

ADAIR COUNTY 2021 BUDGET MESSAGE

Now on this 26th day of January, 2021, comes Sandra Collop, Clerk of the County Commission, as budget officer and presents for the records of the County Commission, information and estimates for the year 2021 as required by The County Budget Law (Sections 50.525 to 50.745, RSMo.) being in words and figures as follows:

BUDGET MESSAGE:

The County of Adair is presenting this 2021 Proposed Budget which has been prepared by the County Commission and the Clerk of said Commission. The budget process factored in the current economy taking into consideration the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic and objectives of the Elected Officials. Adair County revenues increased \$208,430 (7.5% increase), Road and Bridge revenues decreased \$867,158 (23 % decrease), and Law Enforcement General revenues increased \$128,092 (6.0% increase) This included a transfer of funds (\$950,000) from the Law Enforcement Services Fund into the Law Enforcement General Fund.

Many situations evolved from the onset of COVID-19. As businesses began to close their doors to slow the spread of the virus, so the Courthouse had restricted access as well. Although the building never permanently closed its doors, access via telephone permission and eventually a screening protocol for everyone entering the building was implemented and remains in place to date. Court proceedings, however, have been postponed indefinitely.

Small and large businesses alike have been impacted from the virus. Sales/production have declined, and employees lost their jobs. Major retailers that have closed their doors in Adair County include JC Penney, Gordman's, and Ruby Tuesday. The Federal Government passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act. President Donald Trump signed a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill into law on March 27, 2020 in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Adair County was awarded 2.93 million dollars of aid through the State of Missouri to assist entities/businesses with the financial hardships they were facing due to the pandemic. The County Commission with the contractual help of the Northeast Regional Planning Commission has undertaken the challenge to distribute funds as businesses applied for relief within our County. The process will continue until all monies have been properly disbursed or the allotted time frame to do so has expired. Any remaining money must then be returned to the State of Missouri.

The first doses of vaccine to combat the virus were administered in late 2020. Health care workers and nursing home individuals were among the first to receive the vaccine when it became available. Efforts continue to vaccinate all individuals who want to receive the vaccine.

In January 2020, County purchased property located at 311 N. Franklin Street in Kirksville. The property is located near the Sheriff's Department and the Adair County Annex. The site will provide additional parking for the Sheriff's Department and the buildings will eventually be used for expansion of County facilities.

There was a large turnout for the August Primary Election and the November General Election. As a result, Eldon Grissom was successfully elected as the Adair County Sheriff. Sheriff Grissom is a retired trooper from the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He is replacing Adair County Sheriff, Robert Hardwick who retired after serving the public for 12 years. The County thanks Sheriff Hardwick for his years of dedicated service and wishes him well in his retirement. All incumbent Elected Officials were re-elected to serve another four years in their respective positions. These include Kent Bryant,

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Assessor; William “Bill” King, 1st District Commissioner; Brian Noe, Coroner; Rhonda Noe, Public Administrator; and Mark Thompson, 2nd District Commissioner. All will serve a four-year term beginning January 1, 2021.

The High Prairie Renewable Energy Center is Ameren Missouri's first owned and operated wind generation facility. The facility was constructed by Terra-Gen LLC in northern Adair County and southern Schuyler County, Missouri. It was acquired by Ameren Missouri in December 2020 and has a nameplate capacity of 400 megawatts.

The project consists of 175 wind turbines that are among the most technologically advanced in the state. It is anticipated that the energy center will produce enough energy to power the equivalent of 120,000 homes and generate \$32 million in property, income, and sales taxes, over a 25-year time frame.

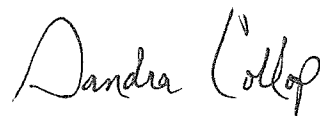
In December 2020, the County of Adair entered into an agreement with the Second Judicial Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri. The Agreement governs the budget/appropriation process through December 31, 2026. It is an update to the original agreement dated December 2014. Both agreements are on file in the Adair County Clerk’s Office.

The Adair County Commission and the Adair County Clerk want to thank the Elected Officials and staff for their efforts in compiling the 2021 budget.

The County remains optimistic as we go forward in 2021. The County Commission feels very fortunate to have had sufficient revenues despite the early onset and unknown continuation of the pandemic.

Reminder: Fund 907 – Juvenile Justice Center is not included in Adair County main budget document. The budget for the Juvenile Justice Center is included separately at the beginning of the budget document. Adair county is a pass thru for the Second Judicial Circuit and Juvenile Justice Funds to merely expend revenues deposited with the County Treasurer. These funds are not included in the operating budget of Adair County.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Collop
Adair County Clerk and Budget Officer