



2021 SOMERSET COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET

Somerset County Board of County Commissioners:
Director Shanel Y. Robinson, Deputy Director Sara Sooy,
Commissioner Melonie Marano, Commissioner Paul Drake,
Commissioner Douglas Singleterry



“Making Vibrant
Connections”
in Somerset County

Somerset County 2021 Budget

Prepared and Presented by:

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County Administrator

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Somerset County Mission Statement

The County of Somerset is committed to excellence and innovation in public service, promoting the well-being of all residents and communities by providing effective, efficient, and responsive leadership.



Commissioners 2021 Budget Directives

- Fund all existing services
- Maintain a AAA bond rating
- Maintain “A healthy fund balance” (surplus)
- Fund all statutory obligations (e.g. Debt Service, Pension, Health Benefits)
- Embrace a workforce that is diverse, inclusive, innovative
- Present a well thought-out budget funded by a sensible tax rate
- “No surprises” for the taxpayer



COVID-19 County-wide Response

COVID-19 Testing

- Weekly drive-thru testing clinics @ RVCC – May to January
- Mobile testing clinics once vaccinations were underway
- Focus on most vulnerable populations
 - Bound Brook, Bridgewater, Franklin, Manville, North Plainfield, Raritan, Somerville, South Bound Brook
- Weekend testing @ Somerset County Parks

COVID-19 County-wide Response

COVID-19 Vaccinations

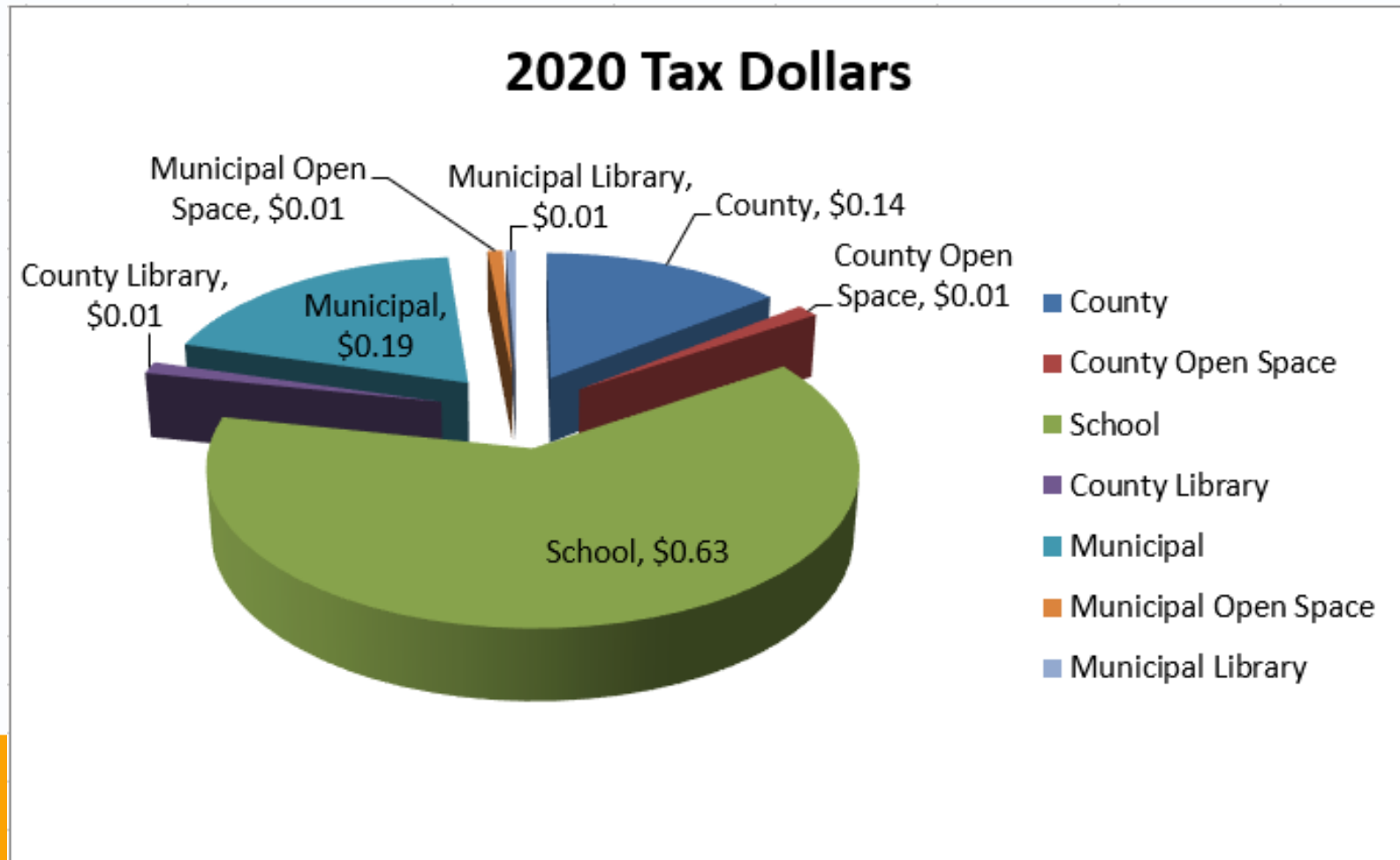
- Top 5 Counties in NJ for % of adults w/ 1st doses & fully vaccinated
- 1st vaccination clinic within 1 week of initial vaccine allocation
- Administered 95% of all doses allocated
- Focus on most vulnerable: partnerships with CVNA, Zufall, RWJ Somerset, senior living facilities, NFPs & FEMA partnership in Franklin
- Weekly senior clinics in Feb, mobile senior clinics in March
- Vaccination of homebound residents in April
- >50% of adults partially vaccinated in 1st 3 months
- On track to exceed 70% vaccinated goal

COVID-19 Relief Funding Sources

Funding/Reimbursement Source	
FEMA	\$1,183,842 (+ \$589K under review)
CARES Act – Costs not Covered by FEMA	\$2,030,022 (+ \$365K under review)
CARES Act - Testing	\$357,500
CARES Act – ELC (Testing through 6/30/21)	\$1,945,818
LGEF - General	\$1,687,156
LGEF – Testing/Supplemental	\$899,256
Election Reimbursement (Primary & General)	\$1,268,401
CDBG (CV1, CV2, CV3)	\$3,507,905*
Total Received to Date	\$12,879,900

***County Cares Grants to Local Board of Educations to Offset COVID Expenses*

Where Do Your Taxes Go?



Cost Drivers

Budget Line

Increase

- Capital Improvement Fund \$3,000,000
- Debt Service \$1,676,335
- Pension \$1,632,510
- Health Insurance \$1,414,892
- Loss of Revenue (Shared Service, Interest) \$1,050,000

Total Impact

\$8,773,737



Total Budget-Revenue

Year to Year Revenue Comparisons

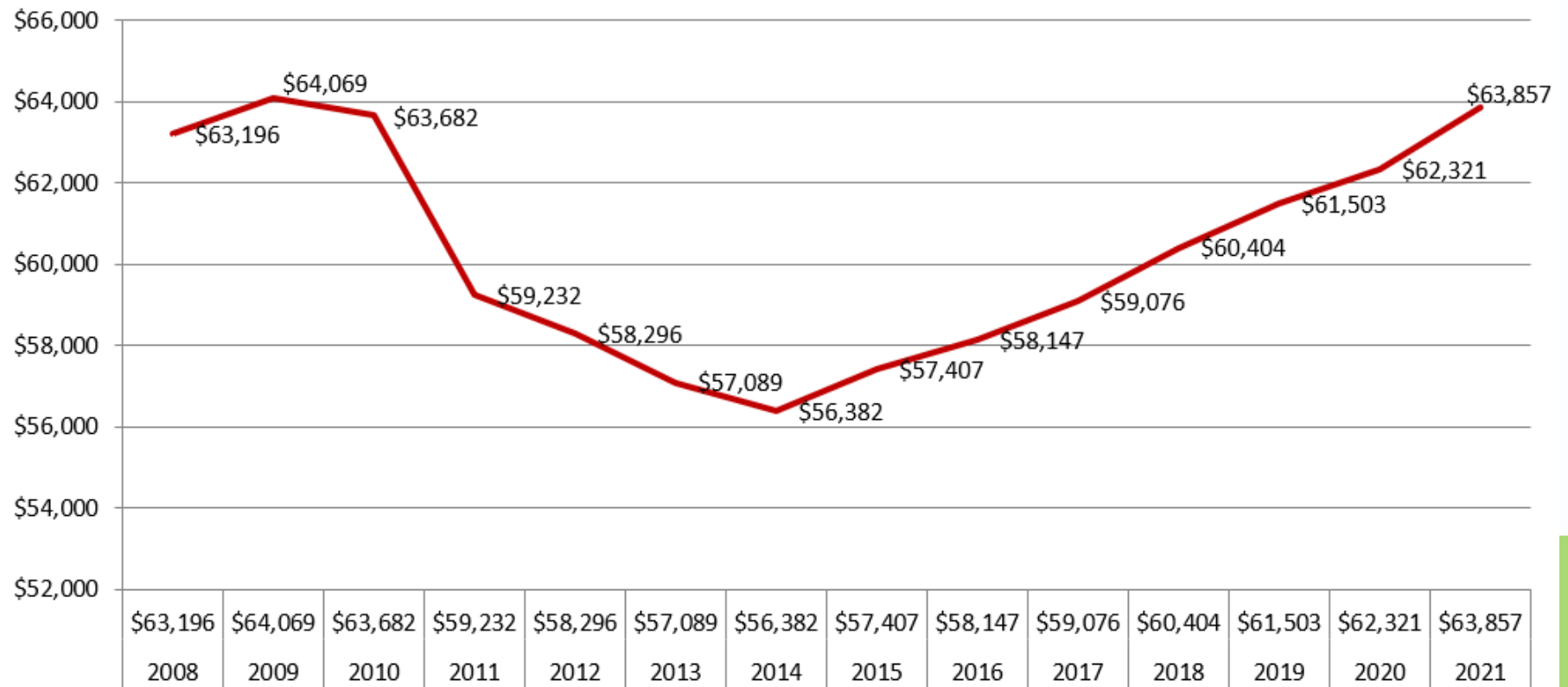
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>21 vs. 20</u>	<u>Inc/(Dec)%</u>	<u>Revenue %</u>
Section A Local Revenues	7,650,832	8,340,000	689,168	9.01%	3.4%
Section C assumption of State Costs	496,708	745,789	249,081	50.15%	0.3%
Section E: Other Special Items	3,845,200	4,181,045	335,845	8.73%	1.7%
Section E: Increase in Fees Chapter 370	945,000	987,000	42,000	4.44%	0.4%
Interest Income	1,071,076	759,000	(312,076)	-29.14%	0.3%
Shared Services ***	3,159,541	2,478,164	(681,377)	-21.57%	1.0%
FEMA	509,645	2,078,190	1,568,545	307.77%	0.9%
Debt Service Reimbursement	219,599	215,880	(3,719)	-1.69%	0.1%
Pension Reimbursement	1,093,148	1,250,698	157,550	14.41%	0.5%
Fund Balance	19,000,000	19,790,000	790,000	4.16%	8.1%
Tax Levy	197,696,981	202,540,557	4,843,576	2.45%	83.2%
Total Revenues	235,687,730	243,366,323	7,678,593	3.26%	100.0%

Total Budget-Expenditures

Category	2020	2021	21 vs. 20	%
County Departments	113,828,382	114,540,473	712,091	0.63%
Outside Agencies	41,815,681	42,081,283	265,602	0.64%
Insurance(s)	33,309,116	34,806,352	1,497,236	4.49%
State Program Costs	1,606,332	2,394,047	787,715	49.04%
Pension	14,685,144	16,317,654	1,632,510	11.12%
Capital	1,910,000	3,000,000	1,090,000	57.07%
Debt Service	22,144,313	23,793,729	1,649,416	7.45%
Deferred Charges	-	41,388	41,388	N/A
Other	6,388,762	6,391,396	2,634	0.04%
Total	235,687,730	243,366,323	7,678,593	3.26%

Increase In Assessed Value

Somerset County's Abstract of Ratables (Millions)



Tax Rate Effect on Average Home \$455,373 \$49.96 Per Year For 2021

COUNTY OF SOMERSET 2021 Adopted Budget Info

	2020	Adopted 2021	Dollar Change	% Change
Total Net Value Assessed	62,321,339,261	63,857,129,108	1,535,789,847	2.46%
Total Budget w/ Grants	251,971,591	258,276,166	6,304,575	2.50%
County Levy	197,696,981	202,540,557	4,843,576	2.45%
Without Grants	235,687,730	243,366,323	7,678,593	3.26%
Tax Rate	0.3172	0.3172	(0.00)	0.0%

Note: Plus Sign (+) = increase, Minus Sign = Decrease

Cash Capital

Amount for Down payment on Bonds	\$1,400,000
Reserve for Green Brook Flood Control	\$600,000
Various Capital Projects – Capital Ord.	\$1,000,000
Total Cash Capital	\$3,000,000

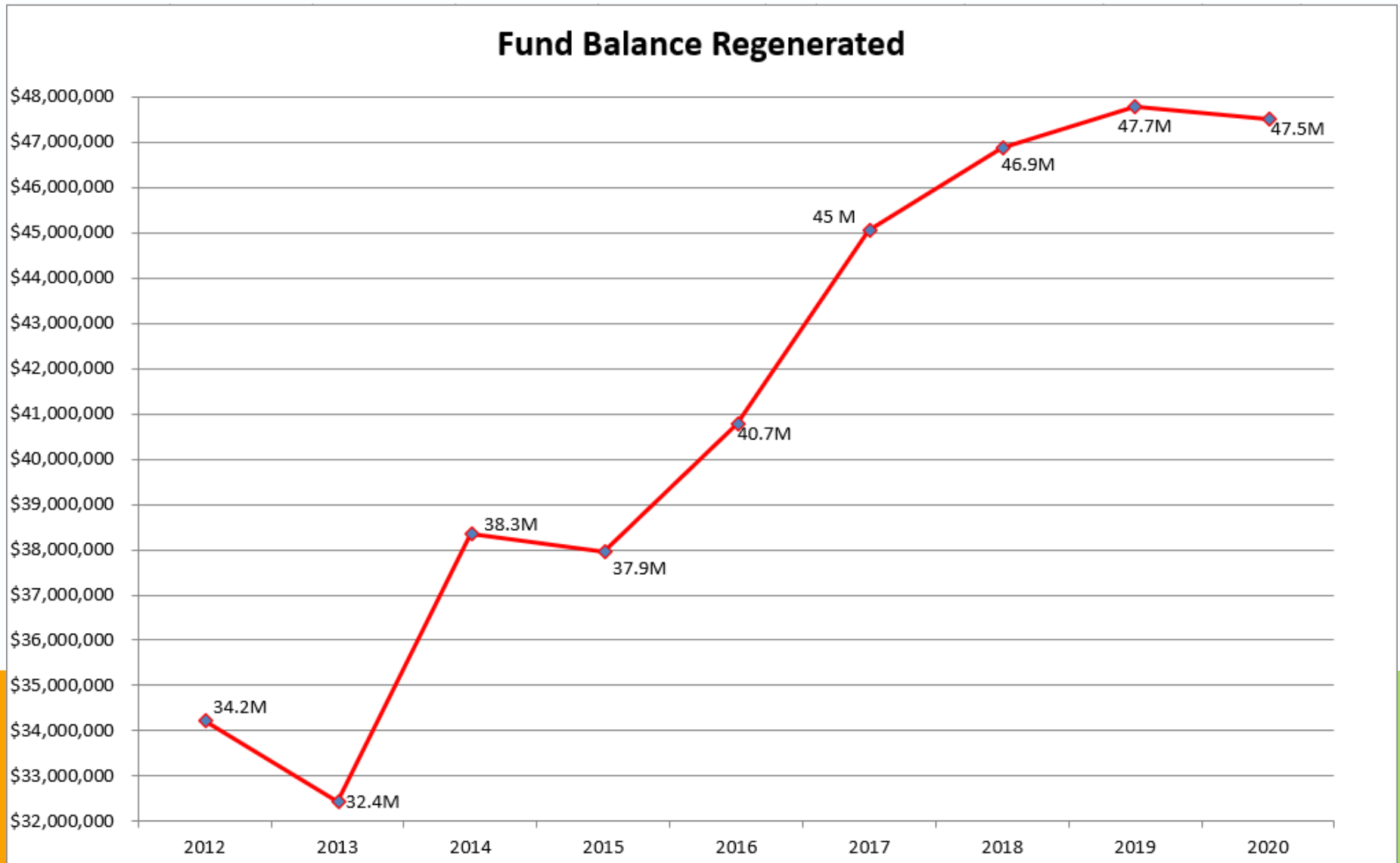


Regenerated Fund Balance

<u>Year</u>	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Utilized</u>	<u>Regenerated</u>	<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>Ending</u>	<u>Reserved</u>	<u>Inc/(Dec)</u>
2016	\$37,963,871	\$19,000,000	\$23,811,641	\$42,775,512	\$40,775,512	\$2,000,000	\$2,811,641
2017	\$40,775,512	\$19,000,000	\$25,279,597	\$47,055,109	\$45,055,109	\$2,000,000	\$4,279,597
2018	\$45,055,109	\$19,000,000	\$20,817,263	\$46,872,372	\$46,872,372		\$1,817,263
2019	\$46,872,372	\$19,000,000	\$20,300,380	\$48,172,752	\$47,772,752	\$400,000	\$900,380
2020	\$47,772,752	\$19,000,000	\$18,740,554	\$47,513,306	\$47,513,306		(\$259,446)
		2016 - 2020					
			Fund Balance has increased by:				\$6,737,794
			Reserves for emergencies increased by:				\$4,400,000
			Total reserve and Fund Balance increase:				\$11,137,794



Fund Balance Regenerated



Bond Rating

Aaa

Highest
Quality

Moody's

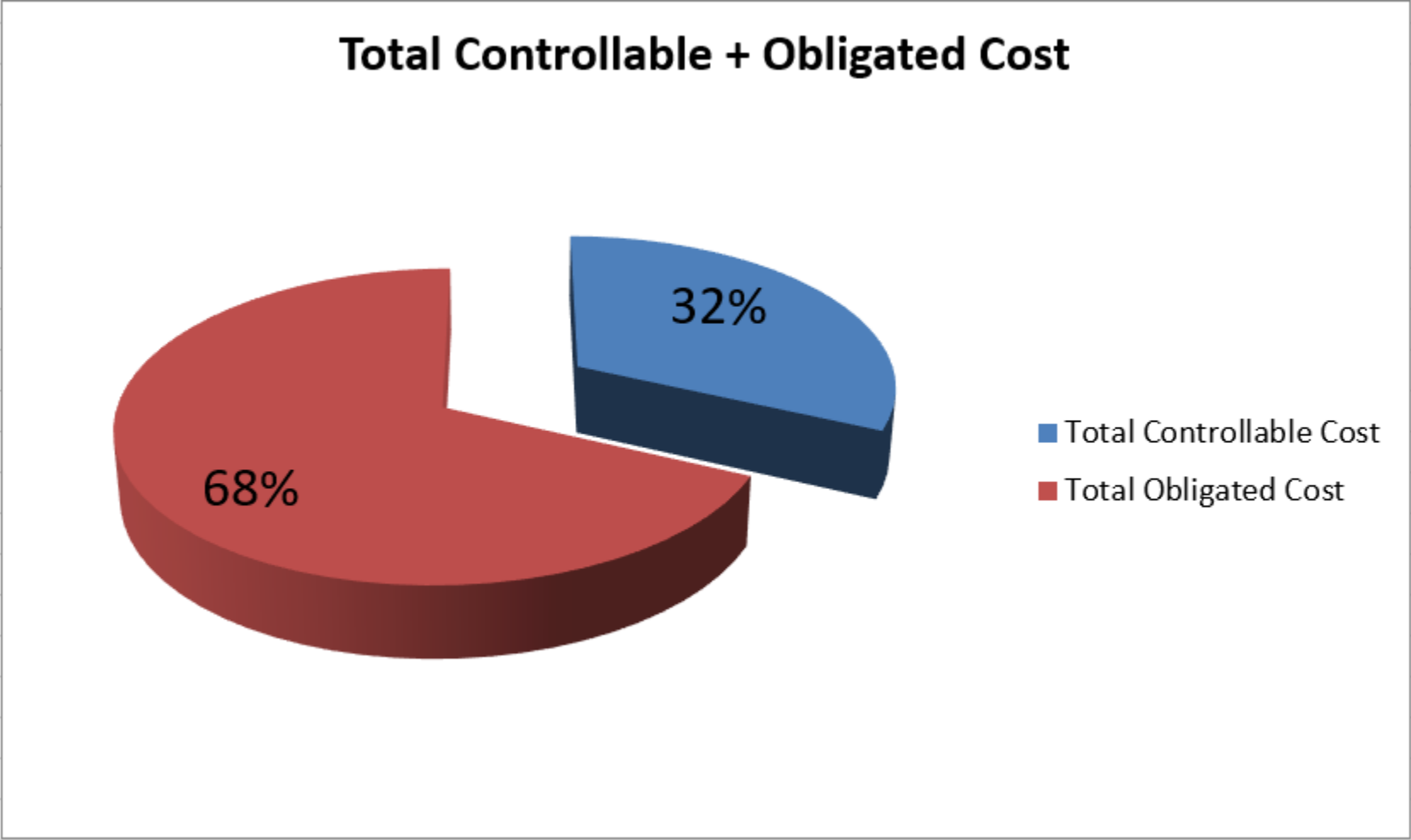
Aaa

Extremely
Strong

Standard &
Poor's

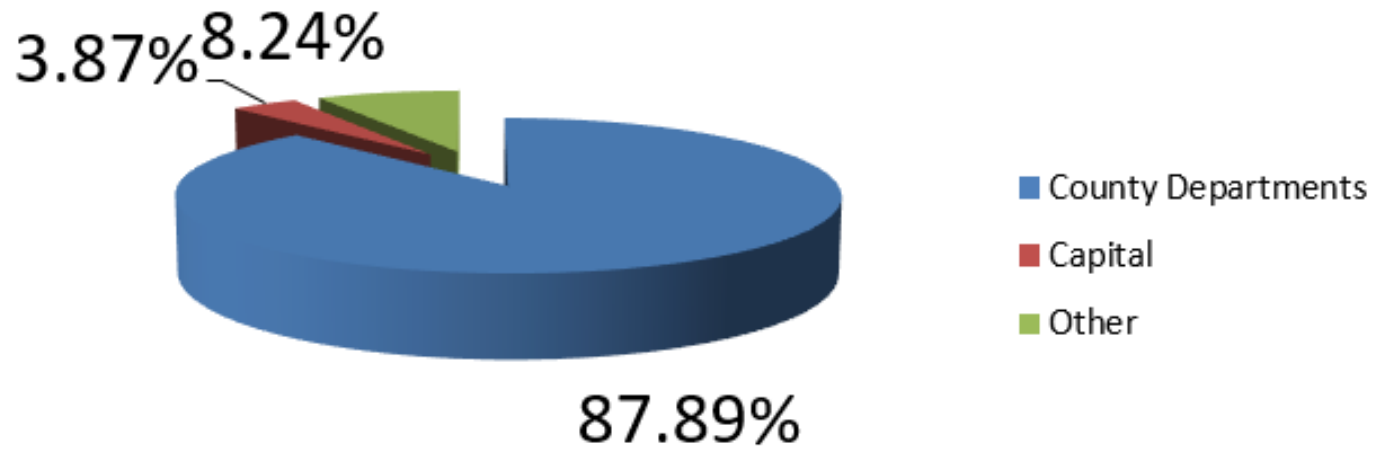


Cost We Can Control vs. Cost We Are Obligated For

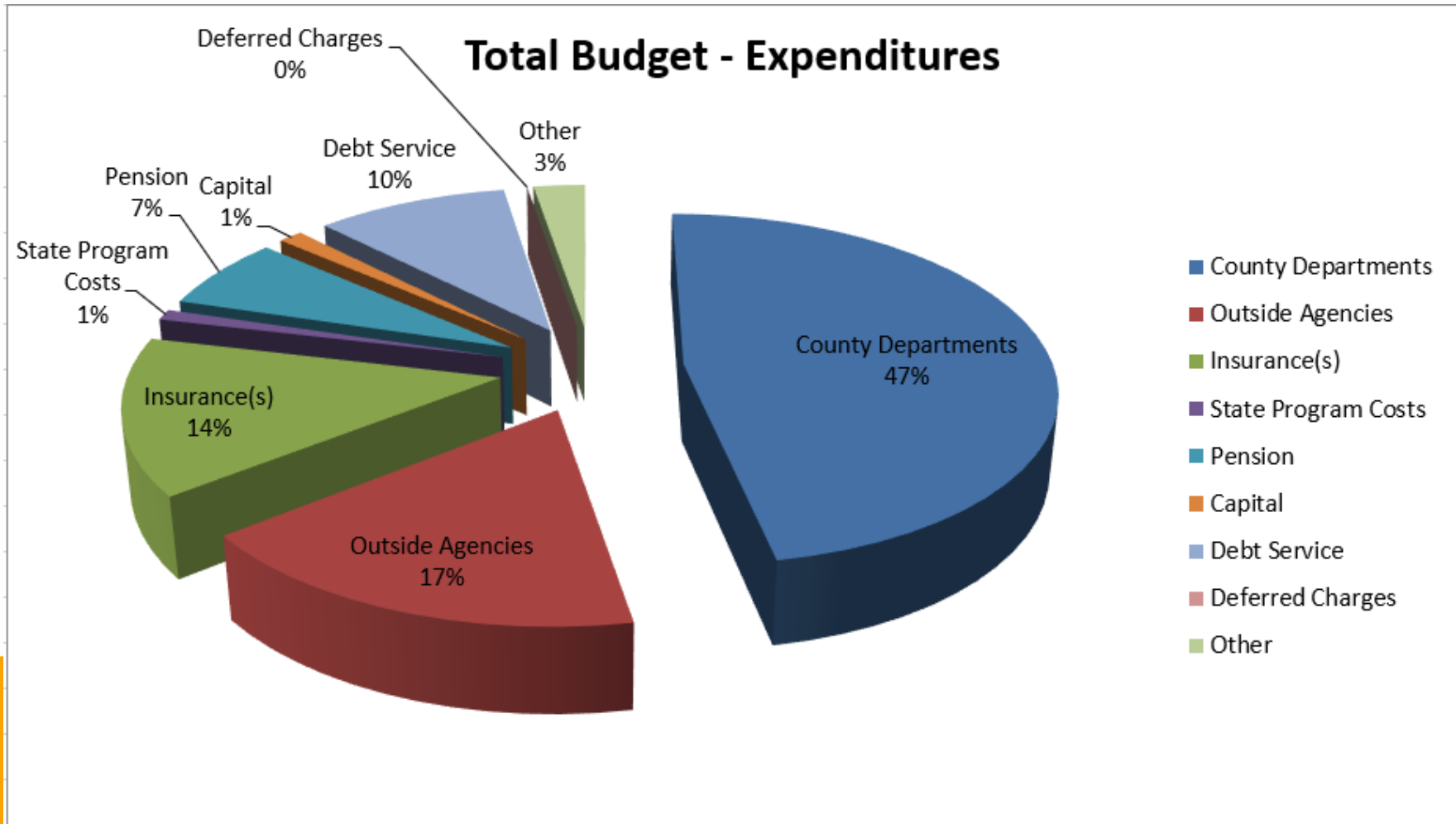


Cost We Can Control

Cost we can control

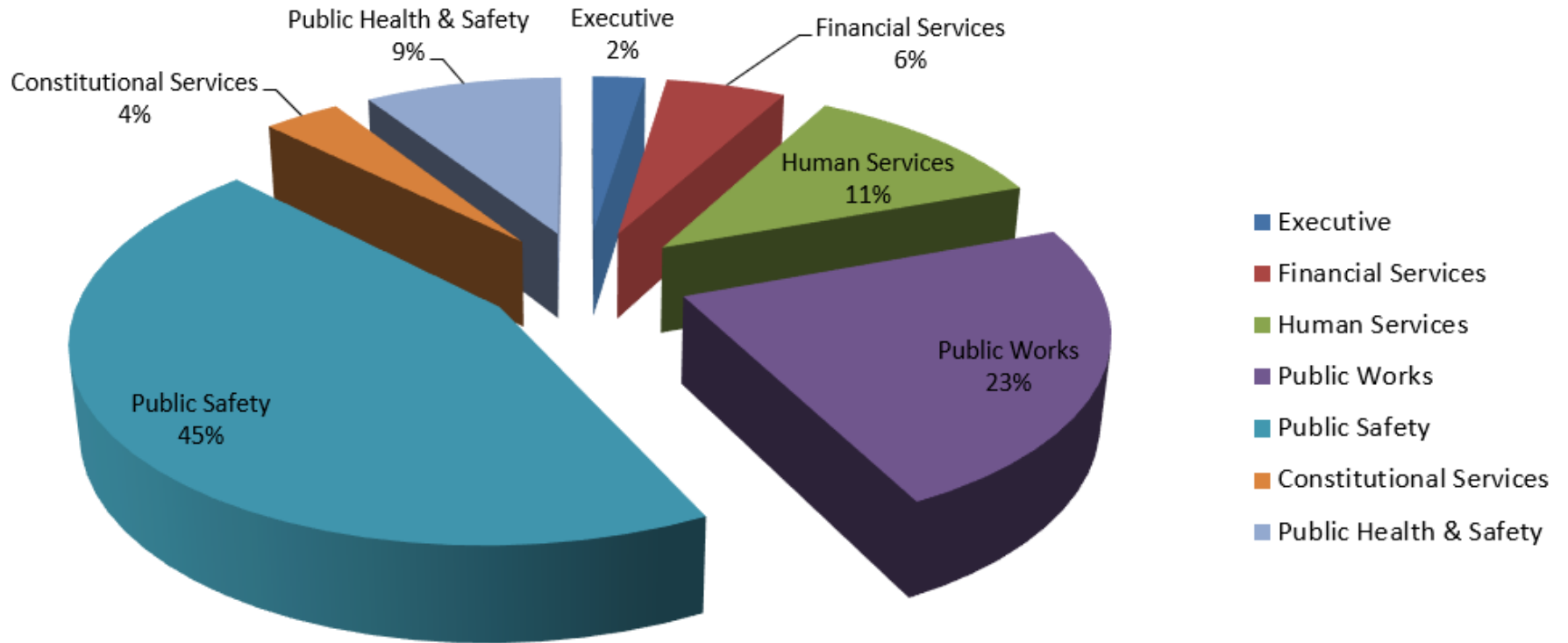


County Department vs. Other



County Department

Salary & Wages by County Department



What Does This Budget Do?

- Maintains 248 centerline miles of county roads and 752 bridges
- Maintains 38 parks, recreation and open space areas encompassing 15,000 acres
- Funds nearly 200 shared services with local governments and other organizations in the county
- Partially funds Somerset County Vocational Technical School, Raritan Valley Community College, Social Services and Somerset County Park Commission
- Fully funds Somerset County Emergency Services Training Academy
- Partially funds the Somerset County Business Partnership

Shared Services

Cost Shared with Other Agencies

- Somerset County Shared Services Marketplace launched Jan 2021
- Recycling- 21 municipalities, including schools
- Transportation- 5 municipalities, 3 non-profits
- Vehicle Maintenance - 14 municipalities
- Vehicle Fuel- Over 50 agencies
- Fire Academy Service- State-wide
- Health Services- 8 municipalities

Cost Covered by County Only

- New Open Space Recreational Grants To Municipalities
- 911 PSAP - 20 municipalities
- Full Dispatch Service- 16 municipalities, 15 in county , 1 fully funded out of county police department, 41 fire departments and 17 EMS stations

Facts About Somerset County Operations

Office on Aging and Disability Services

Nutrition & Wellness Program

- 155,478 meals provided throughout the county [HDM, Weekend, Congregate, Grab & Go lunch]
- 36,395 Information and Assistance units (7560 hrs) were provided to address residents' concerns, problem, and needs
- 10,766 calls (1,395 hrs) of telephone reassurance for homebound seniors
- 35 daily Zoom classes across six senior centers (175/week)

One Stop Career Center

- Transitioned all services to a virtual format to continue to engage job seekers during a time of unprecedented unemployment
- Assisted nearly 741 job seekers & provided 26 virtual workshops

Facts About Somerset County Operations (Cont.)

Richard Hall

- Primary health and dental care to over 450 residents
- 2092 unduplicated residents cared for
- Medication Clinic serviced 1452 residents
- Uninterrupted case management with over 300 sessions weekly
- 467 Community Intake Assessments completed via telehealth

Rutgers Cooperative Extension

- 74 4-H clubs; virtual platform allowed offering of online learning/activities to both 4-H & non-4-H youth
- 20,756 volunteer hours completed at a value of \$587,810
- Volunteers answered 284 requests on Garden Helpline

Facts About Somerset County Operations (Cont.)

Veterans Services

- VA claims resulted in \$2.0 million of recovery for SC Veterans

Youth Services

- 115 families in face-face therapy and/or telehealth sessions
- 44 prevention programs for approx. 5,222 at risk youth
- 2 in-person & 5 virtual workshops for 268 participants; increase over PY

Community Development

- \$746,456 to complete improvement projects at 22 community centers benefitting 24,156 people
- \$127,377 to complete 12 service projects benefitting 468 people

Facts About Somerset County Operations (Cont.)

911 Communications:

- 335,887 --- CAD Entries
- 164,489 --- Incoming Calls
- 82,201 --- Outgoing Calls
- 82,673 --- 911 Calls

Emergency Management:

- 81 County Hazmat incidents responded to
- 66 County Fire and 82 EMS Coordinators incidents responded to
- 719.25 volunteer hours for Emergency Response Team

ESTA: Training Services Academy

- 27 courses cancelled (COVID); 42 conducted virtually
- 421 students taught
- 40 outside agencies utilized facility

Facts About Somerset County Operations (Cont.)

Health Department (28 total FTE):

- 25 out of 28 positions are funded by grants or inter-local agreements

Consumer Health (14 FTE):

- 884 Nuisance complaint investigations
- 1340 Restaurants Licensed
- 1717 Restaurants Inspected
- 1368 Housing Inspections
- 166 Recreational Bathing Inspections

COVID-19 Notable Adjustments & Additions

- **Human Services**
 - Implementation of Telehealth platform at RHMHC through CARES funding
 - Transition of services & programs to virtual platform
 - Ability to offer additional programs without attendance limits
 - Significantly less cancellations due to transportation or hesitation concerns
- **Public Health & Safety**
 - OEM distributed 1.6 million pieces of PPE/resources
 - Monitoring of daily COVID response calls fielded by Somerset County Communications
 - Temporary 911 call center in Administration Bldg
 - EMS Bureau staffing at 70+ COVID testing/vaccine clinics
 - Feeding Hands Food Pantry volunteers for PPE donations
 - Emergency Operations center activated since 3/11/2020

COVID-19 Notable Adjustments & Additions

- **Public Works**

- F&S fabricated barriers for buses, County offices and Courthouse to facilitate continuation of essential services
 - Disinfected County facilities on daily basis
 - PPE to Long Term Care facilities and all Divisions
 - set up/breakdown of COVID testing & vaccination clinics
- suspended transit service (except dialysis) from March-May 2020; reopened full service on 6/1
- Substantial increase in demand for HDM; delivered 111,007 meals (1st time above 100K)
 - Avg of 497 meals/day (370 in 2019)
- 2020 Census: Somerset County 4th highest response in NJ
 - 77.3% for 2020 up from 75.1% in 2010