

BUDGET UPDATE

On March 25, 2019, Saco's Finance Director Glenys Salas presented the Fiscal Year 2020 budget to the City Council. The Directive Budget covered contracted increases along with an allowance of up to 1.9% for other items, in line with City Council directive. The City Administrator, Kevin Sutherland, selected certain requests above the directive to be a part of his Recommended Budget. This Recommended Budget was designed to solve long-standing staffing challenges and meet the needs of a growing City, while still staying below Saco's highest municipal mil rate of \$8.09.

The Council met in workshops during April to learn more about individual department budgets and better understand the unique challenges each department faces. On May 13, 2019, the City Council deliberated for 7 hours to come to a final approved budget. Factoring in an estimated \$50 million increase to Saco's valuation this year, the final approved budget of \$56,220,258 constituted a forecasted mil rate increase of just \$0.15*. The City mil rate will be an estimated \$8.04; the School mil rate will be an estimated \$10.97, down \$0.58 from last year; and the County mil rate will increase an estimated \$0.01.

The Council approved many of the same requests as the City Administrator, with improved communications, support for fire and ambulance services, and upgraded software for better cyber security some of the top priorities. The City Council also went above and beyond in approving a strong Capital Program, sustainable economic development, and incremental funding for several local and regional non-profits that provide complimentary services to our citizens.

This year, the Finance and Administration Teams worked hard to enhance the experience of reading the budget book by fully integrating a line-item detail version of the budget, providing written departmental summaries for each section, and providing history that went back to Fiscal Year 2015. The Recommended Budget book, along with videos of departmental presentations and FAQs, can be found here:

https://www.sacomaine.org/departments/finance/budget_materials.php

A version of the final approved budget will be available in the same location shortly.

The School budget can be located at:

http://sacoschools.org/departments/finance/budget_2019-2020

*Valuations and the City mil rate are the domain of the City Assessor, who acts as an agent of the state. Therefore, all valuation and mil rate numbers should be considered estimates, pending final tax form submission.