# **Financial Forecast**

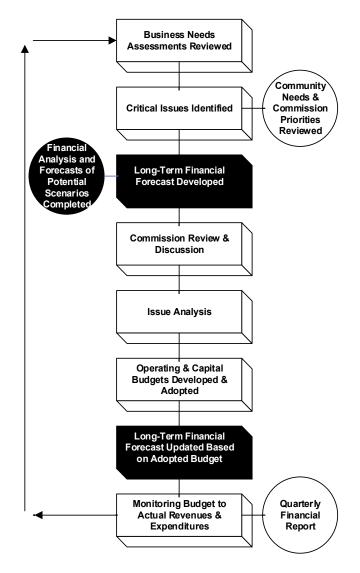
# For the Period of 2025 - 2030



# Introduction

Sedgwick County prepares an annual long-term financial forecast as a fundamental element of the budget process. The purpose of the forecast is to evaluate current and future fiscal conditions to guide policy and program decisions. A financial forecast is a fiscal management tool that presents estimated information based on current and projected financial conditions to identify future revenue and expenditure trends that may have an immediate or long-term influence on County policies, strategic goals, or community services. The forecast assists in the formation of decisions that exercise fiscal discipline and deliver essential community services as an integral part of the annual budgeting process. All information is presented on a budgetary basis.

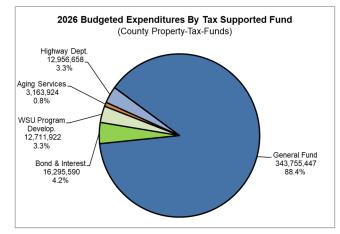
# Financial Forecast and the Budget Process



# Financial Forecast vs. Budget

The long-term financial forecast should be distinguished from the annual budget, as the forecast projects expected revenues and expenditures for the current year and five years into the future, while the budget sets the maximum amount of spending for one year. An additional distinction is that the budget typically includes budgeted contingencies to provide additional spending authority beyond the amount allocated to an individual department or division for use in times of unanticipated events. While budgeted, these contingencies typically are not anticipated to be spent in the forecast. As such, the budget generally is significantly greater than the forecast for a given year. For 2026, \$46.8 million in contingencies is budgeted in the County General Fund.

The revenue and expenditure estimates included in this financial forecast section pertain to the County's five property-tax-supported funds. Prior to 2022, the County had eight property-tax-supported funds. Beginning in 2022, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS), COMCARE, and Noxious Weeds tax funds were consolidated into the General Fund to allow for flexibility and efficiencies within those departments. These funds are outlined in the pie chart below. Total budgeted expenditures in these funds are \$388,883,541 though forecasted expenditures total \$340,126,218 in 2026. The difference is largely related to the contingencies outlined in the paragraph above.



# Forecasting Methodology

The estimates included in the forecast are formulated through the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitatively, historical revenues and expenditures were analyzed primarily through trend analysis and percentage growth patterns. In addition, national, state, and local economic conditions were evaluated to determine what impact they may have on the County's ability to generate specific types of revenue. Qualitatively, the forecast draws upon the experience and knowledge of finance staff, along with input from department managers, to outline the most likely results.

Whenever forecasts are done, even a local weather forecast, one often loses sight that they are performed based on the most recently available variables. For the financial forecast, these variables include economic data through June 2025, along with the changes included in the 2026 County Manager's Recommended Budget.

Unfortunately, financial variables are constantly changing. The County's forecast is subject to unforeseen and uncontrollable national, state, and local events, in addition to the timing of large capital projects and operational decisions that may make the forecast less accurate. All information is presented on a budgetary basis.

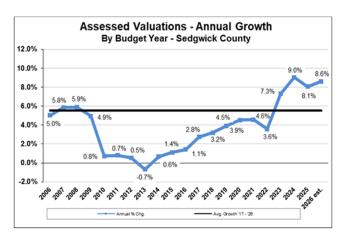
# **Executive Summary**

The 2026 County Manager's Recommended Budget, totaling \$624.7 million, has been developed in the context of ongoing economic and political uncertainty. In light of reductions in State and Federal funding, public calls to lower local property taxes, and the continued ripple effects of global events impacting inflation and supply chains, the Recommended Budget strategically prioritizes the County's fiscal and human resources toward its most essential and mission-critical services.

Similarly to the last several years, rising home prices have resulted in signifcant growth in the County's assessed value, much greater than the slow growth that occurred after the Great Recession and even more than the historical average of 5.5 percent prior to the Great Recession. While overall inflation has begun to moderate, many spending categories continue to see price increases due to anticipated tariffs and likely impacts to the supply chain. Additionally, low unemployment in the region continues to add pressures to maintain competitive compensation to compete for the qualified workforce necessary to provide service. At the same time, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has clearly heard public demands to reduce property taxes. As a result, the BOCC identified some key priorities as the outset of the 2026 budget process: provide relief to taxpayers while ensuring fundamental services are protected. These goals are met with this budget, which focuses resources on mission-critical services with modest reductions to some areas of the budget that are more focused on quality of life, along with a significant mill levy rate reduction.

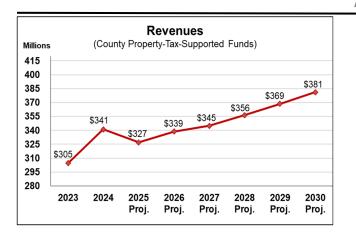
The County's 2024 and 2025 budgets built on prior year efforts to improve compensation with adjustments for employees on the General Pay Plan, full funding for step plans, pay structure movements, and general pay adjustments for all staff. Similar efforts to build on prior strategies are made in the 2026 budget; the budget was developed to ensure that reasonable compensation adjustments could be implemented, as well as adding resources for increases in costs of doing business. It also includes strategic additions to departmental budgets and necessary capital improvement funding.

As mentioned earlier in this section, value growth has finally rebounded to pre-recession levels. Growth in assessed valuation to support the 2025 budget was 8.1 percent, while estimated growth for the 2026 budget is 8.6 percent due to unexpected, continued strength in the residential home market since 2022. The table below illustrates changes in Sedgwick County's assessed valuation since 2006.

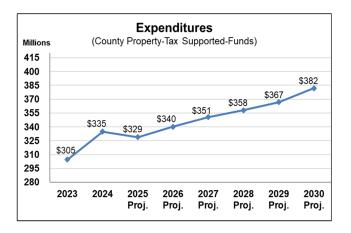


As shown in the table on the next page, projections outline increased revenue in 2024. Additional growth expectations are moderated in future years due to an anticipated cooling down of the local economy.





The County's primary objective is to deliver services to constituents, which is primarily done through County workforce. However, the organization experienced significant turnover after the pandemic began. To address the workforce shortage, the County made compensation its highest priority in recent budget years, with more than half of the 2026 Recommended Budget going toward personnel.



The blue line in the graph below shows the County's actual and current projections for each year in the

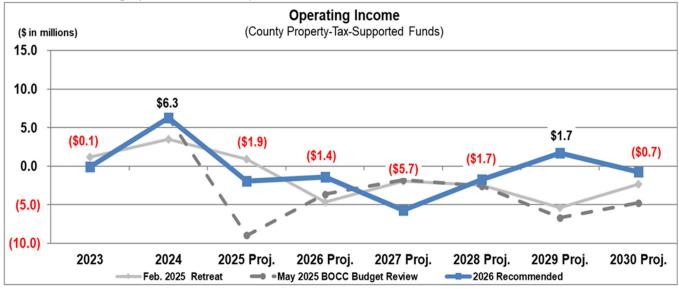
# Financial Forecast – Sedgwick County

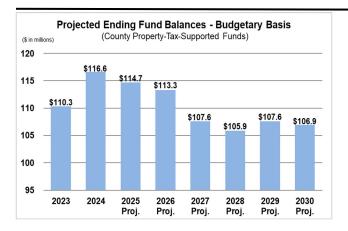
forecast. The 2026 Recommended Budget projects a deficit of \$1.4 million in County property-taxsupported funds. The surplus in 2024 was due to increased investment income as a result of more strategic investment decisions and the transfer of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for lost revenue in the General Fund.

The 2026 Recommended Budget includes \$8.3 million in transfers for capital improvement projects from County property-tax-supported funds to the Capital Improvement Fund in 2026: \$7.6 million for facility projects and \$0.7 million for drainage.

Current projections outline deficits in 2025 through 2028 and 2030 due largely to the Technology Review Board (TRB) and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects that are included in those years. A surplus is projected in 2029 as revenues are projected to exceed expenditures that year. Cumulative fund balances in property-tax-supported funds are projected to fluctuate to around \$106.9 million throughout the forecast as shown on the graph on the top of the next page; the General Fund will exceed the minimum fund balance requirement of 20.0 percent of budgeted expenditures in each year of the forecast.

As outlined previously, the organizaton's strategic efforts are significantly influenced by the forecast. The forecast is a valuable planning tool that is used to ensure the long-term continuity of essential services. Prior to the national recession, Sedgwick County proactively implemented an initiative to increase its fund balances during the good times to weather significant economic downturns later through a "Rainy Day Reserve".





Due to the County's previous actions to develop a "Rainy Day Reserve" and other management actions outlined in the box to the right, the County has been able to make strategic decisions regarding how and when to make service changes to minimize the impact on community services. As the economy continues to experience unpredictable activity, the sustainability of the County is placed at risk if existing operations are not monitored and adjusted to address current economic conditions.

Over the planning horizon of the financial forecast, the County will continue to confront a variety of challenges. In addition to challenges from an uncertain economy, actions at the Federal and State levels continue to cause concern to County management. These challenges will require the County to continue to concentrate on a variety of core financial guidelines, as outlined in the following section.

#### • Revenue Core Guidelines

- o Reduce reliance on property tax
- o Seek opportunities to further diversify the revenue base
- Effective governance is the result of effective partnerships. County services mandated by another government should be funded by that government

#### • Expenditure Core Guidelines

- Concentrate spending on fundamental, missioncritical County services
- Seek opportunities to share services across departments and governments when possible in order to either save money or improve service
- Educate State legislators on the impact of past, new, and pending State mandates
- Ensuring adequate compensation to recruit and retain a quality workforce
- o Strategically use debt and bonding

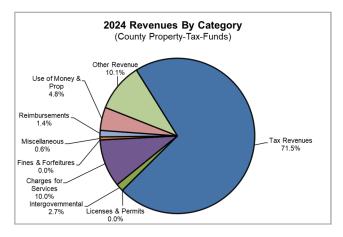
#### **Previous Management Decisions**

- 2022: Implement the first year of a multi-year compensation plan with 1,637 position reclassifications and a 2.0 percent general pay adjustment. Add resources for increased costs of doing business and the addition 1.0 FTE Grant Administrator position for the Division of Finance, 1.0 FTE Logistics/Central Supply Manager for Emergency Management, and the addition of funding for a Paramedic and EMT educational program and for security camera replacement for the Sheriff's Office Judicial Division.
- 2023: Implement strategic pay adjustments for high-vacancy areas, like COMCARE, Corrections, Facilities, and Emergency Communications. Implement step plans for EMS and Fire District 1 as well as the addition of new COMCARE and Corrections pay plans. An eight percent general pay adjustment for other County employees, as well as a pay structure adjustment of seven percent. Add resources for increased costs of doing business and funding for contracted mental health services for juveniles in the Department of Corrections, addition of funding to increase Election Worker pay, addition of funding for District Court attorney fees, and the addition of 0.25 FTE for a full-time employment position for the Division of Human Resources. Additionally, funding for one-year of operations of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition was added.
- 2024: Implement a new General Pay Plan and adjustments for placement of employees onto that plan, full funding of step plans for the Sheriff's Office, EMS, and Fire District 1 along with a 2.0 percent structure adjustment for those plans, a 3.0 percent general pay adjustment for all County employees not on a step plan. Add resources for increased costs of doing business and the addition of 3.0 FTEs and funding for Elections for the 2024 Presidential Election and operations, the addition of 1.0 FTE 911 Technology Coordinator position for Emergency Communications, and the addition of 2.0 FTE Senior Residential Appraiser positions for the County Appraiser's Office. Additionally, funding for the Child Advocacy Center to match increased agency contributions and funding for District Court attorney fees was added.
- 2025: Implement a 3.0 percent general pay adjustment and 2.0 percent scale adjustment for the General, COMCARE, and DA pay plans along with a 7.6 percent scale adjustment for attorneys on the DA pay plan. Implement a 3.0 percent general pay adjustment for the Emergency Communications pay plan. Fully fund step plans for the Sheriff's Office, EMS, and Fire along with a 2.0 percent scale adjustment for the Sheriff's Office and Fire and market scale adjustments for EMS. Implement a 1.0 percent general pay adjustment and 7.0 percent scale movement for the Corrections 1 pay plan and a 1.0 percent general pay adjustment and 5.0 percent scale movement for the Corrections 2 pay plan. Add resources for increased costs of doing business and the addition of 6.0 FTEs to implement discipline-specific dispatching for Emergency Communications, the addition of 1.0 FTE Logistics Biomedical Technician position for EMS, the addition of 2.0 FTE Paralegal positions for the District Attorney, the addition of 1.0 FTE Recruitment Specialist position for the Division of Human Resources, and the addition of funding for juror fee increases for the District Court.

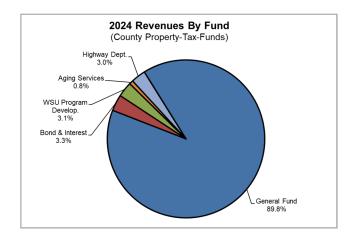


# Revenues & Transfers In

Sedgwick County's revenue structure related to property-tax-supported funds is grouped into seven primary revenue categories, with aggregate tax collections as the largest revenue source, followed by charges for services and uses of money and property. These revenue categories are shown in the chart below. In 2024, a total of \$341,155,979 in revenue and transfers in was received in these funds, with 72 percent collected from multiple tax sources. These actual results are the baseline from which financial estimates in the financial forecast are made.



Of the five funds receiving property-tax support through 2024, the largest is the General Fund, with 90 percent of total revenue collections in 2024, followed by Bond & Interest, WSU, Highway, and Aging funds. Revenues by fund are outlined in the chart below.



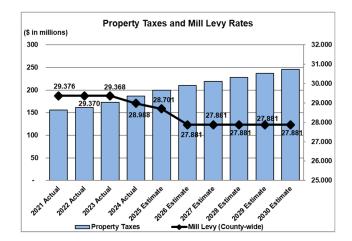
Of the total revenue collections and transfers from other funds in 2024, 86 percent was collected from nine distinct revenue sources. The following discussion on revenue projections included in the financial forecast will concentrate on these revenues as outlined in the table below.

| Major Revenues<br>County Property-Tax-Supported Funds* |          |             |      |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|----------|-------------|------|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |          |             |      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Revenues & Transfers In                          | \$       | 341,155,979 | 100% |  |  |  |  |  |
| Property Taxes   | \$       | 182,682,924 | 54%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Local sales & use tax                                  | \$       | 39,192,136  | 11%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Medical charges for services                           | \$       | 22,338,049  | 7%   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Motor vehicle tax                                      | \$       | 21,411,750  | 6%   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Investment income                                      | \$       | 13,033,013  | 4%   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Special city/county highway                            | \$       | 4,886,657   | 1%   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Officer fees   | \$       | 3,989,120   | 1%   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Administrative Reimbursement                           | \$       | 3,965,678   | 1%   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prisoner Housing/Care                                  | \$       | 3,525,025   | 1%   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total \$ | 295,024,353 | 86%  |  |  |  |  |  |

\*General Fund, Wichita State University, Aging, Highway, Bond & Interest

# **Property Taxes**

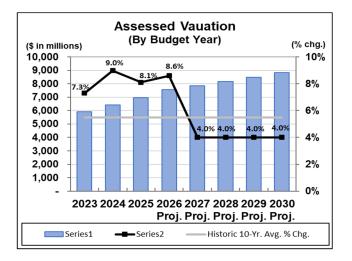
Property taxes play a vital role in financing essential public services. Property tax revenues are primarily used to fund services County-wide in the General Fund and various special revenue funds that do not have the capacity to self-finance their services, in addition to retiring the County's long-term debt on capital projects for facilities and infrastructure. This reliable revenue source has no attached mandates as many other State and Federal revenues often do.



The 2026 Recommended Budget includes an estimated mill levy rate of 27.881 mills. This forecast assumes that the property tax rate will remain unchanged at 27.881 mills in 2027 through 2030.

Projected revenue from property tax collections in this financial plan are based on:

- An assumption that the property tax rate will remain at 27.881 mills through 2030, absent technical adjustments.
- Increases or decreases in property tax revenues will result from estimated changes in assessed valuations and not changes to the mill levy rate.
- An assumption that collection delinquencies will remain at about 3.0 percent.



Over the past 10 years, Sedgwick County's assessed valuation has grown an average of 5.5 percent annually. Like many other jurisdictions, the County experienced strong valuation growth between the years of 2000 to 2009 with an average growth rate of 5.6 percent. That trend changed notably in 2010 when valuation increased by less than a percent. Growth was less than one percent through 2012; then, for the first time in 20 years, assessed valuation decreased for the 2013 budget year. Growth returned at a rate of 0.6 percent in the 2014 budget year. Growth was 4.6 percent for the 2021 budget, 3.6 percent for the 2022 budget, 7.3 percent for the 2023 budget, and 9.0 percent for the 2024 budget. Growth in assessed valuation to support the 2025 budget was 8.1 percent, while estimated growth for the 2026 budget is 8.6 percent due to a very strong residential home market in 2022 and 2023; while it is estimated that this growth will level off, the forecast anticipates State action to cap assessed value at 4.0 percent or less per year. Even without the anticipated State cap, the BOCC has communicated its commitment to managing the budget within the limits of inflation and new property growth.

Within the financial forecast, property tax rates among different County property-tax-supported funds can and are distributed based on the total

# Financial Forecast – Sedgwick County

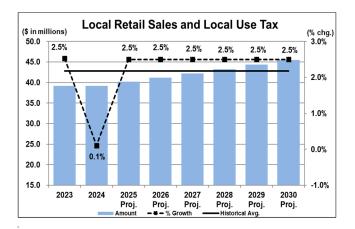
available resources to achieve the greatest outcomes in service delivery. In some instances, distribution of the total property tax rate is adjusted due to changing operations, one-time projects such as capital improvements, or the availability of unexpected resources. The table below outlines the property tax rate movements estimated within this plan.

|             | Property Tax Rates by Fund (in mills) |           |           |           |           |           |  |  |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|--|
|             | 2025                                  | 2026 Est. | 2027 Est. | 2028 Est. | 2029 Est. | 2030 Est. |  |  |
| General     | 24.801                                | 23.537    | 23.59     | 23.531    | 23.948    | 23.987    |  |  |
| Bond & Int. | 1.366                                 | 1.653     | 1.642     | 1.693     | 1.241     | 1.229     |  |  |
| WSU         | 1.500                                 | 1.500     | 1.500     | 1.500     | 1.500     | 1.500     |  |  |
| Highway     | 0.662                                 | 0.861     | 0.818     | 0.828     | 0.832     | 0.821     |  |  |
| Aging       | 0.372                                 | 0.33      | 0.331     | 0.329     | 0.36      | 0.344     |  |  |
| Total       | 28.701                                | 27.881    | 27.881    | 27.881    | 27.881    | 27.881    |  |  |

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# Local Retail Sales and Use Tax



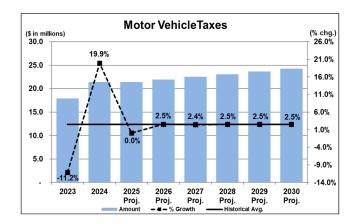
Local retail sales tax is generated from a County-wide one-percent tax on retail sales, imposed pursuant to voter approval in July 1985. Local use tax, per State statute K.S.A. 12-198, is a tax paid on tangible personal property purchased from other states and used, stored, or consumed in Kansas on which no sales tax was paid. Use tax is also applied if a taxable item is relocated to Sedgwick County from another state and that state's sales tax rate is less than the Kansas rate.

Distribution of these revenues to the County and cities is based half on their individual population levels and half on property tax levies per State statute K.S.A 12-187. Sedgwick County receives 28.5 percent of the revenue produced by the County-wide sales tax in its General Fund; the balance is distributed by the State government to the 20 cities located within the county. There are three principal factors that influence the County's collection of local retail sales tax revenue:

- Total taxable retail sales in Sedgwick County
- Population in the unincorporated areas of the county as a percentage of total county population
- The county's property tax levies as a percentage of total taxes levied by all governmental entities

Historically, retail sales and use tax collections have experienced an average growth rate of 2.2 percent over the past 10 years. Total revenues of \$39.2 million were collected in 2024 with estimated increases to \$40.2 million in 2025 and to \$41.8 million in 2026.

# **Motor Vehicle Taxes**



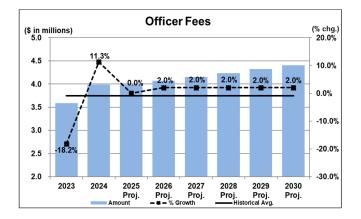
The State statute describing the collection and distribution of Motor Vehicle Taxes is outlined in K.S.A. 79-5101 et seq. Motor vehicles are distinguished by 20 vehicle classes and then taxed at 20 percent of the class value based on the average County-wide mill levy during the previous year. State statutes define the average county-wide mill levy as the amount of general property taxes levied within the county by the State, county, and all other property taxing subdivisions; and then divided by the County's total assessed valuation.

The 2012 Legislature enacted legislation requiring that an annual commercial vehicle fee be paid in lieu of current property taxes for both interstate and intrastate commercial vehicles registered in Kansas.

Collected taxes are distributed by the County Treasurer to the taxing jurisdictions based on the owner's residency, and the ratio of levied taxes by the jurisdiction to the total taxes levied. Once the County's portion is distributed, the revenues are shared across the eight County property-taxsupported funds based on each fund's mill levy rate for the previous year.

Collections are dependent not only on economic conditions and vehicle sales, but also on the ratio of County property taxes to all of the other property taxing jurisdictions. Collections increased in 2024 returning to more normal levels of growth starting in 2025.

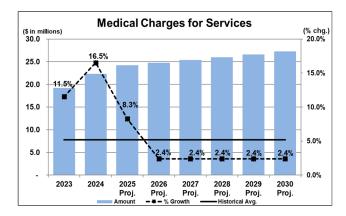
# **Officer Fees**



Officer fees were established under K.S.A. 28-115 to replace mortgage registration fees, which were phased out by legislative action starting in 2015, with complete elimination by 2019. These fees are a perpage fee that varies based on the type and length of document being filed.

Within this revenue source, collection levels are strongly correlated with the strength of the local real estate and refinancing market. After a decrease in 2023, officer fees began to stabilize in 2024 with what is anticipated to be normal annual collections, remaining fairly flat through 2030. Collections are estimated at \$4.0 million for 2025.

## **Medical Charges for Services**

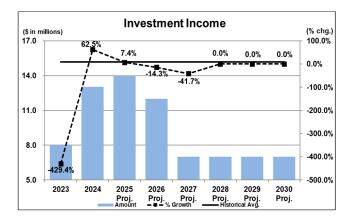


Medical charges for services include Medicaid, Medicare, insurance, and patient fees for delivered medical services. In the property-tax-supported funds, these services are predominately delivered through EMS, generating 96.5 percent of the total 2024 collections, followed by the Health Department and COMCARE. Revenues related to emergency medical services were deposited in the EMS Tax Fund through 2021 and starting in 2022 are now deposited in the County General Fund due to the consolidation of the EMS Tax Fund into the County General Fund.

The County also receives substantial amounts of medical charges for services revenue in grant funds delivering mental health, developmentally disabled, and aging services. Because those revenues are not received within property-tax-supported funds, they are not included within this forecast.



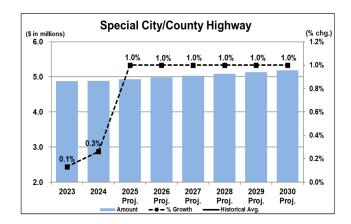
#### **Investment Income**



Investment income accounts for revenues generated from the investment of idle County funds. Traditionally, this revenue source can be volatile with collections dependent on interest rates in investment markets, the timing in which investments mature, and the size of the investment portfolio. State law outlines that all investment income is to be deposited in the General Fund unless otherwise directed by statute.

The County has an investment portfolio that ranges from \$225 million to \$600 million depending on the time of year. By law, the County's investments are restricted to short maturities having little or no risk. Interest rates have increased significantly, and the County has moved to a strategy of more investment of idle funds. The forecast projects revenue of \$14.0 million in 2025; then, the forecast anticipates action by the Federal Reserve to reduce interest rates in 2026 and beyond.

#### Special City/County Highway



The Highway Department is financed through the Highway Fund to construct and maintain the County's roads, bridges, and intersections. Of the revenues used to fund these operations, the largest is the State's special city/county highway fund authorized under K.S.A. 79-3425. Through the Fund, the State distributes motor-fuel taxes among local jurisdictions based on a distribution formula that includes:

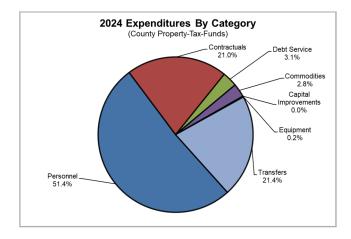
- Each county shall receive a payment of \$5,000
- Remaining 50 percent is allocated based on the portion of collected motor vehicle registration fees in the county compared to the amount collected in all counties
- Remaining 50 percent is allocated based on the portion of average daily vehicle miles traveled in the county compared to the amount traveled in all counties

This revenue source has demonstrated considerable variability in the past. As State Motor Fuel Gas Tax collections fluctuated, the Legislature made temporary adjustments to the distribution formula, and the State corrected previous distributions made in error. Revenue collections are expected to remain at normal levels of growth and collections are anticipated to remain relatively flat through 2030.

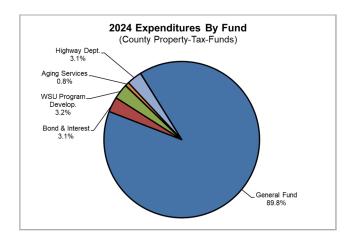


# **Expenditures**

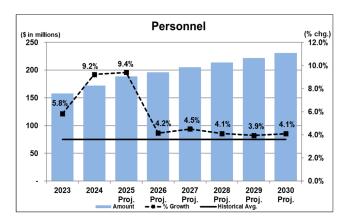
Sedgwick County's expenditure structure is divided into seven primary spending categories: personnel, contractuals, debt service, commodities, capital improvements, equipment, and interfund transfers. Total expenditures incurred in 2024 in County property-tax-supported funds were \$334,862,328. Of those, 51 percent were for personnel costs and 21 percent for transfers and contractual services. As with revenues, these actual results are the baseline from which the current financial forecast was developed.



Of the total spent in funds receiving property tax support, the fund with the greatest portion of total expenses is the General Fund with 90 percent of total 2024 expenditures, followed by WSU, Bond & Interest, Highways, and Aging.



## Personnel



Similar to most government and proprietary entities, personnel expenditures represent the largest cost in delivering services. Projections incorporate the following variables for 2026:

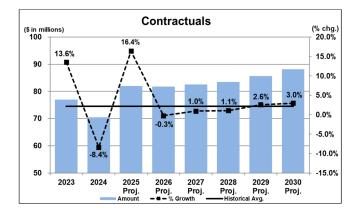
- The implementation of a 1.0 percent scale adjustment and 3.0 percent general pay adjustment (GPA) for the General, COMCARE, DA, Corrections, and Emergency Communications pay plans
- Full funding of step plans for the Sheriff's Office and EMS along with a 1.0 percent scale adjustment for those plans
- Full funding of the Fire District step plan

Beyond 2026, the forecast includes:

- A pay pool of 4.0 percent in 2027 through 2030
- Increases of 5.0 percent in employee health insurance premiums in 2027 through 2027
- Increases in retirement contribution rates through the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) and the Kansas Police and Firemen's Retirement System (KP&F)

|  | 2021   | 2022   | 2023   | 2024   | 2025   | 202    |  |  |  |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|--|
| KPERS - Retirement Rates   |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |
|  | 9.87%  | 9.90%  | 9.43%  | 10.26% | 10.71% | 10.59% |  |  |  |
| KP&F - Retirement Rates   Sheriff 22.80% 22.99% 22.86% 23.10% 25.67% 25.00 |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |
| Fire   | 22.80% | 22.99% | 22.86% | 23.10% | 25.67% | 25.00% |  |  |  |
| EMS  | 22.80% | 22.99% | 22.86% | 23.10% | 25.67% | 25.00% |  |  |  |
|  |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |  |

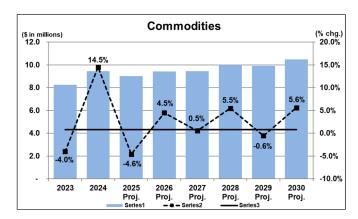
#### Contractuals



Contractual expenditures, the second largest expenditure category, include services purchased from and delivered by an external entity and internal departmental charges to other funds. These may include utility services, insurance services, software agreements, social services delivered by other community providers, or internal fleet and administrative charges.

Increases included in this forecast anticipate continuing increases in utilities, inmate medical and food service contracts, and software and technology equipment maintenance costs. Costs will also fluctuate depending on the number of TRB projects in each year. The cyclical nature of national, State, and local elections also contributes to expenditure variations in this category.

# Commodities



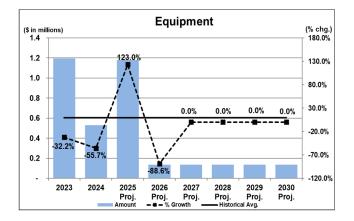
This category includes expenditures for the purchase of common tangible items. This may include office supplies, fuel, food, clothing, software, and equipment with acquisition costs of less than \$10,000 per unit.

Commodity expenditures often fluctuate from year to year. These fluctuations often are due to the election cycle, when expenses vary from odd years to even year (even years representing either gubernatorial or presidential election cycles) as well as what TRB projects and associated costs are included in each year.



Financial Forecast – Sedgwick County

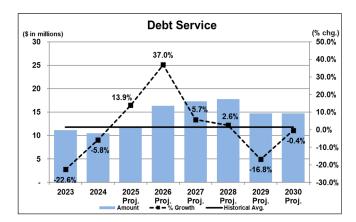
## **Equipment (Capital Outlay)**



Equipment includes expenditures for office, technical, operating, and vehicular equipment that are more than \$10,000. Overall, the County spends relatively small amounts for equipment in the property-tax-supported funds, so isolated purchases can often result in sizable year-to-year percentage changes

Increased costs in 2023 were due to mobile and portable radio replacements across the organization as the radios reach the end of support. Increased costs in 2024 were due to more TRB projects in that year and increased costs in 2025 are due to the replacement of the Fire Station Alerting System. Costs are anticipated to return to more typical levels in 2026.

## **Debt Service**



The financial forecast incorporates debt service payments on current debt obligations. Sedgwick County continues to hold high bond ratings from the

three most widely used rating agencies: Moody's Investor Services, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch

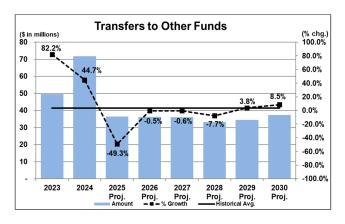
| -            | -          |        |  |  |  |  |
|--------------|------------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| Bond Ratings |            |        |  |  |  |  |
| Rating A     | Agency     | Rating |  |  |  |  |
| Standard     | l & Poor's | AAA    |  |  |  |  |
| Moody's      | 5          | Aaa    |  |  |  |  |
| Fitch        |            | AA+    |  |  |  |  |
|              |            |        |  |  |  |  |

Ratings. In a recent rating evaluation, Standard & Poor's outlined that Sedgwick County's management is "very strong, with 'strong' financial management policies and practices...indicating financial practices are strong, well embedded, and likely sustainable."

The debt service calculations in the financial plan include the projects listed within the Capital Improvement section of the budget book.



#### **Transfers to Other Funds**



Within statutory limitations, the County is allowed to transfer funding from property-tax-supported funds to other funds to finance equipment purchases, capital improvements, or grant matches. Traditionally, transfers to other funds are relatively consistent from one year to the next with the exception of transfers for capital improvement projects and transfers for onetime equipment and software purchases to the Equipment & Technology Reserve Fund.

Recurring annual transfers to other funds include the following:

- \$1,597,566 annually in collected retail sales and use tax revenues from the General Fund to the Bond & Interest Fund to mitigate the cost of debt service on road and bridge projects
- Approximately \$17.8 million to \$21.1 million annually in collected retail sales and use tax revenues from the General Fund to the Sales Tax Road and Bridge Fund for related capital projects
- Approximately \$3.0 to \$6.3 million annually from the General Fund to the Risk Management Fund
- Approximately \$0.4 to \$1.8 million annually from the General Fund to the Auto License Fund
- Annual transfers of varying amounts for cashfunded capital projects as included in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

As outlined in the table in the next column, significant changes in transfers from one year to the next are largely related to cash-funded capital projects included in the County's CIP.

# Financial Forecast – Sedgwick County

|              | Primary Recurring Transfers |               |                |              |               |  |  |  |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--|--|--|
| Sales Tax to |                             | Sales Tax to  | Other Cash     | General Fund |               |  |  |  |
|              | LST Road &                  | Bond &        | Funded Capital | to Auto      | General Fund  |  |  |  |
|              | Bridge Fund                 | Interest Fund | Projects       | License      | to Risk Mgmt. |  |  |  |
| 2023         | 17,977,927                  | 1,597,566     | 4,320,751      | 374,295      | 2,923,048     |  |  |  |
| 2024         | 17,998,502                  | 1,597,566     | 14,821,661     | 655,616      | 4,106,195     |  |  |  |
| 2025 Proj.   | 18,488,404                  | 1,597,566     | 8,266,233      | 687,023      | 5,416,276     |  |  |  |
| 2026 Proj.   | 18,990,553                  | 1,597,566     | 8,029,774      | 951,806      | 4,914,061     |  |  |  |
| 2027 Proj.   | 19,505,256                  | 1,597,566     | 6,597,432      | 939,784      | 5,613,980     |  |  |  |
| 2028 Proj.   | 20,032,807                  | 1,597,566     | 2,578,882      | 1,120,936    | 5,422,713     |  |  |  |
| 2029 Proj.   | 20,573,586                  | 1,597,566     | 1,214,056      | 1,372,739    | 6,260,013     |  |  |  |
| 2030 Proj.   | 21,127,865                  | 1,597,566     | 2,433,122      | 1,789,095    | 5,984,052     |  |  |  |

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# Financial Forecast 2022 - 2030

All County Property-Tax-Supported Funds

|          |                                   |                 | Actual          |                   |                   | Estimates         |                 |                 |                 |                |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
|          |                                   | 2022            | 2023            | 2024              | 2025              | 2026              | 2027            | 2028            | 2029            | 2030           |
| 1        | Beginning Fund Balance            | 106.926.850     | 110.400.713     | 110.300.028       | 116,593,679       | 114,692,098       | 113.283.726     | 107.573.340     | 105.869.862     | 107.615.957    |
| 2        | Operating Revenue                 |                 |                 |                   |                   |                   |                 |                 |                 |                |
| 3        | Taxes                             | 217,396,973     | 227,346,864     | 243,858,184       | 257,146,649       | 269,319,687       | 279,033,962     | 289,133,657     | 299,618,350     | 310,501,948    |
| 4        | Current property taxes            | 156,326,951     | 167,306,424     | 180,085,277       | 192,423,043       | 203,071,463       | 211,239,819     | 219,734,907     | 228,569,799     | 237,758,086    |
| 5        | Back property taxes & warrants    | 2,171,187       | 2,423,932       | 2,597,647         | 2,611,528         | 2,625,434         | 2,639,366       | 2,653,328       | 2,667,322       | 2,681,34       |
| 6        | Special assessment property taxes | 339,874         | 401,165         | 336,759           | 286,245           | 243,309           | 206,812         | 175,790         | 149,422         | 127,00         |
| 7        | Motor vehicle taxes               | 20,099,615      | 17,857,997      | 21,411,750        | 21,415,350        | 21,960,705        | 22,495,720      | 23,058,113      | 23,634,566      | 24,225,43      |
| 8        | Local retail sales tax            | 31,904,327      | 32,520,627      | 32,098,708        | 32,901,176        | 33,723,706        | 34,566,798      | 35,430,968      | 36,316,742      | 37,224,66      |
| 9        | Local use tax                     | 6,282,849       | 6,630,359       | 7,093,428         | 7,270,763         | 7,452,533         | 7,638,846       | 7,829,817       | 8,025,562       | 8,226,20       |
| 10       | Other taxes                       | 272,169         | 206,359         | 234,615           | 238,543           | 242,538           | 246,601         | 250,733         | 254,937         | 259,212        |
| 11       | Intergovernmental                 | 5,684,459       | 5,539,026       | 5,419,636         | 5,493,528         | 5,552,670         | 5,616,575       | 5,681,346       | 5,746,997       | 5,813,543      |
| 12       | Charges for service               | 30,142,152      | 32,737,261      | 34,003,287        | 35,678,587        | 36,530,574        | 37,367,003      | 38,223,628      | 39,164,949      | 40,063,466     |
| 13       | Reimbursements                    | 3,910,563       | 5,581,418       | 4,606,436         | 6,423,202         | 6,820,769         | 7,048,857       | 7,284,846       | 7,529,012       | 7,781,640      |
| 14       | Use of money and property         | 963,534         | 15,032,973      | 16,467,900        | 17,469,236        | 15,503,928        | 10,538,968      | 10,574,357      | 10,610,101      | 10,646,202     |
| 15       | Other revenues                    | 11,841,742      | 11,528,258      | 2,221,391         | 2,254,680         | 2,453,387         | 2,684,897       | 2,918,729       | 3,403,155       | 3,868,575      |
| 16       | Transfers from other funds        | 2,333,543       | 6,846,133       | 34,579,144        | 2,560,736         | 2,536,831         | 2,533,659       | 2,531,975       | 2,534,289       | 2,532,793      |
| 17       | Total Revenue                     | 272,273,231     | 304,611,933     | 341,155,979       | 327,026,617       | 338,717,846       | 344,823,919     | 356,348,538     | 368,606,851     | 381,208,167    |
| 18       | Operating Expenditures            |                 |                 |                   |                   |                   |                 |                 |                 |                |
| 19       | Personnel and benefits            | 148,981,053     | 157,676,501     | 172,233,395       | 188,424,243       | 196,257,707       | 205,114,587     | 213,545,514     | 221,973,354     | 231,081,160    |
| 20       | Contractual services              | 67,736,385      | 76,922,867      | 70,466,762        | 82,009,795        | 81,796,599        | 82,575,138      | 83,467,004      | 85,616,972      | 88,150,526     |
| 21       | Debt service                      | 14,388,808      | 11,133,908      | 10,485,266        | 11,940,541        | 16,353,166        | 17,292,486      | 17,741,435      | 14,759,055      | 14,707,055     |
| 22       | Commodities                       | 8,590,798       | 8,243,439       | 9,440,795         | 9,005,381         | 9,408,031         | 9,458,477       | 9,976,783       | 9,920,261       | 10,475,177     |
| 23       | Capital improvements              | 153,431         | 16,253          | 46,039            | 1,198             |                   | -               | -               | -               | -              |
| 24       | Capital outlay > \$10,000         | 1,761,966       | 1,193,789       | 529,072           | 1,180,000         | 135,000           | 135,000         | 135,000         | 135,000         | 135,000        |
| 25       | Transfers to other funds          | 27,186,927      | 49,525,862      | 71,660,999        | 36,367,041        | 36,175,715        | 35,958,616      | 33,186,280      | 34,456,113      | 37,374,747     |
| 26       | Total Expenditures                | 268,799,368     | 304,712,618     | 334,862,328       | 328,928,198       | 340,126,218       | 350,534,305     | 358,052,016     | 366,860,756     | 381,923,660    |
| 27       | <b>Operating Income</b>           | 3,473,863       | (100,685)       | 6,293,651         | (1,901,581)       | (1,408,372)       | (5,710,387)     | (1,703,478)     | 1,746,096       | (715,499       |
| 28       | Ending Fund Balance               | 110,400,713     | 110,300,028     | 116,593,679       | 114,692,098       | 113,283,726       | 107,573,340     | 105,869,862     | 107,615,957     | 106,900,458    |
| 20       |                                   | 5 400 040 040   | E 004 050 007   | 0 400 004 550     |                   | 7 550 004 070     | 7 050 054 055   | 0.400.000.040   | 0 400 047 044   | 0 000 000 70   |
| 29<br>20 | Assessed valuation                | 5,499,916,842   | 5,901,350,627   | 6,433,934,558     | 6,952,605,137     | 7,550,821,976     | 7,852,854,855   | 8,166,969,049   | 8,493,647,811   | 8,833,393,724  |
| 30       | Assessed valuation % chg.         | 1.41%<br>29.370 | 7.30%<br>29.368 | 9.02%             | 8.06%             | 8.60%             | 4.00%<br>27.881 | 4.00%<br>27.881 | 4.00%           | 4.00%<br>27.88 |
| 31<br>32 | Mill levy<br>Mill levy change     | (0.006)         | (0.002)         | 28.988<br>(0.380) | 28.701<br>(0.287) | 27.881<br>(0.820) | 27.881          | 27.881          | 27.881<br>0.000 | 27.88          |

Modified Accrual Basis