



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

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Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners Approves 2022 budget

Passage provides essential funding supporting Strategic Initiatives for County

KALAMAZOO, Mich. KALAMAZOO, Mich. — The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners passed the Calendar Year 2022 budget on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, during its business meeting. The \$113,368,000 operating budget ensures Kalamazoo County will continue to provide extraordinary governance while furthering Strategic Initiatives.

"I am incredibly proud of the time, care, and thoughtfulness the Board of Commissioners put into this year's budget," Stated Kalamazoo County Board Chair Tracy Hall. "It is never an easy task, but we stayed committed to our county employees and our priorities with each step and decision."

Some of the new programs in the budget plan include:

- Incorporating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into the budget creation and adoption process
- Unfreezing staff wages that had been frozen due to the financial effects of the pandemic
- Adoption of a robust Capital Improvement Program after much of the program had been paused due to the financial impacts from the pandemic.
- Creation of a 0.50FTE Document Specialist position in the Clerk's office, funded by the Concealed Pistol Licensing fund

"Passing the 2022 budget was crucial in maintaining staff wages as well as critical programs and services for our community; that was a primary concern", stated the Kalamazoo County Interim Administrator Lisa Henthorn. "It's encouraging to see the Board follow through with getting our budget finalized to keep business moving."

The County will employ 926.5 full-time employees in 2022, with the Board outlining the following budget priorities during recent annual retreats:

- Kalamazoo Avenue Consolidated Services/Justice Facility
 - Construction began in the Spring of 2021 and will continue through early 2023
- Homelessness/Affordable Housing
 - \$6.2 million in revenue is expected in 2022 from the recently passed millage to support county-wide efforts
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - The 2022 budget includes the initial funding for the efforts of the recently created Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office for Kalamazoo County.

"I want to thank the Board of Commissioners as well as County staff for their dedication to bringing forth a budget that will position our community for long-term growth," Stated Kalamazoo County Board Vice-Chair Tami Rey. "Thoughtful dialogue is always needed and helpful when making such impactful decisions, and I'm glad we could produce a budget that is in alignment with much-needed programs and the priorities we have set forth."

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