
COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mission Statement

In partnership with families and the community, C-FC provides a safe and supportive environment for all students. By providing a high-quality education that promotes academic and emotional growth, we empower students to be life-long learners and productive, responsible community citizens.

Communities

Village of Cochrane,
Cities of Fountain City,
Buffalo City and Alma,
Towns of Belvidere,
Buffalo, Cross, Lincoln,
Milton, Montana,
Waumandee – all in
Buffalo County,
Wisconsin

Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting

Board of Education

Don Baloun President

Larry Cyrus Vice President

Niki Secrist Clerk

Lynn Doelle Treasurer

Darrin Dillinger Director

Michael Ayala Director

Allen Bollinger Director

Administration

Troy White Superintendent

Steve Stoppelmoor JH/HS Principal

Sue McKay Elementary Principal

Garek Barum Maintenance

Amanda Brakke Food Service

Randy Fetting Transportation

District Profile

The Cochrane – Fountain City School District is a 4K – 12th-grade rural school district located on Hwy 35, the Great River Road National Scenic Byway. The district serves the Buffalo City, Cochrane, Fountain City, and Waumandee areas in Buffalo County. As part of the driftless region, our district is a roller coaster of ridges, valleys, and prairies. With tree-lined bluffs on one side and the mighty Mississippi River on the other, the area provides easy access to hunting, fishing, boating, kayaking, trapping, bird watching, snowmobiling, and more!

Parents and community members identify small class sizes, great facilities, diverse extracurricular activities, and staff relationships with students and families as strengths of the C-FC School District. The state Department of Public Instruction rated our school district as “Meets Expectations”. The class of 2021 was proud to have a national presidential scholar among its ranks.

C-FC offers a wide range of education options including but not limited to traditional classes, online classes, opportunities for early college credit, AP classes, work/study, and youth apprenticeships. C-FC hosts an active and award-winning FFA, Robotics Club, Trap Club, and participates in WIAA athletics. The FBLA, Skills USA, Math Club, Yearbook, Drama, Band, Choir, and Forensics offer a wide variety of activities for students to explore and excel.

2022-23 Demographics

Enrollment:	547
Student-to-Teacher Ratio:	14 : 1
Student-to-Staff Ratio:	10 : 1
Students with Disabilities:	13.2 %
Economically Disadvantaged:	31.4 %
Percent Minority Enrollment:	8.2 %
Limited English Proficient:	0.4 %

Achievement

Graduation Rate:	100.0 %
District English Achievement:	61.5/100
District Math Achievement:	51.2/100
District ELA Growth:	64.1/100
District Mathematics Growth:	45.1/100
On-Track to Graduation:	85.1
Graduates ACT Average:	20.8



Portrait of a Pirate – 2023 Graduates

90% Attendance	78 %
2.8 G.P.A.	63 %
Co-Curricular Activities (2 or more)	60 %
Earning ‘C’ or better in Algebra II	55 %
Taking AP Course	8 %
Dual College Math or English Credit	13 %
ACT Benchmark Score	
• Eng=50%, Read=30%, Sci=33% & Math=18%	
Dual Credit Career Pathway Course	40 %
Industry Credential	0.4 %



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Budget and Annual Meeting Agenda

Cochrane – Fountain City School District Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting
Monday, October 23, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

BUDGET HEARING

- I. Call meeting to order (Board President)
- II. Budget Overview / Presentation (Superintendent)
- III. Budget Questions and Discussion
- IV. Adjourn Budget Meeting (Board President)

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call meeting to Order (Board President)
- II. Verification of Public Notice (Board President)
- III. Election of Chairperson for Annual Meeting
- IV. Approval of Treasurer's Report for 2022 – 2023 (motion)
- V. RESOLUTIONS as necessary for the Operation of the School District (motions for each)
 - A. Discussion and recommendation to the Board of Education to adopt the Total School Tax Levy of \$3,924,622, \$890,263 for non-referendum debt services and \$147,150 for community services for a total levy rate of 7.02 in accordance with state statute (120.10(8)).
 - B. Discussion and authorize the Board of Education to direct and provide for the prosecution or defense of legal action and privileges in which the district has an interest.
 - C. Discussion and authorize the Board of Education to short-term borrow to meet cash flow needs of the district until the next annual meeting.
 - D. Discussion and approval of annual compensation of the Board of Education at the current rate of pay.
* President & Clerk \$ 2,000 * Vice President & Treasurer \$ 1,800 * Director \$ 1,700
 - E. Discussion and approval that the actual and necessary expenses of a school board member, when traveling in the performance of duties, be authorized for reimbursement.
 - F. Discussion and authorize the Board of Education to sell excess materials and equipment.
 - G. Discussion and authorize the Board of Education to provide textbooks, if appropriate.
 - H. Discussion and authorize the Board of Education to furnish a school lunch program.
 - I. Authorization for the School Board to Set the Time and Date for the 2024 Annual Meeting.
 - J. This statement serves as public notice that the School District of Cochrane-Fountain City is utilizing internet filtering through a mix of on-prem and cloud-based Cisco equipment on all computers capable of accessing the Internet in order to comply with the Federal Children's Internet Protection Act.
- VI. Adjourn

** Legal Memo Regarding Budget Hearing – Section 65.90(4) In common and union high school districts the budget hearing must be held at the time and place of the annual meeting (s.65.90[4]).

Section 65.90(4) requires that “any resident or taxpayer of the government unit shall have an opportunity to be heard” at the budget hearing. The intent of the statute is to provide for an expression of public opinion, but to leave the governing body free to act as it determines to be in the public interest. Accordingly, the electors at the budget hearing do not have the power to amend the budget as proposed nor to approve or disapprove such a budget.

After the budget hearing and annual meeting, and on or before November 1 (s.120.12 (3)) the school board may make alterations in the proposed budget and adopt a resolution approving a final budget. During the period between July 1 and the school board's adoption of a final budget, the school board may spend money from available funds as needed to meet the immediate expenses of operating and maintaining the public instruction of the school district. Temporary borrowing for this purpose is specifically authorized by statutes (s.67.12 (8) (a) 2).

The annual meeting has the power to consider and vote on a tax for the purpose set forth in s.120.10. The Attorney General has held that the school board has the ultimate authority to determine the property tax levy for the operation and maintenance of the schools. If the annual meeting does not vote a tax sufficient to operate and maintain the schools for the ensuing year, the school board has a statutory duty to determine and levy the amount of tax necessary for such purposes on or before November 1. The school board may lower the tax if it determines that the annual meeting has voted a tax greater than that needed to operate the schools (s. 120.12 [3]).



COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

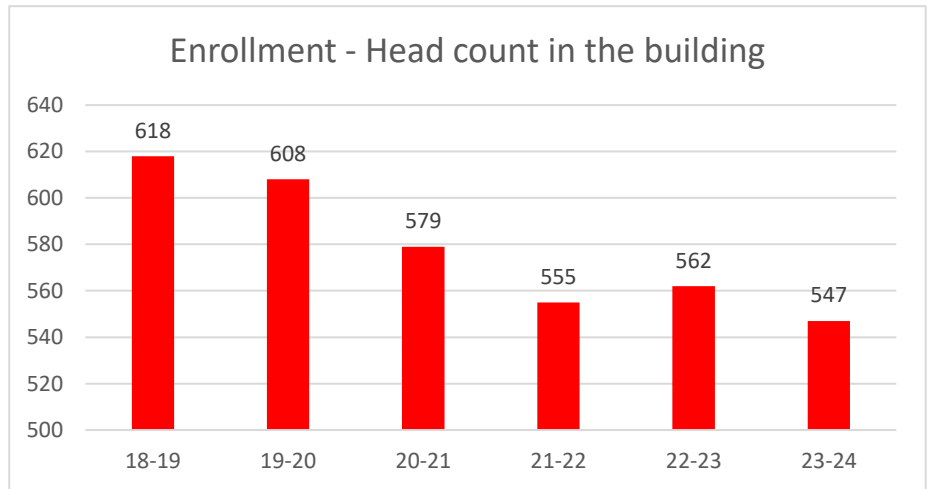
Budget Development Process

Budget Timeline

Enrollment projections, which are the basis for school finance, are developed in the fall. Staffing needs, organizational structure, facility improvements and program changes are examined in January to lead into budget development in February. A preliminary budget is developed and approved by the school board in March in preparation for hiring and ordering in the spring. The budget is modified throughout the summer and fall as enrollment and staffing changes take place. The budget is approved at the Annual Meeting in October and the levy is certified when the DPI determines the aid certification to the school district.

Enrollment

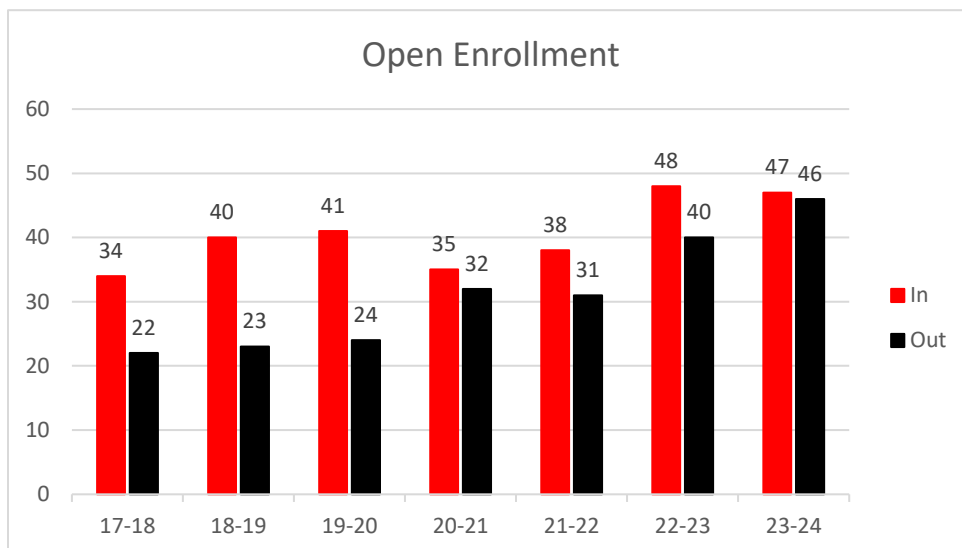
Enrollment is the foundation of school finance. Schools are funded on a per pupil basis. Enrollment in the Cochrane – Fountain City School District has been declining over the last six years. The last three years have seen a leveling of that decline.



Open Enrollment

The inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside. Families who open enroll their students out is due to:

- Childcare
- Commuting to work
- Enrollment in previous district

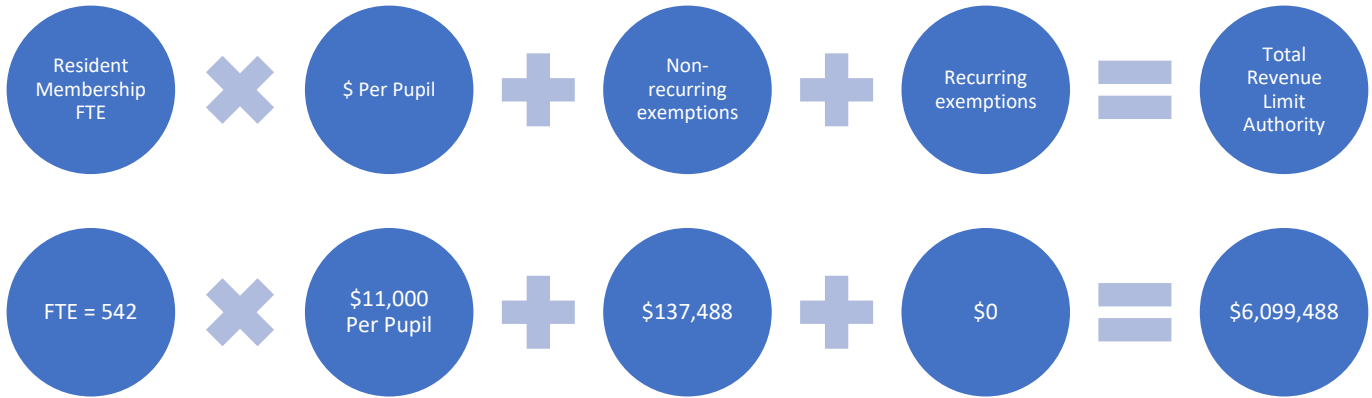


Revenue Limit & Tax Levy

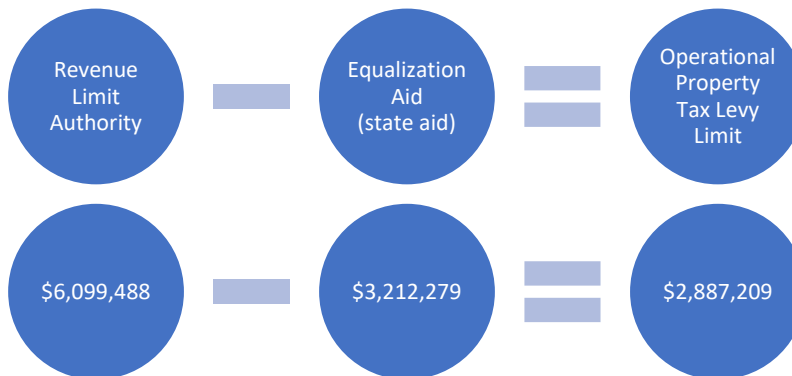
Revenue Limit and Property Tax Levy

The revenue limit is the maximum amount the school district may take in as revenue through state aid and the property tax levy. The revenue limit is set by state law on a biennial basis and is calculated on a per pupil basis.

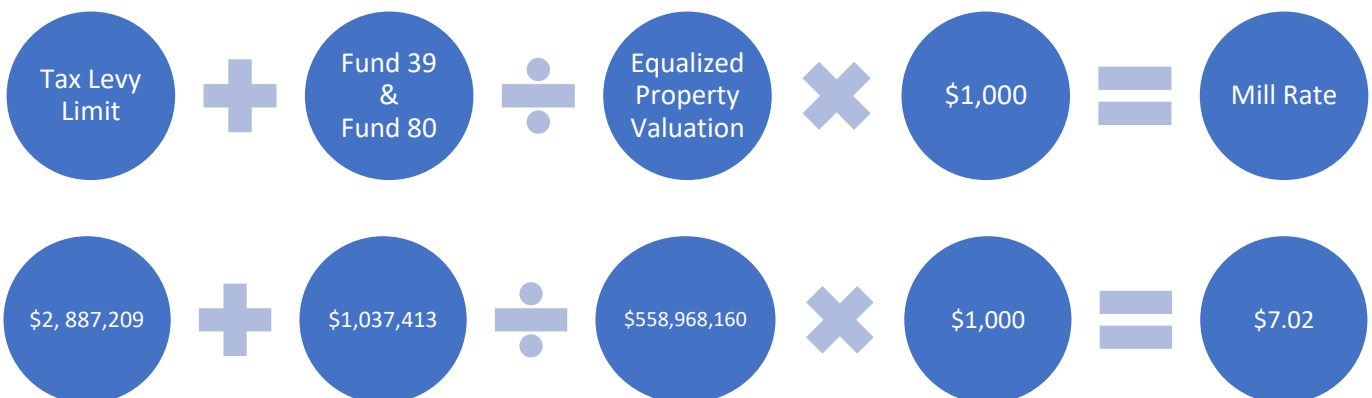
Total Revenue Limit Authority



Revenue Limit Tax Levy



Mill Rate Calculation



Revenue Limit & Tax Levy

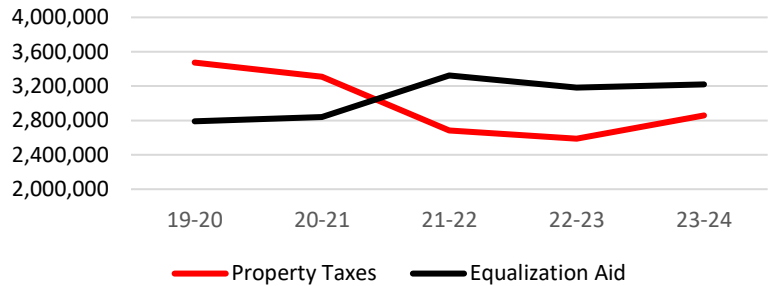
Equalization Aid

Wisconsin State Equalization Aid is general financial assistance to public school districts for use in funding a broad range of school district operational expenditures.

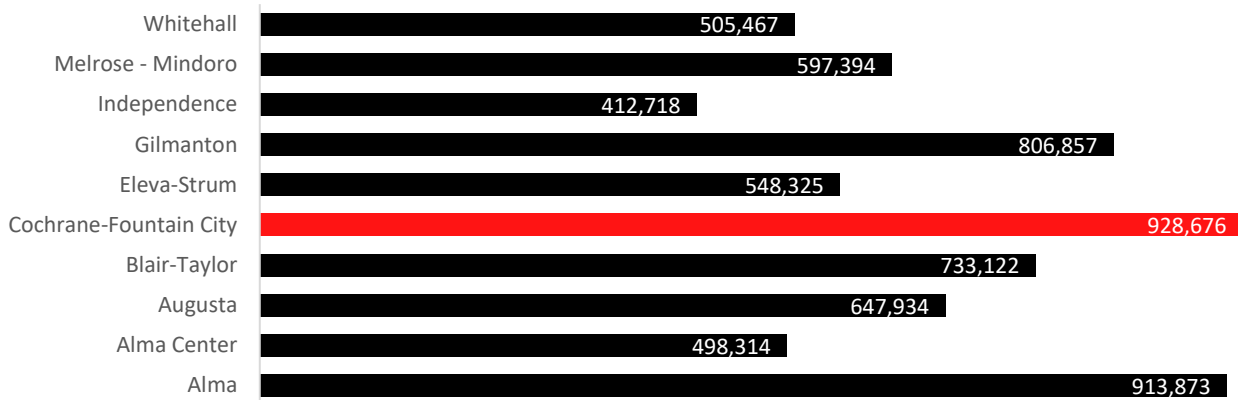
Equalization Aid Formula

The fundamental purpose of the Equalization Aid formula is to “level the playing field” by providing State general aid to make up for what districts cannot get from their property tax base.

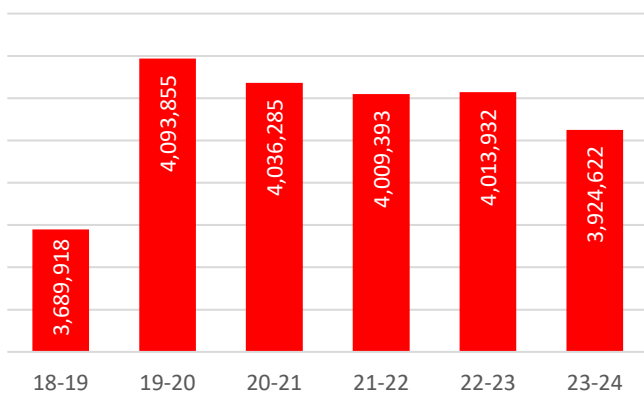
Equalization Aid vs. Property Taxes



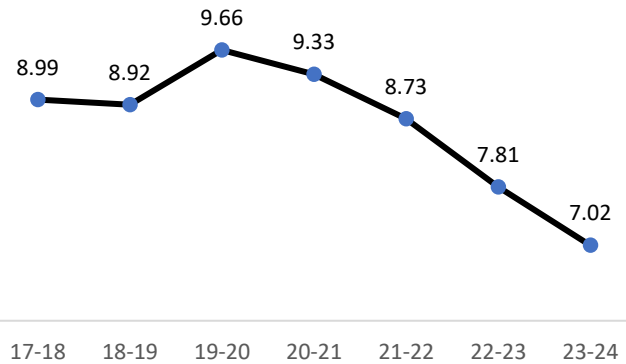
Conference Comparison Property Wealth Per Student



Property Tax Levy



Historical Tax Rate per \$1,000 of equalized assessed valuation



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Program and Services Fund

The district WILL have a Community Program and Services Fund (Fund 80) for the 2023-2025 fiscal years. The district does not intend to exceed the limit on the Fund 80 levy authority imposed by 2013 Wisconsin Act 20 for the 2023-2025 fiscal years.

The purpose and dollar amount for all planned expenditures from the district’s fund 80 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year

1. Salaries -----	\$ 81,656
2. Employee Benefits-----	\$ 66,949
3. Classroom Supplies-----	\$ 2,970
4. Classroom Equipment Replacement -----	\$ 2,000
5. Hall of Fame Supplies -----	\$ 5,000
6. Community Newsletter-----	\$ 1,000

Please explain how the district’s planned expenditures in Fund 80, described above, meet the Department of Public Instruction’s Criteria for use of Community Services Funds?

The district’s expenditures in Fund 80 are directly related to the direction and operation of community education activities in the district. These activities consist of preschool programing, hall of fame recognition, and community newsletter. These programs were established to support, celebrate, and inform our community youth and adults. The expenses incurred by these programs are funded through fees and the local tax levy. The Board of Education approves a local property tax levy which entirely funds all of the listed community service programs except for the preschool program which is additionally funded through user fees and/or donations.

The revenue and dollar amount for the district’s Fund 80 total planned revenue.

Levy (Property Tax)-----	\$ 147,150
User Fees -----	\$ 12,425

Fund 80 Revenue -----	\$ 159,575
Expenses for Fund 80 -----	\$ 159,575
Fund 80 Levy-----	\$ 147,150

Prior to 2023-2024 Fund 80 Levy set at -----	\$ 0
Most recent Fund 80 levy-----	\$ 147,150

The district does not intend to hold a referendum in order to meet the requirements to exceed the limit on Fund 80 levy authority included in 2013 Wisconsin Act 20.



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
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2023 – 2024 Budget

GENERAL FUND	Audited 2021-2022	Unaudited 2022-2023	Budget 2023-2024
Beginning Fund Balance	3,856,322.95	4,247,881.52	4,360,695.45
Ending Fund Balance	4,247,881.52	4,360,695.45	4,246,692.56
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Transfers-In (Source 100)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Local Sources (Source 200)	2,757,216.97	2,673,928.14	2,970,609.00
Inter-district Payments (Source 300 + 400)	279,019.00	430,126.55	423,465.00
Intermediate Sources (Source 500)	3,660.57	9,976.18	8,984.00
State Sources (Source 600)	4,411,500.91	4,204,758.79	3,947,770.83
Federal Sources (Source 700)	636,413.84	513,518.49	355,603.28
All Other Sources (Source 800 + 900)	27,009.45	62,850.66	180,061.11
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	8,114,820.74	7,895,158.81	7,886,493.22
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
Instruction (Function 100 000)	3,460,949.84	3,303,640.98	3,388,131.39
Support Services (Function 200 000)	3,358,274.30	3,285,262.98	3,262,073.80
Non-Program Transactions (Function 400 000)	904,038.03	1,193,440.92	1,350,290.92
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	7,723,262.17	7,782,344.88	8,000,496.11

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2021-2022	Unaudited 2022-2023	Budget 2023-2024
Beginning Fund Balance	125,814.36	354,609.37	391,431.91
Ending Fund Balance	354,609.37	391,431.91	429,281.91
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,243,936.56	1,120,613.37	1,125,211.14
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,015,141.55	1,083,790.83	1,087,361.14

DEBT SERVICE FUND	Audited 2021-2022	Unaudited 2022-2023	Budget 2023-2024
Beginning Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ending Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	150,000.00
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,326,437.16	1,442,148.03	890,262.50
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,326,437.16	1,442,148.03	740,262.50

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2021-2022	Unaudited 2022-2023	Budget 2023-2024
Beginning Fund Balance	169,251.52	249,718.96	502,359.30
Ending Fund Balance	249,718.96	502,359.30	810,759.30
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	80,467.44	252,640.34	308,400.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	0.00	0.00	0.00



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
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2023 – 2024 Budget

FOOD SERVICE FUND	Audited 2021-2022	Unaudited 2022-2023	Budget 2023-2024
Beginning Fund Balance	45,222.63	219,795.22	243,361.12
Ending Fund Balance	219,795.22	243,361.12	254,655.02
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	620,784.43	449,062.72	448,863.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	446,211.84	425,496.82	437,569.10

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND	Audited 2021-2022	Unaudited 2022-2023	Budget 2023-2024
Beginning Fund Balance	12,703.23	10,927.16	10,862.57
Ending Fund Balance	10,927.16	10,862.57	10,862.57
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	3,850.00	0.00	159,575.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	5,626.07	64.59	159,575.00

2021-22	200,000			811,625	8.73	4,009,393
2022-23	700,000			1,426,075	7.81	4,013,932
2023-24	Amount transferred to Fund 39	\$ Levied for Fund 39	\$ Levied for Fund 80	Fund 39 + Fund 80	Mill Rate	Total Tax Levy
Option 1	0	740,263	147,150	887,413	6.75	3,747,622
Proposed	150,000	890,263	147,150	1,037,413	7.02	3,924,622
Option 3	200,000	940,263	147,150	1,087,413	7.11	3,947,622

All Funds - Expenditures	2021-22	2022-23	Budget 2023-24
Gross Total Expenditures - All Funds	10,516,678.79	10,733,845.15	10,425,263.85
Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - All Funds	506,255.29	732,189.21	815,321.92
Refinancing Expenditures (Fund 30)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Total Expenditures - All Funds	10,010,423.50	10,001,655.94	9,609,941.93
% Change - Net total fund expenditures from prior year		-0.09%	-3.92%

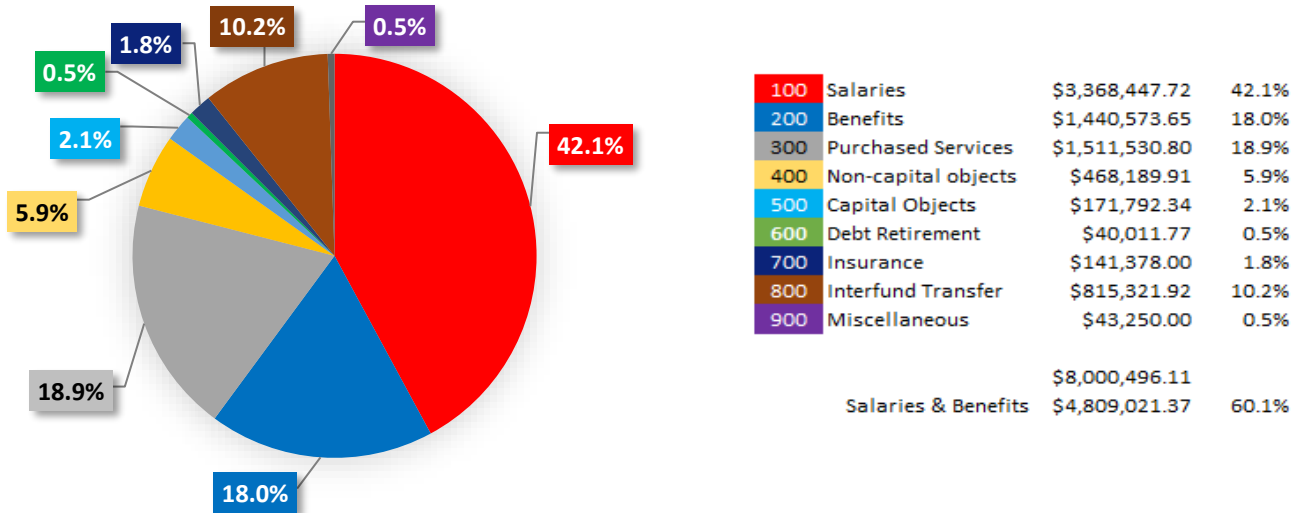
Proposed Property Tax Levy	2021-22	2022-23	Budget 2023-24
General Fund	2,683,683.00	2,587,857.00	2,887,209.00
Debt Service Fund	1,325,700.00	1,426,075.00	890,263.00
Community Service Fund	0	0	147,150.00
Total School Levy	4,009,383.00	4,013,932.00	3,924,622.00
% Change - Net total fund expenditures from prior year		0.11%	-2.89%

All Funds	2021-22	2022-23	Budget 2023-24
General Fund	\$5.84	\$5.03	\$5.17
Debt Service Fund	\$2.89	\$2.77	\$1.59
Community Services Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.26
Total School Levy	\$8.73	\$7.81	\$7.02
% Change - Net total fund expenditures from prior year		-10.56%	-10.08%



COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Breakdown of Budgeted Expenses



BREAKDOWN OF LOCAL LEVY FOR THE SCHOOL BUDGET

MUNICIPALITIES	EQUALIZED VALUATION 2022	EQUALIZED VALUATION 2023	PERCENT TAX LOAD 2023-2024	OPERATIONAL LEVY 2023-2024
Village - Cochrane	32,193,700	34,401,600	6.154482932	241,540.19
Town - Belvidere	59,659,415	67,202,408	12.022582467	471,840.92
Town - Buffalo	94,061,500	93,177,000	16.669464679	654,213.48
Town - Cross	47,598,202	52,716,569	9.431050420	370,133.08
Town - Lincoln	54,549	58,120	0.010397730	408.07
Town - Milton	71,541,900	80,269,000	14.360209712	563,583.95
Town - Montana	5,122,470	5,547,509	0.992455277	38,950.12
Town - Waumandee	34,719,305	38,913,379	6.961645007	273,218.25
City - Alma	101,374	114,775	0.020533370	805.86
City - Buffalo City	101,416,700	116,399,300	20.823958917	817,261.67
City - Fountain City	67,595,900	70,168,500	12.553219489	492,666.41
TOTALS	514,065,015	558,968,160	100%	3,924,622.00



COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

TAX COMPARISON

SCHOOL YEAR	TAX YEAR	EQUALIZED VALUE	SCHOOL TAX	MILL RATE	POSTPONED TAX
2013-14	2013	344,822,015	3,384,180	9.81	1,296,126.84
2014-15	2014	352,735,345	3,457,120	9.80	1,310,568.63
2015-16	2015	375,114,478	3,538,879	9.43	1,351,368.03
2016-17	2016	386,785,792	3,631,768	9.39	1,387,059.60
2017-18	2017	400,464,695	3,601,180	8.99	1,345,703.89
2018-19	2018	413,553,742	3,689,918	8.92	1,395,751.96
2019-20	2019	423,877,646	4,093,855	9.65	1,550,876.53
2020-21	2020	432,517,415	4,036,285	9.33	1,459,102.53
2021-22	2021	459,251,311	4,009,383	8.73	1,409,588.95
2022-23	2022	514,065,015	4,013,932	7.81	1,381,243.98
2023-24	2023	558,968,160	3,924,622	7.02	Unknown until 2023 taxes are paid in 2024
2024-25	2024	Set by DOR and DPI in Oct. 2024	School tax set in Oct. 2024	Determined by Equalized Valuation	

SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES

	TAX LEVY 2022-2023	JANUARY PAYMENT	DATE	FEBRUARY PAYMENT	DATE	TOTAL TAX RECEIVED TO: 2-28-23	LOTTERY CREDITS	TOTAL TAX RECEIVED TO: 6-30-23	POSTPONED BALANCE
Village - Cochrane	251,375.45	38,313.61	01/31/23	125,727.41	02/28/23	164,041.02	10,632.18	174,673.20	76,702.25
Town - Belvidere	465,833.75	168,680.87	01/31/23	118,044.30	02/28/23	286,725.17	16,197.21	302,922.38	162,911.37
Town - Buffalo	734,452.75	140,863.59	01/31/23	309,913.25	04/21/23	450,776.84	31,040.36	481,817.20	252,635.55
Town - Cross	371,657.17	86,506.25	01/31/23	141,333.16	02/28/23	227,839.41	11,081.73	238,921.14	132,736.03
Town - Lincoln	425.93	149.90	01/31/23	124.50	02/28/23	274.40	12.47	286.87	139.06
Town - Milton	558,614.79	122,652.33	01/31/23	214,488.20	02/28/23	337,140.53	22,611.88	359,752.41	198,862.38
Town - Montana	39,997.37	12,280.00	01/31/23	13,711.91	02/28/23	25,991.91	1,223.09	27,215.00	12,782.37
Town - Waumandee	271,095.92	44,612.65	01/31/23	119,741.43	02/28/23	164,354.08	9,762.04	174,116.12	96,979.80
City - Alma	791.55	162.69	01/31/23	313.59	02/28/23	476.28	35.53	511.81	279.74
City - Buffalo City	791,883.76	173,934.71	01/31/23	308,517.82	02/28/23	482,452.53	41,001.17	523,453.70	268,430.06
City - Fountain City	527,803.56	198,423.25	01/31/23	127,543.34	02/28/23	325,966.59	23,051.60	349,018.19	178,785.37
TOTALS	4,013,932.00	986,579.85		1,479,458.91		2,466,038.76	166,649.26	2,632,688.02	1,381,243.98

Fund 39 Debt Service 1,426,075.00

MOBILE HOME TAXES: Jan-Dec

Fountain City 1,049.98
Buffalo City 3,847.72

4,897.70	TOTAL MOBILE HOME TAXES
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Payment in Lieu of Taxes/Refuge Revenue Sharing
PILT eRefuge Sharing

Town of Cross	3,792.26	
Town of Miltc	4,591.02	647.44
Town of Buffa	233.83	
Town of Belvidere		118.80
Total	8,617.11	766.24

Total PILT and Refuge Sharir 9,383.35



**COCHRANE - FOUNTAIN CITY
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Treasurer's Report

Financial Summary

An examination of Fund 10 indicates approximately 63% of all revenues raised for general operating expenses were from state aid and other governmental sources. The remaining revenues were generated from local sources of income (i.e. property taxes, interest on investments, local fees, local grants and gifts, etc.).

As of June 30th, 2023

Fund Balance as of July 1, 2022 \$4,247,881.52

Fund Balance as of June 30, 2023 \$4,360,695.45

The 2022 – 2023 ending Fund Balance demonstrated an increase of \$112,813.93 in the District's designated working cash balance.

2022-2023 REVENUE

GENERAL FUND 10	\$7,895,158.81
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND 21 & 27	\$1,120,613.37
DEBT SERVICE FUND 38 & 39	\$1,442,148.03
LT CAPITAL IMPROVE FUND 46	\$252,640.34
FOOD SERVICE FUND 50	\$449,062.72
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND 80	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$11,159,623.27

2022 – 2023 EXPENDITURES

GENERAL FUND 10	\$7,782,344.88
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND 21 & 27	\$1,083,790.83
DEBT SERVICE FUND 38 & 39	\$1,442,148.03
LT CAPITAL IMPROVE FUND 46	\$0.00
FOOD SERVICE FUND 50	\$425,496.82
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND 80	\$64.59
TOTAL	\$10,733,845.15

FUND	BEGINNING FUND BALANCES	ENDING FUND BALANCES
GENERAL FUND 10	\$4,247,881.52	\$4,360,695.45
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND 21 & 27	\$354,609.37	\$391,431.91
DEBT SERVICE FUND 38 & 39	\$0.00	\$0.00
LT CAPITAL IMPROVE FUND 46	\$249,718.96	\$502,359.30
FOOD SERVICE FUND 50	\$219,795.22	\$243,361.12
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND 80	\$10,927.16	\$10,862.57
TOTAL	\$5,082,932.23	\$5,508,710.35



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
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