



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 6, 2024

Contact: Mike Donila Rylie McClurg
306-1177 cell 215-4579 office
705-1681 cell

Mayor Jacobs: No Tax Increase in Proposed FY25 Budget

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs this morning unveiled his proposed spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year, a budget that fully funds the school system’s request, covers upgrades in the Sheriff’s Office, and improves roads and parks.

Also, as long promised, Mayor Jacobs’ proposed budget does NOT call for a property tax increase.

“We haven’t raised taxes in Knox County in almost 25 years and I don’t intend to now,” Mayor Jacobs said after his budget address and State of the County speech. “All of us must live within our means and that includes government. I said a long time ago, I would never raise your property taxes and I meant it.”

The total proposed budget, which must be approved by the Knox County Board of Commissioners by June 30, stands at a little more than \$1.1 billion and is roughly 3 percent higher than the current year. But nearly two-thirds of the spending – about \$683.7 million – is dedicated to funding Knox County’s public schools.

“That is almost \$23 million dollars more than their current budget, and I am recommending that we fund the request in its entirety,” Mayor Jacobs said.

That means starting teachers with a bachelor’s degree will make \$47,000 dollars a year and the starting pay for those with a master’s degree will be almost \$51,000 dollars. And, by 2026, all our starting teachers will meet state requirements by earning at least \$50,000 dollars annually.

Here’s a snapshot of some other highlights from his proposed budget, which takes effect July 1:

- Much-needed capital projects including solutions at Farragut, Mechanicsville/Lonsdale/Beaumont, and South Knoxville. Additionally, it provides \$2 million dollars for school security upgrades.
- Funding to wrap up Phase III of the Schaad Road Extension—the biggest road project in County history, and we will begin on Phase IV, which links Oak Ridge Hwy to Pleasant Ridge Road.
- Construction is slated to begin on the Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss Bridge at the Gibbs schools in mid-2025.

- A new splash pad at French Memorial in south Knox County and renovate the one at New Harvest Park.
- A new ADA-accessible playgrounds at Melton Hill, Carter, and Hardin Valley Community Parks – along with building a new pavilion and community center in Hardin Valley.
- Senior Center fitness equipment upgrades.
- Increased funding for the Knox County Sheriff's Office to pay for software upgrades, body cams, equipment, training, new vehicles.
- Increased funding to pave roads.

Mayor Jacobs noted that although property tax collections are up, money is still tight. The proposed budget calls for a two-step raise for general government employees and the Sheriff's Office, roughly the equivalent of a 2 percent salary increase, starting Jan. 1.

“I wish I could match what we have been able to do these past five years, but unfortunately, our finances are tight,” Mayor Jacobs said. “While we do have more money coming in, partly thanks to some innovative programs coming out of the Trustees Office, our expenditures are also a lot higher due to inflation and other factors.”

Knoxville Community Television live streamed Mayor Jacob's address, and that video can be found here - [Knoxville Community Media Live Stream \(youtube.com\)](#)

The event begins at the 58:00 minute mark.

###