



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

September 12, 2023 – Budget Hearing (Timed Item During Regular Meeting), 10:15 a.m.

Budget Message

CAO Greenberg introduced an overview presentation of the CAO Recommended Budget, which totals \$156,370,193, by thanking departments, department heads, and fiscal staff and noting his appreciation for the collaborative effort where hard decisions had to be made with this year's budget. Greenberg also thanked Sue Dishion and Meaghan McCamman, Assistant CAOs; Darcy Ellis, Assistant Clerk to the Board of Supervisors and Public Relations Liaison; Rebecca Graves, Administrative Operations Analyst; Keri Oney, Assistant Personnel Director; Wendy Carrington, Senior Personnel Analyst; Amy Shepherd, Auditor-Controller; and Denelle Carrington, Senior Budget Analyst.

Greenberg updated the Board on an addendum and errata changes to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Recommended Budget.

Greenberg cited a list of projects/programs for which funding is included in the budget, such as: investment in a Class & Compensation Study; upgrade of the Independence Correctional Detention Facility security system; purchase and installation of a new body scanner for the Independence Correctional Detention Facility; creation of a new inmate-run laundry program; continued investment in commercial air service at the Bishop Airport; construction of a new shop and office building at the Bishop Sunland Landfill; funding of a new project to ensure compliance with AB 1466 requirement for recorded and scanned documents within the Clerk-Recorder's Office; investment in new online permitting software in conjunction with the City of Bishop to streamline operations in Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement; consolidation into a new singular Radio Budget and first-phase improvements to the public safety and administrative radio system; allocation of funds for a new leadership development program in partnership with the California State Association of Counties Institute; implementation of ePoll Books for improved election function; complete restructure of the Correctional Officer program; creation of a new Emergency Medical Services budget unit to support costs associated with supporting 911 ambulance services throughout the County; and contribution of funding to the Other Post Employment Benefits trust account.

Additionally, Greenberg cited another list of projects/programs where significant efforts will carry over in this fiscal year, or for which the County is anticipating funding to materialize, including: the design and construction of last-mile broadband projects; the award of \$2M Congressional Directed Spending (earmarked) request to assist with the construction of a new terminal building at the Bishop Regional Airport; and another pending Congressional Directed Spending (earmark) request to construct two new fire stations in Tecopa and Charleston View for the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District.

Greenberg also outlined other possible funding needs expected to arise, noting the possibility of those coming back to Board as budget amendment items.

Greenberg reported on the status of the County's Reserves and Contingencies, recommending a goal to build up Reserves to 16% from the current 12.9% and allowing the current \$235,000 in Contingencies to grow throughout the year for use for General Fund needs and transfers into the General Fund Reserves.

Greenberg announced that the Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd had certified the actual Fund Balance for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 at \$5,230,003 which is \$1,030,003 above the \$4,200,000 used to balance the Recommended Budget, and discussed possible options for distributing it between Contingencies, the Accumulated Capital Outlay Budget, Reserves (Economic Stabilization), OPEB Trust Contributions, and/or any other needs identified by the Board.

Auditor-Controller Shepherd added that the anticipated reduction in Transient Occupancy Tax due to road closures and revenue loss should also be taken into consideration prior to deciding how the excess Fund Balance should be distributed. Shepherd recommended presenting a budget amendment to the Board in November after the quarterly reconciliation, which would reflect the reduction in revenue/contingencies, and in turn allow for a transfer of money out of Economic Stabilization to cover the loss.

*Board
Discussion/Public
Hearing*

Chairperson Roeser opened the public hearing at 10:44 a.m.

The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion with staff, requesting clarification on various budget items, and considering where to put the excess Fund Balance and ultimately decided to split the money between Economic Stabilization and Contingencies.

Board members thanked the departments and the Budget Team for their hard work and diligence in preparing the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.

The Chairperson asked whether there was public comment related to the Recommended Agenda, and nobody requested to address the Board.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Roeser recessed the hearing at 12:32 p.m. and reconvened the hearing at 12:46 p.m. with all Board members present.

*Board
Discussion/Public
Hearing*

Board members asked the Budget Team and department heads additional questions regarding projects and funding.

Additional information was provided to the Board by the following department heads: Public Works Director Mike Errante, Sheriff Stephanie Rennie, Probation Chief Jeff Thomson, Agriculture Commissioner Nathan Reade, Assessor Dave Stottlemyre, and Acting Health & Human Services Director Anna Scott.

Chairperson Roeser asked if there was anyone wishing to provide public comment and there was no one wishing to speak.

*FY 22-23 CAO
Recommended
Budget Adoption*

The Board took action to approve the CAO Recommended Budget, accepting the CAO's recommendations for every department budget, and directing the \$1,030,003 in excess Fund Balance be distributed as recommended.

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to direct staff to distribute the \$1,030,003 in excess Fund Balance certified by the Auditor-Controller above \$4,200,000 (for a total Fund Balance of \$5,230,003), be distributed as follows: \$530,003 to Contingencies and \$500,000 to Economic Stabilization.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

1. Adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget as Recommended by the County Administrator, including the recommendations presented herein.
2. Authorize County Administrator and Auditor-Controller to approve and make payments, greater than \$10,000 to Inter-Agency Visitor Center, Cal Expo Exhibit, Tri-County Fairgrounds; and authorize and direct the County Administrator to develop and execute contracts with all outgoing recipients of line-item grants and fishing promotion funding through the Community Project Sponsorship Program as revised by your Board on October 15, 2019.
3. Authorize County Administrator to develop and execute contracts with all Grants-In-Support program funding recipients identified in the Grants-In-Support Budget.
4. Reaffirm the County Criminal Justice Realignment Policy adopted in Fiscal Year 2011-12.
5. Set adoption of the Final Budget for September 26, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Chairperson Roeser adjourned the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Hearings at 2:02 p.m.

Chairperson,
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: NATHAN GREENBERG
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant