

BUDGET MESSAGE

Chairman Triche, Honorable Members of the Assumption Parish Police Jury, I am pleased to present to you the budget for general operations and maintenance and capital improvement funds for the year beginning January 1, 2019.

Assumption Parish has three different types of funds (general fund, special revenue funds, and capital project funds). The individual funds within each fund type are identified in this budget report.

Preparation of annual operating budgets for submittal to the Police Jury is the shared responsibility of the Secretary-Treasurer and the staff accountants, with the projection of program expenditures and needed improvements provided by operating department heads. The year 2019 annual budget was prepared based upon past operating history and the projected needs and changes for the upcoming fiscal period. After the budgets have been completed for each fund, they are submitted to the Police Jury President, whose responsibility is to review them. Once adjustments have been made by the Police Jury President, the budget is submitted to the Police Jury for final approval.

The following is a discussion of significant changes in select funds:

GENERAL FUND:

The General Fund accounts for all revenues and expenditures of the Assumption Parish Police Jury, which are not accounted for in other funds. The fund generally receives revenues from taxes, licenses and permits, intergovernmental grants, interest earnings, rents, and royalties. For the upcoming year of 2019, revenues are estimated to have a decrease compared to those revenues received in 2018 due to an overall decline in receipts. Expenditures for the year 2019 are expected to increase as compared to those expenditures in 2018. Step increases for employees were not allocated for 2019. However, a cost of living increase of 3% was factored in. Recreation allowances have remained steady at \$10,000 per year per ward in order to cover basic utilities/maintenance at current facilities. However, cumulative allocations for recreation allowances have been incorporated into the budget for 2019 resulting in increased expenditures and no carry over figures for 2020. Prior discussions relative to returning these cumulative allocations back to the fund balance were denied in 2017 and 2018. Funding of \$10,000 for maintenance and repairs of the Parish Health Unit has been allocated. For 2019, \$10,000 has been unappropriated for the Summer Feeding Program and for the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office. In addition, for 2019, the salary of the Economic Development/Grants Coordinator will be allocated $\frac{1}{2}$ to General Fund and $\frac{1}{2}$ to the Assumption Parish Community Center. The Criminal Court fund is requiring a \$265,000 transfer from General Fund for 2018 and 2019. The Office of Emergency Preparedness is requiring a \$275,000 transfer from General Fund for 2018 and \$250,000 for 2019, up from \$225,000 in 2017, and \$150,000 prior to that. The Consolidated Sewer District is requiring a \$80,000 transfer in 2019, \$87,000 in 2018 and \$37,000 in 2017. An increase in user service fees is required. The fluctuation is contingent upon the increased maintenance at the sewer plants and current litigation expenses. Allocations for 2019 for prisoner meals, medical services, medications, jail physician, jail nurse and housing of the parish youth is estimated at approximately \$605,000 for 2018 and 2019 up from \$350,000 in 2016. The General Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of \$3,325,663.

1% SALES TAX:

The 1% Sales Tax Fund accounts for revenues generated from the sales tax collections throughout the parish. Estimated revenues for the 2019 Sales Tax Fund are at \$2,247,722. Sales tax collections took an upward swing in 2018 compared to that of 2017. Expenditures are on a steady incline compared to previous years as a result of increased maintenance expenses. An allocation of \$50,000 has been appropriated for possible building renovations. An overall 3% increase in salaries was allocated for all existing employees for a cost of living increase. All transfers out of the 1% Sales Tax Fund have remained steady in 2019 from those in 2018. The 1% Sales Tax Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of \$2,163,630.

SOLID WASTE FUND:

The Solid Waste Fund for 2019 should have no unexpected expenditures. Revenues slightly declined to \$2,117,964 and expenditures increased to \$2,406,085. Inclusive in the expenditures is a CPI increase on the collection fees to be effective in July, 2019. The residential garbage collection contract steadily increases year after year while collections do not. The existing contract expires June 30, 2021. Therefore, the estimated ending fund balance of the Solid Waste Fund is \$562,217. User service fees need to be increased. The fund will not sustain itself through the end of the contract at this rate.

CRIMINAL COURT FUND

The Criminal Court Fund for 2019 has anticipated revenues of \$124,523 with expenditures in excess of \$400,000. This requires the General Fund to transfer funds into the Criminal Court Fund in order to cover the deficit. For 2018 and 2019, the transfer was \$265,000 each year. This trend is expected to continue.

LIBRARY FUND

The Library Fund has estimated revenues at \$924,454 and expenditures at \$1,143,601 due to increased personnel. The transfer from 1% Sales Tax into the Library Fund has been reduced in 2019 to \$50,000. The transfer was reduced to assist in covering other maintenance costs throughout the parish funded through the 1% Sales Tax Fund. The Library Fund is currently sustaining an ending fund balance of \$2,561,922.

½ % SALES TAX – ROAD FUND:

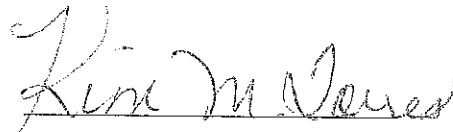
The 2018 Road Overlay program would continue into 2019. There is no estimated completion date at this time. An allocation of \$200,000 from the Road Fund to the Road & Bridge fund has been made for 2019 due to the increased maintenance/materials to be required on the farm to market roads due to the excessive rain in 2018. The estimated beginning fund balance is \$2,029,070 with an estimated ending fund balance of \$1,340,171.

¼% SALES TAX -- DRAINAGE:

The ¼% Sales Tax Fund accounts for revenues generated from the sales tax collections throughout the parish. Estimated revenues for 2019 have increased from that of 2017 to an estimated \$528,706. Drainage project allocations remain steady at \$275,000 for 2019. Expenditures are estimated at \$530,036 resulting, therefore, in an estimated ending fund balance of \$951,543.

Revenues of all remaining funds are remaining steady, some with minimal increases, however, expenditures, are steadily increasing annually. Resulting, therefore, in an estimated total parish ending fund balance of \$20,013,631. Despite the anticipated increase in sales tax collections, it is still my professional recommendation that this board continue to operate in a "maintenance mode" of all existing programs, infrastructure, services, etc. There should be no expansion and/or increased services until further notice.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim M. Torres".

Kim M. Torres
Secretary-Treasurer