

Your Tax Dollars at Work

2018 2019



Fast Facts

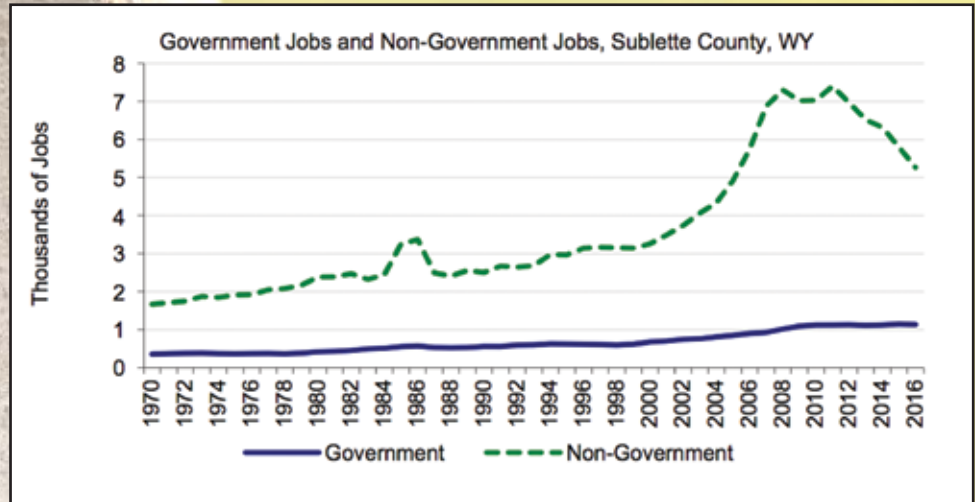
- Sublette County was the largest natural gas producer of any county in Wyoming in 2017, followed by Sweetwater and Fremont counties. Source: Petroleum Association of Wyoming

- The oil and gas industry's share of property assessed for taxation by Sublette County for Fiscal Year 2017 is 92.22 percent.

Source: Petroleum Association of Wyoming

- Wyoming has the largest percentage of government employees than any other state, but is followed by other rural, low-population states such as Alaska, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Wyoming also ranks among the top states in government spending per capita and education spending per capita, similar to other rural, low-population states including Alaska and North Dakota.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



- Nearly 18 percent of the workforce in Sublette County is employed by government (local, county, state, and federal). That's similar to other counties in the western Wyoming, and is a lower percentage than the statewide average of 19.2 percent of the workforce employed by government.

Source: Headwaters Economics

- Wyoming has the smallest population of any state, and only Alaska has fewer residents per square mile. Wyoming produces more energy than it consumes and supplies more energy to other states than any other state in the nation. Two of the nation's largest natural gas fields (Pinedale Anticline and Jonah) are located in Sublette County.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

TOP 10 TAXPAYERS IN SUBLETTE COUNTY

Company	Assessed Value	Percent
ULTRA RESOURCES INC	\$861,392,423	35.54
JONAH ENERGY, LLC	\$499,136,919	20.59
QEP ENERGY COMPANY	\$215,706,280	8.90
EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION	\$185,993,236	7.67
VANGUARD OPERATING LLC	\$99,074,940	4.09
JONAH GAS GATHERING COMPANY	\$65,883,827	2.72
LINN OPERATING INC	\$60,743,523	2.51
PINEDALE ENERGY PARTNERS OPERATING, LLC	\$53,101,454	2.19
WEXPRO COMPANY	\$48,275,970	1.99
EOG RESOURCES INC	\$22,848,314	0.94
TOTAL	\$2,112,156,886	87.14
TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE	\$2,423,775,975	

A medallion marks the Lander Cutoff of the Oregon Trail in Sublette County.



Commissioners Mack Rawhouser, Tom Noble, David Burnett, Vice Chairman Joel Bousman and Chairman Andy Nelson discuss proposed departmental budgets.

Commission Sets \$47.3 million Operating Budget _____

After several years of hiring and spending freezes (in addition to across-the-board budget cuts), this year the Sublette County Commissioners began their budget discussions with a brighter outlook on the county's forecasted revenue stream – at least in the short term. The county's assessed valuation is \$2.4 billion, up nearly 25 percent from last year. What this means is that when taxing for 12 mills, each mill is valued at \$2.4 million, resulting in an overall increase of \$6 million compared to last year.

With a more positive economic outlook, the commission approved a two-percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for county personnel – the first such pay increase granted to staff in four years. The commission also made upward adjustments to salaries for several department heads, as duties and expectations had changed for those positions. The commission also provided leeway for additional hiring in several departmental budgets as two elected officials are retiring this year, and there may be a need for staff adjustments.

Although most departmental budgets increased due to the COLA, and the commission approving other expenditures that had been deferred due to budget constraints, most other expenditures are similar to those of the last few years, reflecting a continuation of conservative spending.

Holding the Line

The county's assessed value had dropped 54 percent in the last few years, so this year's upswing of nearly 25 percent was a welcome respite. But Commission Chairman Andy Nelson warned that county government should not be complacent with the increase, as valuation is expected to tank again next year.

"We have been working to save enough reserves so that if funding dried up today, the county could still function for five or more years without having to operate in crisis mode. That is in place," Nelson said. "We have also been working

hard to establish a baseline budget so that when assessed valuation drops, we don't have to make drastic adjustments in the budget. That also applies for when valuation increases: we hold steady on our spending preparing for the future."

"This budget makes available a continuation of the level of services that the county can provide while maintaining a healthy county reserve," said Commissioner David Burnett.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- *Staff salary adjustments*
- *Paving Meadowlark Lane*
- *New emergency communications system*
- *Broadband Internet*

Projects Moving Forward

With some financial flexibility in the budget this year, the commissioners joined together to tackle a few new major projects that will provide significant benefits to county citizens.

"We realize, after several years of traffic counts, that it's time to pave Meadowlark Lane," Commission Vice Chairman Joel Bousman said. "With more revenue to work with, we realize it's time to get that done." This project is part of the \$5 million allocated to road projects in the County Road & Bridge budget.

"Another significant item we've invested in is the new emergency communications system, said Commissioner Mack Rawhouser. "Once this is up and running, Sublette County will be on the cutting edge of the state when it comes to emergency communications via digital network." The \$4.2 million system will provide for broad coverage for all emergency departments in the county (sheriff, fire, emergency medical, etc.) and will even provide access for state agencies such as the highway patrol and game wardens.

COMMISSION SETS OPERATING BUDGET

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A fourth important budget allocation involves broadband internet. Commissioner Tom Noble noted that the county has retained a top IT engineering consulting firm to assist in moving forward with plans for a public/private partnership in bring broadband infrastructure to Sublette County for economic development.

“The towns and the county have all put money aside and are striving to work together toward construction of this infrastructure,” Noble said. Network construction costs may be covered by a combination of funding from these local governments, as well as state and federal grants and private sector investment. The county’s goal is to provide the basic network infrastructure, which will serve to enable a viable business model for private sector investment and service to end-users throughout the county. To that end, the county has issued a request for information for partnership arrangements to meet the county’s broadband needs.

The Negatives

Not all the budget news is positive, as several industrial companies have filed for bankruptcy or are seeking tax

abatements, and these actions are causing an impact to the budget. The EnCana abatement was so large it had to be put on a five-year payment plan. There have been other abatements as well, though none as large as EnCana’s. In addition, a recent bankruptcy (Vanguard Natural Resources) has resulted in a \$2 million loss to the county’s tax coffers.

Sublette County Clerk and Budget Officer Mary Lankford said, “We’ve never had to deal with this before,” and this year, the county is paying for three-quarters of a million dollars in abatements. Abatements over \$150,000 now automatically go into a payment or tax credit plan.

The Future

The diligent effort of past and current county commissions for more than the last decade has resulted in the county setting aside reserves of nearly \$173 million. Tucking money away for the future allows the county to take advantage of revenue streams in a way that provides for a continuation of county government services when times are more lean.

Budget by the Numbers:

\$47 million for Operations

With continued growth in reserve accounts, this is the largest budget in Sublette County’s history, ringing in at \$234 million, and is based on a taxation rate of 12 mills. It is important to note that the budget includes:

Cash-carryover of \$9.6 million (numerous departmental budgets were underspent last year, despite imposed budget cuts);

Reserve accounts of \$172.8 million; and an

Operating budget of \$47 million.

The Fiscal Year 2019 budget covers county income and expenditures from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

General Fund:	\$47.3 million
Reserve Accounts:	\$172.8 million
EnCana Tax Refund:	\$524,830
Repayments.	\$243,766
Fair, Airport, Library, Museum,	
Fire, Recreation:	\$13 million
Total Requirement:	\$234 million



A summer–pelage ermine checks a window on the Sublette County Courthouse.

Reserve Accounts

\$172.8 million

Although state officials have a permanent mineral trust fund that allows the interest generated from the account to be spent while preserving its principal, local governments have no similar ability to establish a trust fund. Not only are counties lacking the ability to establish permanent accounts, legal precedent has determined that a sitting commission cannot bind a future commission.

With this reality, the Sublette County Commission worked for more than a decade to establish and build reserve accounts for future needs. The reserve accounts are for specific purposes, covering both operations and capital construction needs.

The current county budget includes \$172,861,857 in reserve accounts, split between cash (\$10 million); equipment (\$12.5 million); and depreciation (\$150.4 million). Reserve money is held in interest-earning accounts. In order to be spent, the budget must be amended to transfer the required funding from a reserve account to a spending account.

Cash reserve: \$10 million. This money provides for cash flow for county government operations.

Equipment reserve: \$12.5 million. Each year, money is set aside to pay for future equipment purchases.

Depreciation reserve: \$150.4 million. Since the county does not have the statutory authority to establish a trust fund or rainy day account for future county needs, money is earmarked and set aside in specific reserve accounts for use in the future.

The Depreciation Reserve budget includes the following accounts:

Building projects, equipment
& maintenance \$29.6 million

Budget Reserve.....	\$14.6 million
Ag & Fair (operations and capital).....	\$13.1 million
Recreation (operations and capital).....	\$11.75 million
Library (operations and capital).....	\$12.25 million
Senior centers/facilities (operation and capital).....	\$11.75 million
State/County road fund	\$7.3 million
Road & bridge projects.....	\$7 million
Courthouse & maintenance.....	\$7 million
Landfill (remediation, closure, reserve).....	\$5.5 million
Museums.....	\$5.5 million
Airports	\$5 million
Human services.....	\$4.5 million
Communications & IT.....	\$7 million
Fire Halls	\$3 million
Tax Refunds	\$1.9 million
Resource monitoring	\$2 million
Emergency Revolving Loan.....	\$1 million
Rural Health Care District	\$386,329
Elections	\$100,000



A coyote stops for a “selfie” at a trail camera station in Sublette County.

Taxation & Revenues

Property Taxation

Property taxes are one of the primary sources of income for local governments, counties, school districts, and other special districts like the Rural Health Care District. The federal government does not receive any revenue from your property tax.

The county assessor establishes taxable values for most properties within the county, subject to final approval and certification by the State of Wyoming. Mineral production is also valued by state officials for ad valorem and severance tax purposes.

The Sublette County Commission has set the general fund mill levy at the full 12 mills allowed by law. A mill is \$1 of revenue for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation. With minerals accounting for 92 percent of the county’s valuation, the commission’s decision to tax at the full 12-mill rate allows the county to capture this revenue stream while these natural resources are being extracted. Minerals are taxed at a rate of 100 percent of fair market value, but are taxed only once – as they are extracted. The current year’s mineral valuation is based on mineral sales that occurred the previous year.

Wyoming statutes require all property to be valued at fair

TAX YEAR 2018 VALUATION BY PROPERTY TYPE

Property Class	Assessed Value	Percent
Mineral & Industry	\$2,266,160,394	93.50
Residential	\$109,354,683	4.51
Commercial	\$25,724,638	1.06
Agricultural	\$11,881,610	0.49
Utilities	\$10,654,650	0.44
Total	\$2,423,775,975	100.00

market value, except for agricultural land, which is valued by its productive capability. The county assessor determines the fair market value for homes and property, and takes 9.5 percent of that value to determine the taxable or assessed value of residential homes and real property (11.5 percent for industrial property). The taxable value is then multiplied by the appropriate mill levy, where each mill is equal to one-thousandth of the taxable value.

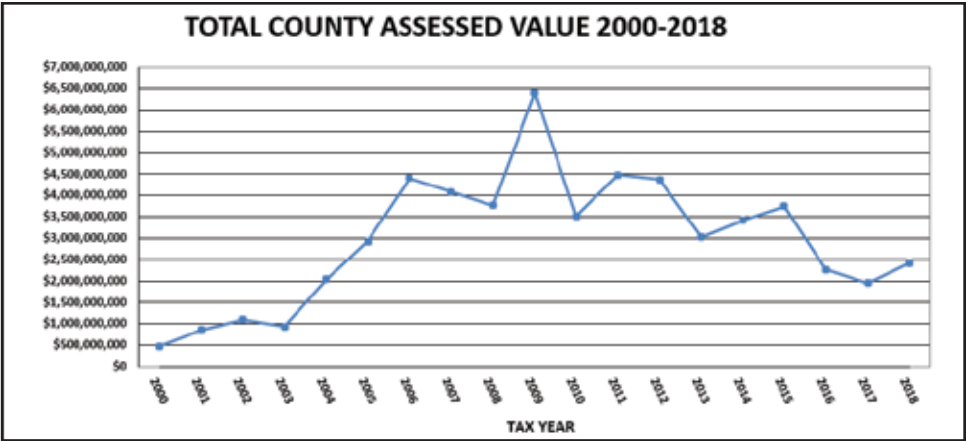
For example, a home with a fair market value of \$200,000 would have a taxable value of \$19,000 (based on the 9.5 percent residential assessment rate). An assessment of 64 mills on this home (the average mill levy in Sublette County) would result in a tax of \$1,216.

Although the county taxes 12 mills for county government, your property tax notice includes tax rates ranging from 59 to 67 mills, depending upon where your property is located in the county. A variety of special tax districts in the county impose additional taxation upon property owners in those districts. These special tax districts range from cemetery districts to road improvement districts in areas where property owners vote to approve these taxes on themselves.

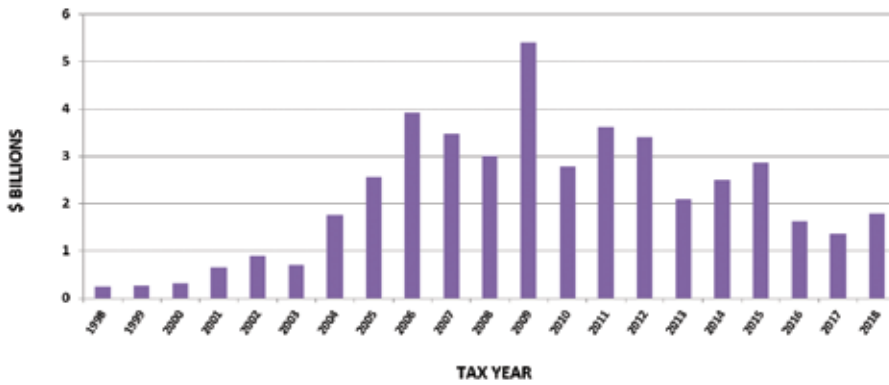
The majority of the taxes you pay provides for the state’s educational system. The tax is collected here at the local level, but the revenue is remitted to the state for redistribution.

Veteran Tax Relief Program

Honorably discharged veterans who have been residents for at least three years (or their surviving spouses), and who served time in the military in World War II, Korea, or Vietnam, or who have been awarded certain prescribed medals for service in other overseas conflicts, may be eligible for tax savings on their primary residence. Veterans with a compensable service connected disability are also eligible. Please contact the Sublette County Assessor’s office for more information.



TOTAL ASSESSED VALUATION OF NATURAL GAS IN SUBLETTE COUNTY

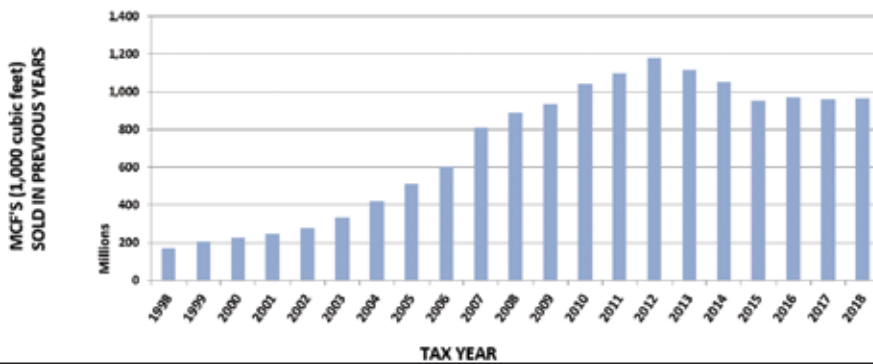


Natural Gas and Oil: Production & Valuation

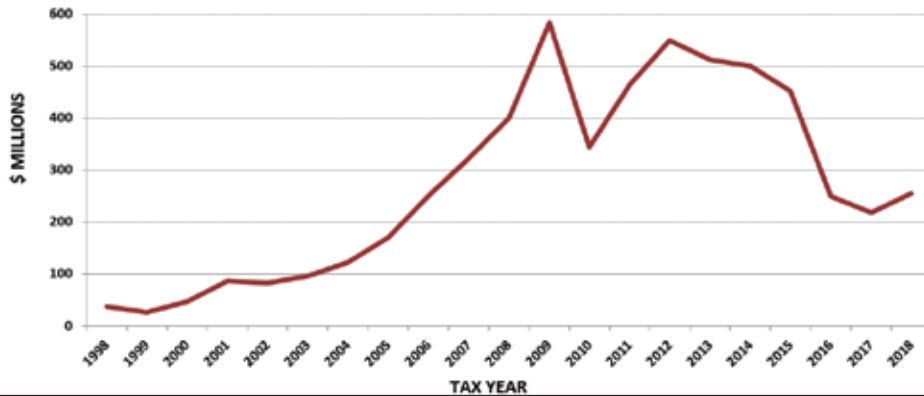
These charts show oil and gas productivity and assessed valuation in Sublette County for each year since 1998.

Source:
Sublette County
Assessor

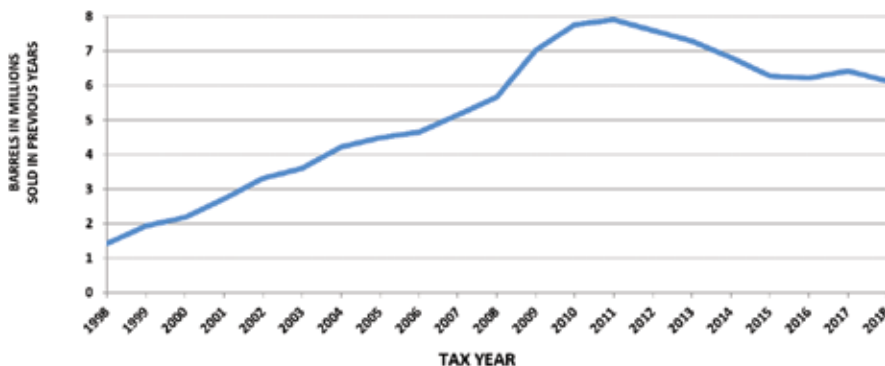
TOTAL NATURAL GAS UNITS SOLD IN SUBLETTE COUNTY



TOTAL ASSESSED VALUATION OF OIL IN SUBLETTE COUNTY



TOTAL OIL UNITS SOLD IN SUBLETTE COUNTY



Understanding Revenues

The revenue generated by the taxing of 12 mills provides the majority of funding for county government services, but the budget also includes \$15 million in revenue from a variety of other sources (federal, state, and local).

Federal Revenue

The county will receive nearly \$600,000 in Federal Payment In Lieu of Taxes. PILT payments were established by Congress in the mid-1970s to reimburse western counties for a portion of the costs associated with having federal land in the county, but with no method for the counties to tax for the services the counties provide.

The U.S. Forest Service Secure Rural Schools fund was formerly known as the Forest Reserve Payment. Funds are sent to the state by the federal government and distributed by the State Treasurer to counties in which the national forests are located. The budget includes just over \$418,000 in this revenue.

State Revenues

Several sources of revenue are funneled to the counties from the state, including severance taxes, sales and use taxes, fuel taxes, and others.

- **Severance:** Mineral severance tax distributions are made to local governments, the state's water development fund, Wyoming Department of Transportation, and the University of Wyoming. The Sublette County budget includes \$154,224 in severance tax revenues.

- **Sales & Use:** Sublette County's sales tax rate is four percent, the lowest allowable under statute. Sublette County estimates it will receive \$5 million in sales and use taxes this year.

- **Gas & Diesel Fuels:** Sublette County anticipates receiving \$1.1 million from the diesel fuel tax, and \$700,000 from the gas tax.

- **County Road Fund:** The County Road Fund (once known as the Farm To Market program) was originally designed to help counties with road construction needs. Funds allocated under the CRF program may be used for both road construction and maintenance. The CRF is funded by the state through gasoline and severance taxes, using a formula for distribution. Sublette County estimates it will receive about \$578,000 in county road funds this year.

- **Cigarette:** Sublette County estimates it will receive \$5,809 in cigarette tax revenue in this budget year.

- **Lottery:** Sublette County will receive about \$25,000 from the state lottery program.

Local Revenues

The Sublette County budget includes a variety of local revenue sources – from fees paid to county departments, to interest on invested funds.

Motor vehicle licensing will generate \$600,000; and revenues earned for recycling, combined with fees paid at

the transfer station and landfill, will result in \$220,000 in revenue. Plat reviews will generate \$2,000, while charges associated with the jail phone and commissary will generate \$10,000 for the county. The public health office will generate \$38,000 from vaccinations and the annual health fair – funding that is used to offset the costs of these public health services offered at low cost.

Liquor license fees will generate about \$7,300; \$10,000 from traffic school; and the county will receive \$11,000 for providing law-enforcement services at nearby U.S. Forest Service installations.

The new budget includes \$850,000 in interest revenue from investment of county funds.

Revenue from local fees include those paid to the following departments:

County Clerk	\$185,000
District Court.....	\$30,000
Planning & Zoning.....	\$12,000
Sanitarian.....	\$5,000
Sheriff.....	\$20,000
Ice Arena.....	\$20,000
Fairgrounds.....	\$50,000
Misc. Fees	\$65,000

Grants

The county attorney's office will receive about \$33,000 from Victim Witness Services, while the county will also receive \$30,000 for emergency management efforts and \$138,000 in support for the county attorney's office from the State of Wyoming.

Federal and state grant funding of about \$147,000 is expected to pass through the county coffers for specific programs and projects, including those that address bioterrorism, homeland security, and public health.

Other Revenues

The budget includes \$90,000 the county treasurer retains for collection of sales and use taxes; \$45,000 in revenue for fees for services from the public health office; and \$10,000 in sales tax penalties. The Sublette Center will pay \$60,000 on a loan received from the county. A handful of other miscellaneous smaller revenue streams are expected to generate an additional \$80,000.

Due to uncertainties associated with the Sublette County Rural Health Care District's decision regarding the purchase of the Pinedale clinic properties for the critical access hospital and the impact that might have on leasing the county's two clinics, the commission placed a token \$10,000 in revenue for the lease payment into the budget. Last year the county received \$100,000 in revenue for the lease, and at the start of this fiscal year, the county charged \$10,000 per month for the lease.

Elected Officials & Their Departments

Commission

\$297,100

What We Do: The Board of County Commissioners is the general administrative body for County government. Commissioners have a myriad of responsibilities that include making decisions to make the County a better place to live and work. Individual commissioners have no power to act independently. All formal and official actions taken by the Board of County Commissioners must be by majority or unanimous vote in a public meeting. Commissioners also appoint department heads of offices for which they have responsibility. They appoint members to a variety of volunteer boards and commissions. Additionally, individual commissioners serve on other boards that serve the interests of County citizens.

Budget Summary: Salaries for the five county commissioners total \$162,500, based on their annual salaries of \$32,500 each. The budget includes an extra \$12,000 for extra meetings held throughout the year. The commission has allocated \$75,000 for specialized attorneys such as those handling oil and gas taxation disputes and natural resource litigation for the county. Consultant expenses are allocated \$25,000. This amount covers costs associated with production of the State of the County report, as well as consultations with natural resource professionals who provide data or special expertise on various issues at the commission's direction. Other budget items include \$12,000 for meals and mileage, \$10,100 for a new vehicle reserve, and \$500 for office supplies.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Down \$45K

Reason for difference: Spending on special attorneys varies by the complexity of the case. While the commission generally allocates \$75,000 for this item, last year the commission spent more than \$98,000 for specialized attorneys, but only spent \$20,000 on the same line item the year prior.

Clerk

\$347,605

What We Do: As set forth in state statutes, the duties of the county clerk's office are varied. The county clerk serves as the clerk for the board of county commissioners, preparing agendas, and preparing and recording minutes, resolutions and agreements for the commission.

As the chief budget officer for the county, the clerk prepares the budget for adoption by the commissions, and then administers the adopted budget. This process requires working closely with each department as well as with the commission itself.

The clerk's office issues marriage licenses and titles and liens for motor vehicles, administers liquor license applications and records, and maintains official records of land transactions, subdivisions, mineral leases, and mining claims.

The clerk's office is the accounting office for the county, processing payment requests from vendors to the county, as well as handling the financial administration of grants paid to the county.

The clerk's office also serves as county government's personnel office, maintaining general personnel records, providing new employee orientation and policy manuals, and processing and paying county payroll and benefit allocations.

Budget Summary: The majority of this budget (\$330,000) provides for the salaries for the clerk and four deputies. The balance covers routine office operational expenses (telephone, office supplies and equipment).

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$57K

Reason for difference: This budget was underspent last year by nearly \$52,000 from what was budgeted. With the retirement of Sublette County Clerk Mary Lankford, this budget includes one additional staff position from the Lankford's current staff of three deputies.

How Much Are County Officials Paid?

The county commission sets salaries for elected officials every four years, using the guidance of state statutes that establish salary caps for certain elected positions. Sublette County salaries for clerk, treasurer, assessor, clerk of district court, and sheriff are set at \$92,908. The county attorney's annual salary is \$100,000 per year, while the county coroner receives \$30,500 annually.

Salaries for other county employees are set by salary schedules approved by the county commission. While eligible employees have been able to move up the pay schedule, the current budget includes a two-percent cost-of-living increase – the first such increase in four years.

Assessor

\$492,987

What We Do: The assessor's office locates, identifies, and values all taxable property in the county in accordance with state laws and guidelines. In Sublette County, that covers more than 10,000 individual parcels.

Budget Summary: The majority (\$397,000) of Assessor Jeness Saxton's budget covers salaries for the assessor and her five deputies, and the \$73,000 cost of a contract for appraisal and audit services. The budget includes \$6,000 for a new vehicle reserve and \$5,000 for vehicle expenses, while the balance of the budget covers the cost of office operations.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$16K

Reason for difference: The budget increase reflects a two-percent raise for staff, and this budget was underspent by \$8,000 from what was originally budgeted last year.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 9*

Treasurer

\$298,718

What We Do: The treasurer's office is responsible for vehicle registrations, sales and property tax collections, and maintaining the books for Sublette County's government.

Budget Summary: The majority of this budget (\$276,000) provides for the salaries for the treasurer and her four deputies. The balance covers routine office operational expenses (postage, telephone, office supplies and equipment).

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$33K

Reason for difference: In addition to underspending the budget by more than \$13,000 last year, this budget in-

cludes additional staff costs. With the retirement of Treasurer Roxanna Jensen, this budget includes one added position from the current staff of three deputies and one quarter-time position.

Attorney

\$752,632

What We Do: The Office of the County and Prosecuting Attorney provides diverse legal representation for Sublette County. Civil law attorneys provide legal analysis and guidance to the County's agencies and non-elected boards, as well as initiating various court actions. Criminal law attorneys coordinate with law enforcement agencies in the pros-

Retiring County Officials: 74 Years of Service

After working a combined total of 74 years in experience in county government, January 2019 will bring the retirement of County Clerk Mary Lankford and County Treasurer Roxanna Jensen.

Mary Lankford started in Sublette County government in 1980 in the county zoning office, and was elected as clerk in 1987. When Mary began work as the county clerk more than 30 years ago, the county commission adopted a budget of \$3.4 million (including about \$75,000 in reserves), and the value of a mill was \$287,176. The valuation dropped by half the next year, as the bust part of the boom-and-bust cycle of natural gas development hit.

For comparison, the county's most recent budget totals \$234 million (with nearly \$173 million in reserves), and the value of a mill is \$2.4 million.

While serving as county clerk, Mary has held top positions in a variety of professional positions with the Wyoming County Clerks Association, Wyoming Association of County Officers, and the Wyoming County Commission Association. She and husband Dave are volunteers for numerous non-profit organizations.

Roxanna Jensen is an example of Sublette County growing its own. A Sublette County native and Pinedale High School graduate, after completing business college in Salt Lake City, Utah, Roxanna returned to the county and worked 16 years as a deputy county treasure, and in 1998, she was elected county treasurer, a position from which she retires.

Roxanna is well-known for her volunteer work with the 4-H Foundation and 4-H Leadership, county fair board, and the Pinedale Half Marathon.

Sublette County is grateful to have two such fine public servants dedicate their lives to serving its citizens.



Mary Lankford



Roxanna Jensen

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 10*

ecution of criminal and traffic offenses. The department has divisions handling criminal matters, civil cases, juvenile justice, and victim/witness services.

Budget Summary: This proposed budget is allocated at a higher level than the county attorney's actual expenditures last year. The main differences include \$60,000 budgeted for prosecution and defense, of which only \$2,000 was spent last year, but these costs are difficult to predict from year to year; \$36,000 is allocated for the crime victims program, of which just \$2,600 was spent last year.

The majority of this department's budget covers personnel costs for the county attorney, deputy attorneys, and secretaries, totaling \$540,000. The Title 25 program is allocated \$60,000, which provides for emergency and involuntary hospitalizations of persons suffering from mental illness. The remainder of the budget covers general costs associated with operating the county law offices.

In a separate general fund line item, the county pays \$12,000 for office rental for the public defender.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$75K

Reason for difference: County Attorney Clayton Kainer underspent his department's budget last year by \$64,000, and this year's budget proposes to substantially align spending with what was originally budgeted. In addition to staff salary increases, this budget proposes increased spending for office equipment and computer hardware.

District Court **\$374,002**

What We Do: Clerk of District Court Janet K. Montgomery is responsible for maintaining and preserving the records of all cases filed with the Ninth Judicial District Court in Sublette County. The clerk has many duties, which include the processing of cases and court-ordered payments as well as the administration of appeals and jury trials.

Budget Summary: Salaries for the court clerk, two deputies, and a part-time special project employ comprise the majority of this budget, at \$226,000. The public defender program is allocated \$95,000; travel expenses, court-appointed attorneys, and jurors and witness fees are each budgeted \$8,000, while the balance covers general operations of the district court clerk's office.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$38

Reason for difference: District Court Clerk Montgomery underspent her budget last year, and this year's budget realigns spending to closer to what she had proposed last year. Increases for travel to accommodate training, and for the public defender, constitute the majority of the budget increase.

Coroner **\$60,300**

What We Do: The coroner is charged with pronouncing death and determining the time of death, identifying and removing the deceased, determining the need for autopsy, notifying the next-of-kin, and completing death certificates, as well as investigating deaths in a variety of circumstances.

Budget Summary: The bulk of Coroner Curt Covill's budget covers the coroner's salary as well as standby time for deputy coroners. Other major items include \$7,750 for a new vehicle reserve, \$8,000 for autopsies, \$4,000 for supplies, \$2,000 each for county burials and vehicle expenses, and \$1,500 for training.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$18

Reason for difference: This budget was underspent last year, and increases pertain to personnel costs and supply purchases.

Communications Technology **\$4.28 million**

SIRS	\$4.2 million
Broadband	\$75,000

The Sublette County Commission is committed to moving forward on increasing technology infrastructure in the county, with two major projects underway.

The general fund budget includes an allocation of \$4.2 million for creation of the Sublette Interoperable Radio System. This system, designed specifically for the county, will connect more than 500 users and first responders working in and around Sublette County, and can interoperate with all state agencies and systems within the state, including the state-run WyoLink.

The budget also includes \$75,000 that will be used in planning to increase broadband connectivity in the county. The commission is seeking to partner with state officials, and private partners, in providing broadband infrastructure.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 11*

Sheriff

\$8,338,352

Law Enforcement.....	\$4,132,040
Detention.....	\$2,391,859
Communications.....	\$909,226
Search & Rescue.....	\$747,611
Emergency Management.....	\$157,616

What We Do: The county sheriff's office provide for a broad range of services, from law enforcement patrols, operating the county jail and dispatch systems, and responding to emergencies, and backcountry search-and-rescue operations.

Budget Summary: Sublette County Sheriff K.C. Lehr oversees five departmental budgets totaling about \$8.3 million, with the majority of the spending allocated for personnel costs of \$5.5 million.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$923K

Reason for difference: Sheriff Lehr underspent last year's budget, and the new budget includes the two-percent salary adjustment for staff.



includes \$150,000 into the reserve account for future new vehicle purchases.

Patrol equipment (recorders, printers, etc.) are allocated \$85,000, while investigation equipment is budgeted \$53,000, and criminal investigations are allocated \$56,000. The budget includes \$65,000 for training, and \$55,000 for ammunition. Animal control is allocated \$35,000, while telephone and utilities are budgeted \$106,000.

Detention: The nearly \$2.4 million detention budget covers costs of operating the county jail. Personnel costs for a lieutenant, three courtroom security officers, and 19 detention officers, total \$1.8 million. Other major costs include \$280,000 for prisoner board, \$100,000 for prisoner medical expenses, and \$100,000 for jail maintenance.

Communications: The \$909K communications budget covers all the costs of operating the county dispatch system. Personnel costs for the eight communications officers total about \$610,000. Other major budget items include \$210K for licensing and contracts for maintaining the communications center, and \$31,500 for the E-911 system.

Search & Rescue: The S&R budget includes a \$392,095 helicopter contract that accounts for more than half of this program's annual budget. Although this department has one full-time staff position, S&R also provides training and equipment for use by Tip Top Search & Rescue volunteers. The county pays \$69,416 for the administrator's salary. Training is allocated \$66,200, while search operations are budgeted \$28,000. Equipment purchases totaling \$51,000 are budgeted for ATV and high angle use. A new vehicle purchase is allocated \$60,000. Reserves for new equipment and vehicles are budgeted \$33,000. The remaining budget items cover office operations and maintenance of vehicles.

Emergency Management: Major expenditures in the \$152,616 Emergency Management budget include \$69,416 for the coordinator's salary, \$45,000 for new vehicle and small equipment reserves, and \$10,000 for telephone services, including land lines, cellular, and satellite services. Gas, oil, and vehicle maintenance costs are estimated at \$10,000, while utilities are allocated \$11,000.

Did You Know?

The Sublette County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to the towns of Pinedale, Marbleton, and Big Piney nearly free of charge? The county charges each incorporated town a token amount of \$10 per year. All counties in Wyoming have metropolitan police departments, with the exception of Sublette County.

Law Enforcement: Personnel costs of \$2.9 million comprise the majority of the \$4.1 million budget that includes the sheriff, undersheriff, lieutenant, 21 deputies (including four detectives and five sergeants) four clerks, and one seasonal position. The department will purchase four new fully equipped patrol vehicles (part of the regular rotation for replacing older stock) for \$275,000. Gas, oil, tires and vehicle maintenance total \$215,000. In addition, the budget

Other County Departments

Road & Bridge

\$12.6 million

Operations\$7.6 million
County Road Projects\$5 million

What We Do: Sublette County Road & Bridge is responsible for maintaining nearly 500 miles of roads in the county.

Budget Summary: Personnel costs of \$2.2 million

make up the largest chunk of the operations budget for this 30-person staff. The commission allocated \$1.75 million for heavy equipment purchases, and \$500,000 for the reserve account for future heavy equipment purchases.

Soil stabilizer (mag water) is allocated \$750,000, a portion of which is reimbursed by a federal air quality grant. Gas, oil, parts, repairs, and tires are budgeted a combined \$1.4 million. Material costs (culverts, cattle guards, etc.) are estimated at \$410,000, crusher costs are budgeted \$180,000, and gravel purchase is estimated at \$100,000. Utilities, telephone and radio maintenance are budgeted \$123,000.

The county commission also allocated \$5 million for county road projects, up from \$3.2 million last year. Top priorities for road projects include paving Meadowlark Lane and Iroquois Trail in the Barger area because of high traffic counts, overlays on South Boulder and the Muddy Speedway, upgrade of the county fuel pumps in Big Piney and Pinedale, gravel for North Piney and the county fire tower, and chip seals on several roads.

Operations budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$2 million

Reason for difference: In addition to the two-percent salary increase, this budget includes \$1.75 million in heavy equipment purchases, and in increase in line items for equipment hire, soil stabilizer, and signs and maintenance.

Road Projects Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$1.8 million

Reason for difference: The county commission has proposed additional road projects in the new budget.



Waste Management

\$2 million

Landfill.....\$1,512,387
Transfer Station.....\$410,324
Recycling.....\$65,519

What We Do: This department is under the supervision of Billy Pape, who is also the Assistant Supervisor for County Road & Bridge, and is responsible for the sanitary landfill near Marbleton, the trash transfer station outside of Pinedale, and the county recycling program. The landfill is a state-permitted solid waste landfill/balefill facility. The solid waste collected at the transfer station is contracted out and transported to the landfill in Marbleton and baled.

Budget Summary: The general waste management/landfill budget includes these major spending categories: \$436,000 for heavy equipment purchases, \$50,000 for heavy equipment reserves, and \$150,000 for engineering fees.

Baler operations are budgeted \$100,000, while water monitoring is estimated at \$40,000, and environmental bags for the refuse bales are allocated \$37,000. Gas, oil, repairs, and tire costs are estimated at \$130,000. Utilities for the balefill facility are estimated at \$53,000, and the cost to haul tires (including large equipment tires) is estimated at \$70,000.

The major expense for the transfer station operations is the contract to transport refuse from the station to the landfill near Marbleton, at \$285,000.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$269K

Reason for difference: In addition to the increase in staff salaries, other increases are including in the budget for tire hauling, water monitoring and the costs of items such as gas and oil, and materials.

Courthouse & Maintenance

\$2.76 million

What We Do: Maintenance Superintendent Andre Irey's \$2.76 million budget provides for maintenance and janitorial services for most of county-owned buildings, as well as snowplowing and landscaping. Irey reports directly to the commission.

Budget Summary: Personnel costs for Irey and his 20 staff members total \$1.3 million, and insurance on the buildings is allocated \$475,000. Maintenance and improvements to county buildings other than the courthouse (such as the library, visitor center, sidewalks, etc.) are allocated \$400,000. Building supplies such as lights, light bulbs and paint are budgeted \$150,000, while janitorial supplies, equipment and tools are allocated \$65,000. Utilities are estimated at \$150,000, while vehicle maintenance, gas and

OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 13*

oil are budgeted \$50,000.

Maintenance on the medical clinics is allocated \$10,000, and costs associated with the 4-H barn outside of Pinedale are estimated at about \$35,000.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$529K

Reason for difference: This budget is similar to last year's proposed budget (which was underspent), but includes \$50,000 for a new vehicle purchase.

Planning & Zoning **\$81,000**

What We Do: The P&Z department is responsible for overseeing all physical development in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Budget Summary: The major expenditure for this one-man department is the planner's salary of \$65,000. Other lesser expenditures are associated with operating the office, and conducting plat reviews.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$35K

Reason for difference: Dennis Fornstrom was hired mid-budget last year to fill the county planner position, and the county has adjusted his salary.

Public Health **\$348,103**

What We Do: The public health office (with locations in Pinedale and Big Piney) is a partnership between the county and state, offering immunization clinics, prenatal classes, car seats and helmets, child health services, nursing home placement assessments, classes and testing, and emergency preparedness.

Budget Summary: The county pays for the office space and clerical staff in a funding partnership with the state, which provides nursing staff for the public health office. Among the largest items in the budget are \$89,000 for bio-terrorism preparedness, \$53,495 for vaccines, and \$15,000 for the county health fair.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$22K

Reason for difference: A few line items increased in this budget, but much of the funding for this department comes to the county via federal and state grants (pass-through funding).

Treatment Court **\$219,547**

What We Do: This court-supervised treatment program serves as an alternative to incarceration or probation for repeat substance-abuse-related offenses.

Budget Summary: The largest items in this budget are \$85,000 for mental health/treatment, \$56,720 for drug testing, and \$59,252 for the coordinator's salary.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$49K

Reason for difference: Last year's budget was underspent, and this year's budget is slightly more than what was

budgeted last year.

Health Officer & Sanitarian **\$48,259**

What We Do: County Sanitarian Alan Huston conducts food safety inspections. Appointed by the county commission, county health officer Dr. J. Thomas Johnston works under the direction of the Wyoming Department of Health to investigate communicable diseases, prevent the spread of disease, and promote the health of the citizenry.

Budget Summary: The sanitarian is paid \$28,408, while the county health officer is paid \$15,600 (of which \$9,600 is funded through a state grant).

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$1K

Reason for difference: The slight increase reflects a salary adjustment for the sanitarian.

Information Technology **\$274,408**

What We Do: The IT department provides for information technology (computer systems) throughout the county courthouse and sheriff's office.

Budget Summary: The IT administrator receives \$92,908 in salary for this one-man department. The budget includes \$98,000 for contract services for backup support for computer systems, and \$30,000 for IT equipment and supplies.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$47K

Reason for difference: The increase is reflected in a bump in the administrator's salary, renewals of licensing fees, and in security services training.

GIS **\$252,730**

What We Do: The county Geographic Information System budget includes the costs of keeping the county GIS/map server available and updated on the county website.

Budget Summary: The budget includes \$45,600 to cover the costs of the county contract with Rich Greenwood to maintain the GIS/map server, and \$206,630 is allocated this year for new baseline aerial photography as well as oblique (3-D) mapping of two areas of the county.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$204K

Reason for difference: Updated photography and mapping capabilities are included this year.

Surveyor **\$12,000**

What We Do: The primary duty of the county surveyor involves county roads (alignment, rights-of-way, surveying, mapping, legal documents, etc.), boundary surveys of parcels the county intends to acquire, legal property research, land and road investigations, reports, and consultation with other departments on road and property matters.

Budget Summary: The \$12,000 county survey budget

OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 14*

covers costs associated with Skylar Wilson's contract work for the county, which is directed by the county commission.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Down \$10K

Reason for difference: Although the county commission allocates \$12,000 annually for this budget, costs vary from year to year, and this budget was underspent last year.

Elections **\$59,500**

What We Do: The elections budget is supervised by the county clerk, and encompasses costs associated with both the primary and general elections.

Budget Summary: This budget includes \$17,000 for maintenance of equipment, \$14,000 for election judges and assistants, \$10,000 for ballots and supplies, and lesser amounts for costs associated with an election year.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Down \$64K

Reason for difference: The county purchased new elections equipment last year.

The Cost of Government

\$7.1 million

The general fund budget includes a variety of large spending accounts that are the necessary cost of government:

FICA Insurance & Retirement	\$6.2 million
Workmens Compensation	\$350,000
Telephone	\$200,000
Printing & Publication	\$90,000
Financial Administration	\$100,000
County Officers Expense	\$45,000
Unemployment Compensation	\$50,000
CPA Audit	\$36,750
Postage	\$30,000
Grand Total:	\$7,101,750

Designated Mill Funding

Six program areas receive a portion of the county's 12-mill levy established by the county commission because of their special status as determined by state statute, although their level of funding remains at the discretion of the county commission. These boards include: fair, fire, library, museum, airport, and recreation. The total budget amounts for each of these budgets includes some cash carry-over from the previous budget year, as well as the mill levy allocation from the current year. In most cases, boards appointed by the county commissioners supervise these budgets but the commission approves their final budgets.

Fair **\$1.1 million**

The Sublette County Fair mill levy allocation provides funding for the county fair and the overall fairgrounds operations in separate budgets.

The fair board budget totals \$429,000, including the following:

2018 Fair:	\$167,000
2019 Fair:	\$201,000
Administrative:	\$61,000
Reserve:	\$25,000

Kailey Barlow is the county fair manager, and works with her volunteer board to produce a wholesome, entertaining, and educational fair that showcases the rural heritage of the area. This budget is similar to last year's, but the commission did approve an additional \$34,000 for the enter-

tainment budget for the 2019 fair, in hopes of attracting a popular music act, with resulting higher attendance and increasing revenues.

The fairgrounds budget is \$620,375, and includes \$220,000 in personnel costs for Manager Jay Brower and his staff. Brower reports directly to the county commission. This budget is similar to last year's budget, with the exception of \$100,000 added for projects such as installation of a roof over the existing open-air stalls, replacing roof shingles, and painting the office, and building a handicap ramp. Other major line items in the fairgrounds budget include \$160,000 in utility and telephone costs; \$25,000 for repairs; \$27,500 in equipment; \$10,000 in a new vehicle reserve; and \$25,000 for building maintenance. The budget also includes \$10,000 for landscaping, \$14,500 for training and travel, and \$12,000 for gas and oil.

The Fair budget includes a refund to EnCana totaling \$7,226.

A separate allocation of \$63,215 remains in the budget for expansion of the county fairgrounds. This is a carryover item from previous budgets and the commission currently has no plans for further expansion of the fairgrounds.

Airport **\$814,115**

Both airports near Marbleton and Pinedale benefit from county mill levy funding. The Big Piney-Marbleton airport will receive \$96,000 for general operations and maintenance, while the county holds \$716,109 in reserves for use by Town of Pinedale's airport for major improvement proj-

DESIGNATED MILL FUNDING *continued from page 15*

ects. The county's contribution to the Pinedale airport is limited to match funding for improvement projects, and not for general operations.

This budget also includes \$2,006 in EnCana refunds.

Library

\$1.6 million

The Sublette County Library system will receive \$1.6 million for operations in the Big Piney and Pinedale facilities, in addition to providing circulation materials and support to the seasonal library in Bondurant, operated by volunteers. This budget is a \$10,000 increase to help replace worn-out furniture. This budget includes a \$17,713 refund to EnCana.



These allocations provide support to both museums in the county, as well as other historic preservation and interpretation efforts.

In a separate general fund allocation, the county will provide \$8,056 to the Sublette County Historic Preservation Board for community history projects, including homestead surveys and national register site documentations. The budget amount is unchanged from last year.

Recreation

\$1.4 million

The recreation mill levy funds the Sublette County Recreation Board, the Ice Arena in Pinedale, and the required EnCana refund.

The majority of Rec Board's \$1 million budget consists of carryover funding of more than \$718,000. The rec board budget has declined every year over the last three or four years, and this year's funding level is similar to the year prior, with funding for recreational projects totaling just over \$325,000. Approved projects include lighting for the ball fields, livestock contracts for rodeos, equipment leases for golf course maintenance, maintenance of parks, and support for various programs – from hockey to Nordic trail grooming.

The \$341,496 ice arena budget includes about \$222,000 in personnel costs. The county has been successful in hiring a manager for the facility to develop the ice arena as a destination/event center to bring more activities and revenues to the facility.

Other major items in the ice arena budget include \$75,000 for utilities, \$20,000 for building maintenance, and \$25,000 for equipment maintenance. The \$8,293 EnCana refund will come from this mill levy allocation.

Tax Refunds/Abatements

\$768,596

EnCana's change in valuation for taxation from 2010 to 2014 resulted in the county having to refund \$14 million to the company, which the county set up on a five-year repayment plan. The county general fund includes about \$525,000 for this year's repayment, and each tax district or entity in the county that receives mill levy funding is responsible for a portion of the refund.

In addition, the budget includes other abatements/repayments or tax credits totaling about \$244,000.

Museum

\$352,469

The museum mill levy funding covers the following budget components:

Green River Valley Museum	\$144,814
Museum of the Mountain Man	\$194,500
SC Museum Board	\$7,768
EnCana refund	\$5,387



DESIGNATED MILL FUNDING *continued from page 16*

Unified Fire

\$2.7 million

What We Do: Sublette County Unified Fire is a volunteer department comprised of six fire stations located throughout Sublette County, supervised by County Fire Warden/Fire Chief Shad Cooper, who reports directly to the Sublette County Commission.

Budget Summary: This \$2.7 million budget includes \$1 million for purchase of a new fire truck, \$441,448 for personnel costs, \$230,000 for facilities maintenance, and \$160,000 for equipment and supplies, including a new generator for the Bondurant fire station.

The budget includes \$250,000 into a reserve account for replacement of the self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs) used by firefighters. It will cost about \$1 million to replace the SCBAs by 2021, so this is the first of a multi-year allocation to build up the reserve.

Firefighter physicals, uniforms, training, and firefighter rehabilitation at fire sites are allocated a combined total of \$97,500, while maintenance on equipment and fire-trucks are budgeted a total of \$158,533. Insurance is allocated \$70,000, while vehicle maintenance, gas and oil total \$44,300. General operations expenditure (including items such as utilities) total \$76,000. Retirement is budgeted \$15,000, and \$5,000 is allocated to recruitment and retention of firefighters. Wildland fire suppression is allocated \$50,000 and prevention and investigations are allocated a total of \$15,000.

The commission allocated a separate line item of nearly

\$70,000 for fire suppression. This allocation has strict limitations on use, and is primarily use to pay for fire equipment from neighboring counties to be on stand-by in years when fire activity is high and local resources are already engaged.

In addition to the \$2.7 million budget, the county holds about \$5 million in a fire reserve for replacement of fire trucks and other equipment, fire hall improvements or replacements, and to pay for private land firefighting efforts.

Budget compared to last year's spending: Up \$1 million

Reason for difference: The \$1 million increase reflects the cost of purchasing a new fire truck.



Unified Fire Funded By County, Not Towns

The county's six individual volunteer fire departments were consolidated into one Unified Fire entity in 2015. With that consolidation came with an unforeseen issue: the county taxpayers pay for fire protection not just within the rural areas of the county, but also for fire protection within the three municipalities in the county (Big Piney, Marbleton, and Pinedale). The county does not receive funding from town residents for fire protection – the fire protection budget is funded through taxation on properties outside municipal limits.

Just as the Sublette County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement within municipalities with the token amount of \$10 from each of the towns, Unified Fire provides fire protection within these same towns, again without funding from municipal taxpayers or governments aside from a \$10 per year payment.

Greater Sage Grouse share the range with Sublette County's domestic sheep flocks and cattle herds.

Human Service Programs

\$1.6 million

The Sublette County Commission uses the general fund budget to provide support to a variety of organizations providing a diversity of human service programs, including those involving children, senior citizens, and other segments of our citizenry. Support is either provided through direct allocation of funding, or with the county serving as the pass-through agent for grant funding from state programs.

Senior Citizens	\$891,000
Children	\$505,272
Other	\$161,754

Senior Citizens **\$891,000**

Sublette Center	\$420,000
SW SC Pioneers	\$169,000
Rendezvous Pointe	\$152,000
Senior facilities	\$150,000

The Sublette Center will receive \$420,000 in general support for this retirement community that provides both skilled nursing care and independent living for seniors. The center has 65 full- and part-time employees, and an annual payroll of \$2.4 million. This non-profit organization has provided senior care for 38 years, and currently has 35 residents receiving nursing care, and 39 rented independent living apartments.

Southwest Sublette County Pioneers in Marbleton serves more than 250 senior citizens annually and will receive \$169,000 in county funding to continue its meals program along with a wide range of activities and services. Last year, the Pioneers served more than 10,000 meals to seniors, and hosted 80 different activities.

Rendezvous Pointe in Pinedale will receive \$152,000 for senior center operations, which serve meals and offer health and wellness programs and other services for senior citizens. The home services program helps to keep seniors and disabled adults healthy, active, self-reliant, and able to live in their own homes or independently as long as possible.

The county commission has also set aside a separate allocation of \$150,000 for general maintenance and repairs on senior citizen facilities in the county.

Children **\$505,272**

Children's Learning Center	\$220,000
Children's Discovery Center	\$75,000
Pinedale Preschool	\$42,500
Scholarships	\$96,000
Van Vleck House	\$45,000
4-H Afterschool	\$20,656
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$5,791
Ready For Workforce	\$325

The Children's Learning Center is the only early childhood program serving the entire county, and providing early special education through the Wyoming Department of Education and early intervention for children from birth to the age of two by the Wyoming Department of Health. Last year the program served 99 children, including 76 with special needs. The county has committed to providing \$220,000 to this program in the new year.

Children's Discovery Center in Pinedale is an early education facility operating five days per week and serving children ages two to 10 years old year-round. CDC's preschool program provides care for about 50 children last year. CDC will receive \$75,000 from the county general fund.

Pinedale Preschool will receive more than \$42,000 from the county for its preschool program, but about half of the funding will be used for capital improvements, and the commission expects their funding needs to decrease next year.

Older children will receive a boost from the county as well, with \$96,000 set aside for scholarships for Sublette County students to attend an institution of higher learning. Up to 24 students will receive the \$4,000 scholarships.

The Van Vleck House, operated by Teton Youth & Family Services, will receive \$45,000 to provide prevention, early intervention, and treatment to Sublette County youth aged 10 to 18 in its group home, crisis shelter, and secure facilities. Last year, two Sublette County children stayed at the crisis shelter; three at the group home; and one was housed in the secure facility in 2016. Located in Jackson, this program serves youth from Sublette, Teton and Lincoln counties.

The **4-H Afterschool** program's \$20,656 consists of carryover funding that the county administers, while the local Board of Cooperative Educational Services handles the program.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters will receive nearly \$5,800 from a state grant to provide youth mentoring services.

The Ready For Workforce allocation of \$325 is the county's support for this Sublette Board of Cooperative Educational Services program to provide work experience to students.

Other Human Services **\$161,754**

Veteran's Services	\$78,950
SAFV	\$54,218
Pregnancy Resource Center	\$17,562
Home Based Family Services	\$8,024
Community Food Closet	\$3,000

The **Tri-County Veteran's Services** program is a joint effort with Lincoln and Sweetwater counties to help connect veterans with state and federal benefits – ranging from home loans and educational benefits to health care and disability compensation. Sublette County provides about \$79,000 to this program.

The **Sublette County Sexual Assault/Family Violence Task Force** will receive a total of more than \$54,000 in both a direct allocation and as pass-through state funding. The program provides assistance, safety intervention, and pre-

vention education through its 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter and financial assistance, among its other services. The county also provides the buildings for SAFV offices and shelters.

The Family Tree – A Pregnancy Resource Center will receive \$17,562 in pass-through funding from a state grant. The program provides support to women and families who experience an unplanned pregnancy, or who are parenting young children.

The Home Based Family Services program will receive about \$8,000 in pass-through state funding to provide personal care and homemaking services for home-bound citizens.

The Community Food Closet in Big Piney will receive \$3,000 in county funding to provide supplemental food assistance to those in need.



Mourning doves are residents of the county's open-country.

Addressing Natural Resource Issues

\$859,568

Sublette County's abundant natural resources and vast public lands require special attention from county government, which addresses issues through a variety of programs.

Conservation District.....	\$625,327
Extension Service.....	\$139,241
Predator Management	\$60,000
Coalition of Governments.....	\$30,000
Skyline Rocks.....	\$5,000

The Sublette County Conservation District will receive \$625,327 for its continued operations, which is the same amount of support the district received the last few years. The district monitors changes in water quality, works to improve watershed conditions through water development projects, is an active participant in federal and state land use planning, and offers a variety of programs to benefit natural resources in the county, from sponsoring seedling tree sales to rangeland monitoring. Members of the district's board of supervisors are elected from rural and urban areas of the county.

The county provides nearly \$140,000 in funding to the University of Wyoming's County Extension Service programs for 4-H youth development, economics, and information and research related to agriculture and natural resources.

The Sublette County Predator Management District is budgeted to receive up to \$60,000 for predator control. Most control efforts involve coyotes and depredating wolves, in addition to raven control. This board consists of three elected sheep representatives, three elected cattle representatives, and one member appointed by the county commission.

The Sublette County Commission serves as a member of the Coalition of Governments in southwestern Wyoming, and provides \$30,000 in funding. This coalition of county governments works together to deal with federal land management issues and resource planning projects.

The commission also budgeted \$5,000 for removal of large rocks in the Skyline Drive area.



Misc. Program Support

Visitor Center.....	\$28,422
Translator Grant.....	\$28,800
Animal Control	\$950

The commission allocated funding of \$28,422 to the Sublette County Chamber of Commerce for operations of the Visitor Center in Pinedale, a decrease of \$10k from last year. County funding for the center's operations continues to decline each year as the commission struggles with not only providing the building but paying a substantial percentage of its operating cost. The commission noted that the Town of Pinedale receives the most benefit from the center with its location in Pinedale, and yet provides little support.

The nearly \$30,000 translator grant is carryover from previous budgets and is used for rural television operations in the county.

Happy Endings Animal Rescue is provided \$950 toward its spay-and neuter program for stray pets.



Contact the Sublette County Commission



The county's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30 of each year. Each summer the commissioners set the budget for the coming fiscal year. Funding requests are submitted in May, and the commission holds a series of work sessions through June for budget discussions and considerations, followed by a budget hearing and formal budget adoption the third week in July. County commissioners work with

all other county elected officials to assure that all offices of county government are properly funded to perform statutory duties.

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A drilling rig on the Mesa south of Pinedale.



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