



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Fitzgerald Proposes \$932.4 Million Budget with No Tax Increase, 2.9% Growth

PITTSBURGH – Pursuant to Section 1.7-702 of the Home Rule Charter, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald presented his seventh proposed budget and the 2019 Comprehensive Fiscal Plan to County Council. The \$932.4 million budget represents a \$26.6 million, or 2.9% increase, over last year. It is the 17th time in 18 years that the balanced annual operating and capital budgets are proposed with no increase in the property tax millage rate.

“I’m very proud that we have been able to hold the line on property taxes for so long which has, in turn, encouraged growth and supported an economic vitality that continues to provide opportunities in our county. For the first time in 35 years, both Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s have rated the county as a very low credit risk,” said Fitzgerald. “This budget continues those efforts and is focused on investing in areas that improve our overall quality of life – improving our parks, strengthening our infrastructure, and providing resources and services that the residents of this county need to improve their own lives.”

The proposed capital budget totals \$111.2 million and includes 56 different infrastructure and capital improvement projects. It also reflects continued investment in the restoration of our historic courthouse, provides a robust roads program, budgets funding for work of our more than 500 bridges including the Rachel Carson Bridge, and increased funding for landslide and lateral support repairs.

Among the highlights in the proposed budget:

- The renovation of the facility on Hookstown Road in Moon Township to a new Emergency Services Department, including a new 9-1-1 Center, is expected to be complete by the end of 2018. Planning is underway for a move by the department and staff to the new state-of-the-art facility in the first quarter of 2019. The 9-1-1 Center remains the busiest center by volume and has the most complex operations and communications systems in the Commonwealth.
- The Kane Community Living Centers continue to identify the needs of our residents and has worked to address those through the development and implementation of specialty units such as substance abuse, behavioral health, and memory care. The 2019 budget contains the necessary resources to fully implement a Substance Use Disorder Unit at the McKeesport facility to address one such identified need within the county.
- In July 2019, the Department of Human Services will begin administering state funding that will provide for an Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC). The ELRC will serve as a single-entry point for families to connect with services for their children including family support, early intervention, and access to child care. The initiative will help improve the quality of early learning and education in the county.

County Council will hold budget hearings on the proposed capital and operating budgets in the coming months. The county's Home Rule Charter requires that Council must adopt balanced annual operating and capital budgets 25 days before the end of the fiscal year.

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