

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Crookston Announces Preliminary Property Tax Levy for 2024

CROOKSTON, [9/21/23] – The City of Crookston's Ways & Means Committee convened on September 18, 2023, to deliberate the preliminary property tax levy for the upcoming year, 2024. This initial property tax levy sets the groundwork for potential increases in City property taxes. It is essential to note that this initial property tax percentage is subject to approval by the City Council on September 25, 2023, and must be filed with the County no later than October 2, 2023. The final property tax levy for the City of Crookston will be determined following a Truth in Taxation hearing scheduled for December 11, 2023. It is important to understand that the preliminary property tax levy set on September 25th cannot be increased but may be decreased before the December 11th deadline.

During the September 18th meeting, the Committee requested information regarding the total amount required to fund all City department budget requests for the year 2024. The property tax levy increase necessary to accommodate all departmental requests is estimated at 65.09%. The current council recognizes that our community has faced challenges in previous years, prompting thoughtful and extensive discussions. Ultimately, the decision to set the levy at 65.09% was made with the intention of not only sustaining our current infrastructure but also enhancing our beloved city. Neglecting the fundamental needs of our community is no longer an option.

Our objective is to ensure that our departments and city operate with the resources necessary to meet the needs of our residents adequately. By setting the levy at 65.09%, we are empowering the city to scrutinize the budget, distinguishing between wants and needs, review the financial audit, and exploring opportunities to allocate surplus funds towards reducing this year's levy. It is crucial to emphasize that the City Council and administration are committed to lowering the levy by the December 11th deadline.

An increased levy, compared to previous years, will enable the city to provide enhanced value to its citizens. Proposed budget discussions include initiatives to update and maintain essential infrastructure such as roads, water systems, sewer facilities, and city parks. Additionally, the Council is considering improvements to trash services and safety measures for city employees. Furthermore, the City is actively exploring strategies to attract new businesses and industries to Crookston.

A 65.09% property tax levy would translate to a 29.737% increase for property owners within the City of Crookston. The dollar amounts of this tax rate increase on homes within the City of Crookston would be as follows:

Property Tax Levy Percentage:

Property Tax Levy Dollars:

* 1% Property Tax Levy Increase = \$29,813.78

<u>Property Tax Rate Increase on Homes</u>	
<u>Estimated Market Value:</u>	<u>Taxable Market Value:</u>
\$100,000	\$71,760
\$150,000	\$126,260
\$200,000	\$180,760
\$250,000	\$235,260

** To Balance the Budget at Levy Percentages
Budgets as Presented Must Be Reduced by:

25.00%			65.09%		
\$3,726,723			\$4,921,957		
<u>6.896%</u>			<u>29.737%</u>		
	<u>YRLY</u>	<u>Monthly</u>		<u>YRLY</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
\$511	\$49	\$4.08	\$675.00	\$213	\$17.75
\$899	\$87	\$7.25	\$1,188.00	\$376	\$31.33
\$1,287	\$124	\$10.33	\$1,700.00	\$537	\$44.75
\$1,675	\$162	\$13.50	\$2,213.00	\$700	\$58.33
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