



Financial Section

Financial Section - Introduction

Budget As A Financial Document

Budgets serve a wide variety of purposes. They can serve as policy making tools, management tools, and communication devices. Ultimately, budgets are financial documents. They should provide a snapshot of the overall financial condition of the entity and of its financial plan for the coming year. The Financial Section of Yakima County's Annual Budget document is intended to provide this information. Other sections of the document present the budget in terms of services, programs and organizational structures.

The Financial Section is organized into two sections which are described below.

Basis of Accounting. This sub-section explains in brief the County's fund structure and accounting basis.

Budget by Fund. The sub-section is an overview in total of each fund revenue and expenditure budgets in total.

Fund Accounting

The accounts of Yakima County are organized on the basis of fund and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. Each fund has its own balance sheet and, in effect, is treated as a separate "business" for accounting purposes. The County's resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds depending on how they are to be spent and controlled. The individual funds are summarized in Program Categories in this budget document.

Fund Type

Funds can be classified according to the accounting conventions which apply to them. "Governmental" type funds are accounted for on a spending or "financial flow" measurement focus. This means that only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on their balance sheets. Reported fund balance (net current assets) is considered a measure of "available expendable resources". "Proprietary" funds, on the other hand, are governed by the same accounting standards that apply to private business. "Fiduciary" funds account for assets held by the county on behalf of other governments and other funds. These funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve the measurement of results of operations.

Basis of Accounting

The "basis of accounting" determines when revenues and expenditures are recognized for the purpose of budget control and financial reporting. Accounting on a "cash basis" means that revenue and expenditures are recorded when cash is actually received or paid out. This method is used by many small business, but it has limitations which make it unsuitable for larger, more complex organizations. Most larger business employ "full accrual accounting", in which revenues are recorded when earned (rather than when received), and expenditures are recognized when an obligation to pay is incurred (rather than when the payment is made). Capital expenses (the cost of acquiring tangible assets) are recognized over the life of the asset, not when the asset is purchased.

Governments typically employ a hybrid basis of accounting termed "modified accrual". Under this system, revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available; expenditures are recognized when the obligation to pay is incurred. However, capital expenditures are recognized at the time of purchase. This means that governments may experience significant increases and decreases in total expenditures from year to year because capital expenses tend to be large and unevenly timed. To help explain year to year expenditure trends, governments frequently report capital expenditures separately from operating costs in their budget documents.

Yakima County employs modified accrual accounting for its governmental fund types, including the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds and Capital project Funds. For Proprietary Fund types, including Enterprise Funds and Internal Service Funds, the County employs full accrual accounting.

Washington State Budgeting Accounting & Reporting System (BARS)

State law empowers the State Auditors to prescribe a uniform chart of accounts and budgeting, accounting, and reporting system for all local governments in Washington. This system devised by the Division of Municipal Corporations in the State Auditor's Office and codified in a five hundred page manual, is known as BARS. Part Two of Volume One of the BARS Manual pertains to budgeting. It sets forth both general principles of budgeting and detailed procedural guidelines. These principles and guidelines are incorporated into the County budget process.

2025 Expenditure Budget by Fund with 2024 Comparison

Fund	2024	2025
General Fund	79,615,977	85,757,762
District Court Probation	1,445,386	1,822,466
Municipal Courts	898,932	1,194,260
Pretrial	388,723	402,446
Narcotics Investigation	0	0
Special Operations	275,452	171,053
Dist Crt Dispute Resol Cntr	72,540	78,841
Family Court	228,192	214,818
Department of Corrections	30,989,741	33,164,032
Noxious Weed	568,911	576,592
Horticulture	209,424	222,499
Law Library	80,000	82,792
Criminal Justice Sales Tax	11,502,131	12,777,960
Parks & Recreation	166,375	88,829
County Road	58,701,190	61,735,582
Topp/Simcoe West Railroad	279,065	279,634
Naches Rail Line	27,856	27,875
Flood Control	12,286,967	12,256,733
Storm Water Utility	1,622,047	970,680
Code Enforcement	810,592	945,483
Affordable & Supportive Housing Tax	250,000	612,000
Records Services	220,639	322,145
Motel/Hotel	770,100	785,100
WSU Extention	13,150	9,650
Emergency Medical Serv	631,024	829,012
911	2,793,403	2,794,885
ARPA Fund	20,776,460	32,524,118
Veterans Relief	299,317	375,082
Community Services	865,337	1,370,976
Mental Health Sales Tax	4,619,204	9,294,043
Treasurer's Revolving	319,369	331,581
Treasurer's Investment Pool	256,654	269,522
REET Electronic Technology	125,000	125,000
Supp Invest In Econ Diversif	14,497,339	16,916,279
Community Development	425,000	248,975
Affordable Housing	1,152,987	1,144,330
Title III PILT	6,671	6,246
Homeless Services	7,157,344	10,350,000
Total Special Revenue	175,732,532	205,321,519
2008 GO Bond Redemption (214)	0	0
2008B GO Bond Redemption (215)	0	0
2010B Bond Redemption (218)	121,500	121,500
2014 LTGO Bond Redemption (201)	439,513	432,113
2020 GO Bond Redemption(225)	769,750	784,750
2020 GO Bond Redemption(226)	553,690	547,190
Total Debt	1,884,453	1,885,553

2025 Expenditure Budget by Fund with 2024 Comparison (cont.)

Fund	2024	2025
General Capital Projects (TS)	169,504	178,308
Fairgrounds Capital Projects	182,123	-
Broadband Capital Projects	-	1,522,500
Public Works Capital Projects	3,484,175	11,122,948
2020 GO Bond Capital Projects	2,784,277	-
Ascend Royalties	50,000	50,000
RE Excise Cap Proj	1,660,667	777,131
Total Capital	8,330,746	13,650,887
 Solid Waste	21,285,002	17,342,567
Public Works Utilities	7,530,410	3,908,642
Yakima County Water Resource	131,144	5,640,077
Building & Fire Safety	3,712,103	3,990,117
Total Enterprise	32,658,659	30,881,403
 GIS	548,267	588,887
Technology Services	8,687,356	9,503,998
Purchasing	437,854	423,454
Unemployment Comp	433,213	491,984
Employee Flexible Spending	37,149	41,149
Vol Employee Benefit	147,704	149,498
Worker's Comp	2,432,211	6,092,789
LEOFF Benefit	547,672	850,012
Liability Insurance	5,302,141	7,867,327
Department of Security	834,931	1,019,869
Financial Services	720,443	757,004
Facilities Services	5,356,671	5,968,649
ER & R	18,048,645	22,725,492
Total Internal Support	43,534,257	56,480,112
 Total	341,756,624	393,977,236

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