



**Fairfield County
Board of County Commissioners
Lancaster, Ohio**

Press Release, for immediate release December 9, 2014

Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

Mike Kiger, President

David L. Levacy, Vice President

Steve Davis, Commissioner

Carri Brown, County Administrator

Rachel Elsea, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Fairfield County Budget Reflects Priorities of Public Safety

Lancaster, Ohio – Today, the Fairfield County Commission approved the budget for 2015. The general fund budget reflects the priorities of public safety and justice activities. In total, the general fund expenditure budget is \$41.5 million, a 2.26% increase over the current budget. Of the general fund budget, 28% of expenditures are planned for the Sheriff; 21% are planned collectively for the Coroner, Prosecutor, and Courts. In addition, the budget includes a \$2 Million investment for the public safety facility and jail. The appropriations reflect the priority of public safety in the community.

Additional highlights of the general fund budget include:

- For all departments, a 2% base increase in salaries was approved. Total salary increases were about \$1.23 million.
- For all departments, a 6.1% increase in health insurance costs was approved. Taking into account status and employee changes, the total increase for health insurance is \$322,777.
- To replace intergovernmental grant revenue, \$115,843 was approved for Juvenile and Probate Courts.
- Beyond the 2% increase in salaries, an increase of \$ 80,000 in salaries was approved for Common Pleas Court in order to allow for merit increases for probation officer positions and to accommodate reductions in the use of court special projects funds. Related variable expenditures connected with the salaries were also approved.
- Beyond the 2% increase in salaries, an increase of \$55,000 in salaries was approved for the County Prosecutor to replace grant funding and allow for

organizational structural changes. Related variable expenditures connected with the salaries were also approved.

- An increase of \$16,000 is planned for autopsy and related expenses for the County Coroner.
- A \$54,768 increase was approved for the County Treasurer, for which Land Bank expenses will be paid. The county plans to recover related expenses by contract with the Land Bank.
- For the County Auditor, \$40,000 was approved in salaries for long term succession planning.

Commissioner Mike Kiger, Board President, commented, "The cooperation of every elected official and department head during the recent budget hearings was greatly appreciated. The dedication the county leadership has to the public is apparent in the thoughtful preparation of the budget."

For 2014, the carry over cash balance is expected to exceed \$12 million. Carry over cash is a balance needed for expenditures planned in the first part of the year and to plan for future expenditures.

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