

Fauquier County FY 2018 Adopted Budget

Budget-in Brief

Budget Overview

The FY 2018 budget process continues the County's two year budgeting process, whereas the FY 2018 adopted budget was drafted with the FY 2017 adopted budget and prepared based on the approved draft fiscal plan for the second year of the two-year budget. Adjustments were made as part of the FY 2018 budget process only as a result of significant changes in revenue projections, the imposition of newly mandated or regulated requirements, or other significant events constituting an emergency that require additional consideration.

Unemployment in Fauquier County has remained relatively steady over the past two years from 3.0% in April 2016 to 3.1% in April 2017. In comparison to the State and nation, the County's unemployment rate continues to trend below the State at 3.6% and significantly below the nation at 4.1% in April 2017. The current unemployment levels are significantly below the County's ten and five-year averages of 4.4% (2006-2015) and 4.8% (2011-2015) as calculated by the State's Employment Commission.

Tax Rate Comparison

		Tax Year 2016 Adopted Rate	Tax Year 2017 Adopted Rate
Real Estate	General	\$0.975	\$0.975
	Fire & Rescue	\$0.058	\$0.058
	Conservation Easement Service District	\$0.006	\$0.006
	Total Real Estate Tax Rate	\$1.039	\$1.039

	Tax Year 2017	Change
Value ¹	\$321,300	\$321,300
Tax Bill	\$3,352	\$3,352

¹Tax Year 2017 is not a reassessment year.

Expenditures

The FY 2018 adopted budget totals \$310.9 million, with General Fund expenditures totaling \$183.1 million. The General Fund increase equates to approximately \$5.5 million, or 3.1% over the FY 2017 adopted budget. The FY 2018 adopted General Fund budget also includes a \$1.1 million use of fund balance, as planned by the Board of Supervisors in the FY 2017 budget process, to allocate towards one-time funding initiatives.

The FY 2018 adopted budget focuses on three key areas of enhancement while continuing to minimize the necessary level of tax increase with modest revenue growth. These areas of funding have been the focus of budget decisions in recent years and will continue to be a primary focus in the upcoming years.

- Adequate funding to address key enhancements in public safety
- Capital needs and priorities
- Continuity of services and increased efficiencies in service delivery

Tax Dollar Breakdown



Revenue

The County continues to experience modest growth primarily resulting from increases in real estate, personal property, and sales taxes. Real estate tax revenue continues to benefit from modest amounts of new construction and improvements, while sales tax continues to experience moderate annual growth. The most significant increase in General Fund revenue was due to additions in the base assessment value of personal property from new business investments equating to an approximate 5% increase, with continued positive growth as a result of new automobile purchases and maintained valuations. In addition, the County has other recent additions in the commercial industries. However, the direct economic benefit of those new businesses on the County's tax base will be long-term with no significant impacts in the short-term due to tax incentive programs.

The impact of the base assessment increases from business personal property did allow for the County to minimize additional tax increases, while setting aside funding of \$1.5 million towards future capital costs for the adopted capital improvement plan (CIP). During the FY 2018 budget process, the Board of Supervisors dedicated a substantial amount of time on the development of the FY 2018-2022 CIP, and how the capital plan would impact the five-year operational plan from a capital and operating standpoint. By allocating the additional funding projected above the original draft FY 2018 plan, this limited the impact of the CIP on the five-year plan reducing the potential, future increases to the real estate tax rate by one and half cents.

County Government Employees¹

Functional Area	FY 2018 Full Time Equivalents
General Government	122.53
Judicial Administration	45.11
Public Safety	265.50
Public Works	64.50
Health and Welfare	48.53
Culture	65.17
Community Development	45.63
Other Funds	46.50
Total County	703.47

¹Additional detail, including total School Division FTEs, is outlined in the Introduction of the adopted budget book, as well as the "Budget Summary" table of each departmental section.

Capital Improvement Program

The adopted plan totals \$97.9 million over the five-year planning period, FY 2018-2022. Of this amount, \$5.6 million would be allocated for public safety and fire and rescue projects, \$2.1 million for potential renovations to the Circuit Courthouse building, \$9.1 million for library facilities, \$4.35 million for parks and recreational projects, \$8.1 million for environmental services projects, \$32.4 million for utility and infrastructure projects including \$20.6 million for broadband development, \$1.95 million for Airport projects, and \$34.3 million for school division projects.

Five-Year Operating Plan

During the FY 2018 budget process, the Board approved the FY 2018-2022 five-year plan that focuses both on department operational impacts on the budget as well as the operational impacts from the FY 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Plan. The plan projects the following total increases over the five-year period: capital costs (\$6.6 million), local transfer to the School Division (\$5.0 million), County employee raises (\$1.8 million), additional public safety staffing at 46.0 FTEs (\$5.7 million), additional County staffing of 16.0 FTEs (\$1.5 million), and benefit costs (\$2.2 million).

For More Information

The FY 2018 Adopted Budget is available in the following locations:

- Fauquier County Office of Management & Budget website:
- <http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments-h-z/management-and-budget>
- All Fauquier County Libraries
- County Administrator's Office

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Office of Management & Budget

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Director
Mallory K. Stribling
Budget & Management Analyst II
Susanna G. Lemoine
Budget & Management Analyst I
Randy J. Benevento
Budget Technician II



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