



2024 Budget Criteria

REVENUE

1. User Fees – A 2.5% user fee increase was approved in July 2023. This will be a consistent increase annually. A user rate fee study will be conducted in 2024.
2. The 2024 budget assumes an increase of 2.5% in Customer Fees based on a 4 year average and expected increased revenue for 2024. Customer growth in 2024 is expected to remain the same at .78%.
3. In July of 2022, the 2007B, 2013, and 2015 SRF loans were refinanced to extend the life of the loan, and amended to allow for the creation of a Budget Stabilization Fund. The contribution to this fund is to be determined by the Board of Trustees annually.
4. A detailed review of the current pressurized system rates is planned for 2024.
 - a. The addition of QuickBooks Time Keeping along with an inventory tracking spreadsheet, will increase the accuracy of the data used to review employee hours spent, and the number of pumps used at each location. Goal is to have a working solution by first of January 2024.

EXPENSES

PERSONNEL

1. Wages – To retain and attract qualified dependable employees.
 - a. Proposed Wage Scale Review in 2023. Study is ready but will be continually updated.
 - b. Proposed Executive Director position and two Equipment Operators plus proposed 3.2% COLA and TBD% Merit Pool – allows for estimated \$278,000 increase cost annually plus benefits.
 - COLA: Mosers caps at 5%, Federal Planning Bureau 4.1%, Social Security 3.2%, Boone County Judiciary 4.6% (waiting on BC plan to be released 11/13), Forbes 4.5%, Fed Reserve 3.5%, City of Columbia 6% (Sept 2023) & \$10 million 2024, CPI 3.7%-4.6%.
 - Proposal is comparable to other local and industry entities surveyed.
 - Maintain quality benefits: Lagers review; Anthem increase 9.9% but this rate is lower than marketplace plans at 11% and above per Philip with AssuredPartners. Options will be reviewed throughout the year and rates monitored but opt to consult AssuredPartners at this time.
2. Insurance - Through Naught-Naught Insurance Agency, based on preliminary numbers:
 - a. Health – Current Anthem plan has a 9.9% increase, approximately \$1055.00/month, but alternatives are higher.

OPERATIONS

1. Wholesale treatment
 - a. This budget does not assume an increase in the wholesale rate.
 - b. City rates are not currently scheduled to increase in 2024.
2. Existing Service Contracts – Monthly
 - a. City of Hartsburg
 - b. City of Rocheport (billing for trash)
 - c. City of Sturgeon
 - d. Village of Renick (2022)
 - e. City of Ashland (2022)

CONTRACTUAL/OUTSIDE SERVICES

1. Central Power – Generator Services \$27,600
2. Convergence Accounting – NTE \$7,590 (\$200/month consult fee + \$175/hour for svcs rendered) = \$300/month payroll services: \$3,600

3. Columbia Landcare (Mowing) - \$36,000 – Current contract for 2021-2023, Daniel working on bid.
4. Engineering - includes \$10,000 for miscellaneous needs
5. Financial Consulting - \$20,000 for audit
6. Legal Fees - \$100,000
7. Mapping/GIS ongoing additions and training - \$30,000

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Employee training costs will increase slightly with focus on updating skills and development.
2. Headquarters budget includes a contingency fund of \$5,000 to cover unforeseen repairs or replacement.
3. Replace Vehicles & Equipment
 - a. Three pick-up truck (\$43,000 each)
 - b. Replace F-550 for the crane with a 5-ton truck (\$190,000)
 - c. Purchase 4" trash pump
 - d. Aeration Equipment, Line Locators, Multi Gas Detector, Shelters for Lift Station Control Panels & SL-Rat.
4. Systems Repairs and Maintenance includes a contingency budget for back up rehabilitation of \$18,000.
5. A general contingency fund of \$50,000 is included in this budget.

OTHER EXPENSE – Cash or Lease Purchase

1. Loss on Assets include the cost to close Rollingwood WWTP. Carried over from 2023 budget.
2. Headquarters Roof Repair
3. Wage Benefit Survey -
4. Area-wide Management Plan, est. \$159,000
5. Rocheport Pump Station Design \$25,000

DEBT SERVICE

1. Proposed construction carried over from 2023
 - a. Rollingwood WWTP closure by way of connection to Midway Crossings WWTP. Staff received approval for an MDNR Water Quality Incentive Grant to fund 60% of the project.
 - 40% Loan through SRF - \$147,000
 - 60% Incentive Grant - \$220,000
2. Proposed construction for 2024
 - b. Highfield Acres lagoon closure by way of connection to the City of Columbia's wastewater collection and treatment system.
 - 40% Loan through SRF – \$107,312
 - 60% Incentive Grant - \$160,968

LEASE PURCHASES - Principal payments scheduled for December 2024

1. Dump Truck \$20,063.17 – Last payment December 2024
2. Sewer Jet \$53,236 – Last payment December 2026

CAPITAL ADDITIONS - Cash or Lease Purchase

These items are carry overs from 2023.

1. Brookfield Estates - \$177,750
2. Waters Edge