2021 BUDGET HEARING





Budget Hearing September 21, 2020

- This Budget Hearing is the opportunity for the citizens of Cass County to express their views on the 2021 Cass County Budget. Comments should address spending levels, services that the county should or should not provide, and areas that the county may not be addressing.
- Questions about valuation of property should be addressed in the Equalization Meeting held by the City, Township, County, and State Equalization Boards that start in April each year and conclude in July.



Cass County Budget Process

- Cass County has a formal budget process that starts in May each year and ends with approval of the budget by October 1st. This hearing is one of the last steps in the budget process.
 - Commission approves budget calendar
 - Department Heads make a COLA recommendation
 - Department Heads submit reclassification requests
 - Finance Department prepares budget guidelines
 - Departments complete their budgets online
 - Commission reviews budgets with department heads
 - Commission approves preliminary budget
 - Public Hearing on budget
 - Commission approves final budget



Cass County Human Servcie Zone

- The only costs of the Cass County Human Service Zone the county is responsible for it the indirect costs associated with the Zone that are paid through the General Fund.
- The state will reimburse the county for the "indirect costs" of \$676,249
 based on 2018 expenditures for 2021. The legislature will need to address
 these indirect costs in the next session to determine if the county will get
 reimbursed for these costs going forward.
 - Cass County will also receive the county's share of the Indirect Cost Allocation in the amount of \$472,071, which is 25% of the County Wide Cost Allocation attributed to Social Services.



Cass County Fund Reserve Policy

- In conjunction with the 2020 Budget, the County Commission revised Policy 10.05, Fund Balance Reserves. The old policy called for a 7% to 10% reserve (of the expenditure budget) for each fund. For operating funds this was below the recommendation of the Government Finance Officers Association's two-month reserve policy minimum.
 - The revised policy sets a 17% to 25% range for the General Fund total expenditure budget and 17% to 25% of the Highway Department budget for operating expenditures. Operating expenditures are the total expenditure budget less road and bridge construction.
 - The 2021 budget for these two funds complies with the revised policy.
 - The importance of the policy change is to provide additional resiliency when the unexpected happens to either our revenue stream or expenditures.



General Fund Reserves

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Pr	ojection	bu	dgeted
	2016	2017	2018	2019		2020		2021
General Fund - In Millions								
Revnues	\$ 28.70	\$ 33.70	\$ 36.91	\$ 38.20	\$	38.95	\$	38.80
Expenditures	\$ 32.49	\$ 31.65	\$ 33.65	\$ 36.02	\$	39.35	\$	39.32
Reserves	\$ 2.94	\$ 5.00	\$ 8.26	\$ 10.43	\$	10.35	\$	9.51
% of Expenditures	9.05%	15.80%	24.55%	28.96%		26.30%		24.19%



Highway Department Reserves

 For the Highway Department, our policy applies to "operating expenses" as construction projects can be added or delayed depending on funding.

		Actual		Actual		Actual		Actual		Actual	F	Projection	E	Budgeted
		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		
Higway Fund - In Millions														
Revenues	\$	19.70	\$	17.99	\$	16.55	\$	17.53	\$	16.76	\$	17.93		
Nevenues	۲	19.70	۲	11.33	۲	10.33	۲	17.33	۲	10.70	٧	17.93		
Expenditures	\$	18.87	\$	19.56	\$	19.30	\$	14.45	\$	20.29	\$	18.75		
Less Construction	\$	11.32	\$	12.38	\$	11.17	\$	7.23	\$	8.33	\$	9.49		
Operational Exp	\$	7.55	\$	7.18	\$	8.13	\$	7.22	\$	11.97	\$	9.26		
Reserves	\$	3.67	\$	3.88	\$	2.63	\$	4.73	\$	2.91	\$	2.09		
Nescives	<u>ب</u>	3.07	۲	3.00	۲	2.03	۲	7.73	۲	2.31	٧	2.03		
% of Expenditures		48.61%		54.04%		32.35%		65.51%		24.31%		22.57%		



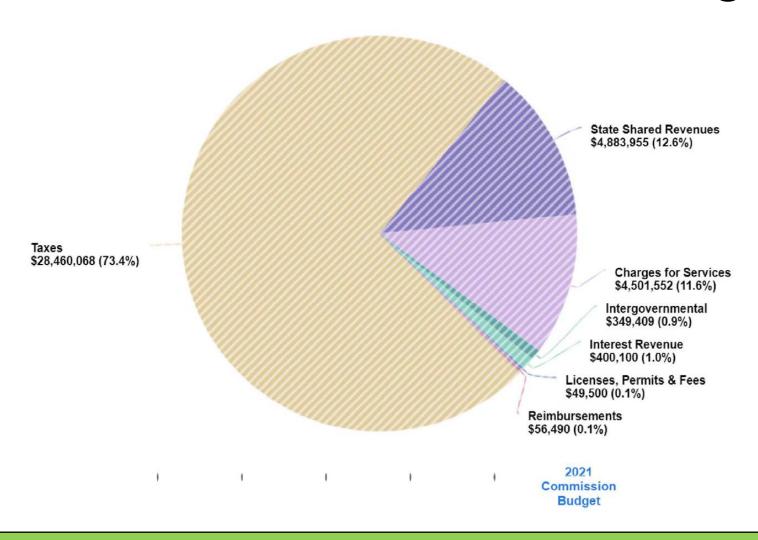
General Fund Revenue Budget

• The General Fund Revenue budget is 3.6% higher for 2021 as compared to the 2020 budget. The biggest area of decrease are property taxes due to a 1 mill reduction on the levy.

	Budget			Projected	Preliminary
General Fund		2020	2020		2021
Revenue:					
County Commission	\$	35,608,905	\$	34,708,989	\$ 34,551,342
Information Technology		11,600		13,315	-
County Auditor		478,715		485,121	469,115
County Recorder		769,650		769,650	769,650
Director of Equalization		102,468		102,468	109,068
State's Attorney Offices		91,100		72,200	89,200
Coroner		36,000		36,000	36,000
County Sheriff		2,677,648		2,672,319	2,556,375
Disaster Emergency Services		138,392		57,084	173,674
Planning		3,000		2,000	2,000
Extension Service		39,200		32,239	39,150
Total Revenue	\$	39,956,678	\$	38,951,385	\$ 38,795,574



General Fund Revenue Budget



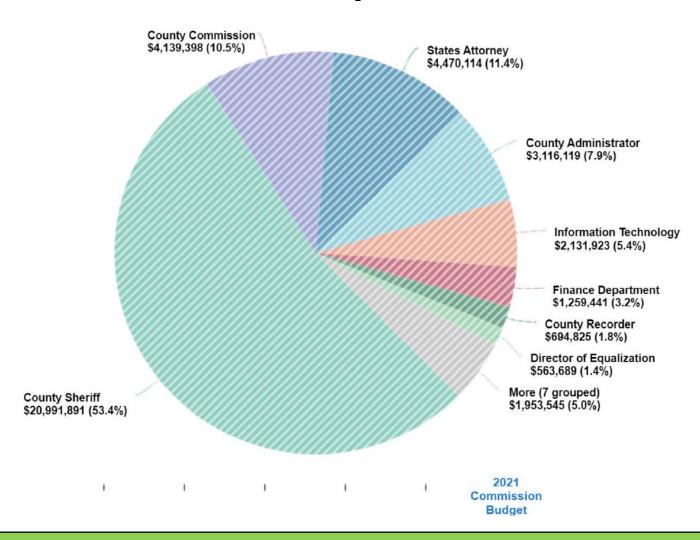


General Fund Expenditure Budget

	Budget 2020			Projected 2020	Preliminary 2021	
Expenditures:						
County Commission Operations	\$	2,521,369	\$	2,785,598	\$	1,144,014
Commission Projects		824,825		900,213		672,882
Public Service Agencies		2,076,907		2,066,907		2,322,502
County Administrator Operations		496,146		494,083		661,953
Buildings & Grounds Operations		268,577		269,062		273,700
Building & Grounds - Courthouse		722,500		729,500		639,500
Building & Grounds - County Jail		983,199		986,114		967,928
Buildings & Grounds - Annex		397,400		395,318		338,400
Buildings & Grounds - Law Enforcement Center		255,884		255,956		190,384
County Administrator - Risk Management		42,346		42,259		44,254
Information Technology		1,019,287		1,011,370		1,173,663
GIS System		253,150		256,486		403,364
AS400 System		301,603		294,284		554,896
County Auditor Operations		1,141,532		1,120,278		1,199,745
Cemetery		18,056		18,051		18,049
Elections		567,073		752,868		41,647
County Recorder		667,357		637,012		694,825
Director of Equalization		572,066		570,759		563,689
States Attorney Operations		3,415,724		3,399,087		3,650,374
Victim-Witness Program		238,716		241,747		246,105
Social Service Legal		734,952		606,914		573,635
Coroner		392,425		373,102		402,793
Sheriff Operations		7,913,528		7,591,297		8,254,960
Emergency Services Unit		56,183		31,500		46,390
County Jail		11,498,088		11,041,600		12,060,541
Detention Center		953,000		953,000		630,000
Disaster Emergency Management		255,897		288,116		281,024
Planning Department		168,454		151,428		164,517
Extension Service Operations		452,640		420,283		458,817
Parenting Resource Center		63,225		45,547		55,418
Social Service Indirect Costs		250,700		250,700		248,060
Veterans Service	_	394,427	_	370,365	_	342,916
Total Expenditures	\$	39,917,236	\$	39,350,804	\$	39,320,945



General Fund Expenditure Budget





General Fund Transfers

- Included in the General Fund Expenditures Budget are several transfers to support other funds:
- 911 Fund The countywide 911 fee does not raise enough revenue to fully support the North Dakota share of the Red River Regional Dispatch Center. The county provides additional support through the General Fund.
- Building Fund The county dedicates State Aid Revenue in excess of \$5,000,000 to the Building Fund for the Cass County Public Safety Communications Project, for 2021 we projected revenues of \$5,000,000 for State Aid so we did not budget for a transfer to the Building Fund, depending on revenues, we may end up transferring some funds.
- County Park The county dedicates funds to help support the county park at Brewer Lake.

County Congral Fund Transfers

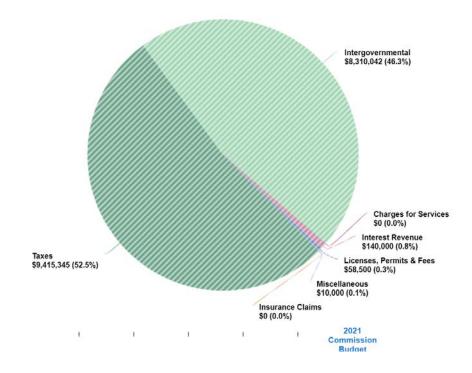
• SWAT Vehicle Replacement – The county sets aside funds each year for the eventual replacement of the SWAT vehicle.

County General Fund Transfers	,
911 Fund	\$ 720,147
Building Fund	C
County Park	20,000
SWAT Vehicle Replacement	2,340
Total Transfers	\$ 742,487



Road and Bridge Fund Revenues

 The County's other major operating fund is the Road and Bridge Fund – their \$18 million dollar revenue budget is almost equally split between local property taxes and state sources.





Special Revenue Funds

 The County maintains fifteen Special Revenue Funds to account for specific revenues that are legally restricted to expenditures for particular purpose. As the revenues are restricted, at the end of the year, the money remains in this fund for use in future years.



Special Revenue Fund Budgets

	Balance	Revenues		Bance
	1/1/2021	Inlcuding Transfers	Expenditures	12/31/2021
211 Road and Bridge	\$ 2,907,618	\$ 17,933,887	\$ 18,752,754	\$ 2,088,751
219 Parenting Workshop	38,012	10,950	22,000	26,962
221 Sheriff Asset Forfeiture	106,322	74,500	118,883	61,939
222 Senior Citizens Fund	273,312	1,760,696	1,913,840	120,168
224 911 Service Fund	-	4,555,147	4,555,147	0
225 Asset Forfeiture (States Atty)	252,324	6,000	2,500	255,824
226 JAIBG Fund (Sheriff)	67,424	4,550	4,000	67,974
229 Emergency/Flood Mitigation Fund	4,809,956	65,000	2,000,000	2,874,956
220 24/7 Sobriety Program	180,338	463,000	421,807	221,531
235 Jail Commissary Fund (Sheriff)	370,254	176,580	175,092	371,742
236 Hazardous Plan/Response Fund (EM)	37,943	8,500	8,000	38,443
237 Valley Water Rescue Fund (Sheriff)	19,502	42,961	43,500	18,963
238 NDRIN Fund (Recorder)	1,532,453	800,000	1,111,300	1,221,153
239 Document Preservation (Recorder)	339,778	90,000	214,401	215,377
241 Swat Vehicle Replacement	7,458	2,470	-	9,928
247 Public Safety Communications Ops Fund	-	176,142	176,142	-
	\$ 10,942,694	\$ 26,170,383	\$ 29,519,366	\$ 7,593,712



Debt Service Funds

 Cass County maintains three Debt Service Funds. Two of the funds are for special assessment districts in rural Cass County Subdivisions. The third fund is for the debt service on the Courthouse West Addition. The debt in connection with the West Addition will be fully retired in 2022.

	Balance	Revenues				Bance
Debt Service Funds	1/1/2021	Inlcuding Transfers	Ex	cpenditures	1	2/31/2021
311 Wild Rice River Estate Sub	\$ 4,302	\$ 15,309	\$	16,013	\$	3,598
318 Grandberg/Amber Plains Subdivision	8,065	24,306		27,968		4,403
319 Courthouse Debt Service	63,909	874,317		873,218		65,008
	\$ 76,276	\$ 913,932	\$	917,199	\$	73,009



Capital Projects Funds

- We have capital project funds for county projects, rural subdivision projects, and the Diversion Authority. County projects are usually funded by a mill levy and by transfers from the General Fund.
- Rural subdivision projects are funded by bond issues which are retired through debt service funds. A portion of the project funds are retained in the capital projects funds to pay for some of the maintenance of the project, such as seal coating.
- The Diversion Authority project is funded by a county sales tax with 94% of the tax devoted to the FM Area Diversion Project and 6% dedicated to countywide projects outside the Diversion footprint.



Capital Project Fund Budgets

	Balance	Revenues			Bance
Capital Projects Funds	1/1/2021	Inlcuding Transfers	Expenditures	12	2/31/2021
401 Building Fund	\$ (4,969,039)	\$ 4,699,486	\$ 176,142	\$	(445,695)
402 Round Hill Subdivision	28,943	500	-		29,443
413 Forest River Subdivision	31,151	500	-		31,651
418 Grandberg Amber Plains	7,314	100	-		7,414
420 Flood Control Sales Tax	7,754,104	15,600,000	15,570,000		7,784,104
421 Flood Control Loan Fund	3,857	1,195,293	1,195,293		3,857
422 Career Workforce Academy	902,672	949,459	1,800,000		52,131
	\$ 3,759,002	\$ 22,445,338	\$ 18,741,435	\$	7,462,905

The Building Fund is financing the Cass County Public Safety Communications Poject and will need to borrow some funds before the end of 2020 to complete the system in early 2021.



Internal Service Funds

• Cass County maintains four Internal Service Funds. Internal service funds are like enterprise funds except that they provide services strictly to the government itself. The revenues come from charges to county departments.

	Balance	Revenues		Bance
	1/1/2021	Inlcuding Transfers	Expenditures	12/31/2021
501 Health Insurance Fund	\$ 5,858,320	\$ 5,571,044	\$ 5,402,157	\$ 6,027,207
502 Telephone Service Fund	271,480	577,200	547,400	301,280
504 Motor Pool Service Fund	86,273	30,400	54,304	62,369
505 Dental Insurance Fund	471,405	403,732	393,732	481,405
	\$ 6,687,478	\$ 6,582,376	\$ 6,397,593	\$ 6,872,261



Employee Compensation

- Employees are Cass County's greatest asset and as such, the County Commission looks at salaries first.
 - Department heads make a recommendation to the Commission on a COLA adjustment in April or May and the Commission approves a COLA to incorporate into the Preliminary Budget before budgeting starts..
 - The Preliminary Budget does not include a COLA for 2021, instead the county did a comprehensive study of salaries and benefits of comparable public and private entities. The county used that study to revamp the pay scale grid for 2021 and beyond. Employees will be put into the new pay scale at their current grade and to the closest step to their current dollar salary on January 1st. Employees will be allowed their normal step increase in 2021 provided satisfactory performance.



New Employees

• Note, for new employees the cost includes salaries, benefits, and office equipment if needed.

Cass County, North Dakota New Positions 2021

Department	Position	Start Date	Total Cost
Administrator	B23 Payroll Clerk	Jan-21	89,280
State Attorney	D62A Senior Attorney	Jan-21	131,549
Highway	B31 Shop Foreman early hire for training	Jul-21	31,814
		•	252,643



Employee Benefits

- The second biggest cost to Cass County Government is employee benefits. The two main benefits the county offers employees is retirement through Public Employees Retirement System and health insurance.
 - All employees are covered with a retirement contribution to the Public Employees Retirement System with the county paying 12.26% of salary and the employee paying 3.0% of salary.
 - Law enforcement employees are covered under the Public Employees Retirement Systems
 Public Safety program with the county paying 13.45% and the employee paying 3.0% of
 salary.



Employee Benefits

• The other major benefits, Health and Dental Plans, are also a shared cost between the employee and Cass County. The county pays up to \$40 for the dental plan and the employee pays the difference between the plan the employee selects (single or family). The rate for the dental plan is decreasing for 2021 by \$6 for the single plan and \$10 for the family plan. In addition, routine care is not counted towards the \$1,000 maximum per plan, leaving more for non-routine services.

Dental Insurance Rates				
		Total	Employee	Employer
Single		46	6	40
Family		122	82	40



Employee Benefits

The health insurance premium has been cost shared between the county and the employee
with the emphasis on providing the employee the insurance they need at a cost that is
reasonable and affordable. With that in mind the county established a percentage that the
employee pays for the premium based on the type of plan they select; single, single with
dependent, two-person household, and family. Insurance rates are the same in 2021 as they
are for 2020.

Health Insurance Rates for 2021					
		Total	Employee	В	Benefit
Single	\$	552	\$ 38	\$	514
Single / Dep	\$	1,048	\$ 145	\$	903
2 Person	\$	1,242	\$ 257	\$	985
Family	\$	1,849	\$ 383	\$	1,466



Cass County Government Budget/Levy Summary 2021

-	2020			2021		2021	2020	2021
	Adjusted	Projected	Projected	Board	Final	Projected	Mill	Mill
_	Budget	Expenditures	Fund Balance	Revenues	Budget	Fund Balance	Levy	Levy
101 General Fund	39,917,236	39,350,804	10,035,362	38,795,574	39,320,945	9,509,991	31.00	30.00
Special Revenue Funds								
211 Road and Bridge	19,653,418	20,294,282	2,907,618	17,933,887	18,752,754	2,088,751	10.00	10.00
219 Parenting Workshop	18,000	1,850	38,012	10,950	22,000	26,962		
221 Sheriff Asset Forfeiture	175,383	191,783	106,322	74,500	118,883	61,939		
222 Senior Citizens Fund	1,719,629	1,719,629	273,312	1,760,696	1,913,840	120,168	1.00	1.00
224 911 Service Fund	4,454,338	4,463,179	0	4,555,147	4,555,147	0		
225 Asset Forfeiture (States Atty)	2,500	2,500	252,324	6,000	2,500	255,824		
226 JAIBG Fund (Sheriff)	4,000	2,500	67,424	4,550	4,000	67,974		
229 Emergency/Flood Mitigation Fund	2,000,000	-	4,809,956	65,000	2,000,000	2,874,956	-	-
220 24/7 Sobriety Program	410,189	359,239	180,338	463,000	421,807	221,531		
235 Jail Commissary Fund (Sheriff)	461,429	258,333	370,254	176,580	175,092	371,742		
236 Hazardous Plan/Response Fund (EM)	8,000	3,635	37,943	8,500	8,000	38,443		
237 Valley Water Rescue Fund (Sheriff)	43,500	43,500	19,502	42,961	43,500	18,963		
238 NDRIN Fund (Recorder)	1,301,100	1,301,600	1,532,453	800,000	1,111,300	1,221,153		
239 Document Preservation (Recorder)	175,635	175,635	339,778	90,000	214,401	215,377		
241 Swat Vehicle Replacement	-	-	7,458	2,470	-	9,928		
247 Public Safety Communications Ops Fund				176,142	176,142	-		
Total Special Revenue Funds	30,427,121	28,817,665	10,942,695	26,170,383	29,519,366	7,593,712	11.00	11.00
Total General and Special Revenue Funds Mill L	evy						42.00	41.00



Cass County Government Budget/Levy Summary 2021

	2020			2021		2021	2020	2021
	Adjusted	Projected	Projected	Board	Final	Projected	Mill	Mill
<u>-</u>	Budget	Expenditures	Fund Balance	Revenues	Budget	Fund Balance	Levy	Levy
Debt Service Fund (Special Assessment)								
303 Grey Hawk Estates Sub	26,150	33,438	(0)	-	-	_ (0)		
311 Wild Rice River Estate Sub	16,273	16,273	4,302	15,309	16,013	3,598		
318 Grandberg/Amber Plains Subdivision	28,782	29,082	8,065	24,306	27,968	4,403		
319 Courthouse Debt Service	888,648	888,648	63,909	874,317	873,218	65,008	1.00	0.92
Total Debt Service Funds	959,853	967,441	76,276	913,932	917,199	73,009	1.00	0.92
Capital Projects Funds								
401 Building Fund	11,007,000	13,516,072	(4,969,039)	4,699,486	176,142	(445,695)	5.00	5.00
402 Round Hill Subdivision	-	-	28,943	500	-	29,443		
413 Forest River Subdivision	-	-	31,151	500	-	31,651		
418 Grandberg Amber Plains	-	-	7,314	100	-	7,414		
420 Flood Control Sales Tax	17,724,461	15,102,820	7,754,104	15,600,000	15,570,000	7,784,104		
421 Flood Control Loan Fund	3,000,000	1,571,850	3,857	1,195,293	1,195,293	3,857		
422 Career Workforce Academy	-	-	902,672	949,459	1,800,000	52,131	1.00	1.00
Total Capital Project Funds	31,731,461	30,190,742	3,759,002	22,445,338	18,741,435	7,462,905	6.00	6.00



Cass County Government Budget/Levy Summary 2021

	2020			2021		2021	2020	2021
	Adjusted	Projected	Projected	Board	Final	Projected	Mill	Mill
	Budget	Expenditures	Fund Balance	Revenues	Budget	Fund Balance	Levy	Levy
Internal Service Funds								
501 Health Insurance Fund	5,469,713	5,261,751	5,858,320	5,571,044	5,402,157	6,027,207		
502 Telephone Service Fund	219,300	220,300	271,480	577,200	547,400	301,280		
504 Motor Pool Service Fund	40,065	46,304	86,273	30,400	54,304	62,369		
505 Dental Insurance Fund	390,143	322,200	471,405	403,732	393,732	481,405		
Total Internal Service Funds	6,119,221	5,850,555	6,687,478	6,582,376	6,397,593	6,872,261	-	-
Total "County" Mill Levy							49.00	47.92

This is the total "county mill levy" or the mill levy that is subject to our home rule charter limitation of 75 mills. It applies to all property in the county equally.



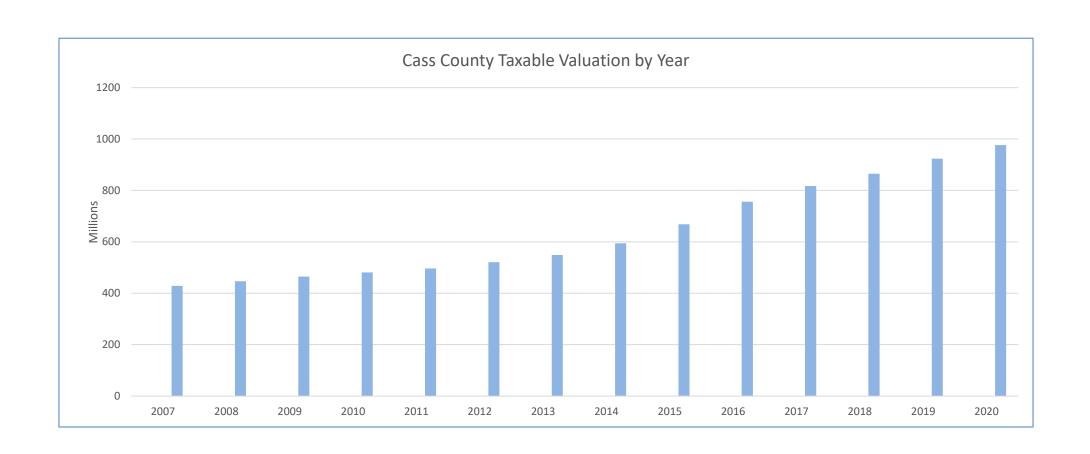
Cass County Government Budget/Levy Summary 2021

_	2020			2021		2021	2020	2021
	Adjusted	Projected	Projected	Board	Final	Projected	Mill	Mill
<u>-</u>	Budget	Expenditures	Fund Balance	Revenues	Budget	Fund Balance	Levy	Levy
Other County Agencies								
231 Weed Control Fund	568,870	569,596	216,290	498,805	559,582	155,513	1.40	1.30
232 Vector Control Fund	1,297,000	1,239,706	307,133	1,336,083	1,378,143	265,073	0.90	0.85
233 County Park Fund	41,000	43,150	94,550	39,500	39,500	94,550	-	-
Southeast Cass WRD	7,088,470	7,088,470	22,986,155	9,140,335	8,108,745	24,017,745	2.61	2.43
Rush River WRD	418,565	418,565	1,219,850	544,550	649,395	1,115,005	4.00	4.00
Maple River WRD	3,577,990	3,577,990	3,989,566	2,530,845	3,802,640	2,717,771	4.00	3.00
North Cass WRD	331,790	331,790	2,021,003	514,095	707,095	1,828,003	4.00	4.00
Red River Joint WRD	-	-	-	1,327,797	1,327,797	-	1.50	1.50
Total Other County Agencies	13,323,685	13,269,267	30,834,547	15,932,010	16,572,897	30,193,660	18.41	17.08
Total All County Funds	122,478,577	118,446,474	62,335,359	110,839,613	111,469,435	61,705,537	61.41	65.00
Maximum County Mill Rate on any Property							56.80	54.57

These agencies are part of Cass County Government but have their own mill levy limitation set in state law. Some apply countywide like any other county mill levy and others apply to only a portion of the county. Weed Control applies to all areas outside the city limits of Fargo. The City of Fargo has their own weed board funded by their property taxes so the county cannot levy within the City of Fargo. Vector Control is levied countywide as the Vector Control provides services throughout the cities and townships. The four Water Resource Districts each cover a distinct portion of Cass County and their levy only applies to their portion of the county. Each of the four districts also levy for the Red River Joint Water Resource District so that levy is countywide.

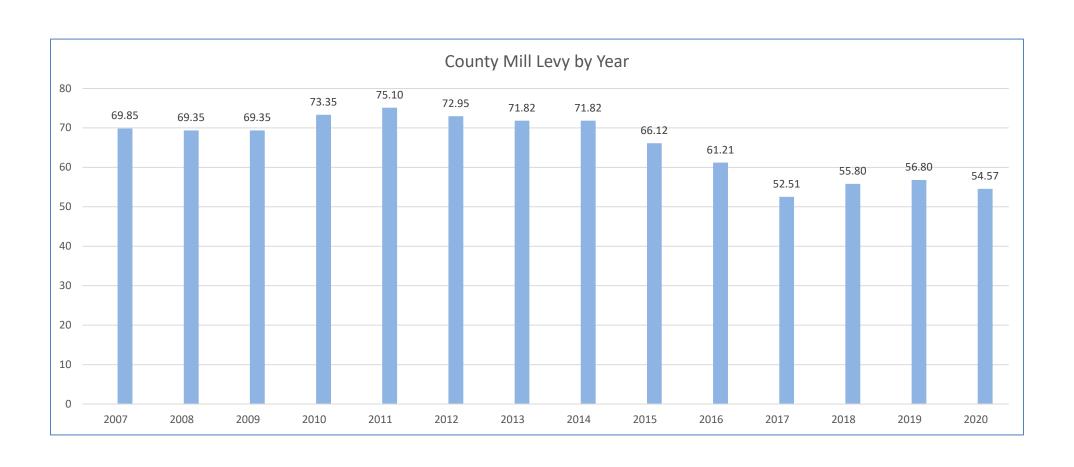


Valuation History



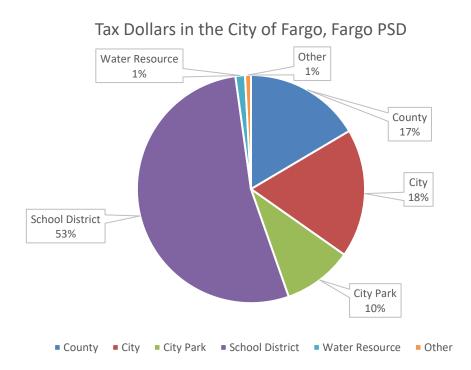


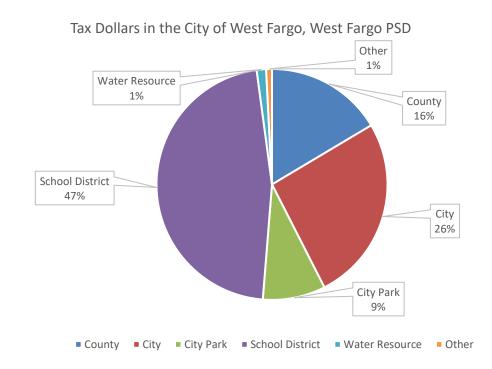
Mill Levy History





Where does your Property Tax Dollar Go?







Budget Hearing

- The Public Hearing for the 2021 Cass County Budget has been published in The Forum on September 2nd, notices have been sent to the cities and townships in the county, and Estimated Tax Statement notices have been mailed to all taxpayers in the county who will have at least \$100 of consolidated property tax as required by state law. Part of the notice, as published in *The Forum*:
- Notice is hereby given that the County Commission of Cass County, North Dakota has designated Monday, September 21, 2020, at 3:30 PM at the Cass County Courthouse Commission Room in the City of Fargo, as the time and place at which any taxpayer may appear and be heard in favor or against a proposed expenditure or tax levy. The purpose of the hearing is for taxpayers to express their views to the County Commission before the budget for 2021 is approved. The budget may be examined at the Office of the County Auditor, 211 South 9th Street, Fargo, ND between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or on the Cass County Government website at www.casscountynd.gov.



Public Hearing

Comments and Questions from the Public

• Discussion by Commissioners



Budget Approval

SUGGESTED MOTION:

 Move to approve the 2021 Final Budget as presented in the amount of \$111,469,435 and direct the County Finance Director to levy the necessary taxes to support the 2021 Final Budget with a maximum mill levy on any county property of 54.57 mills as outlined in Attachment A of the budget levy summary.

OR

 Move to approve the 2021 Final Budget with the following changes and direct the County Finance Director to levy the necessary taxes to support the 2021 Final Budget with a maximum mill levy on any county property of _____ mills.