

County Propositions

March 5, 2024, Ballot

Wagoner County Board of Commissioners

HalfAPennyForWagonerCounty.com



Proposition No. 8

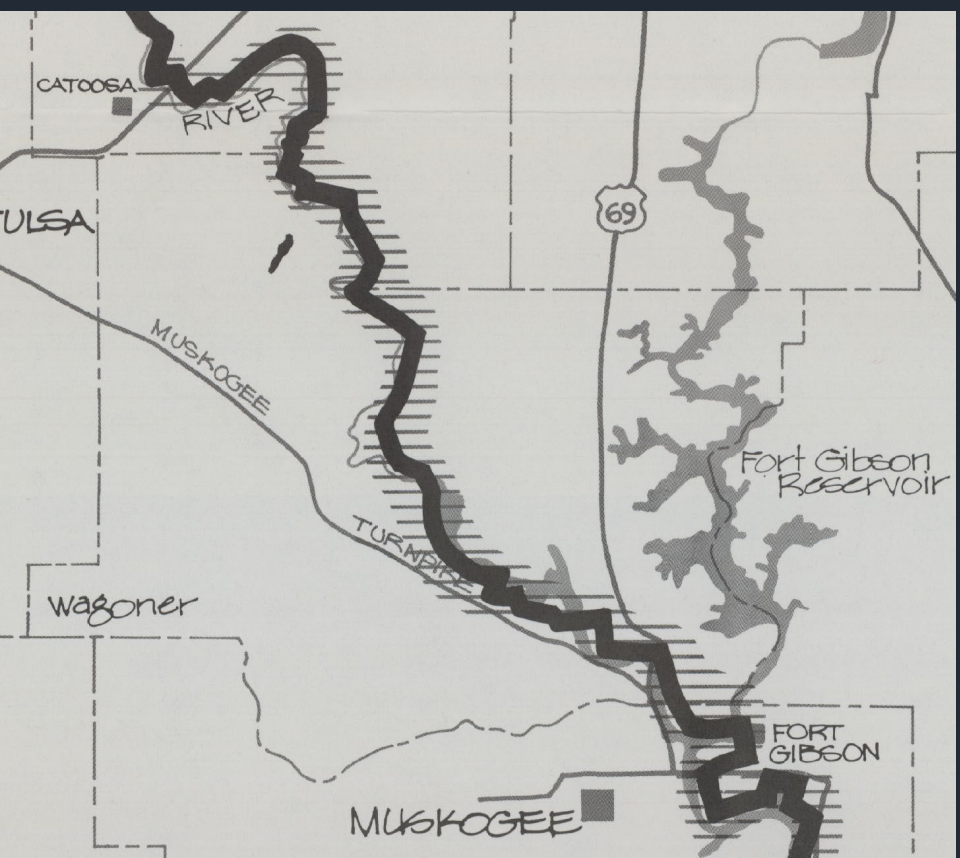
Resolution 2023-050

- County Lodging Excise Tax of 5%
- Funds collected will be used by Wagoner County to:
 - Encourage, promote, develop, construct, maintain, repair facilities, trails, access, enjoyment of public spaces, and other recreation throughout Wagoner County
- Applies to:
 - Furnishing of rooms or recreational vehicle at RV Park for purpose of sleeping accommodations
 - Examples: AirBnB, Hotel, Motel, Traditional Bed and Breakfast, VRBO, RV



Proposition No. 8

Resolution 2023-050



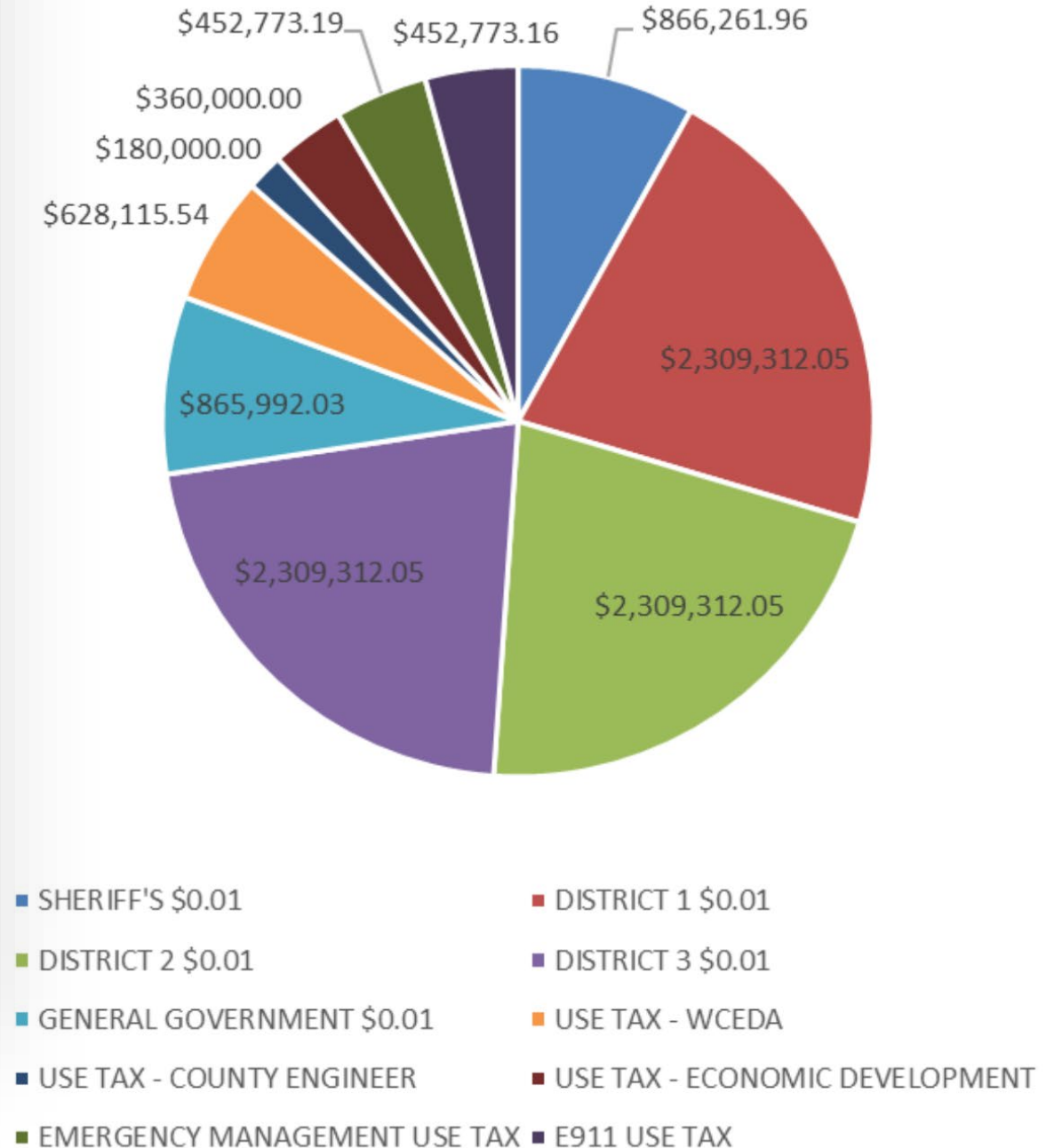
- County Lodging Excise Tax of 5%
- BOCC Goals:
 - Create a fund for continued development and maintenance for County Recreation specifically:
 - County Recreational Park
 - Jean Pierre Chouteau Trail (59-mile Recreational Trail developed by USACE in 1970s along the MKARNS)

Proposition No. 1

Resolution 2023-139

- Make the 0.80% for County Roads and Bridges sales tax permanent
- Purpose: Secure VITAL infrastructure funding
- Sales Tax funding for County Roads and Bridges makes up more than 68% of total available revenue
- \$11,500/mile would reduce to \$7,848/mile.

2023 SALES TAX AND USE TAX ALLOCATION



Proposition No. 2

Resolution 2023-140

- Make the 0.10% sales tax for Sheriff's Department Operations Permanent

Proposition No. 3

Resolution 2023-141

- Make the 0.10% sales tax for County General Fund Permanent
 - \$704,579.00 Workers Comp. & Liability Insurance for fiscal year 2023

Permanency allows for the sale of bonds to fund special projects reducing the need to increase taxes in the future



Proposition No. 4

Resolution 2023-142

- Reallocates half of the 0.30% permanent fire tax to a County-wide ambulance authority. Citizen tax dollars divided between two types of Public Safety needs
 - Fire District funding averaged \$16,000 monthly per district in 2023
 - Fire Districts have \$3.6M in reserve
 - Fire Districts are operating at approx. 50% of fire tax appropriations
 - Fire Districts expend funds to train personnel and maintain operations
- Ambulance services for unincorporated Wagoner County are borrowed from municipalities and neighboring counties

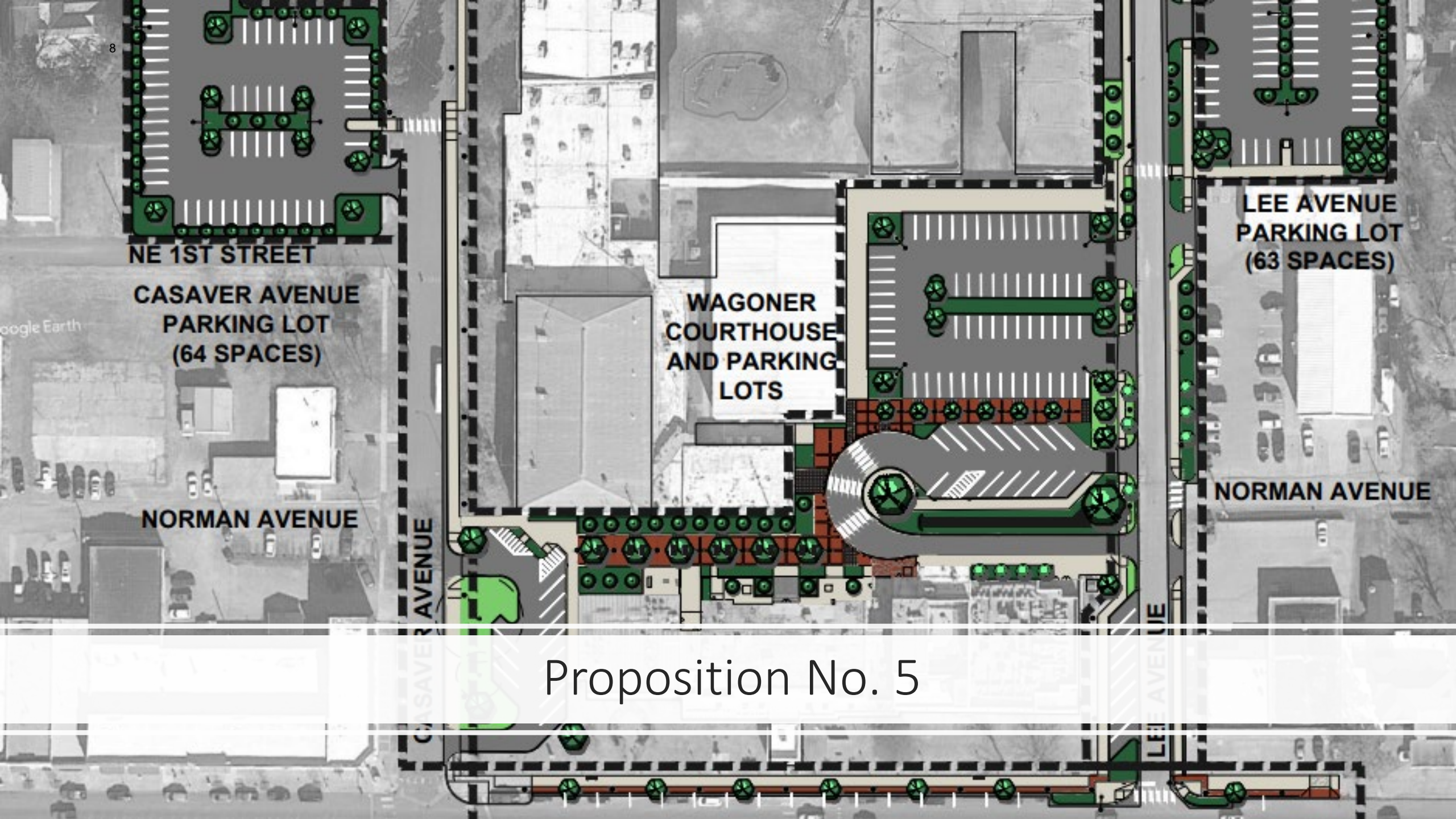


Proposition No. 5

Resolution 2023-143

- A new 0.125% temporary sales tax levy for the purpose of creating parking and pedestrian access to the County Courthouse. In addition, a new entry and needed renovations on the Courthouse complex for the needs of County offices
 - Current Parking Spaces = 173 Spaces (lost 51 in 2021)
 - Project provides 316 Spaces
 - Tax Goal over 30 years: \$10M
- Any excess funds raised will be targeted toward a maintenance fund





8

NE 1ST STREET

CASAVAR AVENUE
PARKING LOT
(64 SPACES)

NORMAN AVENUE

CASAVAR AVENUE

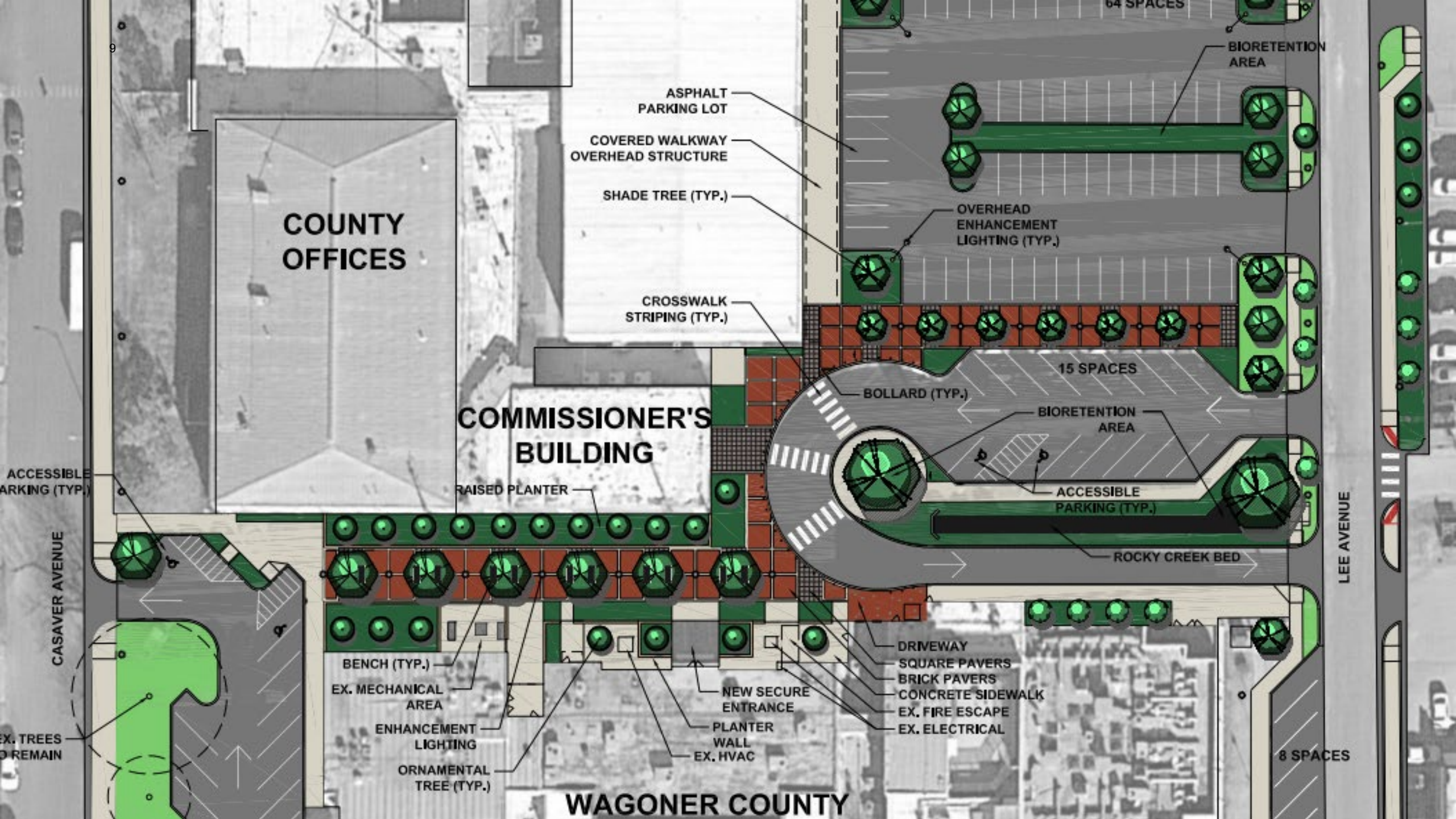
WAGONER
COURTHOUSE
AND PARKING
LOTS

LEE AVENUE
PARKING LOT
(63 SPACES)

NORMAN AVENUE

LEE AVENUE

Proposition No. 5



COUNTY OFFICES

COMMISSIONER'S BUILDING

WAGONER COUNTY

ASPHALT PARKING LOT

COVERED WALKWAY OVERHEAD STRUCTURE

SHADE TREE (TYP.)

CROSSWALK STRIPING (TYP.)

64 SPACES

BIORETENTION AREA

OVERHEAD ENHANCEMENT LIGHTING (TYP.)

15 SPACES

BOLLARD (TYP.)

BIORETENTION AREA

ACCESSIBLE PARKING (TYP.)

ROCKY CREEK BED

LEE AVENUE

8 SPACES

ACCESSIBLE PARKING (TYP.)

RAISED PLANTER

CASAVAR AVENUE

BENCH (TYP.)

EX. MECHANICAL AREA

ENHANCEMENT LIGHTING

ORNAMENTAL TREE (TYP.)

NEW SECURE ENTRANCE

PLANTER WALL

EX. HVAC

DRIVEWAY

SQUARE PAVERS

BRICK PAVERS

CONCRETE SIDEWALK

EX. FIRE ESCAPE

EX. ELECTRICAL

EX. TREES TO REMAIN

Proposition
No. 5



DRAFT CO
FOR REVI
09/13/2023

Proposition No. 5



Proposition No. 6

Resolution 2023-144

- A new 0.25% sales tax levy for the funding of a Criminal Justice Authority (Jail Trust).
- “A properly trained, equipped, professional staff that is held accountable by leadership, that takes a more proactive approach is the first and best line of defense [from excessive judgements]” – *County Jail and Jail Trust Authority Report Prepared for the ACCO SIG/SIF Board*
- “Using county general funds as a primary or even secondary source of funding may blur the lines [of legal separation]” – *County Jail and Jail Trust Authority Report Prepared for the ACCO SIG/SIF Board*

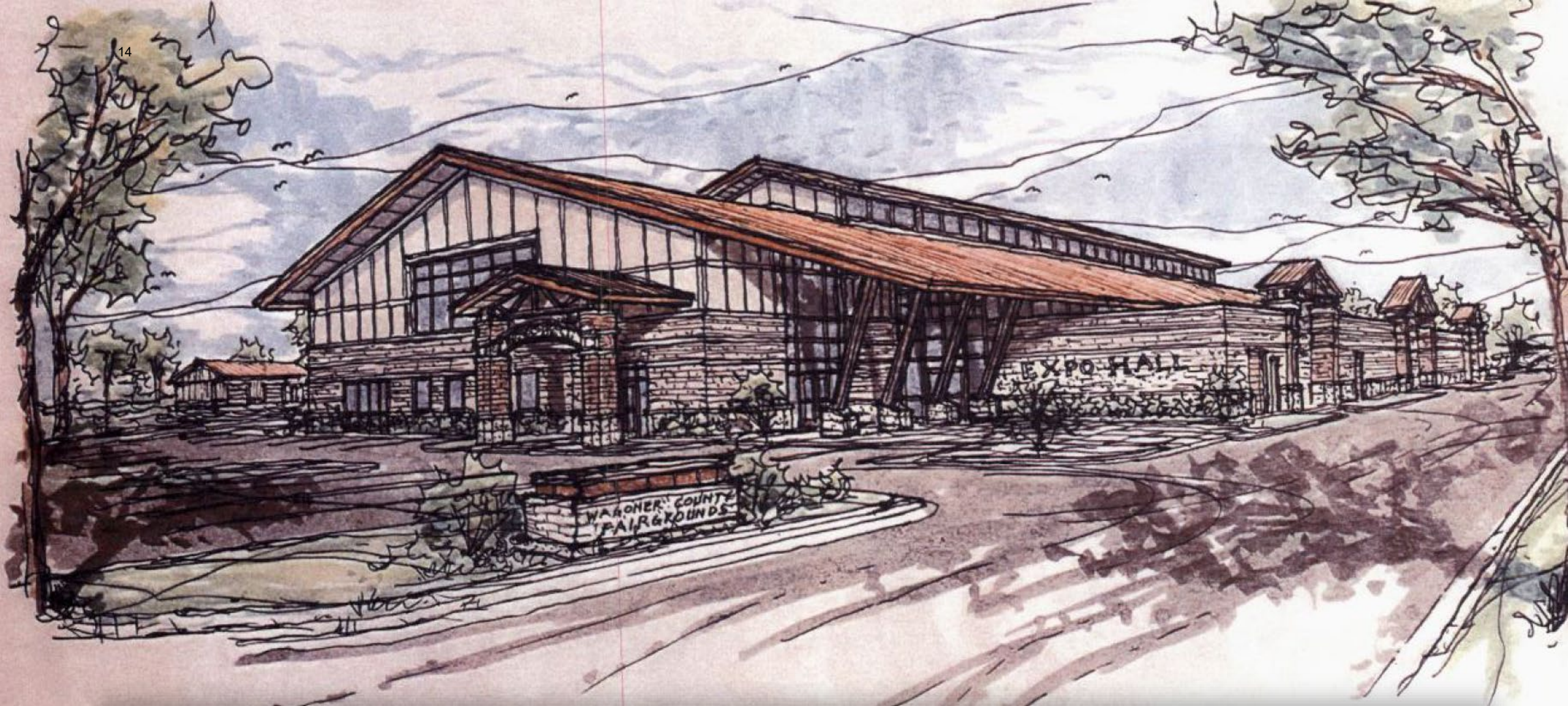


Proposition No. 7

Resolution 2023-145

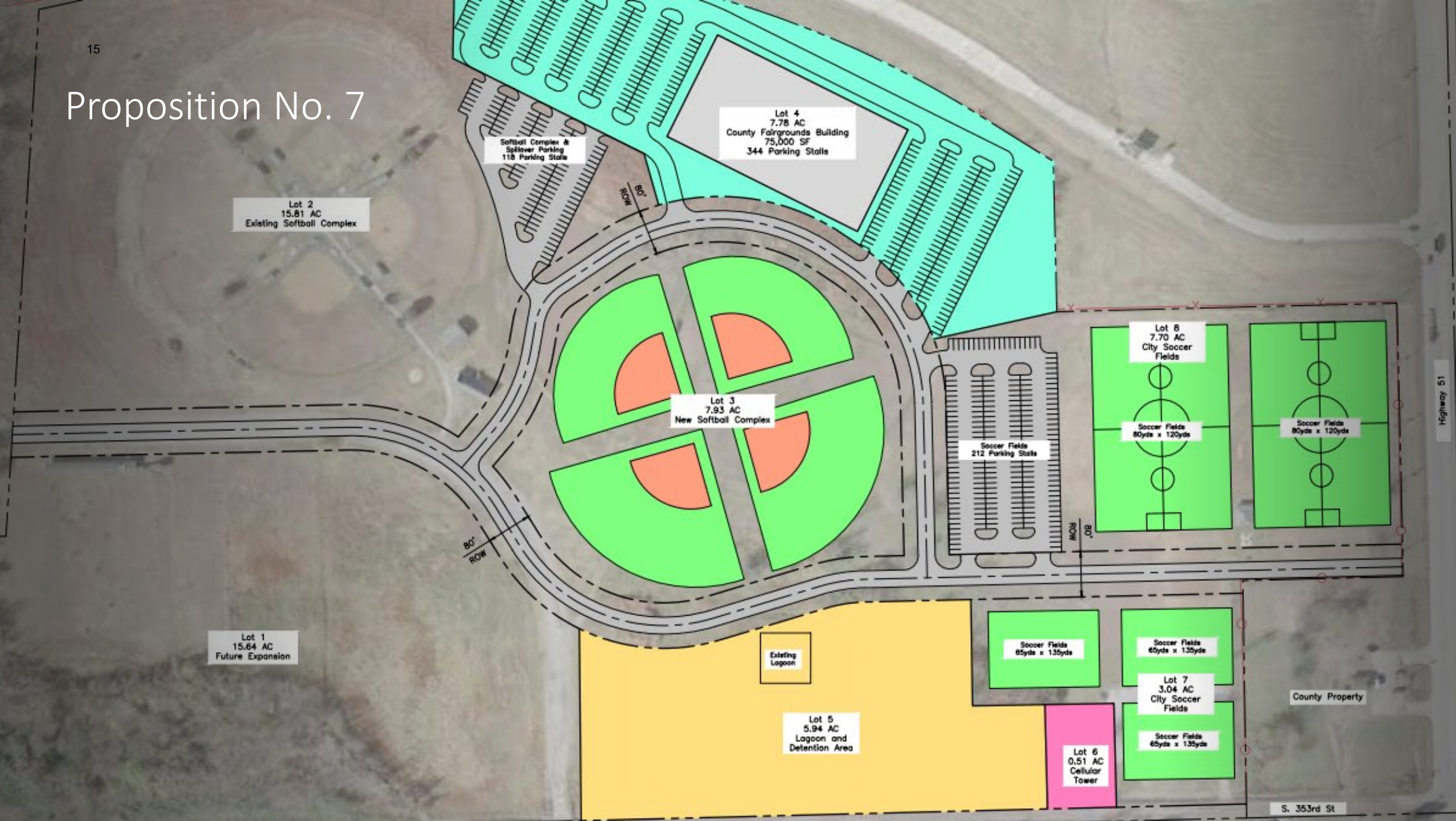
- A new 0.125% temporary sales tax levy for the funding of a Wagoner County Fairgrounds
- Tax Goal over 30 years: \$10M
- Current Fairgrounds is undersized, nearly 50 years old, poor accessibility, and surrounded by residential neighborhoods and Coweta Schools
- New Fairgrounds will be located at SH51 and the Muskogee Turnpike, centrally located in the county and adequately sized to accommodate the growing County
- Will house OSU Extension, Exhibit Areas, Stalls, Arena, Conference
- 75,000SF





Proposition No. 7

Proposition No. 7



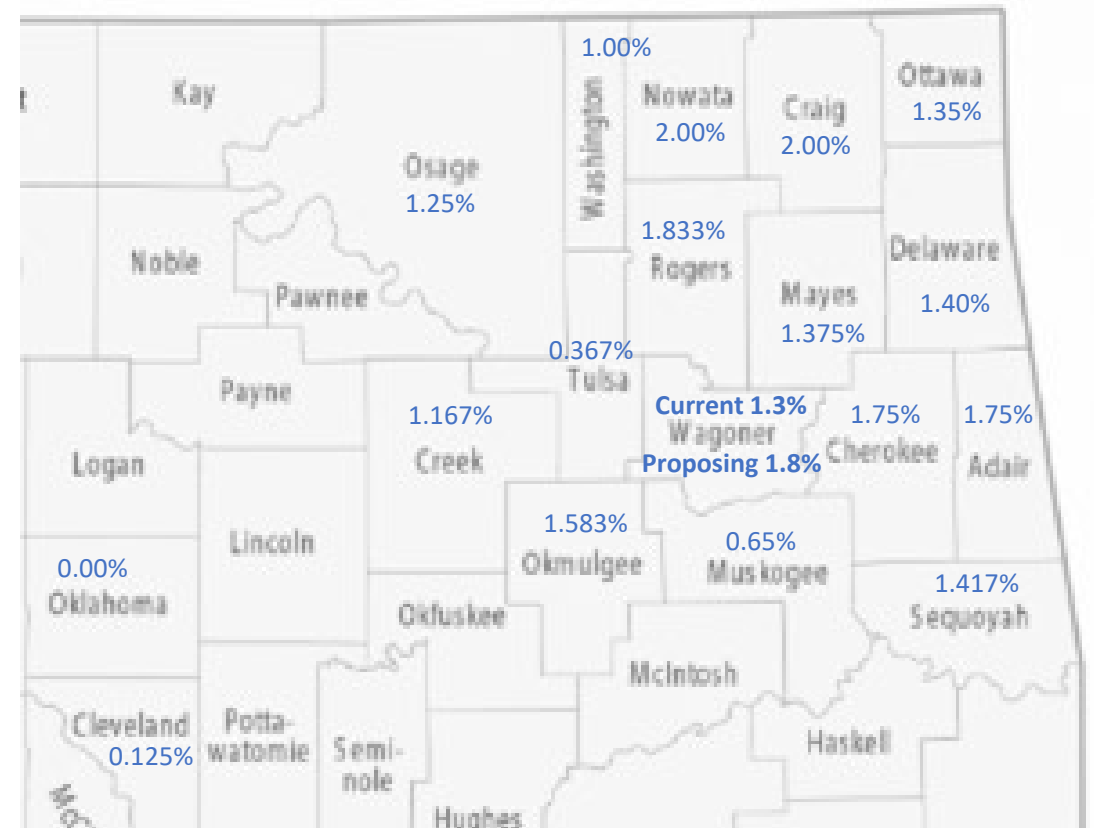
Summary

- The combination of 7 Sales Tax Propositions will result in a permanent increase of 0.25% and a temporary increase of 0.25%.
 - 1.3% to 1.8% for 30 years and 1.55% in perpetuity
- The combination of 8 Propositions, if approved by the voters, will result in:
 - JPC Trail Maintenance and Development Funding – Investment in Tourism
 - Investment in Criminal Justice via the funding of a new Jail Trust
 - Investment in County Services, Infrastructure, and Law Enforcement
 - Investment in Public Safety via County-wide Ambulance
 - Investment into youth education and agricultural preservation



FAQs

- Where does this tax increase put Wagoner County in comparison to other County sales tax levels in Oklahoma?
 - 25 out of 77 Counties are at the maximum sales tax rate allowed of 2%
 - Additional 8 Counties are at 1.75% to 2%
 - General trend State-wide is:
 - County Tax lower when population is higher, job centers are higher, and number of businesses are higher



<https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/tax/documents/resources/publications/businesses/sales-and-use-tax/rate-charts-copos/2023/copo1Q23.pdf>

FAQs

- How does it really translate in dollars and cents?
- \$100 of groceries at:
 - Walmart in Broken Arrow
 - State Sales Tax of 4.5%
 - Broken Arrow 3.55%
 - Proposed County 1.8% vs Current County 1.3%
 - CURRENT TOTAL = 9.35% (\$9.35)
 - PROPOSED TOTAL = 9.85% (\$9.85)
 - Walmart in Coweta or Wagoner (Sales Tax of 4% in both Cities)
 - CURRENT TOTAL = \$9.80 vs PROPOSED TOTAL = \$10.30
 - Dollar General in Porter (Porter Sales Tax of 4%) – \$9.80 to \$10.30



FAQs

- How will the Criminal Justice Authority be formed and managed?
 - The Criminal Justice Authority will be formed as a Title 60 Trust
 - The Trust will be managed by a Board appointed by the Board of County Commissioners
 - The Trust will hire a Jail Administrator and Staff
 - The Jail will be operated independently from the Sheriff's Department
 - The Jail will be funded independently from the County Government



FAQs

- What do you mean by Professional Staff in the Jail?
 - A County Jail is the highest liability operation in County government
 - Millions of dollars of judgements have been granted against County Jails
 - In State Law, Elected Officials and Staff are limited to a calculated capacity pay rate.
 - State Law does not allow for staff to be paid above the Elected Officials' pay ceiling
 - In a Trust, this ceiling does not exist – pay is NOT tied to Elected Official pay capacities
 - A County Sheriff can be replaced by the voters every four years
 - This volatility is a liability for the citizens of Wagoner County
 - Most Sheriffs come from “street experience” as a former deputy or patrol
 - Jail Administration requires experience that the Sheriff often lacks
 - A Trust hired professional Jail Administrator reduces likelihood of lawsuits
 - No Oklahoma jail trusts have received judgements



FAQs

- What is the liability risk in a Jail? How serious is this?
- In last 12 years Law Enforcement related lawsuits
 - Wagoner County is #1/73 counties in open lawsuits at 10
 - Wagoner County is #2/73 counties in the state in total filed lawsuits at 27
 - Wagoner County is #3/73 counties in the state in total LE liability claims at \$3,591,653.00
 - Cleveland, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Rogers Counties are NOT included in the SIG
- ACCO Self-insured Group/Self-insured Fund (SIG/SIF)
 - Reduced coverage to \$1M/claim up to \$2M cap/year



FAQs

- I heard the Sheriff say that the jail was overcrowded. Is the jail trust going to address this assertion?
 - The jail trust proposition is written so that jail facility maintenance and expansion are allowable expenses
 - Overcrowding in the jail is a not a shared opinion by Wagoner County leadership, nor is there consensus between detention facilities or state departments regarding square footage requirements for inmates
 - Wagoner County Jail population has decreased in the last 5 years
 - Wagoner County has the 12th lowest crime rate in Oklahoma
 - Wagoner County arrests have decreased over the last 10 years
 - AG Opinion: Internal Tracking Number X – 24, Requested by Representative Pfeiffer

I want to state unequivocally that the OSDH lacks necessary legal authority to enforce square footage requirements that subtract “encumbered space” in jail cells. OSDH lacks such legal

The removal of the square footage guideline in subsection A of section 192 undercuts OSDH’s authority to promulgate or even enforce rules regarding square footage. Currently, section 192 only requires inmates to have “adequate clothing and a usable bed.” 74 O.S.2021, § 192(A)(5). An agency may only exercise the powers “expressly given by statute,”

The AG does recommend that some SF requirement be added to law by legislative action to protect against claims, but until that time it is at the discretion of Jail Administrators.

The Wagoner County Sheriff’s management decisions are dictating inmate transfers.



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

August 1, 2023

Respectfully,

THOMAS R. SCHNEIDER
Deputy General Counsel



THE HALF PENNY CAMPAIGN

FAQs

- How many ambulances will 0.15% of sales tax revenue fund?
 - 0.15% will bring in approximately \$1.35M annually
 - Estimates for the cost to operate one ambulance ranges from \$250,000 to \$500,000 per year
 - Wagoner County anticipates 2 – 4 ambulances to be put into rotation immediately



FAQs

- Proposition No. 4 reads, “...provision of ambulance and emergency response services...”, what does this statement mean?
 - According to the Bonds attorney, the sentence is referring to Ambulance transport and Paramedic response. It encompasses both paramedics and movement of people in vehicles
 - **IT DOES NOT MEAN OTHER SERVICES SUCH AS FIRE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT**



FAQs

- Proposition No. 4 also reads, “...the payment of principal and interest or any indebtedness, including refunding indebtedness...”
 - If passed, the Authority can go into debt service prior to earning enough funds to establish the ambulance vehicles, facilities, equipment, personnel, or contracts needed.
 - FUNDS ARE NOT FOR PAYING FOR OTHER PAST COUNTY PURCHASES



FAQs

- Does Wagoner County really need an Ambulance Authority? I heard that Wagoner County had a 11min response time average on ambulances already?
 - Wagoner County is served by municipal Ambulance services and neighboring Counties of Muskogee and Mayes. Unincorporated Wagoner County is served via mutual-aid only
 - Wagoner County does NOT have an average response time of 11 min. This statistic is for the City of Wagoner EMS when they ACCEPT calls
 - When WEMS does NOT accept the call, mutual-aid is requested (22min avg)
 - **45 calls between 1/23 – 2/24 resulted in >30min wait times**
 - Excludes transfers, lift assists, special events, and stand-by



Most Notably

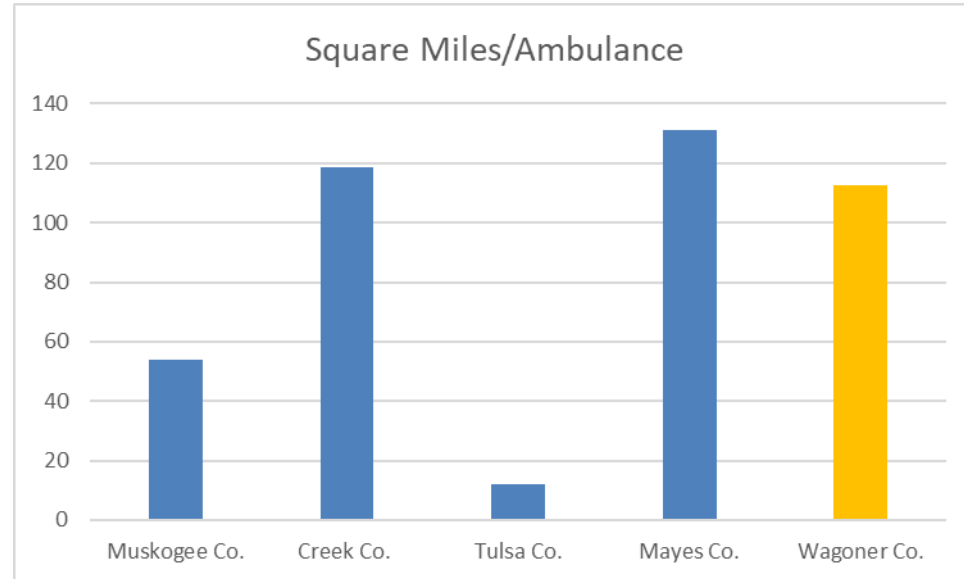
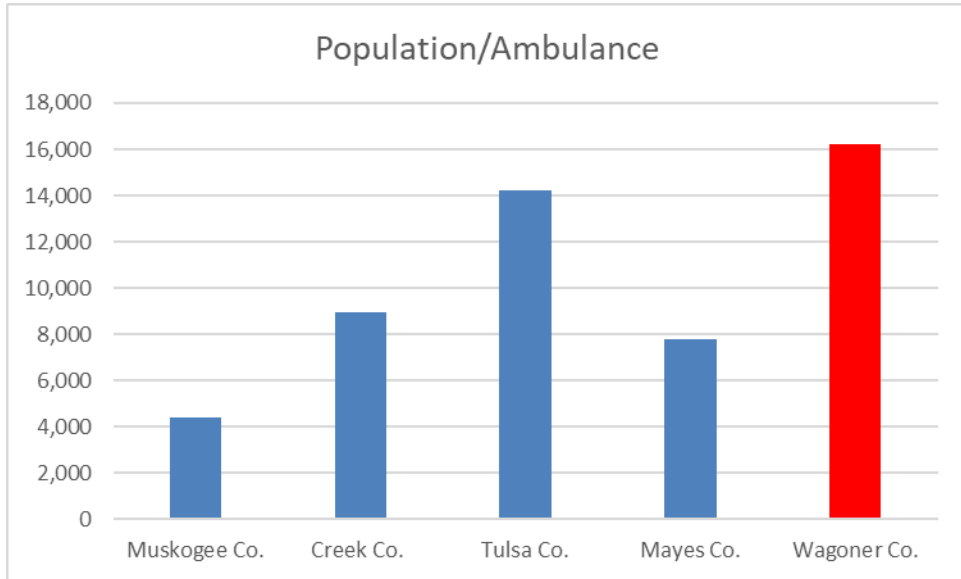
Wagoner County man dies waiting 40 minutes for an ambulance

Alexa Mostrom Mar 2, 2023 Updated Jul 25, 2023



THE HALF PENNY CAMPAIGN

Ambulances & Population



	Providers	Ambulances	Population	Population/Ambulance	Hospitals	Area (SM)	Square Miles/Ambulance
Muskogee Co.	MCEMS	15	66,339	4,423	2	811	54
Creek Co.	CCEMS	8	71,754	8,969	3	950	119
Tulsa Co.	EMSA	47	669,279	14,240	12	570	12
Mayes Co.	MESTA	5	39,046	7,809	1	655	131
Wagoner Co.	City of Wagoner						
	City of Coweta	5	80,981	16,196	1	562	112
	City of BA						
Proposition Improvements		2		11,569			80
		3		10,123			70
		4		8,998			62



Ambulance Finances

- \$0.45/mile to fuel an ambulance
- City of Wagoner – 2021 (\$42,000) for EMS
- City of Coweta – 2023 (\$565,000) for EMS
- A Reduction on Road Miles/Ambulance is a reduction in operational costs
 - Additional Ambulance Services spreads the coverage, and cost, across multiple agencies
 - Is it possible to help the two biggest providers operate in the black?
- There are service providers in the black
 - Creek County EMS, Muskogee County EMS for examples

	Providers	Ambulances	Road Miles	Road Miles/Ambulance
Muskogee Co.	MCEMS	15	1960	131
Creek Co.	CCEMS	8	1775	222
Tulsa Co.	EMSA	47	4524	96
Mayes Co.	MESTA	5	1518	304
Wagoner Co.	City of Wagoner	5	1573	315
	City of Coweta			
	City of BA			
Proposition Improvements		2		225
		3		197
		4		175



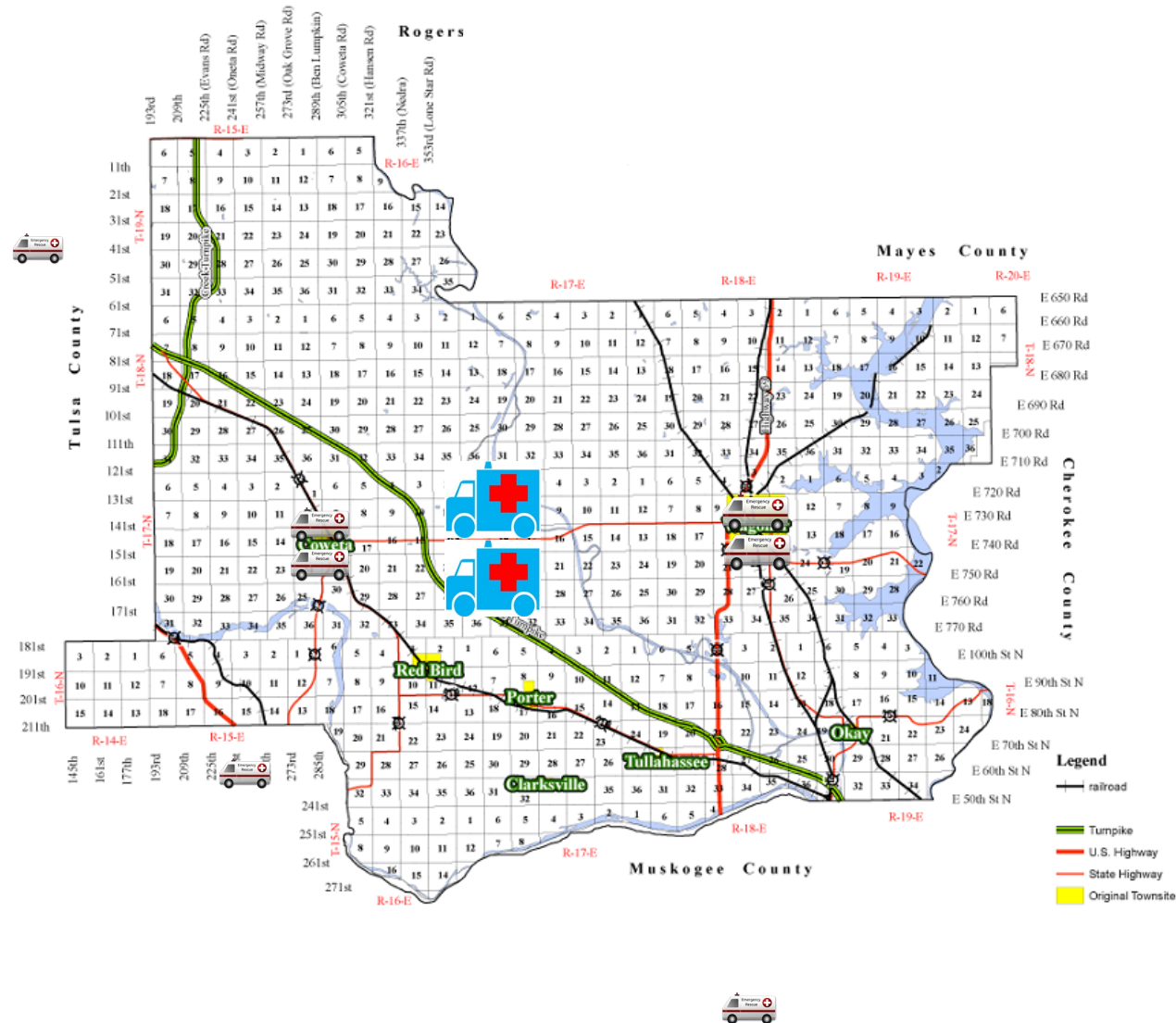
Scenarios

- 3/22/23 – Vehicular Crash – 2 kids and 1 adult injured driving into the back of a sand truck on SH51B right at 305th East Avenue
 - Three ambulances needed
 - 1 from Coweta, 1 from MCEMS, couldn't get a third – Life flight needed after 45 min
- Potential Risk – 2 vehicular crash with 4 passengers
 - 4 separate ambulances needed for critical patients
- Potential Risk – House fire with 4 burned victims and heat stroked firefighter
 - 5 separate ambulances needed for critical patients



FAQs

- Where will the ambulances be located?
 - Wagoner County has secured a location at the intersection of S 385th East Avenue and State Highway 51 for up to 2 vehicles



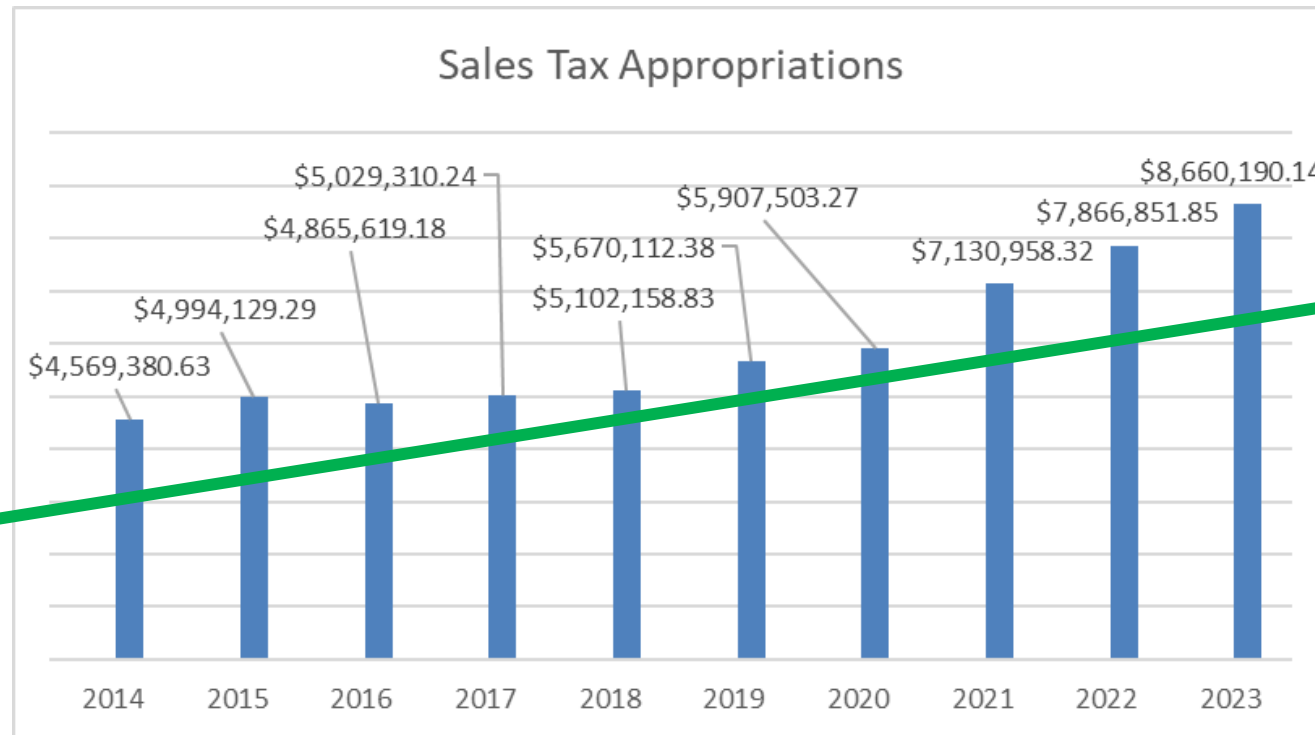
FAQs

- How will the Ambulance Authority begin?
 - The Ambulance Authority will be formed as a Title 60 Trust
 - The Ambulance Authority will be a PARTNER with other Ambulance Service providers in the county
 - The Ambulance Authority will begin by putting out a Request for Proposal to contract with an Ambulance Service



FAQs

- What is the projected sales tax earnings growth for Wagoner County?



2023	9%
2022	9%
2021	17% COVID
2020	4% COVID
2019	10%
2018	1%
2017	3%
2016	-3%
2015	9%
2014	

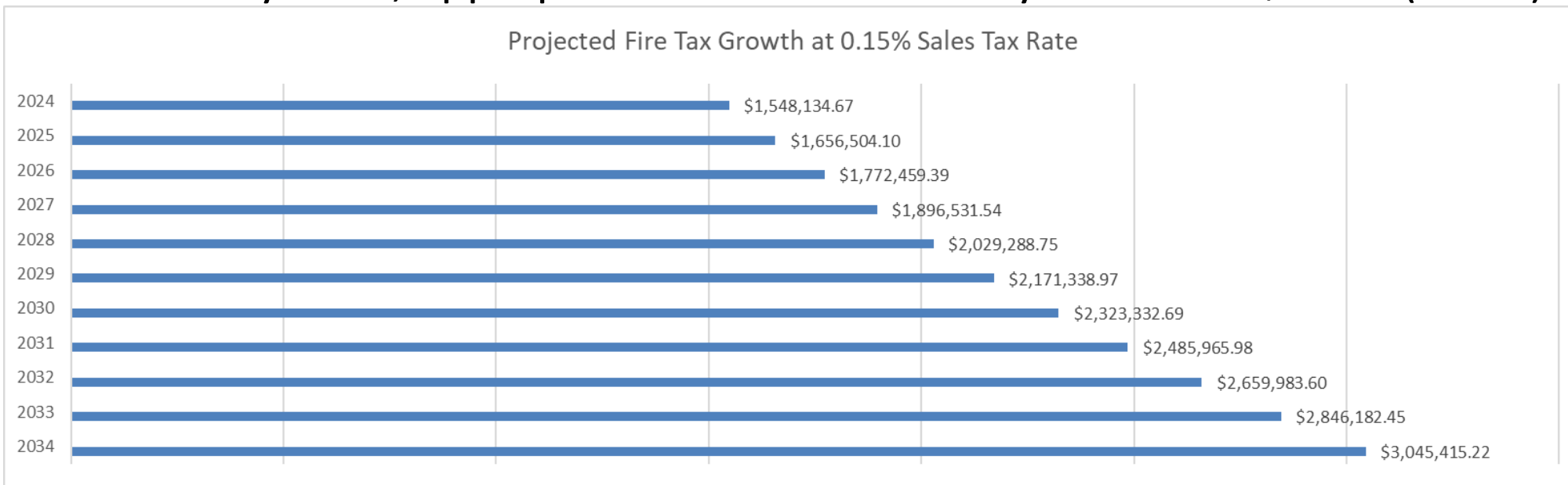
AVERAGE
GROWTH OVER 10
YEARS = 7%

LAST 5 YEARS 10%



FAQs

- What is the projected Fire Sales Tax Growth following the re-allocation of funds?
 - Same as the overall sales tax growth projection of 7 - 10% per year.
 - By 2031, appropriations will be at today's levels of \$2.5M (at 7%).



FAQs

**SALES TAX
EARNINGS ARE
DIRECTLY
PROPORTIONAL TO
INFLATION**

- How will the proposed re-allocation of fire tax funds affect Fire Department Operations?
 - Fourteen (14) fire departments receive the fire tax for all or a portion of their funding
 - In 2023:
 - all districts spent \$1.5M **(54%)**
 - all districts appropriated \$2.9M
 - Districts are NOW operating at the proposed re-allocation levels
 - Expenses vs Appropriations gap is widening (*inflation has no impact*)
 - Appropriations HAVE OUT PACED operations
 - Re-allocation WILL NOT affect fire department operations
 - Note: Districts currently have \$3,584,000.00 cash in the bank

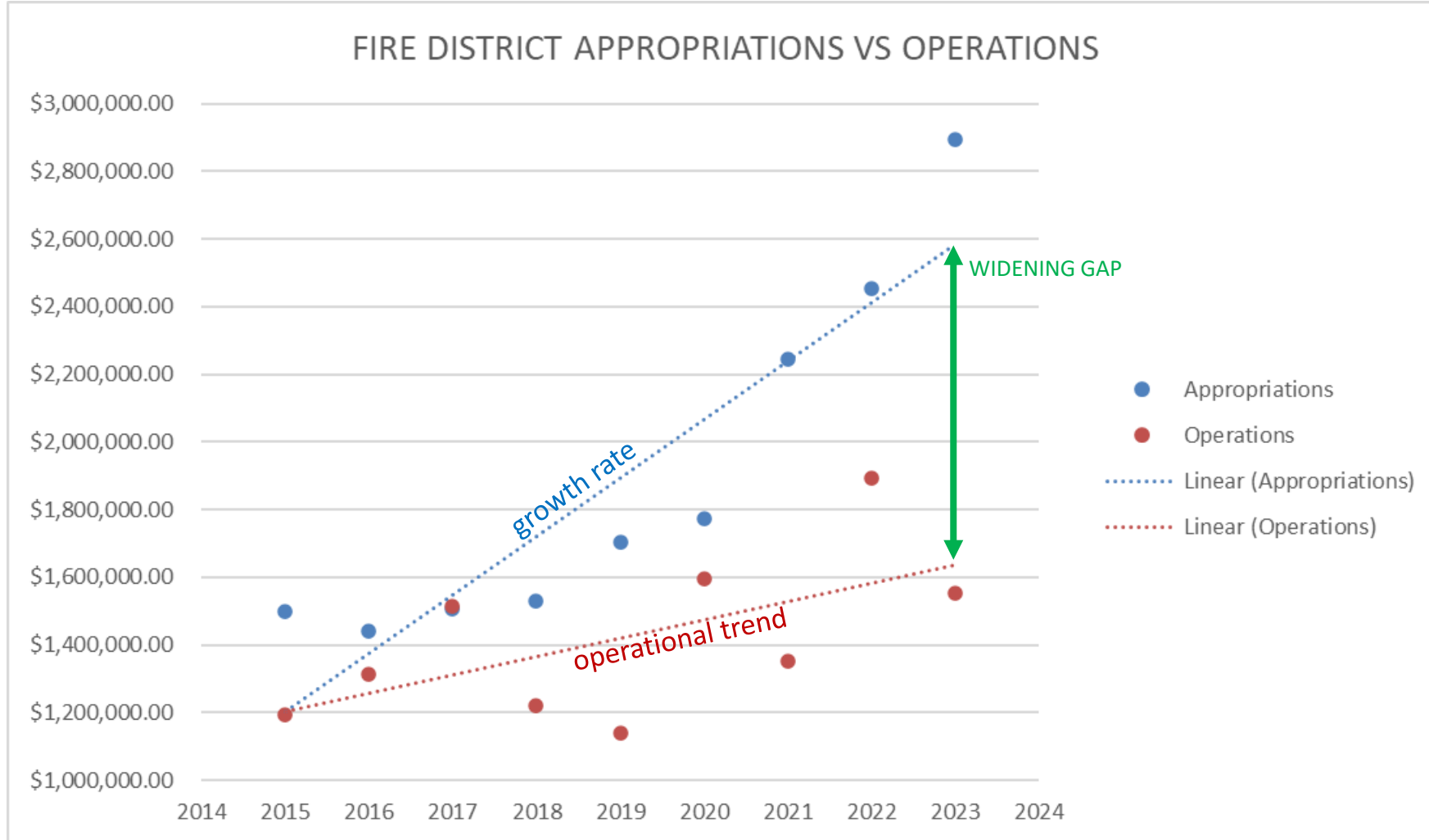
**THE OPERATIONS
AND
APPROPRIATIONS
GAP WIDENED DUE
TO INCREASED
SALES, NOT
INFLATION**

\$ 1,498,193.00	\$ 1,441,477.00	\$ 1,506,531.00	\$ 1,530,249.00	\$1,703,921.00	\$ 1,771,926.42	\$ 2,244,008.38	\$ 2,455,323.96
\$ 1,192,360.00	\$ 1,314,654.82	\$ 1,513,356.03	\$ 1,218,598.55	\$1,140,326.11	\$ 1,593,454.45	\$ 1,350,521.46	\$ 1,892,671.70
80%	91%	100%	80%	67%	90%	60%	77%
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022

Both Appropriations and Operations Trend upwards 2015 – 2022, with a widening gap due to increased county sales



GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION



2024 IS STARTING STRONG

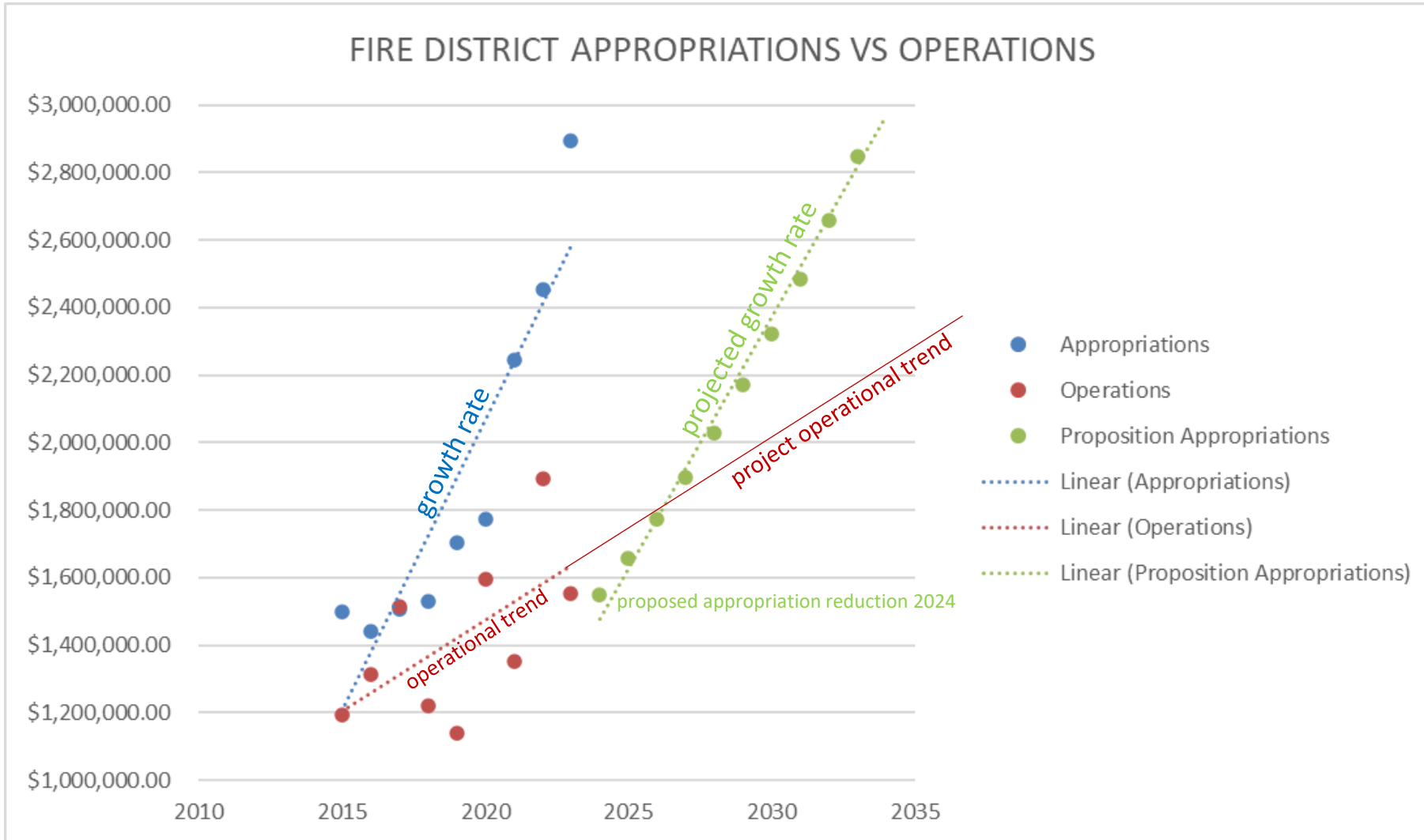
JAN:
\$16,994.6/DEPT
\$12,522.93 TRUST

FEB:
\$18,586.76/DEPT
\$13,695.50 TRUST



THE HALF PENNY CAMPAIGN

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION



If approved, departments will be spending about 100% of appropriates year one with that percentage going down each year.

Any unforeseen or emergency expense aid can be requested to the Fire Trust and the Board of County Commissioners.



THE HALF PENNY CAMPAIGN

FAQs

- Will all Fire District indebtedness be covered monthly with the reduction in funding?
 - Yes
 - 5 departments have monthly indebtedness payments ranging from \$3,500/mo. down to \$1,477/mo.
 - Monthly earnings projected to be \$8,000+/month/department year one increasing by 7 - 10% each year



FAQs

- How does the proposed level of 0.15% fire tax compare to other Counties?
 - Cherokee County – Each District receives between \$4 – 5K
 - Muskogee County – Each District receives between \$7 – 8K
 - Sequoyah County – Each District receives between \$4 – 5K
 - Wagoner County – If passed, each District will receive \$8 – 9K in year one, with 7 - 10% increase projected annually
- Wagoner County Fire Districts will remain the highest funded



FAQs

- Is the Fire Sales Tax the only funding provided to the 14 Fire Districts?
 - No
 - Most Cities have funding allocated to the Municipal Fire Departments. These departments are Title 11 departments
 - Four (4) of the 14 Fire Districts are also Title 19 Districts which by a vote of the people in those Districts, are funded with Ad Valorem. Below are the Districts and their 2023 Ad Valorem (property tax) earnings:
 - Rolling Hills: \$336,761.00 (> Sales Tax)
 - Oak Grove: \$238,870.00 (> Sales Tax)
 - Stone Bluff: \$38,496.00
 - Whitehorn Cove: \$135,127.00
 - This funding is in addition to the Fire Sales Tax funding
 - The County has no oversight on Ad Valorem expenditures

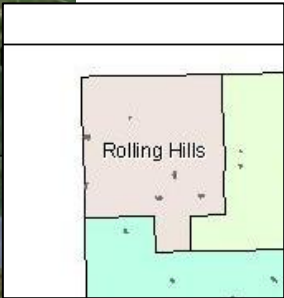
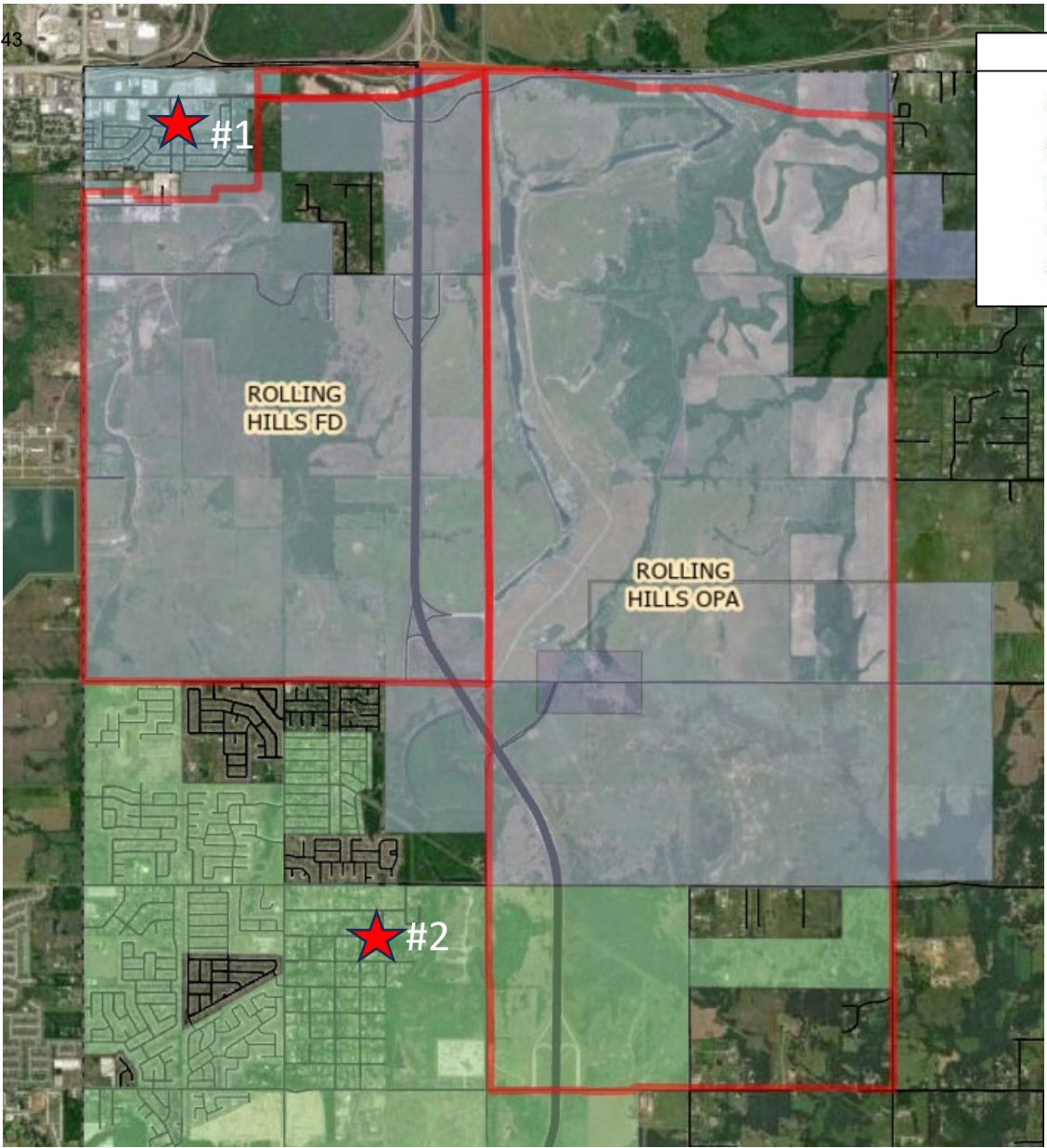


FAQs

- How will the proposed re-allocation of fire tax funds affect the homeowner's insurance rates?
 - ISO stands for Insurance Services Office
 - This for-profit organization scores the "community" to determine property insurance \$\$
 - The ISO assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC) to each Fire Department (1 – 10)
 - The PPC is determined by calculating a Fire Suppression Rating (0 – 105.5)
 - Fire Suppression Rating Criteria
 - Emergency Communications – 10 points (Cities and County)
 - Fire Department – 50 points
 - Training, response [time], equipment maintenance, and testing
 - Water Supply – 40 points (Cities and Rural Water Districts)
 - Extra Credit (Community education, investigation, and standards)
 - Re-allocation of funds WILL NOT affect insurance rates



Example



- Broken Arrow ISO Fire Suppression Rating – 1
- Tulsa ISO Fire Suppression Rating – 1
- > 50% of the Rolling Hills FD ISO Fire Suppression Rating is based on City of Tulsa annexed area.
- Rural Water Districts are not required to provide fire flow



FAQs

- Can ambulances be housed at Fire Districts?
 - Yes, that is a possibility

- Why can't Fire Districts just start their own Ambulance Service?
 - This would be illegal
 - A vote of the people is required to re-allocate funds for Ambulance
 - This is proposition to the people



FAQs

- Did the County conduct studies prior to placing the items on the March 5th ballot?
 - Yes.
 - Many of these projects are YEARS in the making, some decades
 - Data in this presentation is derived from study efforts
 - Architects, Engineers, Financial Advisors, Attorneys, and Surveyors have been hired to provide guidance to the Board of Commissioners prior taking the propositions to a vote of the people



FAQs

- Seems like these Propositions are being rushed. Where is the transparency?
 - Wagoner County BOCC agenda appearances between 3/22 – 11/23:
 - Ambulance Service x 2
 - Fairgrounds x 6
 - Courthouse Complex x 9
 - Jean Pierre Chouteau Trail x 4
 - Lodging Tax x 12
 - Jail Trust x 2



VOTE
MARCH 5, 2024

HalfaPennyForWagonerCounty.com

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