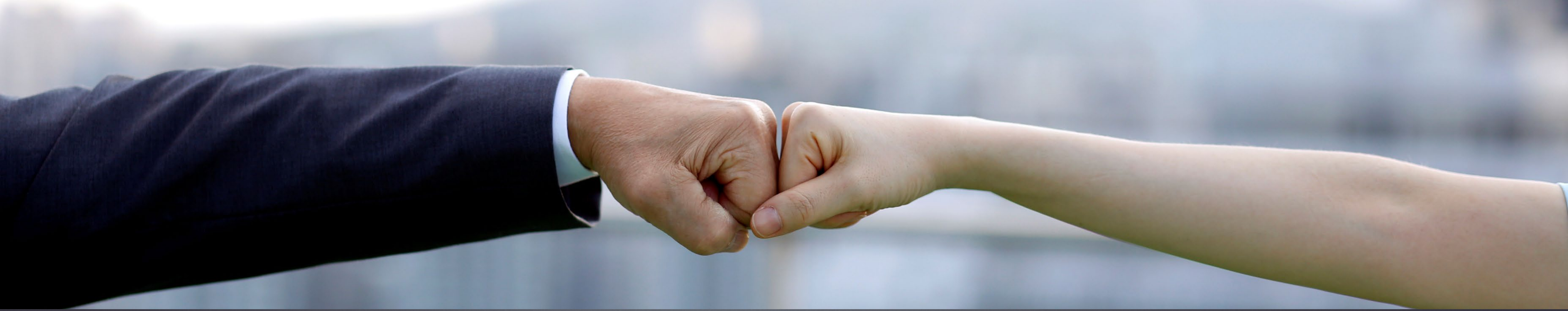
Thomas County Budget 26/27



Role of County Board

Counties are subject to both the Nebraska Budget Act and the County Budget Act of 1937.

County needs to review budgets after they are submitted by other subdivisions

All they can do is make sure tax request budget is within levy limit or within levy allocation

Budget OVERVIEW

County has total **$.50** of levy authority

Can allocate up to **$.15** to other smaller governments in the County who do not have their own levy authority

Levy Limit included in the $.50

- County Budget
- Fire Districts (unless qualify for 10.5 cent provision)
- Townships
- Ag Society
- Historical Society
- Any other small subdivisions

No property owner should be paying more than $.50 when levies of all these entities are added together unless additional authority is obtained through VOTE or Townhall meeting.

Who has levy Authority?

Own Levy Authority (statute 77-3442)

City/Village	$.45
Community College	$.1125
ESU	$.015
NRD	$.045
School	$1.05
SID	$.40
Fire Districts(if qualify)	$.105

Who has levy Authority?

County or Municipality

(Statute 77-3443)

- Fire Districts
- Townships
- Ag Society
- Historical Society
- Airport Authority
- Road Improvement
- Cemetery District
- Hospital Districts

HOW A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IS FORMED

Budget Need ÷ Taxable Valuation = Levy

DETERMINING BUDGET NEED

Each taxing entity determines how much it needs to operate for the coming year.

Example
Total Budget: **$7,000,000**

Subtract Other Revenue
(ex. $2,000,000)
State aid
Federal grants
Fees
Motor vehicle taxes
Cash reserves (if used)
Other local revenue

Determine the Taxable Valuation
The county Assessor certifies the total taxable value
Ex: $2,000,000,000

Calculate the Levy
(Property taxes needed divided by the taxable valuation)

Levy=$5,000,000/$2,000,000,000

Levy=.0025

What your Tax Statement looks like

2025 Assessed Value- $147,945

County General	.20160500	$298.28
County Library	.00696500	$10.30
Airport Authority	.01597200	$23.63
Thedford Fire & Bond	.01513800	$22.40
Ag Society	.00580200	$8.58
Mullen Hosp.	.00673600	$9.97
Total	**.252218**	**$373.16**
Thedford Rural #1	.71055900	$1051.24
ESU 16	.015000	$ 22.19
Mid-Plains CC	.02000	$ 29.59
Upper Loup NRD	.01333700	$19.73
Thedford Village	.37727100	$558.14
Total	**1.136167**	**$1,680.89**

Thomas County Numbers

2026-2027 Tax Request

County General	$835,254.15
County Library	$ 25,674.89

Total $860,929.04

THOMAS COUNTY PROPERTY TAX REQUEST HISTORY

2020–2025 FISCAL YEARS

YEAR	GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL PROPERTY TAX REQUEST	LIBRARY LEVY	LIBRARY PROPERTY TAX REQUEST
2025	.201605	$832,965.56	.006965	$28,777.66
2024	.194082	$818,701.00	.007003	$29,541.00
2023	.214495	$825,449.44	.003370	$12,967.11
2022	.238505	$854,169.38	.003108	$11,130.32
2021	.252116	$847,363.00	.004885	$11,130.32
2020	.262445	$811,961.00	.019113	$59,132.00

KEY TAKEAWAY: Thomas County's property tax request has remained relatively stable over the past six budget years **despite increased costs.**

THOMAS COUNTY

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Funds	Actual Disbursements 2024–2025 (1)	Actual Disbursements 2025–2026 (2)	Proposed Disbursements 2026–2027 (3)	Necessary Cash Reserve (4)	Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes (5)	Total Real and Personal Property Tax Requirements
COUNTY GENERAL	1,274,492.89	1,203,408.07	1,921,554.39	100,000.00	1,186,300.24	835,254.15
ROAD	637,502.36	418,291.95	1,580,024.47	150,000.00	1,730,024.47	0.00
FEDERAL FUNDS PURCHASE PROGRAM LI	0.00	0.00	138,126.14	0.00	138,126.14	0.00
PER. TRIAL	987.82	1,197.41	16,650.77	0.00	16,650.77	0.00
CAPSULE	0.00	0.00	2,037.32	0.00	2,037.32	0.00
COUNTY VISITORS	6,992.25	12,737.22	38,349.17	0.00	38,349.17	0.00
COUNTY VISITORS IMPROVEMENT	24,020.15	21,407.88	27,307.40	0.00	27,307.40	0.00
CENTRAL SANDHILLS EXTENSION FUND	86,792.38	117,488.41	154,173.73	0.00	154,173.73	0.00
PRESERVATION & MODERNIZATION FUND	0.00	1,043.28	6,338.19	0.00	6,338.19	0.00
VETS AID	0.00	0.00	1,088.43	0.00	1,088.43	0.00
LIBRARY	41,987.71	45,933.85	68,700.00	0.00	43,025.11	25,674.89
BOOKMOBILE FUND	34,171.72	41,048.50	265,828.04	0.00	265,828.04	0.00
LAW ENFORCEMENT DRUG FUND	0.00	0.00	514.05	0.00	514.05	0.00
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT	4,179.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
INHERITANCE TAX	0.00	0.00	740,825.12	350,000.00	1,090,825.12	0.00
GRAND TOTAL	**2,111,126.96**	**1,862,556.57**	**4,961,517.22**	**600,000.00**	**4,700,588.18**	**860,929.04**

Centrally Assessed 2026

$86,512,733.00

-$7,654,743

CENTRALLY ASSESSED VALUATIONS

2023–2025

ENTITY	2023 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL	2025 TOTAL
Railroad	$105,008,117	$100,451,700	$91,473,696
Consolidated Connect	$59,686	$60,346	$50,325
Consolidated Telephone	$922,029	$1,215,260	$1,331,503
Great Plains Communications	$115,378	$125,203	$137,240
Comcast Business Comm.	$0	$964	$614
Cellco	$269,484	$248,124	$253,952
NE Colorado Cellular	$375,916	$314,243	$291,002
T-Mobile	$100,500	$323,033	$297,370
US Cellular	$431,006	$395,028	$331,774
TOTAL	**$107,282,116**	**$103,133,901**	**$94,167,476**

2023 TOTAL
$107,282,116

2024 TOTAL
$103,133,901

2025 TOTAL
$94,167,476

2023–2025 DIFFERENCE
- $13,114,640

OUCH!

Centrally assessed valuations are determined by the Nebraska Department of Revenue using statutory valuation methods.

Not by Thomas County and these declines occurred despite rising locally assessed real estate values.

2024–2025 BUDGET EXPENDITURES | 2025–2026 BUDGET EXPENDITURES

FUND	TOTAL
General Fund	$1,274,492.89
Road Fund	$637,502.36
Pre-Trial Fund	$987.82
Visitors Fund	$6,992.25
Visitors Improvement Fund	$24,020.15
Extension	$86,792.38
Preservation & Modernization Fund	$0
Library	$41,987.71
Bookmobile	$34,171.72
ARPA	$4,179.68
TOTAL	**$2,111,126.96**

FUND	TOTAL
General Fund	$1,203,408.07
Road Fund	$418,291.95
Pre-Trial Fund	$1,197.41
Visitors Fund	$12,737.22
Visitors Improvement Fund	$21,407.88
Extension	$117,488.41
Preservation & Modernization Fund	$1,043.28
Library	$45,933.85
Bookmobile	$41,048.50
ARPA	$0.00
TOTAL	**$1,862,556.57**

2024–2025 TOTAL	2025–2026 TOTAL	DIFFERENCE
$2,111,126.96	**$1,862,556.57**	**- $248,570.39**

* Road project planned was moved to 26/27 fiscal year

2025–2026 REVENUES

FUND	TOTAL REVENUE
General Fund	$1,214,889.69
Road Fund	$335,206.27
Federal Purchase (LB98)	$24,848.97
Pretrial Diversion	$2,970.00
Capsule	$150.91
Lodging Tax	$9,770.74
Visitors Improvement Fund	$14,526.74
Extension	$98,583.93
Preservation & Modernization Fund	$486.50
County Library	$33,436.62
Bookmobile	$82,531.05
Inheritance Tax	$8,638.73
ARPA	$0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	**$1,826,040.15**

2025–2026 TOTAL REVENUE

$1,826,040.15

	Higher Than Projected	
Revenue Source	**Variance**	**Reason**
Federal Revenue	$ 45,498.24	PILT was higher
Interest Earnings & Other Fees	$ 33,311.85	Higher interest rates than expected
County Treasurer Fees	$ 11,873.44	Higher fee collections than projected. Driver's license, motor vehicle

Financial Changes

Historical Projects

Purdum Ave

2014-Armor Coat(Topkote)

2015-Crack Sealing

2017-Armor Coat(Western)

2021-Armor Coat (Figgins

2023 Crack Sealing (Topkote)

2026 Armor Coat(Sta-Bilt)

West Purdum

Sept 2014 (Topkote)

October 2023 (Figgins)

2025

2026

Historical Projects

North Seneca

Oct 2013-Armor Coat (Topkote)

Sept 2020-Armor Coat (Figgins)

2025-Armor Coat (Midwest Coatings)

South Seneca

2019-Figgins

2020-Figgins

2021-Figgins

Historical Projects

<u>Windmill Road</u>

Sept 2014 (Topkote)

Sept 2019 (Figgins)

Sept 2020 (Figgins)

August 2024 (Figgins)

<u>South Maple (cemetery Rd)</u>

Sept 2014-(Topkote)

Sept 2021-(Figgins)

2021-(Figgins)

ON THE RADAR

- East Antelope Valley Road (drifting issue)
- Cemetery Road (added dirt)

- South Seneca
- Paxton Ranch Rd
- West Windmill RD
- River Ave

- Federal Grant with Deb Fischer's Office

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU