

# Cherokee County Board of Commissioners 2024 Millage Rate

PRESENTED 06.18.2024

# Cherokee County Millage Rate History – 10 years



2023 Millage Rate	
% Reduction	
General	0.82%
Fire	7.37%
Parks	9.89%
Total	3.55%

# The Financial Road Ahead

Key Financial Indicators

2024

# Key Financial Indicators

## National Indicators

- **Inflation**
  - [May 2024 3.3% vs 4.0% May 2023](#)
- **Inflation Trend**
  - [2024 Jan-May 3.3%](#)
  - [2023 Jan-May 5.3%](#)
- **Interest rate cuts**
  - The Federal Reserve has not cut rates to date. [Forecast 1 cut in 2024](#)

## County Indicators

- **SPLOST Receipts Growth Rate**
  - Recent 3-month average growth rate of 4.27%
- **TAVT Growth Rate**
  - Recent 3-month average growth rate of 10.3%
- **Intangibles Growth Rate**
  - Recent 3-month average growth rate of 4.7%

## Key Assumptions

- **Interest revenue**
  - Rate forecasted at 4.3% for FY2025 compared to 5.3% in FY2024
- **SPLOST and TAVT**
  - Growth rates continue at current rates
- **COLA 4%**
  - Prevent turnover and keep salaries competitive with the market

Service

Cost



# 2024 Millage Rate Proposal

# 2024 Real Property Growth/ Inflation

Inflation

+2.94%

Growth

+3.69%

Total Digest Increase

+6.63%

# Cherokee County 2024 Mill Values

M&O	
Mill	Tax Value
1.00	\$16,919,797
0.50	\$8,459,898
0.25	\$4,229,949
0.10	\$1,691,980
0.05	\$845,990
0.03	\$507,594
0.01	\$169,198
0.005	\$84,599

Fire	
Mill	Tax Value
1.00	\$14,587,685
0.50	\$7,293,843
0.25	\$3,646,921
0.10	\$1,458,769
0.05	\$729,384
0.03	\$437,631
0.01	\$145,877
0.005	\$72,938

Parks	
Mill	Tax Value
1.00	\$22,142,924
0.50	\$11,071,462
0.25	\$5,535,731
0.10	\$2,214,292
0.05	\$1,107,146
0.03	\$664,288
0.01	\$221,429
0.005	\$110,715

# FY2025 General Fund New Positions

Department	Position	Salary	Full Cost	Employees	Final
Tax Assessor	Field Appraiser	\$40,616	\$65,938	2	\$131,875
Solicitor	Assistant Solicitor	\$73,000	\$107,499	1	\$107,499
Animal Shelter	Community Resource Coordinator	\$50,000	\$77,637	1	\$77,637
Juvenile Court	Deputy Clerk	\$37,918	\$62,650	1	\$62,650
Probation Services	Administrative Assistant II	\$36,840	\$61,312	1	\$61,312
Recycling	Recycling Operator	\$35,788	\$60,007	1	\$60,007
<b>Total New Positions</b>		<b>\$274,162</b>	<b>\$435,043</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$500,980</b>



# FY2025 General Fund Expenditures (Millions)

	FY2024 Budget	FY2025 Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
Personnel	\$99.42	\$101.75	\$2.34	2.3%
Operating	\$29.92	\$33.27	\$3.35	11.2%
Capital	\$0.48	\$0.68	\$0.20	41.7%
Non-Operational	\$4.74	\$5.41	\$0.67	14.1%
Debt Service	\$0.26	\$0.13	(\$0.14)	-52.2%
Non-Department Managed	\$5.74	\$6.17	\$0.43	7.5%
Interfund Transfers	\$12.79	\$14.25	\$1.46	11.4%
<b>Total Department</b>	<b>\$153.35</b>	<b>\$161.66</b>	<b>\$8.31</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
Define Benefit Increase to 17.5%		\$1.27	\$1.27	
COLA @ 4%		\$4.18	\$4.18	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$153.35</b>	<b>\$167.10</b>	<b>\$13.75</b>	<b>9.0%</b>

# FY2025 Operating Cost Increase Analysis

(Millions)

	Increase	
Sheriff Technical	\$0.9	See Detail
Sheriff ARPA/Grant Funded Items	\$0.9	See Detail
Sheriff Inmate Medical	\$0.5	Increase per contract and volume of inmates
Disposal Recycling Pick Up	\$0.4	Recycling rate increases
Elections – Legal, Equipment Rental, Computers	\$0.1	Needed for upcoming elections
Rent of Building	\$0.1	Rental Space for D.A. previously funded by ARPA
Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs & Maintenance	\$0.2	Various items
Other Items	\$0.3	
<b>Total Operating Cost Increase</b>	<b>\$3.4</b>	

# Technical & ARPA/Grant Funded Items

Technical Items	Amount
Power DMS – New Training	\$14,000
Tyler Tech – New E Ticket	\$193,680
Skydio – New Drone	\$150,000
Motorola New Interface	\$64,506
IDICORE	\$10,840
Flock – New 25 LR	\$162,500
Axon – Fleet 3 – New 24	\$73,296
Axon Recharge Batteries	\$4,207
Axon Cart Replacement	\$20,798
Axon – Additional 20 +8 CMANS Tasers	\$15,516
Peregrin	\$218,750
<b>Total Technical</b>	<b>\$928,093</b>

ARPA/Grant Funded Technical Items	Amount
Axon – 170 Fleet/170 BC /Signal Side Arms	\$677,016
Axon – Body Camera ADC	\$145,211
Flock - 40	\$103,500
<b>Total ARPA/Grant Funded Technical Items</b>	<b>\$925,727</b>

# Non-Operating FY2025 Increases

Child Advocacy Center	\$75,000
The Children's Haven	\$75,000
Cherokee Family Violence Center	\$75,000
Extension Services	\$42,589
Library	\$401,969
Environmental Health	\$598
<b>Total Increase</b>	<b>\$670,156</b>

# General Fund: EMS FY2025 Transfer Increase

6 New FFEL to start 12/24	\$464,000
1 Admin Captain	\$155,000
Positions Budgeted for ¼ year in 2024	\$349,000
Promotions – FAO, Paramedic, FFEL to FF	\$119,000
Other Personnel/Benefit Changes	\$287,000
<b>Total Increase</b>	<b>\$1,374,000</b>

# M&O Millage Rate Options

(Millions)

	FY2024 Budget	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Expenditures	\$153.3	\$167.1	\$167.1	\$167.1	\$167.1
Non-Property Tax Revenue	\$67.2	\$72.9	\$72.9	\$72.9	\$72.9
Property Taxes	\$78.9	\$83.8	\$84.8	\$85.8	\$87.2
Use of Reserves	\$7.3	\$10.4	\$9.4	\$8.4	\$7.0
Current Millage Rate	4.954	4.954	4.954	4.954	4.954
Proposed Millage Rate		4.954	5.014	5.073	5.153
Change in Millage Rate		0.000	0.060	0.119	0.199
Tax change on Home Valued at \$487,500		\$0.00	\$11.40	\$22.61	\$37.81
Advertised Tax Increase (above rollback)		1.89%	3.13%	4.34%	5.99%
Fund Balance	\$62.0	\$54.6	\$55.6	\$56.6	\$58.0
Months of Fund Balance	4.85	3.92	4.00	4.07	4.17

Assumes Forecasted Fund Balance @9/30/24 of \$65M

## NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners has tentatively adopted a millage rate, which will require an **increase** in property taxes by **1.89% percent**.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the Cherokee County Administration Building and Conference Center, 1130 Bluffs Parkway, Canton at the indicated times: July 2, 2024, at 6:00 PM, July 16, 2024, at 11:00 AM and July 16, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

**This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 4.954, an increase of .092 mills. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 4.862.**

The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$475,000 is **\$17.02**, and the proposed tax increase for a non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$425,000 is **\$15.64**.

# FY2025 Fire Fund New Positions

▶ 13 Fire Fighter entry Level (start date 12/24)	\$1.1M
▶ Fire Safety Educator	\$87.4
▶ Total	\$1.2M



# FY2025 Fire Fund Expenditures

(Millions)

	FY2024 Budget	FY2025 Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
Personnel	\$43.58	\$46.53	\$2.96	6.8%
Operating	\$5.29	\$6.24	\$0.95	17.9%
Capital	\$0.96	\$0.40	(\$0.56)	-58.6%
Non-Operational	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Debt Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Non-Department Managed	\$1.43	\$1.66	\$0.23	16.3%
Interfund Transfers	\$0.21	\$0.22	\$0.01	4.0%
<b>Total Department</b>	\$51.47	\$55.05	\$3.58	7.0%
Define Benefit Increase to 17.5%		\$0.48	\$0.48	
COLA @ 4%		\$1.58	\$1.58	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$51.47	\$57.11	\$5.64	11.0%

# Fire Millage Rate Options

(Millions)

	FY2024 Budget	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Expenditures	\$51.47	\$57.11	\$57.11	\$57.11	\$57.11
Non-Property Tax Revenue	\$12.09	\$13.45	\$13.71	\$13.98	\$14.21
Property Taxes	\$38.29	\$40.31	\$41.20	\$42.13	\$42.90
Budget Cuts		\$1.95	\$1.48	\$0.50	\$0.00
Use of Reserves	\$1.09	\$1.40	\$0.72	\$0.50	\$0.00
Current Millage Rate	2.764	2.764	2.764	2.764	2.764
Proposed Millage Rate		2.764	2.825	2.888	2.941
Change in Millage Rate		0.000	0.061	0.124	0.177
Tax change on Home Valued at \$487,500		\$0.00	\$11.90	\$24.18	\$34.52
Fund Balance	\$10.83	\$9.43	\$10.12	\$10.33	\$10.83
Months of Fund Balance	2.53	1.93	2.10	2.15	2.28

# Millage Rate Summary

Millage Rates	Current	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
M&O	4.954	4.954	5.014	5.073	5.153
Fire	2.764	2.764	2.825	2.888	2.941
Parks Bond	0.319	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.037</b>	<b>7.988</b>	<b>8.109</b>	<b>8.231</b>	<b>8.364</b>
Change		(0.049)	0.072	0.194	0.327
% Change		-0.61%	0.90%	2.41%	4.07%

Use of Fund Balance	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
M&O	\$10.4M	\$9.4M	\$8.4M	\$7.0M
Fire	\$1.4M	\$0.720M	\$0.500M	0

Annual Tax Change	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
M&O	\$0.00	\$11.40	\$22.61	\$37.81
Fire	\$0.00	\$11.90	\$24.18	\$34.52
Parks Bond	(\$9.56)	(\$9.56)	(\$9.56)	(\$9.56)
<b>*Annual Total Tax Change</b>	<b>(\$9.56)</b>	<b>\$13.74</b>	<b>\$37.24</b>	<b>\$62.77</b>

\*Annual Tax change on home valued at \$487,500

Months of Fund Balance	Current	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
M&O	4.9	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.2
Fire	2.53	1.93	2.1	2.15	2.28



# Fund Balance 5-year History

General Fund	Budget	Actual Used/(Saved)	Comments
FY2023	\$8,277,768	(\$7,851,034)	Audit entry \$5.2M Property Tax
FY2022	\$7,295,453	(\$14,218,420)	Transferred \$10M ARPA
FY2021	\$4,242,886	(\$7,107,386)	
FY2020	(\$1,725,400)	(\$9,116,706)	Cares Act Transfer \$5.9M
FY2019	\$4,210,472	(\$1,682,473)	
Fire Fund	Budget	Actual Used/(Saved)	Comments
FY2023	\$2,186,721	(\$1,329,346)	Audit entry \$2.1M Property Tax
FY2022	\$467,205	(\$982,228)	
FY2021	\$2,513,311	(\$630,129)	
FY2020	(\$2,184,011)	(\$3,380,239)	Cares Act Transfer \$3.3M
FY2019	\$1,502,911	\$1,383	