



County of Accomack, VA

Fiscal Year 2020 Adopted Budget Communication

APRIL 23, 2019

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County of Accomack, VA

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Overview

The Accomack County Board of Supervisors finalized the County’s July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 Annual Fiscal Plan (aka County Budget) on March 20, 2019. The primary purpose of this communication is to highlight significant budget changes approved by the Board including the outcome of various additional funding requests received from departments and organizations both internal and external to County government. This communication is also intended to brief affected parties of any funding related policies adopted by the Board that may affect departments or other external entities.

- County departments
- Constitutional Officers
- External Organizations

Any requested increase in County funding not specifically cited as being approved in this summary should be considered unfunded.

In addition to this Communication, internal departments and offices will receive line-item budgets prior to the start of the fiscal year.

The County’s Adopted Annual Fiscal Plan, the County’s “Official” budget document designed for transparency and communication to the public, will be available prior to July 1.

Property Tax Rates/Fees

The real and personal property tax rates for Fiscal Year 2020 are unchanged from the prior year. The budget includes a decrease in the Personal Property Tax Relief credit for qualifying vehicles which decreased from 44% to 42%. The budget approved a change in Landfill tipping fees which increased from \$75.00 to \$80.00 per ton. A compilation of all County taxes and fees can be found in the County’s Tax and Fee Compendium effective 7/1/19. Below are the property tax rates adopted by the Board for calendar year 2019:

2019 Real Estate Tax Rates:

Chincoteague	\$0.480 per \$100 of assessed valuation
Captains Cove/Greenbackville.....	\$0.635 per \$100 of assessed valuation
All other County areas.....	\$0.610 per \$100 of assessed valuation

2019 Personal Property Tax Rates:

Chincoteague	\$3.63 per \$100 of assessed valuation
All other County areas	\$3.72 per \$100 of assessed valuation
Personal Property Tax Relief % for personal use vehicles:	
Valued at \$1,000 or less	100% of the assessed tax
Valued over \$1,000	42% of tax assessed on first \$20k of value

Employee Compensation

The adopted budget initially included funding for a 2% compensation increase for regularly scheduled County and “state supported” local positions effective July 1, 2019. However, at the April’s regular Board of Supervisor’s meeting, the Board approved an additional 1% increase in order to be consistent with the State’s 3% increase for the County’s Constitutional Offices effective July 1, 2019.

Employee Benefits

Employee Health Insurance: On average, employee health insurance premiums will decrease by 14.4% for the new plan year beginning June 1. Costs associated with this increase will be shared by both the employee and employer based on the percentage each contributes towards the cost of their monthly insurance premium meaning that the County will, in most cases, pick up 80% of the cost increase.

In addition, the FY20 budget provides additional funds to assist employees with the added cost of having their spouse and children on the County’s health insurance plan. This action was in response to receiving results during the FY18 budget process from the Kaiser Family Foundation Survey which indicated that the amount a County employee pays for family coverage far exceeded the national trend. Over FY18 and FY19, the County increased dependent/spouse coverage from 20% to 40%. To continue to try to lessen the gap between current coverage and the national trend, in FY20, the add-on for dependent/spouse coverage has been increased from 40% to 45%. Employee only coverage remains at 80% paid by the County.

Internal Department/Office Funding

Airport

The budget approved one-time funds in the amounts of \$8,000 for T-hangar building pavement rehab, \$3,200 for the local share of Runway 21 turnaround design and \$824 for the local share of easement acquisition fees/Phase 1 obstruction removal.

Building Inspections

The budget provided \$30,349 for annual permitting software maintenance costs in operational funding. A part-time zoning enforcement position was also added in FY20.

Cooperative Extension Program

Additional operating funds were approved for \$2,547 for the Cooperative Extension Program pursuant to the extension agent's contractual agreement with the State.

County Administrator

In FY20, the Purchasing and Contracts Manager vacant FTE was frozen within the County Administrator's office.

County Assessor

The Assessor received \$1,500 in operating funds, consisting of \$700 for maintenance service contracts and \$800 for license agreements, all related to their specialized appraisal system.

County Attorney

An increase of \$2,500 operating funds for professional services and \$3,000 operating funds for general contracted legal services was approved in this budget.

Erosion and Sediment Control

\$15,175 was the adopted operating increase for the Erosion and Sediment Control department for annual permitting software maintenance.

Finance

Additional funds were approved for \$383,716 in this budget cycle. Operating funds of \$110,495 and capital funds of \$273,221 will be used toward the cost of new financial software. This is a shared project with the School Board, for which they will fund an equal amount of the expense.

Human Resources

Human Resources' operating budget increased by \$6,000 for an employee skill development and advancement incentive pool.

Information Technology

The budget provides an additional \$154,100 in capital funds and \$21,521 in operating funds. The capital funding consists of IT infrastructure maintenance and support (\$40,000), replacement of end of life equipment (\$53,000), replacement of email archiving system (\$14,000), expansion of IT infrastructure capacity (\$24,600), ESVBA redundancy (\$2,500) and additional computer replacement funds (\$20,000). The operational increase is for application support and maintenance contract costs.

Planning

Additional operational funding was approved for ESRI software maintenance (\$3,750) and GIS service contracts (\$642) for this department.

Public Safety

Public Safety's General Fund departments received operating funds for broadband at the new emergency operations center (EOC) (\$7,680), telephone service for the EOC (\$3,000) and ARGO response vehicle maintenance (\$1,000). Within this budget, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) department with a budget of \$253,173 was transferred from the General Fund to the Consolidated EMS Fund.

The Consolidated EMS Fund's operating budget increased by over \$250,000 to absorb the transfer of the General Fund EMS budget. A vacant Fire Inspector full-time position and related costs were eliminated, decreasing the fund by \$67,117. All fire inspection services will now be performed by the state.

Public Works

Funding for the following initiatives is included in the adopted budget:

Description	Operating Funds	Capital Funds
General Fund:		
Circuit Courthouse repairs	\$ -	\$ 452,190
Buildings and Grounds dump truck replacement	-	90,000
911 facility and grounds improvements	-	65,000
Industrial Park lighting	8,400	-
Buildings and Grounds zero radius mower	-	15,000
Building access control system annual service fees	6,289	-
Treasurer's office ADA counter access	-	15,000
Animal Control facility roof	-	15,000
Folly Creek boat ramp and dock replacement	-	116,000
Convenience Centers' operational costs for cameras	900	-
Painter Convenience Center household hazardous waste funding	19,800	-
Chincoteague Convenience Center indoor bathroom	-	6,463
GPS trackers service fees	5,800	-
Litter Control dump truck	-	49,975
Total General Fund	\$ 41,189	\$ 824,628
Landfill Fund		
Northern Landfill cell 6 closure	\$ -	\$ 132,125
Northern Landfill cell 7 construction	-	420,000
Total Landfill Fund	\$ -	\$ 552,125
Water and Wastewater Fund		
Northern Spur additional costs	\$ -	\$ 250,000

Registrar

The Registrar received \$14,619 in operating funds, consisting of \$13,114 for the Electoral Board's pay increase for election officials, \$1,305 for the Registrar's maintenance service contracts and \$200 for the Registrar's printing costs. The Registrar's Office also received over \$13,000 to convert the part-time Deputy Registrar to full-time.

Storm Drainage

Operating increases for Storm Drainage include \$4,000 for equipment maintenance, \$18,000 for excavation equipment rental and \$3,000 for postage.

Wallops Research Park

A reduction of \$25,000 to the Wallops Research Park department occurred during the FY20 budget process. This decrease will not impact current service levels.

Rainy Day/Stabilization Fund

The adopted budget designates \$447,231 of unassigned General Fund balance to the Rainy Day/Stabilization Fund in accordance with the Board's plan to increase it to the level recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) by 2022. This contribution will bring the balance of the fund to just over \$11.8M or 14.7% of budgeted revenues.

Constitutional Offices

Commonwealth's Attorney

The adopted budget added \$1,631 in operating funds for maintenance service contracts, telecommunications and travel for this office.

Sheriff

Sheriff - Court Services received \$29,200 in operating funds during the budget cycle to staff a part-time armed security officer at the Clerk of Court's office. Additional capital funds were approved for \$5,200 for video surveillance equipment to monitor the Courthouse/ Administrative complex.

Sheriff - Law Enforcement's operating budget increased by \$10,707, including \$7,500 for its marine unit operating costs and \$3,207 for additional patrol vehicle equipment.

External Organization Funding

Accomack County School Division

Local funding for the School Division is dictated by a revenue sharing formula that allocates 53% of General Fund revenue from property taxes, other local taxes and non-categorical aid to public education. The result of this formula for FY20 yielded an additional \$291,589 in local funding for the School Division. In FY18, the School Board approved to annually contribute 50% towards the cost of one additional School Resource Officer funded by the Accomack County Sheriff's Office, which is calculated at \$28,336 for FY20. These changes bring the total local allocation to \$18,096,162.

In FY20, the School Board approved to contribute 50% towards the cost of new financial software. Their budgeted share is expected to be over \$380,000. This shared project is not taken into consideration in FY20's funding formula.

Accomack County Social Services Board

Local funding for the Social Services Board will be \$816,299 in FY20 to cover the local share of costs.

Eastern Shore Public Library

The budget provides an additional \$13,372 in operating funding for benefits, travel and personnel related costs. This increase brings the total allocation to \$417,079 for FY20.

Volunteer Fire and Rescue Companies

The County supports 14 different volunteer fire and rescue companies through operational subsidies. The amount of the subsidy is dependent upon the services provided by each company and compliance with the County/Company funding agreement. The FY20 budget provides the following subsidies:

Company Name	Total
New Church	\$ 125,140
Greenbackville	133,140
Chincoteague	133,140
Atlantic	129,140
Saxis	133,140
Bloxom	133,140
Parksley	133,140
Tasley	125,140
Onancock	133,140
Melfa	133,140
Wachapreague	133,140
Painter	125,140
Oak Hall Rescue	125,140
Tangier	133,140
Total	\$ 1,827,960

Actual amounts contributed may vary from the above due to the fact that each subsidy is determined via a funding formula which uses actual property tax collections as one of its variables.

Other External Organizations

- The Accomack County Health Department received operational funding of \$20,530 to cover an FY18 year-end settlement payout. With this increase, the amount approved pursuant to the Health Department's support agreement totals \$670,122 for FY20.

- The 911 Commission was granted a supplementary \$44,024 in operating funds and \$6,666 in capital funds. The operating increase consisted of \$26,044 to supplant a declining share of communications sales taxes, \$9,980 for general operational costs and \$8,000 for salary increases. The capital increase consisted of \$3,333 each for additional back up capabilities and to replace a domain server. An \$18,276 operating subsidy decrease for communication tax share payments was also approved. Actual amounts paid as the communication tax share may vary from the adopted amount due to the fact that the reimbursement formula uses actual County communication tax collections as one of its variables. The final 911 Commission FY20 budget is \$600,219, which includes \$330,390 for the communication tax subsidy and \$269,829 for a contribution subsidy.

Subsidies for other external organizations provided in the adopted budget are as follows:

Organization	Adopted Budget FY19	Adopted Budget FY20
Accomack County Dental Program	\$30,971	\$30,971
A-N Planning District Commission	\$65,036	\$70,036
A-N Transportation District Commission	\$18,666	\$6,704
E.S. Area Agency on Aging	\$23,430	\$23,430
E.S. Coalition Against Domestic Violence	\$21,650	\$20,000
E.S. Community College	\$41,028	\$41,028
E.S. Community Services Board	\$196,114	\$200,036
E.S. of VA Groundwater Committee	\$27,221	\$27,221
E.S. of VA Housing Alliance	\$9,215	\$9,215
E.S. of VA RC&D Council	\$9,999	\$9,999
E.S. Small Business Development Center	\$4,607	\$4,607
E.S. Soil and Water Conservation	\$21,154	\$21,154
E.S. SPCA	\$5,921	\$5,921
E.S. Tourism Commission	\$86,853	\$86,853
Economic Development Authority	\$7,500	\$0
Keep the E.S. Beautiful Committee (PDC)	\$5,667	\$5,667
Star Transit	\$176,800	\$176,800
U.S. Army Corp (Chincoteague water study)	\$50,000	\$50,000

Audit Requirement for External Organizations

All external organizations receiving County funding which are separate and distinct from the County of Accomack and not included in the scope of the County's annual external audit are reminded that they must submit annual financial statements to the County Finance Department during the coming fiscal year.

What type of financial statements to furnish, audited or unaudited, is dependent on the amount of funds the organization receives from the County. The policy that outlines these requirements can be downloaded from the County Finance Department's webpage at <https://www.co.accomack.va.us/departments/finance/financial-policies>.