

# YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

## *A Guide to the Sublette County Budget*

**2022 – 2023**

**Report from the Sublette Board of County Commissioners, Pinedale, Wyoming**

# Fast Facts

## Top 3 Job Sectors

(Percentage of jobs 2020)

- 1. Government . . . . . 18%
- 2. Mining (including fossil fuels) 12%
- 3. Construction . . . . . 10%

## Household Income 2020

- Less than \$25K . . . . . 13%
- \$25K-\$100K . . . . . 51%
- More than \$100K . . . . . 36%

- Wyoming is the least populated state in the nation. Sublette County is the 8<sup>th</sup> least-populated county in Wyoming.
- More than 62% of Sublette County’s population lives outside of municipalities, making Sublette County Wyoming’s most rural county.
- More than 80% of the land in Sublette County is owned by government (towns, county, state and federal).
- More than 30% of the federal land in Sublette County is in protected status such as wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or inventoried roadless areas. Another 2.75% of lands in Sublette County are private lands protected by conservation easements.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

- 2020 population: **9,865**
- Square miles: **4,936**
- Miles of county road: **484**
- Residential units: **6,054**
- Median age of residents: **39.7**
- Median household income: **\$78,655**
- Percentage of households with retirement and Social Security income: **61.3%**
- Percentage of houses that are seasonal homes: **26.8%**



# TOP 10 TAXPAYERS IN SUBLETTE COUNTY

Rank	Company	Assessed Value
1.	Ultra Resources Inc	\$973,855,483
2.	Jonah Energy LLC	\$678,081,140
3.	Exxon Mobil Corp	\$306,368,162
4.	Pinedale Energy Partners Operating LLC	\$66,022,734
5.	Jonah Gas Gathering Company	\$60,756,673
6.	Wexpro Company	\$47,499,476
7.	EOG Resources Inc	\$29,184,297
8.	ExxonMobil Oil Corporation	\$27,861,610
9.	Exaro Energy III, LLC	\$23,212,215
10.	Huntington Energy LLC	\$16,662,447

## Taxation

- Property owners in Sublette County have among the lowest average mill levies in the entire state, with its total of about 61 mills – the state average is about 68 mills.
- All but two of Wyoming’s 23 counties tax at the 12-mill rate, with the exception of Campbell County (which taxes 11.235 mills), and Teton County (7.879 mills).
- Sublette County’s assessed value in 2021 was about \$1.6 billion, with a per capita assessed value of \$248,079. Sublette County ranked #1 in the percentage of total assessed value per capita in Wyoming.



# CONTENTS

## FAST FACTS

*page 2*

## BUDGET MESSAGE

Budget By the Numbers *page 4*

Budget Comparison *page 5*

Capital Improvements *page 7*

Reserve Accounts *page 6*

## REVENUES

Property Taxation *page 6*

Understanding Revenues *page 8*

Mineral Production *page 9*

## EXPENDITURES

### Elected Offices

*page 10*

Assessor  
Attorney  
Clerk  
Commission  
Coroner  
District Court Clerk  
Treasurer  
Sheriff

### Other Departments

*page 13*

Courthouse & Maintenance  
GIS  
Information Technology  
Health Officer  
Public Health  
Surveyor  
Treatment Court  
Planning & Zoning  
Visitor Center  
Road & Bridge  
Waste Management  
Unified Fire

### Designated Mill Funding

*page 17*

Fair  
Airports  
Library  
Museums  
Recreation

### Human Services

*page 19*

### Natural Resources

*page 20*

### Special Programs

*page 20*

## ABOUT THE SUBLETTE COUNTY COMMISSION

*page 22*





# Budget Message from the Commission: ---

## *Investing in Today and Tomorrow*

This year’s budget has some significant changes from previous budgets. While county elected officials and department

heads have spent the last five years cutting budgets, holding the line on spending, reducing staff and instituting hiring freezes, they’ve also been accumulating items that should be addressed when their budgets aren’t as constrained.

After two years of reduced revenues, this year Sublette County’s assessment experienced an increase, and the new budget that we present in these pages include significant spending that will have both immediate and long-lasting impacts in the county.

“We are treating this increase as a welcome surprise rather than counting on any additional revenue as a reliable and sustainable source of funding,” said Sublette County Clerk and Budget Officer Carrie Long.

### 2023 Budget by the Numbers:

The Fiscal Year 2023 budget covers county income and expenditures from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The budget is based on a taxation rate of 12 mills of the county’s assessed value of \$2.5 billion. The county’s total assessed value increased \$1.3 billion from the year prior, generating an additional \$12 million more in tax money for this budget above the year before.

Most county departments and services are funded through a general fund allocation as determined by the Sublette County Commission, but certain program areas (fair, airports, library, museums, and recreation) have a direct mill levy allocation that is set at the discretion of the commission.

The county budget includes general fund expenditures, money held in reserve accounts, and appropriations for entities receiving portions of the county’s 12-mill levy.

General Fund/Departments . . . . .	\$62,262,386
Capital Improvements . . . . .	\$14,926,553
Reserves . . . . .	\$147,948,483
Fair, Airport, Library, Museum, Recreation . .	\$4,685,476
<b>Total Requirement: . . . . .</b>	<b>\$229,822,898</b>

### \$20 Million Commitment

The Sublette County Commission has been providing financial support to both healthcare services and senior citizen services in Sublette County for decades, but this is the year we were able to make an even deeper commitment to both when we moved \$20 million from reserve accounts toward the construction of a new long-term care facility to replace the Sublette Center. The facility will be associated with a critical access hospital to be located on the hill above Pinedale.

In a multi-year effort, the voters of Sublette County approved a proposal to shift from a rural health care district to form a hospital district, paving the way for the Sublette Center (the

See Budget Message page 5

## BUDGET MESSAGE *continued from page 4*

county's long-term care center) to merge with the hospital district. The hospital district received approval for a \$32.2 million loan from the USDA Rural Development program for construction of the hospital, and the county commission committed to providing up to \$20 million for a new long-term care facility as part of that campus. The long-term care facility will host 50 beds and will be located on the same grounds as the new 10-bed inpatient hospital unit with associated laboratory, imaging, and pharmacy services.

"It's a major investment today, but the gains for the citizens of Sublette County will be long-lasting," said Commission Chairman Joel Bousman.

### Road Projects

The budget includes nearly \$12 million in major road improvement projects throughout the county. "With added revenue this year, we're able to direct much of that money into capital improvements, including county road improvement projects," said Commissioner Tom Noble. "It's not every year that we are able to do that."

### Salary Boosts

The budget includes a 7% increase in salaries for employees on county salary schedules. While this is a substantial increase, county employees have not received raises since 2018, despite increased costs of living, so this action will help the county to catch up on personnel compensation.

We considered information from the Wyoming Cost of Living Index, which measures annual inflation rates and the comparative cost of living (comparing the cost of living in Sublette County to the statewide average). In 2021, the statewide inflation rate was 7.7%, but the rate was even higher in here in southwestern Wyoming, at 8.9%.

We also held a meeting with county department heads and other elected officials and learned the 7% raise was nearly universally supported by these supervisors. As part of that discussion, we learned that department heads would also like to have some leeway in the manner lead staff are moved up the steps in the county's pay schedule. We agreed to provide this flexibility for department heads to alter the step schedule for select employees who have taken on additional duties and responsibilities.

Chairman Bousman said, "The county is having problems in hiring candidates to fill positions because of our high housing costs, so this might provide people with the ability to live and work in Sublette County."

Commissioner Dave Stephens supported the salary boost, while noting, "It's always been a privilege to live in Sublette County."

Commissioner Sam White said that as a county commissioner, he takes pride in helping county staff do their jobs to provide ser-

### Budget Comparison:

#### FY 2022-2023 Budget:

Grand total budget is \$225 million  
Reserves of \$147.9 million  
Operating budget of \$62.7 million  
Capital improvements total  
\$14.9 million

#### Compared to last year:

Up \$3 million  
Down \$18.6 million  
Up \$19.5 million  
Up \$7.4 million

\* This operating budget includes \$20 million moved from reserves into a spending account to build a new long-term care facility to replace the Sublette Center. When this \$20 million is deducted, the county's operating budget remains relatively flat.

vice to the citizens of the county, and because the department heads supported the 7% pay raise, he does as well.

### Fire Mill

Based on recommendations from the Sublette County Attorney's office, the commission agreed to make changes to the county mill levy structure for fire protection. Since fire services in the county were consolidated into the Unified Fire service in 2015, the county has been charging a portion of a mill to property owners outside the incorporated communities in the county to cover the cost of fire protection throughout the county, with the municipal portion removed from that assessment.

While the municipal portion was believed by county government and advisors in 2015 to be covered under the 8 mills assessed by the towns, earlier this year the County Attorney's office advised the commission that a restructuring was needed. For the first time, this budget shifts fire protection funding from its status as direct mill levy into its own departmental budget funded under the county's general mill. The move also means that fire protection revenues are no longer required to be sequestered into a fund dedicated to fire protection. Although this budget shifts the money into a depreciation reserve account, it continues to remain earmarked for fire protection.

The final part of this restructuring is to ensure that taxes are levied uniformly on all classes of property with the county. Sublette County will now be levying its general fund tax on residents within the incorporated towns in addition to properties located outside the towns.

### Property Purchase

The budget includes \$1 million for the purchase of 20 acres of land outside of Pinedale for future use as a gravel pit. The property is adjacent to another property the county acquired in 2007 for the same purpose. Although Sublette County Road & Bridge currently operates a gravel pit on South Tyler, the county intends to eventually shift the gravel operations to the new location near

**See Budget Message page 7**

Reserve Accounts

\$147.9 million

County governments are prohibited from creating “trust funds” with public money, but each Sublette County Commission for nearly 20 years has worked to set aside money for the future needs of the county by creating earmarked reserve accounts. These accounts are for specific purposes, and are to cover both operations and capital-construction needs. Back in 2007, county reserves totaled \$50 million, but those reserves now total nearly \$148 million.

The reserves are split into three categories (cash, equipment, and depreciation), and the money is held in interest-earning accounts. In order to be spent, the budget must be amended to transfer the required amount from a reserve account to a spending account.

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

**Equipment Reserve: \$11.8 million.** Each year, money is set aside to pay for future equipment purchases.

**Depreciation Reserve: \$126.1 million.** Money is earmarked to address future needs in specific program areas as follows:

Building projects, equipment & maintenance . . . \$19 million

Budget Reserve . . . . .	\$12.85 million
Ag & Fair (operations and capital) . . . . .	\$12 million
Senior Centers (operations and capital) . . . . .	\$10.75 million
Library (operations and capital) . . . . .	\$9 million
Recreation (operations and capital). . . . .	\$8.4 million
Fire Depreciation. . . . .	\$7.89 million
Landfill (remediation, closure, reserve). . . . .	\$7.5 million
Law Enforcement Complex . . . . .	\$6 million
Courthouse & maintenance. . . . .	\$6 million
Museums . . . . .	\$4.5 million
Human services . . . . .	\$4.2 million
Airports. . . . .	\$4 million
Communications & IT. . . . .	\$4 million
Tax Refunds. . . . .	\$2.8 million
Fire Halls. . . . .	\$2.6 million
Resource monitoring . . . . .	\$2 million
Emergency Revolving Loan . . . . .	\$1 million
County Road & Bridge Projects . . . . .	\$1 million
State/County road fund . . . . .	\$263,690
Elections . . . . .	\$100,000

Property Taxation

Property taxes are one of the primary sources of income for local governments, counties, school districts, and other special districts like the newly created hospital district. The County Assessor establishes the taxable value for most properties in the county and applies the appropriate tax rate to determine the amount of taxes due.

The Sublette County Commission has set the tax rate at the full 12 mills allowed by law. With minerals accounting for 89 percent of Sublette County’s valuation, the commission’s support for the 12-mill tax 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 market value, except for agricultural land, which is valued by its productive capability. For residential homes and properties, the County Assessor determines the fair market value and calculates 9.5 percent of that value to determine the taxable or assessed value (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 (\$1 of revenue for every \$1,000 of assessed 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 61 mills on this home (the average mill levy in Sublette County) would result in a tax of \$1,159.

Impact of Sales on Residential Assessed Value

The County Assessor reports that since early 2020 there has been a migration of home buyers leaving city centers in favor of rural areas of the country, including Sublette County. Sales from 2021 (and continuing in 2022), have caused a boom in the residential real estate market, with drastically rising sales prices and a demand that is exceeding supply. Home sales in Sublette County in 2021 increased 22% from the year prior, and residential vacant land sales increased 122% from 2020.

Because the assessed value of property is based on very high sales prices of comparable properties that sold in the last year, property owners can expect increases in their assessed values and resulting tax bills.

Although Sublette 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. A variety of special districts may impose additional taxes on properties within those districts.

About 73% of your total property tax used to fund the state’s educational system. Another 19% of your property tax funds the operations of county government, while the balance goes to special districts.



**BUDGET MESSAGE** *continued from page 5*

Pole Creek Road. The South Tyler property is close to the Town of Pinedale's water and sewer service and may be an appropriate location for a future county law enforcement center.

Commissioner Sam White noted that the \$1 million property purchase investment could yield a return of \$12 million to \$13.5 million based on the value of the materials excavated.

**Consensus**

As the commission worked to develop this budget, disagreements arose on various proposed expenditures. For example, Commissioner Doug Vickrey expressed his opposition to continuing to purchase new vehicles for Unified Fire. While he said he supports the fire protection service, "I just think in this case, we're a bit overboard on the equipment we've got." Likewise, Commissioner Stephens has questioned the fleet replacement schedule for the sheriff's office.

Although each commissioner didn't support every item of spending, in the end, all five members of the board voted unanimously to adopt this budget.

**Capital Improvement Projects \$14.9 million**

Road Improvements	\$11.9 million
Libraries	\$1.3 million
Property Purchase	\$1 million
Smaller projects	\$740,000

The nearly \$12 million in major road projects includes \$7.9 million for rebuilding 5 miles of the North Piney Road, \$2 million for an overlay on 7.5 miles of the northern end of Paradise Road, \$400,000 for finishing work on the Horse Creek bridge, \$895,000 for reconstruction on South Cottonwood, \$480,00 for sight improvement on the East Green River Road, and \$200,000 for design of a turning lane on Ehman Lane.

The budget includes \$1.1 million in carryover from last year to complete renovations of the Big Piney Library, and about \$175,000 for a replacement of audio/visual equipment in the Pinedale Library's Lovatt Room.

The commission allocated \$1 million to purchase property near Pinedale for a gravel pit.

Smaller projects include \$100,000 for remodeling of the Southwest Wyoming Pioneer Senior Center, \$295,000 for concrete work at the trash transfer station, and \$38,000 for design of a new storage building on the golf course. In addition, the commission allocated about \$256,000 to finish the combined firehall/road and bridge shop in the Daniel area, as well as \$50,000 for an assessment of the grounds around the Big Piney Fire Training Tower.



# Understanding Revenues

The revenue generated by the county’s 12-mill property tax provides the majority of funding for county government services, but the budget also includes nearly \$11 million in revenue from a variety of other sources (federal, state, and local).

## Federal Revenues

There are three federal programs that distribute revenue to Wyoming counties, bringing nearly \$1.9 million to Sublette County this fiscal year.

**Secure Rural Schools:** For more than 100 years, 25% of the revenue generated by mineral leases, timber sales and grazing fees paid to the U.S. Forest Service go to this fund, which is distributed to counties where national forest lands are located. Sublette County is expected to receive \$176,000 in SRS revenue.

**Payment In Lieu of Taxes:** Sublette County will receive \$675,000 in PILT payments. Congress established this program nearly 50 years ago to help offset losses in property taxes due to the existence of nontaxable federal lands within county boundaries.

**American Rescue Plan Act:** In early 2021, Congress authorized a funding package to help state and local governments recover from the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing \$65.1 billion in direct, flexible aid to every county in America, including more than \$1 million for Sublette County this year.

## 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.

Sublette County’s **sales tax rate** is four percent, the lowest allowable under statute. Sublette County will receive \$2.7 million in sales and use taxes this year.

Sublette County anticipates receiving \$950,000 from the **diesel fuel tax**, and \$500,000 from the **gas tax**.

The **County Road Construction and Maintenance Fund** is designed to help counties with road construction and maintenance needs and is funded by the state through gasoline and severance taxes, using a formula for distribution. Sublette County is expected to receive \$500,000 in revenues from the program this fiscal year.

**Mineral severance tax** distributions are made to local

governments, as well as various state programs. The Sublette County budget includes \$95,000 in severance tax revenues.

Sublette County expects to receive \$4,750 in **cigarette tax** revenue in this budget year, and \$25,000 from the **state lottery** program.

The Wyoming Legislature approved a program for **direct distribution of funding to local governments**, of which Sublette County will receive \$60,000.

## Cost-Sharing & Grants

The Public Health Office will bring in more than \$247,000 in revenue to the county coffers, through a combination of cost-sharing programs, fees for services, and grants. Other grant funding of about \$170,000 will pass through county accounts for specific programs and projects.

In addition, the county will receive about \$33,000 for Victim Witness Services, in addition to \$30,000 for emergency management efforts and \$115,000 in support for the County Attorney’s office from the State of Wyoming.

## Local Revenues

The Sublette County budget includes a variety of local revenue sources – from fees paid to county departments, to \$2 million interest on invested funds.

Motor vehicle licensing will generate \$500,000; and revenues earned for recycling, combined with fees paid at the transfer station and landfill, will result in \$418,000 in revenue.

Liquor license fees will generate about \$10,000; \$9,500 from traffic school; and the county will receive \$11,000 for providing law-enforcement services in schools.

The budget includes \$50,000 the County Treasurer retains for collection of sales and use taxes, and \$10,000 in sales tax penalties. A handful of other miscellaneous revenue streams are expected to generate an additional \$129,000.

Fees paid to the other county departments include:

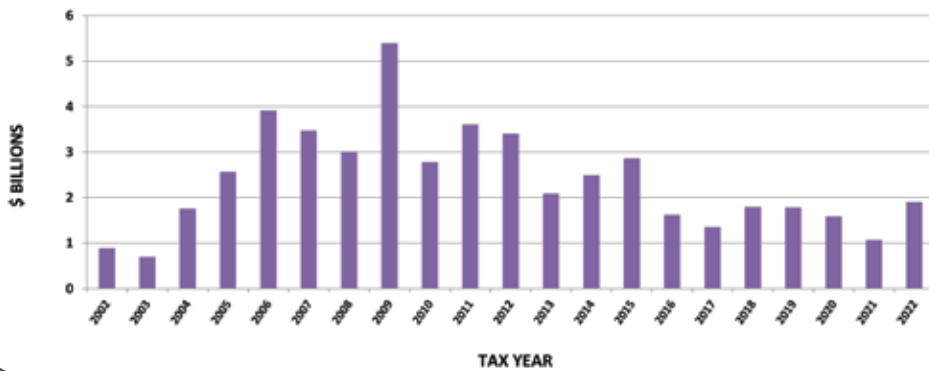
County Clerk . . . . .	\$205,000
Fairgrounds . . . . .	\$40,000
District Court . . . . .	\$34,645
Planning & Zoning . . . . .	\$21,450
Ice Arena . . . . .	\$20,000
Sheriff . . . . .	\$10,000





# Natural Gas & Oil Production & Valuation

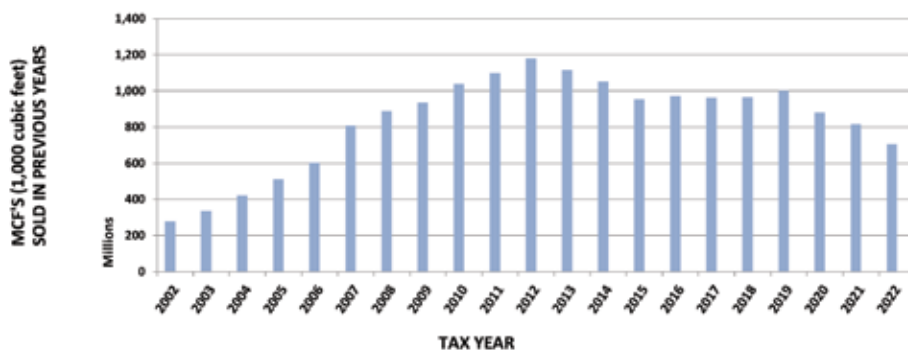
## TOTAL ASSESSED VALUATION OF NATURAL GAS IN SUBLETTE COUNTY



These charts show oil and gas productivity and assessed valuation in Sublette County for each year since 2002.

Graphs courtesy of the Sublette County Assessor.

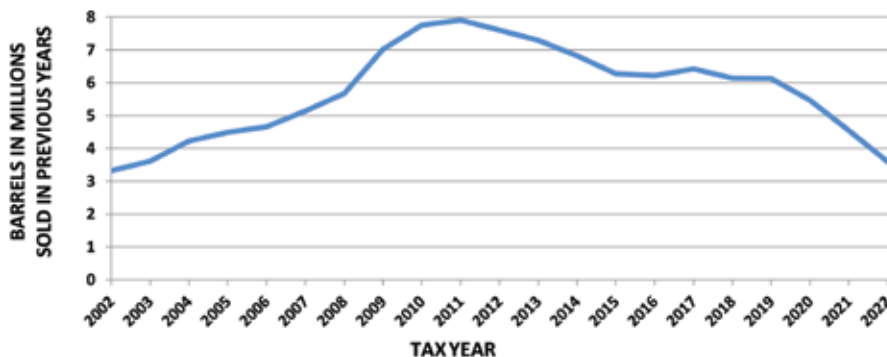
## TOTAL NATURAL GAS UNITS SOLD IN SUBLETTE COUNTY



## TOTAL ASSESSED VALUATION OF OIL IN SUBLETTE COUNTY



## TOTAL OIL UNITS SOLD IN SUBLETTE COUNTY



# Elected Officials & Their Departments

## Assessor

**\$521,119**

**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 (\$420,169) of Assessor Laila Illoway's budget covers salaries for the assessor and deputies, and the \$80,000 cost of a contract for appraisal and audit services. The budget includes \$5,000 for vehicle expenses, and \$7,000 for education and travel, while the balance of the budget covers the cost of office operations.

**Budget compared to last year:** +9.3%

**Reason for difference:** The increase reflects salary adjustments and the increased cost for contracted services.

## Attorney

**\$595,507**

**What We Do:** The Office of the County and Prosecuting Attorney provides legal representation for Sublette County. Civil law attorneys provide legal analysis and guidance to county government agencies and non-elected boards, as well as initiating various court actions. Criminal law attorneys coordinate with law enforcement agencies in the prosecution of criminal and traffic offenses. The department has divisions handling criminal matters, civil cases, juvenile justice, and victim/witness services.

**Budget Summary:** The majority of County Attorney Mike Crosson's budget covers personnel costs for the county attorney, deputy attorney and secretarial positions, totaling \$485,500. Prosecution and defense are allocated \$50,000, while the crime victims program is budgeted \$33,333, and access to an online legal database is secured at \$12,000. The remainder of the budget covers general costs associated with operating the county law offices.

This budget also receives about \$154,000 in state reimbursements and grants.

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

**Budget compared to last year:** +1.9%

**Reason for difference:** The increase reflects salary adjustments.

## Clerk

**\$387,165**

**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, 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.

In addition, the clerk's office administers countywide elections during the two-year election cycle.

**Budget Summary:** The majority of this budget (\$361,265) provides for the salaries for County Clerk Carrie Long and her deputies. The balance covers routine office operational expenses (telephone, office supplies and equipment).

**Budget compared to last year:** +14.7%

**Reason for difference:** The increase reflects salary adjustments as well as an \$8K increase for office supplies.

## Commission

**\$433,500**

**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 Sublette County a better place to live

**See Elected Officials and Their Departments page 11**

## Elections

**\$104,800**

**What We Do:** The Sublette County Clerk also serves as the county's chief elections officer, administering and maintaining records of elections.

**Budget Summary:** The elections budget covers the \$35,000 cost of ballots and publication of public notices, \$19,000 in election equipment maintenance, and \$45,000 for election judges and assistants, as well as other costs associated with an election year.

**Budget compared to last year:** +310%

**Reason for difference:** Last year wasn't an election year, so costs were minimal. This year's budget includes all costs associated with both the August primary and November general elections of 2022.





## ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 10*

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 \$175,000, based on annual salaries of \$35,000 each. The county administrator salary of \$99,500 is also allocated from this budget. The budget includes \$7,500 for meetings and mileage for commission attendance at 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 about \$75,000. 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.

**Budget compared to last year:** -16.6%

**Reason for difference:** Despite increased salaries, this budget dropped substantially with the \$100,000 reduction in consultant costs. This line item was inflated last year because the commission hired a consultant to update the county wildfire protection plan, with the majority of the cost covered by a grant.

### Coroner **\$63,050**

**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, for a total of \$37,400. Other major items include

\$15,000 for autopsies, \$4,000 for supplies, \$3,000 each for county burials, \$2,000 for vehicle expenses, and \$1,500 for training.

**Budget compared to last year:** +11.5%

**Reason for difference:** In addition to salary increases, this budget reflects the increased cost of county burials and autopsies.

### District Court **\$363,312**

**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 and her staff comprise the majority of this budget, at \$230,752. The public defender program is allocated \$100,000, court-appointed attorneys are estimated at \$5,000, and jurors and witness fees are budgeted \$5,000, while the balance covers general operations of the district court clerk's office.

**Budget compared to last year:** +2.3%

**Reason for difference:** In addition to salary increases, this budget reflects the increased cost of the public defender program.

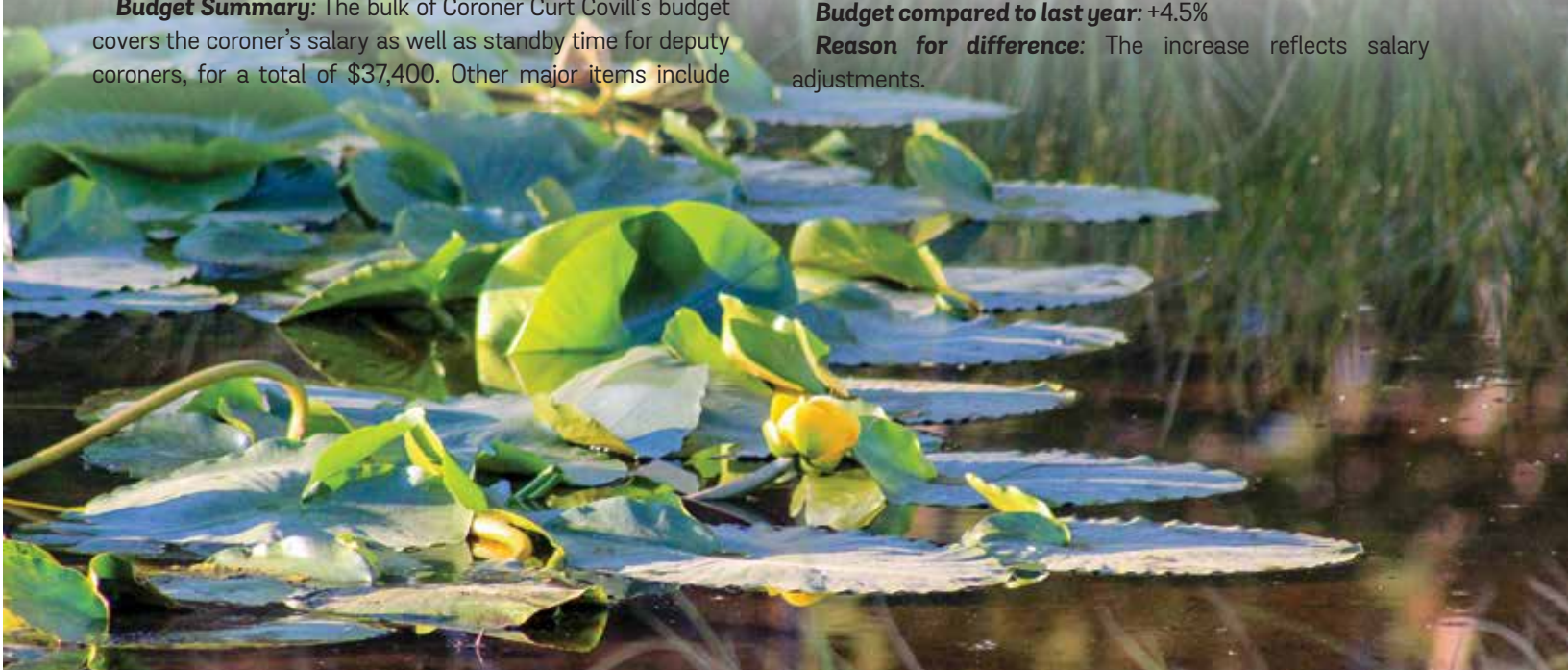
### Treasurer **\$351,505**

**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 bulk of this budget (\$332,605) provides for the salaries for Treasurer Emily Paravicini and her deputies. The balance covers routine office operational expenses (postage, telephone, office supplies and equipment).

**Budget compared to last year:** +4.5%

**Reason for difference:** The increase reflects salary adjustments.



## ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 11*

### Sheriff

#### Law Enforcement

#### Detention

#### Communications

#### Search & Rescue

#### Emergency Management

**\$8.6 million**

**\$4,452,865**

**\$2,360,936**

**\$861,704**

**\$807,467**

**\$154,539**

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

**Budget Summary:** Sublette County Sheriff K.C. Lehr oversees five departmental budgets totaling about \$8.6 million, with the bulk of the spending allocated for personnel costs of about \$5.6 million.

**Budget compared to last year:** +21.9%

**Reason for difference:** In addition to salary adjustments, the SCSO budget includes replacement and upgrades in equipment for these first responders.

**Law Enforcement:** Personnel costs of nearly \$3 million comprise the majority of the \$4.45 million budget. This department includes administrative staff as well as 34 sworn officers, including three positions assigned to courtroom security and probation, seven positions in investigations and narcotics, and 22 patrol positions.

The budget includes \$600,000 for the purchase of four fully equipped patrol vehicles and two sport utility vehicles as part of the rotation for replacing older stock. Two of these vehicles were ordered in the prior budget year but were not yet delivered so their costs were rolled over into the new budget.

Compared to last year this budget doubled the estimated cost of gas and oil to \$250,000, while the cost of tires and vehicle maintenance remained the same, at a total of \$90,000 for the department's 53 total vehicles.

The ammunition line item was increased by more than \$67,000 (to a total of \$112,500) to cover increased training and the purchase of a shooting simulator that can be used by the public as part of concealed-carry training courses. Half of the cost of this purchase will be covered by a grant. Patrol equipment (recorders, printers, etc.) is allocated \$45,000, as is investigative equipment and training. Criminal investigations are allocated \$48,000. Animal control

is allocated \$35,000, while telephone and utilities are budgeted \$120,000, an increase of \$22,000.

**Detention:** The \$2.36 million detention budget covers costs of operating the county jail. Personnel costs for the 23 employees (including the 3 positions in courtroom security and probation) total about \$1.8 million, and these were the only costs that increased over last year's budget. Other major costs in this budget include \$230,000 for prisoner board, \$120,000 for prisoner medical expenses, and \$50,000 for jail maintenance.

**Communications:** The \$861K communications budget covers all the costs of operating the county dispatch system and reflects a decrease from last year's budget with the nearly \$120,000 savings in communications center maintenance and repair. Personnel costs for the administrator and communications officers total about \$598,000. Other major line items include \$65,775 for the E-911 system, a cost that more than doubled from last year.

**Search & Rescue:** The S&R budget includes a \$500,000 seasonal helicopter contract that accounts for more than 60% of this program's annual budget. The contract is primarily compensated through federal funds received by the county, and the presence of the helicopter has saved countless lives in Sublette County.

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 \$77,989 for the administrator's salary, while training is allocated \$68,000 and search operations are budgeted \$25,000.

S&R's \$31,500 office equipment line item is a boost of more than \$20K to purchase two additional mobile radios and 5 hand-held radios, reflecting the type of "office" in which these emergency responders operate. Equipment purchases totaling \$58,800 are budgeted for ATV, swiftwater, and high angle use. The remaining budget items cover office operations and maintenance of vehicles.

**Emergency Management:** Major expenditures in the \$154,539 Emergency Management budget include \$77,989 for the coordinator's salary, \$38,000 for the purchase of four new mobile radios, and \$5,000 for telephone services. Gas, oil, and vehicle maintenance costs are estimated at \$15,000, while utilities are allocated \$9,500. Emergency supplies are budgeted \$4,000, and training is allocated \$3,000.



*The S&R budget includes a \$500,000 seasonal helicopter contract that accounts for more than 60% of this program's annual budget. The contract is primarily compensated through federal funds received by the county, and the presence of the helicopter has saved countless lives in Sublette County.*



# Other Departments

## Courthouse & Maintenance \$2.54 million

**What We Do:** This department provides maintenance and janitorial services for most county-owned buildings, as well as snowplowing and landscaping for county facilities.

**Budget Summary:** This year's budget includes \$1.3 million to pay salaries for the janitorial and maintenance staff supervised by department head Andre Irey.

Most of this budget's line items remain unchanged from last year, with two exceptions. An \$80,000 increase was included in the \$280,000 allocated for repairs and upgrades to county buildings, and gas and oil received a \$9,000 increase to \$28,000.

Other items in the budget include building insurance at \$476,009, and maintenance and supplies at \$75,000. Equipment and tools total \$10,000, utilities are allocated \$150,000, and janitorial supplies are budgeted \$27,000. Gas, oil, and vehicle maintenance are budgeted \$29,000.

The budget includes \$14,500 for improvements, utilities, and maintenance on the 4-H barn located outside of Pinedale; \$50,000 for maintaining buildings used by the Sublette County Hospital District; and \$21,000 for small property items.

**Budget compared to last year:** +9%

**Reason for difference:** In addition to salary increases, this budget reflects increases in repairs and upgrades on buildings, and gas and oil.

## GIS \$257,940

**What We Do:** This department maintains the Geographic Information System/map server publicly available on the county website ([www.sublettewyo.com](http://www.sublettewyo.com)).

**Budget Summary:** The budget covers the \$45,600 cost of the contract to maintain the GIS/map server, which is the same amount allocated last year. In addition, the county will pay \$212,340 for new aerial photography in this year's budget.

**Budget compared to last year:** +465%

**Reason for difference:** This budget includes the cost of updated photography for the entire county.

## Information Technology \$409,708

**What We Do:** Sublette County IT Administrator Lisa Copeland provides for information technology (computer systems and related technology) throughout the county courthouse and sheriff's office.

**Budget Summary:** This budget covers \$194K in technology upgrades, \$90,000 in equipment and supplies, and \$50,000 for any unforeseen IT projects that may arise throughout county government in the next year. The IT administrator's salary is budgeted at \$99,500, software licenses are allocated about \$71,000, while contract services are anticipated at \$87,000. The remaining budget items are for training, and lesser amounts to operate the IT office located in the courthouse.

**Budget compared to last year:** +52%

**Reason for difference:** The budget reflects major increases in allocations for technology upgrades and software licensing.

## Health Officer \$15,600

**What We Do:** County Health Officer Dr. Brendan Fitzsimmons, an appointee of the Sublette County Commission, works under the direction and supervision of the Wyoming Department of Health, and investigates communicable diseases, prevents

**See Other County Departments page 14**



## OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 13*

the spread of disease, and promotes the health of the county's citizenry.

**Budget Summary:** This budget provides \$15,600 for the health officer's salary, of which about \$9,600 is reimbursed by the State of Wyoming. The remaining expenditures cover office, meeting, and travel expenses.

**Budget compared to last year:** -67%

**Reason for difference:** Last year's budget included a county sanitarian position, which has been eliminated from this budget. Sanitarian duties are now handled by state officials.

### Public Health **\$618,849**

**What We Do:** This budget covers the county's expenses associated with the public health office, which operates in a partnership with the Wyoming Department of Health. Public Health operates immunization clinics, provides teaching for diabetics and dietary needs, offers prenatal classes and hypertension clinics, and operates programs for car seats, bike helmets, HIV counseling and testing, operates a loan closet, and conducts nursing home placement assessments as well as children's health services.

**Budget Summary:** Major portions of this budget are funded through state and federal grants, and the cost of nursing staff are shared between the county and state. The budget includes \$176,000 in personnel costs, and more than \$300,000 in expenditures related to grants. Other major items include about \$92,000 for vaccine purchases and \$15,000 for health fair costs. The budget includes \$12,500 for janitorial services, \$5,000 in mileage expenses, \$3,000 for educational training, and \$500 in advertising. The balance of the budget is for smaller amounts associated with operating the county public health office and program.

**Budget compared to last year:** -.7%

**Reason for difference:** The budget remains fairly flat.

### Surveyor **\$2,000**

**What We Do:** The primary duties of the surveyor involve county road surveying (alignment, rights-of-way, surveying, mapping, legal documents, etc.) and boundary surveys of parcels county government intends to acquire or sell.

**Budget Summary:** The commission allocated \$2,000 for surveyor expenses as needed.

**Budget compared to last year:** Flat

### Treatment Court **\$197,615**

**What We Do:** Treatment Court is a court-supervised treatment program providing an alternative to lengthy incarceration sentences or standard probation for repeat substance abuse-related offenses. The program involves a single judge working with a team of probation, treatment, defense, prosecution and law enforcement professionals to review cases and work

with defendants to break the cycle of drug or alcohol abuse and criminal behavior. Defendants spend a minimum of twelve months in the program during which they appear regularly before the program team and must complete four program phases emphasizing treatment, personal accountability, sobriety, community safety, pro-social activities, and giving back to the community.

**Budget Summary:** This budget includes about \$65,000 for the coordinator's salary. Major budget items include \$66,000 for mental health/treatment, \$60,000 for drug testing, \$1,500 for indigent services/recovery, and \$1,740 for team training and travel. The budget includes \$500 to cover the costs associated with a magistrate overseeing treatment court. The remaining budget categories include office operational expenses, and the costs for providing incentives and graduation for those involved in treatment court.

**Budget compared to last year:** +2%

**Reason for difference:** This budget remains fairly flat, with an increase in the coordinator's salary but decreases in a few other line items.

### Planning & Zoning **\$163,757**

**What We Do:** The Planning and Zoning Department is responsible for overseeing all physical development in the unincorporated area of the county.

**Budget Summary:** The budget includes just over \$105,000 in salaries for staff, including County Planner Dennis Fornstrom and administrator Tess Soll. The remaining budget covers a variety of lesser items associated with operating the office.

**Budget compared to last year:** +3%

**Reason for difference:** The increase reflects salary adjustments.

### Visitor Center **\$73,563**

**What We Do:** Sublette County re-aligned the Sublette County Visitor Center operations this year. The Visitor Center provides welcome services to visitors to Sublette County at a convenient location in downtown Pinedale. Offering free WiFi and clean restrooms, the center hands out maps, area recreational and business information, and promotes local event schedules, as well as assists travelers in dining and lodging availability. The center operates 280 days per year, and is working to open a visitor center in the southern portion of the county as well.

**Budget Summary:** The majority of expenditures from this budget are personnel costs of \$62,326.

**Budget compared to last year:** +80%

**Reason for difference:** Sublette County now funds operation of the center as a county department with a budget supervised by Director Peter Paulin.

**See Other County Departments page 15**



## OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 14*

### Road & Bridge

**\$7.6 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 \$2.15 million make up the largest chunk of the operations budget administered by R&B Superintendent Billy Pape. Two line items in the budget are each more than \$1 million: Soil stabilizer (mag water), and gas and oil.

Parts, repairs, and tires are budgeted a combined \$1.27 million. Material costs (culverts, cattle guards, etc.) are estimated at \$672,000, crusher costs are budgeted \$180,000, and gravel purchase is estimated at \$100,000. The budget includes heavy equipment purchases and leases at just over \$400,000. Miscellaneous projects and engineering are budgeted \$330,000. Utilities, telephone and radio maintenance are estimated at \$179,000.

**Budget compared to last year:** +33%

**Reason for difference:** In addition to increases in personnel costs, this budget reflects more than a \$1 million increase in various costs and materials associated with operating heavy equipment on projects throughout the county.

### Waste Management

**\$2.1 million**

Landfill . . . . .	\$1,228,388
Transfer Station . . . . .	\$673,627
Recycling . . . . .	\$195,361

**What We Do:** R&B Superintendent Billy Pape also supervises

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 transported to the landfill outside of Marbleton by a contractor, where it is baled by county staff.

**Budget Summary:** The general waste management/landfill budget includes these major spending categories: \$351,000 in personnel costs, and \$160,000 for engineering fees. Baler operations are budgeted \$100,000, while water monitoring is estimated at \$45,000, and environmental bags for the refuse bales are allocated \$44,000. Gas, oil, repairs, and tire costs are up considerably with at an estimated \$265,670. Utilities for the balefill facility are estimated at \$72,600, and the cost to haul tires (including large equipment tires) is estimated at \$84,000.

Major expenses for the transfer station operations are about \$150,000 in salaries and \$480,000 for the contract to transport refuse from the station to the landfill near Marbleton.

The recycling program budget had small increases in most line items, but the biggest increase is \$88,000 to purchase a 53-foot dry van trailer to haul materials for recycling.

**Budget compared to last year:** +19%

**Reason for difference:** Similar to the R&B department, the waste management program budgets reflect both an increase in salaries and overall increases in costs to operate heavy machinery, as well as the purchase of a large trailer.

**See Other County Departments page 15**





## OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 15*

### Unified Fire

**\$2.4 million**

**What We Do:** Sublette County Unified Fire is a volunteer department of six fire stations located throughout the county (Pinedale, Big Piney/Marbleton, Bondurant, Boulder, Daniel, and Kendall Valley), and managed under the supervision of Fire Warden Shad Cooper.

**Budget Summary:** Cooper oversees a \$2.4 million budget, which includes about \$508,000 in personnel costs for firefighters, clerical, instructors, and other salaries. Major budget items include just over \$1 million for purchase of a new fire apparatus (fire engine), and \$245,000 for maintenance of the department's facilities, equipment, and apparatuses. Gas, oil and vehicle maintenance total \$108,000. Equipment and supplies are budgeted \$155,000, and other line items cover assorted costs associated with operations of fire services throughout the county. Physical exams are budgeted \$50,000,

and training is allocated \$42,500, while insurance costs are estimated at \$70,000.

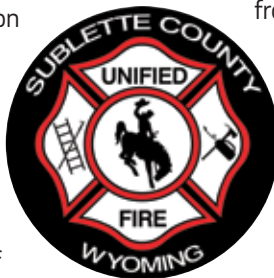
The budget includes \$60,000 for wildland fire suppression.

This allocation covers the cost of having fire equipment from neighboring counties on standby in years when fire activity is high and local resources are already engaged.

In addition to the \$2.4 million fire operations budget, the county holds about \$7.9 million in its depreciation reserve fund for replacement of fire trucks and other equipment, fire hall improvements or replacements, and to cover costs associated with firefighting on private land in the county.

**Budget compared to last year:** +58%

**Reason for difference:** In addition to salary increases, this budget includes \$1 million for the purchase of a new fire engine.





# Designated Mill Funding

**M**ost county departments and services are funded under a general fund allocation set by the Sublette County Commission, but certain county services have a direct mill levy allocation that is provided at a level set at the discretion of the county commission. The following program areas all receive a portion of a mill: Fair, Airports, Library, Museums, and Recreation.

These mill-levy budgets are supervised by boards appointed by the county commissioners. The boards submit their budgets to the commission for consideration and approval.

Additional items paid through these mill-levy allocations are also supervised by the commission itself. For example, the fair levy funds the county fair that is supervised by the fair board, but maintenance of the fairgrounds is also funded through the same levy, and the commission supervises this part of the program. Similarly, the recreation levy funds both the recreation board as well as operations of the county ice arena.

## Fair \$1.2 million

The fair mill levy allocation provides funding for the county fair as well as the overall fairgrounds operations in separate budgets. Fair Manager Kailey Barlow oversees the county fair program with supervision by the Sublette County Fair Board.

The **fair board** budget totals \$426,500, including \$180,500 for the 2022 fair, \$184,500 for the 2023 fair, and \$61,500 for administrative expenses.

The **fairgrounds** budget is \$790,587 and includes about \$281,000 in personnel costs for Manager Jay Brower and his staff, which will increase by one position this year. Brower reports directly to the county commission.

Major line items in the fairgrounds budget include about \$94,000 for equipment, \$17,000 to replace an ATV used on the grounds, \$44,000 to purchase tables and chairs for use at

public events; and \$40,000 for canopies.

Other expenditures include \$140,000 in utility and telephone costs, \$70,000 for projects, \$35,000 for repairs, and \$45,000 for building maintenance. The budget also includes \$12,000 for landscaping, \$14,500 for training and travel, and \$20,000 for gas and oil.

## Airports \$172,000

Both airports near Marbleton and Pinedale benefit from county mill levy funding. The Big Piney-Marbleton airport will receive \$86,000 for general operations and maintenance, and the Town of Pinedale's airport will receive the same amount.

The Joint Big Piney-Marbleton Airport Board will use the county funding for general operations, while the county's contribution to the Pinedale airport is limited to match funding for improvement projects, and not for general operations.

## Library \$1.7 million

It takes about \$1.7 million to operate the Sublette County Library system for a year, covering operations in both the Big Piney and Pinedale locations. The importance of our county library system is demonstrated the fact that 58% of Sublette County's population has a library card.

State statistics indicate that the Sublette County Libraries have the second-highest circulation rate per capita in Wyoming. Sublette County libraries also rank far above statewide averages for both total program attendance and children's program attendance per capita (topped only by Niobrara County in both categories).

After 25 years in the library system, Library Director Sukey Hohl retired this year and Michelle Humber has taken the reins as the new director.

**See Designated Mill Funding page 18**





## DESIGNATED MILL FUNDING *continued from page 17*

### Museums

**\$435,263**

Historic preservation in Sublette County is advanced through budget allocations totaling \$435,263, and the nonprofit organizations operating both museums in the county will benefit from small boosts to their budgets this year.

A total of \$240,900 will go to the Sublette County Historical Society for operating the **Museum of the Mountain Man** in Pinedale, as well as the Sommers Homestead Living History Museum and three historic sites. The **Green River Valley Museum** in Big Piney will receive \$123,383 to help fund that facility's operations. The **Sublette County Museum Board** will receive \$5,980 for its own operations as well as educational programs. In a separate allocation, the county also provides \$15,250 for the county's historic preservation board.

### Recreation

**\$1.6 million**

The recreation mill levy funds both the Sublette County Recreation Board and the Ice Arena in Pinedale.

The Rec Board's \$1 million budget includes \$450,000 for

construction of a new cart barn at the golf course, and annual commitments and maintenance of cash reserves totaling about \$180,000. Ongoing annual financial commitments including lighting for ball fields, grooming Nordic trails, golf course equipment leases, maintenance of Shelter Park, and providing electricity for rural television, and about \$40,000 for the board clerk and office expenses.

This year's major projects include \$105,500 for equipment for Rendezvous Meadows Golf Course, \$27,000 for the Big Piney ice rink, \$17,510 in equipment purchases for the Big Piney Rec Center, \$11,500 for equipment for the Big Piney Gun Club, \$28,000 for programming by the Pinedale Fine Arts Council, and \$8,000 to the Pinedale Theatre for a Broadway musical concert. The budget also includes lesser amounts to support a variety of other recreational programs in the county.

The \$641,900 ice arena budget includes about \$255,000 in personnel costs, and \$212,500 for equipment and tools, including the purchase of a new Zamboni. Other major items in the ice arena budget include \$100,000 for utilities, \$15,000 for building maintenance, and \$39,000 for equipment maintenance.





# Support for Human Service Programs — \$1.5M

**About these programs:** The Sublette County Commission uses the general fund budget to provide support to a variety of organizations that provide needed services through 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 . . . . .	\$802,300
Children . . . . .	\$464,825
Other . . . . .	\$280,512
Grand total: . . . . .	\$1,547,637

**Compared to last year's budget: +8%**

**Reason for difference:** The commission approved funding increases for various senior citizen and children services programs.

## Senior Citizens:

Sublette Center . . . . .	\$421,800
SW SC Pioneers . . . . .	\$194,000
Rendezvous Pointe . . . . .	\$186,500

The **Sublette Center** retirement community will receive \$421,800 in general support for this retirement community that provides both skilled nursing care and independent living for seniors.

**Southwest Sublette County Pioneers** in Marbleton serves nearly 160 unduplicated senior citizens annually and will receive \$194,000 in county funding to continue its meals program along with a wide range of activities and services. Last year the Pioneers served 11,499 meals, and provided more than 4,600 other services to local seniors.

**Rendezvous Pointe** in Pinedale will receive \$186,500 for senior center operations, which includes serving meals and a variety of 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, and is the only such service in the county, providing in-home services such as homemaking, chore services, personal care, and respite. Last year it served 28,445 meals and provided care to an average of 25 homes per week for homebound seniors.

## Children:

Children's Learning Center . . . . .	\$155,000
Children's Discovery Center . . . . .	\$85,000
Pinedale Preschool . . . . .	\$42,500
Scholarships . . . . .	\$137,000
Van Vleck House . . . . .	\$45,000
Ready For Workforce . . . . .	\$325

The **Children's Learning Center** will receive \$155,000 in general support. CLC 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.

**Children's Discovery Center** will receive \$85,000 to support its early education facility operating five days per week and serving children ages two to 10 years old. It's the only non-profit preschool in the county that operates year-round for children as young as the age of two, and serving about 44 families in Sublette County.

**Pinedale Preschool** will receive \$42,500 in support from the county for its preschool program currently serving 32 children. This preschool also offers scholarships to families in need, in addition to providing other financial assistance programs to the families it serves – programs that are in higher demand with the downturn in the economy.

Older children will receive a boost from the county as well, with \$137,000 set aside for **scholarships** for Sublette County students to attend an institution of higher learning.

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. Located in Jackson, this program serves youth from Sublette, Teton and Lincoln counties. Last year, four Sublette County youth were housed in the crisis shelter before they were able to be discharged to their homes, and one youth from the county was housed in Van Vleck's group home.

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:

Veteran's Services . . . . .	\$78,950
SAFV . . . . .	\$71,562
Title 25 . . . . .	\$130,000

The budget includes \$78,950 for the **Tri-County Veteran's Services** program, 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.

The **Sublette County Sexual Assault/Family Violence Task Force** (SAFV) will receive a total of \$22,812 in a direct allocation and \$48,750 as pass-through state funding. The program provides assistance, safety intervention, and prevention 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. A portion of the grant administered by SAFV provides support to women and families who experience an unplanned pregnancy, or who are parenting young children, as well as support for a program to provide personal care and homemaking services for homebound citizens.

**Title 25** funding in the amount of \$130,000 provides for emergency and involuntary hospitalizations of persons suffering from mental illness.

# Natural Resource Management — \$975,477

**About these programs:** 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 . . . . .	\$815,427
Extension Service . . . . .	\$110,050
Predator Management . . . . .	\$50,000

**Compared to last year’s budget:** . . . . . +19%

**Reason for difference:** This increase reflects salary adjustments for the extension service and conservation district and restores a staff position with the conservation district.

The **Sublette County Conservation District** will receive a 30% boost with this year’s \$815,427 for its continued operations, allowing the district to recover and restore one range specialist position after suffering from a stagnant budget for the last five 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 \$110,050 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 \$50,000 (the same amount the district received last year) for predator control. Most control efforts involve coyotes, in addition to control of ravens and depredating wolves. This board consists of three elected sheep representatives, three elected cattle representatives, and one member appointed by the county commission.

# Special Programs Support —

Centennial Committee . . . . .	\$76,180
Translator Grant . . . . .	\$19,600
Happy Endings . . . . .	\$2,500

The Sublette County Commission has appointed a **Centennial Committee** to organize celebrations for the county’s 100-year birthday throughout 2022.

The \$19,600 **translator grant** is carryover from previous budgets and is used for rural television operations in the county.

**Happy Endings Animal Rescue** will receive \$2,500 to assist with veterinarian fees associated with animals rescued by this nonprofit organization.





## The Cost of Government \$7.96 million

The budget includes a variety of large spending accounts that are the necessary cost of government, with an overall increase of 8% from last year's budget. Included are allocations of \$7 million to cover the cost of FICA insurance and retirement, \$100,000 for financial administration, and \$40,000 for an annual audit. Workmen's compensation and unemployment compensation are covered with an allocation totaling \$375,000. County officers' expenses are budgeted at \$35,000, while printing and publications are allocated \$90,000. Postage is estimated at \$31,000, and telephone service is allocated \$290,000.

### How Much Are County Officials Paid?

The county commission sets salaries for elected officials every four years, guided by state statutes that establish salary caps for certain elected positions. Sublette County salaries for clerk, treasurer, assessor, and clerk of district court are set at \$99,500 per year, while the sheriff is paid \$110,000. The county attorney's salary is \$105,000 per year, while the county coroner receives \$35,000 annually.

Salaries for other county employees are set by salary schedules approved by the county commission. This year's budget includes a 7% increase in salaries for employees using the county salary schedules. County employees have not received raises since 2018 despite increased costs of living.

## Misc. Expenses

In separate line items in the county general fund, the commission budgeted \$1.15 million for a chip seal project on county roads, \$200,000 for continued work on Skyline Drive, \$100,000 for erosion control on Calpet Road, and \$95,500 to cover restoration expenses from the fire in the Rendezvous Pointe garage. Since these projects involve repairs to existing infrastructure, they are allocated through the general fund rather than through the capital improvements budget.

The general fund budget also includes \$77,691 for maintenance of the 911 communications line and the Sublette Interoperable Radio System. This radio system, designed specifically for Sublette County, connects more than 500 users and first responders working in and around the county.

The budget includes \$120,000 for the purchase of two vehicles, including one for use by county officers and elected officials, and one for the assessor's office.

The budget also includes about \$32,000 for tax refunds to the energy companies due to anticipated valuation changes.





# About the Sublette County Commission

## Regular Meetings

Commission meetings are generally held the first and third Tuesdays of the month, with some variation. Commission meetings are open to the public and begin at 9 a.m. in the commission meeting room of the county courthouse in Pinedale.

To schedule an appointment to appear on the commission's meeting agenda, please contact Sublette County Clerk Carrie Long at (307) 367-4372.

## Budget Process

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 the budget discussion and consideration, followed by a budget hearing and formal 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.

## Open Government

**Meetings:** County commission meetings are open to the public. On occasion the commission will close the meeting to discuss certain confidential matters pursuant to state statute. These executive sessions are closed to the public, but no action is taken unless it is done in public session.

**Records:** Many public records are posted on the Sublette County website at [www.sublettewyo.com](http://www.sublettewyo.com) – including audio files of each county commission meeting, which are usually uploaded shortly after a meeting concludes. Find public notices, agendas and minutes of meetings, and volumes of other public records on the website. The full annual audits of the Sublette County budgets are posted on the county website, as well as financial statements and other detailed budget information. The website also contains the GIS/map server and access to county land records, elections information, and information about each county department and board.





**Commission Chairman**

Joel Bousman  
(307) 749-6154  
joel.bousman@sublettewyo.com  
Term expires: 1/9/2023

**Commission Vice Chairman**

Tom Noble  
(307) 749-2002  
tom.noble@sublettewyo.com  
Term expires: 1/6/2025

**Commissioner**

Sam White  
(307) 360-6489  
sam.white@sublettewyo.com  
Term expires: 1/6/2025

**Commissioner**

Doug Vickrey  
(307) 749-0009  
doug.vickrey@sublettewyo.com  
Term expires: 1/9/2023

**Commissioner**

Dave Stephens  
(307) 749-5975  
dave.stephens@sublettewyo.com  
Term expires: 1/6/2025





**Sublette County Commission**  
**P.O. Box 250**  
**Pinedale WY 82941**

