

Regular Crime Task Force Meeting

Civic Center, 2 Park Drive South,
Gibson Room 212, Great Falls, MT

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Sandra Guynn called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Great Falls Crime TFM present: Sandra Guynn, Nicole Griffith, Jeff Newton, Shane Etwiler, Jesse Slaughter and John Parker. Also present was Ex-officio TFM Rick Tryon. Shawna Jarvey was absent. Sara Sexe arrived at 5:03 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF: Finance Director Melissa Kinzler, Municipal Court Judge Steve Bolstad and Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea. City Manager Greg Doyon arrived at 5:05 p.m.

TASK FORCE AGENDA ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 28, 2021, GREAT FALLS CRIME TASK FORCE.


TFM Slaughter moved, seconded by TFM Etwiler, that the CTF approve the meeting minutes of June 28, 2021.



Chairperson Guynn asked if there was any discussion amongst the TFM or comments from the public. Hearing none, Chairperson Guynn called for the vote.

Motion carried 6-0.

2. BRIEFING FROM MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE STEVEN BOLSTAD AND DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JOHN PARKER.

Municipal Court Judge Steve Bolstad and Cascade County District Court Judge John Parker reviewed and discussed the following PowerPoint presentation:

<p style="text-align: center;">The Role of the Judicial Branch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Judge Steve Bolstad, Municipal Court Judge John Parker, District Court</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Great Falls Crime Task Force July 12, 2021</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Judicial Branch Considerations</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to a fair trial • Innocence until guilt is proven • Separation of powers and what that means for the criminal justice system • Fundamental fairness in a democratic society </div>
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<p>Constitutional Foundations</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation of Powers clause, Article III, Section 1 • Rights of the Accused, Article II, Section 24 • Rights of the Convicted, Article II, Section 28 • These are not only pertinent provisions, but time today is limited 	<p>Review of Task Force Issues in a Judicial Branch Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal and semi-legal narcotics and substance abuse • Mental health considerations and local capacity • Recidivism issues
<p>The law—and the entire legal system—involves a balance of rights and responsibilities</p> 	<p>A snapshot of what’s happening locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Court overview • Municipal Court statistics
<p>Montana’s Bail Statute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46-9-301. Determining amount of bail. In all cases in which bail is determined to be necessary, bail must be reasonable in amount and the amount must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1) sufficient to ensure the presence of the defendant in a pending criminal proceeding; • (2) sufficient to ensure compliance with the conditions set forth in the bail; • (3) sufficient to protect any person from bodily injury; • (4) not oppressive; • (5) commensurate with the nature of the offense charged; • (6) considerate of the financial ability of the accused; • (7) considerate of the defendant’s prior record; • (8) considerate of the length of time the defendant has resided in the community and of the defendant’s ties to the community; • (9) considerate of the defendant’s family relationships and ties; • (10) considerate of the defendant’s mental health status and of the defendant’s participation in a mental health treatment program; • (11) considerate of the defendant’s employment status; and • (12) sufficient to include the charge imposed in 46-18-236. 	<p>Sentencing Policy of the State of Montana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46-18-101. Correctional and sentencing policy. (1) It is the purpose of this section to establish the correctional and sentencing policy of the state of Montana. Laws for the punishment of crime are drawn to implement the policy established by this section. • (2) The correctional and sentencing policy of the state of Montana is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (a) punish each offender commensurate with the nature and degree of harm caused by the offense and to hold an offender accountable; • (b) protect the public, reduce crime, and increase the public sense of safety by incarcerating violent offenders and serious repeat offenders; • (c) provide restitution, reparation, and restoration to the victim of the offense; and • (d) encourage and provide opportunities for the offender’s self-improvement to provide rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders back into the community.
<p>The Role of our Treatment Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Court: Mental Health Treatment Court • District Court: Adult Drug Treatment Court • District Court: Juvenile Drug Treatment Court • District Court: Veterans Drug Treatment Court 	<p>More on what’s happening locally: District Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year to date criminal case filings • Update re: COVID-era trials • Return to semi-normalcy • Only three courtrooms with capacity for felony trials • Other options
<p>Sentencing Considerations, Continued</p>	<p>Future Directions for Consideration</p>

Question and Answer	Conclusion
	

TFM Slaughter suggested that County and City Judicial Departments work together with regard to changing the behavior of offenders and implementing more of an impact for first time, non-violent offenders.

Ex-officio TFM Tryon received clarification that an evaluation from a licensed mental health professional is required for individuals claiming to have mental health disorders with regard to sentencing considerations in Municipal Court.

TFM Etwiler received clarification that the Police Department had 76 calls for mental health assists within a three-month period and that a Risk Assessment Tool is utilized to predict a defendant's future risk for misconduct.

Municipal Court Judge Bolstad added that a Risk Assessment Tool is a good model to utilize; however, it is only a tool and cannot administer justice.

Cascade County District Court Judge Parker suggested that the TFM consider exploring Pretrial Services Programs or expansion of the Mental, Adult, Juvenile or Veterans Drug Treatment Courts.

TFM Slaughter stepped out at 5:00 p.m. and he returned at 5:02 p.m.

3. GREAT FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT (GFPD) BUDGET OVERVIEW




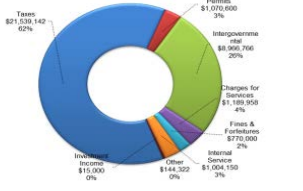




TFM Sexe arrived at 5:03 p.m.

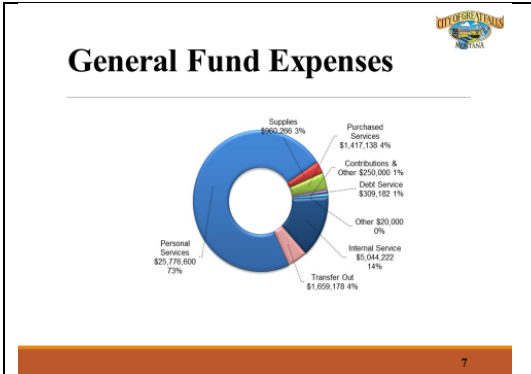
City Manager Doyon explained that it is important for the TFM to develop a fundamental understanding of how the City is financed. He further explained that there is a need to provide the right resources to the Police Department; however, a public safety budget has never been fully funded. There has not been tax increases for the past two years due to COVID-19; however, there will be an increase next year because the City has been depleting the fund balance. The goal is to provide a budget that meets the needs of the community with the understanding that it will not cover all areas of need at the desired level. Manager Doyon concluded that the inflationary factor is a property tax cap that limits the amount of growth that local governments can impose on a jurisdiction, unless voted on.

Ex-officio TFM Tryon stepped out at 5:05 p.m. and he returned at 5:07 p.m.

TFM Slaughter stepped out at 5:07 p.m. and he returned at 5:10 p.m.

Finance Director Melissa Kinzler reviewed and discussed the following PowerPoint presentation:

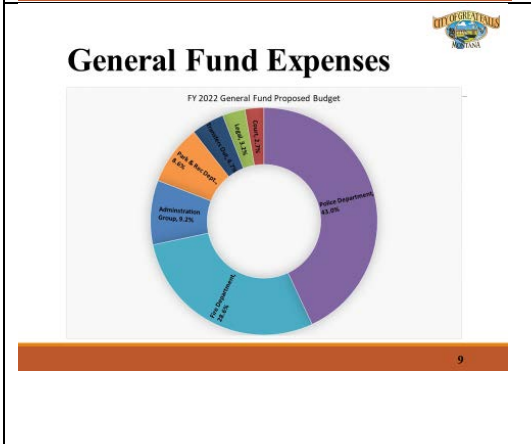
<div style="text-align: center;">  <h2 style="margin: 0;">Overview of General Fund and Police Departments Budget</h2> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">1</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <h2 style="margin: 0;">General Fund Revenue</h2> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">FY 2020 Actual</th> <th style="text-align: right;">FY 2021 Amended</th> <th style="text-align: right;">FY 2022 Proposed</th> <th style="text-align: right;">%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Taxes</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 22,146,728</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 21,139,142</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 21,539,142</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.89%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licenses and Permits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,036,689</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,070,600</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,070,600</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Intergovernmental</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 13,202,877</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 8,997,023</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 8,966,766</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-0.34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charges for Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,158,263</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,193,354</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,189,958</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-0.28%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fines and Forfeitures</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 627,765</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 770,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 770,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Internal Service</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 859,079</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 967,525</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,004,150</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.79%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Investment Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 85,430</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 15,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 15,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 114,072</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 144,322</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 144,322</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sale of Assets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2,200</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ -</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ -</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Revenue</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 39,233,103</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 34,296,966</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 34,699,938</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.17%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">2</div>		FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Amended	FY 2022 Proposed	%	Taxes	\$ 22,146,728	\$ 21,139,142	\$ 21,539,142	1.89%	Licenses and Permits	\$ 1,036,689	\$ 1,070,600	\$ 1,070,600	0.00%	Intergovernmental	\$ 13,202,877	\$ 8,997,023	\$ 8,966,766	-0.34%	Charges for Services	\$ 1,158,263	\$ 1,193,354	\$ 1,189,958	-0.28%	Fines and Forfeitures	\$ 627,765	\$ 770,000	\$ 770,000	0.00%	Internal Service	\$ 859,079	\$ 967,525	\$ 1,004,150	3.79%	Investment Income	\$ 85,430	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	0.00%	Other	\$ 114,072	\$ 144,322	\$ 144,322	0.00%	Sale of Assets	\$ 2,200	\$ -	\$ -	0	Total Revenue	\$ 39,233,103	\$ 34,296,966	\$ 34,699,938	1.17%
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General Fund Expenditures

General Fund Expenditures by Department City of Great Falls, Montana

	2020 Actual Amount	2021 Adopted Budget	2021 Amended Budget	2021 Projected Amount as of 06/15/2021	2022 Proposed Budget
Administration Group	\$2,901,000	\$3,256,200	\$3,000,000	\$3,011,042	\$3,243,300
Court	\$750,637	\$916,318	\$916,318	\$916,776	\$952,715
Legal Department	\$1,014,214	\$1,079,311	\$1,079,311	\$1,079,169	\$1,142,701
Police Department	\$13,937,487	\$16,029,048	\$16,029,048	\$14,990,985	\$15,262,022
Fire Department	\$9,683,365	\$10,073,081	\$10,066,965	\$10,479,796	\$10,144,215
Park & Rec Dept.	\$2,033,291	\$2,962,254	\$2,962,254	\$2,962,199	\$3,032,465
Transfers Out	\$1,962,937	\$1,698,170	\$1,698,170	\$1,698,170	\$1,698,170
Total Expenditures	\$32,631,636	\$38,006,248	\$35,292,943	\$34,968,543	\$36,426,586



General Fund Expenses

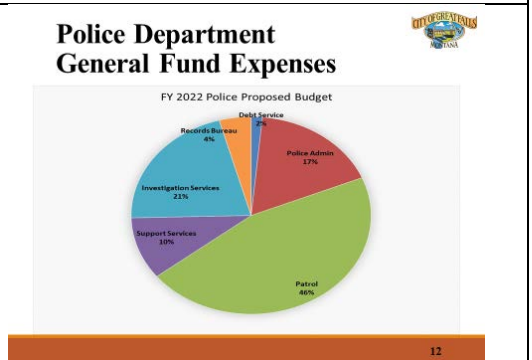
How much does a house with a market value of \$100,000 pay for General Fund expenses?

YOUR CITY OF GREAT FALLS TAX RECEIPT

Public Safety	\$192.52
Great Falls Police Department	\$115.26
Great Falls Fire Rescue	\$77.26
Culture & Recreation	\$44.14
Parks & Recreation	\$29.31
Great Falls Public Library	\$14.83
General Government	\$41.77
General Government Services	\$41.77
General obligation Debt Service	\$3.44
Siebel Soccer Park	\$2.33
Highwood Generating Station Feasibility Study	\$1.11
TOTAL:	\$281.87

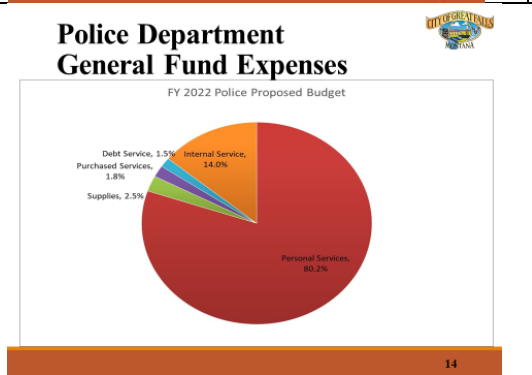
Police Department General Fund Expenses

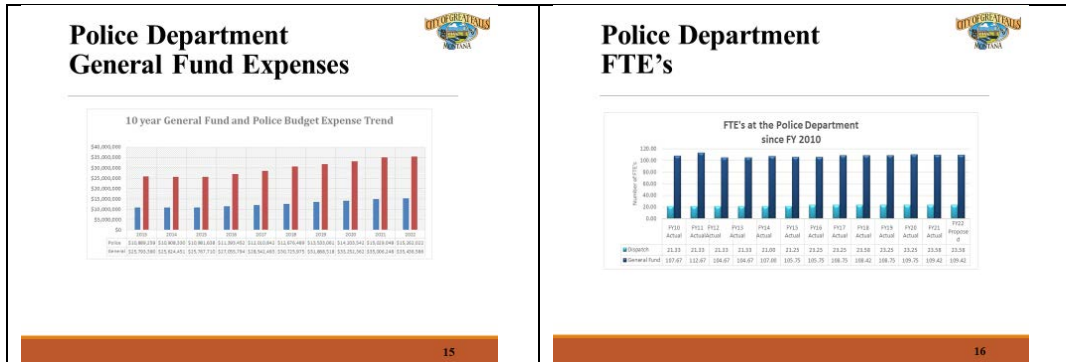
	2020 Actual Amount	2021 Adopted Budget	2021 Amended Budget	2021 Projected Amount as of 06/15/2021	2022 Proposed Budget
Debt Service	\$0	\$231,571	\$231,571	\$231,571	\$231,571
Police Admin	\$2,378,422	\$2,572,170	\$2,572,170	\$2,559,228	\$2,651,190
Patrol	\$6,897,031	\$7,108,895	\$7,108,895	\$6,778,219	\$6,838,230
Support Services	\$1,386,876	\$1,038,585	\$1,038,585	\$1,048,800	\$1,589,054
Investigation Services	\$2,802,704	\$2,864,230	\$2,864,230	\$3,162,564	\$3,242,396
Records Bureau	\$662,433	\$714,428	\$714,428	\$683,021	\$695,547
Police Department	\$13,937,487	\$16,029,048	\$16,029,048	\$14,990,985	\$15,262,022



Police Department General Fund Expenses

	2020 Actual Amount	2021 Adopted Budget	2021 Amended Budget	2021 Projected Amount as of 06/15/2021	2022 Proposed Budget
Personal Services	\$11,390,398	\$12,874,970	\$12,874,970	\$12,845,692	\$12,230,836
Supplies	\$305,636	\$300,360	\$300,360	\$304,680	\$300,763
Purchased Services	\$226,865	\$215,617	\$215,617	\$231,960	\$279,617
Debt Service	\$0	\$231,571	\$231,571	\$231,571	\$231,571
Internal Service	\$1,324,411	\$2,359,467	\$2,359,467	\$2,459,467	\$2,120,415
Total Police Budget	\$13,937,487	\$16,029,048	\$16,029,048	\$14,959,363	\$15,262,022





TFM Slaughter left the CTF meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Chairperson Guynn received clarification that purchased services are professional services that include water utilities, legal action and gas.

Finance Director Kinzler explained that “Taxpayer Receipt” and “Budget Simulator by Balancing Act” are tools available on the City’s website that teach citizens about the City’s budget.

Vice-Chairperson Newton explained the Police Department loses approximately six Full-Time Employees (FTE) a year, which creates an increase in training costs. He added that hiring and training police officers is time intensive and an expensive process.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM TASK FORCE.

Manager Doyon inquired about ideas or entities that the TFM would be interested in pursuing for the July 26, 2021 CTF meeting.

TFM Parker expressed interest in pursuing Pretrial Services Programs from entities in other communities.

TFM Griffith suggested exploring the cost of Misdemeanor Probation in other communities, as well as having Human Resources Training/Development Coordinator Mark Willmarth assist the TFM with regard to prioritizing the information that has been presented.

Chairperson Guynn requested more information about Sober Living Houses. She requested that City Manager Doyon provide guidance with regard to determining what information previously presented would be within the purview of the City.

TFM Parker announced that he might recuse himself from voting on anything that deals with enforcement or policy, once the TF starts making recommendations.

Ex-officio TFM Tryon expressed concern with regard to presenting a final recommendation to the City Commission by September 2021. He inquired about amending Resolution 10407 to allow the TFM more time to make a final recommendation.

TFM Sexe suggested that the TF maintain the current deadline of August 2021 for having draft recommendations and September 2021 for a final recommendation to the City Commission. She suggested having additional informational updates about Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) and Crisis Response Team (CRT) at the July 26, 2021 meeting.

Chairperson Guynn, Vice-Chairperson Newton and TFM Etwiler concurred with TFM Sexe's suggestions. TFM Etwiler suggested exploring successful programs that have had an impact on addressing crime from other communities.

City Manager Doyon announced that he would provide an update to the City Commission with regard to the overview of briefings presented at the CTF meetings, as well as the TFM efforts.

The TFM concurred that City Manager Doyon pursue having additional informational updates about Pretrial Services, Sober Living Houses and CRT at the July 26, 2021 CTF meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

None.

DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING MEETING DATES.

Chairperson Guynn announced that the next scheduled CTF meeting would be on July 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Gibson Room.

TFM Etwiler expressed appreciation to the City Commission candidates for attending the CTF meetings.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the CTF, TFM Sexe moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Newton to adjourn the **regular meeting of July 12, 2021, at 5:53 p.m.**

Motion carried 6-0.

Sandra Guynn, Chairperson

Acting Secretary – Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea

Minutes Approved: July 26, 2021