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November 29, 2018

Budget Message as of November 29, 2018

The City of Leadville's budget process begins in mid-September with a projection by the finance director of revenue for the following year. That allows us to then propose to department managers what their budget expansion, if any, might be. It could even be a contraction depending on the projections.

Next, the departments bring me budgets that fit within the limits of our projection. This year they were asked to produce a zero sum budget, which they each did.

Though our increase in sales tax revenues has been quite strong, we chose a conservative increase of only 10% for next year. In the mean time we had some revenues which were considerably down compared to our budget. Marijuana excise tax fell about \$60K short, building inspection fees will be \$37K short since we discontinued our building department, and severance tax is projected to be about \$20K behind next year.

This year City Council created some spending priorities such as: Southern Fire Station \$30K; School Resource Officer \$16K; Gateway signage \$30K; Housing Coordinator \$8K; and the Tabor Opera House \$20K.

We had capital requests and set aside \$31,500 for the Street Department's mini-excavator and \$30K for the Police Department to use as long as those capital expenditures were on the police department capital list and that body cameras were a priority.

Outside agency requests were considered and we granted \$3K each to C4, Brite Start, Visitor's Center, and Advocates of Lake County. We also agreed to \$5K in-kind for the Lake County Community Fund and \$5K for the Economic Development Corporation.

All the amounts listed here are in this budget, as are all the projected employee cost of living, merit increases, promotion increases and a few bonuses for managers and key personnel.

Some last minute additions to the budget were street signs for our retail core, \$1000, and legal and psychological contractual services for police department personnel, \$5000. The remaining considerations are relative to some City Hall responsibilities and job descriptions, but will not affect the budget.

We understand that during 2019 there may be unpredictable needs or events that we cannot account for in this budget. In such instances we will consider those on a case-by-case basis.

Our final budget will be adopted at the December 4th City Council meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Labbe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.