Fiscal Year 2024 Adopted Budget Policies Collier County Board of County Commissioners March 14, 2023

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Overview and General Budget Planning

This policy document covers significant budget influences and provides staff's budget guidance recommendations relative to achieving the County's strategic objectives for FY 2024 and beyond.

The annual budget policy document consists of three (3) sections which are:

- Annual Budget Policies to be Adopted
- Continuing Routine Budget Policies to be Reaffirmed
- Three-Year Forecast for the General Fund and the Unincorporated Area General Fund

Recommended policies are highlighted in gray on policy document pages 26 thru 43.

Over the past year the economic landscape has ranged from a stable growth economy to an economy that suffered from product shortages, supply line disruptions, worker shortages, increasing interest rates and historical levels of inflation and housing costs. These factors drive increases in operating expenditures, capital project costs and exert significant upward pressure on payroll. Further compounding these drivers is the unknown impact of Hurricane Ian on taxable values as well as supporting hurricane repair cashflow pending reimbursement.

Taxable value county-wide has increased for the eleventh (11) consecutive year and is expected to increase once again for the 2023 (FY 2024) tax year. Major general governmental revenue sources like sales tax, state shared revenues, gas taxes and the local option infrastructure sales tax all exceeded forecast for FY 2022 and are trending higher over budget in FY 2023.

- New construction permitting has cooled slightly from 2021, but remains consistent with 2020 averages. For calendar year 2022, new construction permitting has averaged 268 permits per month, which is below the 2021 calendar year monthly average of 365 and more in line with the 2020 calendar year monthly average of 262 permits. Most of the new permits issued are for one-and two-family residential units.
- New home sales activity and pricing remain seasonally strong. While inventory has increased median home prices rising from 659K in November 2021 to \$850K in November 2022 coupled with rising interest rates drove a decrease in single-family home sales year over year from November 2021 to November 2022.
- Collier County's unemployment rate was 3.1% in November 2022, down 0.3% from November 2021. The State of Florida and United States unemployment rate was 2.6% and 3.7% respectively in November 2022. Unemployment rates should continue to drop incrementally as workers return to the work force and area demand outweighs the supply.
- Visitation to the destination for December 2022 totaled 123,700, which an increase over December 2021 visitation for the month of 120,100 and December 2020 monthly visitation number of 112,300. Calendar year visitation for 2022 of 1.63 million is up slightly from 2021 calendar year visitation of 1.58 million and much higher than the 2020 figure of 1.08 million. Direct spending for the 2022 period totaled \$1.87 billion which, despite the impacts of Hurricane Ian, is 12% above 2021 total of \$1.67 billion.

As we usher in calendar year 2023, economic indicators generally point to a healthy economic environment as our community continues to recover from Hurricane Ian. Major employers including Collier County are continuing to exhibit strong balance sheets and local sales tax, gas tax, state shared revenues, impact fees, and tourist development taxes remain strong. Senior leadership regularly evaluates all economic indicators, and the organization is always positioned to respond, if necessary, to any softening of economic conditions.

The County is positioned to structure and issue strategic general governmental and enterprise debt for capital projects upon review and recommendation by the Finance Committee. Projects like expansion of the transportation grid, general governmental facilities improvements, and phase two of the eastern expansion of the County's public utility system will likely require some form of financing during FY 2023, FY 2024 and beyond.

The Budget as a Tactical Financial Tool and Strategic Policy Model

The annual budget document is considered a single use tactical financial plan which appropriates dollars toward one-year initiatives, activities, and projects in furtherance of longer-term policy strategic objectives embodied in the **2023 Strategic Plan**. This tactical budgetary plan begins with an examination of annual budget policies which describe in detail the tactical issues to be funded.

While the budget is a tactical tool, components of the budget also program dollars strategically. Multiyear capital project funding for key infrastructure often involves a phased approach and can span three to seven years to achieve project completion. Reserves designated for future asset maintenance and replacement, vehicle and equipment replacement, natural disasters and unforeseen risks are considered critical strategic requirements that emphasize the need for careful resource allocation among competing short and long-term funding priorities.

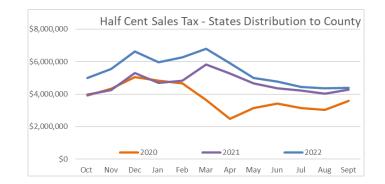
As the County's general governmental and enterprise capital assets grow, repeatedly resourcing long-term asset maintenance and replacement becomes increasingly important.

For FY 2023, \$717.9 million or 36.6% of the County's \$1.96 billion net budget is for county-wide enterprise and general governmental capital projects and capital reserves. Planning numbers for FY 2024 within the General Fund allocate \$60.6 million or 9.4% of the recommended \$643.8 million spending plan toward capital initiatives including projects, debt repayment and capital reserves.

General Governmental Revenues – FY 2022

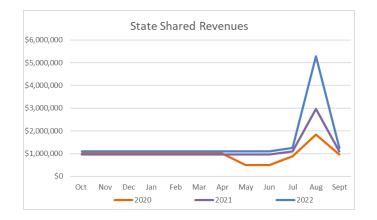
Fiscal year ending FY 2022 key governmental revenue sources remain strong. The County's General Fund cash position remains within policy guidelines consistent with a stable highly rated investment quality municipal entity as determined by all three major rating agencies. The following is a discussion of major general governmental revenue sources.

Local **regular half cent sales tax** revenue is the largest non-property tax general governmental revenue source and is deposited monthly in the General Fund. FY 2022 collections were significantly higher than both FY 2021 collections and FY 2020 collections by 17% and 44% respectively. The County received \$45,227,690 in FY 2020, \$55,732,311 in FY 2021 and \$65,042,976 in FY 2022. The following graph depicts the FY 2020 to FY 2022 relationship in collections by month.

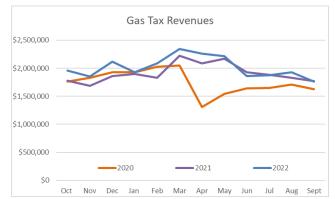


Budgeted half cent sales tax collections for FY 2023 total \$48,000,000 which is very conservative when compared with State estimates at \$59,050,800.

State **revenue sharing** is yet another key general government revenue source deposited in the General Fund. Like regular sales tax revenue, FY 2022 collections were significantly higher than FY 2021 and FY 2020 collections by 29% and 52% respectively. The County received \$11,707,422 in FY 2020, \$13,775,594 in FY 2021 and \$17,758,152 in FY 2022. FY 2023 conservative budget estimates total \$12,000,000. State estimates for FY 2023 total \$15,502,100.



Aggregate special revenue **gas taxes** receipts have continued to grow in FY 2022, increasing over FY 2021 and FY 2020 by 6% and 15% respectively. Actual receipts totaled \$21,004,900 in FY 2020, \$22,919,700 in FY 2021 and \$24,195,900 in FY 2022. For FY 2023, gas tax revenue is budgeted conservatively at \$22,503,100 which is well below the state estimates of \$27,241,288.



Actual Tourist development tax collections during the COVID pandemic fiscal year of 2020 dropped to \$26.1 million from \$31.6 million in FY 2019. Collections in FY 2021 recovered nicely

to \$36.2 million and increased substantially in FY 2022, with collections totaling \$47.5 million. It is expected that collections for FY 2023 will drop slightly from FY 2022 as a result of Hurricane Ian. Actual year to date collections through December 2022 are down 3% from FY 2022. In September 2020 Fitches rating on the County's TDT bonds remain unchanged and the outlook was modified to stable from negative.

Natural Disaster Planning/Hurricane Ian

Since landfall of Hurricane Ian in September 2022, the County has put forth significant effort and resources into the recovery effort. As of January 2023, the BCC has approved in excess of \$125 million in recovery funding and the County has expended upward of \$29 million on these efforts.

For perspective on hurricane cashflow, recovery efforts for Hurricane Irma totaled \$115.2 million and the County received \$98.1 million in reimbursement revenue consisting of \$72.9 million in FEMA reimbursements and \$25.2 million in insurance reimbursements. Net cost to the County for Hurricane Irma currently totals \$17.1 million. The County reallocated internal resources to cash flow Hurricane Irma recovery. Substantial FEMA reimbursement took approximately 18 months. With reimbursements continuing to trickle in through FY 2023. The County can expect similar timing for reimbursements for Hurricane Ian.

The following summary table for FY 2023 shows the Hurricane Ian recovery budget and actuals by fund category as of February 27, 2023.

| Fund Category | Budget | Actual |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| General Governmental | \$43,000,000 | \$11,148,132 |
| Enterprise | \$55,000,000 | \$17,372,043 |
| TDC | \$27,050,000 | \$1,411,199 |
| CATT Transit | \$100,000 | \$40,087 |
| Total | \$125,150,000 | \$29,971,461 |

There will be a significant budgetary impact both in FY 2023 and FY 2024 from Hurricane Ian and this impact will largely depend upon when reimbursement revenue is received. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is closely monitoring the reimbursement stream with a keen eye toward implementing any necessary FY 2023 budget adjustments to ensure that sufficient cash balances are maintained in affected funds. Any necessary budget adjustments will mostly affect capital budgets through reduction in capital transfers and deferring appropriate capital projects. Upon receipt of reimbursements, when possible, budgets utilized to fund Hurricane Ian recovery efforts will be appropriately restored.

The County is prepared to cash flow the response necessary to restore the community from natural disasters utilizing three specific budget techniques:

- First, existing capital project budgets are reviewed, and funding is re-allocated where appropriate.
- Second, general governmental and enterprise reserves are drawn down in appropriate and prudent amounts.
- Third, in funds where enough cash balance exists, FEMA revenue is budgeted, and corresponding expense budget appropriated anticipating some level of reimbursement in

the coming months/years. Planned revenue and existing fund balance is utilized for cash flow until the receipt of FEMA deposits.

County leadership is committed to a value-added coordinated emergency management approach which coalesces all County Agencies and external partners as future natural disasters threaten Collier County.

General Budget Planning

The FY 2024 budget plan will allocate funding for recurring operational expenses and continue funding for replacement capital infrastructure and maintenance, as well as new capital initiatives not funded through the local option infrastructure sales tax. Capital and operational programming continue to compete for limited resources which is always a pressure point as appropriation decisions are made for the General Fund (001) and Unincorporated Area General Fund (111). That said, the budget document must continue to remain flexible - a key component of the budget management process and widely recognized by those agencies who are consumers of the County's budget data and offer financial ratings of our agency.

The budget as a flexible financial planning document will be subject to many changes in FY 2024 with several financial variables yet to be determined, including.

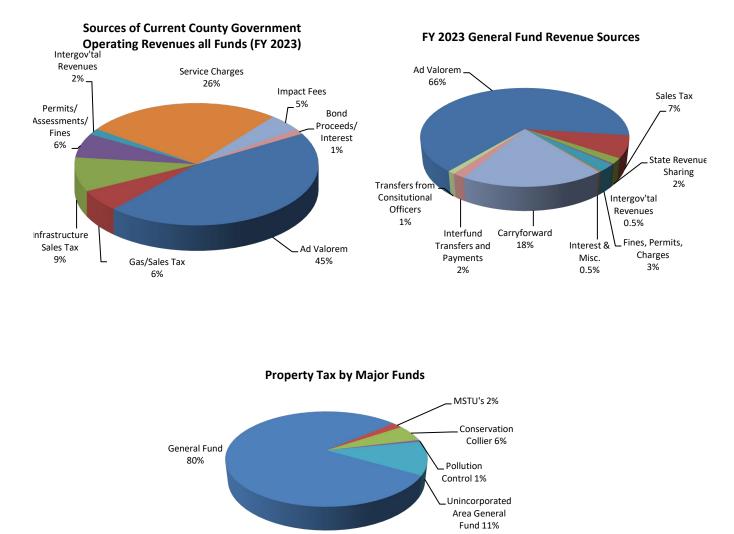
- Tax policy decisions by the Board will determine the level of budget flexibility and the specific resource allocation for operations and capital transfers; the level of reserve programmed, and payment of debt will not be affected by the Board's tax policy decision.
- While issuance of debt is not programmed within the adopted budget, the budget will be positioned for amendment during any fiscal year to allow for financing projects like the expansion of the transportation grid; public utilities expansion to service eastern lands development; government facilities improvements; and other policy initiatives as directed by the Board.
- Extent of additional gap funding to complete future construction phases of the Paradise Coast Sports Complex and disposition of the TDC advance to support Phase II improvements.
- Discussions are ongoing between the County and the Greater Naples Fire District regarding the process, timeline, and updated cost of providing fire service to the Ochopee Fire District. The Ochopee Fire District is currently funded through an MSTU and a General Fund contribution, in recognition of the large amount of state and federal lands within the district.
- Planning for recurring general governmental industry standard funding to maintain storm-water infrastructure; continue a "pay as you go" capital component and payment of debt service all totaling \$16.3 million consisting of appropriations from the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund.
- Board policy guidance on issues like workforce and first responder housing; mental health programming; continued development of the Golden Gate Golf Course property; Hussey property and Camp Keais property; and any operational implications to Community Priorities funded by the voter approved local option infrastructure sales tax.
- Existing taxable value dependent support of economic development innovation zones and CRA tax increments.

- Funding for enforcement of illegal vehicle modification and noise pollution.
- Level of capital and operational funding connected with strategic relocation of various governmental functions on the main campus, including implications from community priorities funded by the local option infrastructure sales tax like constructing the mental health facility; costs connected with back-office infrastructure replacement like the management and accounting system, and information technology system upgrades.
- Level of General Fund transfer support to the constitutional officers and specifically the Sheriff.
- Capital funding requests documented by the Sheriff, including improvements to the jail facility, evidence storage and support operations facility, and the Caxambas substation.
- Amount of General Fund dollars if any required to backfill the impact fee trust funds due to continued State Legislation restricting the use of general governmental impact fees and/or insufficient impact fee collections.

Annual Budget Policies

Significant Budget Influences:

Each fiscal year based upon conservative budgetary guidance, limited resources are allocated to competing services, programs, projects, and capital initiatives. Within the pyramid of service and program delivery, significant resources have, and will continue to be, devoted to public safety, public health, debt management, and replacement of priority mission critical infrastructure and equipment. Property (ad valorem) taxes will once again dominate the County's budgetary revenue mix, which for FY 2023 comprise about 45% of total net recurring annual operating revenue and 66% of General Fund recurring revenue sources. Seventy-five percent (75%) of General Fund revenue is comprised of property taxes, sales tax, and state shared revenue.



Eighty percent (80%) of all levied property taxes by Collier County Government are deposited into the General Fund and forty five percent (45%) of those collections, including state required Board paid components, support constitutional officer operations, including the Sheriff.

Thus, significant attention is paid to property (ad valorem) taxes and those factors that can influence millage rate and tax levy decisions. The decision to develop the FY 2024 budget around

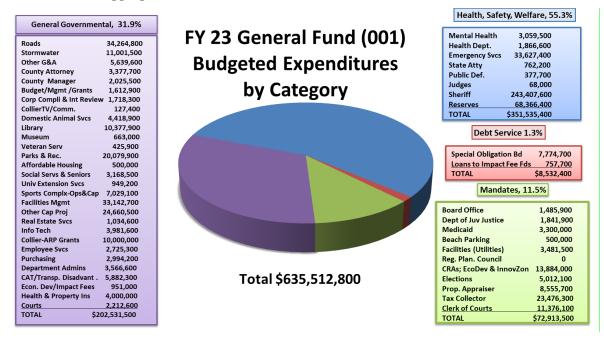
the rolled back rate, millage neutral rate or other rate is a key decision made by the Board and this decision will determine the level and extent of operational, capital, and constitutional funding.

Under millage neutral policy guidance applied to the tax base planning scenario projected to increase 5.75%, the FY 2024 General Fund planning levy will increase \$25,068,600 over the FY 2023 adopted levy. As county-wide taxable value increases and that increase begins to slow, the **state calculation** for determining the rolled back rate which is influenced directly by tax increment district valuations and the amount of tax increment dollars contributed to these districts creates a scenario where the rolled back rate becomes close to, or is greater than, the County's long standing millage neutral rate of \$3.5645. **The following points are noteworthy** in considering general governmental tax policy for FY 2024.

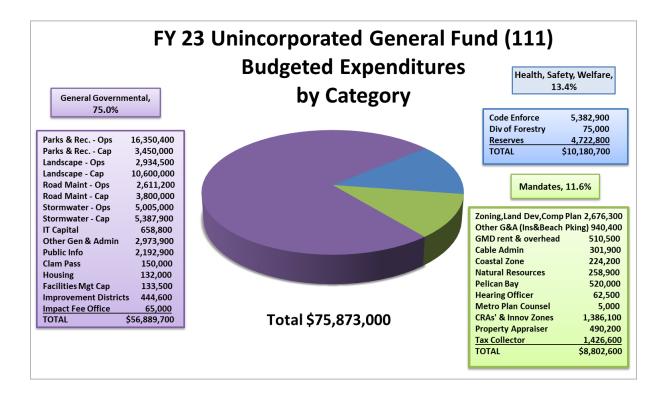
- The County's current General Fund millage rate of \$3.5645 has been levied for the past fourteen (14) years, since FY 2010. During the recession when taxable value dropped some \$24 billion, this millage rate adopted by the BCC pursuant to policy required General Fund budget reductions totaling \$123 million between FY 2009 and FY 2013. Conversely, keeping the millage rate neutral since FY 2014, when taxable value began increasing, has allowed the County to raise \$219 plus million in additional dollars above the rolled back rate to fund general governmental capital and operating programs cut or postponed during the recession, restore levels of service deemed important by the BCC as part of annual budget guidance, establish a long term capital maintenance reserve, participate in various strategic economic development agreements, purchase strategic property and related development and, pursue strategic location/relocation of certain County facilities to closely align with expanding eastern population while simultaneously updating/replacing these facilities.
- Relying on the rolled back rate as a measure of tax relief can be problematic when the economy softens, and taxable value increases begin to slow or decrease. The concern is not year one of levying the rolled back rate, it is the cumulative effect should the Board decide that rolled back rate is the new normal; or the rolled back rate is abandoned when the tax base decreases, and millage neutral then becomes the tax policy because the rolled back rate increases as the tax base declines. Rolled back rate does not provide the marginal revenue increase needed to support maintaining the County's significant infrastructure investment, let alone capital facility expansion and related services for an expanding population base in this community.
- Property taxes comprise 66% of total General Fund recurring revenue.
- If the Board had voted to levy the rolled back rate in FY 2023 during the September public budget hearings, \$52.9 million in General Fund capital and or operating program cuts would have been necessary. This level of budget adjustment would not be accomplished by reducing reserves, since reserves are an integral component of preserving General Fund cash at year end; provide a signal of financial strength to the rating agencies; and serve as financial leverage for unforeseen natural disasters and/or shifts in Board policy mid-year. Cuts would have likely come from reduced capital transfers funding transportation system improvements, stormwater, and parks; elimination of all expanded requests funded by the General Fund required to service new facility improvements, and current service County Manager Agency and or constitutional officer operating reductions.

- Programmed within the General Fund for FY 2024 is \$45.7 million supporting various general governmental capital initiatives, not including debt payments or capital reserves, in the areas of transportation, parks and recreation, stormwater, museums, and of course constitutional capital requests.
- Constitutional operating transfers out of the General Fund (including Board paid requirements) constitute 45.1% of all FY 2023 General Fund appropriations. While the Board can control these appropriations, based upon history it is not likely that cuts would be made to constitutional officer operations, especially the Sheriff.

Of the \$635.5 million-dollar FY 2023 General Fund Budget only about 31.9 percent, or \$202.5 million, is considered somewhat discretionary. The remaining appropriations are classified as Health, Safety and Welfare; Debt Service and/or Mandates where there is very limited to no discretion over appropriations.



Property tax revenue comprises 78% of Unincorporated Area General Fund recurring operating revenue sources and when including the Communication Services revenue sharing from the State the revenue mix jumps to 83%. Continued reduction in state shared communication services tax revenue will significantly impact general governmental services appropriated in this fund.



Like the General Fund, flexibility exists within the Unincorporated Area General Fund if a response to any state shared communication services tax reduction is required. A substantial reduction in the state shared communication services tax would require cuts to general governmental operating programs and/or capital transfers, absent a replacement revenue source like a franchise fee. Florida counties possess the right and power to enter into a franchise agreement with utilities – typically electrical - which franchise establishes terms for use of rights of way and the compensation to be received for allowing the use of rights of way. The compensation can be up to 6% of the revenue received by a utility from customers located within the counties unincorporated political boundary. Many Florida counties and incorporated municipalities have entered into utility franchise agreements. Lee County reached terms of an electric franchise agreement with FPL and LCEC. Lee County customers are currently paying a 4.5% fee on their utility bill which raises around \$18 million annually.

FY 2024 General Governmental Initiatives:

Identified general governmental capital improvements/operating initiatives over the next few years include:

- Preliminary land use planning on the Camp Keais and Hussey property.
- Partially restore reserves utilized for Hurricane Ian recovery.
- Hardening County facilities in preparation for natural disasters and the related grant match.
- Major upgrade and hardening of the County's 800MHz radio network.
- Upgrades to IT infrastructure, including security measures and the County's various management, financial and accounting software like SAP.
- Constructing phase three of the Paradise Coast Sports Complex including related operations.

- Park system infrastructure renewal and replacement.
- Ongoing funding for the development of the Golden Gate Golf Course.
- Sheriff's capital projects including jail building envelope update, Caxambas seawall replacement and various maintenance and substation and facility upgrades.
- Ochopee Fire service agreement with Greater Naples Fire District and necessary additional contract funding commitments.
- Operational and maintenance implications of constructing projects funded by the local option infrastructure sales tax.
- Ongoing funding for storm-water maintenance and continued capital infrastructure upgrades.
- Contributions to economic development initiatives like innovation zones.
- Funding for enforcement of illegal vehicle modification and noise pollution.
- Continued funding for Affordable/Workforce housing incentives.
- Funding for unforeseen state and federal mandates.

Whether paid by cash, financed, or funded through the Local Option Infrastructure Sales Tax, operating, and maintaining this enhanced level of infrastructure improvement and service initiatives will require substantial investment of scarce and limited general governmental operating revenue which is predominately property taxes.

Recognizing the County's growing future general governmental asset maintenance responsibility, reserve dollars of \$5 million will be replenished for FY 2024 and dedicated to maintaining the County's future general governmental hard and soft infrastructure investment. It is envisioned that the reserve amount will continue to grow in varying amounts but no less than \$5 million annually, with the amount ultimately tied to the Board's tax rate policy. Regular annual deposits to this fund isolate dollars for future asset maintenance from competing programs, services and initiatives that receive dollars from a limited resource pool. At the very least, cash on hand through this reserve will provide a hedge against natural disasters and potentially lessen the need for government borrowing in the future.

Each year as new general governmental capital improvements are brought online pursuant to Board policy, the level of funding required to support these facilities grows. Additionally, the regular contributions to CRA's and innovation zones grow annually as the tax base increases. Assuming no change in tax rates, the cost of operating new facilities and funding CRA's/innovation zones reduces funding otherwise available to support general governmental services.

General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund contributions to CRA's and innovation zones for FY 2023 totaled \$11.9 million (an increase of \$2.4 million over FY 2022) and \$1.4 million (an increase of \$292K over FY 2022) respectively and these numbers will grow in FY 2024 with projected tax base increases.

Other factors that will be significantly impacted by general governmental tax policy include:

• Extent of capital and operational transfer dollars expended by the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund.

- Level of service standards set by the Board for agencies and departments which are funded within the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund.
- Proper level of resources to cover the organization's current and future asset maintenance responsibility. Competing priorities between operating and capital expenses within a revenue structure heavily reliant upon property taxes.
- General Fund and/or Unincorporated Area General Fund support for new or re-prioritized operating and capital initiatives which were described above under *FY 2024 general governmental initiatives*.
- Impacts of potential unfunded mandates, including continued state legislative attacks to limit a counties home rule ability to raise property tax revenue and repeated attempts to reduce existing shared revenue sources like the Communication Services Tax (CST); further reductions in state health care and social service funding; continued attempts to very restrictively define how impact fee revenue can be used; as well as impacts from any reduction in federal payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) funding.
- Level of General Fund Ad Valorem operating support extended to constitutional officers and specifically the Sheriff.

What will not be impacted by the Board's tax policy decisions are:

- 1. Maintaining strong beginning year General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund cash balance in accordance with policy.
- 2. Policy driven growth in general governmental reserves.
- 3. Scheduled annual payment on the County's debt service; and
- 4. Maintaining the County's excellent market credit rating.

<u>Discussion of Taxable Values, Millage Targets for the General Fund (County-Wide) and</u> <u>Unincorporated Area General Fund and Related FY 2024 Budget and Financial Strategies</u>

While the county-wide tax base has increased for eleven (11) consecutive years (trending to twelve for FY 2024), **maintaining a millage neutral General Fund policy position** remains the recommended management objective. When setting millage rate policy, elected leaders need to be mindful of the following points.

- A consistent millage neutral tax rate captures marginal increases in property tax revenue when taxable values increase and provides a level of tax relief when taxable values decline usually when the economy is softening.
- Relying on a rolled back rate policy, intended to raise the same property tax revenue as the immediate prior tax year, does not provide the consistent marginal revenue increase needed to support capital facility expansion and related services for an expanding population base in this community; nor does the rolled back rate provide relief during periods of economic decline because the rolled back rate will increase when taxable values drop.

The following table provides a history of Countywide and Unincorporated Area taxable values over the past fifteen (15) years (tax year 2008-2022), as well as the budget planning projection for tax year 2023 (FY 2024).

| | County Wide | County Wide % | Unincorporated | Unincorporated |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tax Year | Taxable Value | inc. (dec) | Area Taxable Value | Area % inc. (dec.) |
| 2008 (FY 2009) | \$78,662,966,910 | | \$50,860,023,424 | |
| 2009 (FY 2010) | \$69,976,749,096 | (11.0%) | \$44,314,951,279 | (12.8%) |
| 2010 (FY 2011) | \$61,436,197,437 | (12.2%) | \$38,146,886,403 | (13.9%) |
| 2011 (FY 2012) | \$58,202,570,727 | (5.2%) | \$36,013,774,963 | (5.6%) |
| 2012 (FY 2013) | \$58,492,762,303 | .50% | \$36,026,786,779 | .04% |
| 2013(FY 2014) | \$60,637,773,315 | 3.7% | \$37,207,018,234 | 3.3% |
| 2014 (FY 2015) | \$64,595,296,747 | 6.5% | \$39,634,174,211 | 6.5% |
| 2015 (FY 2016) | \$70,086,389,131 | 8.5% | \$43,075,586,559 | 8.7% |
| 2016 (FY 2017) | \$77,115,163,725 | 10.0% | \$47,455,161,371 | 10.2% |
| 2017 (FY 2018) | \$83,597,615,791 | 8.4% | \$51,754,136,138 | 9.1% |
| 2018 (FY 2019) | \$88,286,266,672 | 5.6% | \$54,781,508,980 | 5.8% |
| 2019 (FY 2020) | \$93,175,403,621 | 5.5% | \$58,037,803,377 | 5.9% |
| 2020 (FY2021) | \$99,159,595,002 | 6.4% | \$62,320,804,025 | 7.4% |
| 2021 (FY2022) | \$104,679,006,577 | 5.6% | \$65,864,893,076 | 5.7% |
| 2022 (FY2023) | \$122,310,558,113 | 16.85% | \$77,062,200,538 | 17.00% |
| 2023 (FY2024) | | | | |
| Planning | \$129,343,415,204 | 5.75% | \$81,493,277,069 | 5.75% |

The August 2022 State Ad Valorem Estimating Conference Report for the 2023 tax year (FY 2024) projects that Collier County certified taxable values (county-wide) on July 1, 2023, will increase 9.5%. This number appears to be very aggressive and is likely based upon housing values during the first half of calendar year 2022. This projection does not include the potential effects of Hurricane Ian on county-wide taxable values. Staff have been adept over the years at sizing the planning budget around a conservative yet functional taxable value planning number providing for maximum budget flexibility considering that most budget planning is over before the certified taxable value number is received from the Property Appraiser at the end of June.

The taxable value estimate must allow for operational and capital programming needs as well as reserve growth. Budget planning around a conservative 5.75% taxable value increase is realistic and accomplishes the objective of budget planning flexibility. Any positive difference in taxable value above the planning ceiling assuming a resulting increase in ad valorem revenue at millage neutral can be used to strengthen the Board's General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund reserves and/or be applied to recurring and new programs, services and initiatives as directed by the Board.

Property tax revenue comprises 66% of the General Fund (001) and 45% of the total net county recurring revenue budget, including fund balances. According to Urban Institute, local government general property tax collections as a percentage of all general governmental collections for counties total 28% on average.

The General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund tax or "millage" rate has varied over the years and has been influenced by the taxable value environment and State legislation.

Tax or "millage" rates for the past eighteen (18) years are shown in table form below.

| Millage Area | FY 06 | FY 07 | FY 08 | FY 09 | FY10-FY16 (7 Years) | FY17-FY23 (7 Years) | FY 24 Planning |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | \$3.8772 | \$3.5790 | \$3.1469 | \$3.1469 | \$3.5645 | \$3.5645 | \$3.5645 |
| Unincorporated Area General Fund | \$.8069 | \$.8069 | \$.6912 | \$.6912 | \$.7161 | \$.8069 | \$.8069 |

The following table depicts taxable values and levies at various tax base increase scenarios under a millage neutral rate. The County Manager is proposing to maintain the General Fund tax rate at millage neutral, or \$3.5645 per \$1,000 of taxable value. The Unincorporated Area General Fund tax rate is also recommended to remain at millage neutral, or \$.8069 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

The respective General Fund and Unincorporated Area GF dollar values at the various scenarios are shown below.

| | Current Taxable Value Pre VAB | FY 2024 @ 2% | FY 2024 @ 4% | FY 2024 @ 5.75% Policy Planning Numbers | FY 2024 @ 8% | FY 2024 @ 10% |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | |
| General Fund / | | | | | | |
| County Wide | 122,310,558,113 | 124,756,769,275 | 127,202,890,438 | 129,343,415,204 | 132,095,402,762 | 134,541,613,924 |
| Unincorporated Area | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 77,062,200,538 | 78,603,444,549 | 80,144,688,560 | 81,493,277,069 | 83,227,176,581 | 84,768,420,592 |
| | Current Levy | | | | | |
| General Fund at 3.5645 | 435,975,984 | 444,695,504 | 453,415,024 | 461,044,603 | 470,584,063 | 479,573,583 |
| Conservation Collier | | | | | | |
| at 0.2500 | 30,577,640 | 31,189,192 | 31,800,745 | 32,335,854 | 33,023,851 | 33,635,403 |
| County Wide Total | 466,553,624 | 475,884,696 | 485,215,769 | 493,380,457 | 503,877,914 | 513,208,986 |
| Unincorporated Area GF at \$.8069 | 62,181,490 | 63,425,119 | 64,668,749 | 65,756,925 | 67,156,009 | 68,399,639 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | 2% - Variance | 4% - Variance | 5.75% - Variance | 8% - Variance | 10% - Variance |
| | | from Current | from Current | from Current | from Current | from Current |
| | | Levy | Levy | Levy | Levy | Levy |
| General Fund (millage neutral) | | 8,719,520 | 17,439,039 | 25,068,619 | 34,878,079 | 43,597,598 |
| Conservation Collier | | -): -) | .,, | -)) | - ,, | -)) |
| at 0.2500 | | 611,553 | 1,223,106 | 1,758,214 | 2,446,211 | 3,057,764 |
| County Wide Total | | 9,331,073 | 18,662,145 | 26,826,833 | 37,324,290 | 46,655,362 |
| Unincorporated Area | | | <i>. . . .</i> | | | |
| GF (millage neutral) | | 1,243,630 | 2,487,260 | 3,575,436 | 4,974,519 | 6,218,149 |

If taxable values fall below the five and three quarter (5.75%) percent planning scenario, budget planning will be reduced accordingly. Conversely, if taxable values exceed the planning benchmark, additional ad valorem dollars can be used to increase reserves and/or applied to programs and services as directed by the Board. Staff continues to recommend that budgeted ad valorem revenue will be millage rate driven rather than a strategy of setting the millage rate based upon a targeted ad valorem revenue number.

Conservation Collier - On November 3, 2020, the Collier County electors approved the Conservation Collier Re-establishment referendum with a 76.5% majority. This voter approval set a county-wide millage rate not to exceed \$.2500 mills for ten (10) years and does not include the issuance of debt to acquire environmentally sensitive land.

Accordingly, the FY 2024 budget is proposed to be developed to include a Conservation Collier Program tax levy of .25 mil that will generate up to \$32,335,854. Consistent with Ordinance 2002-63 as amended, twenty-five percent (25%) of annual gross tax receipts is deposited into the Conservation Collier Management Trust Fund to provide for long term management of lands acquired through or managed by the Conservation Collier Program. For FY 2023, this transfer totals \$7,262,200. Remaining tax collections will remain in the Conservation Collier Acquisition Trust Fund (Fund 172) for use in acquiring environmentally sensitive lands. Per the FY 2021 annual report presented and accepted by the Board on April 26, 2022, it is recommended that starting in FY 2024 up to 10% of the annual levy be allocated to fund public amenities at preserves which may include boardwalks, facilities, parking and programing.

Summary of Significant FY 2024 Adopted Budget Strategies to Achieve a Structurally Balanced Budget

The following table highlights certain FY 2024 budget strategies which will be detailed within this document and which the Board will consider as part of Adopted Budget Policies.

| 1 | The County Manager is proposing to submit one FY 2024 millage neutral General |
|---|---|
| | Fund (001) operating budget along with service level and related budgetary and |
| | millage implications. Planning for recurring operating cost increases of 4.25% is below |
| | the identified CPI increase of 9.9% (see discussion below) and will result in |
| | department reductions within strategic identified areas to meet this budget guidance. |
| | The FY 2023 General Fund Adopted Budget appropriates dollars to fund all |
| | constitutional agency operations which is roughly 45% of all General Fund |
| | appropriations; County Manager agency operations; substantial capital transfers not |
| | including capital reserves and debt service totaling \$59 million to general |
| | governmental facilities and constitutional capital needs, the regional park system, the |
| | transportation network, stormwater maintenance, museums, and the Paradise Coast |
| | Sports Complex. General Fund reserves for FY 2023 are within policy parameters and |
| | currently total \$54.6 million. |
| 2 | Proposed FY 2024 guidance for the Unincorporated Area General Fund (111) includes maintaining the millage rate at \$.8069. The Unincorporated Area General Fund appropriates dollars for operating services like community parks, road maintenance, stormwater, landscape operations and maintenance, comprehensive planning, zoning and land use, code enforcement and coastal zone operations. Substantial capital transfers to parks, the transportation network, landscape maintenance and stormwater maintenance continue and for FY 2023 those capital transfer dollars totaled \$23.2 million. Reserves continue to be funded at policy levels which is a minimum of 2.5% of operating expenses. |
| 3 | County Manager agency expanded services will be limited to operating new Board approved capital facilities, Board directed level of service adjustments, and/or historically strained mission critical imperatives. County Manager Agency total budgeted personal services costs for FY 2023 is \$231.3 million or 50.5% of all County personnel costs. Constitutional budgeted personal services for FY 2023 totals \$227 million, or 49.5% of County Personnel costs. |

| 4 | Pursue a strategy in FY 2024 which continues to place a premium on current infrastructure replacement/maintenance on a pay as you go basis and integrate capital financing where prudent and economically appropriate pursuant to the Debt Management Policy. No debt will be programmed as part of the adopted budget. Instead, any financing will be part of the amended budget based upon policy directives. |
|----|---|
| 5 | Recognizing the County's mounting future general governmental asset maintenance responsibility, in FY 2024 an additional \$5 million will be allocated to the restricted future capital reserve created in FY 2020. These reserve dollars are dedicated to protecting the County's future general governmental hard and soft infrastructure investment. Regular annual deposits to this fund emphasizes the need to isolate dollars for this future asset maintenance obligation knowing the many competing programs, services and initiatives must receive dollars from a limited resource pool. |
| 6 | Establish budget parameters for enterprise operations which are tied to working capital guidelines established by GFOA; capital obligations from the capital improvement element (CIE); any rate or fee studies stipulations; priority agency wide expansion initiatives; and statutory or ordinance spending limitations. A critical review of operating and capital reserve levels versus operating and capital appropriations will be discussed during County Manager budget deliberations with an expectation that enough recurring resources are devoted to maintaining the utility asset at a high standard while resources are set aside to protect cash and fulfill our fiduciary responsibility to public protection in the event of a natural disaster. |
| 7 | Continue General Fund (001) county-wide debt and capital transfers to cover regular special obligation revenue bond debt service; provide any necessary loans to the impact fee trust funds to cover the debt service gap due to insufficient impact fee collections; fund park's capital; support future airport capital grant matches; fund constitutional officer capital needs; and help pay for needed general governmental facility repairs. |
| 8 | The FY 2024 budget planning model under a millage neutral tax rate for FY 2024 allocates \$16.3 million dollars from the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund toward existing storm-water infrastructure maintenance; pay as you go capital; operations; and debt repayment. Debt service on the recent 2020A Special Obligation Revenue Bond – \$60 million stormwater component – totals \$2.2 million for FY 2024 thus the net amount for stormwater capital, system maintenance, and operating components totals \$14.1 million. |
| 9 | The FY 2024 planning model at millage neutral increases the park capital and infrastructure maintenance general governmental transfer to \$7.6 million; the net amount after covering FY 2024 debt service of approximately \$700K on the \$20 million 2020A Special Obligation Revenue Bond component totals \$6.9 million. |
| 10 | The FY 2024 budget will be planned for maximum flexibility which will allow for quick adjustments resulting from a softening economy; natural disasters; Board policy initiatives; issuance of debt; changing expense timing; and unforeseen unfunded mandates. |

| 11 | Establish General Fund contingency reserve at 3.0% of total budgeted appropriation (less capital/debt transfers) and maintain the General Fund cash balance reserve at \$57.1 million bringing total General Fund reserves to \$71.9 million , an increase of \$3.5 million over FY 2023. This modest growth in the General Fund reserves is extremely important to protect the funds beginning FY cash position, present a position of financial strength to the rating agencies, avoid more aggressive expenditure controls as budget margins tighten; position the County to become more self-reliant knowing that federal and state funding, as well as funding guidelines will continue to tighten and become more onerous; and, if necessary tap reserves to cover any emergency disaster expenses and/or strategic Board policy initiatives. |
|----|---|
| 12 | Use gas tax revenue to support road capital, maintenance, and debt (with an emphasis on debt) consistent with budget planning and statutory requirements. |
| 13 | Continue dialog, where appropriate, on future new universal and sustaining revenue sources, like a franchise fee applicable to unincorporated area electric utility customers, to diversify the composition of the County's recurring general governmental revenue mix. |

Component increases of 4.25% devoted to operations at the department level is planned. This means that department operations for FY 2024, which rely on the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund for dollars, will be restricted to a four and a quarter percent (4.25%) increase for current programs, services, and operating transfers. For FY 2024, the percentage operating adjustment will be translated into a dollar value for each department head to consider as priorities dictate. Mission critical program enhancements (Expanded Requests) will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Limited general governmental operational expense increases are expected and will be appropriated to account for new programs and services instituted during FY 2023, inflationary adjusted fixed costs and maintaining a competitive compensation package. The December 2021 over December 2022 CPI for the Miami Fort Lauderdale SMSA is 9.9 percent. *It is expected that the inflation rate will moderate over the coming months.*

A significant portion of remaining budget planning dollars will be applied to Agency wide capital equipment, asset replacement and new capital projects not covered by the local option infrastructure sales tax or impact fees. This will manifest itself primarily through General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund capital transfers for general governmental and constitutional facilities, the transportation network, parks, stormwater, and heavy equipment.

For FY 2024 planning purposes and discussion in this policy document, the total General Fund Budget is programmed to increase by \$8,275,400. The following table depicts by category the revenue and expense positive or negative changes connected with the FY 2024 General Fund Planning Budget and the variances from FY 2023. Also shown for comparison are the budget variances by category between FY 2022 and 2023.

| Major Revenue Variances: | Variance between Budget FY 2023 and Planning FY 2024 | Variance between Budget FY 2022 and Planning FY 2023 |
|---|--|--|
| Ad Valorem Taxes | \$ 25,068,600 | \$ 12,787,800 |
| Sales Tax & Revenue Sharing | 4,000,000 | 8,000,000 |
| Department Revenues | 1,250,500 | (645,800) |
| Enterprise and Federal PILT and Cost Allocation | 927,000 | 462,600 |
| Transfer Revenue | (1,389,400) | (2,231,200) |
| Constitutional Officer's Turnback/Excess Fees | 100,000 | (100,000) |
| Interest | 0 | 0 |
| Carryforward | (20,160,400) | 17,659,400 |
| Less 5% Required Revenue Reserve | (1,520,900) | <u>(1,002,100)</u> |
| Total Revenue Increases | 8,275,400 | \$34,930,700 |
| Major Expenditure Variances | | |
| County Manager, Court's and Other General | ¢ 1 200 100 | ф <u>с 171 700</u> |
| Operations | \$ 4,288,400 | \$ 5,471,700 |
| Operating Transfer's | 4,984,600 | 4,652,000 |
| Capital & Debt Transfer's | (24,431,600) | 14,355,500 |
| Sheriff Transfer | 16,544,800 | 7,583,800 |
| Other Constitutional Transfer's | 3,397400 | 1,433,300 |
| Reserves | <u>3,491,800</u> | <u>1,434,400</u> |
| Total Expenditure Increases | 8,275,400 | \$34,930,700 |

Several observations can be made from this table. As discussed throughout this document, property tax revenue dominates general governmental funding. Of significance also is carry-forward (fund balance) at year end which influences expenditure planning and the respective capital and operating allocations. Maintaining a healthy fund balance requires priority funding of reserves as indicated in the analysis above.

The negative budgeted carryforward variance of \$20.2 million from FY 2023 to FY 2024 is the result of forecast operating expense above budget due to the cash-flow requirements for the response and recovery from Hurricane Ian. Though the County has positioned itself to receive expedited payment from FEMA for a portion of expenditure to date, due to the timing uncertainty reimbursements coupled with potential additional funding requirements for future repairs these revenues were not included in the forecast. This conservative position allows for flexible operating, capital transfer and reserve appropriation planning leading into FY 2024.

The planned increase in all General Fund budgeted reserves represents a regular managed increase of \$3.5 million over FY 2023 consistent with policy planning standards. Impact Fee collections remain stable and for FY 2024 only \$1.4 million is required from the General Fund to subsidize growth related debt. While not a trend due to the volatility of impact fee collections, increased collections over budget is a contributing factor allowing for a greater level of General Fund capital transfers planned in FY 2024.

Each new program, service, initiative, or capital facility has recurring funding obligations, and the layering effect becomes magnified each fiscal year. Whether staffing and operating the Paradise Coast Sport's Complex and Big Corkscrew Regional Park, contributing to economic development incentive zones, satisfying approved economic development agreements, storm-water programming, senior facility initiatives, buying land, fostering workforce housing, supporting Policy Document Page 20

social services, investing in our public safety facilities or the myriad of other current or future funding requirements, the County's annual public safety investment and servicing a demanding and growing citizenry requires stable resources and currently that stable resource is primarily property taxes.

As a balancing measure, budget management is ongoing and expenditure controls are always in place and monitored continually. Likewise, execution patterns are scrutinized along with transfer dollars to make sure that appropriations are properly executed and spent for the intended purpose.

While it is important to recognize our ongoing program, service and capital commitments which have made Collier County "the best community in America to live, work, and play", the level of dollars devoted to this laudable goal must be measured against the continued need to maintain prudent reserve levels; protect against any revenue shortfalls; guard against any assault by the state legislature on the ad valorem and general county tax/revenue structure; and fulfill public expectation to maintain/enhance service levels. Maintaining appropriate General Fund cash is always a major focus and by policy the cash position is set at a minimum of 15% of actual expenditures. Given our current General Fund reserve levels and cash flow requirements, it has been prudent and OMB staff strives to maintain a cash position in this fund of between 20% and 30% of actual expenses. The actual General Fund cash and cash equivalents position at year ending 9/30/22 totaled \$157,929,500 or 33.5% of actual expenses for FY 2022.

Each fiscal year the cash requirements due from the General Fund during the first quarter of the fiscal year grows and is necessary to satisfy mandated cash flow transfers to the Constitutional Officers, meet general operating requirements, debt service, required CRA and Innovation Zone transfers and generally sustain operations in advance of property tax receipts received in December.

County Grant Funding:

County participation in the State and Federal grant process remains aggressive but while the common thinking is that grants are free money, the administrative burden surrounding application; on site post award administration; and single audit compliance notwithstanding the local match requirements and cash flow realities must not be overlooked. Program areas where grants are prevalent include the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Transit, Housing, Transportation, Stormwater, Airport, COVID 19 (Pandemic), Parks, Disaster Recovery, and other areas. As of February 2023, the County had \$394.7 million in active grants plus another \$48.6 million scheduled to become active. Of the total \$443.3 million active or soon to be active grants, the local match requirement totals \$63.3 million which must be found through the budget amendment process by the respective Department's from existing appropriations as part of the grant award process.

All Cares Act, American Rescue Plan Act and other Pandemic dollars allocated to Collier County now totals \$191.1 million of which \$166.7 million has been spent for individual assistance, business assistance, transit services, aging services, and public safety. Spend down of the remaining balance, as directed by the Board, will occur over the next few fiscal years in accordance with federal requirements. The Board had previously approved internal transfer dollar reprogramming using Cares Act dollars to fund eligible EMS and Sheriff operations thus meeting revised Federal and State Cares Act distribution guidelines. It is expected that this type of budgetary action allowing maximum flexibility in how the funds are used will be recommended in the future. Board action has also allowed for the redirection of general governmental and CARES dollars totaling \$44 million to **first** address needed community support initiatives like individual, business and nonprofit assistance and **second**, reimburse when appropriate, based upon Board direction, local government expenses.

Local Option Infrastructure Sales Tax:

Local Option Infrastructure Sales Tax Capital Fund (318) provides the accounting structure for managing all projects approved by the Board consistent with Ordinance 2018-21. Currently there are thirty-eight (38) approved projects budgeted within funded programs including Big Corkscrew Regional Park Phase 1; EMS stations, Mental Health Facility, VA Nursing Home, Vanderbilt Beach Road Extension, Sidewalks, various hurricane resiliency initiatives; HVAC, roofing, and facility upgrades; DAS shelter and the Sheriff's Forensic and Evidence Building. Once a project is approved by the Board, the project accounting structure is set up and budget is moved from reserves to a project budget. To date, a total of \$362.5 million in infrastructure sales tax dollars has been received. Under the same statutory spend down rules, interest income on the proceeds received to date total an additional \$3.9 million. It is expected that the \$490 million will be collected in FY 2023 and the Board will be requested to approve terminating collections effective December 31st, 2023.

Future General Governmental Capital Improvements

Long Term Capital Reserve

Recognizing the County's mounting future general governmental asset maintenance responsibility, a Reserve Fund was created for FY 2020, fencing off dollars in incremental amounts annually dedicated to protecting the County's future hard and soft general governmental infrastructure investment. Regular annual deposits to this fund emphasizes the need to isolate dollars for future asset maintenance obligation, knowing the many competing programs, services, and initiatives must receive dollars from a limited resource pool. For FY 2024, \$5 million is budgeted bringing the total reserve amount to \$10.8 million. Drawing on this reserve will of course require Board action under guidelines developed by OMB and the County Manager. For example, in FY 2023 reserves were reduced by \$30 million to provide funding to respond to Hurricane Ian.

Capital Asset Management

Each year a significant portion of available annual resources are devoted to the maintenance and management of the County's general governmental infrastructure base. This strategy will continue knowing that nonrecurring proceeds from the Local Option Infrastructure Sales Tax can only be used for capital construction, not maintenance, and that the proceeds will be applied to specifically identified and strategic capital projects. The current pay as you go strategy recognizes that satisfying all new planned and programmed capital requirements over the next five (5) years contained within the Capital Improvement Element (CIE) will require some financing component despite the local option infrastructure sales tax.

The County issued competitive bond financing in November 2020 to maintain, replace existing and construct new storm-water infrastructure; replace park aquatic systems and related recreation improvements; payoff variable rate commercial paper used to purchase the Amateur Sports complex property, and purchase strategic eastern lands property. Augmenting the annual cash and

carry component of infrastructure maintenance are dollars set aside in a separate reserve fund for future infrastructure replacement and maintenance. Available resources will continue to be allocated in the most prudent and economical manner to fund operations at required service levels and construct and maintain strategic capital improvements.

The following table provides a description of historical budget allocations and what is currently planned in FY 2024 from the General Fund budget to support ongoing asset maintenance, strategic new capital requirements and fund growth and non-growth debt obligations.

| Category | Non-Growth | Loans to | Loans to | County | Transfer for | Transfer to | Transfer to | Transfer to | Long Term | Total |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| General Fund | Debt | Impact Fee | Impact Fee | Wide | Other | Parks | Road | Storm-Water | Replacement | |
| | | Funds - | Funds – | Capital | Capital | | Network | Capital | Capital | |
| | | Debt | Projects* | | | | | | Reserve | |
| FY 2015 | \$3,079,600 | \$3,307,100 | \$7,813,200 | \$7,788,600 | \$3,441,200 | \$500,000 | \$9,499,900 | \$4,627,600 | \$0 | \$40,057,200 |
| FY 2016 | \$3,077,500 | \$5,376,500 | \$900,000 | \$10,677,500 | \$4,333,100 | \$750,000 | \$14,559,800 | \$1,549,600 | \$0 | \$41,224,000 |
| FY 2017 | \$3,073,000 | \$2,476,900 | \$0 | \$10,697,500 | \$4,000,000 | \$2,495,700 | \$8,460,000 | \$2,525,000 | \$0 | \$33,728,100 |
| FY 2018 | \$2,855,200 | \$3,306,800 | \$2,000,000 | \$12,006,000 | \$4,313,500 | \$1,100,000 | \$11,650,400 | \$1,627,000 | \$0 | \$38,858,900 |
| FY 2019 | \$3,479,400 | \$3,958,700 | \$216,200 | \$11,160,800 | \$645,000 | \$1,100,000 | \$8,555,800 | \$2,500,000 | \$0 | \$31,615,900 |
| FY 2020 | \$3,694,200 | \$1,040,200 | \$0 | \$10,591,500 | \$1,625,600 | \$3,200,000 | \$9,388,900 | \$4,694,400 | \$5,000,000 | \$39,234,800 |
| FY 2021 | \$3,650,400 | \$2,192,100 | \$0 | \$12,265,900 | \$4,753,000 | \$3,350,000 | \$8,817,300 | \$4,868,800 | \$5,000,000 | \$44,897,500 |
| FY 2022 | \$8,908,000 | \$1,832,000 | \$0 | \$20,743,600 | \$4,435,000 | \$3,070,000 | \$8,817,300 | \$2,677,800 | \$7,500,000 | \$57,983,700 |
| FY 2023 | \$7,774,700 | \$757,700 | \$0 | \$29,918,600 | \$6,628,300 | \$3,177,500 | \$10,625,900 | \$8,271,500 | \$18,300,000 | \$85,454,200 |
| FY 2024 | \$8,469,000 | \$1,418,600 | \$0 | \$25,535,000 | \$5,200,000 | \$3,000,000 | \$9,200,000 | \$2,800,000 | \$5,000,000 | \$60,622,600 |

*FY 2015: EMS Station, SOE Complex, & Sheriff Substation. FY 2016: Additional funding for Sheriff Substation. FY 18: EMS Station. FY 19 EMS Station.

For FY 2024, funding as planned above will of course be subject to Board guidance on millage rates and taxable property values received in July 2023. For perspective, countywide capital and debt service expenses contained within the planning model and shown above amounts to **9.4%** of all General Fund planned appropriations for FY 2024. When you include Constitutional Officer transfers at **47.6%** of planned FY 2024 General Fund expenses and reserves, which are **11.2%** of total General Fund expenses, **these three components account for 68.2%** of all General Fund expenses in the planning model.

The General Fund regularly appropriates substantial dollars to new general governmental capital and asset replacement projects benefitting countywide residents. This level of capital planning which generally translates into approved budget appropriations provides part of the highly desirable budget flexibility which is essential to sound fiscal management. Preserving General Fund cash, maintaining adequate reserves, protecting the County's superior investment quality credit rating, and paying debt service will always take priority as expenditure planning evolves. Generally, these priorities are strategically managed, and allocations are made in harmony with other capital and operating spending appropriations.

Robust capital contributions are also appropriated within the Unincorporated Area General Fund to augment the County's commitment to capital programming. The following table depicts these planned capital contributions. Further, the modest cost of capital environment which currently exists provides opportunities to lock in low interest rates and capitalize on the County's exemplary credit rating.

| Unincorporated Area General Fund | Transfer to Parks | Transfer to Roads | Transfer to Storm-Water Capital | Total |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| FY 2014 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,300,000 | \$1,300,000 |
| FY 2015 | \$500,000 | \$3,860,000 | \$1,050,000 | \$5,410,000 |
| FY 2016 | \$500,000 | \$2,427,300 | \$4,011,800 | \$6,939,100 |
| FY 2017 | \$750,000 | \$3,300,000 | \$4,172,000 | \$8,222,000 |
| FY 2018 | \$1,250,000 | \$4,000,000 | \$4,267,900 | \$9,517,900 |
| FY 2019 | \$2,750,000 | \$4,250,000 | \$3,000,000 | \$10,000,000 |
| FY 2020 | \$2,500,000 | \$4,000,000 | \$1,300,000 | \$7,800,000 |
| FY 2021 | \$2,950,000 | \$3,000,000 | \$3,125,200 | \$9,075,200 |
| FY 2022 | \$3,450,000 | \$3,000,000 | \$3,125,200 | \$9,575,200 |
| FY 2023 | \$3,450,000 | \$3,800,000 | \$5,387,900 | \$12,637,900 |
| FY 2024* | \$3,900,000 | \$13,600,000 | \$3,200,000 | \$20,700,000 |

* Effective in FY 2024 the transfer to Road and Bridge Fund 310 includes funding for landscaped median renewal and maintenance.

Issuing strategic variable rate short term and/or fixed rate long-term debt is an important part of the County's capital improvement program under the basic premise that future residents should pay for improvements that they will enjoy and not just current residents. Further, the modest cost of capital environment which currently exists provides opportunities to lock in low interest rates and capitalize on the County's exemplary credit rating.

Since October 2018, the County has issued \$451 million in general governmental and enterprise debt to fund several strategic initiatives including:

- Series 2018 Tourist Development Tax bonds totaling \$62.9 million dated October 2018 to finance construction of the Paradise Sports Complex.
- Collier County Water/Sewer District revenue bonds dated April 2019 in the amount of \$76.2 million to finance the acquisition, construction and equipping of various utility capital improvements servicing the northeast area of Collier County.
- Strategic purchase in July 2019 of the Golden Gate Golf Course for \$28 million through a taxable competitive bank loan.
- Series 2020 A&B tax exempt and taxable debt in the amount of \$115 million dated October 2020 for strategic eastern lands property acquisition, construction of stormwater facilities and improvements to various park and recreation aquatic facilities.
- Collier County Water/Sewer District revenue bonds dated July 2021 in the amount of \$128.9 million to finance the acquisition, construction and equipping of various utility capital improvements servicing the northeast area of Collier County and Golden Gate City.
- In June 2021, a \$10 million commercial paper line of credit to finance Pelican Bay infrastructure improvements was authorized.
- In July 2022, a \$30 million commercial paper line of credit to finance a portion of the Vanderbilt Beach Road Extension was authorized.

The following chart provides a summary description of General Fund transfer dollars programmed for, FY 2020 through FY 2023 and those planned for FY 2024 for various strategic general governmental capital initiatives. This table does not include debt service transfers or the annual long term capital reserve transfer. No projects within the table below are slated for funding from the Local Option Infrastructure Sales Tax.

| General Fund Supported Capital Category | FY 20 Budget | FY 21 Budget | FY 22 Budget | FY 23 Budget | FY 24 Budget |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Medical Examiner Bldg. Expansion & | | | | | |
| Repairs | \$0 | \$2,500,000 | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$0 |
| Jail Windows | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$950,000 | \$3,000,000 |
| Jail & other Sheriff Facility Repairs | \$1,000,000 | \$0 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| Sheriff Helicopter Replacement | \$0 | \$2,000,000 | \$5,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Sheriff Forensic & Evidence Bldg. | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Sheriff Identification System Replacement | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,000,000 | \$0 |
| Sheriff Caxambas Seawall | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$600,000 | \$1,200,000 |
| Voting Machines | \$400,000 | \$475,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Clerk's Annex Reorganization and Finance Dept Relocation | \$0 | \$1,800,000 | \$735,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Financial Accounting System (SAP) | | | | | |
| Upgrade | \$2,750,000 | \$0 | \$2,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| Senior Center Renovations | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Golden Gate Golf Course | \$500,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$0 | \$7,000,000 | \$2,000,000 |
| Relocation of Campus Facilities and Office | | | | | |
| Operations | \$0 | \$540,700 | \$400,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Library – Update interior | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$630,000 | \$0 |
| Library Capital/Books | \$950,000 | \$600,000 | \$500,000 | \$900,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| General Building Maintenance Repairs | \$5,000,000 | \$5,000,000 | \$5,000,000 | \$6,922,200 | \$8,000,000 |
| Major Projects & Roof Replacements | \$0 | \$0 | \$5,000,000 | \$0 | \$1,500,000 |
| Video Monitoring System replacement | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,188,400 | \$2,545,900 | \$0 |
| General Ops Business Park (GOBP) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$5,000,000 | \$0 |
| Great Wolf | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,000,000 | \$5,000,000 |
| Paradise Coast Sports Complex | \$0 | \$0 | \$4,235,000 | \$4,000,000 | \$0 |
| 800MHz Radio Hardening | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,213,000 | \$6,000,000 |
| Other General Governmental | (\$8,500) | (2,149,400)* | (\$1,079,800*) | \$657,500 | \$835,000 |
| Cashflow Irma for consultants' invoices - | | | | | |
| waiting for FEMA | | \$3,326,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Museum Capital | \$200,000 | \$0 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| Airport Capital (Grant Match) | \$1,425,600 | \$1,426,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Park Capital | \$3,200,000 | \$3,350,000 | \$3,070,000 | \$3,177,500 | \$3,000,000 |
| Boater Improvement Capital | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$428,300 | \$0 |
| Transportation Capital | \$9,388,900 | \$8,817,300 | \$8,817,300 | \$10,625,900 | \$9,200,000 |
| Storm-water Capital | \$4,694,400 | \$4,868,400 | \$2,677,800 | \$8,271,500 | \$2,800,000 |
| Total | \$29,500,400 | \$34,055,000 | 39,743,700 | \$58,621,800 | \$45,735,000 |

*(\$2,149,400) = \$50k for minor maintenance for software costs and \$40k Coastal Zone Water Quality. Also, in FY20, completed projects with residual funding were moved to Reserves to help fund FY21 projects reducing the need for additional General Fund support.

*\$(1,079,800) = \$340k for minor maintenance for software costs, \$50k Coastal Zone Water Quality. Also, in FY21, completed projects with residual funding were moved to Reserves to help fund FY22 projects reducing the need for additional General Fund support

Direct general governmental capital maintenance funding for parks and stormwater related system improvements from the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund for FY 2024 under the current planning scenario totaling \$15.8 million decreased from FY 2023, and part of this allocation, or \$2.9 million, will be applied to payment of debt service on the 2020A tax exempt Special Obligation Revenue Bond issued to finance stormwater and parks improvements. Of course, the allocation may change as the FY 2024 budget evolves leading into the June workshop, once taxable values are known, and budget requests are vetted.

The planned allocation shown in the table above includes transfer dollars to maintain the transportation network, dollars for road resurfacing, intersection improvements, sheriff capital, administrative accounting system, and an array of other capital support.

Management has the flexibility to allocate these General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund transfer dollars to mission critical projects or initiatives at the expense of those efforts not viewed as a high priority. This has and will continue to be the management strategy given the competition for general government resources, uncertainty with the communication services tax, heavy reliance upon property taxes and the natural hazards which can impact coastal communities.

Recommended Budget Policy: Develop a General Fund (001) operating budget at the millage neutral rate of \$3.5645 and provide the Board with a summary divisional description of what *millage neutral* purchases in terms of services and the progress made in devoting dollars to asset maintenance and strategic capital initiatives.

Approve guidance for the Unincorporated Area General Fund (111) which includes maintaining the millage rate at \$.8069.

Use of Gas Taxes and Future Gas Tax Pledged Debt:

In July 2022 the Board approved the renewal of the 5 Cent, 6 Cent and the 9th Cent local option gas taxes through December 31, 2055. Gas tax dollars which align with the current gas tax ordinances not devoted to paying debt service will be available annually to support/supplement maintenance on the roadway network.

Large scale projects and others identified in for completion in the five-year CIE between FY 23 and FY 27 have a projected shortfall of over \$205,000,000. Funding strategies including issuance of debt supported by gas tax revenues is part of the long-term plan for transportation CIE funding Proceeds would fund identified Transportation system assets deemed "poor" in the inventory; capacity improvements not funded by the Local Option Infrastructure Sales Tax; and **expansion of the eastern Collier County transportation grid**. Large scale projects identified in the five (5) year CIE which could be financed include Collier Boulevard (Green Boulevard to Main Golden Gate Canal), Vanderbilt Beach Road (16th Street NE to Everglades Boulevard), Goodlette Road (Vanderbilt Beach Road to Immokalee Road), Wilson Boulevard (Golden Gate Boulevard to Immokalee Road) and Veterans Memorial Parkway (School to US 41). Specific project engineering schedules will be reviewed, and the Finance Committee will continue to refine the concept and strategy.

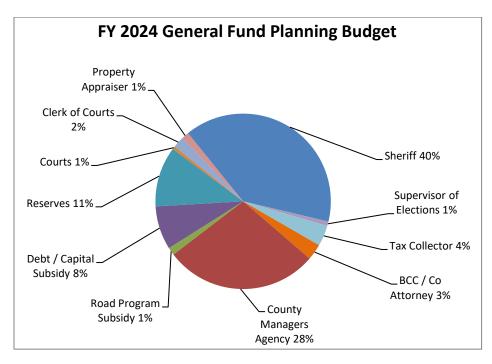
Gas taxes collected in FY 2022 from all sources totaled \$24.2 million. Annual debt service is \$13.2M leaving, the remaining \$11 million programmed for construction and maintenance of the transportation network consistent with strict statutory guidelines.

Augmenting transportation network improvements budgeted in Gas Tax Fund (313) are regular general governmental transfers to Transportation Capital Fund (310). The General Fund capital transfer planned for FY 2024 to Fund (310) is \$9,200,000 which represents a decrease of \$1,425,900 from FY 2023 budget. The Unincorporated Area General Fund transfer planned to Fund (310) for FY 2024 is \$13,600,000 representing an increase of \$9,800,000 from FY 2023 budget as a result of the median maintenance allocation being included in the transfer. These dollars support maintenance on the roadway network including intersection improvements, resurfacing, sidewalks, pathways, medians, asset management and traffic control software, and other critical maintenance needs which are not eligible for gas tax funding by statute.

Recommended Budget Policy: Continue the Board's policy applying gas tax revenue to pay for debt service on the Gas Tax Revenue Bonds, and that the remaining gas tax revenue and transfer dollars from the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund continue to support/supplement maintenance on the roadway network.

General Fund Budget Allocations by Agency and Component

The purpose of this allocation is to identify those agency appropriation components within the General Fund. All agencies work diligently with the County Manager in support of budget policies adopted by the Board. Equally important is the premise that all agencies would share in any budget reductions necessitated by taxable values below the planning threshold, reductions in property tax revenues, new state tax reform initiatives, reductions in state shared revenue and *unfunded mandates*.



Considering that planned transfers to the Constitutional Agencies in FY 2024 account for 48% of total General Fund budgeted expenses and 66% of the General Fund ad valorem budgeted revenue, their participation in any necessary reductions due in part to unexpected ad valorem revenue shortfalls, tax rate reductions or unforeseen unfunded mandates is essential.

It should be noted that these expense percentages are gross figures and do not account for statutorily required year ending constitutional officer turn back. This turn back revenue is budgeted and forecast conservatively each year. Constitutional turn back revenue totaled \$38,282,633 and \$10,270,710 across all funds for years ending FY 2021 and FY 2022 respectively. The FY 2021 figure is inflated due to the CARES sub-recipient agreement with the Sheriff which allowed for \$31,000,000 in CARES funds to be earmarked for CCSO salaries freeing up a like amount in turnback funds for flexible general governmental use. For year ending 2022, actual collections exceeded forecast in the General Fund by \$3.7 million. The General Fund receives on average 91% to 96% of all turn back revenue.

Recommended Budget Policy: Continue this policy.

Millage Targets for Collier County MSTU's, MSTD's

A Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) is a mechanism by which a county can fund a service from a levy of ad valorem taxes, not countywide, but within all or a portion of the county. In the

County budget, an MSTU is used to segregate the ad valorem taxes levied within the taxing unit to ensure that funds derived from such levy are used to provide the contemplated services within the boundaries of the taxing unit as required.

MSTU's are created by ordinance and generally there are provisions governing the maximum millage rate that can be levied. Local ordinance is the control, even if the rolled back rate exceeds the ordained millage cap.

There are twenty-three (23) MSTU's active under Collier County's taxing umbrella. Of these, twelve (12) have advisory boards which provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

Recommended Budget Policy: For FY 2024, it is suggested that those existing MSTU's without advisory board oversight be limited to a *rolled back* millage rate position unless staff presents a compelling reason for additional funds during budget presentations or rolled back rate is higher than millage neutral. Additionally, it is suggested that existing MSTU's with advisory board oversight be allowed to consider tax rate options ranging from *tax neutral (rolled back rate) to millage neutral* depending upon program requirements and taxable values with specific advisory board recommendations offered during the budget review cycle.

Revenue Centric Budgets

It is generally recognized that all budgets and expense disbursements regardless of fund or activity are revenue and cash dependent. This concept establishes that enterprise funds, internal service funds, certain special revenue funds and other operational funds which rely solely on fee for service income with zero reliance upon ad valorem revenue should be allowed to establish budgets and conduct operations within revenue centric guidelines dictated by cash on hand and anticipated receipts.

For FY 2024, revenue centric budget parameters for enterprise operations will be tied to working capital guidelines established by GFOA; capital obligations from the capital improvement element (CIE); any rate or fee studies stipulations; priority agency wide expansion initiatives; and statutory or ordinance spending limitations. A critical review of operating and capital reserve levels versus operating and capital appropriations will be discussed during County Manager budget deliberations with an expectation that enough recurring resources are devoted to maintaining the utility asset at a high standard while resources are set aside to protect cash and fulfill our fiduciary responsibility to public protection in the event of a natural disaster.

This concept also presumes continual monitoring of cash and receipts and, if necessary, subsequent operational adjustments dictated by cash flow. Therefore, general governmental departmental spending guidance will not apply.

Certain cost centers or functions have a net cost to the General Fund (001) or Unincorporated Area General Fund (111). In these instances where fee for services offset the ad valorem impact, the budget reduction guidance should account for this positive impact upon the net cost to the General Fund (001) or to the Unincorporated Area General Fund (111). Under this revenue centric approach, Departments will be held to their fee for service projections and any negative fee variances will be addressed through expenditure cuts and not subsidized by Ad Valorem taxes. Department Head discretion upon guidance by the County Manager should be afforded in these scenarios.

Recommended Budget Policy: Adopt this Enterprise Fund and General Governmental revenue centric budget policy.

Mission Critical Program Enhancement (Expanded) Requests

For FY 2024, Departments will **carefully** consider program enhancement requests given ongoing elevated vacancy rates and operating expenditure guidance that will likely require a significant reprioritization of current budget. All program enhancement requests will be limited to new capital facility openings, Board directed service level adjustments and/or historically strained mission critical imperatives. These program enhancement requests must identify the strategic focus area(s) and strategic objective(s) that are being satisfied.

All budget to budget expanded requests will be considered by the County Manager with recommendations presented as part of FY 2024 budget workshop discussions in June.

Recommended Budget Policy: Expanded requests will be limited to Board approved capital facility openings Board approved service level adjustments and/or historically strained mission critical imperatives with final County Manager recommendations presented at the June budget workshop.

Compensation Administration

The philosophy of Collier County Government is to provide a market-based compensation program that meets the following goals:

- Facilitates the hiring and retention of the most knowledgeable, skilled, and experienced employees available.
- Supports continuous training, professional development, and enhanced career mobility.
- Establish and maintain equity in the pay plan and rates paid incumbents in those positions
- Recognizes and rewards individual and team achievements.

On January 25, 2022, the Board approved a recommendation to initiate a comprehensive overhaul of the County's classification and compensation plan from Evergreen Solutions fixing the internal pay plan structure and allowing the County Manager's Agency to become much more competitive in the attraction and retention of skilled talent.

The Consumer Price Index 12-month percent change from December 2021 to December 2022 is 9.9% for the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area. It is generally expected that the inflation index will stabilize and shrink by year end. This is one of the indices that Collier County traditionally uses when considering a general wage adjustment. The annual Florida Relative Price Index, an index comparing the relative cost of living among the State's 67 counties, is also used as a basis for compensation plan recommendations. The most recently published Florida Relative Price Index lists Collier County as having the second highest relative cost of living among the 67 counties in the State.

In consideration of recommendations provided by the County's Pay and Classification plan vendor, as well as current market conditions, for FY 2024 the County Manager is recommending a 5% increase to base salaries within each paygrade classification and an additional 1.5% allocation Policy Document Page 29 for a merit-based incentive program. Given the current average salary in the County Manager's Agency is \$66,300, the collective recommended pay adjustments would result in an average of \$4,310 per employee. In addition, a .5% allocation is recommended to strengthen certain targeted classification pay grades where market imbalances exist.

Recommended Budget Policy: Appropriate dollars equivalent to a 5% base wage increase to all classifications plus 1.5% to implement a merit-based incentive program and a .5% pay plan maintenance component to strengthen certain targeted classification pay grades where market balance exists. Total cost is approximately \$11.9 million in FY 2024. In previous years, the Board of County Commissioners has authorized adjustments to the compensation plan as shown within the following table.

| Program Component | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 | FY 16 | FY 17 | FY 18 | FY 19 | FY 20 | FY 21 | FY 22 | FY 23 | FY24 |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| General Wage Adjustment | 2.00% | \$1,000 | 2.00% / \$1,000 | 1.50% / \$1,000 | 3.00% | 2.90% | 2.00% | \$1,200 represents average of 2.2% | Greater of \$1,200 or 2.00% | \$1,000 @ 10/1/21; \$1/HR @8/1/2022 | 8% Staff; 6.5% Directors; 5% Dept. Head and Above | 5.00% |
| Merit Program | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 1.50% |
| Pay Plan Maintenance | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.50% | 0.80% | Avg. 8.5% @1/1/22 | 0.00% | 0.50% |
| Total | 2.00% | \$1,000 | 2.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.50% | 2.00% | Average of 2.7% | Average of 2.8% | Average of ≈12.5% | See Above | Average of 7% |

Health Care Program and Cost Sharing

The County Health Care Program is self-funded and seeks to operate the health plan with the same diligence as a small insurance company. Like an insurance company, the County faces a significant budget risk within the health plan due to the unpredictability of claim cost variances. Such variance is normal statistically and has its roots in the fact that total medical costs are extremely sensitive to the number of claimants who experience catastrophic losses. The expected number and size of large claimants is by nature extremely random and volatile. To manage and prevent this variability, the County reinsures catastrophic losses and maintains a prudent reserve to comply with Florida Department of Insurance requirements as well as to protect the General Fund from this volatility.

There are several goals that guide how the County operates the plan within the small insurance company context. These are:

- 1. Comply with all legal and regulatory requirements for plan operation
- 2. Manage plan cost trends to be 30% or more below published trends
- 3. Maintain overall controllable expenses, reinsurance costs, network fee arrangements and reserves at prudent levels
- 4. Protect our employees from the economic impacts of illness or injury
- 5. Prevent illness and stabilize chronic health states, when possible, by helping our employees and their spouses become aware of their health, and act on that knowledge

Although the goals have been met and County costs have continued to show a favorable trend compared to national and state averages over the last twelve years, medical plan costs, and the premium dollars required to fund them, continue to increase annually. The County's medical plan has been similarly impacted by these rising costs and as a result currently there are two main challenges regarding the rates set forth in the health plan:

- 1. Current County and employee contributions to the fund have not covered the cost of the plan in the last two fiscal years nor will they cover future projected costs.
- 2. Though current reserves likely exceed what would be considered reasonable and have been used to cover past shortfalls in contributions to the fund, if rates are not changed, reserves may fall below required minimums as soon as FY 2025.

The longer rate action is deferred, the greater the imbalance becomes and the greater the needed increase will be. Assuming a 3% inflationary trend for health care costs, if rates are not increased, the fund reserve will be exhausted sometime during FY 2027 and the shortfall would be approximately \$5.8 million. With reserves exhausted, rates would need to be increased 33% for the FY 2028 fiscal year to align fund inflows with expected expenses.

| Assumed Annual Claim Trend 3% | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--|--|--|
| 0.0% Increase in Contributions (ER & EE) | 10/22-9/23 | 10/23-9/24 | 10/24-9/25 | 10/25-9/26 | 10/26-9/27 | | | |
| Claims | \$42,554,148 | \$43,831,000 | \$45,146,000 | \$46,500,000 | \$47,895,000 | | | |
| Expenses | \$4,434,136 | \$4,523,000 | \$4,613,000 | \$4,705,000 | \$4,799,000 | | | |
| Total | \$46,988,284 | \$48,354,000 | \$49,759,000 | \$51,205,000 | \$52,694,000 | | | |
| Revenue (inc vacant positions) | \$40,785,038 | \$40,785,000 | \$40,785,000 | \$40,785,000 | \$40,785,000 | | | |
| Gain/(Loss) | (\$6,203,248) | (\$7,569,000) | (\$8,974,000) | (\$10,420,000) | (\$11,909,000) | | | |
| | -15.2% | -18.6% | -22.0% | -25.5% | -29.2% | | | |
| Surplus | \$33,048,152 | \$25,479,152 | \$16,505,152 | \$6,085,152 | (\$5,823,848) | | | |

The need for a dramatic rate increase can be avoided by modest action taken in FY 2024. **Therefore, it is recommended that there be a five percent (5%) program rate increase for FY 2024.** This increase will be the first step in a potential multi-year program stabilization. Trends will be analyzed annually with the goal of adjusting rate structures to ensure coverage of plan cost and maintenance of a reserve level that includes statutory reserves plus an amount to cover cost variances with 99% certainty. It should be noted that employer health insurance contribution increases are absorbed within operating appropriations and the 5% increase will result in approximately \$1.5 million in employer contributions across the County Manager's Agency. The average employee will see bi-monthly cost increases between \$3 and \$8 for single coverage and \$6 and \$14 for family coverage.

Since 2009, Collier County Government has invested in processes to heighten employees and spouse's awareness of their health and make available resources to assist covered employees and spouses in improving and maintaining their health. These programs have achieved meaningful reductions in risk and improvements in outcomes for the covered participants. Employees and spouses have embraced the County's preventive educational and qualifier processes which have contributed greatly toward the financial strength of the health program. Over the last 12 years, participation has been consistently more than 90% for those meeting the necessary qualifiers. This rate far exceeds those of large employers nationwide.

With the objective of mitigating necessary increases to the plan, the County will continue to emphasize participation in existing wellness program, proper structuring of reinsurance to manage adverse plan impacts and prudent plan management.

Coverage under the Plan extends to all eligible County employees, except for the Sheriff's Office, which operates its own self-funded plan. Historically, Board budget guidance has suggested that all agencies uniformly share health insurance contributions between employees and employees.

Recommended Budget Policy: In FY 2024, a 5% rate increase to the existing rate structure is recommended. This rate increase will result in an employer portion funding increase of approximately \$1.5 million for the County Manager's Agency. Bi-monthly employee cost increases will be between \$3 and \$8 for employees with single coverage and \$6 and \$14 for employees with family coverage. It is suggested that these rate adjustments and the associated employer and employee share be uniform across all participating agencies, including the Constitutional Officers. This policy treats all county employees equally in terms of cost sharing for health insurance premiums.

Retirement Rates

All agencies including Constitutional Officers must use the retirement rates published within the OMB budget instructions. OMB is monitoring all proposed bills. The legislature usually establishes the new retirement rates in the beginning of May with the Governor signing the bill into law at the end of May. The preliminary retirement rates that will be published in the instructions are based on proposed House and/or Senate Bills (Florida Statute Chapter 121).

Recommended Budget Policy: Adherence to the OMB rates published within the OMB budget instructions.

Accrued Salary Savings

When employees leave, they are generally replaced, and the process of replacement takes varying lengths of time depending on the position being recruited. This fact, coupled with the full budgeted amounts for health insurance and worker's compensation being transferred to the self-insurance funds, impacts the amount of accrued salary savings due to position vacancies. A 2% attrition rate has been utilized since FY 2016. For FY 2024, it is suggested that the rate remain at 2%.

Recommended Budget Policy: Continue the accrued salary savings policy at a 2% rate.

Financing New and Replacement Capital Infrastructure

The issuance of debt for capital improvements is generally considered as a good alternative to pay as you go under the philosophy that future taxpayers who will also enjoy the capital improvements should participate in funding capital improvements rather than that burden falling solely to existing taxpayers. Further, the modest interest rate environment, the County's superior investment quality credit rating, a revenue to debt service ratio well below the self-imposed cap of 13%, and not raising the millage rate to pay debt service for world class capital amenities provide further rationale for issuing strategic debt. Total unaudited general governmental and enterprise principal debt outstanding at 9/30/22 was \$689.1 million and includes recent new debt issues from FY 2018, through FY 2022. Debt outstanding reached a high of \$788 million in FY 2008.

Pursuant to the Collier County Debt Management Policy, several guiding principles have been identified that provide the framework within which the issuance, management, continuing evaluation of and reporting on all debt obligations issued by the County takes place.

Asset Life: The County will consider long-term financing for the acquisition, maintenance, replacement, or expansion of physical assets (including land) only if they have a useful life of at least five (5) years. Debt will be used only to finance capital projects and equipment, except in case of emergency. County debt will generally not be issued for periods exceeding the useful life or average useful lives of the project or projects financed.

Capital Financing: Debt of longer amortization periods will be issued for capital projects when it is an appropriate means to achieve a fair allocation of costs between current and future beneficiaries. Debt shall not, in general, be used for projects solely because insufficient funds are budgeted at the time of acquisition or construction.

To the degree possible, the County will rely on specifically generated funds and or grants and contributions from other governments to finance its capital needs on a pay as you go basis. To achieve this, it may become necessary to secure short term (not exceeding 5 years amortization) construction funding. Such financing is anticipated and allows maximum flexibility in CIP implementation.

A decision to issue some component of short or long-term debt is based upon level of service standards, the timing of any capital improvement, ability to execute, the credit market environment, and cost of capital. The County had pursued a strategy in recent history (FY 2008 and prior years) by incurring short term commercial paper loans for capital projects and refinancing that short-term debt with longer term bonds or other long-term credit instruments which match the asset's useful life. Short term commercial paper loans carry a low variable interest rate – with the January 2023 rate currently at 3.95% - and funds can be accessed within about 30-45 days of approving the authorizing resolution.

The advantage of long term competitively issued bonded debt, especially in a low interest rate environment, is that budget certainty for the cost of credit is achieved. Generally, a project should be ready for construction and proceeds must reasonably be expected to be spent within a three-year window from debt issuance, or adverse tax consequences may occur. Long term bonded debt or in the alternative competitively issued bank loans, can be issued normally within a ninety (90) day window. The County's current general governmental long-term debt portfolio is comprised of special obligation revenue bond debt under a covenant to budget and appropriate all legally available non- ad valorem revenue. It is anticipated that this type of long-term debt will be used under future new general governmental debt credit scenarios.

Interest rates have increased over the past year. If financing is needed for a capital project, then long term bonded debt can still be considered knowing that when interest rates fall, there will be opportunities to refund the higher interest rate debt.

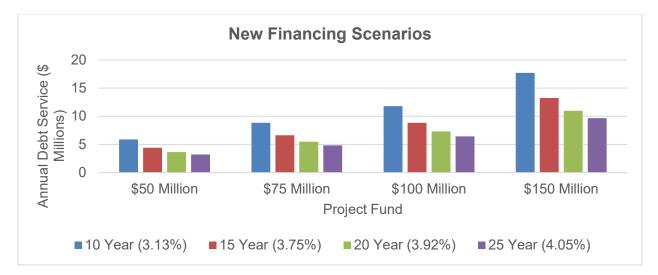
The County is always positioned to add new strategic debt to the portfolio after embarking upon an aggressive debt restructuring program in the summer of 2010, and to date over \$531.2 million in general governmental debt has been refinanced. As a result, the cost of borrowing has been reduced by \$3,071,488 annually with this recurring savings applied toward high priority pay as you go operating and capital programs. Annual principal and interest payments servicing outstanding general governmental and enterprise debt totals \$66.5 million and represent 3.4% of the County's net adopted FY 2023 budget. The County continually looks for strategic and economically feasible debt restructuring opportunities. Through the County's finance committee and financial advisor, the debt portfolio is evaluated regularly for opportunities to generate savings through debt restructuring.

Countywide capital allocations have traditionally included new money components for general governmental capital projects as well as maintaining and replacing existing general governmental infrastructure.

<u>Immediate Term New Debt Strategy:</u> Passage of the Local Option Infrastructure Sales Tax does not eliminate the need to finance future infrastructure needs. New debt would be considered as projects are engineered and progressing in the following circumstances:

- Short term bridge financing in the estimated amount between \$35 \$50 million is anticipated for the NCWRF Headworks project. Due to anticipated cost escalations, additional funding will be needed. Once FEMA and insurance proceeds are received for the hurricane, the financed amount will decrease.
- Financing in the estimated amount up to \$128 million to construct the Northeast Regional Water Reclamation Facility (4 MGD) within the next 5 years. Further financing for the construction of the first phase (5 MGD) of Northeast Regional Water Treatment Plant is anticipated in the upcoming 10 planning cycle.
- Any gap funding necessary to support water and wastewater system renewal and replacement projects.
- General Sheriff replacement capital improvements based upon a phased prioritized schedule.
- Any gap financing to complete all phases of the Sports Complex and Events Center.
- Gas Tax transportation network improvements.

The following illustrates various long-term financing scenarios, the annual debt service, and the respective interest rates.



Recommended Budget Policy: It is not suggested that any financing strategy be built into the FY 2024 adopted budget. It is recommended that the Finance Committee continue to work with the County's various agency department stakeholders regarding project scope, timing, and execution

patterns and with our debt issuance team to develop a strategy and be ready to pursue a debt issuance plan based upon Board direction.

Storm-Water Management Funding

The budget planning model under a millage neutral tax rate for FY 2024 allocates \$16.3 million from the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund toward cash and carry storm-water infrastructure replacement (\$6.0 million); maintenance and operations (\$8.1 million); and annual debt service on the November 2020 Special Obligation Revenue Bond Series A \$60 million stormwater component (\$2.2 million). Annual debt service will reduce the cash and carry capital allocation and project engineering and capital implementation is ongoing to spend down bond proceeds on strategic projects intended to update the County's stormwater system.

Recommended Budget Policy: For FY 2024 continue general governmental funding for stormwater maintenance and operations; cash and carry capital transfers and debt service from the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund with the component funding identified above.

General Fund General Capital/ Debt Service Contribution

The following table identifies how General Governmental County Wide Capital contributions appropriated within the General Fund were programmed in FY 2023 and planned in FY 2024. General Fund transfers to Stormwater and Transportation System improvements are accounted for separately and not included in this General Capital programming scenario.

| General Appropriation | FY 2021 | FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Non-Growth Debt Service | \$ 3,650,400 | \$ 8,908,000 | \$ 7,774,700 | \$ 8,469,000 |
| Impact Fee Trust Fund Loans | 2,192,100 | 1,832,000 | 757,700 | 1,418,600 |
| General Governmental Capital Projects | 15,592,400 | 20,743,600 | 29,918,600 | 25,535,000 |
| Park, Museum, Airport, Sport Complex Transfers | 4,776,500 | 7,505,000 | 9,805,800 | 8,200,000 |
| Future Capital Replacement/Maintenance Reserve | 5,000,000 | 7,500,000 | 18,300,000 | 5,000,000 |
| Total | \$31,211,400 | \$46,488,600 | \$66,556,800 | \$48,622,600 |

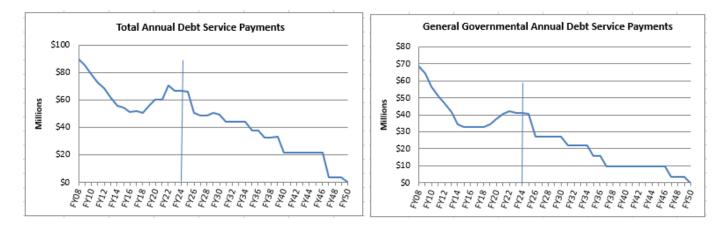
Planned contributions in FY 2024 represent a decrease from FY 2023 levels and this allocation may change depending upon Board adopted millage rate policy; changes in the tax base; Board adopted operational service level changes; or other reprioritized initiatives.

Total loans outstanding to the impact fee trust funds (i.e., EMS, Libraries, Corrections, Law Enforcement, and General Government Facilities) from the General Fund since inception (FY 2005) through FY 2024 totals \$104.2 million. Going forward, the level of General Fund loan subsidy is heavily dependent upon the level of impact fee collections and any new eligible growth-related general governmental capital projects planned in the areas identified above which are not paid by the Local Option Infrastructure Sales Tax. Current general governmental growth debt, which is paid predominately from impact fees, expires in FY 2036.

General Fund loans to the Airports began on or about FY 1995 and to date various operational and capital subsidies total \$29.8 million. In recent years, loans have not been necessary to subsidize operations or to support capital.

Payment of debt is always a top priority. Under the FY 2024 budget planning scenario dollars allocated will cover all revenue bond debt service.

The cumulative net interest rate of the County's overall debt portfolio has been reduced from approximately 5% to 2.83% and annual principal and interest payments servicing all outstanding County debt (includes enterprise debt) totals \$66.5 million and represents 3.4% of the County's net adopted FY 2023 budget. General governmental debt service represents 2.1% of the County's net adopted FY 2023 budget. The following charts depicts annual debt service payments servicing all debt and annual debt service connected with our general governmental credit.



Collier County's total un-audited principal debt outstanding at 9/30/22 totals \$689.1 million of which \$357.3 million relates to infrastructure improvements driven by population growth and related service demands. The County's principal debt is \$99 million below the FY 2008 figure of \$788 million.

Recommended Budget Policy: Continue General Fund countywide capital contribution for purposes of paying non-growth-related revenue bond debt; provide impact fee fund loans to cover growth related debt obligations; and fund continuing general governmental priority capital needs.

General Governmental, Enterprise Fund, and Other Fund Reserve Policies

<u>General Fund</u>: Reserve is a budget/policy term referring to resources set aside to provide a financial barrier against risk. Likewise, reserves may also be referred to as a portion of fund balance – only on the expense side of the equation. Reserves are the cornerstone of financial flexibility and provide government with options for responding to unexpected issues and a buffer against shocks and other forms of risk. One such un-planned risk may, for example, include the potential for a grant award to be rescinded after work on the activity begins.

Grant revenues are appropriated at the time of award with the expectation of future cash inflows from the grantor agency. Until reimbursements are received, the General Fund and General Fund supported agencies provide the cashflow for most general governmental grant funded activities and are responsible for financing grant related activities in full, should the County default on any grant provisions or a grantor agency cancels, revokes, or de-obligates an award.

It is essential for governments to maintain adequate levels of fund balance to mitigate current and future risks, such as revenue shortfalls, natural disasters, and unanticipated expenditures. As such, budgeted reserves serve to protect beginning cash position in a fund and are an essential component of Collier County's overall financial management strategy and a key factor in external agency measurement of Collier County's financial strength.

Various bond rating agencies recognize that the best reserve policies provide both specificity and flexibility accomplishing one or more of at least the following three criteria:

- establishing a target level of reserves or a reserve floor
- specifying the appropriate circumstances for drawing down reserves
- directing the replenishment of reserves

In general, rating agencies view positively higher reserve levels, although local governments can maintain high credit ratings with lower reserve levels if other indicators of financial flexibility, such as revenue raising ability, stable diverse revenue structure, expenditure flexibility, and conservative budgeting practices are strong.

A reserve for contingency is typically budgeted in all operating funds, except for the Constitutional agency funds. Reserves for the Constitutional Agency funds shall be appropriated within the County General Fund.

| Fiscal Year | General Fund | Unincorporated Area | % of General | % of Unincorporated | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|--|--|
| 1.00001.1.000 | Reserves | General Fund Reserves | Fund Expenses | GF Expenses | | |
| 2024 | \$71,858,200 | \$5,832,700 | 11.2% | 7.5% | | |
| 2023 | \$68,366,400 | \$4,722,800 | 10.7% | 6.2% | | |
| 2022 | \$64,856,900 | \$4,189,100 | 13.7% | 6.7% | | |
| 2021 | \$56,798,900 | \$2,695,500 | 12.8% | 4.4% | | |
| 2020 | \$51,532,900 | \$2,340,600 | 12.1% | 3.9% | | |
| 2019 | \$44,481,200 | \$2,982,300 | 11.4% | 5.3% | | |
| 2018 | \$40,450,300 | \$3,255,000 | 10.8% | 5.5% | | |
| 2017 | \$33,899,700 | \$2,432,900 | 9.6% | 4.8% | | |
| 2016 | \$27,890,800 | \$1,905,600 | 8.4% | 4.4% | | |
| 2015 | \$26,670,700 | \$2,220,100 | 8.5% | 5.6% | | |
| 2014 | \$26,217,400 | \$1,715,000 | 8.9% | 4.5% | | |
| 2013 | \$24,844,400 | \$1,596,200 | 8.7% | 4.3% | | |
| 2012 | \$18,180,900 | \$1,739,500 | 6.2% | 4.5% | | |
| 2011 | \$14,210,200 | \$2,925,100 | 4.7% | 7.4% | | |
| 2010 | \$15,569,100 | \$3,422,400 | 4.9% | 7.2% | | |
| 2009 | \$17,541,200 | \$2,853,500 | 5.0% | 5.8% | | |
| 2008 | \$20,506,000 | \$6,336,600 | 5.5% | 12.9% | | |

The following is a history of budgeted reserves within the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund since FY 2008 as well as the percentage of reserves against total operating expenses.

Optimally, and to achieve a regular and sustained General Fund beginning fiscal year cash position, budgeted reserves should be a minimum of \$65 million. Otherwise, expense-side management of the budget in the form of capital transfer reductions and/or reductions in operating transfers may become necessary.

Budget management is always ongoing and more magnified at times when Hurricane events occur. Expenditures and revenues are monitored continually, and any budget adjustments are made accordingly. Likewise, execution patterns are scrutinized along with transfer dollars – specifically out of the General Fund to make sure that appropriations are properly executed and spent for the intended purpose.

Florida State Statutes: In all respects, budgeted reserves shall conform to requirements of Florida State Statutes. The State establishes maximum limitations on certain reserves. The maximum limitations for contingency reserves and for cash flow reserves are 10% and 20% of a fund's total budget respectively. There is no statutory limit on capital reserves.

Recommended Budgeted Policy Reserve Position for the General Fund: The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends as a baseline, or floor, that General Fund reserves be set at 16% of regular operating revenues or 2 months of regular operating expenses. This would put Collier County's General Fund reserve floor (minimum) based upon FY 2023 budget numbers, in the \$86M-\$95M range.

Collier County has never attained a General Fund budgeted reserve position higher than the FY 2024 proposed position of \$71.9 million. This reserve position includes a contingency reserve level increase from 2.5% to 3% of operations for FY 2024. While Collier County is vulnerable to extreme weather events given its coastal location, the County's revenue sources are relatively stable and expenditure patterns are not volatile. Further, the General Fund budget is flexible with FY 2024 planned capital transfers out representing 9.4% of appropriations. In addition, the County's total all-funds reserve position is stable and will be used in part to cash flow a significant weather event or other natural disaster. These factors suggest a less aggressive reserve position with a floor or minimum of 8% of operating revenues and a ceiling or maximum not to exceed 16% of operating revenues. Applying these percentages to our current FY 2024 proposed planning budget, the reserve floor and ceiling would total \$45.2 million and \$90.4 million respectively. Planned reserves within the General Fund fall within this range.

Replenishment of reserves that drop below the targeted floor (minimum) would occur in succeeding budget cycles in such amounts as deemed prudent under existing economic conditions as approved by the Board. The goal will be to recover at least 25% of the reserve shortfall in year one; 25% in year two; and the remaining shortfall in year three.

Recommended Budgeted Reserve Position for Other General Governmental Funds including the Unincorporated Area General Fund: The Unincorporated Area General Fund is primarily an operating fund. While capital transfers have increased over the past few years, the Unincorporated Area General Fund and, for that matter, other general governmental funds do not have nearly the cash flow requirements of the General Fund. Thus, the reserve requirements for the Unincorporated Area General Fund should be set at a minimum of 2.5% of operating expenses, or \$1.79 million with a ceiling or maximum of no more than one month's expenses which for planning FY 2024 is approximately \$5.9 million. FY 2024 planning reserves are \$5.8 million.

Reserve requirements for other General Governmental Funds including those that receive significant transfer revenue from the General Fund will be sized to cover operations during the first month or until the first General Fund transfer is scheduled pursuant to the OMB Transfer Schedule.

Reserves Policy Position for the Motor Pool Replacement Family of Funds (409, 472, 491, 523)

The Motor Pool Replacement Funds were re-established in FY 2016. The annual funding of the Reserve will be through an annual billing to the applicable user Divisions in an amount equal to the future cost of the vehicle divided by the useful life of the vehicle.

In FY 2016, the Motor Pool Replacement Fund was established for the various General Governmental Funds (523), Water/Sewer District (409), and Solid Waste (472).

In FY 2017, the balance of user Divisions were included in the appropriation plan, i.e.,: EMS (491) and Road and Bridge/Stormwater (Funds 101 and 103/523).

Reserves within the four Motor Pool Replacement Funds maintain a current replacement reserve (reserve for future capital) equal to a minimum of two (2) years' estimated replacement cost of vehicles currently in service.

Reserve Policy Position for the Pelican Bay Services Division Family of Funds (109, 778, 320, and 322).

Operating Reserves Fund (109) – It is recommended that the fund's reserve position be established at between 15% and 30% of operating expense. This is particularly important given the districts coastal nature, level of infrastructure investment, natural assets, and commitment to maintenance and resource protection.

Street Lighting Fund (778) – The level of reserves in this fund will be established in such amounts necessary to set aside funding to accomplish lighting projects consistent with the Pelican Bay Community Improvement Plan.

Capital Project Funds (320 & 322) – Reserve levels are generally minimal with most budgeted dollars appropriated within defined and active projects.

Reserve Policy Position for Enterprise Funds, including the Collier County Water-Sewer District Fund (408, 412, 414) and the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Funds (470, 471, 473, 474).

<u>General</u>: According to the GFOA, it is essential that a government maintain adequate levels of Reserves in its enterprise funds to mitigate current and future risks like revenue shortfalls and unanticipated expenses and to ensure stable services and fees.

<u>Collier County Water-Sewer District (CCWSD) Funds 408, 412, and 414:</u> Like a General Fund reserve, a utility system reserve position may be measured as a percent of regular revenues or regular expenditures, depending on the predictability or volatility of each.

The Collier County Water-Sewer District reserve policies should be based on sound fiscal principles designed to enable the utility to maintain continuity of operations in adverse conditions and avoid user rate shock (rate stabilization).

In addition, various bond rating agencies, particularly Fitch Ratings, recognize that the best reserve policies provide both specificity and flexibility, accomplishing one or more of at least three main criteria:

- Establishing a target level of reserves,
- Specifying the appropriate circumstances for drawing down reserves, and
- Directing the replenishment of reserves

For enterprise funds, the GFOA recommends starting with an assumption of 90 days and adjusting based on relevant risks with 45 days as a bare minimum, and recognizes the difference between enterprise funds that are supported from the general government and those that are not.

The utility system, with gross assets of approximately \$1.5 billion, should maintain a reserve position necessary to ensure the maintenance of life-sustaining services to the public during non-routine and unforeseen disaster situations such as hurricanes or other related weather events, other environmental or natural disasters, or other events that cause disruptions in public services, such as system failures and line breaks.

Collier County lies within a coastal zone highly susceptible to hurricane and storm damage to water and sewer treatment facilities, transmission lines, and distribution/collection mains. Many of the buried water and wastewater lines sit in sandy soil that is prone to shifting during heavy rain events. Uncertainty in economic markets with regards to the cost of construction materials, interest rates, personnel and health costs add to the risk factors facing the utility. In the CCWSD, user fee revenue is used to support the operating budget as well as the capital repair and rehabilitation program for the horizontal (in-ground) and vertical (above-ground) assets.

Reserves can be classified as either "restricted" or "unrestricted":

- Restricted Reserves are those established for specific purposes only, such as debt reserves required by bond covenants, and/or reserves for growth in the impact fee funds which can be utilized only for growth projects.
- Unrestricted Reserves are available to ensure continuity of services as identified above.

Unrestricted reserves in the CCWSD include general contingencies reserves (i.e., "rainy day" significant unforeseen events), cash flow reserves in the event of revenue disruptions, or capital reserves for necessary but unforeseen repair and rehabilitation projects.

Recommended Reserve Policy for the CCWSD: At a minimum, the unrestricted reserves should be budgeted within a range of 5% to 15% of budgeted revenues (revenues are stable but may be subject to temporary disruptions from hurricanes or natural disasters), or within a range of 45-90 days of budgeted operating expenses (operating expenses are more volatile given aging utility infrastructure and unforeseen events). Forty-five (45) to ninety (90) days of reserves, based on Fund (408), (412), and (414) budgeted FY 2023 operating expenses, would range from \$24.4 million to \$48.7 million. FY 2023 Working Capital resources total \$29.9 million representing fifty-eight (55) days of reserves.

Replenishment of unrestricted reserves that may drop below the targeted floor (45 days) or \$24.4 million using FY 2023 numbers would occur in succeeding budget cycles in such amounts as deemed prudent under existing economic conditions as approved by the Board.

<u>Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Enterprise Funds 470, 471, 473, and 474</u>: The Solid and Hazardous Waste program in Collier County includes the operation of the solid and hazardous

waste disposal program, the recycling program, and the management of the mandatory residential curbside collections program. These funds also include both restricted capital reserves (Fund 471 for landfill closure and disaster debris mission) and unrestricted operating and capital reserves. The department is responsible for the right of way disaster debris removal on County roads and monitoring projects for Collier County in the event of a natural disaster, such as the Hurricane Ian (Category 4, wet storm cash flow exposure of up to \$45 million) event in the 4th quarter of 2023 and the Hurricane Irma (Category 3, dry storm cash flow exposure up to \$65 million) event in the 4th quarter of 2017.

As such, the Solid Waste Division should maintain unrestricted reserves of 45 to 90 days of operating expenditures to be used to ensure the maintenance of on-going health and safety services to the public during non-routine and unforeseen disaster situations such as hurricanes and other weather-related events, as well as other environmental or other natural disasters that cause disruptions in public services.

Further, due to the magnitude of the impact that Collier County experienced in the Right of Way debris mission following Hurricanes Ian and Irma, a restricted cash flow reserve equivalent to ten percent (10%) of solid waste revenues as a bare minimum is being funded to be used solely for upfront cash needs that accrue with significant natural disasters. This amount should begin to approximate reimbursements that would not be forthcoming from FEMA and the State of Florida (typically twelve and one-half percent (12.5%) of the cost of the debris removal mission). Such a restricted reserve balance mitigates the need to borrow from other Enterprise Funds and/or the General Fund while awaiting reimbursements from FEMA and the State.

Recommended Reserve Policy for the Solid and Hazardous Waste Enterprise Funds: Fortyfive (45) to ninety (90) days of unrestricted reserves based on Fund (470), (473), and (474) budgeted FY 2023 operating expenses would range from \$8.1 million to \$16.2 million. FY 2023 unrestricted reserves for the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Enterprise Funds total \$15 million or eighty-three (83) days of reserves.

Replenishment of unrestricted reserves that drop below the targeted floor (45 days) or \$8.1 million would occur in succeeding budget cycles in such amounts as deemed prudent under existing economic conditions as approved by the Board.

Contributing to a restricted reserve of ten (10%) percent of the FY 2023 budgeted charges for services at a minimum would total approximately \$6.5 million. FY 2023 restricted reserves for disaster response total \$9.8 million.

Growth Management Division (GMD) - Planning & Regulation Enterprise Fund 113 and Development Services Enterprise Fund 131: Fund (113), referred to as the Building Department Fund, collects revenues primarily related to building permit activities, including building permits, structural, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical inspections, plans reviews, and the licensing and oversight of building contractors.

GMD Building Permit Fund (113) Recommended Reserve: Targeted reserves for this fund shall be 18 months of the total budgeted expenses of the current fiscal year.

The Growth Management Division/Planning & Regulation Fee Schedule, adopted by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners, provides the guidelines to implement fee adjustments if total reserves rise or fall below established thresholds.

Fund (131), referred to as the Land Development Services Fund, collects revenues primarily related to land development permit activities, including planning and zoning, engineering, and environmental and natural resources.

GMD Planning Fund (131) Recommended Reserve: Targeted reserves for this fund shall be 24 months of the total budgeted expenses of the current fiscal year. The extra 6 months of targeted reserves required in comparison to Fund 113 reflects the unpredictable nature and length of processing time for land development related activities.

Internal Service Fund Reserves

Reserves for Internal Service funds reflect amounts that are intended for and must be used to meet a specific purpose.

The restriction can be set by legal agreement, statute, regulations, and/or mandatory reserves. For purposes of this policy emphasis is placed on the risk management group of funds and information technology.

Recommended Policy: To establish cash flow for the Internal Service Funds, using a benchmark of 90 days of the prior year's working capital.

Contingency reserves represent amounts available for appropriation by the Board to meet any lawful, unanticipated need of that fund. These reserve amounts are limited by Florida Statutes and cannot exceed 10% of the total appropriations of the fund.

Collier County is self-insured and is subject to mandatory reserves for losses. Each year an actuarial study is completed for each of the County's self-insurance funds and the present value of all outstanding losses is determined. This amount represents the first level of restricted reserves for our Risk Management Funds. Within the Risk Management's restricted reserve balance, the Board has designated \$5,000,000 for wind deductible maximum limits coverage for potential catastrophic losses associated with named storm events.

A margin based upon a confidence interval is then added to this base amount to assure that the estimate is adequate to meet future claim payments. The Board of County Commissioners has traditionally adopted, as contained within budget policy, a 75% confidence interval.

The Group Life and Health Insurance Fund within Risk Management have additional statutory reserve requirements that are calculated each year and added to the restricted reserve category. In addition, reserves will include an amount equal to at least the expected variance with 99% certainty.

The Information Technology Capital Fund's restricted reserve amounts are determined by the total of committed capital projects they have in progress at the end of the year. Once the projects are completed, any remaining funds may be re-appropriated. Designated reserves are established to provide funds for a specific purpose where the actual cost is unknown.

CPI Based Enterprise Fee Adjustments

On June 10, 2014, the Board, during discussions on the water, wastewater, irrigation quality water, and bulk potable water rate study, provided unanimous guidance to index all enterprise fees annually equal to the year-over-year December adjustment in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) – Miami-Fort Lauderdale SMSA. Rather than going through time consuming and potentially costly rate studies, the Board suggested that the CPI adjustment be programmed and subsequently be reviewed by the Board during the budget process. This allows the Board discretion in approving the CPI adjustment and not simply passing the adjustment on automatically.

Recommended Budget Policy: Provide the Board with an annual report on potential enterprise rate and fee adjustments in accordance with CPI changes as indicated above and that any rate or fee adjustments be included within the proposed budget for Board consideration.

| Decisions Required | Staff Adopted Date(s) |
|---|--|
| Establish Budget Submission Dates for | May 1, 2023 by Resolution |
| the Sheriff, the Supervisor of Elections, | |
| and the Clerk of Courts. | |
| FY 2024 June Budget Workshops | (BCC Agency/Courts and Constitutional Officers Budget Workshops) |
| | Thursday, June 15 and if necessary, Friday June 16, 2023 |
| | FAC Conference is June 27 – June 30, 2023 in Orlando/Orange |
| | County. |
| Adoption of Tentative Maximum FY | July 11, 2023 (Tuesday) |
| 2024 Millage Rates | |
| Submission of Tentative FY 2024 | Friday, July 14, 2023. |
| Budget to the Board | |
| Establish Public Hearing Dates (see note) | September 7, 2023 (Thursday at 5:05 pm) |
| | September 21, 2023 (Thursday at 5:05 pm) |

Suggested Scheduling Timeline

Note: The School Board has priority in establishing public hearing dates for budgets. The School Board's final budget hearing is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2023.

The Commission chambers are reserved for the tentative dates for Collier County Government budget public hearings.

Recommended Budget Policy: Approve the dates identified above and the attached resolution establishing May 1, 2023 budget submittal dates for the Sheriff, the Supervisor of Elections, and the Clerk.

Continuing Routine Budget Policies for FY 2024

<u>**Grant-Funded Positions</u>**: Any positions formerly funded with grant funds being recommended for inclusion in a general (non-grant funded) operating budget shall be treated as expanded service requests.</u>

<u>Self-Insurance</u>: To conduct an actuarial study of the self-insured Workers' Compensation, Property and Casualty, and Group Health Insurance programs. Program funding to be based upon an actuarial based confidence interval of 75%, except for group health which will be funded to include statutorily required reserves plus an amount equal to at least the expected cost variance with 99% certainty.

Contract Agency Funding: The Board will not fund any non-mandated social service agencies.

<u>Carry forward (Fund Balance)</u>: All funds that are unexpended and unencumbered at the end of the fiscal year will be appropriated as carry forward revenue in the following year. Carry forward revenue represents not only operating funds but also previously budgeted operating, debt service, and capital reserves that are "carried forward" to fund these same reserves in the new year or to fund capital projects in the current or future years. The largest sources of carry forward are the capital, debt service, and enterprise funds. In both the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund, carry forward is maintained to provide cash flow for operations prior to the receipt of ad valorem taxes and other general revenue sources.

Proper General Fund carryforward is necessary to meet significant constitutional transfer, public safety, and priority operating needs for October and November, prior to the receipt of any significant ad valorem tax revenue (ad valorem taxes represent 66% of the total FY 2023 General Fund adopted recurring operating revenues).

Carryforward balance is also an important measure used by bond rating agencies in determining the County's credit worthiness. Specific concerns for Florida communities are reliance on the tourism industry and sales tax revenue, and the ongoing threat from hurricanes and wildfires. For Florida coastal communities, a minimum cash balance of 15% of total General Fund expenditures was recommended by the ratings agencies. Of course, this figure and recommendation was general in nature and subject to each county's individual cash flow needs. A higher percentage would be considered positive – especially during any ratings surveillance.

The recommended level of year ending cash in the General Fund should be a **minimum of 15%** of actual expenditures. At year ending September 30, 2022, actual General Fund cash and cash equivalents balance totaled \$157,929,500 an increase of \$29,020,700 over year ending September 30, 2021. The FY 2022 year ending cash position represents approximately 33.6% of actual FY 2022 expenses.

Indirect Cost Allocation Plan: The policy of charging enterprise, special revenue, and grant funds for support services provided by General Fund departments will be used again in FY 2024. The basis of these charges is a detailed indirect cost allocation plan prepared, periodically, by a consultant and adjusted by staff to reflect the organizational environment on a real-time basis. **Impact Fees:** Collier County will assess impact fees at such levels as allowed by law, established by the Board of County Commissioners, and supported by impact fee studies.

Enterprise Fund Payment In lieu of Taxes: The Solid Waste Fund and the Collier County Water-Sewer District will once again contribute a payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) to the General Fund. For FY 2023, the payment in lieu of taxes calculation was based upon a "franchise fee equivalent basis" commonly referred to as a percentage of gross receipts. Six percent (6.0%) of gross receipts of the Water/Sewer District were applied in FY 2023. This method and percentage will continue for FY 2024. One and three-quarter percent (1.75%) of Solid Waste tipping fees were applied in FY 2023 and this method and percentage is planned in FY 2024. This method is a common approach used by local governments and is generally consistent with fees paid by private utilities operating in a local government jurisdiction.

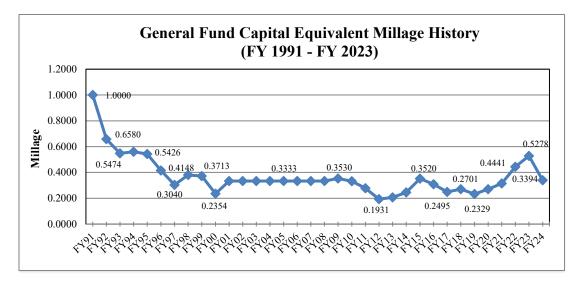
Prior to FY 2013, PILT was based upon the prior year General Fund millage rate multiplied by the prior year gross (non-depreciated) value of property, plant, and equipment.

Debt Service: Any capital projects financed by borrowing money shall limit the repayment period to the useful life of the asset.

Interim Financing: Collier County may also borrow funds on an interim basis to fund capital projects. In these cases, a repayment source shall be identified and the financing source that has the lowest total cost shall be employed.

The Collier County Debt Management Policy provides that debt restructuring for economic savings will be undertaken when a present value savings of at least five percent of the refunded debt can be achieved. The policy also states that five percent savings is often considered a benchmark and that any refunding that produces a smaller net present value savings may be considered on a case-by-case basis. A smaller net present value savings may be prudent for example when the intent is to eliminate old antiquated and limiting bond covenant language.

<u>Ad Valorem Capital and Debt Funding</u>: Continuation of a General Fund equivalent millage dedicated to ongoing regular general governmental capital projects, debt service, and impact fee fund debt loans from the General Fund. The target rate is the equivalent of 0.3333 mills. (See history below).



The General Fund continues to loan money to impact fee funds to pay their annual debt service payments. This of course is in addition to normal and customary debt service on non-growth

revenue bond debt. Loans from the General Fund to the impact fee trust funds began in FY 2006 and the value of all loans made now exceeds \$104 million.

<u>Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Policies:</u> On an annual basis, the County shall prepare and adopt a five-year Capital Improvement Element (CIE) consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Plan.

- Capital projects attributable to growth will be funded, to the extent possible, by impact fees.
- Capital projects identified in the five-year CIE will be given priority for funding. The fiveyear plan for water and wastewater CIE projects will be based on projects included in the adopted master plans.

Unlike operating budgets that are administered at the appropriation unit level, capital project budgets will continue to be administered on a total project budget basis. The minimum threshold for projects budgeted in capital funds is \$25,000.

Three-Year Budget Projections Ad Valorem Tax Funds (FY 2023 - FY 2025)

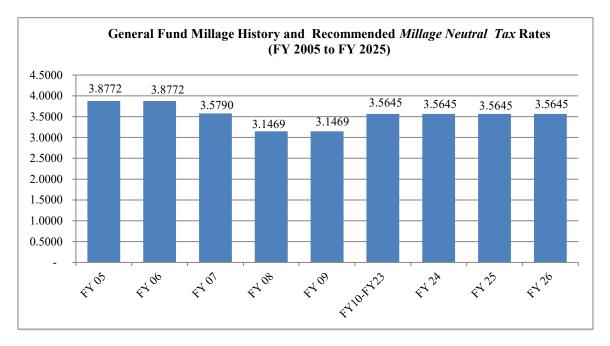
OMB staff prepares annually a three-year projection of General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund revenues and expenditures to improve financial planning and to understand the long-term impact of funding decisions. These projections are complimented by a **trend analysis** of revenues and expenses which conclude the General Fund and Unincorporated Area General Fund sections respectively.

The following 3-year budget projections are for the General Fund (001) and the MSTD General Fund (111).

General Fund

General Fund (001) Millage History and Projected Millage Rates

As a point of reference, the following graph plots the historical General Fund millage rate, as well as tax rates for FY 2024 through FY 2026. These rates do not include any marginal increase which the Board may direct by policy for a specific program or initiative. Millage neutral rather than tax neutral rates for general operations are used for planning purposes considering the belief that taxable value will continue to increase modestly in the future.



While the County Manager will be recommending a General Fund *millage neutral base operating budget* in FY 2024 and while this millage neutral budget will contain funding for priority public safety and other significant asset maintenance/replacement initiatives, the Board should note the magnitude of our current and future asset maintenance responsibility, as well as significant new initiatives and devote additional future dollars which may be generated from an increasing taxable value base to fund these recurring initiatives.

Diversifying the County's tax base means in large part attempting to reduce risk. Risk of an economic downturn which will surely stagnate resources and organizational risk where the risk of stagnate resources exponentially impacts operations and capital resource allocation. Significant future resources must be devoted to capital maintenance in numerous areas. We have addressed our future heavy equipment, public safety ambulance and general vehicle replacement needs. But there remains substantial asset maintenance, park's system infrastructure, constitutional officer capital requirements, and other general governmental capital functions like, information technology upgrades, accounting system replacement, and other soft infrastructure needs. Then there is the issue of maintaining existing storm-water infrastructure, which for FY 2024 will be funded on par consistent with industry standards through general governmental appropriations.

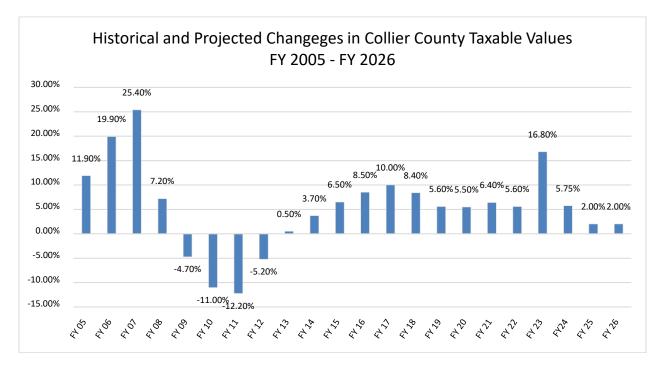
The following tables depict the respective *millage neutral* tax rates for FY 2024, 2025 and 2026 as well as additional ad valorem dollars which could be raised under certain increasing tax base assumptions.

| General Fund | FY 24 Adopted and Recommended <i>Operating Millage Neutral</i> Millage Rates | Additional Budgeted Ad Valorem Revenue Projection Each Year |
|--------------|---|--|
| FY 23 | 3.5645 | |
| FY 24 | 3.5645 | \$25,068,600@ 5.75% TV Increase |
| FY 25 | 3.5645 | \$9,220,900 @ 2.0% TV Increase |
| FY 26 | 3.5645 | \$9,405,300 @ 2.0% TV Increase |
| FY 27 | 3.5645 | |

For Collier County to continue providing high quality best value services; continue to address infrastructure maintenance and replacement; replace public safety and general governmental equipment and vehicles; and maintain its reserve and cash positions pursuant to policy and representative of an investment quality credit rated organization, it is prudent to capture those additional ad valorem dollars generated by an increasing taxable base. New governmental initiatives which always seem to emerge each fiscal year also provide rationale to capture property tax revenue from an increasing base year over year.

Failure to capture additional property tax dollars resulting from increasing taxable values will jeopardize service levels and make it difficult to maintain the extraordinary world class infrastructure investment which this community enjoys. As taxable values begin to slow and investment in County innovation zones and the County and Naples CRA's grows, the margin between rolled back rate and millage neutral will narrow. Thus, maintaining the long-standing millage neutral philosophy must be continued knowing the level of investment required to simply maintain our general governmental assets, and fund Sheriff operations let alone mission critical expanded services and facilities based upon AUIR requirements and servicing the needs of an expanding population.

The projected millage rates assume that the tax base will increase 5.75% in FY 2024 (the 2023 tax year). Taxable value in FY 2025 is projected to also increase 2%. The Property Appraiser will provide preliminary taxable value estimates for FY 2024 on June 1, 2023. Actual and assumed changes in County taxable values are as follows:



<u>Notes to Graph</u> - FY 2007: The General Fund (001) millage rate adopted in FY 2007 was based upon a 16% increase in taxable value pursuant to BCC direction. FY 2008: As part of the Florida Legislative Property Tax Reform package implemented in FY 2008, Collier County adopted its final millage rate at 91% of the rolled back rate.

FY 2024 Significant Expense Assumptions

A millage neutral operating budget, again assuming no marginal adjustment for special policy initiatives of the BCC, assuming an increasing taxable value base provides the County with those important additional ad valorem dollars necessary to maintain our assets, invest in our personnel, and service those who live and visit Collier County. Significant expense assumptions include:

- Appropriate dollars equivalent to a 5% base wage increase to all classifications plus a 1.5% to implement a merit-based incentive program and a .5% pay plan maintenance component to strengthen certain targeted classification pay grades where market balance exists. The total allocation across the County Manager Agency is approximately \$11.9 million.
- Appropriate dollars equivalent to a 5% increase in the employer health insurance cost.
- 2% attrition rate on regular salaries assumed in the County Manager's Agency.
- Motor pool replacement dollars for routine ambulance replacement on schedule.
- \$8,000,000 for general County Manager Agency building maintenance, \$6,000,000 for upgrades to the 800MHz radio system, \$2,000,000 for site development for the Golden Gate Golf Course and \$1,500,000 for switch gear upgrades in parking garage #1.
- \$5,000,000 allocation toward long-term general governmental asset maintenance reserve.
- Continued Social Service and Mental Health Funding.
- General Fund loans to the impact fee trust funds planned at \$1,418,600 which while low compared to the average of the previous ten years, should not be viewed as a trend due to the volatility of impact fees.

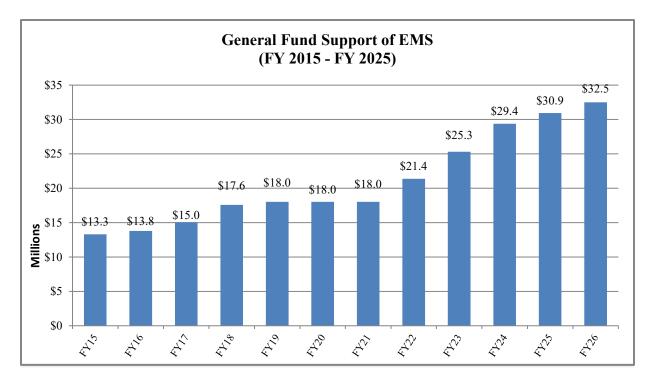
- Stormwater maintenance, operations, and transfers for capital and debt service payments planned at \$7.8 million.
- General Fund transfer dollars supporting road construction and maintenance funded at \$9.2 million.
- General Fund support of EMS Operations established at \$29,392,300 up 16.1% from last year reflecting an anticipated pay plan pay adjustment.
- Full support for Transportation Operations from the General Fund (001) exclusively in the amount of \$25,643,600.
- Continued corporate IT capital funding.
- Cash and carry deposit of an additional \$1 million, bringing the total to \$6.7 million, as the process of implementing a new accounting system continues.
- Building maintenance funding for Sheriff Facilities totaling \$1,000,000, plus \$3,000,000 for windows at the jail, and \$1,200,000 for the Caxambas Substation/Seawall repair.
- Mandates to be absorbed, if possible, within operating budgets, including Constitutional Officers.

Significant Revenue Assumptions

- FY 2023 ad valorem tax revenue forecast is 96% of actual taxes levied. FY 2023 forecast totals \$420,060,100 a reduction of \$15,915,900 from the adopted budget. Collections are within the 5% statutorily budgeted revenue reserve.
- A millage neutral position for FY 2024 produces a levy of \$461,044,600.
- Sales tax revenue forecast for FY 2023 is projected conservatively at \$50 million, an increase of \$2 million from the adopted budget. FY 2024 budgeted revenue is planned at \$52 million. Conservative revenue estimates are essential to achieving the required beginning cash balance position.
- State Revenue Sharing forecast for FY 2023 is projected conservatively at \$12 million. The FY 2024 budget is projected conservatively at \$12 million, which is in line with the adopted 2023 budget.
- Property taxes, sales taxes, and revenue sharing deposited in the General Fund represent 93% of all recurring operating revenue which excludes carry-forward (fund balance).
- Constitutional Officer turn-back is a conservative budget estimate and for FY 2024 \$6,600,000 is planned. Turnback to the General Fund at year ending 2022 totaled \$10,270,710.
- Measures to maintain annual beginning cash balance are necessary and include continued growth in budgeted reserves coupled with any combination of revenue receipts over budget and expense side budget management.
- Interest income for FY 2024 is conservatively planned at \$650,000.

EMS Fund

EMS Operations Fund (490) is another fund that impacts the General Fund. Typically, this ad valorem support in recent years accounted for 45% to 55% of total EMS operating revenues. The percentage varies given the instability in fee revenue collections and any Board policy directives. The General Fund subsidy planned for FY 2024 is up \$4,075,900 reflecting an anticipated pay plan adjustment. Historical and projected General Fund support of EMS operations by fiscal year are



as follows: (also added \$700k in FY25 and FY26 for 2 new stations – Old US 41 and Heritage Bay).

Use of General Fund dollars to support this life/safety function has and continues to be a priority.

Road Construction Program

Board approved budgets have recently supplemented funding for the transportation network with general governmental dollars transferred from the General Fund to Transportation Capital Fund (310). This transfer is sized annually based upon the anticipated growth in taxable value and the recurring need to fund other strategic capital commitments. Over the past four (4) fiscal years the actual transfer has averaged \$8.6 million annually. With taxable values projected to increase for FY 2024, the General Fund contribution to road construction and maintenance is planned to total \$9.2 million. This transfer is subject to change based upon budget year execution patterns.

As future budgets are planned, and scarce resources allocated, infrastructure maintenance and nongrowth-related improvements will certainly require a dedicated commitment of general revenue to protect this investment. Capital obligations necessitated by state or federal agreement, like JPA's and DCA's will be funded.

<u>FY 2025</u>

A *millage neutral* operating budget in FY 2025 with an increase of 2% in taxable value can continue to allow for priority funding of public safety capital initiatives and general governmental capital programming referenced in this document with proper budget management. This of course is in addition to the many new initiatives and program enhancements, Board directed or otherwise required to support an expanding service base, all of which compete for limited general governmental resources.

In addition to annual inflationary cost increases, the following items were included in the FY 2025 budget analysis:

- Maintain general governmental capital projects recurring funding.
- Maintain General Fund support of EMS.
- Contingency reserves are maintained at policy.
- Maintain General Fund road subsidy.
- Maintain General Fund support for park system maintenance and replacement.
- Maintain General Fund support for Transportation Operations expenses.
- Continue annual contribution to the long-term asset maintenance reserve.

In summary, the FY 2025 analysis signals caution especially when critical variables like taxable value, market conditions, and general revenues are difficult to predict. Pursuing a *millage neutral* operating budget in FY 2025 without proper budgeted beginning fund balance would likely result in a \$20.5 million budget planning deficit as depicted in the trend analysis below. Of course, regular annual budget management to eliminate any actual equity reduction would occur in real time.

<u>FY 2026</u>

A *millage neutral* operating budget in FY 2026 coupled with a projected 2% taxable value increase can allow for continued funding of asset maintenance and replacement while funding those programs and services enjoyed by an expanding population base. Once again, management of the budget will be important to achieve appropriate beginning fund balance.

The following items were included in the FY 2026 budget analysis:

- Maintain general governmental capital projects recurring funding.
- Maintain General Fund support of EMS.
- Contingency reserves are maintained at policy.
- Maintain General Fund road subsidy.
- Maintain General Fund support for park system maintenance and replacement
- Maintain General Fund support for Transportation Operations expenses.
- Continue annual contribution to the long-term asset maintenance reserve.

The General Fund Trend Analysis model shown below is intended to offer a picture of very conservative revenue projections against operating and capital expenses which will likely be faced in the out years. Of course, financial staff manages the budget in real time and will mitigate unplanned equity reductions. But imagine a scenario where major revenue sources like property taxes or state shared revenues were cut or reduced. The obvious impact would be subsequent expense reductions possibly coupled with new adopted revenue sources and thus the need for budget flexibility.

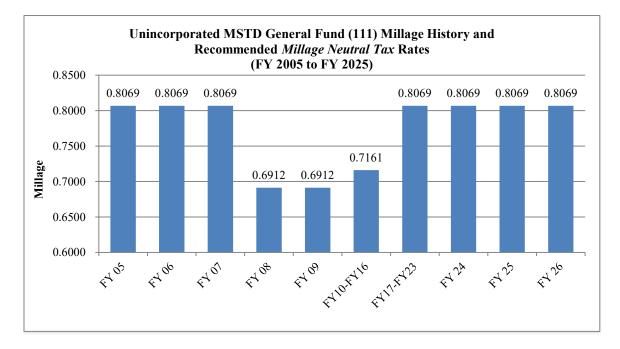
General Fund Trend Analysis

| Paraman | Adopted Budget <u>FY 2023</u> | Forecast FY 2023 | Projected FY 2024 (5.75% Tax Value increase) | | | Forecast FY 2025 (2% Tax Value increase) | (2% | Forecast <u>FY 2026</u> 6 Tax Value increase) | Forecast FY 2026 | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <u>Revenues:</u> Ad Valorem | 425 076 000 | 430.060.100 | | 444 212 500 | | 452 007 000 | | 463 150 706 | 2.0% | | |
| Sales Tax | 435,976,000 48,000,000 | 420,060,100 50,000,000 | -3.7% | 444,213,500 52.000.000 | 5.7% 4.0% | 453,097,800 52,000,000 | 2.0% 0.0% | 462,159,786 52,000,000 | 0.0% | | |
| | | | 4.2% | | | | | | | | |
| Revenue Sharing Other Revenues | 12,000,000 38,555,600 | 12,000,000 37,775,100 | 0.0% | 12,000,000 39,193,700 | 0.0% | 12,000,000 39,193,700 | 0.0% | 12,000,000 39,193,736 | 0.0% | | |
| | | | -2.0% | | 3.8% | | 0.0% | | 0.0% | | |
| Less 5% Required by Law | (25,689,700) | 0 | | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 11.711.000 | |
| Carryforward | 126,670,900 | 157,929,500 | 24.7% | 106,510,500 | -32.6% | 86,195,200 | -19.1% | 65,744,100 | -23.7% | 44,741,022 | |
| Total Revenues | 635,512,800 | 677,764,700 | 6.6% | 653,917,700 | -3.5% | 642,486,700 | -1.7% | 631,097,622 | -1.8% | | |
| <u>Expenditures:</u> Departments/Divisions Operating Transfers Debt Service Cap - Loans to Impact Fee Fds | 100,900,200 94,411,700 15,203,000 757,700 | 99,084,300 96,596,089 7,774,700 757,700 | -1.8% 2.3% -48.9% 0.0% | 100,981,100 99,796,300 8,469,000 1,418,600 | 1.9% 3.3% 8.9% 87.2% | 101,485,800 100,725,500 8,187,800 1,742,400 | 0.5% 0.9% -3.3% 22.8% | 101,993,300 101,909,600 8,362,800 2,325,700 | 0.5% 1.2% 2.1% 33.5% | | |
| Capital Transfers | 69,493,500 | 76,921,800 | 10.7% | 50,735,000 | -34.0% | 52,235,000 | 3.0% | 53,235,000 | 1.9% | | |
| Constitutional Officers | 286,380,300 | 290,119,600 | 1.3% | 306,322,500 | 5.6% | 312,366,100 | 2.0% | 318,530,200 | 2.0% | | |
| Reserves | 68,366,400 | 0 | | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | | |
| Total Expenditures | 635,512,800 | 571,254,189 | -10.1% | 567,722,500 | -0.6% | 576,742,600 | 1.6% | 586,356,600 | 1.7% | | |
| Revenues less Expenditures (Car | ryforward) | 106,510,511 | | 86,195,200 | | 65,744,100 | | 44,741,022 | Comf | Total amount of orward/Equity consumed | |
| Amount of Equity (CF) (reduced to balance the budget |)/increased | (51,418,989) | | (20,315,300) | | (20,451,100) | | (21,003,078) | <u>canyi</u> | (113,188,467) | |
| Budgeted Reserves | | | | 71,858,200 | | 71,838,200 | | 72,074,500 | | | |

Unincorporated Area General Fund (111)

Unincorporated Area General Fund (111) Millage History and Projected Millage Rates

As a point of reference, the following graph plots the historical Unincorporated Area General Fund (111) millage rate, as well as the policy proposed millage rate for FY 2024 through FY 2026, which includes the proposed marginal millage rate increase to continue the landscape median capital program.



Results of Unincorporated Area General Fund Analysis

For FY 2023, the Board of County Commissioners maintained the Unincorporated Area General Fund millage rate at \$.8069. The table below depicts the forecast marginal dollar increase which will be devoted to general operations and general government capital. Incremental ad valorem dollars obtained through tax base increases under the current \$.8069 operating millage rate will fund recurring operations and provide capital transfer dollars toward maintaining the road network, stormwater system, median maintenance, and community parks. The Board should also note the magnitude of our future maintenance and asset replacement responsibility and dedicate resources gained through any tax base increase assuming a millage neutral tax rate toward this purpose.

| Unincorporated | FY 24 Adopted and | Additional Budgeted Ad Valorem |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Area | Recommended future | Revenue Projection Each Year |
| General Fund | Tax Rates | - |
| FY 23 | 0.8069 | |
| FY 24 | 0.8069 | \$3,575,400 @ 5.75% TV Increase |
| FY 25 | 0.8069 | \$1,262,500 @ 2.0% TV Increase |
| FY 26 | 0.8069 | \$1,287,800@ 2.0% TV Increase |
| FY 27 | 0.8069 | |

For Collier County to continue providing high quality best value services; continue to address infrastructure maintenance; replace equipment and vehicles; maintain its reserve and cash

positions pursuant to policy and representative of an investment quality credit rated organization, it is essential to capture those additional ad valorem dollars generated by increasing taxable values as shown above. Failure to do so will jeopardize service levels and make it very difficult to maintain the wonderful infrastructure investment which this community enjoys. Obviously, a rolled back position in the Unincorporated Area General Fund is not a sustainable model going forward knowing the level of expanded funding commitment required to operate and maintain the County's current and future capital infrastructure investment enjoyed by our Unincorporated Area residents and visitors, including maintaining the existing landscape median assets. Additionally, levying the rolled back rate when taxable values drop means the rolled back rate will increase above millage neutral and of course the temptation will be to revert to the millage neutral rate levied in the prior year which will raise even less property tax revenue.

<u>FY 2024</u>

The FY 2024 budget projection is based upon a 5.75% tax base increase. Property taxes and the state shared communications services tax represent about 94% of the budgeted operating revenue (less transfers) within the Unincorporated Area General Fund (111). Once again, changes to distribution and structure of the communication services tax could be discussed as part of any state legislative budget proposal. Also, there is the assumption that no legislation will be passed further eroding a local government's ability to set and raise ad valorem taxes or curtail other local revenue sources.

Capital transfers from the Unincorporated Area General Fund have grown substantially since FY 2014, and for FY 2024 \$21.2 million is programmed. These transfer dollars are programmed for Park improvements, Pelican Bay-Clam Pass, Transportation system enhancements, and Stormwater infrastructure. Sustaining these capital appropriations and maintaining necessary transportation, landscaping maintenance, park, code, planning, and general operations in this fund requires at the very least a millage neutral tax position along with continued state shared communication services tax revenue.

This model is not sustainable under a rolled back millage rate and/or loss of the communication services tax without mid – year budget reductions or the introduction of replacement revenue sources like a franchise fee. Any required mid-year cuts will likely affect transportation operations, park and recreation programs and other non-public safety services.

FY 2025

If taxable values increase by 2.0% in FY 2025, a millage neutral operating budget coupled with a reduction in beginning fund balance could result in a potential budget planning deficit of \$404 thousand as depicted within the preceding trend analysis. The model presents conservative revenue projections and aggressive expense projections in the maintenance and capital areas which results in a continued erosion of the funds cash position. The model is certainly not sustainable and real-time budget management would always ensure that any equity erosion beyond that planned would be curtailed.

<u>FY 2026</u>

Continuation of millage neutral operating budget into FY 2026 under a 2.0% increase in taxable value would generate a modest increase in ad valorem revenue. This increase is certainly not enough to compensate for the loss in fund equity and planned capital asset maintenance depicted in the model. For planning purposes and assuming continued decline in beginning budgeted fund balance, a deficit of \$1.8 million is depicted. Absent real-time budget management, the model depicts a total fund equity loss from FY 2024 through FY 2026 totaling \$6.1 million.

The Unincorporated Area General Fund Trend Analysis model shown below is intended to offer a picture of very conservative revenue projections against operating and capital expenses which will likely be faced in the out years. Of course, financial staff manages the budget in real time and will mitigate unplanned equity reductions. But imagine a scenario where major revenue sources like property taxes or communication services tax revenues were cut or reduced. The obvious impact would be subsequent expense reductions possibly coupled with new adopted revenue sources and thus the need for budget flexibility.

Unincorporated Area General Fund Trend Analysis

| | Adopted Budget FY 2023 | Forecast FY 2023 | % Chg Forecast Vs Budget | Projected FY 2024 (Increase 5.75% TV) | (1 | Forecast FY 2025 Increase 2% TV | | Forecast FY 2026 (Increase 2% TV) | | Forecast 2026 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------|---------------------------------------|-------|---|-------|----------------------------------|
| Revenues | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ad Valorem | 62,181,500 | 59,694,200 | -4.0% | 63,126,600 | 5.70% | 64,389,100 | 2.0% | 65,676,900 | 2.0% | |
| Communication Services Tax | 3,750,000 | 3,750,000 | 0.0% | 3,750,000 | 0.00% | 3,750,000 | 0.0% | 3,750,000 | 0.0% | |
| Other Revenue | 5,232,500 | 5,237,800 | 0.1% | 4,141,100 | -20.94% | 4,182,500 | 1.0% | 4,224,300 | 1.0% | |
| Less 5% Required By Law | (3,494,200) | 0 | -100.0% | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | |
| Carryforward | 8,203,200 | 12,365,000 | 50.7% | 7,526,100 | -39.13% | 8,456,200 | 12.4% | 8,052,000 | -4.8% | 6,254,500 |
| Total Revenues | 75,873,000 | 81,047,000 | 6.8% | 78,543,800 | -3.09% | 80,777,800 | 2.8% | 81,703,200 | 1.1% | |
| Expenditures | | | | | | | | | | |
| Roads & Medians | 5,545,700 | 5,699,200 | 2.8% | 5,492,400 | -3.63% | 5,802,200 | 5.6% | 6,118,200 | 5.4% | |
| Parks & Rec. | 15,295,200 | 15,445,200 | 1.0% | 15,946,400 | 3.25% | 16,665,300 | 4.5% | 17,398,600 | 4.4% | |
| Code Enforcement | 5,382,900 | 5,409,100 | 0.5% | 5,512,200 | 1.91% | 5,622,400 | 2.0% | 5,734,800 | 2.0% | |
| Other Departments/Divisions | 10,370,100 | 11,108,300 | 7.1% | 10,519,800 | -5.30% | 10,730,200 | 2.0% | 10,944,800 | 2.0% | |
| Operating Transfers | 10,664,900 | 11,967,700 | 12.2% | 11,396,800 | -4.77% | 11,624,700 | 2.0% | 11,857,200 | 2.0% | |
| Capital Transfers | 23,891,400 | 23,891,400 | 0.0% | 21,220,000 | -11.18% | 22,281,000 | 5.0% | 23,395,100 | 5.0% | |
| Reserves | 4,722,800 | 0 | -100.0% | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Total Expenses | 75,873,000 | 73,520,900 | -3.1% | 70,087,600 | -4.67% | 72,725,800 | 3.8% | 75,448,700 | 3.7% | |
| Fund Balance (Revenues - Expenses) | 0 | 7,526,100 | | 8,456,200 | | 8,052,000 | | 6,254,500 | | otal Amount of quity Consumed |
| Equity Reduction to balance budget (Fund Balance - Carryforward) | | (4,838,900) | | 930,100 | | (404,200) | | (1,797,500) | | (6,110,500) |
| Budgeted Reserves | | | | 5,832,700 | | 5,832,700 | | 5,832,700 | | |