



The Linn County Budget Committee is meeting this week at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center. Deliberations on the proposed 2021-22 budget will run through Thursday.

Linn County budget hearings are underway

ALBANY — Linn County Budget Committee hearings for the 2021-22 fiscal year began Monday and will continue through Thursday at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road.

The meetings are being audiocast on Zoom and can be accessed at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86277540566?pwd=OWlrYWk2T2pUNjJjMEdXOEJ2MctPQT09>.

The meeting ID is 862 7754 0566 and the passcode is 189461.

Monday morning, Jennifer Stanaway was elected chair and Kerry Johnson was elected vice-chair. Other Budget Committee members are Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker. Mellissa Barnard is the third member of the general public.

As chair of the Board of Commissioners, Nyquist presented the annual budget message in which he noted the proposed total budget is \$203,200,000 compared to the current adopted budget of \$183,900,000.

The proposed budget includes an anticipated \$25 million federal stimulus grant.

Also reflected in the proposed budget are an 8% increase in health insurance costs, a 3.5% PERS increase and Cost of Living Adjustments based on various collective bargaining agreements.

The proposal also reflects the increase in local property values and the increased taxes that result from a 3.25% increase allowed under state regulations, plus increased property values.

The General Fund contingency is booked at \$653,334, up from the current \$195,941.

Proposed funds include: General Fund, \$45.5 million; Road Department: \$40.4 million; Law Enforcement, \$35.9 million; Health Services, \$40 million.

The total is \$203.2 million, with a spending level of \$164.8 million after internal transfers and contingencies.

Meetings will convene again at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and 9:30 a.m. on Thursday.

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