



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 7, 2019

Contact: Lori Latham
PH: (616) 401-1743 (mobile)
EM: lori.latham@kentcountymi.gov

Kent County Board of Commissioners Holds Hearing on 2020 Budget

Proposed Budget Reflects the Board's Strategic Priorities

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (November 7, 2019) – The Kent County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing this morning on its Fiscal Year 2020 budget. The overall budget is \$475.4 million and includes \$8.8 million for Capital Improvement Projects to serve the growing needs of the community.

The proposed budget allocates resources to programs and services that support the goals and objectives the Board of Commissioners previously established:

- Economic Prosperity
- High Quality of Life
- Service Delivery Excellence
- Inclusive Participation
- Effective Communications

Highlights from the County's budget include:

- \$6 million in [Ready by Five](#) millage funding for early childhood development services
- \$1.6 million to enhance parks and trails to improve recreational opportunities
- \$2 million allocated to support community homeless services programs, the County Guardianship program, etc.
- More than \$1 million for programs that identify sources of lead contamination in homes and that provide solutions to reduce lead poisoning in children
- \$75,805 to support an innovative partnership with the health care sector to establish a community-wide mental health crisis system and approximately \$127,000 for a Community Health Strategy position to these initiatives
- \$500,000 to address emerging public health issues such as lead poisoning and prevention, PFAS, etc.
- \$422,000 for the addition of five Sheriff Deputy positions to decrease response times

"We have developed a fiscally responsible budget while maintaining exceptional service and quality operations for our residents," said Kent County Board of Commissioners Chair Mandy Bolter.

“Furthermore, this budget is structured to effectively carry out our [strategic plan](#) and I look forward to working with County staff to implement the measures this budget funds.”

Additional budget information:

- An operating millage of 4.2571 was used as part of the revenue estimating process, which is the same rate that was levied in 2019.
- The General Fund budget for the operating and capital needs is \$187.9 million, reflecting an increase of 4.6 percent from the previous year.
- Approximately 50 percent of the total budget is allocated to public safety and social services.
- The General Fund budget supports the approximately 1,790 employees, which includes 16 new positions in the offices of the Clerk, Community Action, Friend of the Court, Health, Public Works, Sheriff and Administrator, to better meet Board priorities.
- The County retained its triple-A-credit rating for the 21st consecutive year.

“We have spent the last several months developing a budget that ensures the long-term financial sustainability of the County,” said County Administrator Wayman Britt. “With this proposed budget, we are creating more efficient ways to provide the high level of services that make Kent County a vibrant, healthy, safe place where people love to live and do business.”

The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to vote on the proposed budget at its November 21, 2019 meeting.

To view a copy of the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget, visit

https://www.accesskent.com/Departments/FiscalServices/pdfs/2020/Annual_Summary_Proposed.pdf

###