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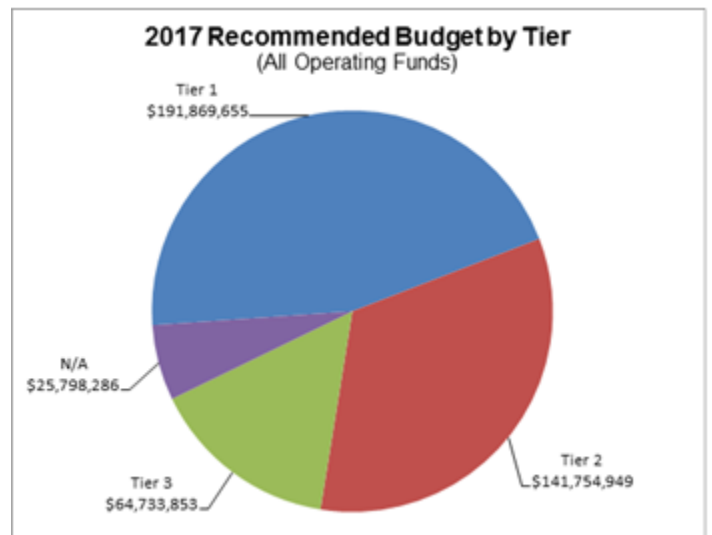
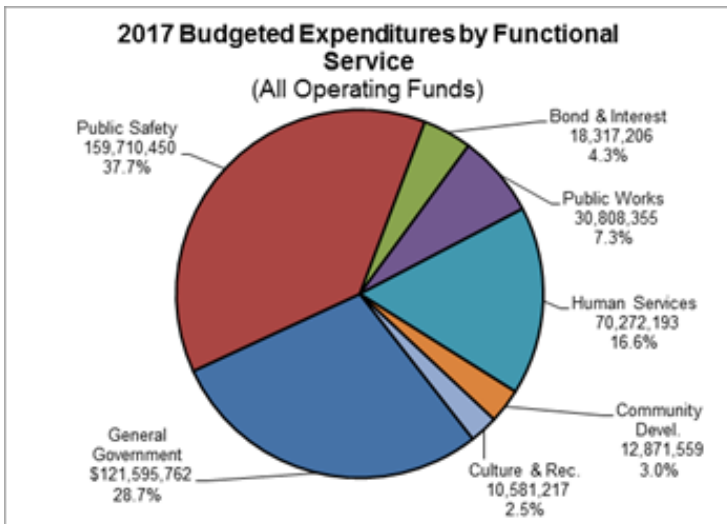
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COMMISSION ADOPTS 2017 BUDGET

(Sedgwick County, Kan.) – This morning, commissioners adopted a 2017 Sedgwick County Budget and a 2017 Fire District 1 Budget.

The 2017 operating budget for Sedgwick County totals \$406,091,994. It will be supported with a property tax levy of \$133,201,437 will require a mill levy of approximately 29.359 mills.



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Among the many enhancements included in this budget are:

- The addition of 8 positions and equipment to improve response times and enhance service quality of the EMS system;
- The addition of 9 positions and software to upgrade the 911 emergency call system; and
- The addition of \$1.5 million to previously allocated funds, in order to replace all voting equipment.

Sedgwick County's five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes \$185.5 million of funding for the Law Enforcement Training Center, the replacement of the I-235 and US-54 interchange as well as the replacement or renovation of 20 other bridges, three new EMS posts, expansion of the Regional Forensic Science Center, and numerous other enhancements to county infrastructure. The budget for the 2017 CIP is \$64,935,564, of which \$52.6 million is for road maintenance and capacity expansion, \$6.3 million is for bridge renovation or replacement, \$5.5 million is for facility enhancements, and \$500,000 is for maintenance of the Big Ditch.

Commissioners reinstated a position for the Community Health Improvement Program (CHIP) which was eliminated in the 2016 Adopted Budget. This position is responsible for the coordination of actions community partners can take to ensure successful outcomes of the plan and overall community health.

The CIP was amended so that funding for the Cold Mix and Gravel Road Replacement Program was reallocated to the Preventative Maintenance on Selected Roads Program in 2017. A total of \$1.5 million was reallocated.

The 2017 operating budget for Fire District 1 totals \$18,064,749. This budget will be supported with a property tax levy of \$15,744,982 which will require a mill levy of approximately 18.371 mills.

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The 2017 Budget was created recognizing four goals established by the Board of County Commissioners:

- Fund the budget with no more property tax than can be provided with a tax rate of 29.359 mills.
- Reduce the amount of outstanding county debt, and fund future capital projects solely with cash and funding provided by other jurisdictions.
- Incur no deficits other than as needed to fund capital projects or to reduce special revenue fund balances to targeted levels.
- Incur no substantial reduction of services.

In addition to these goals, the County Manager set three objectives:

- Continue to focus attention and resources on tier 1 services that constitute the core activities of county government.
- Reduce governmental funding of services that can be provided by non-governmental organizations.
- Take care of county workers.

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