

**MINNEHAHA COUNTY
FY 2007 BUDGET**

**PROPOSED
PROPERTY TAX OPT-OUT**

2007 BUDGET SUMMARY

(General Fund)

Original Requested Increase:		\$2,937,000
Commission Cuts		\$(529,000)
Commission Additions		
3% General Increase	\$600,000	
9 Law Enforcement FTE's	<u>\$399,600</u>	
		\$ 999,600
Current Increase in General Fund		\$3,407,600

2007 BUDGET SUMMARY

DETAIL FOR GENERAL FUND INCREASES

■ Public Safety	\$1,700,000
■ 3% General Increase	\$ 600,000
■ Non-Public Safety New Hires	\$ 270,000
■ Step Increases/Insurance	\$ 240,000
■ Utilities/Gas/Oil	\$ 150,000
■ Sioux Empire Fair	\$ 125,000
■ Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 322,600</u>
Total:	\$3,407,600

FY 2007 BUDGET SUMMARY

NEW HIRE REQUESTS

	<u>Public Safety</u>	<u>Others</u>
New Hires Requested	12.5	10.5
Requests Tentatively Approved	12.5	8.5
Commission Added	<u>9.0</u>	
FY 2007 Budget (7/11)	21.5	8.5

Public Safety Departments

New Hire Requests Approved

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Added</u>
Deputy Sheriff	1	5.5
Communication Operators	3	
Jail Correction Officers	2.5	2.5
Deputy Public Defender	2	
PD Legal Office Assistant	1	
Deputy States Attorney	1	1
SA Legal Office Assistant	1	
Juvenile Correction Officer	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	12.5	9.0

NON-PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

NEW HIRE REQUESTS APPROVED

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Appraisal Specialist	1	1
GIS Technician	1	1
Custodians	3	3
Equipment Engineer	1	1
HS Case Worker	1.5	1.5
Tax & License Clerk	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
	10.5	8.5

2007 BUDGET SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES/REVENUES

- Do taxes from new construction and the CPI and other revenues cover the proposed increases?

NO!

- General/Building Fund Revenues: \$1,711,755
 - Requested Budget Increases: \$3,407,600
- Shortfall: (\$1,695,845)

How does the County propose to make up the shortfall in revenue?

Projected shortfall: \$1,695,845

Property Tax Opt-Out \$1,625,000

Why doesn't the county commission make cuts to the budget rather than opting-out?

The commission has already made cuts to the FY 2007 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$529,115

- County Department Budgets: \$181,327
- Outside Agency Budgets: \$347,788

But why can't the commission make MORE cuts to the budget?

- The county commission has a long history of holding the line on budget increases.
- The lack of a sustainable revenue source that keeps pace with rapid growth has now jeopardized the public safety needs of the county.
- Further cuts, and a failure to opt-out, would simply deny the public safety realities that exist in our county today.

What does the proposed opt-out of \$1.625 million provide to the taxpayers of the county?

The property tax opt-out is to specifically fund \$1.7 million in public safety needs of the county!

- 6.5 Deputy Sheriffs
- 5 Jail Correction Officers
- 3 Metro Communication Operators
- 2 Public Defenders & Office Assistant
- 2 Deputy States Attorneys & Office Assistant
- 1 Juvenile Corrections Officer

Public Safety /Opt-out Continued:

- Rural Ambulance Service (Day time coverage)
- Public Safety Department Contract Increases:

Detoxification Center

Inmate Health Care

Juvenile & Adult Inmate Food Service

Children's Inn

Public Safety/Opt-out Continued:

- Involuntary Mental Illness Commitment Increases
- Standardized Rural Addressing
- Public Safety Equipment/Automobiles
- Increases in Coroner Services

Will the opt-out fund other functions of county government:

NO!

The \$1.625 million opt-out will not fund the requests of the non-public safety departments and agencies of the county such as: Auditor, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Commission, Data Processing, Human Services, Human Resources, Planning & Zoning, Parks, Highway, Museum, Equalization, & Extension

Still, there has to be some “fluff” in the county budget that can be cut!

- As a political subdivision of the State of South Dakota, most of the county services are mandated by state law. There are very little “non-mandated” items in the county budget. Those “non-mandated” items include:
 - Siouxland Library, Siouxland Heritage Museum, Parks, the Sioux Empire Fair, and some outside agencies.
 - These “non-mandated” items represent less than 7 % of the county budget.

What is the impact of a \$1.625 million opt-out on the typical property tax payer?

- A \$1.625 million opt-out will result in a property tax increase of \$16 for every \$100,000 of property valuation

What will the proposed opt-out do to the mill levy for the County?

- Minnehaha County will still have the second lowest mill levy in the state! Only Lincoln County is lower. The 2007 levy would be \$2.86 per thousand.

Don't county taxes represent a large portion of my total property tax bill?

- The county's portion of your property tax bill is relatively small. The opt-out should not effect this split. If you own property in Sioux Falls the breakdown is as follows:

Sioux Falls School District	63%
City of Sioux Falls	19%
Minnehaha County	14%
Special Assessment Districts	4%

Can the opt-out be referred to a public vote?

Yes. There are two ways the opt-out can be referred to a public vote:

- The County Commission can refer the matter directly to a public vote. The commission has indicated they will not use this method. An election costs approximately \$40,000.
- A petition drive can collect a minimum of 4,800 valid signatures of registered voters within 27 days of the opt-out decision to refer the matter to a public vote.

Why should taxpayers support a decision to opt-out of the property tax limitation?

- Public safety is the first responsibility of local government. Having sufficient personnel and resources in place to protect the life, safety, and property of our citizens is absolutely critical to our quality of life.
- An opt-out is the only practical tool the state legislature has been willing to provide to counties to meet statutory obligations and mandates. The \$1.625 million opt-out is the first time Minnehaha County has used the opt-out for operational costs.

Why should taxpayers support a decision to opt-out of the property tax limitation (continued)?

- A \$1.625 million opt-out barely meets the minimum requirements for public safety departments. For example:
 - The addition of 6.5 deputies in the Sheriff's Department represents a minimum officer to citizen ratio of 1.5 officers for every 1,000 citizens.
 - The addition of 5 correction officers in the jail represents one additional post in the jail for inmate control. There are 600 inmates incarcerated between the county's two correctional facilities.

Why should taxpayers support a decision to opt-out of the property tax limitation (continued)?

- The county commission can no longer cut or underfund public safety department budgets without jeopardizing community safety