CITY OF STOUGHTON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
2023 BUDGET WORKSHOPS

Key factors and information

- Wage increase for employees, both union and non-union) is currently at 4.0%.
- Health insurance premiums increased by 9.9%.
- CPI-U as determined by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue for one-year collective bargaining agreements is 7.17% http://werc.wi.gov/doaroot/cpi-u_chart.htm
- Net new construction for budget year 2023 is 2.43%, which was a record year under the current levy limit statutes. That "record" allowed for an increase of $186,589 in operational tax levy.
- Given that the City's equalized value increased by 16.57% for 2023, the mill rate property taxes will decrease.
- Consistent with the 2022 adopted budget, there is nothing budgeted in the contingency account.
- The amount of General Obligation debt as a percentage of equalized value is 2.34% for budget year 2023 and is projected to increase to 2.45% for the following year.

Personnel changes by the Mayor – Budget year 2023

- Increased hours that affect multiple departments
  - Human Resources – Admin Assistant increased from 20 to 30 hours per week
  - Recreation Programs – Administrative position increased from 15.03 hours to 25 hours per week
- Retention incentive – Increase in wage rates <u>in addition to the 4.0% wage increase</u> to bring positions closer to market. This affected 13 positions for an increase in the tax levy of $38,797 for wages and benefits.

Human Resources (1)	Public Library (1)
Recreation Programs (2)	Planning (1)
Public Works (2)	Senior Center (6)

- Plan for budget year 2024
  - Increased staffing in Public Works
  - Continue retention incentive to get certain positions closer to market

Material reductions to requested budgets by the Mayor

- Information Technology / Media Services
  - *Reduction of expenditures by $30,000. John Montgomery provided the various accounts and amounts totaling $30,000.*
- Opera House
  - *Increased membership revenue from requested $100,000 to $130,000. Year to date revenue through September 2022 is $133,438.*
  - *Decreased Advertising (50343) from $17,000 to $15,000.*
  - *No change was made to Ads & Publications (50315) at the requested $85,000.*
- Redevelopment Authority
  - *Removed $7,500 in Professional Services related to River Bluff funding*
- Economic Development (General Fund)
  - *Removed $43,200 in Professional Services related to grant funding strategies*

Net New Construction data

Report Year	Budget Year	City of Stoughton			County of Dane			State of Wisconsin		
		Allowed Increase	Averages Three Yr	Averages Five Yr	Allowed Increase	Averages Three Yr	Averages Five Yr	Allowed Increase	Averages Three Yr	Averages Five Yr
2012	2013	0.35%	n/a	n/a	0.95%	n/a	n/a	0.74%	n/a	n/a
2013	2014	0.45%	n/a	n/a	1.50%	n/a	n/a	0.90%	n/a	n/a
2014	2015	0.82%	0.54%	n/a	2.19%	1.55%	n/a	1.12%	0.92%	n/a
2015	2016	1.11%	0.79%	n/a	2.21%	1.97%	n/a	1.21%	1.08%	n/a
2016	2017	1.94%	1.29%	0.93%	2.48%	2.29%	1.87%	1.43%	1.25%	1.08%
2017	2018	1.75%	1.60%	1.21%	2.86%	2.52%	2.25%	1.60%	1.41%	1.25%
2018	2019	1.59%	1.76%	1.44%	2.60%	2.65%	2.47%	1.62%	1.55%	1.40%
2019	2020	1.48%	1.61%	1.57%	2.44%	2.63%	2.52%	1.60%	1.61%	1.49%
2020	2021	1.84%	1.64%	1.72%	2.12%	2.39%	2.50%	1.60%	1.61%	1.57%
2021	2022	1.32%	1.55%	1.60%	2.08%	2.21%	2.42%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%
2022	2023	2.43%	1.86%	1.73%	2.52%	2.24%	2.35%	1.71%	1.64%	1.63%

CODE	MUNICIPALITY	EQUALIZED VALUE	CONSTRUCTION	PERCENT
13221	CITY O EDGERTON *	27,869,900	2,800	0.01%
13225	CITY O FITCHBURG	4,100,343,800	170,592,400	4.16%
13251	CITY O MADISON	32,940,368,400	780,438,600	2.37%
13255	CITY O MIDDLETON	4,263,315,100	98,155,800	2.30%
13258	CITY O MONONA	1,538,704,800	29,785,400	1.94%
13281	CITY O STOUGHTON	1,341,278,100	32,581,600	2.43%
13282	CITY O SUN PRAIRIE	4,176,130,900	138,582,500	3.32%
13286	CITY O VERONA	3,199,968,100	80,358,500	2.51%
13999	COUNTY OF DANE	76,889,801,300	1,941,294,600	2.52%

Equalized value data

Report Year	Budget Year	City of Stoughton				County of Dane			
		EQ Value (Exclude TIDs)	Annual Increase	Averages Three Yr	Averages Five Yr	EQ Value (Exclude TIDs)	Annual Increase	Averages Three Yr	Averages Five Yr
2014	2015	$ 886,512,800	n/a	n/a	n/a	$ 49,509,314,700	n/a	n/a	n/a
2015	2016	$ 923,322,500	4.15%	n/a	n/a	$ 51,272,739,050	3.56%	n/a	n/a
2016	2017	$ 962,317,400	4.22%	n/a	n/a	$ 54,247,628,050	5.80%	n/a	n/a
2017	2018	$ 1,019,871,200	5.98%	4.79%	n/a	$ 57,726,523,450	6.41%	5.26%	n/a
2018	2019	$ 1,110,930,600	8.93%	6.38%	n/a	$ 62,121,666,600	7.61%	6.61%	n/a
2019	2020	$ 1,176,283,200	5.88%	6.93%	5.83%	$ 66,499,944,400	7.05%	7.02%	6.09%
2020	2021	$ 1,199,002,400	1.93%	5.58%	5.39%	$ 70,070,629,900	5.37%	6.68%	6.45%
2021	2022	$ 1,286,313,900	7.28%	5.03%	6.00%	$ 72,334,792,600	3.23%	5.22%	5.94%
2022	2023	$ 1,499,453,200	16.57%	8.59%	8.12%	$ 83,847,065,700	15.92%	8.17%	7.84%

Mill Rate Comparison

The mill rate is decreasing by 8.9%, which equates to a decrease of $75.37 annually for each $100,000 of assessed value. *The City of Stoughton has historically had assessed values approximately the same as equalized value.*

	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Change	Change
Operating levy				
Equalized value - TID Out	$ 1,286,313,900	$ 1,499,453,200	$ 213,139,300	16.6%
Operational levy	$ 7,344,830	$ 7,528,214	$ 183,384	2.5%
Mill rate	$ 5.7100	$ 5.0206	$ (0.6893)	-12.1%
Effect on $100,000 property	$ 571.00	$ 502.06	$ (68.93)	-12.1%
Debt levy				
Equalized value - TID Out	$ 1,286,313,900	$ 1,499,453,200	$ 213,139,300	16.6%
Debt levy	$ 3,565,553	$ 4,059,830	$ 494,277	13.9%
Mill rate	$ 2.7719	$ 2.7075	$ (0.0644)	-2.3%
Effect on $100,000 property	$ 277.19	$ 270.75	$ (6.44)	-2.3%
Total levy				
Equalized value - TID Out	$ 1,286,313,900	$ 1,499,453,200	$ 213,139,300	16.6%
Total levy	$ 10,910,383	$ 11,588,044	$ 677,661	6.2%
Mill rate	$ 8.4819	$ 7.7282	$ (0.7537)	-8.9%
Effect on $100,000 property	$ 848.19	$ 772.82	$ (75.37)	-8.9%

Property tax comparison – by department

Department	Mayor Proposed 2023	Mayor Proposed 2023	Amended Budget 2022	Increase (Decrease)	Increase (Decrease)
Police Department	41.7%	$ 3,559,753	$ 3,274,454	$ 285,299	8.7%
Public Library	8.5%	727,938	646,350	81,588	12.6%
Human Resources/ Risk Mgmt	6.2%	529,238	455,219	74,019	16.3%
Finance	6.1%	517,373	487,516	29,857	6.1%
Planning and Development	5.9%	502,389	510,860	(8,471)	-1.7%
Public Works	5.7%	487,667	521,772	(34,105)	-6.5%
Info Tech / Media Services	5.2%	447,567	332,300	115,267	34.7%
Senior Center	4.8%	412,851	404,460	8,391	2.1%
Fire Department	4.3%	365,469	341,561	23,908	7.0%
Opera House	2.8%	235,245	195,000	40,245	20.6%
Recreation Programs	2.1%	179,597	162,975	16,622	10.2%
City Attorney	2.2%	185,000	157,000	28,000	17.8%
City Clerk	2.1%	180,834	211,881	(31,047)	-14.7%
Mayor	1.3%	114,503	105,901	8,602	8.1%
City Council	0.6%	51,873	46,483	5,390	11.6%
Redevelopment Authority	0.2%	20,500	11,000	9,500	86.4%
Shared Ride Services	0.1%	7,886	16,951	(9,065)	-53.5%
Economic Development	0.1%	7,500	0	7,500	100.0%
Subtotal	100.0%	8,533,183	7,881,683	651,500	8.3%
Special Assessments		(19,000)	0	(19,000)	
Municipal Court		(32,112)	(17,538)	(14,574)	83.1%
General Revenues		(1,949,451)	(1,518,114)	(431,337)	28.4%
Operational Tax Levy	61.7%	6,532,620	6,346,031	186,589	2.9%
Debt Levy	38.3%	4,059,830	3,565,553	494,277	13.9%
Total Property Tax Levy	**100.0%**	**$ 10,592,450**	**$ 9,911,584**	**$ 680,866**	**6.9%**

Property tax comparison – by category (slide 1 of 2)

Department	Mayor Proposed 2023	Mayor Proposed 2023	Amended Budget 2022	Increase (Decrease)	Increase (Decrease)
Public Safety					
Fire Department		365,469	341,561	23,908	7.0%
Planning and Development		117,946	98,496	19,450	19.7%
Police Department		3,559,753	3,274,454	285,299	8.7%
Subtotal	47.7%	4,043,168	3,714,511	328,657	8.8%
Culture, Recreation, Education					
Info Tech / Media Services		447,567	332,300	115,267	34.7%
Public Library		727,938	646,350	81,588	12.6%
Opera House		235,245	195,000	40,245	20.6%
Public Works		374,926	335,536	39,390	11.7%
Recreation Programs		179,597	162,975	16,622	10.2%
Subtotal	23.2%	1,965,273	1,672,161	293,112	17.5%
General Government					
City Attorney		185,000	157,000	28,000	17.8%
City Clerk		180,834	211,881	(31,047)	-14.7%
City Council		51,873	46,483	5,390	11.6%
Finance		517,373	487,516	29,857	6.1%
Human Resources/ Risk Mgmt		529,238	455,219	74,019	16.3%
Mayor		114,503	105,901	8,602	8.1%
Municipal Court		(32,112)	(17,538)	(14,574)	83.1%
Planning and Development		268,765	262,469	6,296	2.4%
Subtotal	21.4%	1,815,474	1,708,931	106,543	6.2%
Health and Human Services					
Public Works		26,000	22,500	3,500	15.6%
Senior Center		412,851	404,460	8,391	2.1%
Subtotal	5.2%	438,851	426,960	11,891	2.8%

Property tax comparison – by category (slide 2 of 2)

Department	Mayor Proposed 2023	Mayor Proposed 2023	Amended Budget 2022	Increase (Decrease)	Increase (Decrease)
Conservation and Development					
Economic Development		7,500	0	7,500	100.0%
Planning and Development		115,678	149,895	(34,217)	-22.8%
Redevelopment Authority		20,500	11,000	9,500	86.4%
Subtotal	1.7%	143,678	160,895	(17,217)	-10.7%
Public Works					
Public Works		86,741	163,736	(76,995)	-47.0%
Shared Ride Services		7,886	16,951	(9,065)	-53.5%
Special Assessments		(19,000)	0	(19,000)	#DIV/0!
Subtotal	0.9%	75,627	180,687	(105,060)	-58.1%
Program Activities	100.0%	8,482,071	7,864,145	617,926	7.9%
Less General Revenues		(1,949,451)	(1,518,114)	(431,337)	28.4%
Operational Tax Levy	61.7%	6,532,620	6,346,031	186,589	2.9%
Debt Levy	38.3%	4,059,830	3,565,553	494,277	13.9%
Total Property Tax Levy	**100.0%**	**10,592,450**	**9,911,584**	**680,866**	**6.9%**

Total expenditures by category (excluding Stoughton Utilities)

Stay tuned.....

Fund balance / net position applied to budget

Fund	Fund	Department	Amount	Totals	Comment
100	General Fund	City Council	5,600		Sustainability Committee - proposed carryforward
100	General Fund	City Council	2,000		Arts Council - proposed carryforward
100	General Fund	General Revenues	85,000		Retirement payouts as per R-175-2022
100	General Fund	Subtotal		92,600	
204	TID #4	Downtown		(178,753)	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
205	TID #5	Redevelopment		93,021	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
206	TID #6	Bus Park Expansion		356,210	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
207	TID #7	Kettle Park West		(797,961)	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
217	Library Special Gift Fund			(11,000)	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
225	Cemetery Endowment			2,505	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
229	Senior Center Wood Shop			(2,950)	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
230	Town Senior Programming			396	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
231	Seniors in Need			(5,400)	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
232	Senior Center Special Fund	Primarily Annex remodeling		193,900	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
234	Food Pantry			(21,350)	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
236	Tree Commission			(1,020)	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
253	Affordable Housing Fund			(400)	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
261	Redevelopment Authority	Operations		12,000	Carryforward request for professional services
261	Redevelopment Authority	Revolving Loan Fund		(34,250)	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
270	Special Assessments			10,000	See below
411	Building Maintenance Fund			53,987	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
603	Emergency Medical Services	Operations		(36,565)	Projected annual (surplus) deficit
603	Emergency Medical Services	Depreciation		84,000	Estimated annual depreciation
	Total			(191,030)	

Fund 270 Special Assessments - The General Transportation Aids (GTA) and Connecting Highway Aids (CHA) came in less than anticipated. The fund balance at 12/31/2021 ($629,827) is related to prior Public Works activity plus investment earnings. Because the fund balance is approximately 21 months of 2023 budgeted expenditures, it was decided to use $10,000 to balance the Public Works budget.

Fund balance policy application (General Fund only)

The City's fund balance policy states the General Fund unassigned fund balance should be between 20% and 25% of the subsequent year's operating expenditure budget.

As a point of information, the 2022 projection for the General Fund is a surplus of $374,310.

General Fund - budgeted expenditures - adopted 2022	$ 14,814,029	
Minimum balance required	25%	
Minimum balance required	$ 3,703,507	
Unassigned fund balance 12/31/2021	$ 4,887,570	32.0%
Amount over (under) goal	$ 1,184,063	

Expenditure Restraint Program

Due to changes implemented in accounting during calendar year 2022 by the Finance Department, quite a few transfers to other funds were eliminated. In addition, over $200,000 for the Shared Ride Services was moved to a special revenue fund.

Description		Mayor Proposed 2023	Council Adopted 2022	Increase (Decrease)	Increase (Decrease)
General Fund budgeted expenditures		$ 15,520,773	$ 14,814,029	$ 706,744	4.6%
Less debt service transfers		$ (4,059,830)	$ (3,565,553)	$ (494,277)	12.2%
Contracted services provided to another local government	A	$ (188,448)	$ (184,000)	$ (4,448)	2.4%
Contracted services provided to another local government	B	$ (88,719)	$ -	$ (88,719)	100.0%
Total		$ 11,183,776	$ 11,064,476	$ 119,300	1.1%
Allowed increase			$ 1,017,932		9.2%
Maximum allowed			$ 12,082,408		
Less Mayor proposed budget			$ (11,183,776)		
Amount available	C		$ 898,632		

A. Fire Department charges to surrounding towns.

B. Senior Center case management and nutrition programs charges to Dane County. The prior year return needs to be amended because past years did not include this activity as it was previously recorded as a donation.

C. Although $898,632 in additional expenditures is allowed under the Expditure Restraint Program (ERP) in the General Fund for budget year 2023, the question how do we pay for them?

Accounting changes

The Director of Finance/Comptroller implemented a number of accounting changes during 2022 in order to accurately report information on the city's 2022 audited financial statements.

In addition, it becomes even more important for these changes with the pending Single Audits related to federal grants because of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

While this has been time consuming, it is necessary as a number of issues were discovered and corrected. A brief summary of the changes made is below:

Fund eliminations

- Funds were eliminated to mirror how the funds were presented in the audited financial statements.
- In addition, funds with no activity in several years were eliminated. *These eliminated multiple transfers between funds which had a positive effect on the Expenditure Restraint Program calculations.*

Balanced budgets – Each department's budget has equal revenues and expenditures.

Accounting changes (continued)

Revenues

- Revenues specific to a department were moved to that department, which allows for a better understanding of the true cost for providing services of that department.
- Non-specific program revenues in the General Fund were moved to Department 88888 General Revenues.
- Steps were taken so that revenue for the same purpose in different funds used the same revenue account.
- Steps were taken so that revenues were correctly classified into the appropriate category. *This directly affects the city's General Transportation Aids calculations.*
- *Property tax revenue is included with each department.*

Accounting changes (continued)

<u>Expenditures</u>

- Departments in BS&A were created/modified/deleted to correctly report.
- The following benefit accounts were split into separate accounts in the budget. *(The payroll system still needs to be updated to reflect this.)*
  - *Employee benefits (former account)*
    - Social Security taxes
    - WRS pension (needs to be separate for GASB 68 calculations)
    - Life insurance (needs to be separate for GASB 75 calculations)
  - *Health insurance/dental insurance*
    - Health insurance (needs to be separate for GASB 75 calculations)
    - Dental insurance
- When applicable, the use of "catch-all" all types of accounts for Operating Expenses were eliminated so that expenditures across the city for items like utilities, postage, etc. were recorded in the same place no matter the department.

Future budget year plans

Currently, many departments create their budget in Excel and then manually enter that same data into BS&A.

The BS&A system is capable of entering footnotes and line item detail that can be displayed on the reports and can be used to review departmental requests. This should allow for time savings for departments along with having more robust calculations available by the system.

Levy departmental highlights

General Fund

- City Council Increase of $5,390 11.6%
  - Wages and benefits increased by $2,890 due to scheduled salary increases.
  - Computer equipment related to committee meeting rooms was allocated here.
- Municipal Court Surplus increase of $14,574 83.1%
  - Revenues were increased based upon 2022 year-to-date activity
- City Attorney Increase of $28,000 17.8%
  - Budget was increased based upon activity in 2021 and 2022.
  - Accounting was changed in TIF Districts to reflect Outside Legal Services rather than being lumped together in Admin Costs.
- Mayor Increase of $8,602 8.1%
  - Majority of the increase is for the scheduled salary increase due to CPI-U increase of 8.8%.

Levy department highlights (continued)

General Fund (continued)

- City Clerk Decrease of ($31,047) (14.7%)
  - Increase in license revenues based upon 2020 and 2021 activity
  - Decrease in election costs as there will only be two (2) elections in 2023.
  - *Note: The department levy will increase in 2024 due to four (4) elections.*
- Finance Increase of $29,857 6.1%
  - Wages and benefits increased by $20,315
  - Actuarial fees of $7,500 were not budgeted in prior years
  - Assumed slight increase in audit fees with GASB 87 *Leases* implementation.
- Human Resources / Risk Management Increase of $74,019 16.3%
  - Wages and benefits increase $55,078 which included increasing one staff member from 20 to 30 hours per week.
  - Insurance premiums increased by $21,700.

Levy department highlights (continued)

General Fund (continued)

- Police Department — Increase of $285,299 — 8.7%
  - Wages and benefits increased by $281,995
- Fire Department — Increase of $23,908 — 7.0%
  - Wages and benefits increased by $12,351
  - Items transferred from the CIP to operations were $6,500
  - Revenues, including charges to towns, increased by $6,448
- Public Works — Decrease of ($34,105) — (6.5%)
  - *The tax levy for Public Works appears small because General Transportation Aids and Connecting Highway Aids are credited directly to this department.*
  - Wages and benefits increased by $47,266
  - General Transportation Aids increased by $150,307 but Connecting Highway Aids decreased by $7,310

Levy department highlights (continued)

General Fund (continued)

- Planning and Development Decrease of ($8,471) (1.7%)
  - Wages and benefits increased by $38,709 including one employee adjustment as a partial step towards market rates.
  - Permit fees were increased by $55,000 based upon 2021 and year-to-date 2022 activity. The large increase was discussed with the department head.
- Senior Center Increase of $8,391 2.1%
  - Revenues were increased by $25,739 based upon 2021 and year-to-date 2022 activity. The Dane County revenue assumed the same increase rate as occurred in the 2022 versus 2021 contract.
  - Wages and benefits increased by $33,630
- Recreation Programs Increase of $16,622 10.2%
  - Wages and benefits increased by $29,268
  - Revenues increased by $7,108

Levy department highlights (continued)

General Fund (continued)

- IT/Media Services — Increase of $115,267 — 34.7%
  - Wages and benefits increased by $11,996
  - Telephone increased by $30,600
  - Cable franchise fees revenue decreased by $20,841
  - Number of Microsoft user/service licenses were increased to be in compliance.
- Economic Development — Increase of $7,500 — 100%
  - Nothing was budgeted in the prior year
  - $7,500 is included for professional services related to business retention.
- General Revenues — Surplus increased by $431,337 — 28.4%
  - Payment in Lieu of Taxes from Stoughton Utilities decreased by $34,389
  - $50,000 from Stoughton Utilities rent was allocated to General Revenues as opposed to the Building Maintenance Fund.
  - Interest income increased by $63,830 based upon current market trends
  - Transfers to other funds decreased by $254,816 based upon accounting changes.

Levy department highlights (continued)

- Public Library — Increase of $81,588 — 12.6%
  - Wages and benefits increased by $44,257
  - The 2021 adopted levy used $26,739 in fund balance.
- Opera House — Increase of $40,245 — 20.6%
  - Wages and benefits increased by $13,554
  - Operating expenditures decreased by ($202,155)
  - Public Charges for Services decreased by ($214,260)
- Redevelopment Authority — Increase of $9,500 — 86.4%
  - Utility expenditures increased by $5,000 as the sale of property for phase 2 will not occur in 2023.
  - Additional $4,500 for professional services
- Special Assessments — Surplus increased by $19,000
  - $9,000 of interest income allocated to the tax levy
  - $10,000 of fund balance allocated to the tax levy
- Shared Ride Services — Decrease of ($9,065) — (53.5%)
  - Taxi grant revenue has been budgeted conservatively in the past.

Levy limit – Wis. Stat. 66.0602

Section A:				
	2021 payable 2022 actual levy		$9,911,584	
	2022 personal property aid		$ 36,760	
1	2021 payable 2022 actual levy plus 2021 personal property aid			$ 9,948,344
3	Exclude 2021 levy for new general obligation debt authorized after July 1, 2005			$ 2,266,612
4	2021 payable 2022 adjusted actual county levy			$ 7,681,732
5	Terminated TID applied to 2021 adjusted actual levy	0.000%	$ -	$ 7,681,732
6	Net new construction applied to 2022 adjusted actual levy	2.429%	$ 186,589	$ 7,868,321
7	Greater of Line 5 or Line 6			$ 7,868,321
8	2022 levy limit before adjustments less 2023 personal property aid		$ 36,760	$ 7,831,561
9	Total adjustments (from Section D)			$ -
10	2022 payable 2023 allowable levy			$ 7,831,561
Section B				
1	Previous year's allowable levy			$ 9,911,584
2	Previous year's actual levy			$ 9,911,584
3	Previous year's unused levy			$ -
4	Previous year's actual levy	1.500%		$ 148,674
5	Allowable increase (lessor of lines 3 or 4)			$ -
Section D: Adjustments to Allowable Levy Limit				
E	Debt service levy for general obligation debt authorized after July 1, 2005			
M	Adjustment to 2022 payable 2023 levy for annexation of land during 2022 from a town		Investigate	$ -
U	Total adjustments			$ -

Total levy increase	$ (2,080,023)
Less debt levy increase	$ (2,266,612)
Operating levy increase	$ 186,589

Next Steps….

The Mayor's proposed tax for operations (i.e. not debt) is exactly the same at the levy limit under the Wisconsin statutes.

It is highly recommended to ***NOT*** lower the operational levy. That will lower the allowed limit for future year, unless various hoops are jumped through.

The debt levy could potentially be lowered with the use of Debt Service fund balance, but is not being recommended to do so at this time. That could potentially be done for the 2024 budget after the Director of Finance/Comptroller has analyzed the Debt Service fund balance.

If you wish to make changes to the 2023 budget, please keep in mind that it is a balanced budget. Any increase in expenditures needs to be offset by either:

- Reduction in expenditures elsewhere, or
- Increase in revenues, or
- Use of General Fund unassigned fund balance, or
- A combination of any of the above.

Let the fun begin….