

**KITTITAS COUNTY
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
BOCC AUDITORIUM ROOM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 215 - ELLENSBURG**

Wednesday	1:00 PM	November 1, 2023
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Board members present: Cory Wright, Brett Wachsmith, Laura Osiadacz
Others: Brian Carlson, Bryan Elliot, Zack DeHaven, Reid Burbank, Mark Cook, Terry Larue

- 1. Call to order: 12:57 PM**
- 2. Citizen Comments (1 min. time limit):** None

3. Public Services Summary

Mr. Cook presented a summary of the total budget impact of all the funds under his direction. These funds include airport, county road, flood, public facilities, parks and recreation, community services development, water mitigation, and equipment rental and revolving.

4. Airport

The airport fund has moved under the oversight of the public works department. In 2024 there are plans to bring selected airport maintenance assets into the ERR fund for maintenance and replacement purposes. Central Washington University will be renegotiating their lease in the future and was identified as one of the multiple sources of uncertainty in the airport's revenue profile. Due to a decreased airport staff the road fund will likely clear snow with their machinery from the runways in the coming winter.

5. Road

The road fund has approximately \$14 MM in work slated for 2024, Mr. Cook acknowledges that this is an aggressive schedule. Commissioner Osiadacz questioned the line item of the sheriff diversion funding of \$200 K. After a brief discussion the board decided unanimously this funding should be sourced elsewhere.

APPROVED

12-5-2023

6. Flood Control

\$1.5 MM of 2024 expense is tied to the completion of the Dollarway project.

Discussion was had about Fire Station 73 being built in a flood zone and the required remediation. The current fund level cannot support the cost of a rebuild. Alternatives are currently under consideration.

7. Public Facilities

The bond payment and interest for the purchase of the Shady Acres property was discussed, Mr. Cook highlighted the potential of interest savings of approximately \$250 K that would follow a payment in full.

8. Parks

Mr. Cook identified two major projects on the horizon, the Dunford Interpretative Center and the trailhead parking for the Manashtash. Dunford Interpretative expenses are set to increase substantially once the access road begins, scheduled for 2026. The proposed Ellensburg Fieldhouse project is also plotted in the extended view of the budget at an annual contribution of \$1 MM. Commissioner Osiadacz opposed the placeholder number for the Ellensburg project being twice the amount input for the Cle Elum recreation project. Discussion was had and it was agreed that \$750 K better represents the County's commitment to equity. The acquisition of the Thorp Mill has encountered an issue of gaps in the surveyed land ownership that requires approximately \$10 K to clear the title.

9. Community Development Services

The inspection fleet has aged to the point where replacement is needed. Mr. Cook requested that the general fund contribute \$ 300 K to this effort. The commissioners unanimously approved. Mr. Cook highlighted the previous regime's choice to refrain from general fund transfer to fund code enforcement and long-range planning. An issue of safety was discussed surrounding the current code enforcement standard operating procedures. A possible transition to the Sheriff's office was identified as an opportunity for a more harmonious fit.

10. Water Mitigation

This fund is exploring opportunities to move into the market of municipal water. Discussion was had surrounding current water rights and their potential for the fund.

11. ERR

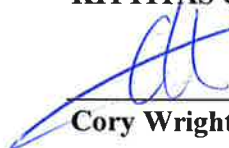
The major equipment purchases for this fund in 2024 is a \$650 K Gradall. Mr. Cook highlighted the need for ERR rates to be conscious of the FEMA rates in order to capture federal dollars for federal grants. In closing Mr. Cook pointed to the declining fund balances across the landscape of funds under his direction.

12. Concluded: 2:11 PM

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Brian Carlson



Cory Wright, Chairman