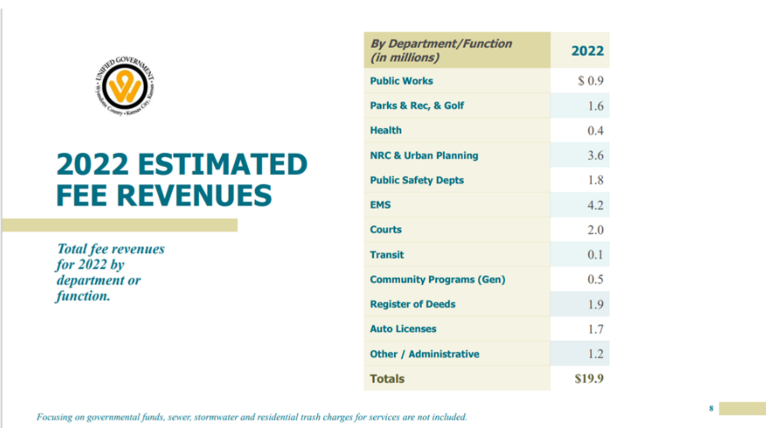
These are the same years only broken up by the departments. You can see that the largest department collecting fees is $4M amount from EMS Services, the second largest is the Neighborhood Resource Center and Urban Planning with their building inspections and occupational licenses or business tax at $3.5M. All of these figures that I'm talking about don't include sewer, stormwater, or residential trash because those are increased as part of the budget's resolution or budget documents. The fees were talking about here are largely a product of the recommendation of our County Administrator and are done administratively. We're presenting this data and compilation of all the fees as information only. These are the fees that the County Administrator is recommending. I'm going to go into more detail about how all the respective fees change from this current 2021 to 2022 to outline a little bit more specific.



The total estimate for 2022 which is that budget year that starts in January is we're expecting to get a total of $19.9M which is a 7% increase over the 2021 year, which is $18.6M, which still had the pandemic impact on it. For example, in 2021, the totals were 3% below the 2019 figure. Compared to 2019, our 2022 year is supposed to be roughly 3% over the 3-year period. You can see that the fees are anticipated to recover above the amount we collected in 2019.



By Department/Function (in millions)	2022
Public Works	$ 0.9
Parks & Rec, & Golf	1.6
Health	0.4
NRC & Urban Planning	3.6
Public Safety Depts	1.8
EMS	4.2
Courts	2.0
Transit	0.1
Community Programs (Gen)	0.5
Register of Deeds	1.9
Auto Licenses	1.7
Other / Administrative	1.2
Totals	$19.9

Here's the 2022 fees based on department, where again, you can see that the largest one is charge us for services. The EMS Department is at $4.2M followed by the Neighborhood Resource Center and Urban Planning at $3.6M. The next largest is registered fees and they collect a percentage transaction fee on mortgages and deeds that are transacted in the county. The courts are mainly parking violations and other municipal court costs.

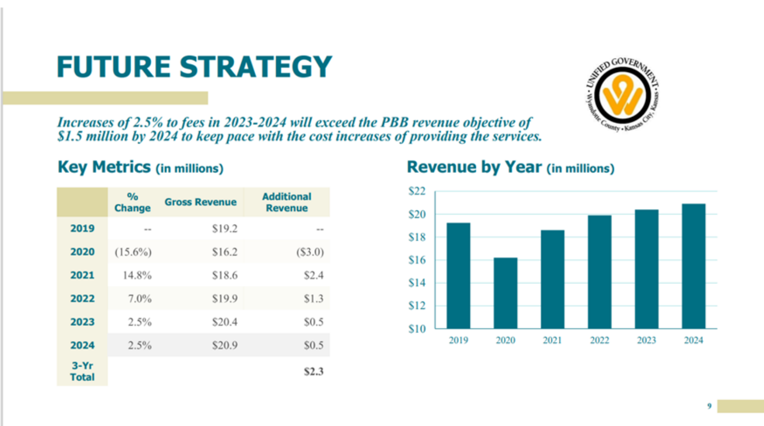
Acting Chairman McKiernan said, excuse me Kathleen, Commissioner Bynum has her hand raised and let's see if it's something she wants to deal with now or wait till you're done.

Commissioner Bynum said looking at the 'by department' dollar amounts, under Auto License, my question is when we say $1.7, are we talking about only the dollars that are kept locally with the bulk of that money going to Topeka?

Ms. VonAchen said you're absolutely right, that's part of the cost, so yes. We're not talking about actual motor vehicle registrations, which is a tax. All of this doesn't have taxes in here. This is just the auto licenses which is the fee that we collect and much of it gets passed on to Topeka.

Commissioner Bynum said in the $1.7 shown on this slide, much of that $1.7 goes to Topeka or that is the amount we keep local?

Ms. VonAchen said, no it includes the amount that goes to Topeka.



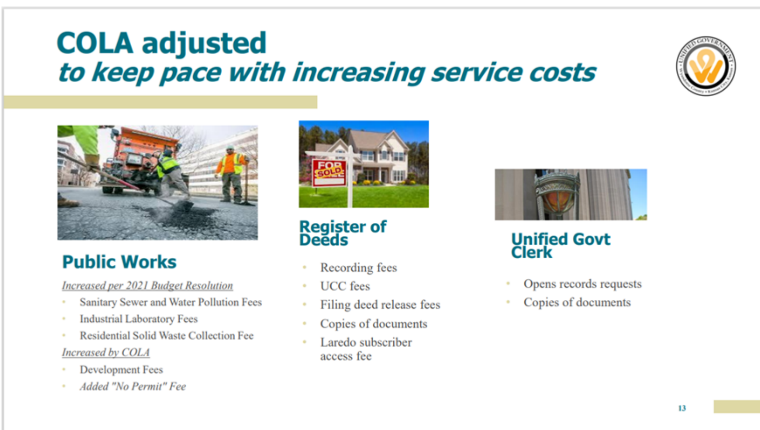
I mentioned earlier that the PBB objective was to collect $1.5M by 2024 in additional fees, well you can see the pandemic kind of stopped our plan here because we lost $3M in 2020. We were expecting to recover about $2.4M in 2021 and then in 2022, 2023 and 2024 we're anticipating a $1.3M increase in additional fees and then only $.5M in each of those years. Over this entire 5-year period we're anticipating collecting about $2.3M in additional fees, which is in excess of the $1.5M. With the $1.5M you want to net the impact to the cost-of-living. We're still keeping pace and I think this a good plan. Part of the reason for the 2022 increase being an entire 7% is because with the pandemic we're actually ending – we're anticipating more utilization or more fees or more customers paying fees. That's why it increases by 7%. It's not all cost-of-living, it's because there are more folks paying fees in that year.

Here is where I'm going to talk about all the fees and what we're anticipating. I've grouped them into three groups. One of them is all the fees that we're adjusting for cost-of-living, we have used a standard means of calculating what the CPI is going to be? It's based on what is in the ordinance for business tax. Seems like an appropriate way by taking the cost-of-living increase that's published in the U.S. Census Bureau back in August of 2020 and compare it with August of 2021. That resulted in a cost-of-living increase of 5.8% which is the cost-of-living that we're applying for the fees this year.

There's also maintaining our fees, a number of departments recommended it and the County Administrator approved not increasing the fees in a number of departments and I will go through all those. The last one is, you might remember a couple of years ago we did a cost study of the cost of all the services provided in Parks and Recreation and in golf and we figured out given these costs and given the amount of fees that are charged in other neighboring communities, we figured out a plan for how we can adjust the Park and Rec fees going forward. That plan has been in place; we presented it to the Park and Recs Board and to you all and we're not deviating from that plan for 2022, it's still in place. Frankly, many of those fees were increased all in a lump sum back about a year or two ago, no two years ago, so those are all staying pretty much level. There are some adjustments to the golf fees this year based on a recent study that was conducted. We presented that information to you in on-three meetings and those fees that were recommended are also included in this comprehensive fee schedule. Generally speaking, what we did was conduct a final review by looking and talking with each department and then each department provided their request and the CAO reviewed them and approved them.

The first batch of departments is all those departments that received cost-of-living adjustments that's what these are. There are a couple of slides for those. Included is the Appraiser and the Appraiser charges fees for research and copies and documents. The Area Agency on Aging; actually, that's not a fee, it's a suggested donation. We're suggesting a slightly higher donation, which increases it by .50 cents. The house arrest daily fee this current year, was $10 and now it's increasing to $11 per day. The District Attorney, they charge fees for diversion, application, diversion supervision as well traffic, worthless checks and other misdemeanor and felony, criminal offenses, DUI, and drugs charges. Many of the fees there are set by statutes, but there are some information request fees that we charge for folks that are asking for voting data and those were adjusted upward for cost-of-living as well.

Continuing those that were increased by cost-of-living, the Fire/EMS fees for fire reports and school inspections, EMS event fees, membership, and transportation users. The Neighborhood Resource Center collects a lot of fees, as I mentioned before, roughly $4M a year. Those are for building permits, inspections fees, certificates of occupancy, business licenses, other contractor licenses, rental licensing, and code enforcement. In the Planning Department, we're not introducing any adjustments to their fees in terms of new fees or different fees. The only increases are cost-of-living for all their many fees including to pay for the cost of reviewing plans, and processing Plat, change applications and vacation applications as well as Landmark fees. The Police Department has a number of fees, they collect fees for documents and for police records, for false alarms and for law enforcement training, and parade permits. The largest amount of fees that they collect are from our Animal Control Center. These animal adoptions and licenses, boarding fees and stray animal fines, those were all recommended to be adjusted for cost-of-living by the Director of the Animal Control Center.

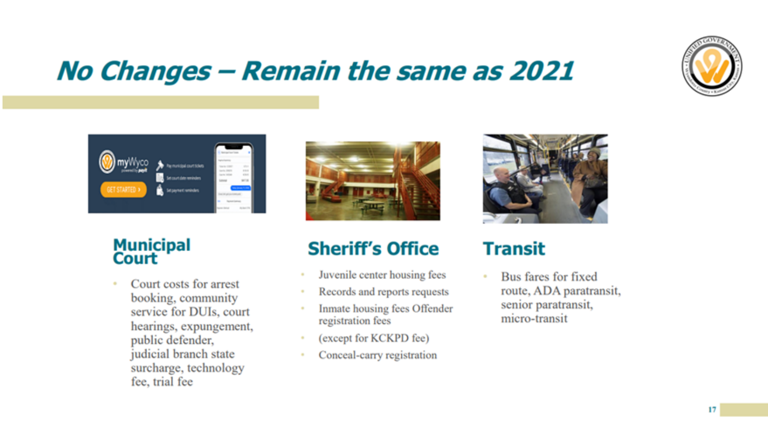


The last batch are the remaining departments that are proposed to have a cost-of-living adjustment which is for Public Works. As I mentioned before, the sanitary sewer, pollution fees, the industrial laboratory fees, and the residential solid waste collection fees, those were all increased as part of the resolution. I probably also should have included stormwater in those, the stormwater fee was part of the budget resolution as well, the amounts that were increased by cost-of-living. Those were basically increased by 5% and the residential solid waste was increased, I believe, by .25 cents per month. The ones that increased by cost-of-living were development fees and a 'no permit' fee was added. The Register of Deeds collect fees for copies and recording documents and real estate transactions and other uniformed commercial code fees. The Unified Government Clerk, they have an open records request and fee, and they also provide copies of documents. Many of those fees are set by statute, for example, it's always .25 cents per page for documents and that's set by statute. The other is, for example, researching information, those are based on the average cost of staff to provide that service, which also include a total cost of the staff time.

These are other adjustments to keep pace with increasing costs. The Parks and Recreation was kind of a special case because they are on a path for based on the cost study that we did several years ago. Overall, we have not increased the fees because they were all already adjusted upward a couple of years ago except for Sunflower Hills, those golf fees were increased based on that study. They were reorganized somewhat, so the detail of the increases are found in the Parks and Rec section of the report that's attached to this agenda item.

And then, all the fees that were not increased include all of Building and Logistics; many of those fees are for events at the Memorial Hall as well as all the parking meters and parking lot fees were all kept at the same level. Delinquent Real Estate, all of those court costs are set at $125.00 so those were not changed. The Economic Development Department, for the most part, those were all left the same although there was an adjustment for CPI for the Land Bank fees.

The Health Department, we're currently in the pandemic; we felt that it would be best to keep all the Health Department fees the same. The Health Department will be looking at their cost structure during 2022 and maybe proposing some adjustments then. The Historical Museum increased their fees last year. This year they're leaving the same. Motor Vehicle stays the same because it's all set by statutes.



The Municipal Courts has kept their fees at the same level as this current year. The Sheriff's Office as well for juvenile center housing fees and for inmate housing. Bus fares have remained the same as the prior year—for this year.

And that's it! We've gone through all the fees; I did want to mention this document is provided on the Finance Department's webpage under Financial Reports and you can see it says Comprehensive Fee Schedule and that's where you can find it. Again, this is to improve transparency to our residents, recover a portion of the cost in order to diminish the impact on property taxpayers. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Commissioner Townsend said I reviewed the detail that I don't know is really available as part of the presentation tonight that the viewers are looking at, but there was more details provided beyond that, so that's what my comments refer to. And I know in Ms. VonAchen's presentation that fee recovery was a part of it, but also there was a comment about making sure as we looked at adjusting fees that we would be, the UG would be mindful of the socio-economic impact on our community. I'm looking particularly at Parks and Rec with regards to the anticipated increase for fees for the swimming pool. I have that marked and that would be on page 52 for those of the committee members who have that detail. In speaking to other staff in Rec about this, I don't think at this time post-COVID and what we've gone through in the last couple of years with not being able due to COVID and it's impact, being able to open the pool. I don't believe that an increase in the fee for use of the pool would serve our public well at this point. Because we were not able to operate the pool, certainly we didn't incur the expenses so it's not a matter of our budget really suffering. I would ask the Administrator's Office and Parks and Rec to take another look at that fee increase. I know one might say it's only a dollar, but before this increase was anticipated, nobody had ever heard of COVID, and the pool when it's opened for the last eight years is a place that I'm at 3 or 4 times during the week in the summer, so I see the needs of the kids and family members who attend. A lot of those kids take advantage of lunches that are served, courtesy of our school district, so one dollar could make a lot of difference for some families. I would ask that we take another look at that and not implement the fee increase for the pool.

Same for the pool pass that is contemplated where you could get a pass that encompasses six visits for $10.00. If we would not increase the pool fee, then we also would need to take a look at that as well.

The other things I had were questions if staff could help me with respect to that. On page 54 of the detail, we talk about park shelter rentals. I note that the fee for Quindaro Park, the shelter out there would be $45.00 and Quindaro would not be the only one there. There are a number of parks named, but I was particularly looking at the one I was familiar with in District 1. But in comparison, they show a $60.00 fee for Parkwood and I'm curious as to that $15.00 differential when both of those parks are pretty much the same in terms of what the kind of shelter you're renting. Also with Kaw Point, the rental fee for the shelter is $80.00, so my question with regard to Kaw Point is exactly what facility is being rented, because I don't recall a shelter per se, I know there's a building may be let, so what is it exactly that we're renting at Kaw Point for $80.00?

Ms. VonAchen said about those questions regarding the park shelter, we'll need to run those down for you and get back to you on that. We're happy to do that, but I can't answer those questions real specifically at the moment. On the pool, just so you know, the pool, if we were to hire folks rather than contract, because there is some conversation about contracting out the lifeguards, but generally the cost of running the pool all summer is roughly $100K for the summer. The $1.00 swimming pool fee generates about $7K. There is a big gap subsidy between the amount of fees we collect versus how much it costs. Increasing the swimming by $1.00 basically increases the total revenue to $14K. We increased that fee last year, but the swimming pool was closed all year. The $2.00 increase never went into effect, because the swimming pool was closed.

Commissioner Townsend said, right, well aware. For the last two summers we have not had pool service there and the pool was never a money maker, so that's not the point. But I think to enforce even this dollar increase would just show, in my opinion, a level of insensitivity to the community that uses the pool has gone through as a result of COVID. Again, keep in mind, nobody had ever heard of COVID before, and that the aspect from which I'm coming from. Again, I would not like to see that go into effect. We also talked about increasing the lifeguard fees and stood ready to do that but we didn't get a chance to pay people that increased amount either.

Ms. VonAchen said as part of the ARPA immediate needs, I believe we included contracting out and paying for those with ARPA funds at least for the coming year.

Commissioner Townsend said right, but what I'm talking about is how much we're paying, so that's a conversation for another day, not necessarily the funding source, but how much was being paid. Again, that was a discussion we had before anyone knew what COVID was to try to attract people as lifeguards and be more competitive. I'll look for the update on the differentials in those park shelters.

Commissioner Johnson said I'm looking at page 6 of the presentation and I'm focusing in on courts and looking at the trends, how we started at $3.7M in 2018 and how we are looking to trend upwards. How long do you think it will take for us to recover according to this trend, our court fees and is there anything in particular that is slowing down that process or that we no longer charging; I'm just looking at the trends with the other departments and functions and it seems to me that the courts are kind of trailing in terms of recovery.

Ms. VonAchen said as you know the Municipal Court, and this is Municipal Court by the way, they were closed a good part of last year, not only that, but they had some difficulty with conducting trials and court cases throughout the pandemic. The collection level was really impacted by the pandemic and that answers for the biggest reduction. There's also been some waiving of various fees that the judge proposed, and we put that in place because the fee structure is largely recommended by the judge. There's a couple of the fees that were waived or eliminated as part of her new approach. She could talk about it in more specificity, but generally speaking, I think there seems to have been some duplication; I think it had to do with the fines that were charged for folks who didn't appear and if they had multiple; so, I'm not 100% sure, but I think if there were multiple charges, then that same fine was implied to each of the charges, and the judge felt that that was overly burdensome to those folks. Those were eliminated so that if they didn't appear, they just got charged once. I'm pretty sure that's one of the biggest reasons why those fees are anticipated to remain relatively low into 2022 because I'm estimating that in 2022 the courts will only be collecting $2M.

Commissioner Johnson said that's correct. That explanation certainly sounds reasonable, and I, if that is in fact the reason why, I would agree with that logic in terms of why those fees might be not as high as they were. I wanted to get some clarification for purposes of looking at trends and whatnot. That makes sense and for now I'm satisfied with that answer.

Commissioner Bynum said I wanted to support Commissioner Townsend's comment, specifically the Parkwood pool. In 2019 when we went over these adjustments, I had spoken then that I was not in agreement with that fee increase, long before we knew COVID was headed our way and I would just want to reiterate that was my position in 2019, it remains my position today. I also believe these are administrative decisions and you're here as an information only item. I do fully understand that the adjustment downward may not happen, but I didn't agree with it then, and I don't agree with it now.

Ms. VonAchen said the purpose of this presentation is to get feedback from all of you.

Acting Chairman McKiernan said does any other member of the committee have any comments or questions for Ms. VonAchen? I don't see anyone else; I would just ask if any one of the attending public would like to offer any comment on this item?

Ms. Godsil said there are no hands raised.

Chairman McKiernan said, Ms. VonAchen, I know you will be back privately to Commissioners Bynum and Townsend with some additional information, and we do appreciate your work. That is the last item on our Economic Development and Finance Agenda for this evening. With there being no other business, this committee is adjourned. We'll take just a couple of minutes to get resettled and then we'll begin Neighborhood and Community Development.

Action: For information only.

Adjourn

Commissioner McKiernan adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

am