
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

Darrin Dillinger..... President

Larry CyrusVice President

Amanda Lacey..... Clerk

Lynn Doelle Treasurer

Michael Ayala Director

Lisa Wolfe Director

Nathan Brandt Director

Administration

Troy WhiteSuperintendent

Steve Stoppelmoor JH/HS Principal

Amy Schaefer.....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, FBLA, Skills USA, Math Club, Yearbook, Drama, Band, Choir, Forensics, Robotics Club, and Trap Club. WIAA athletics including football, volleyball, cross country, golf, basketball, hockey, gymnastics, wrestling, softball, baseball, and track offer a variety of activities for students to explore and excel.

Demographics

Enrollment:	521
Student-to-Teacher Ratio:	13:1
Student-to-Staff Ratio:	11:1
Students with Disabilities:.....	13.2%
Economically Disadvantaged:	32.2%
Minority:	10.9%
Limited English Proficient:	0.4%

Achievement 2023 – 2024

Graduation Rate:.....	100.0%
District English Achievement:	61.9/100
District Math Achievement:.....	53.2/100
District ELA Growth:.....	71.7/100
District Mathematics Growth:	48.9/100
On-Track to Graduation:	85.7
Graduates ACT Average:	18.3



Portrait of a Pirate – 2024 Graduates

90% Attendance	96%
2.8 G.P.A.	65%
Co-Curricular Activities (2 or more)	86%
Earning ‘C’ or better in Algebra II	67%
Taking AP Courses	35%
Dual College Math or English Credit	15%
ACT Benchmark Score	
• Eng=47%, Read=35%, Sci=21% & Math=12%	
Dual Credit Career Pathway Course	28%
Industry Credential	0%



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Budget and Annual Meeting Agenda

Cochrane – Fountain City School District Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2024 – 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 2023 – 2024 (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 \$3,849,827, \$955,350 for non-referendum debt services, and \$234,057 for community services for a total levy rate of 6.23 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 borrow short-term to meet the 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 2025 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 to 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 school. 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
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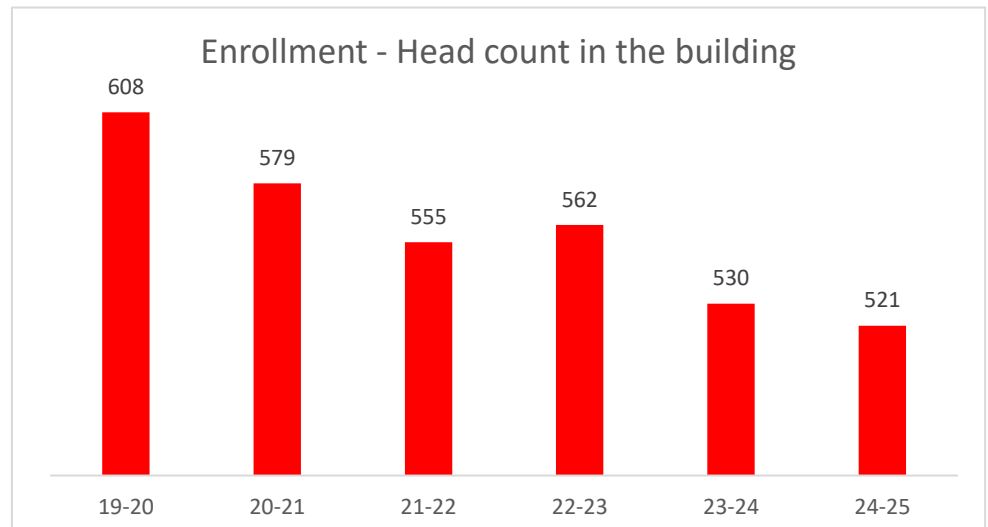
Budget Development Process

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 to 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

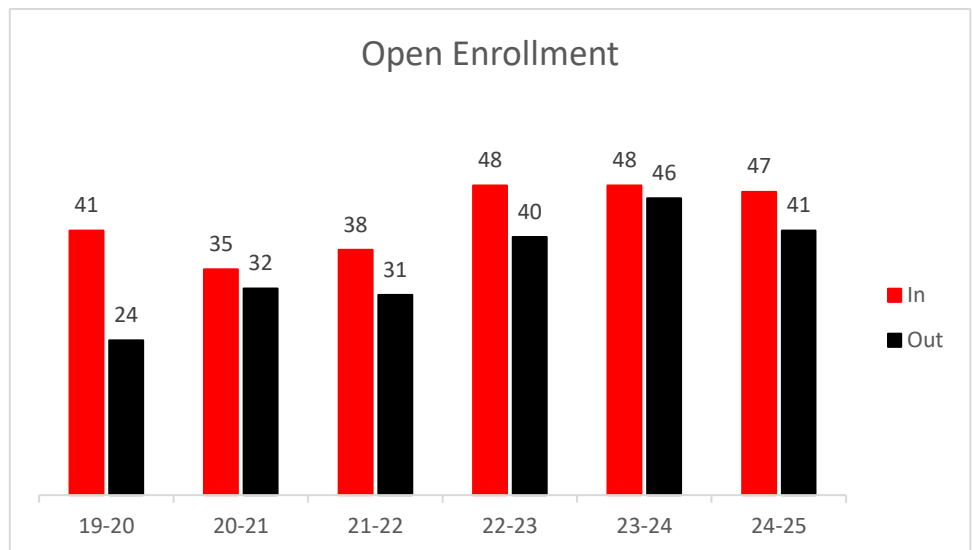
Enrollment is the foundation of school finance. Schools are funded on a per-pupil basis. Enrollment in the Cochrane–Fountain City School District has declined over the last six years.



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 are due to:

- Childcare
- Commuting to work
- Enrollment in the previous district



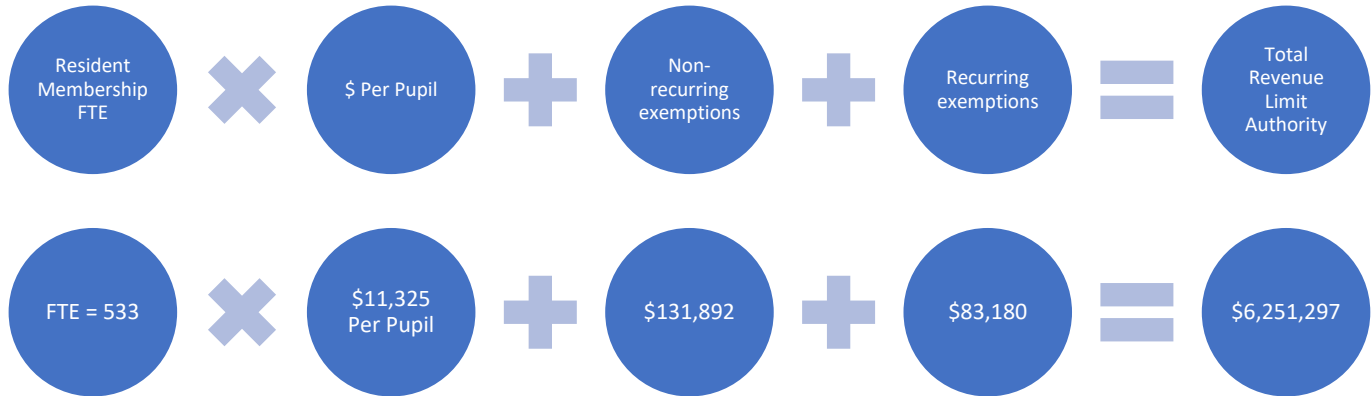
**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Revenue Limit & Tax Levy

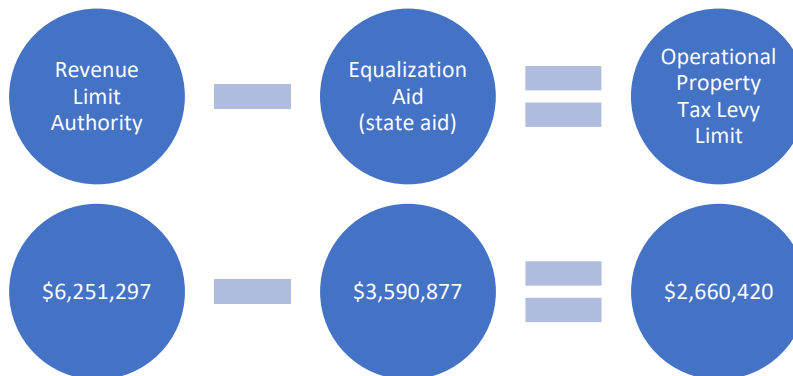
Revenue Limit and Property Tax Levy

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.

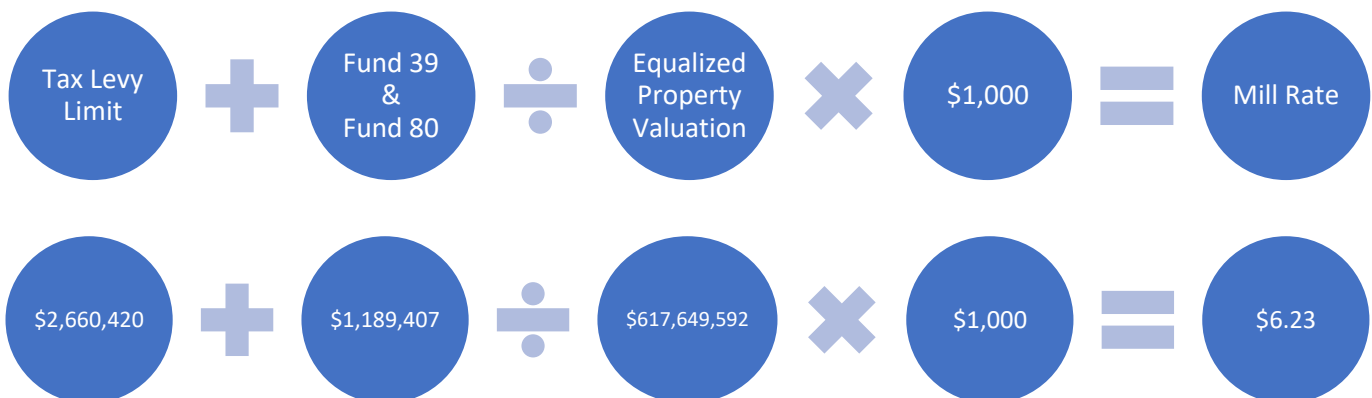
Total Revenue Limit Authority



Revenue Limit Tax Levy



Mill Rate Calculation



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Revenue Limit & Tax Levy

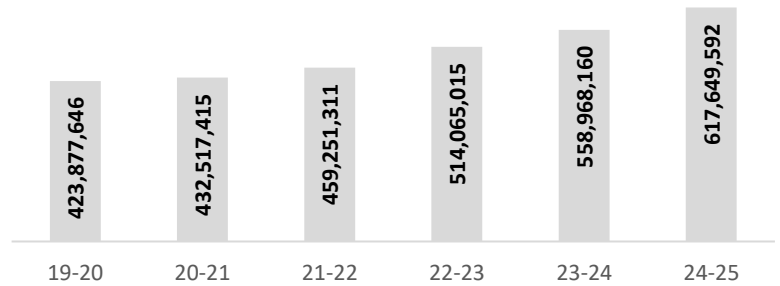
Equalization Aid

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

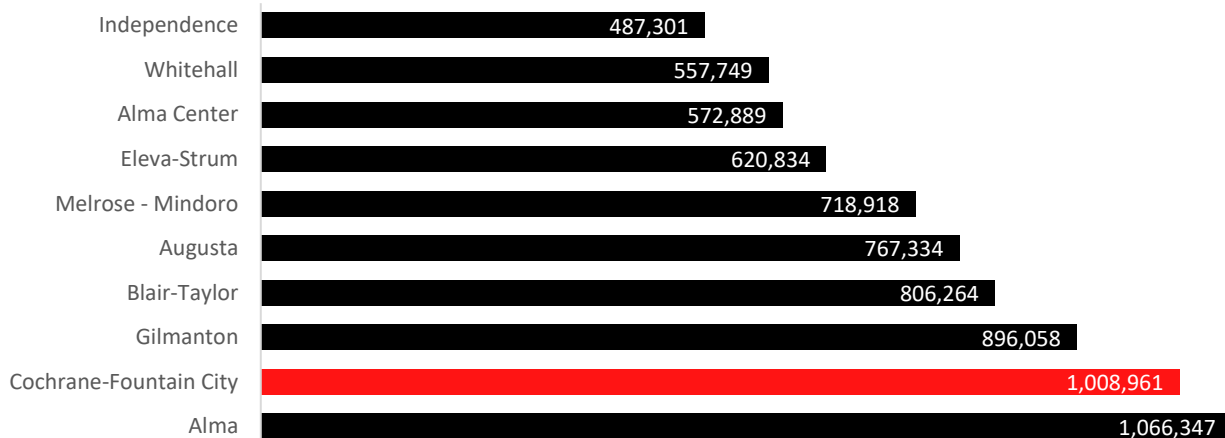
Equalization Aid Formula

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.

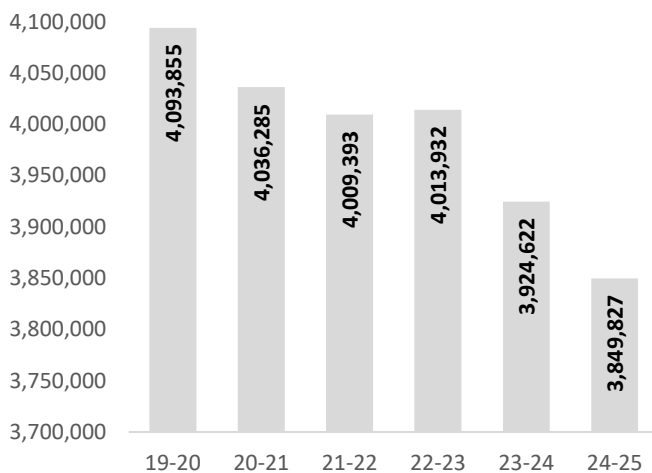
Property Values



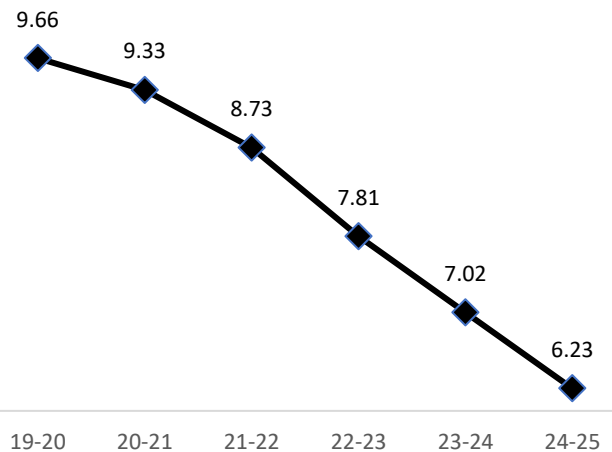
Conference Comparison Property Wealth Per Student



Property Tax Levy



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 2024-2025 fiscal year

1. Salaries -----	\$ 119,955
2. Employee Benefits-----	\$ 101,302
3. Classroom Supplies-----	\$ 4,000
4. Classroom Equipment Replacement -----	\$ 16,000
5. Hall of Fame Supplies -----	\$ 5,000
6. Community Newsletter-----	\$ 2,000

Please explain how the district's planned expenditures in Fund 80, described above, meet the Department of Public Instruction's Criteria for the 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 include preschool programming, 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 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) \$	\$ 234,057
User Fees.....	\$ 14,200

Fund 80 Revenue	\$ 248,257
Expenses for Fund 80.....	\$ 248,257
Fund 80 Levy	\$ 234,057
The most recent Fund 80 levy.....	\$ 147,150

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



COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024 – 2025 Budget

GENERAL FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	\$4,247,881.52	\$4,360,695.45	\$4,574,395.71
Ending Fund Balance	\$4,360,695.45	\$4,574,395.71	\$4,220,596.71
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Transfers-In (Source 100)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Local Sources (Source 200)	\$2,673,928.14	\$3,075,029.51	\$2,781,800.00
Inter-district Payments (Source 300 + 400)	\$430,126.55	\$427,383.90	\$452,584.00
Intermediate Sources (Source 500)	\$9,976.18	\$11,650.06	\$8,000.00
State Sources (Source 600)	\$4,204,758.79	\$4,272,519.15	\$4,608,080.22
Federal Sources (Source 700)	\$513,518.49	\$347,362.16	\$145,797.00
All Other Sources (Source 800 + 900)	\$62,850.66	\$242,179.50	\$110,950.00
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$7,895,158.81	\$8,376,124.28	\$8,107,211.22
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
Instruction (Function 100 000)	\$3,303,640.98	\$3,445,519.99	\$3,960,417.45
Support Services (Function 200 000)	\$3,285,262.98	\$3,230,359.19	\$3,295,235.43
Non-Program Transactions (Function 400 000)	\$1,193,440.92	\$1,486,544.84	\$1,205,357.34
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	\$7,782,344.88	\$8,162,424.02	\$8,461,010.22
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	\$354,609.37	\$391,431.91	\$453,482.55
Ending Fund Balance	\$391,431.91	\$453,482.55	\$489,882.55
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$1,120,613.37	\$1,085,784.69	\$1,210,424.83
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$1,083,790.83	\$1,023,734.05	\$1,174,024.83
DEBT SERVICE FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$183,888.00
Ending Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$183,888.00	\$576,463.00
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$1,442,148.03	\$890,263.00	\$955,350.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$1,442,148.03	\$706,375.00	\$562,775.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	\$249,718.96	\$502,359.30	\$973,173.48
Ending Fund Balance	\$502,359.30	\$973,173.48	\$1,003,173.48
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$252,640.34	\$470,814.18	\$30,000.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
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2024 – 2025 Budget

FOOD SERVICE FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	\$219,795.22	\$243,361.12	\$210,347.87
Ending Fund Balance	\$243,361.12	\$210,347.87	\$126,098.05
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$449,062.72	\$432,475.37	\$390,300.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$425,496.82	\$465,488.62	\$474,549.82

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	\$10,927.16	\$10,862.57	\$72,049.79
Ending Fund Balance	\$10,862.57	\$72,049.79	\$72,049.79
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$0.00	\$159,436.06	\$248,257.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$64.59	\$98,248.84	\$248,257.00

2022-23	\$700,000	\$1,426,075		\$1,426,075	7.81	\$4,013,932
2023-24	\$150,000	\$890,263	\$147,150	\$1,037,413	7.02	\$3,924,622
2024-25	Transferred to Fund 39	Fund 39	Fund 80	Fund 39 + Fund 80	Mill Rate	Total Tax Levy
Option 1	0	\$555,350	\$234,057	\$789,407	5.59	\$3,449,827
Option 2	\$250,000	\$805,350	\$234,057	\$1,039,407	5.99	\$3,699,827
Option 3	\$400,000	\$955,350	\$234,057	\$1,189,407	6.23	\$3,849,827

All Funds - Revenue	2022-23	2023-24	Budget 2024-25
GROSS TOTAL REVENUES -- ALL FUNDS	\$11,159,623.27	\$11,414,897.58	\$10,941,543.05
Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - ALL FUNDS	\$732,189.21	\$927,942.69	\$607,884.83
Refinancing REVENUE (FUND 30)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NET TOTAL REVENUES -- ALL FUNDS	\$10,427,434.06	\$10,486,954.89	\$10,333,658.22
% Change - Net total revenue from prior year		0.57%	-1.46%

All Funds - Expenditures	2022-23	2023-24	Budget 2024-25
GROSS TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	\$10,733,845.15	\$10,456,270.53	\$10,920,616.87
Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - ALL FUNDS	\$732,189.21	\$927,942.69	\$607,884.83
Refinancing Expenditures (FUND 30)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NET TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	\$10,001,655.94	\$9,528,327.84	\$10,312,732.04
% Change - Net total expenditures from prior year		-4.73%	8.23%

Proposed Property Tax Levy	2022-23	2023-24	Budget 2024-25
General Fund	\$2,587,857.00	\$2,887,209.00	\$2,660,420.00
Debt Service Fund	\$1,426,075.00	\$890,263.00	\$955,350.00
Community Service Fund	\$0.00	\$147,150.00	\$234,057.00
Total School Levy	\$4,013,932.00	\$3,924,622.00	\$3,849,827.00
% Change - Net total fund expenditures from prior year		-2.23%	-1.91%



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

BREAKDOWN OF LOCAL LEVY FOR THE SCHOOL BUDGET

Municipalities	Equalized Valuation 2023	Equalized Valuation 2024	Percent Tax Load 2024-2025	Operational Levy 2024-2025
Village - Cochrane	\$34,401,600	\$34,476,000	5.58%	\$214,890
Town - Belvidere	\$67,202,408	\$72,877,836	11.80%	\$454,250
Town - Buffalo	\$93,177,000	\$104,496,600	16.92%	\$651,330
Town - Cross	\$52,716,569	\$60,503,501	9.80%	\$377,120
Town - Lincoln	\$58,120	\$67,314	0.01%	\$420
Town - Milton	\$80,269,000	\$82,115,600	13.29%	\$511,829
Town - Montana	\$5,547,509	\$6,234,389	1.01%	\$38,859
Town - Waumandee	\$38,913,379	\$43,406,650	7.03%	\$270,555
City - Alma	\$114,775	\$126,002	0.02%	\$785
City - Buffalo City	\$116,399,300	\$139,470,900	22.58%	\$869,326
City - Fountain City	\$70,168,500	\$73,874,800	11.96%	\$460,464
TOTALS	\$558,968,160	\$617,649,592	100%	\$3,849,827

TAX COMPARISON

School Year	Tax Year	Equalized Value	School Tax	Mill Rate
2012-13	2012	\$339,599,103	\$3,337,353	9.82
2013-14	2013	\$344,822,015	\$3,384,180	9.81
2014-15	2014	\$352,735,345	\$3,457,120	9.8
2015-16	2015	\$375,114,478	\$3,538,879	9.43
2016-17	2016	\$386,785,792	\$3,631,768	9.39
2017-18	2017	\$400,464,695	\$3,601,180	8.99
2018-19	2018	\$413,553,742	\$3,689,918	8.92
2019-20	2019	\$423,877,646	\$4,093,855	9.65
2020-21	2020	\$432,517,415	\$4,036,285	9.33
2021-22	2021	\$459,251,311	\$4,009,383	8.73
2022-23	2022	\$514,065,015	\$4,013,932	7.81
2023-24	2023	\$558,968,160	\$3,924,622	7.02
2024-25	2024	\$617,649,592	\$3,849,827	6.23



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Treasurer's Report – 2023 - 2024

Financial Summary

An examination of Fund 10 indicates approximately 65% 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, 2024

Fund Balance as of July 1, 2023 \$4,360,695.45

Fund Balance as of June 30, 2024 \$4,574,395.71

The 2023 – 2024 ending Fund Balance demonstrated an increase of **\$213,700.26** in the District's working cash balance.

2023-2024 REVENUE

GENERAL FUND 10	\$8,376,124.28
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND 21 & 27	\$1,085,784.69
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS 38 & 39	\$890,263.00
LT CAPITAL IMPROVE FUND 46	\$470,814.18
FOOD SERVICE FUND 50	\$432,475.37
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND 80	\$159,436.06
TOTAL	\$11,414,897.58

2023 – 2024 EXPENDITURES

GENERAL FUND 10	\$8,162,424.02
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND 21 & 27	\$1,023,734.05
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS 38 & 39	\$706,375.00
LT CAPITAL IMPROVE FUND 46	\$0.00
FOOD SERVICE FUND 50	\$465,488.62
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND 80	\$98,248.84
TOTAL	\$10,456,270.53

FUND	BEGINNING FUND BALANCES	ENDING FUND BALANCES
GENERAL FUND 10	\$4,360,695.45	\$4,574,395.71
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND 21 & 27	\$391,431.91	\$453,482.55
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS 38 & 39	\$0.00	\$183,888.00
LT CAPITAL IMPROVE FUND 46	\$502,359.30	\$973,173.48
FOOD SERVICE FUND 50	\$243,361.12	\$210,347.87
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND 80	\$10,862.57	\$72,049.79
TOTAL	\$5,508,710.35	\$6,467,337.40



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Treasurer's Report – 2024 – 2025 Projection

Financial Summary

An examination of Fund 10 indicates approximately 69% 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, 2024

Fund Balance as of July 1, 2024 \$4,574,395.71

Projected Fund Balance as of June 30, 2025 \$4,220,596.71

The 2023 – 2024 ending Fund Balance is projected to decrease by **\$353,799.00** in the District's working cash balance.

2024-2025 REVENUE

GENERAL FUND 10	\$8,107,211.22
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND 21 & 27	\$1,210,424.83
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS 38 & 39	\$955,350.00
LT CAPITAL IMPROVE FUND 46	\$30,000.00
FOOD SERVICE FUND 50	\$390,300.00
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND 80	\$248,257.00
TOTAL	\$10,941,543.05

2024 – 2025 EXPENDITURES

GENERAL FUND 10	\$8,461,010.22
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND 21 & 27	\$1,174,024.83
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS 38 & 39	\$562,775.00
LT CAPITAL IMPROVE FUND 46	\$0.00
FOOD SERVICE FUND 50	\$474,549.82
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND 80	\$227,614.09
TOTAL	\$10,899,973.96

FUND	BEGINNING FUND BALANCES	ENDING FUND BALANCES
GENERAL FUND 10	\$4,574,395.71	\$4,220,596.71
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND 21 & 27	\$453,482.55	\$489,882.55
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS 38 & 39	\$183,888.00	\$576,463.00
LT CAPITAL IMPROVE FUND 46	\$973,173.48	\$1,003,173.48
FOOD SERVICE FUND 50	\$210,347.87	\$126,098.05
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND 80	\$72,049.79	\$92,692.70
TOTAL	\$6,467,337.40	\$6,508,906.49



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
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