



JOSEPH K. WOOD
County Judge

280 N. College Ave, Ste 500
Fayetteville, AR 72701

WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS
County Courthouse

RE: 2022 Budget Process

Greetings Justices of the Peace:

As you work towards approving our county budget for 2022, I want to highlight the strength of our county's fiscal position, and ask you to consider prioritizing our county employees by using the following to guide you through this year's budgeting process:

1. Bobby Hill, our County Treasurer, projects County General Fund revenues to be approximately \$45,500,000- all of which is available for budgeting.
2. Likewise, Shannon Worthen, our County Comptroller, has identified that only \$34,000,000 (75%) of those revenues has been requested for 2022 budgets.
3. That **leaves approximately \$11,000,000 available** to prioritize the immediate needs of our County employees by appropriating money for market pay raises and merit increases.

With those additional available revenues, this Quorum Court has an opportunity to modernize our county employees' pay grades so that they better reflect the market. Unfortunately, it has been since 2016 since we last updated our pay range and grade modifications.

Washington County is in great shape heading into our 2022 budgeting process. We are in a better fiscal situation than we could have anticipated a year ago- much in part to our judicious county-wide elected officials tightening their budgeting 'belts'. Controlling expenses, delaying capital projects, and successfully managing endless uncertainty during the pandemic has definitely made the difference.

I want to thank you again for all of your work, focus, and support- of both employees and county-wide elected officials- as we all work together to better serve the citizens of Washington County.

Washington County Leading Arkansas

Judge Joseph K. Wood