

FY2024 Proposed Budget

Balancing Needs And Resources To Shape A Stronger Future



General Fund Operating Budget Drivers

Education Funding	\$17.5M
Public Safety Support	\$13.0M
General Government Support	\$7.1M
Transportation	\$4.2M

Budget Overview

Revenues:

Real property tax revenue increase	13.1%
Consumption tax revenue increase	2.7%
Assessment Increase	3.1%

Expenditures:

Overall General Fund increase	10.5%
Schools funding increase	8.3%

Budget Breakdown

General Fund increase:	\$38,210,604
Real Property Tax increase:	\$27,569,023
Personal Property Tax increase:	\$6,413,107
Sales Tax increase:	\$2,231,347
Average assessed home price:	\$386,000
Average tax bill:	\$3,628

Tax Rate - Current \$0.85/Proposed \$0.94

Stafford Profile

Median Home Market Price	\$485,000
Median Income	\$119,818
Median Home Assessed Value	\$386,000
Population	163,417
Unemployment	3.6%

Address Commitments and Needs

The Proposed Budget begins with addressing decisions from the previous year by funding FY2023 allocations, which include:

- **Public Safety**
 - 13 Positions for the Sheriff's Office
 - 15 Positions for Fire and Rescue
 - 1 Position for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office
- **General Government**
 - 4 Positions in four departments and General Government 1.5% mid-year raise

Inflationary and market impacts continue to cause tension in maintaining essential services. To minimize these impacts, this Budget includes increases to overtime, community partners and operating costs. The Proposed Budget also provides the following pay increases:

- Sheriff Uniformed 1st Sergeant and below: 17.75% (FY2023 mid-year 15% increase)
- All other uniformed public safety positions and public communicators: 10.75%
- General Government: 8%

Strengthen Resources and Investments

The FY2024 Proposed Budget includes the largest proposed transfer increase to public education in history at \$17.5 million, more than 50% of all new revenue. This transfer would move per pupil by \$376 and provide needed funds for teacher pay and school programs.

Public safety is a priority investment in this Budget. The Sheriff's Office would see six more deputies and eight more officers. Fire and Rescue would see an entire engine crew, three Shift Safety Officers and a Training Officer. The Sheriff's Office Body Worn Camera effort requires a Records Specialist and Assistant Commonwealth Attorney. Public Safety also sees an \$8.5 million American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) investment in staff and resources.

As the population increases, so do the demands on our Board of Supervisors. This Proposed Budget increases their support with funding for administrative support and mid-year raises. The Budget also commits continued support to Social Service activities with eight new positions. High-quality service with high expectations requires resources for operations. This Budget includes a Planner, Mechanic, Cyber Security Engineer, IT Desktop Support Tech and Court Deputy Clerk.

Capital Program and Personal Property Tax

The FY2023-2033 CIP includes both County and School projects totaling \$1.14 billion for the 10-year period. The category with the largest expenditure by percentage is school projects at 61%, followed by public safety at 10% and transportation at 18%.

Recognizing that new and used fleet values have begun to stabilize, the Proposed Budget implements guidance from the first-ever Community Survey in 2022, which ranked transportation as a top priority. Moving the Personal Property Tax Rate by 50 cents produces an additional \$4.2 million to add to the \$13 million projects in FY2024.