



State ^{of the} County

Your Tax Dollars at Work

A Guide to the Sublette County Budget



Fast Facts

Land Area

Total Square Miles 4,935
Private Land 19.5%
Federal Land 76.7%
State Land 3.8%
Population per sq mile 1.8

Households

Average Household . . . 2.4 people
• 4th in nation for percent of households that are married couples (49% vs 46% national average)

Housing

Occupied housing units 70%
Vacant housing units 30%
Vacant units as secondary home 60%
The percent of vacant homes in Sublette County that are used for seasonal, recreational or occasional use is 60%, much higher than the statewide average of 36%, and nearly double the national average. Only Teton County has a higher percentage of vacant units used as second homes (81%).

Workforce

Residents who commute out for work 971
Workers who travel into Sublette County for work 1,331

Schools

Number of Districts 2
Number of Schools 9
Total Enrollment, Fall '23 . . . 1,530

POPULATION

Big Piney: 389
Marbleton: 849
Pinedale: 1,997
Unincorporated areas: 5,528
Total Population 8,763

DEMOGRAPHICS

Males: 51%
Females: 49%
Median Age: 41.5 years
Under 18: 24% 18 – 44: 30%
45 – 64: 25% 65+: 19%



TOP 10 TAXPAYERS IN SUBLETTE COUNTY

Rank	Company	Assessed Value
1	Ultra Resources Inc.	\$973,855,483
2	Jonah Energy LLC	\$678,081,140
3	Exxon Mobil Corp	\$306,368,162
4	Pinedale Energy Partners Operating LLC	\$66,022,734
5	Jonah Gas Gathering Company	\$60,756,673
6	Wexpro Company	\$47,499,476
7	EOG Resources Inc	\$29,184,297
8	ExxonMobil Oil Corporation	\$27,861,610
9	Exaro Energy III, LLC	\$23,212,215
10	Huntington Energy LLC	\$16,662,447

Taxation

- Wyoming is one of nine states that do not have a state income tax.
- Wyoming gathers revenue through a variety of taxes, including sales and use tax, property taxes, severance taxes, mineral royalties.
- Vehicle registrations provide a source of income for both the state and county. The state keeps a flat fee, while the county portion is pro-rated according to the age and factory cost of the vehicle when it was new.
- Sublette County drives mostly trucks (7,200 registered) and has about as many trailers registered. Passenger vehicle registrations number about 5,390.

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ABOUT THE SUBLETTE COUNTY COMMISSION

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Budget Message from the Commission: _____

Boosting Support for Human Services, While Setting a Record for Reserves

The combination of near-record highs both for natural gas prices and production in 2022 resulted in Wyoming’s assessed valuation rising to its highest level, generating a significant increase in Sublette County’s revenue stream as the Board of Commissioners began the budget consideration process.

Commission Vice Chairman Tom Noble said he was pleased that the commission was able to rebuild the county’s reserve accounts after making substantial allocations toward the county’s new hospital facility and investing in major road work.

Providing a boost to childcare services in Sublette County

proved to be one of the top priorities for the five-man commission. The commission has struggled with the disparity in funding levels provided to three preschools in the county. This year, for the first time, the three preschools came to the commission with similar funding requests of about \$170,000 each. Each facility proposed to use the funding to compliment and support their unique needs.

Commissioner Dave Stephens said, “I fully support providing a boost to these programs.”

“I’m going to support the asks here also,” said Commissioner Doug Vickrey, adding that in his view, it’s important for the county to support programs that serve the county’s youth as well as programs to support our senior citizens. “While next year might be a whole different deal, we’ve got an opportunity to make a big impact now.”

The commission bumped up county support across human service programs, from the county’s youth to senior citizens. In addition, the commission increased its commitment to \$25 million for a long-term care facility to be constructed along with the Sublette County Hospital District’s hospital project.

Shifting Staff & Focus

Making county government work more smoothly and effectively for its citizens was another priority for the commission as it worked through the budget.

The commission had created a full-time staff position of County Administrator late in 2019, but recently made changes to the position after Matt Gaffney’s retirement. Earlier this year, the commission shifted all human resource responsibilities to a new Human Resources Director, hiring Andrea Jean from the Sublette County Clerk’s office to fill the position.

Jean is charged with administering human resource plans and procedures for all county personnel, assists in the development and implementation of personnel policies and procedures, and

2024 Budget by the Numbers:

The Fiscal Year 2024 budget covers county income and expenditures from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The budget is based on a taxation rate of 12 mills of the county’s assessed value of \$3.9 billion. The county’s total assessed value increased \$1.4 billion from the year prior, generating more than \$12 million more in tax money for this budget above the year prior.

Most county departments and services are funded through a general fund allocation as determined by the Sublette County Commission, but certain program areas (fair, airports, library, museums, and recreation) have a direct mill levy allocation that is set at the discretion of the commission.

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/Departments	\$69.9 million
Capital Improvements	\$12.3 million
Reserves	\$179.9 million
Fair, Airport, Library, Museum, Recreation . . .	\$5.2 million
Total Requirement	\$267,328,772

BUDGET MESSAGE *continued from page 4*

ensures compliance with federal, state and local employment laws and regulations, as well as maintains employee personnel files and benefit programs.

Soon after filling the HR position, the commission selected Jeness Saxton as the new County Administrator, also hiring her from within the County Clerk's staff. In her new position, Saxton works at the direction of the commission to implement its policies and goals. She serves as a liaison with all federal agencies and is set to facilitate long-range strategic planning efforts.

With changing public lands policies impacting Sublette County, the commission is working to strengthen its partnership with federal land managers and is joining with other western counties to further that mission. The budget includes support for Saxton to represent the county on the National Association of Counties (NACo) Western Interstate Region's Public Lands Steering Committee, as well as support for staff from the Treasurer's office to attend NACo training.

"We are trying to build a team," said Vice Chairman Noble, so the county can be more effective when it comes to public lands issues.

Streamlining Government

When the commission sat down for budget discussions, it did so with a full house as department heads throughout county government attended to discuss adjustments to pay schedules. County Human Resources Director Andrea Jean explained that the county had 19 different pay schedules and proposed a set of more comprehensive schedules, reducing their number to just eight, and gaining support of all the county's department heads in the process. The commission approved the schedules which are structured to provide basic salary steps for administrative staff, janitorial staff, laborers, and department heads, with separate schedules for sheriff's office personnel who work in detention, patrol, dispatch and emergency services.

Condensing the pay schedules was the result of the commission's earlier decision to eliminate the automatic annual step increases in salaries in favor of a completely merit-based system for raises for the county's 180 employees.

Commissioner Mack Bradley commended Jean for her efforts at reforming salaries, and Chairman Sam White encouraged Jean to develop job descriptions for each schedule, along with a roadmap for staff to get from one schedule to another, such as from janitor to laborer, etc.

Toward that goal, the commission set aside \$50,000 into a professional development line item in the new budget. This will allow the county to track increased training and development undertaken by county employees, which will be reflected in their personnel files and provided as a synopsis to the commission annually. The commission will work with Jean to develop guidelines for use of this new resource for professional development of county staff.

Budget Comparison:

FY 2023–2024 Budget:

Grand total budget is \$267 million
Reserves of \$179 million
Operating budget of \$69 million
Capital improvements total
\$12.6 million

Compared to last year:

Up \$38 million
Up \$31 million
Up \$7.6 million

Down \$2.7 million

* This operating budget includes \$25.4 million moved from reserves into a spending account to build a new long-term care facility as part of the hospital district replacing the Sublette Center.

"This is an investment in our work force," said Chairman White.

Options

A recurring theme in this year's budget discussion was the need for the commission to work from a slate of options when it comes to spending proposals. Under the guidance of Chairman White, the commission quickly made a routine of requesting those seeking funding to offer up more than one option for the commission to consider. That played out from requests for vehicle purchases to special projects, and to future options for waste management in the county. While the commission allocated funding to cover the costs of projects it may choose to move forward, the commission also retained the ability to choose between the options offered as the projects move to fruition.

Commissioner Mack Bradley said requiring options encourages project proponents to examine their needs while serving to help protect the county from inflated costs.

"We want to make sure we're all doing what's best for the taxpayers of the county," explained Chairman White, congratulating his fellow commissioners on what he viewed as "great discussions and a great job" in creating a budget that addressed the current needs of the county, while increasing the county's reserves to \$179 million.

Reserve Accounts

\$158 million

In a tradition lasting nearly two decades, each elected board of Sublette County Commissioners has worked to build and retain reserve accounts for the county’s future needs by placing money into reserve accounts. These reserves, now totaling nearly \$180 million, are split into three categories (cash, equipment, and depreciation), and the money is held in interest-earning accounts, generating additional revenue.

Reserve accounts are earmarked for specific purposes, covering both operations and capital construction needs. The commission may alter the amounts allocated to any particular line item during the annual budget process, but before any money is spent from reserve accounts it is shifted from reserves into 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.

Maintaining Infrastructure

The general fund budget includes separate line items for repairs or maintenance to existing infrastructure. The commission budgeted \$2.46 million for chip seal work on county roads and \$100,000 for erosion control on Calpet Road. The county also allocated \$80,000 to address a seep in the Orcutt Hill above Pinedale, which is the county’s portion of a match for a state grant.

Another allocation sets aside \$250,000 for maintenance of the 911 communications line and 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.

Depreciation Reserve: \$126.1 million. Money is earmarked to address future needs in specific program areas as follows:

Law Enforcement Complex	\$31 million
Building projects, equipment & maintenance	\$19 million
Budget Reserve	\$12.8 million
Ag & Fair (operations and capital)	\$12 million
Landfill (remediation, closure, reserve).	\$12 million
Senior Centers (operations and capital)	\$10.75 million
Library (operations and capital)	\$9 million
Recreation (operations and capital).	\$8.4 million
Fire Depreciation.	\$7.89 million
Courthouse & maintenance.	\$6 million
Fire Halls.	\$4.6 million
Museums	\$4.5 million
Human services	\$4.2 million
Airports.	\$4 million
Communications & IT.	\$4 million
Tax Refunds	\$2.8 million
Resource monitoring	\$2.4 million
Emergency Revolving Loan	\$1 million
County Road & Bridge Projects	\$964,211
State/County road fund	\$263,690
Elections	\$100,000

New Budget Categories:

Hospital Commitment:	\$25,400,000
Professional Development:	\$50,000
Human Resources:	\$85,150
NACO Western Interstate:	\$38,726

The commission has allocated \$25 million for the Sublette County Hospital District to construct a new long-term care facility to replace the Sublette Center. Of this amount, \$20 million is a budget carryover from last year, with \$5.4 million in new funding.

A \$50K allocation for professional development will be used by county staff for training, under guidelines approved by the commission.

The commission created a Human Resources Department with Andrea Jean as its sole staff member and a budget of \$85K.

The commission allocated nearly \$39K for Sublette County’s involvement in the National Center of Public Lands Counties (an offshoot of the Western Interstate Region of the National Association of Counties) to promote public policy issues affecting the West and to showcase how working with local governments can lead to prosperous public lands counties.

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. Under state law, the County Assessor is charged with establishing the taxable value for most properties in the county and to apply the appropriate tax rate to determine the amount of taxes due.

The Sublette County Commission has set the tax rate at the full 12 mills allowed by law. A mill is \$1 of revenue for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

With minerals accounting for nearly 94 percent of Sublette County's valuation, the commission's support for the 12-mill tax rate allows the county to capture this revenue stream while these natural resources are being extracted. 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. Market value is the amount a property could reasonably be expected to sell for, and is the amount used when calculating the level of assessment for taxation. The assessment rate is 9.5% for agricultural, commercial, and residential properties, and 11.5% for industrial properties. These percentages are set by the Wyoming Legislature.

For residential homes and properties, the County Assessor determines the fair market value and calculates 9.5 percent of that value to determine the taxable or assessed value. The tax-

Sublette County Tax Rate

12 mills

A mill is \$1 of revenue for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

able value is then multiplied by the appropriate mill levy.

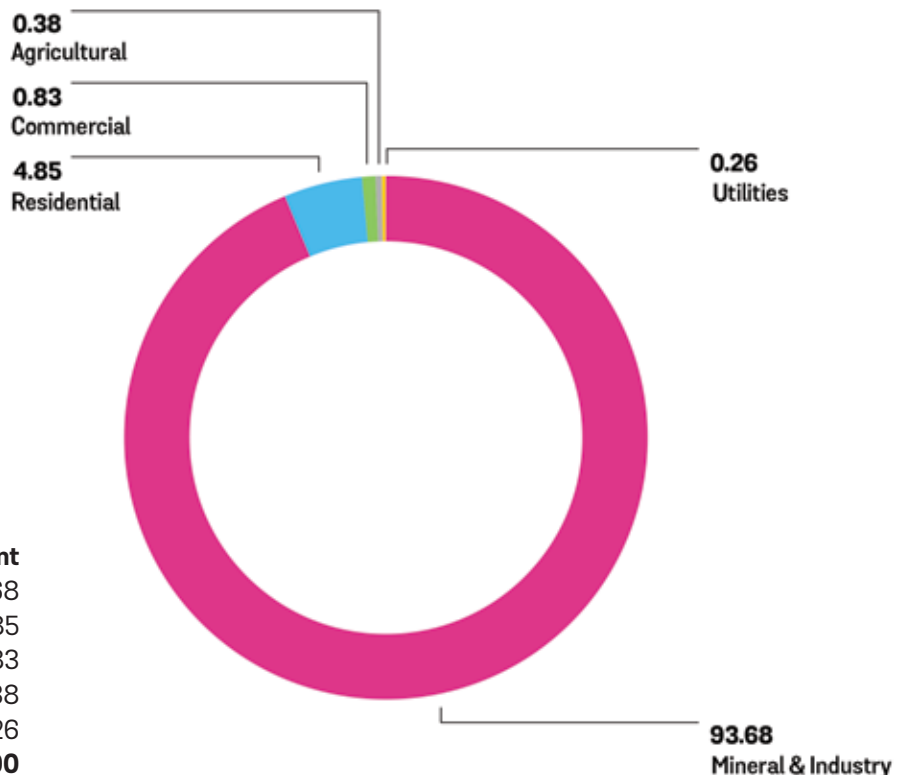
For example, a home with a fair market value of \$200,000 would have a taxable value of \$19,000 (based on the 9.5 percent residential assessment rate). An assessment of 64 mills on this home (the average mill levy in Sublette County) would result in a tax of \$1,216.

Although Sublette County taxes 12 mills for county government, your property tax notice includes tax rates ranging from 60 to 68 mills, depending upon where your property is located. A variety of special tax districts in the county impose additional taxation upon property owners in those districts. These special tax districts range from hospital and 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 public educational system. The tax is collected here at the local level, but the revenue is remitted to the state for redistribution.

Valuation by Property Type Tax Year 2023

Property Class	Assessed Value	Percent
Mineral & Industry	\$3,674,039,264	93.68
Residential	\$190,201,331	4.85
Commercial	\$32,494,999	0.83
Agricultural	\$14,841,570	0.38
Utilities	\$10,147,800	0.26
Total	\$3,921,724,964	100.00



Understanding Revenues

The revenue generated by the county’s 12-mill property tax provides much of the funding for county government services, but the budget also includes nearly \$12.3 million in revenue from a variety of other sources (federal, state, and local).

Federal Revenues

Three federal programs distribute revenue to Wyoming counties, bringing more than \$2.8 million to Sublette County this fiscal year.

Secure Rural Schools: For more than 100 years, 25% of the revenue generated by mineral leases, timber sales and grazing fees paid to the U.S. Forest Service go to this fund that is distributed to counties where national forest lands are located. Sublette County is expected to receive \$200,000 in SRS revenue.

Payment In Lieu of Taxes: Sublette County will receive \$675,000 in PILT payments. Congress established this program nearly 50 years ago to help offset losses in property taxes due to the existence of nontaxable federal lands within county boundaries.

American Rescue Plan Act: In 2021, Congress authorized direct funding to public land counties through the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund. Payment formulas are based on the amount of federal acreage within the county, as well as population levels and economic conditions. Sublette County is set to receive \$1.9 million in this grant funding.

State Revenues

Several sources of state-shared revenue are provided to counties, including severance taxes, sales and use taxes, fuel taxes, and others.

Sublette County’s sales tax rate is four percent, the lowest allowable under statute. Sublette County will receive \$3 million in sales and use taxes this year.

Sublette County anticipates receiving \$950,000 from the diesel fuel tax, and \$500,000 from the gas tax.

Other Revenue

\$12.3 million

The county budget includes nearly \$12.3 million from federal, state and local revenues from taxes, grants, interest, and fees.

The County Road Construction and Maintenance Fund is designed to help counties with road construction and maintenance needs and is funded by the state through gasoline and severance taxes, using a formula for distribution. Sublette County is expected to receive \$450,000 in revenues from the program this fiscal year, in addition to \$150,000 in interest revenue for its county road construction fund.

Mineral severance tax distributions are made to local governments, as well as various state programs. The Sublette County budget includes \$175,000 in severance tax revenues.

Sublette County expects to receive \$4,750 in cigarette tax revenue in this budget year, and \$25,000 from the state lottery program.

The Wyoming Legislature approved a program for direct distribution of funding to local governments, of which Sublette County will receive \$100,000.

Cost-Sharing & Grants

The Public Health Office will bring in more than \$373,000 in revenue to the county coffers, through a combination of cost-sharing programs, fees for services, and grants. The county will receive about \$33,000 for Victim Witness Services, in addition to \$30,000 for emergency management efforts and \$115,000 in support for the County Attorney’s office from the State of Wyoming.

Local Revenues

The Sublette County budget includes a variety of local revenue sources – from fees paid to county departments, to \$2 million interest on invested funds.

Motor vehicle licensing will generate \$500,000; and revenues earned for recycling, combined with fees paid at the transfer station and landfill and interest on the landfill reserve account, will result in \$543,000 in revenue.

Liquor license fees will generate about \$10,000; \$10,000 from traffic school; and the county will receive \$11,000 for providing law-enforcement services in schools.

The budget includes \$50,000 the County Treasurer retains for collection of sales and use taxes, and \$10,000 in sales tax penalties. Rental and lease payments will generate more than \$95,000. A handful of other miscellaneous revenue streams are expected to generate an additional \$90,000.

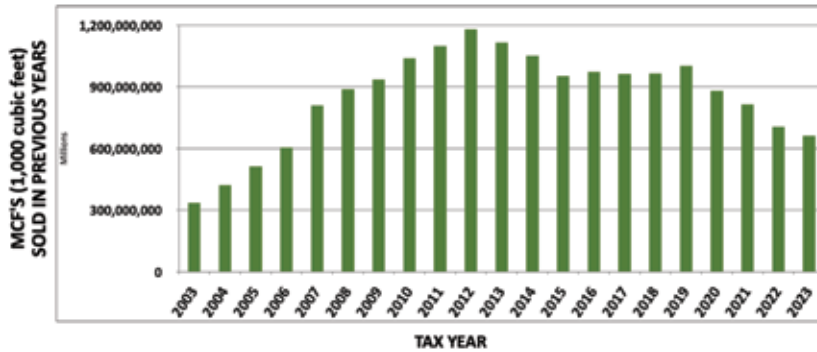
Revenues from fees paid to county departments include:

County Clerk	\$205,000
Fairgrounds	\$40,000
District Court	\$33,145
Planning & Zoning	\$21,000
Ice Arena	\$40,000
Sheriff	\$15,500

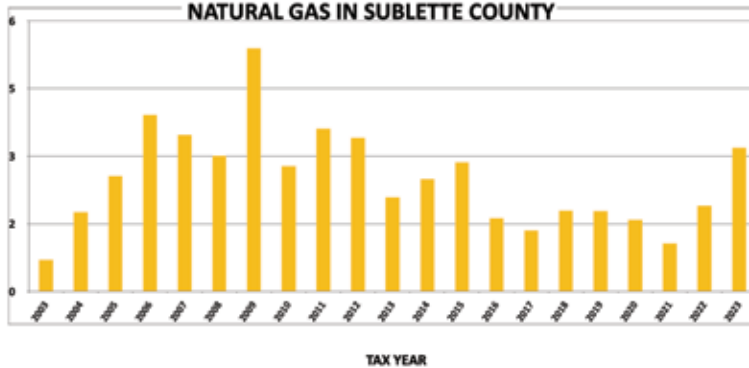
Natural Gas & Oil Production & Valuation

These charts show oil and gas productivity and assessed valuation in Sublette County for each year since 2003.

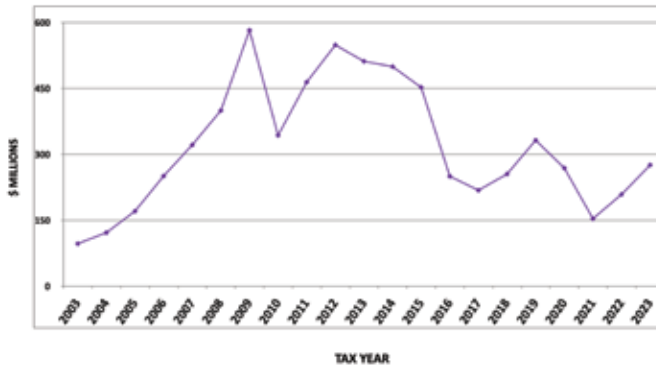
TOTAL NATURAL GAS UNITS SOLD IN SUBLETTE COUNTY



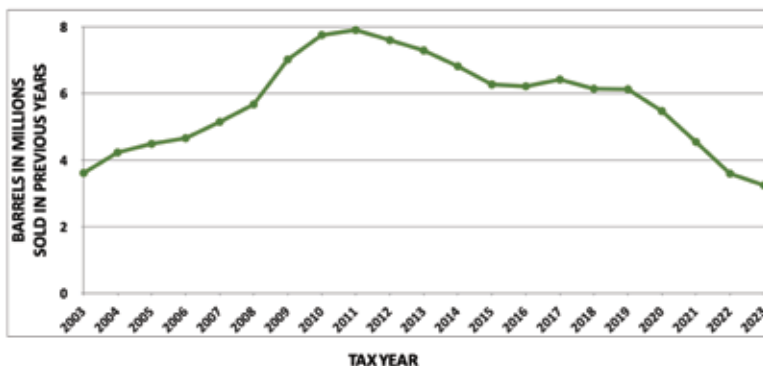
TOTAL ASSESSED VALUATION OF NATURAL GAS IN SUBLETTE COUNTY



TOTAL ASSESSED VALUATION OF OIL IN SUBLETTE COUNTY



TOTAL OIL UNITS SOLD IN SUBLETTE COUNTY



Graphs courtesy of the Sublette County Assessor.

Elected Officials & Their Departments

Assessor

\$539,054

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 (\$431,854) of Assessor Laila Illoway's budget covers salaries for the assessor and deputies, and the \$80,000 cost of a contract for appraisal and audit services. The budget includes \$5,000 for vehicle expenses, and \$10,000 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: The increase is due to general inflationary costs.

County Attorney

\$643,940

What We Do: The Office of the County and Prosecuting Attorney provides legal representation for Sublette County. Civil law attorneys provide legal analysis and guidance to county government 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 Clayton Melinkovich's budget covers personnel costs for the county attorney, deputy attorney and secretarial positions, totaling \$508,350. Prosecution and defense are allocated \$50,000, while



**County Attorney
Clayton Melinkovich**

How Much Are County Officials Paid?

The county commission sets salaries for elected officials every four years, guided by state statutes that establish salary caps for certain elected positions. Sublette County salaries for clerk, treasurer, assessor, and clerk of district court are set at \$99,500 per year, while the sheriff and county attorney are paid \$110,000. The county coroner receives \$35,000 annually, as do each of the five county commissioners. Salaries for other county employees are set by salary schedules approved by the county commission.

the crime victims program is budgeted \$33,333, educational training is budgeted at \$10,000, and access to an online legal database is secured at \$13,000. Melinkovich budgeted \$9,000 to support a legal internship program in his office, and \$1,000 for a youth diversion program. The remainder of the budget covers general costs associated with operating the county law offices.

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

Budget compared to last year: +6%

Reason for difference: The increase reflects inflationary costs and salary adjustments, as well as an increase in significant trials held in the county and the addition of an internship and youth diversion program.

Clerk

\$362,724

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, as well as handling the financial administration of certain grants paid to the county.

The county clerk also serves as the chief election officer, administering official elections in the county.

Budget Summary: Much of this budget (\$332,824) 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: -6%

Reason for difference: Clerk Long was able to eliminate one position from her office when the commission created a human resource manager and transferred some other duties to the county administrator.



County Clerk Carrie Long

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 10*

Commission

\$480,650

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, but the authority of the board of commissioners encompasses nearly every phase of county government. All formal and official actions taken by the Board of 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 and wages of \$248,675 constitute half of the commission budget, which include salaries for the five county commissioners and County Administrator Jeness Saxton. The budget includes \$12,800 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, allocated \$142,000, includes the commission's contracts with natural resource experts who provide data or special expertise on various issues at the commission's direction, including natural resource planning involvement with federal agencies. This line item also covers expenses associated with the commission's membership in the Wyoming County Commission Association and other associations.

Budget compared to last year: +11%

Reason for difference: Expenses related to outside consultants doubled from last year, reflecting the county's involvement in federal land planning and rule-making processes, and the county's share of purchase of a building housing the Wyoming County Commission Association in Cheyenne.

Coroner \$63,050

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.

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 \$37,400.



County Coroner Curt Covill

Other major items include \$15,000 for autopsies, \$4,000 for supplies, \$3,000 for county burials, \$2,000 for vehicle expenses, and \$1,500 for training.

In a separate general fund allocation, the commission set aside \$80,000 for the addition of one vehicle to the county fleet for use by the county coroner's office.

Budget compared to last year: Flat

District Court Clerk

\$358,590

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 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 and her staff comprise the majority of this budget, at \$230,000. The public defender program is allocated \$81,000, court-appointed attorneys are estimated at \$5,000, and jurors and witness fees are budgeted \$15,000, while the balance covers general operations of the district court clerk's office.

Budget compared to last year: Flat



**District Court Clerk
Janet Montgomery**

Treasurer

\$369,887

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 bulk of this budget (\$343,987) 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: +5%

Reason for difference: The increase reflects salary adjustments.



**County Treasurer
Emily Paravicini**

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 11*

Sheriff

\$8.5 million

Law Enforcement	\$4,270,431
Detention	\$2,251,467
Communications	\$902,483
Search & Rescue	\$845,953
Emergency Management	\$235,875

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

Budget Summary: Sublette County Sheriff K.C. Lehr oversees five departmental budgets totaling about \$8.5 million, with the bulk of the spending allocated for personnel costs.

Budget compared to last year: -1%

Reason for difference: With no major variations from last year, this budget remains relatively flat.

Law Enforcement: Personnel costs of nearly \$3 million comprise the majority of the \$4.27 million budget. This department includes administrative staff as well as sworn officers, including positions assigned to courtroom security and probation, investigations and narcotics, and patrol positions.

The budget includes \$800,000 for the purchase of six fully equipped patrol vehicles. The department has experienced significant delays in obtaining replacement vehicles, and generally plans to replace three vehicles per year from its fleet of 27. The



County Sheriff K.C. Lehr

department has been running vehicles for 130,000–140,000 miles, and retaining some vehicles is resulting in additional maintenance costs as some require replacement braking systems, engines and transmissions. This budget estimates the cost of gas and oil at \$200,000, while the cost of tires and vehicle maintenance totals \$90,000.

Ammunition is budgeted \$30,000, while patrol equipment (recorders, printers, etc.) is allocated \$62,000, investigative equipment is budgeted \$45,000 and training is allocated \$50,000. Criminal investigations are allocated \$48,000. Animal control is allocated \$35,000, while telephone and utilities are budgeted \$126,000.

Detention: The \$2.2 million detention budget covers costs of operating the county jail. Personnel costs total about \$1.8 million. Most of this budget is like last year's but includes an additional \$100,000 to cover the purchase of a new fingerprinting machine and replacement flooring in the jail. Other major costs in this budget include \$160,000 for prisoner board (a decrease from last year), and \$120,000 for prisoner medical expenses.

Communications: The \$902K communications budget covers all the costs of operating the county dispatch system and reflects a decrease from last year's budget. Personnel costs for the administrator and communications officers total about \$573,000. Other major line items include \$70,000 for the E-911 system and \$164,000 in communications center maintenance and repair.

Search & Rescue: The S&R budget includes a \$500,000 seasonal helicopter contract that accounts 60% of this program's annual budget. The contract is primarily compensated through federal funds received by the county, and the presence of the helicopter in the county during the busy summer and fall seasons 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 \$74,275 for the administrator's salary, while training is allocated \$77,000 and search operations are budgeted \$25,000.

S&R's \$67,000 office equipment line item includes a new radio for the helicopter, reflecting the type of "office" in which these emergency responders operate. Equipment purchases totaling \$58,500 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 \$235,875 Emergency Management budget include \$74,275 for the coordinator's salary, and \$100,000 for a new vehicle purchase. Gas, oil, and vehicle maintenance costs are estimated at \$16,500, while utilities are allocated \$11,000. Emergency supplies are budgeted \$8,000, and training is allocated \$4,000.

\$8.5 Million

The Sheriff's budget includes oversight for five programs: law enforcement, detention, communication, search and rescue, and emergency management.

Other Departments

Courthouse & Maintenance \$2.92 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 \$1.37 million to pay salaries for the janitorial and maintenance staff supervised by Superintendent Andre Irey.

Most of this budget's line items reflect inflationary increases above last year's levels. Also included is \$100,000 for the purchase of two vehicles, and \$265,359 is allocated for senior facilities improvements including a new audio-video system, boiler system, and hardwood floors.

The costs for gas and oil received a \$9,000 increase to \$37,000 above last year's budget.

Other items in the budget include building insurance at \$476,609, and maintenance and supplies at \$75,000. Equipment and tools expenses of \$28,000 include purchase of a new lawnmower, utilities are allocated \$150,000, and janitorial supplies are budgeted \$33,000.

The budget includes \$14,500 for improvements, utilities, and maintenance on the 4-H barn located outside of Pinedale; and \$21,000 for small property items.

Budget compared to last year: +15%

Reason for difference: In addition to inflationary increases, this budget reflects increases in repairs and upgrades on buildings, and replacement of two vehicles.

Elections \$28,300

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

Budget Summary: The elections budget covers the \$5,000 cost of ballots and publication of public notices, \$19,000 in election equipment maintenance. This budget does not cover administration of any elections, with those set to occur in next year's budget for the August 2024 primary and November 2024 general elections.

Budget compared to last year: -73%

Reason for difference: This lower budget reflects the cost of maintaining the election system in a non-election year.

GIS \$45,600

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

Budget Summary: The budget covers the \$45,600 cost of the contract to maintain the GIS/map server.

Budget compared to last year: -82%

Reason for difference: Last year's budget included the cost of updated photography for the entire county, while this budget maintains the GIS system.

Information Technology \$610,888

What We Do: Sublette County IT Administrator Lisa Copeland provides for information technology (computer systems and related technology) throughout the county courthouse and sheriff's office.

Budget Summary: This budget covers \$116K in technology upgrades, \$90,000 in equipment and supplies, and \$50,000 for any unforeseen IT projects that may arise throughout county government in the next year. The IT administrator's salary is budgeted at \$99,500, software licenses are allocated about \$76,000, while contract services are anticipated at \$147,000. The remaining budget items are for training, and lesser amounts to operate the IT office located in the courthouse.

Budget compared to last year: -2%

Reason for difference: The budget reflects significant decreases in technology upgrade expenses.

Health Officer \$15,600

What We Do: 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.

Budget Summary: This budget provides \$15,600 for the health officer's salary, of which about \$9,600 is reimbursed by the State of Wyoming. The remaining expenditures cover office, meeting, and travel expenses.

Budget compared to last year: -67%

Reason for difference: Last year's budget included a county sanitarian position, which has been eliminated from this budget. Sanitarian duties are now handled by state officials.

Public Health \$613,036

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 \$173,000 in personnel costs, and nearly \$300,000 in expenditures related to grants. Other major items include about \$92,000 for vaccine purchases and \$15,000 for health fair costs. The budget includes \$12,500 for janitorial services,

[See Other County Departments page 14](#)

OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 13*

\$6,000 in mileage expenses, \$4,000 for educational training, and \$500 in advertising. The balance of the budget is for smaller amounts associated with operating the county public health office and program.

Budget compared to last year: Flat

Surveyor **\$2,000**

What We Do: The primary duties of the surveyor involve county road surveying (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: Flat

Treatment Court **\$210,952**

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

Budget Summary: This budget includes about \$73,000 for the Coordinator Cassandra Crumpton's salary. Major budget items include \$66,000 for mental health/treatment, \$60,000 for drug testing, \$1,500 for indigent services/recovery, and \$1,740 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: +4.5%

Reason for difference: This budget remains fairly flat, with an increase in the coordinator's salary as the position was elevated to that of a department head.

Planning & Zoning **\$173,753**

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 \$160,000 in salaries for staff, including County Planner Dennis Fornstrom and administrator Tess Soll. The remaining budget covers a variety of lesser items associated with operating the office.

Budget compared to last year: +6%

Reason for difference: The increase reflects inflationary costs.

Visitor Center **\$62,777**

What We Do: The Sublette County Visitor Center provides welcome services to visitors to Sublette County at a convenient location in downtown Pinedale. Offering free WiFi and clean restrooms, the center hands out maps, area recreational and business information, and promotes local event schedules, as well as assists travelers in dining and lodging availability. The center operates 280 days per year and is working to open a visitor center in the southern portion of the county as well.

Budget Summary: The majority of expenditures from this budget are personnel costs of \$53,527.

Budget compared to last year: -14%

Reason for difference: Sublette County now funds operation of the center as a county department with a budget supervised by Director Peter Paulin.

Road & Bridge **\$8.4 million**

What We Do: Sublette County Road & Bridge is responsible for maintaining nearly 500 miles of roads in the county. The department also provides about \$1 million in services to other departments of county government and maintains about 670 vehicles or pieces of equipment owned by Sublette County.

Budget Summary: Personnel costs of \$2.26 million make up the largest chunk of the operations budget administered by R&B Superintendent Billy Pape. Three line items in the budget are each slightly higher than \$1 million: Soil stabilizer (mag water); gas and oil; and heavy equipment purchases and leases (\$1.1 million for 2 Kenworth multi-use trucks, payments on 2 motor graders, and purchase of 2 new pickup trucks).

Parts, repairs, and tires are budgeted a combined \$1.28 million. Material costs (culverts, cattle guards, etc.) are estimated at \$672,000, crusher costs are budgeted \$180,000, and gravel purchase is estimated at \$100,000. Miscellaneous projects and engineering are budgeted \$330,000. Utilities, telephone and radio maintenance are estimated at \$185,000.

Budget compared to last year: +11%

Reason for difference: In addition to increases in personnel costs and overall inflationary increases, this budget reflects a \$736K increase in heavy equipment purchase and lease expenses.

Waste Management **\$2.76 million**

Landfill	\$1,663,879
Transfer Station	\$944,254
Recycling	\$158,084

What We Do: R&B Superintendent Billy Pape also supervises
[See Other County Departments page 15](#)

OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS *continued from page 14*

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 transported to the landfill outside of Marbleton by a contractor, where it is baled by county staff.

Budget Summary: The general waste management/landfill budget includes these major spending categories: \$433,000 in personnel costs, \$370,000 in heavy equipment purchases (excavator and loader), and \$160,000 for engineering fees. Baler operations are budgeted \$100,000, while water monitoring is estimated at \$45,000, and environmental bags for the refuse bales are allocated \$48,000. Gas, oil, repairs, and tire costs are estimated at \$272,000. Utilities for the balefill facility are estimated at \$75,000, and the cost to haul tires (including large equipment tires) is estimated at \$90,000.

Major expenses for the transfer station operations are about \$265,000 in salaries and \$480,000 for the contract to transport refuse from the station to the landfill near Marbleton.

The recycling program budget decreased to \$158,000, with the largest line items including \$68K in wages and \$45,000 to purchase two 40-yard containers to hold materials.

Budget compared to last year: +32%

Reason for difference: While the recycling budget declined from last year, the overall increases result from heavy equipment purchases and increased personnel to meet demand and expanded services at the transfer station.

Unified Fire

\$1.56 million

What We Do: 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.

Budget Summary: Cooper oversees a \$1.56 million budget, which includes about \$550,000 in personnel costs for firefighters, clerical, instructors, and other salaries. Major budget items include \$384,000 for maintenance of the department's facilities, equipment, and apparatuses. Gas, oil and vehicle maintenance total \$85,000. Equipment and supplies are budgeted \$132,000, and other line items cover assorted costs associated with operations of fire services throughout the county. Physical exams are budgeted \$50,000, and training is allocated \$42,500, 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 \$1.56 million fire operations budget, the county holds about \$12.5 million in its depreciation reserve fund for replacement of fire trucks and other equipment, and for fire hall improvements or replacements, and to cover costs associated with firefighting on private land in the county.

Budget compared to last year: -36%

Reason for difference: Last year the department purchased a \$1 million fire truck, and without that expense, this budget declined substantially.



\$12.2

Capital Improvement Project Budget

The nearly \$12.2 million in capital improvement projects includes \$6.9 million for rebuilding five miles of the North Piney Road, \$2 million for an overlay on 7.5 miles of the northern end of Paradise Road, \$470,00 for sight improvement on the East Green River Road, and \$188,000 for design of a turning lane on Ehman Lane. All but the Ehman Lane funding is carryover from the last budget year.

Smaller projects include \$80,000 for a new boiler for the Southwest Wyoming Pioneer Senior Center,

and \$426,000 for improvements to the trash transfer station. The commission has allocated \$621,842 for construction of a golf course storage building at the golf course, as well as \$475,000 for pond rehabilitation work at the course to resolve irrigation problems.

Other allocations include \$50,000 for planning for the Boulder Fire Hall, as well as \$42,000 for an assessment of the grounds around the Big Piney Fire Training Tower.

The Cost of Government

\$7.98 million

The budget includes a variety of large spending accounts that are the necessary cost of government, with a slight increase (.25%) from last year's budget. Included are allocations of \$7 million to cover the cost of FICA insurance and retirement, \$100,000 for financial administration, and \$44,000 for an annual audit. Workmen's compensation and

unemployment compensation are covered with an allocation totaling \$375,000. County officers' expenses are budgeted at \$50,000, while printing and publications are allocated \$90,000. Postage is estimated at \$31,000, and telephone service is allocated \$290,000.



Designated Mill Funding

Most 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. The following program areas all receive a portion of a mill: Fair, Airports, Library, Museums, and Recreation.

These 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 through 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 the same 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 \$1.49 million

The fair mill levy allocation provides funding for the county fair as well as the overall fairgrounds operations in separate budgets. Fair Manager Kailey Barlow oversees the county fair program with supervision by the Sublette County Fair Board.

The fair board budget totals \$447,500, including \$184,500 for the 2023 fair, \$199,500 for the 2024 fair, and \$63,500 for administrative expenses. The fair board has increased overnight labor and security during the fair, and has experienced increased costs for providing entertainment at the fair.

The fairgrounds budget is just over \$1 million and includes about \$250,000 in personnel costs for Manager Jay Brower and his staff. Brower reports directly to the county commission.

This budget includes \$316,635 for projects, including replacing the concrete slab at the ag center, fixing snow and ice damage, installing a crows nest for the small outdoor arena, and installing outdoor lights and bleacher covers.

Major line items in the fairgrounds budget include about \$105,000 for a new tractor, and \$42,000 in other equipment purchases. Other expenditures include \$140,000 in utility and telephone costs, \$35,000 for repairs, and \$45,000 for building maintenance. The budget also includes \$12,000 for landscaping, \$14,500 for training and travel, and \$20,000 for gas and oil.

Airports \$439,200

Both airports near Marbleton and Pinedale benefit from county mill levy funding. The Big Piney-Marbleton airport will receive \$94,600 for general operations and maintenance, and the Town of Pinedale's airport will receive the same amount. The Joint Big Piney-Marbleton Airport Board will use the county funding for general operations, while the county's contribution to the Pinedale airport is limited to match funding for improvement projects, and not for general operations.

In addition, the commission allocated \$250,000 to the Joint Big Piney-Marbleton Airport Board to construct a building

to house its fuel truck and other flammable equipment. The commission is pursuing the possibility of acquiring some of the land currently held by the airport as a potential addition to the fairgrounds.

Library \$1.7 million

It takes about \$1.7 million to operate the Sublette County Library system for a year, covering operations in both the Big Piney and Pinedale locations. State statistics indicate that the Sublette County Libraries have the second-highest circulation rate per capita in Wyoming, and the Big Piney Library reopening after a remodel early in 2023 has significantly increased both the number of items checked out as well as the number of visitors, according to Library Director Michelle Humber. Sublette County libraries also rank far above statewide averages for both total program attendance and children's program attendance per capita.

Museums \$556,605

Historic preservation in Sublette County is advanced through budget allocations using mill levy funding, and the nonprofit organizations operating both museums in the county will benefit from boosts to their budgets this year.

A total of \$289,729 will go 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 Green River Valley Museum in Big Piney will receive \$211,896 to help fund that facility's operations. 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 \$16,750 for the county's historic preservation board.

Recreation \$995,889

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

The Rec Board's nearly \$1 million budget includes \$285,000 to provide equipment for the gun club and rec centers, stock contractors and other supplies for area rodeos, programming support for arts and theatre programs, support for swim, hockey, archers, baseball, ski, skate and snowboard groups, and support for trail clearing and winter grooming. The largest allocation is \$103,000 for new utility carts and golf carts for Rendezvous Meadows Golf.

Ongoing annual financial commitments total about \$120,000, including lighting for ball fields, grooming Nordic trails, golf course equipment leases, maintenance of Shelter Park, and providing electricity for rural television. The budget also includes \$150,000 in cash reserves and \$39,000 for the board clerk and office expenses.

The \$403,764 ice arena budget includes about \$193,000 in personnel costs, \$100,000 for utilities, \$44,000 for building maintenance, and \$39,000 for equipment maintenance.

Human Service Programs \$1.8 million

About these programs: The Sublette County Commission uses the general fund budget to provide support to a variety of organizations that provide needed services through 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	\$852,032
Children	\$710,000
Other	\$280,262
Grand total:	\$1,842,294
Compared to last year's budget:	+19%

Reason for difference: The commission substantially increased funding for various human services programs this year.

Senior Citizens:

Sublette Center	\$421,800
SW SC Pioneers	\$225,082
Rendezvous Pointe	\$205,150

The Sublette Center retirement community continues to receive an allocation of \$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 220 senior citizens annually and will receive \$225,082 in county funding to continue its meals program along with a wide range of activities and services. Last year the Pioneers served 12,866 meals to local seniors.

Rendezvous Pointe in Pinedale will receive \$205,150 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 homemaking, chore services, personal care, and respite.

Children:

Children's Learning Center	\$170,000
Children's Discovery Center	\$175,000
Pinedale Preschool	\$170,000
Scholarships	\$150,000
Van Vleck House	\$45,000

The Children's Learning Center will receive \$170,000 in general support. CLC is the only early childhood program serving the entire county, and providing early intervention and special education services for children from birth to five years as well as preschool programs for all children 3 through 5 years. The CLC provides free developmental, hearing and vision screening for all children through five years. CLC has an enrollment of 74 children, including 41 with special needs.

Children's Discovery Center will receive \$175,000 to support its early education facility operating five days per week and serving children ages two to 10 years old. It's the only non-profit preschool in the county that operates year-round for children as young as the age of two, and serving about 36 students in Sublette County, although summer enrollment rises to 42 students. The boost in funding may help the CDC reduce its waitlist as it expands program availability.

Pinedale Preschool will receive \$170,000 in support from the county for its preschool program currently serving 32 children. 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. Additional funding will assist in updating the preschool's facility, as well address inflationary costs and provide a build up of wage reserves for staff.

Older children will receive a boost from the county as well, with \$150,000 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. Last year, six Sublette County youth were housed in the crisis shelter before they were able to be discharged to their homes.

Other Human Services:

Mental Health	\$130,000
Veteran's Services	\$78,950
Needy Families	\$48,500
Family Crisis	\$22,812

Mental Health funding in the amount of \$130,000 provides for emergency and involuntary hospitalizations of persons suffering from mental illness (classified under state statute as Title 25).

\$1.8 Million

The commission substantially increased funding for a variety of human service programs this year, with special emphasis on childcare.

HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS *continued from page 18*

The budget includes \$78,950 for the **Tri-County Veteran’s Services** program, 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 nearly \$50,000 allocated to needy families provides pass-through grant funding for the **Temporary Assistance For Needy Families** (TANF) through a five-part community partnership. **The Sublette County Sexual Assault/Family Violence Task Force** (SAFV) will receive \$20,230 for its Life Skills program to assist individuals in developing the necessary skills and self-confidence to become self-sufficient. **High Country Behavioral Health** will

receive \$11,482 to provide family services so that children can be cared for in their present homes. **The Friends of PAC** will receive \$13,554 for the its Little Wrangler Day Camp for children at the Pinedale Aquatic Center, and **Bridges Out of Poverty** will receive \$3,234 to present a 16-week class on getting out of poverty.

SAFV will also receive a total of \$22,812 in a direct allocation for family crisis support. 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.

Special Programs Support _____

Centennial Committee	\$24,000
Translator Grant	\$19,600
Happy Endings	\$2,500

The Centennial Committee will wrap up its celebrations of the county’s 100-year birthday through this \$24,000 allocation that covers the cost to create a mural at the county fairgrounds.

The \$19,600 **translator grant** is carryover from previous budgets and is used for rural television operations in the county.

Happy Endings Animal Rescue will receive \$2,500 to assist with veterinarian fees associated with animals rescued by this nonprofit organization.



Natural Resources

\$1.2 Million

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	\$1,036,665
Extension Service	\$118,985
Predator Management	\$50,000
Total:	\$1,205,650

Compared to last year’s budget: +23%

Reason for difference: This majority of this increase is a boost to the conservation district which had substantially cut its budget and staff over the years of economic downturn.

The Sublette County Conservation District will receive \$1 million in support, including a one-time boost of 25% to cover costs to replace three vehicles, as well as a 2% operational budget increase for inflation recovery costs. 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.

The county provides \$118,985 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 animal damage control focused on coyotes, ravens and wolves.

Happy Endings Animal Rescue will receive \$2,500 for its efforts in the county.



Sublette County Land Use

Sublette County consists of 3.2 million acres, making it the 6th largest county in Wyoming, but about 80 percent of the county is managed by the federal government and less than 20% is privately owned.

Of the 2.4 million acres managed by the federal government, the Bureau of Land Management controls 1.3 million acres, with the Forest Service controlling 1.2 million acres and the Bureau of Reclamation controlling 4,480 acres.

State lands account for about 4 percent of the county's land area (123,779 acres). More than 114,000 acres of the state land area is state trust land with the other 9,425 acres held by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Finally, local government and others each account for 0.1 percent of the land in the county (4,954 acres combined).

Agriculture is the dominant private land use in Sublette County, representing 92 percent of the total private land in the county (544,710 acres). Of this total 75 percent is rangelands.

The Sublette County Comprehensive Plan is used to guide land use and physical development on private lands in the unincorporated areas of Sublette County with supervision by the County Planning and Zoning Department.

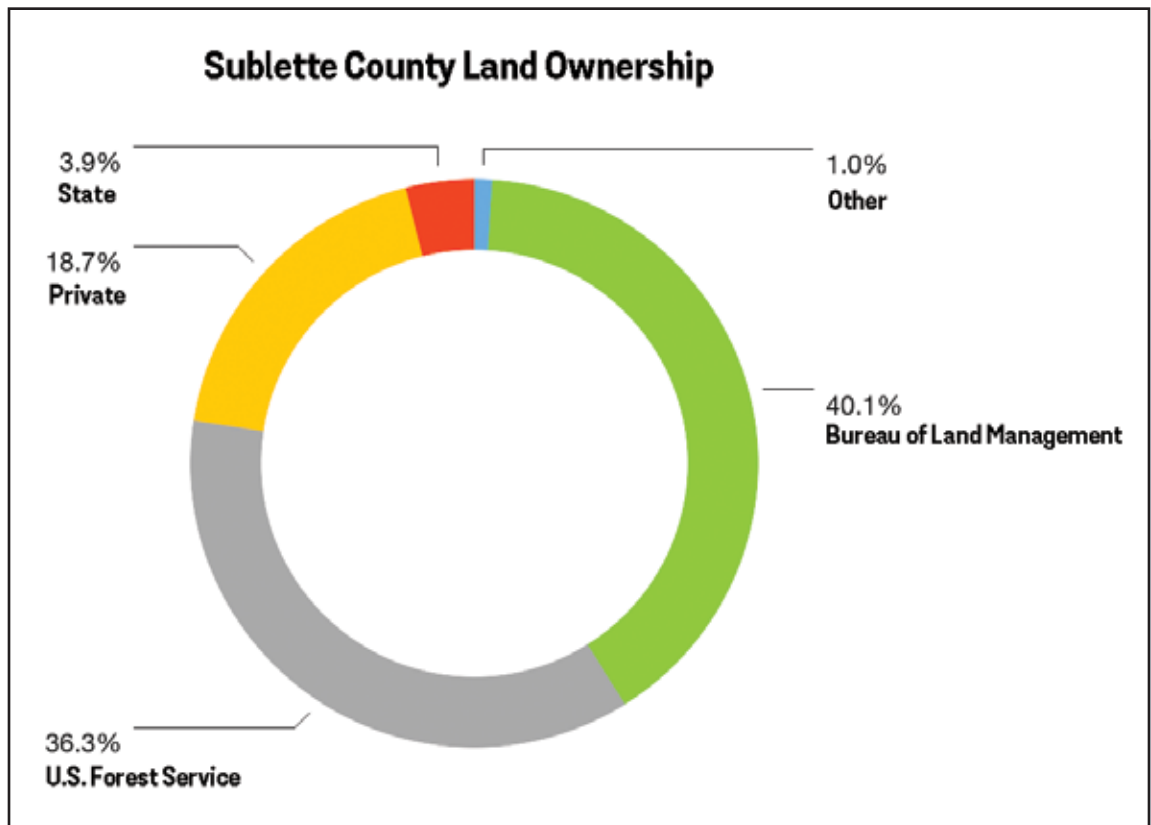
Federal agencies also have management plans for the public lands they administer in the county. In addition, the Sublette County Commission has adopted a Sublette County Federal & State Land Use Policy that serves as the basis for communicating and coordinating with the federal and state government and their agencies on land and natural resource management issues that influence Sublette County.

The Federal & State Land Use Policy includes provisions to:

- protect the integrity of environmental systems and natural resources;
- preserve resource-based industries;
- promote a robust, diverse, and stable economy;
- minimize conflicts between land uses;
- protect public health, safety, and welfare;

- promote the understanding of the history, dynamics, and benefits of multiple use on federal and state lands within the County (i.e. agriculture, recreation, etc.) with the understanding that the "multiple use" mandate on public lands does not imply that all uses can take place simultaneously on the same land, the protection of wilderness qualities and roadless qualities are legally recognized uses within the spectrum of multiple use, and certain other compatible uses take priority over incompatible uses;
- preserve local customs, culture, heritage, and economic diversity; and
- recognize and protect private rights and interests in federal and state land resources, including rights-of-way and public access, grazing permits, water rights, special use permits, leases, contracts, and recreation use permits and licenses.

Find the Federal & State Land Use Policy on the county website at www.sublettcountywy.gov under the Documents tab.



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. in the commission meeting room of the county courthouse 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.

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 budget 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.

Open Government

Meetings: County commission meetings are open to the public. On occasion the commission will close the meeting to discuss certain confidential matters pursuant to state statute. These executive sessions are closed to the public, but no action is taken unless it is done in public session.

Records: Many public records are posted on the Sublette County website (www.sublettecountywy.gov) including audio files of each county commission meeting, which are usually uploaded shortly after a meeting concludes. Find public notices, agendas and minutes of meetings, and volumes of other public records on the website. The full annual audits of the Sublette County budgets are posted on the county website, as well as financial statements and other detailed budget information. The website also contains the GIS/map server and access to county land records, elections information, and information about each county department and board.



Commissioners

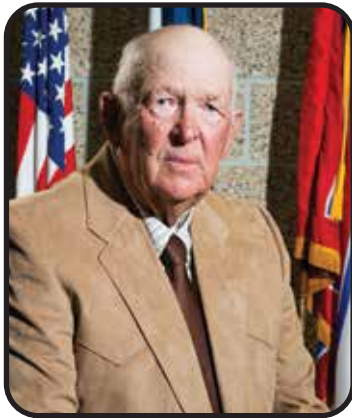
Sublette County has a five-person county commission, elected for four-year terms.
These commissioners developed the Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

**Commission Chairman**

Sam White
(307) 360-6489
sam.white@sublettecountywy.gov
Term expires: 1/6/2025

**Commission Vice Chairman**

Tom Noble
(307) 749-2002
tom.noble@sublettecountywy.gov
Term expires: 1/6/2025

**Commissioner**

Doug Vickrey
(307) 749-0009
doug.vickrey@sublettecountywy.gov
Term expires: 1/2/2027

**Commissioner**

Dave Stephens
(307) 749-5975
dave.stephens@sublettecountywy.gov
Term expires: 1/6/2025

**Commissioner**

Mack Bradley
(307) 231-0297
mack.bradley@sublettecountywy.gov
Term expires: 1/2/2027



Sublette County Commission
P.O. Box 250
Pinedale WY 82941

