



**Bexar County Public Information Office**  
San Antonio, Texas 78205-3036

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**September 14, 2021**

**Contact:** Monica Ramos  
210.335.2742/o  
210.289.5751/m

**Bexar County Commissioners approve FY 2021-2022 with tax rate reduction**

County Commissioners voted to approve the Budget for fiscal year (FY) 2021-2022 reducing the current tax rate to \$.299999 consisting of a 0.023668 road and flood control tax rate and a \$0.276331 general fund tax rate.

The Approved Budget totals \$2.79 billion for all funds, including \$660 million in Operating Appropriations, \$1.28 billion in Capital Projects, \$147 million for Debt Service, \$389 million for American Rescue Plan Act funds, and \$311 million for contingencies and reserves, most of which is carry forward funding for multi-year capital projects. The FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget for the General Fund totals \$526.3 million compared to last year's operating budget of \$524.2 million, or an increase of just over \$2 million.

Due to the uncertainty regarding the potential impact of COVID-19 on the County's financial position, no salary increases or compensation enhancements were adopted in last year's budget. This year, Courtmembers adopted a 5 percent salary increase for all Bexar County employees, including eligible elected officials. This increase is equal to the rate of inflation over the past 12 months. This includes the same percentage increase for employees covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement, should the agreement be approved by the Deputy Sheriff's Association. A one-time lump sum payment of \$2,000 is adopted for each employee on the Non-Exempt Pay Table. Finally, out-of-pocket costs for health insurance for employees will remain unchanged from Plan Year 2021.

Some of the highlighted programs and projects include:

- Funding for 1 Prosecutor, 2 Advocates, 1 Crime Victim Liaison and 1 support staff to support domestic violence and family justice services.
- Three Attorney positions for the District Attorney's Office are proposed to decrease the caseload per Attorney that handles Child Protective Service cases.
- Three Prosecutor positions are proposed to support Elder Abuse cases, Mental Health cases and misdemeanor cases in the District Attorney's Office.

Funding for four new Specialized Multidisciplinary Alternate Response Teams (SMART) is included in the approved budget. SMART is run by the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council to respond to 9-1-1 mental health calls with a trained, multidisciplinary team to divert individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. The program began in October 2020 and results have been positive:

- 40 percent of calls were resolved on scene
- 70 percent of individuals gained access to service for the first time by utilizing SMART response.
- 2,341 hours of patrol time (97 24-hour days) unencumbered
- No incidents of use of force on any call that SMART has been assigned to in the 9 months of existence

Funding for 17 positions, both civilian and uniformed, in the Sheriff's Office will be authorized on April 1, 2022, provided the Sheriff's Office is not projected to exceed the amount budgeted for jail overtime pay (\$8,013,406).

Seven Deputy Constable positions are adopted for each Constable precinct. Four of those deputies will provided patrol service for parks (does not include event security). The other 3 deputies will serve civil process currently handled by the Sheriff's Office. Twelve previously proposed deleted positions for the Sheriff's Office Civil Process division have been restored and will be reassigned from the Civil Process section to Patrol.

The Court also authorized funding for one Associate Judge, one Court Manager and one Court Reporter for Children's Court and one Attorney II for the Criminal District Attorney. Additionally they authorized to fund part-time temporary Interns for the Commission on Domestic Violence.

A new 10-year Infrastructure Program is included in the adopted budget. The program totals \$617 million and includes 87 projects. The program will be financed over a 10-year period and will not require an increase to the tax rate. The finance plan assumes bonds will be issued annually in accordance with funding requirements, the debt service tax rate remains unchanged, and a property tax growth rate of 4 percent. Wherever possible, funding from other sources will be leveraged.

### **Roads**

Funding in the amount of \$187.7 million is included to fund a 10-year Roads program. Projects will include residential street reconstructions and arterial roadway enhancements, including improved pavement sections, Americans with Disabilities compliant pedestrian amenities, and necessary drainage countywide.

### **Flood Control**

Twelve Flood Control projects are adopted at a cost of \$110.7 million. These projects will address frequent flooding events on the county roadway network, providing for safe and efficient mobility along these flood prone corridors during major storm events. Other major flood control initiatives include large-scale drainage improvements to effectively reduce the footprint of the

regulatory 100-year floodplain in areas of residential and commercial flood inundation, enhancing public safety and reducing costs to the public for flood insurance.

### **Creeks and Trails**

Bexar County Commissioners Court is undertaking a series of capital projects that are located along the County's rivers and creeks for the benefit of the community. Funding in the amount of \$244.2 million is adopted for 27 creeks and trails. These projects are intended to continue or complement previous Bexar County capital investments; restore a degraded aquatic or riparian ecosystem; improve water quality and flood control; promote the addition of trails and other recreational amenities; connect neighborhoods, public institutions, city and county parks to the existing linear creekway trail network; and serve as a catalyst for future economic development along the river and creeks.

### **Parks Master Plan**

On July 13, 2021, Commissioners Court approved the 2021 Bexar County Parks Master Plan. The Plan is based on an evaluation and assessment of existing parks, park user surveys and an economic impact analysis. Funding in the amount of \$74.4 million is included in the Adopted Budget for 22 projects.

Separate from the 10-Year Infrastructure Program, the County currently has several major capital improvement projects underway. These projects include a Satellite Facility in Precinct 4, a new facility for Agri-Life Extension Services, jail improvements/upgrades and new enterprise systems. Work on these projects will continue through FY 2021-22.

Funding in the amount of \$71.4 million is adopted for new capital projects in FY 2021-22. Some of the more noteworthy projects include a new Criminal Investigation Laboratory, renovation to the Precinct 3 Satellite Facility, a new Workforce Training Center, improvements to the Urban Farm, and improvements to the Juvenile Detention Campus.

For full details on the County's Adopted Budget included Change Orders, please visit [www.bexar.org](http://www.bexar.org) The FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget will begin on October 1, 2021.