



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

Press Release, for immediate release December 8, 2015  
*Fairfield County Board of Commissioners*  
*Steve Davis, President*  
*David L. Levacy, Vice President*  
*Mike Kiger, Commissioner*  
*Carri Brown, County Administrator – [cbrown@co.fairfield.oh.us](mailto:cbrown@co.fairfield.oh.us)*  
*Rachel Elsea, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners*

### **2016 Fairfield County Budget Reflects Priority of Public Safety**

Lancaster, Ohio – Today, the Fairfield County Commission approved the budget for 2016. The general fund budget reflects the priorities of public safety. In total, the general fund expenditure budget for 2016 is \$44.4 million, a 2.6% *decrease* over the current budget. The reason for the decrease is \$3.4 million was allocated to the jail and public safety facility in 2015, while \$1 million is planned for the project in 2016.

Looking at the general fund budget, 28.6% of expenditures are for the Sheriff's Department; approximately 19% of additional expenditures are for the Coroner, Prosecutor, and Courts. The appropriations reflect the priority of public safety.

For all departments, a 2% increase in salaries was approved. Contracted step increases, as well as position alignments for law enforcement, and new employees within the courts were approved. Total salary increases were \$ 1.1 million, just under what was experienced in 2015, which saw an increase of \$1.2 million.

For all departments, a 6.2% increase in health insurance costs was approved. Taking into account health insurance rate increases and employee status changes, the total increase for health insurance for the year is estimated to be \$458,814.

Beyond the 2% increase in salaries, public safety expenditures and specific positions were approved for the courts and public safety related departments, amounting to more than \$372,000.

Commissioner Steve Davis, Board President, commented, "The Commission appreciates the cooperation of every elected official and department head during the recent budget hearings. While the Commission is able to address the priority of public safety this year, the cooperation and diligence in planning for the future needs to continue. "

For 2015, the carry over cash balance is expected to reach \$10 million. Carry over cash is a balance needed for expenditures planned in the first part of the year and to plan for future expenditures.

###