

## County Begins 2019 Budget

Preliminary budget requests show little change is expected in county staffing or expenditures in 2019. “The bulk of the proposed budget increase comes from the 2.5% employee salary adjustment that was approved by the Board for 2018 and 2019,” said county administrator Jack Ingstad. The two year cost for the salary adjustment is estimated at approximately \$800,000.

The County’s new jail will open in 2019. The jail’s construction cost was funded with an initial \$10 million bond issue and the remainder of the \$22 million project coming from county reserves. The yearly payment on the bond issue is \$634,000. Once the new jail opens, the County is expected to save more than \$600,000 a year on outside jail boarding and inmate transportation costs.

The 2018 county levy was \$20,587,490 and the total budget all funds totaled \$75,416,284. The proposed 2019 levy budget is at \$21,386,658. Commissioners are required to set the maximum county levy by the end of September. Final Budget adoption will occur in late December following a public hearing.