



2024 Operating Budget

City Leadership

Elected Officials

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Court Administrator

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What's Changed?

City Structure In April 2023, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen chose to eliminate the position of City Administrator. The City Clerk/Manager, Director of City Services, and Chief of Police now report directly to the Mayor. All other positions in the City report to one of those three employees.

Grant Sourcing In the latter part of 2022, the City began to more aggressively pursue grant funding for capital improvement projects. In 2023, the City was awarded a \$920,928 tourism grant from the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Learn more about how this grant will be used in 2024 on page 4. We are continuing to apply for grants to help support financial investments in other areas, with a primary focus on infrastructure.

Revenue Generation In 2023, voters passed a 1% Sales Tax increase, with 0.5% being allocated to General Revenue and 0.5% being allocated to road projects. That revenue started to be realized in October. This year, voters will see a General Obligation Bond on the ballot, Prop R, to leverage those dollars to finance major road projects, including Roelker Road. Learn more about Prop R on page 3.

Road Impact Fees The City was able to make significant upgrades to Stuermann Road in 2023 thanks to a road impact fee that had been added to the building permits on new home construction in subdivisions utilizing Stuermann. This program has been expanded to include all new construction in the City to provide needed funding to keep our streets in good repair.

What is Prop R?

In April 2023, voters approved a 1% sales tax increase. Of that, 0.5% was to be dedicated to road improvements. That 0.5% is expected to generate approximately \$250,000 in 2024. While this is a significant improvement to our budget, it will not be enough to cover the costs of major road repairs needed. After meeting with financial consultants specializing in municipalities, the Board has decided the best course of action to meet the needs of our citizens is to leverage that 0.5% sales tax to finance needed major road repairs through a General Obligation bond.

The first major project to be covered is Roelker Road. Our goal is to have repairs done in time for the completion of the new Wright City High School. This will include both repairs to the road as well as the addition of sidewalks for a safer environment for students. As projects are paid down, the City will be able to use that financing power to complete additional projects.

In reviewing options, a General Obligation Bond would allow for lower interest rates, allowing us to pay down debt more quickly to accomplish more improvements to our infrastructure. Should the Prop R not pass, the City will pursue the second financing option, Lease Financing, which would use the roads as collateral for the loan and incur higher interest rates.

In addition to this financing, the City will continue to pursue grant funding to limit to costs of infrastructure improvements to our citizens.

What's About Our Parks?

Wright City is home to four parks: Diekroeger, Ruge, City Hall, and our new 62 acre park. In 2024, residents will see improvements to several of these parks.

After receiving a \$920,928 grant from the Missouri Department of Tourism, we'll be beginning Phase 2 of the 62 Acre Park. This phase is anticipated to include the Wildcat Drive extension into the park's main parking lot, the main and secondary parking lots, and additional grading. This grant includes a 50% match by the city. We'll be using both in-kind labor and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to meet this match requirement. The City will continue pursuing additional grant funding to complete the park.

There will be several improvements to Dierkroeger Park in 2024. The restrooms will be remodeled to upgrade the fixtures and make them ADA compliant. This restroom renovation, along with the ADA compliant playground will make Diekroeger Park the only ADA compliant park in Warren County, giving all kids a place to play! Additionally, new event lighting will be installed to create a safer environment for our community.

At Ruge Park, the restrooms and concession stand will also see renovations.

Capital Projects

There have been a number of capital improvement projects approved for 2024. These projects will be paid for using both American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as well as City Reserves.

These projects include:

- ✓ Diekroeger Park bathroom renovations and event lighting
- ✓ Ruge Park bathroom renovations
- ✓ 62 Acre Park Phase 2 Grant Match
- ✓ Roelker Road engineering
- ✓ Street repairs to Timber Trails, Falcons Crest, The Shire, Trotters Creek, Auburn Meadows, Lake Tucci, Spring Hill, Spring Lakes, Hickory Trails, Quail Creek, Huntington Acres, and Gettysburg subdivisions

Unfunded Projects There remains a number of unfunded capital improvement projects in Wright City. As these projects pull from limited reserves, we've applied for a number of grants to help cover these costs. Additionally, the City will be leveraging financing abilities, as debt is paid down the increase in available credit can be used to fund these projects.

These projects include:

- ✓ Downtown streets, sidewalks, and stormwater system improvements
- ✓ Westwoods Road
- ✓ Stracks Church Road interchange
- ✓ Ruge Park walking path upgrades
- ✓ Wright City Memorial Cemetery sidewalk and curb repairs

Often, City officials will be questioned on certain projects that are outside our scope. Please note that interchanges, service roads, and lettered highways are Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) property. Additionally, some roads are within city limits, but are not city streets. As such, the City cannot use taxpayer dollars to make improvements to those roadways.

What Do My Taxes Fund?

Your taxes pay for the services our residents expect from each level of government. When thinking about local taxes, this is the greatest opportunity for taxation *with* representation. The Aldermen who vote on how tax revenues are spent are people you see each day in stores, school events, churches, and other spots around town. Each have their personal contact information listed on page two and meetings include allotted time for public comments. Should you have questions or concerns about how your tax money is being spent, your representatives are nearby to listen!

Personal Property Taxes There are a variety of tax entities represented on your annual personal property tax bill. Most Wright City residents will find the following codes on their annual personal property tax statement.

Code	Name	Rate
R2	Wright City R-II School District	4.4487
A2	Warren County Ambulance District	0.4901
F3	Wright City Fire Protection District	0.5769
ST	State of Missouri	0.0300
CT	Warren County General Revenue	0.0806
RD	Warren County Road & Bridge	0.1761
LB	Scenic Regional Library	0.1908
SB	Warren County Developmental Disability Board	0.1598
WC	Wright City ¹	
	General Revenue	0.4853
	Street Lights	0.1803
	Parks & Recreation	0.0901
	Debt Service ²	0.1091

¹ The total Wright City rate is .8648, it has been broken down to give better insight on what this rate funds.

² Wright City voters approved a General Obligation Bond in 2016 for \$1.5 million. These bonds were issued for a new City Hall, update of the Police Department, and Park im-provements/upgrades.

What Do My Taxes Fund?

Sales Tax The total Sales Tax rate is a combination of State, County, and City taxes. Wright City remains competitive compared to our surrounding communities. This allows the City to remain consumer and business friendly.

You'll notice in the chart below that many of our neighbors have a range of tax rates, dependent upon a variety of Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) that have been implemented.

Tax Entity	Fund	Rate
Missouri		
	General Revenue	3%
	Conservation	0.125%
	Education	1%
	Parks/Soil	0.1%
Warren County		2.0%
Warren County Emergency Services		0.5%
Wright City		
	General Revenue	1.5%
	Roads Fund	1.0%
	Park Fund	0.25%

How does our rate compare to our neighbors? You'll notice a number of municipalities have ranges listed to account for special taxation districts.

City	Total Rate
Wright City	9.475%
Warrenton	9.475% - 10.475%
Foristell	7.96%
Wentzville	8.45% - 10.45%
Truesdale	8.73%
Troy	9.48% - 10.475%

2024 Budgeted Revenue

Real Estate Tax	\$ 340,000.00
Personal Property Tax	\$ 110,000.00
County Surtax	\$ 33,000.00
Railroad & Utility Tax	\$ 11,000.00
City Sales Tax	\$ 750,000.00
Cable & Electric Franchise Tax	\$ 311,000.00
Transportation Trust Fund	\$ 400,000.00
State Motor Fuel Tax	\$ 140,000.00
Other Taxes	\$ 25,300.00
Business License	\$ 6,000.00
Building Permits ¹	\$ 315,000.00
Other Permits and Fees	\$ 51,550.00
Court Fines and Fees	\$ 90,241.00
School Resource Officer Reimbursement ²	\$ 81,822.00
Interest Earned	\$ 100,000.00
Other	\$ 84,189.00
Total Generated Revenue	\$ 2,849,102.00

¹ This number is significantly higher than average due to building permits and inspections of the new Wright City High School and PSWD2 Waste Water Treatment Facility.

² The Wright City R-II School District reimburses the City for School Resource Officers (SRO) stationed in schools by the Wright City Police Department during the school year.

2024 Operating Budget

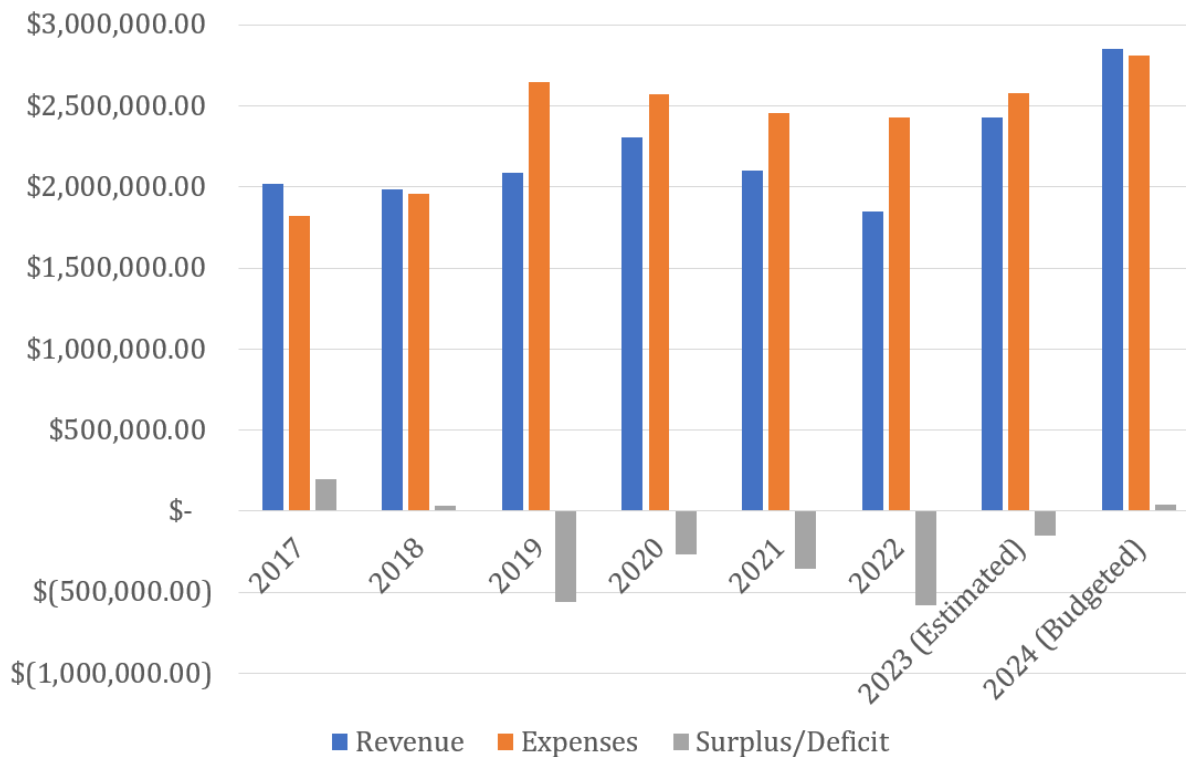
General Revenue Income	\$ 2,849,102.00
General Revenue Expenses	\$ 591,330.00
Economic Development Expenses ¹	\$ 15,000.00
Public Works Expenses	\$ 509,106.00
Building Inspection Expenses	\$ 97,329.62
Police Department Expenses	\$ 1,477,060.00
Court Expenses	\$ 71,302.62
Financial Expenses	\$ 51,341.00
Total Expenses	\$ 2,812,469.24
Budgeted Surplus	\$ 36,632.76

Reserve Funds	
Funds from Water/Sewer Sale	\$ 5,681,639.92
American Rescue Plan Act ²	\$ 620,539.17
Total Reserve Funds	\$ 6,302,179.09

¹Wright City is a member of the Greater Warren County Economic Development Council and the Boonslick Regional Planning Commission.

²Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) must be used in 2024. We will be using these funds as our grant match for Pase 2 of the 62 Acre Park and for street improvement projects.

Trends



Year	Revenue	Expenses	Surplus/Deficit
2017	\$ 2,022,002.50	\$ 1,822,455.43	\$ 199,547.07
2018	\$ 1,981,614.00	\$ 1,959,656.00	\$ 30,958.00
2019	\$ 2,087,276.41	\$ 2,647,716.25	\$ (560,439.84)
2020	\$ 2,305,193.00	\$ 2,569,685.28	\$ (264,492.28)
2021	\$ 2,099,725.67	\$ 2,454,427.59	\$ (354,701.92)
2022	\$ 1,847,113.90	\$ 2,429,726.15	\$ (582,611.25)
2023 (Estimated)	\$ 2,426,695.50	\$ 2,575,714.65	\$ (149,079.15)
2024 (Budgeted)	\$ 2,849,102.00	\$ 2,812,469.24	\$ 36,632.76

Key Dates

- 2018 Wright City sells the water and sewer system to Public Water and Sewer District #2. This decreased annual revenue and moved personnel expense of Public Works from Water and Sewer collections to General Revenue. The sale was necessary due to significant improvements needed to the system.
- 2020 Big Boys Restaurant closes, taking not only the best fried chicken from Wright City, but also the sales tax revenue generated from this regional destination.
- Voters approve a 1% Sales Tax increase, which began being collected in October 2023.

Public Meetings

All City meetings are open to the public and have time allotted for questions and comments. Additionally, Board of Aldermen Business meetings are available to attend via Zoom. Meeting agendas are posted 24 hours prior to the meeting in City Hall.

Meeting	Day	Time	Place
Board of Aldermen	2nd & 4th Thursdays of Each Month	6:30 pm	City Hall
Planning & Zoning Commission ¹	3rd Monday of Each Month	6:00 pm	City Hall
Park Board ¹	4th Tuesday of Each Month	6:00 pm	Diekroeger Park
Board and Commission Workshop ²	1st Monday of Each Month	6:00 pm	City Hall

¹ The Planning & Zoning Commission and Park Board are comprised of citizens who volunteer their time on these advisory boards.

² The monthly Workshop meeting is designed to give the Board of Aldermen and/or the Planning & Zoning Commission a space to collaborate on legislation and other city topics in a public forum. While there is time allotted for public comments, these meetings are purely working sessions in which no votes are held.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Joe Iannicola, Chair

Tom Uhl, Vice Chair

Alderman Kim Arbuthnot, Secretary

Janice Hinson

Nathan Hamilton

Mark Brandt

Mayor Michelle Heiliger

Frank Ellis

Park Board

Mary Groeper, President

Joseph Holiway, Vice President

Aimey Stude, Treasurer

Kathy Kehoe, Secretary

Richard Lagemann

Catherine Eschmann