



Commissioners:
Steven A. Davis
Jeffrey M. Fix
David L. Levacy

County Administrator
Aundrea N. Cordle

Deputy County Administrator
Jeffrey D. Porter

Clerk
Rochelle Menningen

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 10, 2024

Fairfield County Board of Commissioners Approves 2025 Budget

Lancaster, Ohio – Today, the Board of Fairfield County Commissioners approved the county expenditure budget for 2025. The 2025 general fund budget, which covers expenditures for daily operations of county services, was approved at \$68.5 M, an approximate 5.3% *decrease* from the current budget, which included several one-time capital projects, such as the Sheridan Center and other capital improvements.

Commissioner, Dave Levacy, stated, “Our mission continues to be serving, connecting, and protecting the citizens of Fairfield County and we fulfill that mission within our fiscal means. The County is committed to workforce education and housing, transportation, and improved infrastructure while maintaining one of the lowest sales tax rates in the state. The 2025 budget process yielded a solid path for the future of Fairfield County, while still maintaining an eye on strong fiscal responsibility.”

The “all funds” budget, comprised of multiple fund types, was approved at \$244.7 M. Multiple grants are received for defined purposes at different points in a year, and the “all funds” budget includes these grants and funds for departments of the county.

A few highlights of the 2025 *general fund* budget expenditures:

- \$2,058,950 Capital Projects for the Workforce Center, county building maintenance, and county parking lot maintenance and repair,
- \$ 447,263 IT investments in Cyber Security and server cluster software
- \$ 165,000 Court Appointed Attorney cost
- \$ 150,000 Hicks Partners grant writing services
- \$ 75,000 Regional Planning for model zoning code development
- \$ 20,000 Veteran Services outreach programs

A few notable reductions in the 2025 general fund expenditure budget:

- \$ 300,875 911 Dispatch Center upgrades completed in 2024
- \$ 295,000 Safety and Security capital expenditures completed in 2024
- \$ 155,000 Rental and Lease reduction

General fund estimated revenues for 2025 are about \$66.1 M, and the estimated expenditures (at 96.5% of the appropriation level) are \$66.1 M. Carryover cash is estimated at \$39.6 M for 2024, which is slightly higher than 2023. Carryover cash is required for planned expenditures and future projections.



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However, with the uncertainty of market conditions and inflationary pressures, the leadership remains cautious with increases in expenditures. The carryover cash balance of the general fund supports the county’s ability to maintain flexibility.

By the Numbers

Total <i>general fund</i> expenditure budget, 2024 (current revised estimate)	\$
72.34 M	
Total <i>general fund</i> expenditure budget, 2025	\$ 68.48 M
Percentage change of general fund budget, 2025 as compared to 2024, current	5%
Total <i>all funds</i> expenditure budget, 2024	\$ 235.8 M
Total <i>all funds</i> expenditure budget, 2025	\$ 244.7 M
Percentage increase for wages, merit-based (non-bargaining)	up to 5%
Annual increase for an employee earning \$50,000 and exceeding performance expectations	\$ 2,500
Estimated annual cost of a family health benefits plan per employee	\$ 23,115
Estimated annual cost of a single health benefits plan per employee	\$ 9,701
Appropriations for the Sheriff’s Office and jail	\$20.4 M
Percent of general fund	30%
General fund estimated revenues for 2025	\$66.1 M
Estimated 2025 expenditures (at 96.5% of appropriation level)	\$66.1 M
Approximate unencumbered carryover cash, general fund, estimated for 12.31.2024	\$39.6 M

The county website includes the full general fund budget as well as reports about county finances. Please visit <https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/>