

Fast Facts ____

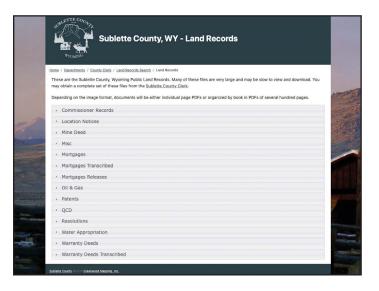
Sublette County

In square miles:4,936Percentage public land
(federal, state, local government):82.3%Percentage of private land:17.7%Population:8,728Persons per square mile:1.8

Sublette County consists of 5% of the state's land mass, but is home to only 1.51% of the state's human population. Sublette County remains a rural county, with 63% of residents living outside of the county's three incorporated towns.

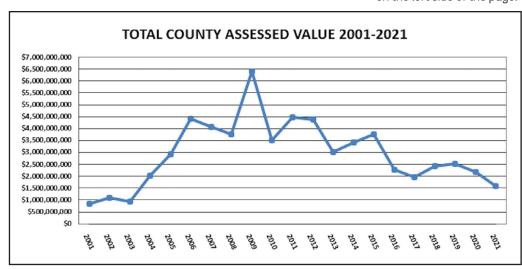
Sublette County's assessed value is \$1.6 billion, the lowest valuation in nearly two decades. Sublette County's valuation peaked at \$6.4 billion in 2009.

Sublette County experienced the steepest population decline of any Wyoming county from 2010 to 2020, with a loss of 14.8% of its residents. With 1,519 people leaving the county in the last decade, the county population stands at 8,728, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.



Land Records Online

From commission meeting minutes and mortgages to oil and gas leases, water appropriations and warranty deeds, find Sublette County's public land records online at www.sublettewyo.com. From the home page, select County Clerk under the Departments header, and then select Land Records from the column on the left side of the page.



Did You Know?

The Sublette County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to the towns of Pinedale, Marbleton, and Big Piney nearly free of charge? The county charges each incorporated town a token amount of \$10 per year. All counties in Wyoming have metropolitan police departments, with the exception of Sublette County.

	TOP TO TAXPAYERS IN SUBLETTE COUNTY							
Company	Total Value	Percent	Company	Tot				

Company	Total Value	Percent	Company	Total Value	Percent
Ultra Resources Inc.	\$827,339,059	30.56%	Exxon Mobil Corp	\$159,577,455	5.89%
Jonah Energy, LLC	\$571,952,022	21.12%	EOG Resources Inc.	\$49,871,744	.84%
Jonah Gas Gathering Co.	\$519,155,594	19.17%	Grizzly Operating, LLC.	\$42,291,631	1.56%
Exxon Mobil Corporation	\$284,544,091	10.51%	Wexpro Company	\$38,224,173	1.41%
Pinedale Energy Partners			Exaro Energy III, LLC	\$10,220,384	0.38%
Oper. LLC	\$204,294,397	7.55%			
			Actual Value	\$2,707,470,549	100%

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Budget Message from the Commission:

Expect Continued Decline in County Government Spending

The Sublette Board of County Commissioners entered into this year's budget workshops expecting revenue declines up to 40% from the year prior. County Clerk and Budget Officer Carrie Long had already warned all county departments of the situation, and Long and County Administrator Matt Gaffney had spent weeks meeting with department heads as they worked to prepare budgets that reduced spending while continuing to provide needed services to the citizens of the county.

By the time the commission began its week-long budget workshop in June, much of the groundwork had already been prepared, with each commissioner given a 75-page spiral-bound book containing draft budgets for each county department along with previous spending histories, as well as estimates of future revenues and reserve accounts. Even more information for each department had been uploaded to a new online reporting platform available to each commissioner.

The groundwork was impressive, and each of the county's five commissioners expressed appreciation to the team that helped to pull it all together.

Commission Chairman Joel Bousman said he was thankful that instead of the county having to substantially dip into reserve accounts, or to laying people off from their jobs, spending had been reduced throughout county government, and further cuts were outlined in the draft budgets presented for commission review.

"The department heads and other elected officials really stepped up and did cuts on their own, without the commission having to do it," said Commission Vice Chairman Tom Noble. "They did all the heavy lifting for us."

2022 Budget by the Numbers:

The Fiscal Year 2022 budget covers county income and expenditures from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The budget is based on a taxation rate of 12 mills of the county's assessed value of \$1.6 billion. The county's total assessed value declined \$566 million from the year prior.

Most county departments and services are funded through a general fund allocation set by the Sublette County Commission, but certain program areas have a direct mill levy allocation that is set at the discretion of the county commission: Fair, Airports, Library, Museum, Recreation, and Fire.

The county budget includes general fund expenditures, money held in reserve accounts, and appropriations for entities receiving portions of the county's 12-mill levy.

General Fund	\$42,690,483
Reserves	\$166,695,731
Fair, Airport, Library, Museum, etc	. \$14,173,058
Total Requirement:	\$223,559,272

Although the commission had adopted a county operations budget of \$50.7 million last year, nearly all county departments underspent their budgets, with total expenditures totaling only \$41.16 million. So although the new operations budget adopted by the commission for Fiscal Year 2022 includes a \$1.5 million increase in spending over last year's actual expenditures, that amount is still down \$8 million from last year's approved budget.

The decline in revenues wasn't as extreme as anticipated, but a combination of factors led to an easier act of balancing the budget this year. Department heads left budget allocations unspent, making that money available to roll over into the new budget. Some positions were eliminated or positions were left unfilled, reducing the size of county government. Sublette County also received about \$2.5 million in federal CARES Act funding that was used to supplement law enforcement wages in the last fiscal year. The county is expected to receive an additional \$1.8 million in federal funding to offset revenue shortfalls in the new fiscal year. Although this source of revenue is known to county officials, it was not included in the anticipated revenue in the budget, so was not relied on to balance the new budget.

This was the first budget for two of the commissioners who took office in early 2021. Both Dave Stephens and Sam White expressed appreciation for the reduction in spending in response to the recent economic decline.

"I think this was foreseen, and I think that next year will be even worse," Commissioner Stephens said. "I thank the people for their cooperation and trying to work with us. We just have to see what the future brings."

"When we started, our biggest goal was to have a balanced budget," Commissioner White said. "That's what we have, and it was a team effort."

Commissioner Doug Vickrey said: "I'm one of those who thinks if you can save a dollar today it's like earning a dollar tomorrow. I think there's still some room to make cuts in this budget that won't make any impact to services."

Each of the commissioners said there were parts of the budget that remain troublesome. Vice Chairman Noble has advocated a more equitable system of funding the county's preschools. He said, "In today's economy, even with two working parents, these preschools have become essential." Although the equity issue for childcare services was not addressed in this budget session, the commission has asked Clerk Long to present options for the commission prior to its next budget preparation.

Commissioner Vickrey took issue with a proposal to spend money to transfer ownership of the ballfields near the fairgrounds to the Town of Marbleton, as well as the purchase of new vehicles for the sheriff's office, fire trucks, and heavy equipment for the road department.

BUDGET MESSAGE continued from page 4

Stephens agreed that further cuts may be needed. "I think that there are ways that we can cut these expenses," he said, such as by keeping vehicles longer and not purchasing expensive options.

Chairman Bousman said he believed it is significant that the budget reductions have not resulted in cuts to services, adding that in his view, further cuts would result in a reduction of services in some departments.

Despite their diversity of opinions on particular issues and funding levels, each of the five commissioners voted in support of adoption of the budget.

Noble noted that this is the lowest budget the commission has adopted since he's served on the board. "I think we should be proud of this budget," he said, "considering all the things that have been going on in the past year."

Capital Improvement Projects \$7.5 million

Road Improvements	4.5 million
Daniel Firehall/Road & Bridge Building	. \$1 million
Big Piney Library	\$2 million

The \$4.5 million in major road projects include \$3.1 million for reconstruction on South Cottonwood, \$975,000 for continued work on Skyline Drive, and \$357,000 for bridge replacement on Horse Creek.

The commission allocated \$1 million to finish construction of a new combined firehall/road and bridge shop in the Daniel area, and \$2 million for renovation of the Big Piney Library.

Budget Comparison:

FY 2021-2022 Budget:

Grand total budget is \$223 million Reserves of \$166.6 million Operating budget of \$42.7 million Capital improvements total

\$7.5 million

Compared to last year:

Down \$3 million
Down \$1.3 million
Down \$8 million

Down \$6.3 million

olding the line on spending was done in such a manner last year that the overall county budget was underspent by a total of about \$9.5 million. The pandemic resulted in a reduction or delay in activities and purchases for some departments which resulted underspending of departmental budgets. Some of this spending backlog will be caught up in the new budget. In other cases, projects that weren't completed before the end of the fiscal year had money reallocated back to those projects in the new budget.

While most county departments have budgets in which 80% or more of the budgeted amount is spent, that's not the case with all departments. County Clerk Carrie Long noted that nearly every department and entity funded by the county made cuts in their budget requests this year, as well as leaving budgeted amounts not spent to carry over into the FY2022 budget.



Reserve Accounts

Although state officials have a permanent mineral trust fund that allows the interest generated from the account to be spent while preserving its principal, local governments have no similar ability to establish a trust fund. Not only are counties lacking the ability to establish permanent accounts, legal precedent has determined that a sitting commission cannot bind a future commission.

With this reality, the Sublette County Commission worked for more than a decade to establish and build reserve accounts for future needs. The reserve accounts are for specific purposes, covering both operations and capital construction needs.

The current county budget includes \$166,695,731 in reserve accounts, split between cash (\$10 million); equipment (\$11.8 million); and depreciation (\$144.8 million). Reserve money is held in interest–earning accounts. In order to be spent, the budget must be amended to transfer the required funding from a reserve account to a spending account.

Cash reserve: \$10 million. This money provides for cash flow for county government operations.

Equipment reserve: \$11.8 million. Each year, money is set aside to pay for future equipment purchases.

Depreciation reserve: \$144.8 million. Since the county does not have the statutory authority to establish a trust fund or

\$166.6 million

rainy day account for future county needs, money is earmarked and set aside in specific reserve accounts for use in the future.

The Depreciation Reserve budget includes the following accounts:

Health Care/Hospital \$20 million
Building projects, equipment & maintenance \$18.95 million
Ag & Fair (operations and capital) \$12 million
Budget Reserve \$11.95 million
State/County road fund \$10.5 million
Library (operations and capital)\$9 million
Recreation (operations and capital) \$8.4 million
Law Enforcement Complex
Courthouse & maintenance \$6 million
Landfill (remediation, closure, reserve) \$5.5 million
Museums
Human services
Airports
Communications & IT \$3.9 million
Fire Halls
Tax Refunds
Resource monitoring \$1.8 million
Emergency Revolving Loan \$1 million
Elections

Property Taxation

Property taxes are one of the primary sources of income for local governments, counties, school districts, and other

special districts like the newly created hospital district. The federal government does not receive any revenue from your property tax.

The county assessor establishes taxable values for most properties within the county, subject to final approval and certification by the State of Wyoming. Mineral production is also valued by state officials for ad valorem and severance tax purposes.

The Sublette County Commission has set the general fund mill levy at the full 12 mills allowed by law. A mill is \$1 of revenue for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Minerals are taxed at a rate of 100 percent of fair market value, but

are taxed only once – as they are extracted. The current year's mineral valuation is based on mineral sales that occurred the previous year.

Wyoming statutes require all property to be valued at fair market value, except for agricultural land, which is valued by its productive capability. The county assessor determines the fair market value for homes and property, and takes 9.5 percent of

Assessed Value By Property Type Tax Year 2021

eral & Industry

Residential
7.89%

Commercial
1.64%

Agricultural
7.76%

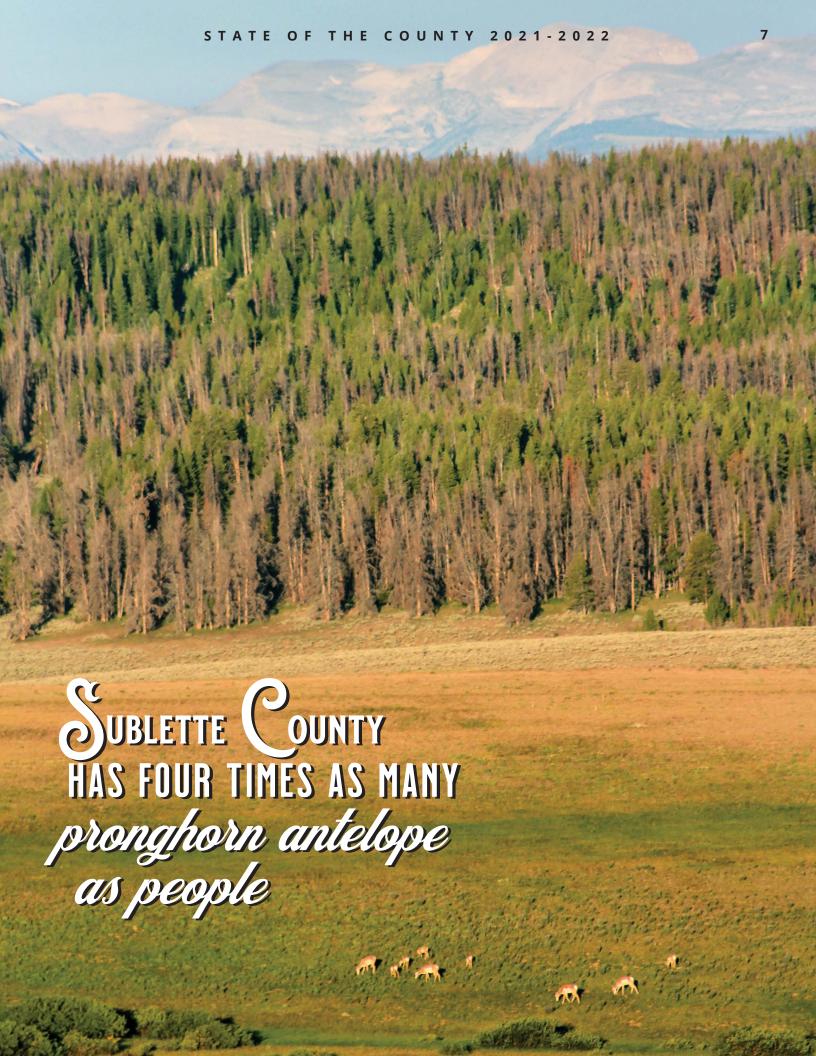
Utilities
5.52%

that value to determine the taxable or assessed value of residential homes and real property (11.5 percent for industrial property). The taxable value is then multiplied by the appropriate mill levy, where each mill is equal to onethousandth of the taxable value.

Although the county taxes 12 mills for county government, your property tax notice includes tax rates ranging from 59 to 67 mills, depending upon where your property is located in the county. A variety of special tax districts in the county impose additional taxation upon property owners in those districts. These special tax districts range from cemetery

districts to road improvement districts in areas where property owners vote to approve these taxes on themselves.

The majority of the taxes you pay provides for the state's educational system. The tax is collected here at the local level, but the revenue is remitted to the state for redistribution.



Understanding Revenues

The revenue generated by the taxing of 12 mills provides the majority of funding for county government services, but the budget also includes \$11 million in revenue from a variety of other sources (federal, state, and local).

Federal Revenues

There are two federal revenue programs that distribute money to Wyoming counties: Secure Rural Schools and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes programs.

Twenty–five percent of revenue generated by mineral leases, timber sales and grazing fees paid to the U.S. Forest Service go to the Secure Rural Schools fund, formerly known as the Forest Reserve Payment. These funds are then sent to the states by the federal government and distributed by the State Treasurer to counties where national forest lands are located. The use of the bulk of the funds in determined by both federal and state law, and the program now provides declining payment levels to counties, with the program expected to be discontinued in the future. Sublette County is expected to receive \$176,000 in this revenue.

Sublette County will receive \$675,000 in Payment In Lieu of Taxes. PILT payments were established by Congress in the mid-1970s to reimburse western counties for a portion of the costs associated with having federal land in the county, but with no method for the counties to tax for the services the counties provide.

State Revenues

Several sources of revenue are funneled to the counties from the state, including severance taxes, sales and use taxes, fuel taxes, and others.

Mineral severance tax distributions are made to local governments, the state's water development fund, Wyoming Department of Transportation, and the University of Wyoming. The Sublette County budget includes \$95,000 in severance tax revenues.

Sublette County's **sales tax rate** is four percent, the lowest allowable under statute. Sublette County estimates it will receive \$2.7 million in sales and use taxes this year.

Sublette County anticipates receiving \$950,000 from the **die-sel fuel tax**, and \$500,000 from the **gas tax**.

The **County Road Construction and Maintenance Fund** (once known as the Farm To Market program) was originally designed to help counties with road construction needs. Funds allocated under this program may be used for both road construction and maintenance. The CRF is funded by the state through gasoline and severance taxes, using a formula for distribution. Sublette County estimates it will receive \$500,000 in county road funds this year.

Sublette County estimates it will receive \$4,750 in **cigarette tax** revenue in this budget year.

Sublette County will receive \$25,000 from the **state lottery** program.

In the 2021–2022 biennium state budget, the Wyoming Legislature **appropriated funding directly to local governments**, of which Sublette County will receive \$60,000.

Cost-Sharing & Grants

The county attorney's office will receive about \$33,000 for Vic-

tim Witness Services, while the county will also receive \$30,000 for emergency management efforts and \$110,000 in support for the county attorney's office from the State of Wyoming.

The Public Health Office will bring in more than \$200,000 in revenue to the county coffers, through a combination of cost-sharing programs, fees for services, and grants.

Federal and state grant funding of more than \$1.3 million is expected to pass through the county accounts for specific programs and projects. By far the largest grant is the \$1 million from the State for construction of the new fire hall in Daniel. Smaller grants provide funding to address bioterrorism, families in need of assistance, substance abuse, and land use planning issues.

Local Revenues

The Sublette County budget includes a variety of local revenue sources – from fees paid to county departments, to interest on invested funds.

The new budget includes \$2 million in interest revenue from investment of county funds.

Motor vehicle licensing will generate \$500,000; and revenues earned for recycling, combined with fees paid at the transfer station and landfill will result in \$413,000 in revenue.

Liquor license fees will generate about \$10,000; \$6,000 from traffic school; and the county will receive \$11,000 for providing law-enforcement services at nearby U.S. Forest Service installations.

The budget includes \$50,000 the county treasurer retains for collection of sales and use taxes; \$10,000 in sales tax penalties; and about \$98,000 in lease and rental payments. A handful of other miscellaneous revenue streams are expected to generate an additional \$129,000.

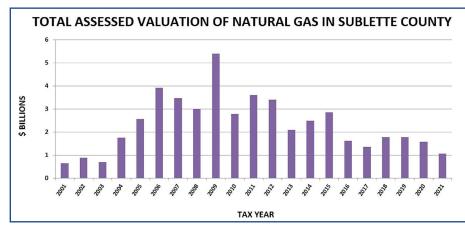
Revenue from local fees include those paid to the following departments:

County Clerk
District Court
Planning & Zoning
Sheriff
Sanitarian
Ice Arena
Fairgrounds\$25,000

COVID-19 Impact

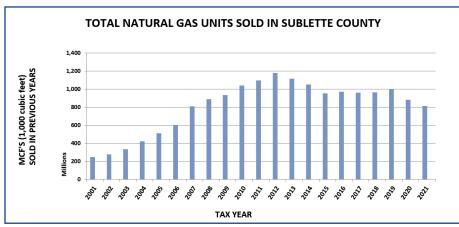
The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in high unemployment rates and economic distress to many people, but it also resulted in a migration of home buyers leaving city centers in favor of rural areas of the country, including to Sublette County. The resulting boom in the residential real estate market, and rising sales prices, will impact your property assessment. Because the assessed value of property is based on sales prices of comparable properties that sold in the last year, property owners can expect increases in their assessed values and estimated taxes due to the county.

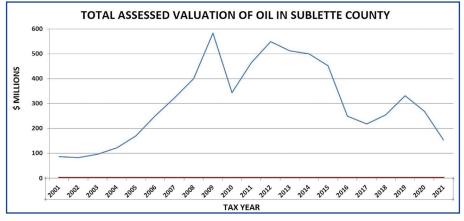
Natural Gas & Oil Production & Valuation

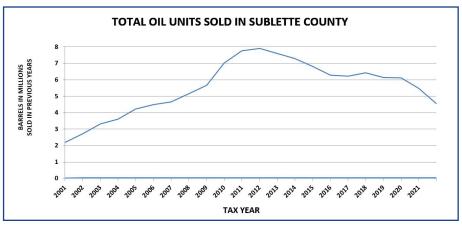


These charts show oil and gas productivity and assessed valuation in Sublette County for each year since 2001.

Graphs courtesy of the Sublette County Assessor.







Elected Officials & Their Departments

Assessor

What We Do: The assessor's office locates, identifies, and values all taxable property in the county in accordance with state laws and guidelines. In Sublette County, that covers more than 10,000 individual parcels.

Budget Summary: The majority (\$381,000) of Assessor Laila Illoway's budget covers salaries for



the assessor and deputies, and the \$75,000 cost of a contract for appraisal and audit services. The budget includes \$5,000 for vehicle expenses, and \$7,000 for education and travel, while the balance of the budget covers the cost of office operations.

Budget compared to last year: -3%

Reason for difference: This budget brings the department more closely in line with last year's actual expenditures.

Attorney

What We Do: The Office of the County and Prosecuting Attorney provides diverse legal representation for Sublette County. Civil law attorneys provide legal analysis and guidance to the County's agencies and non-elected boards, as well as initiating various court actions. Criminal law attorneys coordinate with law enforcement





agencies in the prosecution of criminal and traffic offenses. The department has divisions handling criminal matters, civil cases, juvenile justice, and victim/witness services.

Budget Summary: The majority of County Attorney Mike Crosson's budget covers personnel costs for the county attorney, two deputy attorneys, and secretaries, totaling \$454,424. Prosecution and defense are allocated \$60,000, while the crime victims program is budgeted \$33,333, and access to an online legal database is secured at \$18,500. The remainder of the budget covers general costs associated with operating the county law offices.

This budget also receives about \$140,000 in state reim-

How Much Are County Officials Paid?

The county commission sets salaries for elected officials every four years, using the guidance of state statutes that establish salary caps for certain elected positions. Sublette County salaries for clerk, treasurer, assessor, clerk of district court, and sheriff are set at \$92,908. The county attorney's annual salary is \$100,000 per year, while the county coroner receives \$30,500 annually.

bursements and grants.

In a separate general fund line item, the county pays \$12,000 for office rental for the public defender.

Budget compared to last year: Flat

Reason for difference: Although this budget has been reduced slightly, Attorney Crosson underspent his budget by about 20% last year.

Clerk

What We Do: As set forth in state statutes, the duties of the county clerk's office are varied. The county clerk serves as the clerk for the board of county commissioners, preparing agendas, and preparing and recording minutes, resolutions and agreements for the commission.



As the chief budget officer for

the county, the clerk prepares the budget for adoption by the commissions, and then administers the adopted budget. This process requires working closely with each department as well as with the commission itself.

The clerk's office issues marriage licenses and titles and liens for motor vehicles, administers liquor license applications and records, and maintains official records of land transactions, subdivisions, mineral leases, and mining claims.

The clerk's office is the accounting office for the county, processing payment requests from vendors to the county, as well as handling the financial administration of grants paid to the county.

The clerk's office also serves as county government's personnel office, maintaining general personnel records, providing new employee orientation and policy manuals, and processing and paying county payroll and benefit allocations.

Budget Summary: The majority of this budget (\$319,711) provides for the salaries for County Clerk Carrie Long and her deputies. The balance covers routine office operational expenses (telephone, office supplies and equipment).

Budget compared to last year: -5%

Reason for difference: This budget was underspent last year by about 11% from what was budgeted, and the new budget more accurately reflects costs associated with staffing this department.

Commission

\$519,475

What We Do: The Board of County Commissioners is the general administrative body for County government. Commissioners have a myriad of responsibilities that include making decisions to make Sublette County a better place to live and work. Individual commissioners have no power to act independently. All formal and official actions taken by the Board of

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPARTMENTS continued from page 10

County Commissioners must be by majority or unanimous vote in a public meeting. Commissioners also appoint department heads of offices for which they have responsibility. They appoint members to a variety of volunteer boards and commissions. Additionally, individual commissioners serve on other boards that serve the interests of County citizens.

Budget Summary: Salaries for the five county commissioners total \$162,500, based on their annual salaries of \$32,500 each. The county administrator salary of \$95,000 is also allocated from this budget. The budget includes \$7,500 for meetings and mileage for commission attendance at meetings held throughout the year. The commission has allocated \$75,000 for specialized attorneys such as those handling oil and gas taxation disputes and natural resource litigation for the county. Consultant expenses are allocated about \$175,000. This amount covers costs associated with production of the State of the County report, as well as consultations with natural resource professionals who provide data or special expertise on various issues at the commission's direction. The county will receive reimbursement

Budget compared to last year: +19%

Reason for difference: The commission increased its budget for consultants by \$100,000 to update the county wildfire protection plan, but will receive an \$80,000 grant to cover most of the cost of the update. In addition, last year the commission underspent its budget by 15%.

Coroner

What We Do: The coroner is charged with pronouncing death and determining the time of death, identifying and removing the deceased, determining the need for autopsy, notifying the next-of-kin, and completing death certificates, as well as investigating deaths in a variety of circumstances.



\$56,550

Budget Summary: The bulk of Coroner Curt Covill's budget covers the coroner's salary as well as standby time for deputy coroners, for a total of \$34,900. Other major items include \$12,000 for autopsies, \$4,000 for supplies, \$2,000 each for county burials and vehicle expenses, and \$1,500 for training.

Budget compared to last year: Flat

Reason for difference: Although Coroner Covill underspent his budget by 15% last year, his budget remains unchanged.

District Court

What We Do: Clerk of District Court Janet K. Montgomery is responsible for maintaining and preserving the records of all cases filed with the Ninth Judicial District Court in Sublette

\$355,302

County. The clerk has many duties, which include the processing of cases and court-ordered payments as well as the administration of appeals and jury trials.

Budget Summary: Salaries for the court clerk, two deputies, and a part-time special project employee comprise the majority of this budget, at \$223,000. The



public defender program is allocated \$86,650; court-appointed attorneys are estimated at \$10,000, and jurors and witness fees are budgeted \$12,000, while the balance covers general operations of the district court clerk's office,

Budget compared to last year: -2%

Reason for difference: District Court Clerk Montgomery underspent her budget last year, and this year's budget realigns spending to closer to actual spending.

Treasurer

What We Do: The treasurer's office is responsible for vehicle registrations, sales and property tax collections, and maintaining the books for Sublette County's government.

Budget Summary: The majority of this budget (\$318,355) provides for the salaries for Treasurer Emily Paravicini and her deputies.



The balance covers routine office operational expenses (postage, telephone, office supplies and equipment).

Budget compared to last year: -6%

Reason for difference: This budget brings the department more closely in line with last year's actual expenditures.

The Cost of Government \$7.37 million

The general fund budget includes a variety of large spending accounts that are the necessary cost of government. The commission has allocated \$6.5 million to cover the cost of FICA insurance and retirement, \$100,000 for financial administration, and \$39,000 for an annual audit. Workmen's compensation and unemployment compensation are covered with an allocation totaling \$375,000. County officers expenses are budgeted at \$30,000, while printing and publications are allocated \$90,000. Postage is estimated at \$30,000, and telephone service is allocated \$210,000.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPARTMENTS continued from page 11

Sheriff \$7 million

Law Enforcement
Detention
Communications
Search & Rescue
Emergency Management

What We Do: The county sheriff's office provide for a broad range of services, from law enforcement patrols, operating the county jail and dispatch systems, and responding to emergencies, and backcountry search—and—rescue operations.

Budget Summary: Sublette County Sheriff K.C. Lehr oversees five departmental budgets totaling about \$7 million, with the majority of the spending allocated for personnel costs of about \$4.5 million.

Budget compared to last year: -8%

Reason for difference: Sheriff Lehr has reduced staffing levels in both the law enforcement and detention budgets, and has delayed replacing patrol vehicles.

Law Enforcement: Personnel costs of \$2.2 million comprise the majority of the \$3.3 million budget. The budget includes \$260,000 for purchase of three new patrol vehicles as part of the regular rotation for replacing older stock. Gas, oil, tires and vehicle maintenance total \$210,000. Patrol equipment (recorders, printers, etc.) is allocated \$45,000, as is investigation equipment, training, and ammunition. Criminal investigations is allocated \$48,000. Animal control is allocated \$35,000, while telephone and utilities are budgeted \$98,000.

Detention: The nearly \$2 million detention budget covers costs of operating the county jail. Personnel costs for a lieutenant, courtroom security officers and detention officers to-



tal about \$1.5 million. Other major costs include \$230,000 for prisoner board, \$120,000 for prisoner medical expenses, and \$50,000 for jail maintenance.

Communications: The \$905K communications budget covers all the costs of operating the county dispatch system. Personnel costs for the administrator and com-

munications officers total about \$560,000. Other major budget items include \$278,000 for licensing and contracts for maintaining the communications center, and \$31,500 for the E-911 system.

Search & Rescue: The S&R budget includes a \$500,000 seasonal helicopter contract that accounts for about two-thirds of this program's annual budget. The contract is primarily paid for through federal funds received by the county, and the presence of the helicopter has saved countless lives in Sublette County.

Although this department has one full-time staff position, S&R also provides training and equipment for use by Tip Top Search & Rescue volunteers. The county pays \$72,887 for the administrator's salary. Training is allocated \$64,000, while search operations are budgeted \$25,000. Equipment purchases totaling \$28,000 are budgeted for ATV, swiftwater, and high angle use. The remaining budget items cover office operations and maintenance of vehicles.

Emergency Management: Major expenditures in the \$108,437 Emergency Management budget include \$72,887 for the coordinator's salary, and \$5,000 for telephone services. Gas, oil, and vehicle maintenance costs are estimated at \$10,000, while utilities are allocated \$9,500. Emergency supplies are budgeted \$4,000, and training is allocated \$3,000.



Other Departments

Courthouse & Maintenance \$2.34 million

What We Do: This department provides maintenance and janitorial services for most county-owned buildings, as well as snowplowing and landscaping for county facilities.

Budget Summary: This year's budget includes \$1.23 million to pay salaries for the janitorial and maintenance staff supervised by department head Andre Irey.

Other major line items include \$200,000 for repairs and upgrades to county buildings, building insurance is allocated \$476,009, and maintenance and supplies are allocated \$75,000. Equipment and tools total \$10,000, utilities are allocated \$150,000, and janitorial supplies are budgeted \$27,000. Gas, oil, and vehicle maintenance are budgeted \$29,000.

The budget includes \$14,500 for improvements, utilities, and maintenance on the 4-H barn located outside of Pinedale; \$50,000 for maintaining buildings used by the Sublette County Rural Health Care District; and \$21,000 for small property items.

Budget compared to last year: -13%

Reason for difference: This budget brings the department in line with last year's actual expenditures.

Elections \$25,500

What We Do: The Sublette County Clerk serves as the county's chief elections officer, administering and maintaining records of elections.

Budget Summary: The elections budget covers the costs of ballots and publication of public notices, election equipment maintenance, and other costs associated with an election year.

Budget compared to last year: -52%

Reason for difference: The elections budget dropped by half from last year since this fiscal year ends prior to the next election cycle.

GIS \$45,600

What We Do: This department maintains the Geographic Information System/map server publicly available on the county website (www.sublettewyo.com).

Budget Summary: This budget covers the cost of the contract to maintain the GIS/map server.

Budget compared to last year: Flat

Reason for difference: This budget remains unchanged from last year.

Information Technology \$409,708

What We Do: The IT department provides for information technology (computer systems and related technology) throughout the county courthouse and sheriff's office.

Budget Summary: This budget covers \$185K in technology upgrades, equipment purchases, and other IT projects throughout county government. The IT administrator Mike Christie's

salary is budgeted at \$92,908 and contract services are anticipated at \$82,200. The remaining budget items are for training, software licensing renewals, and lesser amounts to operate the IT office located in the courthouse.

Budget compared to last year: -30%

Reason for difference: This budget brings the department more closely in line with last year's actual expenditures, while providing funding for training that was delayed last year due to the pandemic.

Health Officer & Sanitarian \$47,474

What We Do: Sanitarian Phil Vrska ensures compliance with food safety regulations, conducts swimming pool inspections, and responds to environmental and public health emergencies.

County Health Officer Dr. Brendan Fitzsimmons, an appointee of the Sublette County Commission, works under the direction and supervision of the Wyoming Department of Health, and investigates communicable diseases, prevents the spread of disease, and promotes the health of the county's citizenry. The health officer has been an important component to coronavirus response in Sublette County.

Budget Summary: This budget includes \$28,409 for the sanitarian salary (half-time), and \$15,600 for the health officer's salary. The remaining expenditures cover office, meeting, and travel expenses.

Budget compared to last year: Flat

Reason for difference: The combined budget for these two programs remains stable at just under \$48,000.

Public Health

\$623,363

What We Do: This budget covers the county's expenses associated with the public health office, which operates in a partnership with the Wyoming Department of Health. Public Health operates immunization clinics, provides teaching for diabetics and dietary needs, offers prenatal classes and hypertension clinics, and operates programs for car seats, bike helmets, HIV counseling and testing, operates a loan closet, and conducts nursing home placement assessments as well as children's health services.

Budget Summary: Major portions of this budget are funded through state and federal grants, and the cost of nursing staff are shared between the county and state. The budget includes \$160,000 in personnel costs, and \$170,000 for COVID-19 response and other public health emergency preparedness and response. Other major items include \$56,000 for vaccine purchases, \$120,000 for a prevention grant, \$70,000 in CARES spending, and \$15,000 for health fair costs. The budget includes \$12,500 for janitorial services, \$5,000 in mileage expenses, \$3,000 for educational training, and \$500 in advertising. The balance of the budget is for other smaller amounts associated

\$2,000

OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS continued from page 13

with operating the county public health office and program.

Budget compared to last year: +7%

Reason for difference: The budget increase is primarily due to increased expenditures associated with grant funding.

Surveyor

What We Do: The primary duties of the surveyor involve county roads (alignment, rights-of-way, surveying, mapping, legal documents, etc.), and boundary surveys of parcels county government intends to acquire or sell.

Budget Summary: The commission allocated \$2,000 for surveyor expenses as needed.

Budget compared to last year: -83%

Reason for difference: This budget has declined from \$12,000, to more closely align with actual spending. Last year, less than \$500 of this budget was spent.

Treatment Court \$197,615

What We Do: Treatment Court is a court-supervised treatment program providing an alternative to lengthy incarceration sentences or standard probation for repeat substance abuse-related offenses. The program involves a single judge working with a team of probation, treatment, defense, prosecution and law enforcement professionals to review cases and work with defendants to break the cycle of drug or alcohol abuse and criminal behavior. Defendants spend a minimum of twelve months in the program during which they appear regularly before the program team and must complete four program phas-

es emphasizing treatment, personal accountability, sobriety, community safety, pro-social activities, and giving back to the community.

Budget Summary: This budget includes about \$60,000 for the coordinator's salary. Major budget items include \$66,000 for mental health/treatment, \$60,000 for drug testing, \$1,500 for indigent services/recovery, and \$3,700 for team training and travel. The budget includes \$500 to cover the costs associated with a magistrate overseeing treatment court. The remaining budget categories include office operational expenses, and the costs for providing incentives and graduation for those involved in treatment court.

Budget compared to last year: -3%

Reason for difference: This budget brings the department more closely in line with last year's actual expenditures.

Planning & Zoning \$115,051

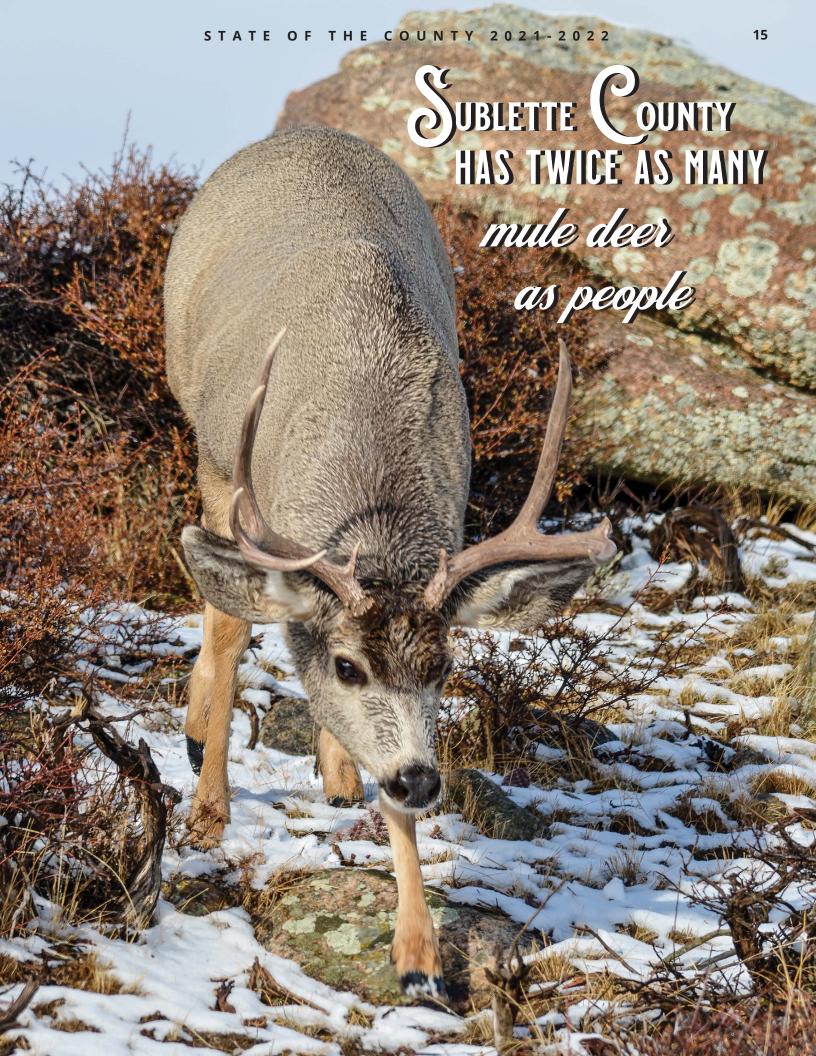
What We Do: The Planning and Zoning Department is responsible for overseeing all physical development in the unincorporated area of the county.

Budget Summary: The budget includes just over \$105,000 in salaries for staff, including County Planner Dennis Fornstrom and Zoning Administrator Alan Huston. The remaining budget balance covers a variety of lesser items associated with operating the office.

Budget compared to last year: -2%

Reason for difference: This budget brings the department more closely in line with last year's actual expenditures.





OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS continued from page 14

Road & Bridge

What We Do: Sublette County Road & Bridge is responsible for maintaining nearly 500 miles of roads in the county.

Budget Summary: Personnel costs of \$1.8 million make up the largest chunk of the operations budget administered by R&B Superintendent Billy Pape. Soil stabilizer (mag water) is allocated



\$750,000. Gas, oil, parts, repairs, and tires are budgeted a combined \$1.7 million. Material costs (culverts, cattle guards, etc.) are estimated at \$480,000, crusher costs are budgeted \$180,000, and gravel purchase is estimated at \$100,000. Miscellaneous projects and engineering is budgeted \$295,000. Utilities, telephone and radio maintenance are estimated at about \$150,000.

Budget compared to last year: -11%

Reason for difference: The primary reason for the decline is a reduction in heavy equipment purchases from last year's budget.

Waste Management \$1.76 million

Landfill									\$	1,049,309	9
Transfer Station	١									. \$616,40	7
Recycling										. \$95,915	5

What We Do: This department under the supervision of R&B Superintendent Billy Pape is responsible for the sanitary landfill near Marbleton, the trash transfer station outside of Pinedale, and the county recycling program. The landfill is a state-permitted solid waste landfill/balefill facility. The solid waste collected at the transfer station is contracted out and transported to the landfill in Marbleton and baled.

Budget Summary: The general waste management/landfill budget includes these major spending categories: \$300,000 in personnel costs, and \$150,000 for engineering fees. Baler operations are budgeted \$100,000, while water monitoring is estimated at \$40,000, and environmental bags for the refuse bales

are allocated \$37,000. Gas, oil, repairs, and tire costs are estimated at \$184,000. Utilities for the balefill facility are estimated at \$60,500, and the cost to haul tires (including large equipment tires) is estimated at \$70,000.

The major expense for the transfer station operations is the contract to transport refuse from the station to the landfill near Marbleton, at \$454,000.

The recycling program budget is up slightly because to pay for needed repairs totaling \$20,000.

Budget compared to last year: -14%

Reason for difference: The overall waste management budget has been reduced to more accurately reflect actual spending, and heavy equipment purchased declined by nearly \$500,000. Even though the contract for hauling refuse from the transfer station to the landfill increased by 15%, and the budget for recycling was increased by about \$10,000, the overall department total is down 14% from last year's budget.

Misc projects

In separate line items in the county general fund, the commission budgeted \$1.15 million for a chip seal project on county roads, and \$300,000 for erosion control on Calpet Road. Noting that these projects involve repairs to existing infrastructure, County Clerk and Budget Officer Carrie Long said it is appropriate that they be funded through the general fund rather than through capital improvement accounts since these accounts should refer only to new acquisitions or for improvements to current assets.

The general fund budget also includes \$378,960 for completion of the Sublette Interoperable Radio System. This radio system, designed specifically for Sublette County, connects more than 500 users and first responders working in and around the county.

The budget also includes \$25,000 for installation of a lift kit on Sublette County Rural Health Care District ambulance, to be funded from the proceeds received from the county selling an ambulance previously used to service natural gas fields.



Designated Mill Funding

ost county departments and services are funded under a general fund allocation set by the Sublette County Commission, but certain county services have a direct mill levy allocation that is provided at a level set at the discretion of the county commission. These following program areas all receive a portion of a mill: Fair, Airports, Library, Museum, Recreation, and Fire.

The total budget amounts for each of these budgets includes cash carry-over from the previous budget year, as well as the mill levy allocation from the current year.

Overall appropriations for these program areas total about \$14 million, but that total includes \$9 million retained for Sublette County Unified Fire, and only about \$4.4 million of the \$14 million overall total is from this year's tax levy.

Although the fire budget is managed by the commission-appointed fire warden, other mill-levy budgets are supervised by boards appointed by the county commissioners. The boards submit their budgets to the commission for consideration and approval.

Additional items paid from these mill levy allocations are also supervised by the commission itself. For example, the fair levy funds the county fair that is supervised by the fair board, but maintenance of the fairgrounds is also funded through this levy, and the commission supervises this part of the program. Similarly, the recreation levy funds both the recreation board as well as operations of the county ice arena.

Fair \$1 million

The fair mill levy allocation provides funding for the county fair as well as the overall fairgrounds operations in separate budgets.

The **fair board** budget totals \$442,000, including the following:

2021 Fair:.....\$207,000

2022 Fair:	\$180,500
Administrative:	. \$54,500
Reserve:	\$25,000

The fair budget is supervised by Fair Manager Kailey Barlow, with supervision by the Sublette County Fair Board.

The **fairgrounds** budget is \$557,748 and includes about \$226,000 in personnel costs for Manager Jay Brower and his staff. Brower reports directly to the county commission. This budget is similar to last year's budget. Major line items in the fairgrounds budget include \$130,000 in utility and telephone costs; \$66,000 for projects, \$25,000 for repairs; \$27,500 in equipment; and \$30,000 for building maintenance. The budget also includes \$10,000 for landscaping, \$14,500 for training and travel, and \$12,000 for gas and oil.

Airport \$172,213

Both airports near Marbleton and Pinedale benefit from county mill levy funding. The Big Piney–Marbleton airport will receive \$86,000 for general operations and maintenance, and the Town of Pinedale's airport will receive the same amount.

This year's \$86K each allocation is a substantial reduction from last year's \$121,000 allocation. The commission would like to see the Joint Big Piney-Marbleton Airport Board work to develop a business plan for future operations of this first-class facility.

The county's contribution to the Pinedale airport is limited to match funding for improvement projects, and not for general operations. The county currently holds about \$724,000 in capital reserves for the Pinedale facility.

Library \$642,588

It takes about \$1.5 million to operate the Sublette County Library system for a year, but with cash carryover and other reve-



DESIGNATED MILL FUNDING continued from page 16

nues, the tax levy requirement for this year is less than \$650,000 for operating the Big Piney and Pinedale facilities.

The importance of the county library system remains evident, with circulation down only 13 percent last year despite COVID–related restrictions, and many programs moved online during those restrictions. Both libraries continue to offer service to quarantined residents, as well as no–contact curbside pickup as needed, in addition to regular library programming and events. Over half of Sublette County residents have library cards issued by their county library system, and the Big Piney library serves about 150 people a day, while the Pinedale Library serves 400 people per day.

"We're serving the community well," said Library Director Sukey Hohl, with circulation higher in Fiscal Year 2021 than in Fiscal Year 2019.

The Big Piney Library is temporarily operating from the Big Piney Rec Center while major renovations are undertaken at its usual location. The commission voted unanimously to support the renovation project.

Museum \$301,616

Historic preservation in Sublette County is funded with an allocation totaling just over \$300,000.

The Sublette County Museum Board will supervise a budget of \$297,577, with \$192,500 going to the Sublette County Historical Society for operating the Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale, as well as the Sommers Homestead Living History Museum and three historic sites. The MMM says its budget is operating at a below bare bones level, with only two full-time employees supplemented by part-time workers and volunteers to operate the facility that attracts more than 8,000 out-of-area visitors per year.

The Green River Valley Museum in Big Piney will receive \$99,097 to help fund that facility's operations. The GRVM was unable to do its regular programs last year because of the pandemic, but recently received the good news that a historic building across the street from the museum was donated to the GRVM board. That historic property is now being assessed for restoration efforts and will incorporated into the museum's public exhibition opportunities in the future.

The Sublette County Museum Board will receive \$5,980 for its own operations as well as educational programs.

In a separate allocation, the county also provides \$15,250 for the county's historic preservation board. Major projects this year include preservation of two fire lookouts in the Wyoming Range, an assessment of a historic cattle dipping vat in Bondurant, and sponsorship of projects that survey and promote local history.

Recreation \$725,351

The recreation mill levy funds both the Sublette County Recreation Board and the Ice Arena in Pinedale.

The majority of Rec Board's budget consists of annual commitments of more than \$208,000. The rec board budget has undergone a steady decline as the board has allocated a majority of its funding to ongoing annual financial commitments (lighting for ball fields, grooming Nordic trails, golf course equipment leases, maintenance of Shelter Park, and providing electricity for rural television), while limiting new recreational program commitments to less than \$184,000. This year's major projects include \$60,000 to transfer ownership of the Big Piney ballfields to the Town of Marbleton, \$25,500 for equipment needs for the golf course, \$27,000 in rink maintenance for Vipers Hockey, \$23,000 for programming by the Pinedale Fine Arts Council, \$16,000 for equipment for the Pinedale Aquatic Center, and \$8,800 for a portable shed for the MESA therapeutic riding group. The budget also includes lesser amounts to support a variety of recreational programs in the county.

The \$333,300 ice arena budget includes about \$200,000 in personnel costs. Other major items in the ice arena budget include \$65,000 for utilities, \$15,000 for building maintenance, and \$39,000 for equipment maintenance.

Unified Fire \$1.5 M

Sublette County Unified Fire is a volunteer department of six fire stations located throughout the county (Pinedale, Big Piney/Marbleton, Bondurant, Boulder, Daniel, and Kendall Valley), and managed under the supervision of Fire Warden Shad Cooper. Cooper oversees a \$1.5 million budget, which includes about \$473,000 in person-



nel costs for firefighters, clerical, instructors, and other salaries. Major budget items include \$340,000 for purchase of a new fire apparatus (fire engine), and \$225,000 for maintenance of the department's facilities, equipment, and apparatuses. Equipment and supplies are budgeted \$155,000, and other line items cover assorted costs associated with operations of the county fire department. Physical exams are budgeted \$50,000, and training is allocated \$45,000, while insurance costs are estimated at \$70,000.

The budget includes \$60,000 for wildland fire suppression. This allocation covers the cost of having fire equipment from neighboring counties on standby in years when fire activity is high and local resources are already engaged.

In addition to the \$1.5 million fire operations budget, the county holds over \$7 million in a fire reserve fund for replacement of fire trucks and other equipment, fire hall improvements or replacements, and to cover costs associated with firefighting on private land in the county.

Support for Human Service Programs __\$1.4M

About these programs: The Sublette County Commission uses the general fund budget to provide support to a variety of organizations that provide needed services for a diversity of human service programs, including those involving children, senior citizens, and other segments of our citizenry. Support is either provided through direct allocation of funding, or with the county serving as the pass-through agent for grant funding from state programs.

Senior Citizens	\$746,800
Children	\$404,325
Other	\$280,512
Grand total:	\$1,431,637

Compared to last year's budget: -6%

Reason for difference: The Sublette Center's budget request declined this year, as did requests from several of the programs supporting childcare.

Senior Citizens:

Sublette Center	21,800
SW SC Pioneers\$17	71,000
Rendezvous Pointe\$15	4,000

The **Sublette Center** retirement community will receive \$421,800 in general support for this retirement community that provides both skilled nursing care and independent living for seniors.

Southwest Sublette County Pioneers in Marbleton serves nearly 250 senior citizens annually and will receive \$171,000 in county funding to continue its meals program along with a wide range of activities and services.

Rendezvous Pointe in Pinedale will receive \$154,000 for senior center operations, which includes serving meals and a variety of health and wellness programs and other services for senior citizens. The home services program helps to keep seniors and disabled adults healthy, active, self-reliant, and able to live in their own homes or independently as long as possible, and is the only such service in the county, providing in-home services such as home-making, chore services, personal care, and respite.

Children:

Children's Learning Center \$135,000
Children's Discovery Center \$52,000
Pinedale Preschool \$40,000
Scholarships
Van Vleck House
Ready For Workforce\$325

The **Children's Learning Center** is the only early childhood program serving the entire county, and providing early special education through the Wyoming Department of Education and early intervention for children from birth to the age of two by the

Wyoming Department of Health.

Children's Discovery Center in Pinedale is an early education facility operating five days per week and serving children ages two to 10 years old. It's thinly non-profit preschool in the county that operates year-round for children as young the age of two.

Pinedale Preschool will receive support from the county for its preschool program. This preschool also offers scholarships to families in need, in addition to providing other financial assistance programs to the families it serves – programs that are in higher demand with the downturn in the economy.

Older children will receive a boost from the county as well, with \$132,000 set aside for **scholarships** for Sublette County students to attend an institution of higher learning.

The **Van Vleck House**, operated by Teton Youth & Family Services, will receive \$45,000 to provide prevention, early intervention, and treatment to Sublette County youth aged 10 to 18 in its group home, crisis shelter, and secure facilities. Located in Jackson, this program serves youth from Sublette, Teton and Lincoln counties.

The **Ready For Workforce** allocation of \$325 is the county's support for this Sublette Board of Cooperative Educational Services program to provide work experience to students.

Other Human Services:

Veteran's Services										. \$78,5	150
SAFV										. \$71,5	62
Title 25										\$130,0	00

The **Tri-County Veteran's Services** program is a joint effort with Lincoln and Sweetwater counties to help connect veterans with state and federal benefits – ranging from home loans and educational benefits to health care and disability compensation

The Sublette County Sexual Assault/Family Violence Task Force (SAFV) will receive a total of \$22,812 in a direct allocation and \$48,750 as pass-through state funding. The program provides assistance, safety intervention, and prevention education through its 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter and financial assistance, among its other services. The county also provides the buildings for SAFV offices and shelters. A portion of the grant administered by SAFV provides support to women and families who experience an unplanned pregnancy, or who are parenting young children, as well as support for a program to provide personal care and homemaking services for homebound citizens.

Title 25 funding provides for emergency and involuntary hospitalizations of persons suffering from mental illness.

Natural Resource Management ____\$819,483

About these programs: Sublette County's abundant natural resources and vast public lands require special attention from county government, which addresses issues through a variety of programs.

Conservation District	\$625,327
Roosevelt Fire Recovery	. \$4,000
Extension Service	\$105,156
Predator Management	\$50,000
Coalition of Governments	\$35,000
Grand total	\$819,483

Compared to last year's budget: -40%

Reason for difference: This decrease in the budget is due to the majority of expenditures for Roosevelt Fire recovery concluding in the last budget year.

The Sublette County Conservation District will receive \$625,327 for its continued operations, which is the same amount of support the district received the last few years. The district monitors changes in water quality, works to improve watershed conditions through water development projects, is an active participant in federal and state land use planning, and offers a variety of programs to benefit natural resources in the county, from sponsoring seedling tree sales to rangeland monitoring. Members of the district's board of supervisors are elected from rural and urban areas of the county. In a separate allocation, the county budget also includes \$35,000 to com-

plete the remodel of the conservation district building.

The devastation caused by the 61,500–acre Roosevelt Wildfire in the fall of 2018 included the loss of 55 homes in the Hoback Ranches subdivision and damage to the area's basic infrastructure. The county serves as the fiscal sponsor for a federal Homeland Security grant to help pay for installation of culverts and other infrastructure to mitigate impacts of the wildfire.

Homeland Security provided a grant of \$425,00, and the county provided the balance of the allocation.

The county provides about \$105,000 in funding to the University of Wyoming's County Extension Service programs for 4–H youth development, economics, and information and research related to agriculture and natural resources.

The Sublette County Predator Management District is budgeted to receive up to \$50,000 (the same amount the district received last year) for predator control. Most control efforts involve coyotes, in addition to control of ravens and depredating wolves. This board consists of three elected sheep representatives, three elected cattle representatives, and one member appointed by the county commission.

The Sublette County Commission serves as a member of the Coalition of Governments in southwestern Wyoming, and provides \$35,000 in funding. This coalition of county governments works together to deal with federal land management issues and resource planning projects.

Special Programs Support

Centennial Committee	\$89,091
Visitor Center	\$28,422
Translator Grant	\$28,800

The Sublette County Commission has appointed a **Centennial Committee** to plan celebrations for the county's 100-year birthday in 2022. The Unorganized County of Sublette was formed by the Wyoming legislature on Feb 15, 1921, and approved by the residents on June 28, 1921. The first commissioners were elected on November 7, 1922, and elected officers were sworn in on January 2nd, 1923, formally becoming Sublette County.

The commission provides \$28,422 to the Sublette County Chamber of Commerce for operations of the **Visitor Center** in Pinedale. This is the same amount the county provided each of the last several years to support the center's operations.

The \$28,800 **translator grant** is carryover from previous budgets and is used for rural television operations in the county.







WYOMING

About the Sublette County Commission

Regular Meetings

Commission meetings are generally held the first and third Tuesdays of the month, with some variation. Commission meetings are open to the public and begin at 9 a.m. Although the meetings are customarily held in the commission meeting room of the county courthouse in Pinedale, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the commission sometimes holds its meetings in the Lovatt Community Room of the Sublette County Library in Pinedale.

To schedule an appointment to appear on the commission's meeting agenda, please contact Sublette County Clerk Carrie Long at (307) 367–4372.

get hearing and formal adoption the third week in July. County commissioners work with all other county elected officials to assure that all offices of county government are properly funded to perform statutory duties.

Commissioners

Sublette County has a five-person county commission, elected for four-year terms. The commissioners pictured below were members of the commission that developed the Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

Budget Process

The county's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30 of each year. Each summer the commissioners set the budget for the coming fiscal year. Funding requests are submitted in May, and the commission holds a series of work sessions through June for the budget discussion and consideration, followed by a bud-

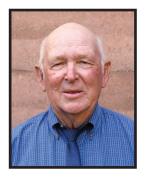
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