

Draft FY 2022/23 Budget Highlights – City of Cochran

This document lists several highlights from the City's proposed draft FY2022/23 Budget.

The City's budget is affected by the end of commercial gas revenues from out-of-county commercial customers such as Kuomo Tires, Irving Paper, Cemex manufacturing. Mid-State Energy Commission is devoting the gas revenues that the City was receiving to service the debt incurred for pipeline expansion. So, for the time being, the City of Cochran is relying entirely on local commercial and residential customers to financially support the City's natural gas system. The City's gas system revenues still help finance the General Fund, but not as much as in the past.

The following are some highlights of the draft budget:

- Millage adjustment from the present 10.383 mills to 11.767 mills. This will help the General Fund to support itself. This adjustment restores the .884 mills that were rolled-back from the City's millage rate for the FY 2021/22 budget. Plus, it adds an additional 0.5 mills to the millage rate. The 11.767 mills are expected to generate approx. \$1,116,100 in revenues. The City has not adjusted the millage rate upward since September 2015, when the millage rate was changed from 9.767 mills to 11.267 mills. A mill of property tax in Cochran generates approx. \$94,850.
- City employees to receive a 4.5% cost-of-living adjustment, effective July 1. The City's Christmas bonus for employees will continue.
- An adjustment of water/sewer rates of 5%, an adjustment of gas rates of 5%, and an adjustment of solid waste/garbage rates of 2%.
- Health insurance premiums are fully budgeted. The City will absorb health insurance premium increases for City employees.
- No new City job positions are created by the budget, and none are abolished. The City will continue with the same budgeted workforce. There is one existing position in the Public Works Dept. that will be upgraded from Maintenance Technician to Maintenance & Field Technician. This person will be in the Water Division to improve the City's data collection.

- Debt service is fully funded to meet public bond and loan financing requirements.
- Training is funded for City Council Members and all employees who need training.
- Christmas decorations and the Christmas Parade are funded.

If any member of the public has a question about the budget, please call City Hall at **(478) 934-6346**. If a citizen would like to speak at the **Budget Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium**, then please attend the Public Hearing and “sign-in” to speak.

At the Budget Hearing, masks and social distancing are encouraged where appropriate.

Thank you.