

## **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, 2018.

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 2018 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 2018, revenues are estimated to have a very minimal increase compared to those revenues received in 2017 due to an increase in the interest market. Expenditures for the year 2018 are expected to increase as compared to those expenditures in 2017. A step increase in salaries was allocated in 2018 which equates to approximately a 3% increase in pay per employee. A cost of living increase was not factored in for 2018 due to the need to reduce the budget. 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 2018 resulting in increased expenditures and no carry over figures for 2019. Prior discussions relative to returning these cumulative allocations back to the fund balance were denied in 2017. Funding of \$10,000 for maintenance and repairs of the Parish Health Unit has been allocated. For 2017, \$10,000 has been unappropriated for the Summer Feeding Program and for the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office, however, that funding was appropriated for 2018. The building improvements allocation remains steady at \$20,000 to cover only absolutely necessary building renovations. The Criminal Court fund is requiring a \$140,000 transfer from General Fund. The Office of Emergency Preparedness is requiring a \$300,000 transfer from General Fund, up from \$225,000 in 2017, and \$150,000 prior to that. The Consolidated Sewer District is requiring a \$20,000 transfer in 2018, \$37,000 in 2017 and \$15,000 in 2016. The fluctuation is contingent upon the increased maintenance at the sewer plants. Allocations for 2018 were also incorporated to account for the reimbursement to the Sheriff's Office for parish prisoner meals in the amount of \$180,000 annually and an additional \$180,000 annually for the jail physician, medical services (mental health, dental, healthcare) and jail nurse as it relates to inmate health care. \$100,000 was also incorporated into the budget for the housing of the parish

youth to be incarcerated since the Assumption Parish Youth Center is no longer in operation. The General Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of \$4,359,440.

**1% SALES TAX:**

The 1% Sales Tax Fund accounts for revenues generated from the sales tax collections throughout the parish. Estimated revenues for the 2018 Sales Tax Fund are at \$1,997,336, down from \$2,145,690 in 2017. Expenditures are on a steady incline compared to previous years resulting in a significant decrease in the fund balance. An allocation of \$50,000 has been appropriated for possible building renovations. An overall 3% increase in salaries was allocated for all existing employees, with no cost of living increase. All transfers out of the 1% Sales Tax Fund have remained steady in 2018 from those in 2017. The 1% Sales Tax Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of \$1,720,408.

**SOLID WASTE FUND:**

The Solid Waste Fund for 2018 should have no unexpected expenditures. Revenues remain steady at \$2,165,517 and expenditures at \$2,366,097. Inclusive in the expenditures is a CPI increase on the collection fees to be effective in July, 2018. The estimated ending fund balance of the Solid Waste Fund is \$902,286.

**½ % SALES TAX – ROAD FUND:**

\$2,725,000 has been allocated for construction and engineering for the 2018 Road Overlay Program. The estimated beginning fund balance is \$2,286,246 with an estimated ending fund balance of \$468,145.

**¼% SALES TAX – DRAINAGE:**

The ¼% Sales Tax Fund accounts for revenues generated from the sales tax collections throughout the parish. Estimated revenues for 2017 have slightly declined from that of 2017 to an estimated \$470,240. Drainage project allocations remain steady at \$275,000 for 2018. Expenditures are above and beyond our receipts for 2018 at an estimated \$628,465 resulting, therefore, in an estimated ending fund balance of \$739,119.

Revenues of all remaining funds are remaining steady and not seeing any increases. Expenditures, however, are steadily increasing annually. Resulting, therefore, in an estimated total parish ending fund balance of \$18,817,985. It is my professional recommendation that this board switch gears into a "maintenance mode" of all existing programs, infrastructure, services, etc. There should be no expansion and/or increased services until further notice.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim M. Torres  
Secretary-Treasurer