

BENTON COUNTY
NOTICE OF BUDGET & PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing of the Governing Body will be held on June 17, 2025 at 11:00 am, or as soon as practical thereafter, at 4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis Oregon. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive public comment on the budget for the 2025-27 Biennium that begins July 1, 2025 and ends June 30, 2027 as approved by the Budget Committee on May 30, 2025. A summary of that budget is presented below. Additional information may be obtained at the Benton County Budget Office, 4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis Oregon, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The Approved Budget Document can be found online at <https://finance.bentoncountyor.gov/benton-county-budget/>. Any person may attend the public hearing to discuss the budget and any part thereof.

Contact: Rick Cramer, Assistant County Administrator	Phone: 541-766-6746	Email: Budget@bentoncountyor.gov
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BUDGET SUMMARY - ALL FUNDS

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
RESOURCE SUMMARY			
General Revenue	\$ 79,825,277	\$ 86,098,349	\$ 92,727,774
Charges for Services	113,982,363	136,140,172	175,655,461
Operating Grants/Contributions	96,444,627	80,168,294	92,898,001
Capital Grants/Contributions	2,045,392	54,968,530	37,333,419
Internal Fund Transfers	22,679,322	31,817,111	33,899,194
Loans	38,832,620	20,000	-
Current Revenue	353,809,601	389,212,456	432,513,849
Unrestricted Beginning Balance	22,665,560	29,654,900	16,680,364
Dedicated Beginning Balance	49,143,308	92,116,921	91,080,279
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 425,618,469</u>	<u>\$ 510,984,277</u>	<u>\$ 540,274,492</u>
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY			
Personal Services	\$ 130,926,611	\$ 157,065,569	\$ 202,193,408
Materials and Services	108,305,300	130,834,006	\$ 142,303,494
Capital Outlay	34,019,887	136,362,894	99,586,265
Other: Internal Fund Transfers	22,679,322	31,931,235	34,136,363
Other: Loans	2,226,550	2,222,232	2,347,505
Other: Debt Service (Principal & Interest)	4,658,915	8,321,717	10,133,810
Total Expenditures	302,816,585	466,737,653	490,700,845
Other: Contingency	-	29,495,587	39,316,045
Total Appropriated Budget	302,816,585	496,233,240	530,016,890
Other: Reserve For Future	-	9,751,037	5,257,602
Other: Unappropriated Balance	-	5,000,000	5,000,000
Total (Memorandum Only)	<u>\$ 302,816,585</u>	<u>\$ 510,984,277</u>	<u>\$ 540,274,492</u>
PERSONNEL SUMMARY - FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
Regular Positions	563.55	603.89	613.75
Total FTE	563.55	603.89	613.75

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS
PROMINENT CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS BIENNA

GENERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

The General Government program includes the operations of Community Development, Assessment, Board of Commissioners, County Counsel, Records and Elections, Financial Services, Human Resources, and Information Technology. It also includes portions of the operations of Public Works and Natural Areas, Parks & Events. Services include governance, land use planning, building permits and inspection, elections, document recording, dog licensing, property valuation and tax collection, and cemetery operations. It includes organization wide administrative functions such as legal, payroll, accounting, budgeting, technology and human resources. It accounts for internal services such as photocopy, mail/courier, workers' compensation, certain employee benefit programs, computer and telephone systems, fleet services and facilities maintenance.

This program contains nearly all budgeted inter-fund transfer and loan activity. It includes all discretionary contingency and unappropriated balance accounts for the General and Local Option Levy Funds, and contingency/reserves for fleet services, facilities, technology replacement, debt service, workers' compensation and unemployment.

Significant Changes - Total position decreased by a net 4.40 Full Time Equivalent (FTE). There was an additional 1.50 FTE added to the Office of County Counsel to provide greater capacity in addressing both the volume and complexity of legal work throughout the county. This increase was offset decrease of 5.90 FTE to address current General Fund revenue constraints in the county. The decrease in the American Rescue Plan Act represents the phase out of one-time funding that must be expended by December 31, 2026. Increase in Debt Service is related to the restoration of one year debt payments for PERS Bonds which was reduced in 2023-25 in accordance to payment schedule.

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES BY FUND:			
General	\$ 31,874,205	\$ 43,629,151	\$ 41,013,528
American Rescue Plan	11,598,068	16,959,447	4,641,235
Local Option Levy	8,229,129	8,653,423	7,865,118
Forest Payment Title III Projects	844	18,652	-
Cemetery Operations	34,143	64,000	64,965
Debt Service	4,547,848	8,203,518	10,135,510
Management Services	13,046,284	19,288,844	26,094,242
Intragovernmental Services	21,292,417	22,996,660	24,439,508
Enterprise Operations	6,324,567	8,347,995	8,204,509
Treasury Management	1,924,988	3,850,960	3,915,070
Trust	1,130	-	-
Employee Benefit Trust	17,494,272	24,706,141	26,043,776
Total General Government Program	\$ 116,367,894	\$ 156,718,791	\$ 152,417,461
Unappropriated Balance & Reserved for Future	\$ -	\$ 14,751,037	\$ 10,257,602
Personnel Summary (FTE) Regular	93.00	113.60	109.20

PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM

This program includes law enforcement functions of patrol and investigations, marine patrol, animal law enforcement and civil process. Also included are emergency services, correction facility, parole and probation, medical health services for inmates and the corrections work crew. Expenditures include support of the Willamette Criminal Justice Council that works to coordinate activities among local law enforcement agencies.

Services provided through the General Fund are supported mostly with general revenues and property taxes. Parole and Probation services are funded with state resources. Local Option Levy Fund services are exclusively supported by property tax dollars.

Trust Fund expenditures include support of the Willamette Criminal Justice Council that works to coordinate activities among local law enforcement agencies; resources held in trust for inmate population; and resources dedicated for the Victim Impact Panel to help drunk and drugged offenders understand the lasting and long-term effects of substance impaired driving.

Significant Changes - There is a reduction of 2.00 FTE from 2023-25 related to a limited-duration position that ended on 6/30/25, and a position in Parole and Probation in which current state revenues could not sustain. In the second year of the biennium, the Emergency Services budget will be reduced by an additional 1.00 FTE due to the end of a federal grant. To help address General Fund revenue constraints, jail services is decreased to replace existing contracted jail beds with new contracted beds at Clatsop County (Linn County and Norcor contracted beds will be closed). Additional decreases in jail services are due to the discontinuation of state funding used for medication to treat opioid use disorder.

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENDITURES BY FUND:			
General	\$ 28,985,239	\$ 34,041,285	\$ 40,201,390
Local Option Levy	8,528,091	10,657,110	11,631,306
Intragovernmental Services	989,638	2,437,373	2,424,172
Trust	79,223	202,743	453,262
Total	\$ 38,582,192	\$ 47,338,511	\$ 54,710,130
Personnel Summary (FTE) Regular	87.00	91.00	89.00

PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

This program includes road and roadside maintenance, engineering, survey and administrative support for the entire Public Works Department.

The Road Fund is almost entirely from dedicated sources (state and federal government). The remaining income is from service fees, including work for other public entities, and service charges assessed against county service districts and other programs.

The Land Corner Preservation Fund is supported through document recording fees and internal service charges that are dedicated for surveying work.

Significant Changes - There are no significant changes to Public Works in 2025-27, other than reductions in Capital Outlay associated with infrastructure projects that were completed in 2023-25.

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURES BY FUND:			
Road	\$ 19,438,848	\$ 33,305,648	\$ 31,156,897
Land Corner Preservation	170,640	466,200	292,673
Total	\$ 19,609,488	\$ 33,771,848	\$ 31,449,570
Personnel Summary (FTE) Regular	31.60	29.25	29.25

HEALTH PROGRAM

The Health Fund was created in 2025-27 to separately manages the budget that includes public health services for communicable disease prevention, visiting home nurse, health promotion and WIC (Woman, Infant, Children) nutrition. It also includes budgets for environmental health services which include septic and small water systems, as well as restaurant and food service inspection. Behavioral health services in the Health Fund include outpatient support, developmental diversity and contracted transportation and housing services.

The Local Option Levy Fund includes public and behavioral health services targeted primarily to youth.

Health Management Services Fund includes the budget for all business functions of the Health Department and the health clinic including scheduling, billing, records, fiscal services and grant administration.

The Health Center Fund contains the budget of three community health clinic sites in Benton County and integrated mental health services. The East Linn Health Center Fund contains the budget for the Lebanon and Sweet Home clinic sites. The Community Health Centers of Linn and Benton Counties are designated Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and provide primary care medical services integrated with dental and behavioral health services. FQHC designation comes with federal financial support.

Financing of health clinic services includes payments from Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance, federal and state grants and county general revenue transfers. All Health Management Services Fund support is through overhead charges to the operating divisions of the Health Department and Community Health Center. Health Department services are supported by transfers from the General Fund, charges for services and state or federal grants.

Significant Changes - The number of FTE in the Health Department grew 23.16 FTE due to the following: increase of 29.00 FTE to operationalize the new Benton County Crisis Center; increase of 1.00 FTE for the state funded behavioral health deflection program; increase of 1.00 FTE for the state funded Chronic Homelessness Response Office; elimination/freeze of 2.00 FTE in Public Health Programs and Administration due to General Fund constraints; and reductions of 5.84 FTE due to phase out of limited duration positions funded with one-time resources and technical adjustments. The Community Health Center is forecasted to received a significant increase in funds from renegotiated rates related to Medicaid capitation payments. FTE are decreased by 3.97 FTE due to readjustment of staffing structures. The Health Center is evaluating the impacts of federal policy changes before it commits any of the newly forecasted resources.

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
HEALTH PROGRAM EXPENDITURES BY FUND:			
General	\$ 23,288,560	\$ 41,613,075	\$ -
Health	-	-	60,651,830
Local Option Levy	314,368	348,221	560,593
Special Grant Fund	-	7,146,050	6,358,314
Health Management Services	7,644,418	8,311,825	9,697,955
Benton Health Center	53,279,998	57,213,183	77,262,413
East Linn Health Center	7,526,377	8,038,538	9,220,025
Total	<u>\$ 92,053,721</u>	<u>\$ 122,670,892</u>	<u>\$ 163,751,130</u>
 Personnel Summary (FTE) Regular	 273.15	 286.61	 305.80

JUSTICE SERVICES PROGRAM

This program includes the District Attorney Office, Juvenile Department, the law library, and the cost of providing space for state courts.

General Fund and Local Option Levy Fund operations are highly dependent on general revenues for support, with some state and federal grants and a small percentage of charges for service. Court Security and Trust Funds are supported by dedicated revenues or fees.

The Court Security Fund receives a state appropriation to support providing security services at the Benton County Courthouse.

The Trust Fund accounts for revenues from state courts used to support mediation services in child custody matters. The county provides financial management services on a fee basis.

Significant Changes - Budgets for the District Attorney Office and Juvenile Department were both reduced by 1.00 FTE (total of 2.00 FTE) due to General Fund revenue constraints. All other costs remained relatively stable for 2025-27 with increases related to inflation cost and standard growth in personnel services. The Court Security Fund is reduced due to state revenues not keeping pace with cost. The Trust Fund growth is primarily due to increase in contingency funds created from staff vacancy for the WCJC.

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
JUSTICE SERVICES EXPENDITURES BY FUND:			
General	\$ 11,484,747	\$ 14,493,669	\$ 16,775,934
Local Option Levy	1,573,317	1,744,217	2,272,912
Court Security	121,994	94,295	84,098
Trust	89,943	77,950	222,307
Total	\$ 13,270,001	\$ 16,410,131	\$ 19,355,251
Personnel Summary (FTE) Regular	45.00	45.00	43.00

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM

Primary services are transit services for the elderly and disabled and contributions to a variety of community social service and economic development related programs. This program includes expenditure of the county's share of state lottery income for economic development activities.

Most expenditures are supported by state and federal sources. The General Funds support comes directly from state lottery funds. The Special Grant Fund is from recycled loan funds and defederalized resources that are dedicated for community grants that have been shifted from General Fund due to revenue constraints.

Significant Changes - Decline in Special Grant Fund is due to the completion of one-time Community Development Block Grants awarded in response to COVID-19. The 2025-27 General Fund budget includes support for the Benton County Historical Museum and other activities focused on furthering economic activities in the community.

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
COMMUNITY SERVICES EXPENDITURES BY FUND:			
General	\$ 814,020	\$ 1,331,389	\$ 1,132,162
Special Grant Fund	1,034,732	495,182	194,300
Special Transportation	5,609,415	12,076,559	14,739,198
Total	\$ 7,458,168	\$ 13,903,130	\$ 16,065,660
Personnel Summary (FTE) Regular	-	-	-

CULTURAL AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

The County School Fund receives national and state forest and cooperative utility payments. Income is distributed to school districts as directed by the Oregon Department of Education. The County School Fund is supported entirely by dedicated resources.

The Fair Fund support comes from a combination of admission charges related to the fair and special events; collection of Transient Lodging Taxes; and fees received for public use of the Benton Oaks RV park.

Trust Fund represents the resources and budget for the Benton County Cultural Coalition in which the County serves as a fiduciary agent in disbursing subgrants to community organizations on behalf of the Coalition.

Significant Changes - The County shifted 1.00 FTE from the General Fund in Natural Areas and Parks Program to the Fair Fund to better align duties to applicable fund and help address General Fund revenue restraints. For 2025-27, the contingency for the 3% Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) is being reduced to help support the fairground operations and annual fair. The County School Fund resources has increased based on current trends.

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES BY FUND:			
General	\$ 251,440	\$ -	\$ -
County School	532,694	593,000	662,003
Fair	2,032,652	4,169,221	4,371,680
Trust	30,010	49,150	34,146
Total	<u>\$ 2,846,796</u>	<u>\$ 4,811,371</u>	<u>\$ 5,067,829</u>
 Personnel Summary (FTE) Regular	 1.80	 1.80	 2.80

NATURAL AREAS & PARKS PROGRAM

This program pays for operation and maintenance of county parks and open spaces under the Natural Areas, Parks & Events Department.

Most General Fund operations are supported by general revenues. Enterprise Operations Fund is financed by concessionaire lease of the Adair Clubhouse, campgrounds and RV park rentals.

Significant Changes -Increases in Enterprise Operations represent the addition of the McBee Campground and dedicated funds to be used for rehabilitation. General Fund increase are from standard inflation, personal services growth, and the additional maintenance cost estimated when the new Courthouse opens in Fiscal Year 2027. In accordance to state statutes, the County is responsible for the budget to maintain the Courthouse. Additional, as identified in Cultural and Education Program, 1.00 FTE is transferred from the General Fund to the Fair Fund in Cultural and Education Program to better align duties to applicable fund and help address General Fund revenue restraints.

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS EXPENDITURES BY FUND:			
General	\$ 4,153,613	\$ 4,759,667	\$ 5,649,222
Enterprise Operations	785,809	1,069,500	1,979,337
Total	<u>\$ 4,939,421</u>	<u>\$ 5,829,167</u>	<u>\$ 7,628,559</u>
 Personnel Summary (FTE) Regular	 12.20	 12.20	 11.20

TRUST PROGRAMS

Resources in this program are held in trust for specific purposes by donor request, Board of Commissioner order, state law, or agreement with a third party.

Trust Fund - All revenues are dedicated to specific uses as stated in the resolution or order that created the fund or cost center. Funds are being held in trust for preservation of the County courthouse and for the revenue and operating costs of the Beazell Memorial Forest Trust. The budget decrease in 2025-27 is the result of reduced one-time resource from timber harvesting at Beazell Forest.

The Tax Title Land Fund deals with disposal and maintenance of property acquired through tax foreclosure. The County is custodian of foreclosed property for all taxing districts. The fund records income, maintenance, and other associated costs.

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
TRUSTS - EXPENDABLE EXPENDITURES BY FUND:			
Oregon Health Plan	\$ 668,726	\$ -	\$ -
Trust	606,179	1,073,847	576,241
Tax Title Land	89	568,700	596,260
Total	<u>\$ 1,274,995</u>	<u>\$ 1,642,547</u>	<u>\$ 1,172,501</u>
 Personnel Summary (FTE) Regular	 -	 -	 -

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The Building Development Reserve Fund includes estimated construction cost for the new Benton County Courthouse, District Attorney's Office, and Emergency Operation Center which are all fully funded through a combination of tax-exempt bond financing, state and federal legislative resources, and other dedicated resources. The General Capital Improvement Fund has been reduced to a \$1,000,000 contribution due to General Fund revenue constraints. The \$1 General Fund investment represents the establishment of a dedicated cost center in the General Fund to save resources for a new correctional facility.

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS EXPENDITURES BY FUND:			
General	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1
General Capital Improvements	2,502,017	2,406,978	1,000,000
Building Development Reserve	3,911,891	90,729,874	77,398,798
Total	\$ 6,413,908	\$ 93,136,852	\$ 78,398,799

Personnel Summary (FTE) Regular - - -

PROPERTY TAX SUMMARY

Tax rate (per \$1000 of Assessed Value) and tax year applied are:

	Actual 2021-23	Current Adopted 2023-25	Approved 2025-27
Biennium	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
Tax Year	2021 & 2022	2023 & 2024	2025 & 2026
Permanent Rate	\$ 2.2052	\$ 2.2052	\$ 2.2052
Local Option Rate	0.9000	0.9000	0.9000
Total Tax Rate	\$ 3.1052	\$ 3.1052	\$ 3.1052

DEBT SUMMARY

Estimated total outstanding debt principal to outside entities as of July 1, 2025 is listed below. All debt is paid through operating revenues.

ISSUE:	Principal	Matures
Series 2002 Pension Bonds	\$ 3,980,000	2028
Series 2004 Pension Bonds	2,300,000	2028
Series 2018 Full Faith and Credit Obligations	4,115,000	2033
Series 2020A Full Faith and Credit Obligations	6,125,000	2033
Series 2020B Full Faith and Credit Obligations	2,765,000	2045
Series 2023 Full Faith and Credit Obligations	34,765,000	2053
Total Principal Debt Outstanding	\$ 54,050,000	